

CO-OPERATIVELY SPEAKING

2018 ISSUE 01

Earth Co-op Event Success!



Earth CERC and Murundaka Cohousing Community held two public events on Saturday 24th February, 2018 Open Day and The Great Cohousing Speed Date, a networking event for people interested in community living.

Both events were well attended, and attracted over one hundred members of the public. *Earth CERC* members cooked lunch for seventy attendees featuring produce from the communal gardens at Murundaka, Heidelberg.

It was great to spread the message of co-living and working together, many attendees left feeling inspired.

Thanks to all the co-op members for the many hours that went into making each event happen.

*Chris Grose
Earth CERC*



Save the
Date!

15 JUNE 2018
Co-op Conference

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to what will be a fantastic year of work as we keep building the partnership between CEHL and co-ops, working together to ensure the Co-op Housing Program is viable and flourishes!

The CEHL Board, held its annual planning session in mid February, *Strategic Saturday*. The Board are committed to created a more co-op led program, building a better understanding of what and how member co-ops can inform program considerations, and provide greater transparency of how the Board arrives at decisions affecting the Co-op Program.

You will notice as 2018 progresses there will be a number of opportunities to input into the best ways to engage co-ops, and other key stakeholders, in understanding and responding to the current and future challenges and opportunities for our Co-op Program. The upcoming *Engagement Review* will be significant in enabling each and every co-op to provide feedback on what member co-ops want to engage in and how CEHL can resource this.

As the work of the *Rent Model Advisory Group* progresses over the coming months this too will involve co-ops contributing to how we arrive at the best balance for individual households, individual co-ops and program viability. I'm confident in saying that all the CEHL Directors are sincerely looking forward to hearing your views!



Planning has started for our annual *Co-op Conference*, which will be held on the 15 June, stay tuned for event details.

There will also be a refresh of how the Regional Forums might better facilitate a two-way conversation between CEHL and co-ops.

I'm hoping you will all experience 2018 as a truly transformative juncture, where the collective wisdom held within each and every co-op is shared. Through our joint and collaborative efforts we - CEHL and member co-ops, are able to positively influence the current and future directions required to maintain and grow co-operative housing.

Karren Walker
CEHL Chairperson



Managing Directors Report

I am looking forward to another strong year of program and organisational development, so together we can ensure a strong and growing future for the Program.

It has been wonderful to see the rollout of the Regional Housing Plans in our two first areas (Geelong and Melbourne's inner north). These plans have been possible as co-ops in those areas have taken the lead to complete their Future Direction Plans FDP and help us improve how we roll this out across the program. It is great to hear progress to deliver new housing to meet the aspirations of co-ops in those regions.

There is little progress to report regarding the Victorian Housing Register and associated Allocations Policy. The draft policy requires participating Housing Associations to target 75% of their vacancies to priority access groups. We sense that the revised policies and framework will be released in the coming weeks and that the timelines may allow us to seek feedback from co-ops on the potential opportunities and implications.

Thank you in advance for your involvement in program development activities and commitment to strengthening the partnership between CEHL and co-ops as we further develop and deliver this wonderful housing program together.

Stephen Nash
CEHL Managing Director

Introducing, The Rent Model Advisory Group



Pictured left to right: Andrew Bartlett (CEHL), Bruce Fraser, Alice Rink, Lila Talarico, Julie Gilchrist, Matthew Walker, T. Raveendiran (Ravi), Ben Neil (Independent chair), Nicola Foxworthy (CEHL)

Following a highly competitive selection process in late 2017, we are delighted to introduce the members of the Rent Model Advisory Group (RMAG), they are; Bruce Fraser, *Rainbow 8 CERC*, Julie Gilchrist, *Solar City CERC*, T. Raveendiran (Ravi), *Tamil CERC*, Alice Rink, *Castle CERC*, Lila Talarico, *Diamond Valley CMC*, Matthew Walker, *Earth CERC*.

RMAG will be responsible for making recommendations to the CEHL Board regarding a revised rent model that reflects the views of member co-ops and aligns with the Program Principles and guidelines from the Board.

Each of the co-op members appointed to RMAG demonstrated the skills and experience required for the group and collectively, represent a good cross-section of people in the Program.

In addition to the co-operative members of RMAG, the group will be led by an independent Chair Ben Neil, and financial expert Peter Murray will provide financial advice and validate data presented to the group by CEHL. Facilitator Anne Leadbeater will lead the engagement activities with co-ops and members of our housing program (Program participants) that will inform RMAG's work. The appointment of each of these individuals followed a rigorous selection and interview process.

Workshops in April

For RMAG to make it's recommendations, it needs to hear the views of co-ops and members. RMAG has developed a series of

engagement processes to hear from members, commencing with nine regional workshops in April. The dates and venues for the workshops are available in the calendar on the back page of this newsletter. For those unable to attend a workshop, an online survey will also be conducted.

