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HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

AHV is celebrating the invaluable contributions of women who have been part of our journey, as we reflect upon this year's NAIDOC Week theme 'Because of her, we can!'. This includes the contributions of Aunty June Atkinson-Murray, a Wiradjuri Elder who represented the Goulburn Murray region as an AHV Board Member from 1984–1993. Aunty June is a humble but a powerful advocate for Aboriginal affairs.

She is one of six siblings who grew up on Erambie Mission near Cowra in New South Wales. While not aware of the restrictions the mission placed on her community, she benefited from the strong role models in her life.

Her father eventually moved the family away from the mission and they settled west in Griffith where Aunty June worked as a fruit picker. She later moved to Shepparton where she married a shearer named Dan Atkinson. The couple had four children and settled in the Victorian town of Horsham.

Aunty June's commitment to Aboriginal rights and self-determination has grown stronger as she has gotten older.



As chairperson of the Rumbalara women's group, Aunty June helped to generate funds to build a children's playground at the local sports ground.

After moving down to Melbourne she began working at the Gladys Nichols Hostel in Northcote, run by the Aborigines Advancement League. She later became the first matron of the Lionel Rose Hostel in Morwell and also worked at the Bert Williams Hostel for young Aboriginal offenders.

In the 1980s Aunty June moved back to Shepparton and took on a director's role at Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative before becoming a community development officer. Her experiences have helped inform her input into the Older Australians Advisory Committee and National Elder's Committee, where she has advocated strongly for the needs of elderly Aboriginal people entering aged care services.

Aunty June remains a much-loved member of the Shepparton community and — with her humility, compassion and commitment to family and community — she continues to provide a source of inspiration to younger generations.

Calling all green thumbs!

AHV'S 'SPRING TO SUMMER' GARDENING COMPETITION

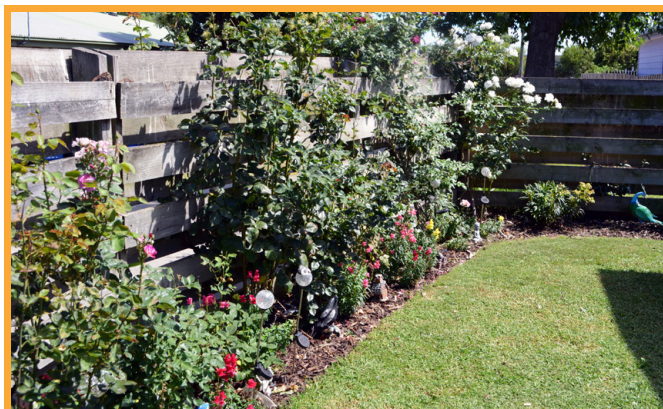
Springtime is here, and that means sunny days, blossoming flowers, and the start of our annual 'Spring to Summer' Gardening Competition!

Three winning tenants last year were awarded Bunnings gift vouchers for the wonderful efforts on their gardens. Registrations are now open to AHV tenants for this year's competition, with no restrictions on what type of gardens can be entered.

To enter call Reece or Paula on **(03) 9403 2100**, or email communications@ahvic.org.au. Participants will be visited in January and winners announced in the Mia Mia Newsletter in 2019.

SUMMER GARDENING TIPS

Water your garden early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid the peak of the day's heat. Try using mulch or a ground covering to help retain moisture in the soil. This also inhibits the growth of weeds.



VICTORIA IN BLOOM 2018-19 GARDENING COMPETITION

The Victoria in Bloom 2018-19 gardening competition is also underway, run by Department of Health and Humans Services and with entries open to anyone living in public or community housing in Victoria.

Any type or size of garden can be entered, including backyard gardens to balcony and community gardens.



Registrations close **30 November**. For more information and to enter:

Call: **9096 9938**

Email: vicbloom@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Online: www.housing.vic.gov.au/vicinbloom



There are nine award categories. Each entrant can enter in up to two of these:

- ⊙ Best Balcony or Container Garden
- ⊙ Best Small Enclosed Garden
- ⊙ Best Young Gardener (under 25)
- ⊙ Best Household Garden
- ⊙ Best Sustainable Garden
- ⊙ Best Community or Common Area Garden
- ⊙ Best Edible Garden
- ⊙ Best Creative Garden
- ⊙ Best First Year Entered Garden

Community connections

A FEW EVENTS TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY

A number of deadly community events are happening across the state, and are a great chance to meet new people and have a yarn. We've listed a few below.

