



## IN THIS ISSUE...



**NAIDOC Family Day and Title Transfer Celebrations** — just around the corner, join us on Wednesday 11 July, 2018

Page 4



**Keeping warm this winter** — simple, affordable and energy saving tips

Page 4



**AFL SportsReady** — contact us for more information; this could be your pathway to a new career

Page 2

## Women who inspire us

### HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

As we celebrate NAIDOC Week 2018, AHV is again shedding light on wise, compassionate and inspiring Aboriginal women within our community.

One of these women is Aunty Georgina Lovett-Williams; a Gunditjmara Elder and great-grandmother who was born in Carlton in 1943 and grew up in Fitzroy. Aunty Georgina has dedicated her life to social justice, land rights and the welfare of others in the community.

Much of Georgina's own inspiration comes from her mother Gertrude (Gertie). Despite the struggles of poverty, Gertie was determined that the childhoods of Georgina and her four siblings would be happy ones. She worked to foster her children's connection to Country, with extended periods of time spent on Gunditjmara Country in southwestern Victoria.

Georgina married Jack Williams at the age of 20 and the couple was blessed with two children: Shelley (pictured) and John. Georgina began looking at career options after the children began school and gained a degree in social work.



Her humility and enduring compassion is recognised by those around her. "I'd watch Mum put together boxes of food for people who were having a tough time," says daughter Shelley. "She would also help tenants keep their houses in good condition."

*"We stick together for issues, for the better of the whole." — Aunty Georgina Lovett-Williams*

Since then, Georgina has been involved in numerous welfare organisations including Brotherhood of St Laurence, Aborigines Advancement League, Victorian Aboriginal Community Services, and Children's Protection Society, as well as here at AHV. Her work with AHV included being a Board Member for the Metropolitan East region from 1996 to 1998.

In the 1980s, Georgina led successful negotiations between the Gunditjmara and State and Federal governments for the return of traditional lands in the Lake Condah area, before working with fellow tribal member Damien Bell to re-flood and restore the original wetlands.

*"We come from a breed of women who are dignified, engaged...fighters." — Shelley Williams*

Shelley is herself committed to improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. She has worked at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service for 15 years and is currently the Healthy for Life Coordinator. She hopes that others will be inspired by the work of Elders such as Aunty Georgina.

"Hopefully the generations after us will take up the responsibility and continue the services we have."

# Community Housing Retrofit Program

## REDUCING WATER BILLS

Last year, South East Water, City West Water and Yarra Valley Water in partnership with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning initiated the Community Housing Retrofit Program (CHRP) — offering free water efficiency audits to assess properties for water leaks or inefficient appliances.

A number of Melbourne metro AHV tenants who were concerned about their high water bills, have taken part in the program so far.

A water audit revealed a large leak in the front yard at one AHV property, with the exact location unable to be found. A leak detection specialist attended the property and marked the exact location of the leak, and a plumber repaired the leak, fixtures and fittings. The tenant was ecstatic with the works and outcome — *“I was really stressing about the water leaking in the front yard. The work is magnificent, I couldn’t be happier”*.



At another property a plumber identified that the bath, shower and laundry taps were significantly leaking due to over tightened washers. The plumber recommended that quarter turn taps be installed to decrease the chances of future leaks from washers being over tightened. The

tenant was over the moon with the works completed and appreciated the flexible hours of the plumber.

All tenants involved in the program will experience a reduction in the amount of water usage and will see a decrease in the cost of their bills as a result.

The Community Housing Retrofit Program will continue through July, with a potential extension. If you live in an AHV property in the Melbourne metro area and would like to sign up to the program, or just want some more information about it please give us a call on **9403 2100**.

## Launching careers

### AFL SPORTSREADY

AFL SportsReady has kick-started the careers of over 1,500 Indigenous Australians since they began two decades ago. AFL SportsReady is a national employment and training program that works in partnership with organisations like AHV, to help young people into careers through on-the-job training.

Some of the most recent traineeships and direct employment opportunities have included Administration Assistant traineeships, Call Centre employment opportunities, and Sport and Recreation opportunities.

AHV works in partnership with AFL SportsReady and we would love to see more young members of the AHV community gain opportunities for employment and training through the program. We will be holding an Information Session with AFL SportsReady on Wednesday 29 August, 2018. Keep an eye on AHV’s Facebook page and website for details as they become available.