Program participants will have already received a workshop invitation that also contained details of the workshop discussion topics so they can consider these in advance of the workshops.

RSVP for a workshop and to find out more about the work of RMAG, please go to the *Rent Model Review* page on the *Have Your Say* section of the CEHL website.

www.yourview.cehl.com.au

Andrew Bartlett
Manager, Program Development

New CEHL website LIVE in March



Our new look website is launching in March, with the member portal to follow later in the year. It will be easy to use, easy to view on any device you can access the internet; your phone, tablet or computer.

Being accessible was important part of our website upgrade project as we know more than 60% of people who visit our website do so via a phone or tablet!



2018 Scholarship Recipients

In 2018, CEHL offered eight \$2,000 scholarships to people living in a member co-op who wished to further their education. Scholarship applicants were asked to describe what impact the scholarship and their chosen course would have on their life.

This year, an additional \$2,000 Scholarship was again offered for applicants studying Business Administration, Information Technology or Commerce at any level. This is in memory of Helen Tyndall, who was well known and highly respected as CEHL’s Administration Team Coordinator for many years.

Congratulations

Rosamund Torr – Earth CERC – Advanced Diploma in Building Design – Rosamund aims to work for a company that designs good quality housing for people on low incomes, and to show her girls that women can work in a male dominated industry.

Tracey Bruton (Recipient of the Helen Tyndall CEHL Board Scholarship) – Solar City CERC – Bachelor of Business (Accounting) – Tracy wishes to finish her degree and to be the first person in her family to gain a tertiary qualification.

Jennifer Connolly – Bellarine CERC – Bachelor of International Relations – Jennifer wants to advise on policy outcomes at different levels of government and to work for not for profit organisations.

Margaret Ritchie – St Josephs CERC – Bachelor of Education (Primary) – Margaret wants to move from being a disability support worker to become a teacher.

Caitlyn Walsh – Young Achievers CERC – Bachelor of Physical and Health Education – Caitlyn wishes to become a teacher, to influence children who do not have a positive role model in their lives.

Colleen Ray – Swan CERC – Certificate IV in Disability Services – Colleen wishes to work in advocacy after her course in disability services.

Danielle – CERC – Diploma in Community Services – Danielle wants to make a positive difference in the lives of others as a social worker in a palliative care environment, as well as using her new skills to improve the relationships within the co-op and between the co-op and CEHL.

Sally Stamm – Lakewood CERC – Diploma of Nursing – Sally wishes to pursue her studies in nursing, and as a paramedic in order to help those around her.

Joanne Tangas – Dragon City CERC – Diploma of Nursing – Joanne is passionate about caring for those around her and wishes to use her nursing skills to help her sons and others.



Tracey Bruton



Colleen Ray



Sally Stamm

Top 5 TIPS How to make your phone battery last longer



1. Reduce screen brightness
2. Keep the screen timeout short. In your phone settings look for ‘screen timeout’ or ‘auto-lock’ this adjusts the setting controls how long your phone is ‘lit’ after being tapped
3. Turn OFF Bluetooth
4. Turn OFF WiFi, when you are not within range of your WiFi network
5. Turn off location service in your apps and GPS sparingly

Tips from www.techadvisor.co.uk/how-to/mobile-phone

Have you used the Director’s Workbook yet?



Released in October 2017, the Roles and Responsibilities of a Director’s Workbook is now available from the CEHL website. A PDF version of either a standard size or large print can be downloaded from the bottom of the CEHL training page: www.cehl.com.au/training

The Training Advisory Committee TAC representatives have received great feedback about this workbook already, but we are really keen to know how co-operatives and individual members are using it. As TAC reps we listen to all feedback and use it to help develop practical training sessions and resources for co-operatives.

Training Advisory Committee Needs your input . . .

We would love to hear your feedback about the workbook or any other training resource. Contact training@cehl.com.au or speak to your regional TAC representative.

REGION	TAC REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT NUMBER
Ballarat	John Harrison	0417 133 993
Gippsland	Gayle Carley	0431 360 912
Metro North	Sharon Quinn	0409 961 849
Metro South-East	Teresa Koronczewski	
Metro West	Eve Racan	0433 325 514
Shepparton	Gary McConchie	

New Property Allocations

Property Allocation Information Sessions held in February this year were a huge success.

Over sixty people attended the two sessions in the Geelong and Metro North regions. Attendees gave positive feedback about the new allocations process and felt energised about it’s collaborative features.