COMMUNITY BBQ AT ATHERTON GARDENS

Noah Roache will be headlining performances from local artists including Izzy Brown (Combat Wombat) and Mini Racerege. Charcoal Lane trainees will be also be serving a free BBQ on the day.

Wednesday 14th November, 12pm – 3pm

Atherton Gardens, 125 Napier St, Fitzroy

BENDIGO AND DISTRICT ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE – WOMEN'S GROUP 2018

These gatherings are a chance for women to get together, relax, share cultural knowledge through art, craft and design, and tell stories. Recipes and healthy meals will also be shared. Women of all ages are invited to attend. The group is supported by BDAC staff who are able to help participants with transport to get to and from group.

Once a fortnight on Wednesdays during the school term.

White House, 119 Prouses Road, North Bendigo

For more information and dates call Rita on (03) 5442 4947

WINDOOK DADS GROUP

A dads group for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their fathers, Elders, carers, uncles and granddads.

Activities include men's yarning circle, group activities, parenting information and workshops, cultural activities for the children and cultural wellbeing. Meals provided at each session. Transport available if required. Contact Uncle Kevin on 0429 364 505 to for more information and to RSVP.

Mondays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November and, 3rd, 10th and 17th December (last date is a Christmas Dinner)

5:30pm – 8:30pm

Nairn Marr Djambana, 32 Nursery Avenue, Frankston

MURRAY VALLEY ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE – ELDERS LUNCHEON

The weekly luncheons are a chance for Elders to get together, and enjoy lunch and a yarn.

Tuesdays weekly, 10am – 2pm

MVAC Hall, 87 Latje Road, Robinvale

HOUSING OFFICERS – CONTACT DETAILS

NAME	BASED IN	NUMBER
EASTERN		
Glenn (Snr Housing Officer)	North Fitzroy	0472 831 813
Melita	North Fitzroy	0438 976 522
Steve	Morwell	0430 707 639
Debbie	Bairnsdale	0418 547 775

NAME	BASED IN	NUMBER
NORTHERN		
John (Snr Housing Officer)	Shepparton	0427 100 873
Kim	Bendigo	0430 082 907
Tanya	Mildura	0437 730 595
Kevin	Shepparton	0425 892 292

NAME	BASED IN	NUMBER
WESTERN		
Tim (Snr Housing Officer)	Ballarat	0447 573 563
Scott	Ballarat	0430 902 257
Danny	Warrnambool	0425 777 694
Colleen	North Fitzroy	0417 049 514

Maintenance contact — [\(03\) 9403 2100](tel:0394032100) / maintenance@ahvic.org.au Client Services contact — [\(03\) 9403 2100](tel:0394032100) / clientservices@ahvic.org.au

Christmas is on the way

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2018

In 2017, AHV's third, annual Christmas Toy Appeal hit a new record; providing gifts to over 600 children from more than 200 families. This year, we will do our best to reach even more families.

Local community members and businesses donate hundreds of gifts and toys, so that we can distribute to tenants and their families at Christmas time. Preparations are currently underway and over the coming two months AHV staff and volunteers will be collecting, sorting, allocating and distributing gifts to as many tenants and their families as possible; to provide some additional support during what can often be a stressful time of year.

If we can help you by providing some gifts for your children, please contact your Housing Officer or call our Client Services Team on **9403 2100**, and we will do our very best to organise some suitable gifts for you.



AHV office garage full of generous donations (2017)



Donated gifts at our North Fitzroy office (2018)



Sam (Life Coach) loading up the car for deliveries (2017)

We want to hear from you

THE 2018 TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY IS ON THE WAY

Every two years, AHV tenants have the opportunity to give us feedback about their housing through the Tenant Satisfaction Survey.

AHV welcomes feedback about our services from our tenants at any time, as we strive for continuous improvement, but we need honest feedback from you on how we are going and where we can continue to improve our services.

The NSW Federation of Housing Associations conducts the survey and analyses the results on our behalf. Please be assured that all information received is confidential.



The survey can be done on paper or online, and if you need assistance to complete the survey, please call your Housing Officer. The paper copy of the survey will be posted to you mid-November, and details of the online version will be included.

By completing the survey you will also be entered into our prize draw for your chance to win 1 of 8 \$50 gift vouchers.

We encourage all of our tenants to complete this survey and have your say, so keep a look out in your letterboxes during November.