If you would like to learn more about the program or are interested in a current opportunity, please contact Lina at [lina.m@ahvic.org.au](mailto:lina.m@ahvic.org.au) / **0447 647 939** — this could be your pathway to begin a new career.



## *Don't Keep History a Mystery*

### **ROOFTOP EVENT SHEDS LIGHT ON OUR RICH HISTORY**

AHV has celebrated another memorable Reconciliation on the Rooftop event as part of National Reconciliation Week 2018. The event — a collaboration between AHV, Yarra Libraries and SNAICC — was held on Monday 28 May on the rooftop at Bargoonga Nganjin library in North Fitzroy, and explored the theme *Don't Keep History a Mystery*.



Over 100 guests enjoyed light refreshments, as they listened to a range of speakers including historian and artist John Patten, City of Yarra Mayor Cr Daniel Nguyen, AHV CEO Darren Smith and SNAICC's Maylene Slater-Burns and Katrina D'Angelo. Uncle Colin Hunter Jnr delivered a warm Welcome to Country.

Darren Smith reflected on the history of AHV, from its first board meeting in 1981 to what it is today. Darren also paid tribute to influential members of the Victorian Aboriginal community including Jim Berg, Penny Tripcony, Nessie Skuta and Aunty Winnie Quagliotti — all of whom helped lay the foundation of AHV.



Guests were treated to a performance of traditional dances from Wurundjeri dance group Djirri Djirri, who invited children from Gold Street Children's Centre to join in.

AHV would like to thank Yarra Libraries and SNAICC for their work in bringing together this wonderful event.



### **RENT REVIEW REMINDER**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to AHV's request for documentation for our Annual Rent Review.

If you have not yet responded and think you may be eligible for a reduced or subsidised rent, please send your documents back as soon as possible, so that we can calculate your rent correctly.

If you have any queries about your rent review, please contact your Housing Officer.

## NAIDOC and Title Transfer Celebrations

### AHV'S EVENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

While we gear up to celebrate NAIDOC Week, this year we also celebrate a major step towards self determination, with the third and final transfer of properties from the Victorian government to AHV.

We have a variety of cultural activities and performances planned for the day, including: performances by Kutcha Edwards, Illana Atkinson, Indigenous Hip Hop Projects and PATSI Dance Group, gum leaf playing with Uncle Herb, bush animal weaving with Auntie Bronwyn; boomerang painting, emu feather crafts, tractor rides, football clinic and much more...

Entry and activities are free for the whole community, and there will also be a free BBQ lunch and other snacks for everyone to enjoy.



Spread the word and join us for a fun family day as we showcase and celebrate Aboriginal culture through song, dance, performances and cultural activities.

**WEDNESDAY 11 JULY, 2018 | COLLINGWOOD  
CHILDREN'S FARM | 10AM-4PM**



### Keeping warm this winter

#### **SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE AND ENERGY SAVING TIPS**

Winter has well and truly set in, and we know that weather can have a big impact on energy bills. There are a few simple things we can all do to save energy, and still keep warm.

##### **Block out draughts**

Seal the bottom of external doors and windows with a draught stopper/"door snake" to stop cold air coming in and warm air escaping from your home.

##### **Make the most of natural resources when you can**

When the sun does come out, be sure to open your blinds/curtains to let the warmth of the sun heat your home. As soon as the sun starts to set, be sure to close them to keep the heat in.

##### **Dress for the weather**

Wearing many thin layers rather than a couple of thick layers means you can keep your heater on a lower temperature to conserve energy.

### REPORTING MAINTENANCE

Our Maintenance Team and contractors work hard to respond to maintenance requests as quickly and effectively as possible. Given the large number of maintenance requests we receive, AHV prioritise works on the basis of relative urgency and in accordance with our responsibilities as a landlord under the *Residential Tenancies Act*.

As a tenant, it is your responsibility to keep your home in a clean and safe condition, and to report any maintenance problems as soon as possible. The AHV Client Services Team can assist you in organising your repairs for your property.

If the contractor does not finish the job or you believe it has not been completed properly, please contact us to let us know.

**For all maintenance enquiries, including urgent repairs, please call 9403 2100, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For non-urgent repairs, you can also email: [maintenance@ahvic.org.au](mailto:maintenance@ahvic.org.au).**