Key features of the Property Allocations to Co-ops process:

1. A co-op led process, informed by co-op’s Future Direction Plans
2. Creating new homes, that meet the co-ops needs in the region
3. Will be self- funded through asset recycling by selling off unsuitable / end life housing stock
4. Increasing co-op viability, by providing more diverse housing stock, reducing maintenance costs, and increasing co-op income through larger households
5. Improving utilisation, matching houses with member needs
6. Working toward improved participation, with new and varied member demographics

For more details see the *Property Allocations to Co-ops Program Policy* on www.cehl.com.au



Did you know?

There is a ScamWatch website where latest phone and online scams are reported.

If you receive a strange email, phone call or text message, check ScamWatch to see if it’s a scam that has been reported.

You can also help others by reporting scams to ScamWatch

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Program Policy- Co-ops Developing Procedures

2017 was a productive year for PAC and the development of a suite of up-to-date Program Policy. Program Policy sets the rules that all co-ops must follow as members of the Program.

PAC sets out to provide an opportunity for co-ops to provide feedback on draft policies before they are recommended to the CEHL Board. Feedback on draft policies via the online survey steadily increased across the year and CEHL looks forward to this trend continuing in 2018.

Co-ops can determine how they will implement Program Policy, as long as this sits within the parameters set by the policy. PAC sometimes develops procedures which co-ops may wish to use or adapt. Where co-ops have not developed their own procedure, the PAC developed procedure will be considered the default where procedures are required.

For co-ops seeking to develop their own procedure to implement a Program Policy consider:

- the step by step actions that need to be followed when dealing with a situation covered by the relevant Program Policy
- ensure that the actions align with the Statement and Principles sections of the relevant policy
- where a policy requires a specific notification to, or approval from, CEHL, ensure that this is clearly outlined in the procedure.

Should you have any questions regarding the implementation of Program Policy, please do not hesitate to contact your Co-op Development Co-ordinator CDC.

NEXT POLICY CONSULTATION APRIL - MAY

The next policy consultation cycle runs from **5 April to 16 May**. Review the draft policies and complete the survey on the **Policy Consultation** page of the CEHL website.

Program Policies recently approved by the CEHL Board	
POLICY NAME	THE POLICY COVERS...
Program Response to a Co-op Member's Loss of Membership	The assessment of the Program obligation and response following a co-op member's loss of membership.
Property Allocation for Unhoused Members	The use of properties to house co-op members not currently housed in the Program and to specify the circumstances in which CEHL will allocate an additional property to a co-op to meet the needs of an unhoused member.
NRAS Eligibility and Compliance	Eligibility and compliance requirements in relation to National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) funded properties. This policy only applies to co-ops with NRAS funded properties and households which reside in them.
Privacy	How CEHL and its member co-ops will collect, retain, use and disclose the personal information of tenants and prospective tenants.

New faces at CEHL



Mahesh Kandasamy
I joined Common Equity Housing Ltd during late 2017 driven by my passion to support the creation of a world that is fair, just, sustainable and fun to live in. I strongly believe that Co-operatives have a critical role to play in this. I have 20 years of experience working within the Banking and Social Enterprise sectors. I hold a Masters in Sustainability and Social Change, Grad Cert in Social Impact and a professional qualification in Management Accounting. Outside of work I enjoy cooking for my family and friends and taking nice long bush walks.

Mark Wilkinson-Hayes

I joined CEHL in 2017 after 15 years as a Housing Manager with the Salvation Army . Prior to this I lived in the UK, working for a brief period in residential and commercial real estate before seeing the light and working for 15 years within Community Housing sector there.

Co-op is the one area of housing that I hadn't worked in before, so the opportunity to join CEHL was impossible to resist! Secure, affordable housing, managed by and empowering tenant members is a fantastic model and I'm glad to be part of it.

When not at work I love cooking, eating, gardening, cycling, reading and eating!



Gardening Q&A

Why are some fruit and nut trees grafted and others, such as citrus and roses, budded?

Grafting is where a piece of stem containing several buds of the

fruit or nut tree are joined via the grafting process to the same type of plant, which has often been grown just to provide a root system.

Budding is where 1 or 2 buds from the plant you wish to bear fruit or flowers are placed on to the same type of plant which has, been grown only to be the root system of the final plant.

A rootstock can be grown to provide many things. A plant grown from seed may or may not produce a strong root system. It may produce suckers or allow the plant to become dwarfed. To produce a dwarf plant It is now possible to use a dwarf rootstock.

A beautiful weeping rose or tree is formed when a standard root stock is budded or grafted with a weeping piece of stem or bud wood from another plant of the same species. The problem with growing trees, roses and other plants from seed is that we do not know what we will get from the parent plants.

Growing from seed means that the plants we grow have unknown qualities that could determine outcomes ranging from flower colour to the height and shape of the tree and the type and quality of the fruit. Also the tree or plant could be subject to diseases.



COMPOST RECIPE

Mix 1 part wet material (nitrogen) to 3 parts dry material (carbon)

WET MATERIAL X 1	DRY MATERIAL X 3
Lawn clippings	Autumn leaves
Manure- horse etc.	Pea straw
Chopped prunings	Pine needles
Kitchen scraps	Moist cardboard /egg cartons
Tea bags	Shredded newspaper
Coffee grounds	Dryer lint
Hair	Sugar cane mulch

- Layer wet and dry materials alternatively and keep moist
- Thin layers best
- Add a few handfuls of soH or blood and bone at times
- Turning frequently wilt reduce composting time
- A one metre cube is required to reach temperatures warm enough to kill weed seeds
- Do not add meat/milk products

John Harrison
Southerners CERC

Training Advisory Committee



In 2018 the Training Advisory Committee (TAC) continue to work with the Co-operative Development & Strategy (CDS) Team to deliver the *Roles and Responsibilities of an Office Bearer Workbook* as well developing two practical training sessions.

New Workbooks Coming!

The *Roles and Responsibilities of an Office Bearer Workbook* will compliment the *Directors Workbook*, it includes details about roles and responsibilities of the:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Maintenance Director
- Member Selection

PLUS . . the *Wombat Co-op Case Study* to provide practical examples of issues that may arise for office bearers and ways these issues can be resolved.

Training Sessions

The dates for training sessions are on the back page of this newsletter. When you receive your invitation, RSVP to training@cehl.com.au or 9208 0862.

TAC Seeking NEW Reps

TAC is also seeking members to represent the South East Metro, Shepparton, Peninsula, Geelong and Bendigo regions.

If you are interested in becoming a TAC member please call Jenni Dwyer, *Team Leader, Co-operative Development Strategy Team* on 9208 0839.

IT MUST BE THE WEATHER AGAIN!



Last time I shared with you how my Grandad got the weather with his valve radio and Mk1 eyeballs. Today we jump into the 21st century and look at satellite weather reports.

Victoria has the only dedicated Earth satellite weather receiver in Australia, at Crib Point.

We use Himawari 8 and 9 weather satellites operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency situated 35,800 km above the equator in line with Japan, Papua New Guinea and Central Australia, and China's Fen Yun 2 series satellite which covers the Indian Ocean and Western Australia.

Why not have our own Satellite?

We used to be a world leader in rocket science at Woomera. I was there a couple of years ago and nobody can fathom the change in policy.

According to the UN there are over 4,000 satellites in outer space today. Only about 1,750 are actually working! That's an awful lot of scrap metal up there. Be thankful for those that do work.

If you are a bush-walker, fisher person or sailor, or just make a habit of getting lost, one of these trick GPS or beacons in the sky may save your life, one day.

Oh, by the way, I ignore the 6 day TV and long-term forecasts. Melbourne has the most changeable weather on earth, but we do have a very good record in 3 day forecasting. Please don't blame me if it rains on your next BBQ!

*Don Carpenter
Carinya CERC*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For up-to-date venue details go to www.cehl.com.au

15 March	Training Advisory Committee
16 March	Policy Advisory Committee
19 March	Rent Model Advisory Group Committee
28 March	CEHL Board Meeting
04 April	Newsletter Advisory Group Meeting
RENT MODEL REVIEW WORKSHOPS	
18 April	Shepparton 6.30 - 8pm Shepparton RSL, 88 Wyndham St, Shepparton
19 April	Bendigo 11.30 - 1pm Quest Bendigo, 228 McCrae St, Bendigo
	Ballarat 6.30 - 8pm Sebastopol Community Hub, Tuppen Dr, S'pol
21 April	Metro West 11 - 12.30pm Melton Library, 31 McKenzie St, Melton
	Metro North 2.30 - 4pm Northcote Town Hall, 189 High St, Northcote
23 April	Gippsland 11.30 - 1pm Morwell Bowls Club, 52 Hazelwood Rd, Morewell
	Metro South 6.30 - 8pm Dandenong RSL, 40 Clow St, Dandenong
24 April	Peninsula 12.30 - 2pm Bentons Sq Community Centre, 145 Bentons Rd, Mornington
	Geelong 6.30 - 8pm St Mary's Community Hub, 192A Myers St, Geelong
02 May	CEHL Board Meeting
REGIONAL TRAINING	
07 May	Gippsland
08 May	Metro South
08 May	Ballarat
09 May	Bendigo
09 May	Shepparton
09 May	Peninsula
10 May	Geelong
15 May	Metro West
16 May	Metro North
30 May	CEHL Board Meeting
15 June	CEHL + Co-ops Conference

Send your stories, pictures and ideas to
newsletter@cehl.com.au