

STREETS ahead

JULY 2021



OFFICIAL OPENING OF BONNYRIGG SENSORY GARDEN



On Tuesday 25 May, SGCH hosted the official opening of the Bonnyrigg Sensory Garden with more than 50 guests in attendance.

SGCH customers and staff were joined by members from the Royal Botanic Gardens and Community Greening groups, staff from SR construction, Nick Lulich, MP and Fairfield City Council representatives including Mayor Frank Carbone.

The Bonnyrigg Sensory Garden is funded by the NSW Government in association with SGCH with contributions from the NSW Land and Housing Corporation and our maintenance service provider, SR Construction. Bonnyrigg is being renewed and reinvigorated to provide social and private housing as part of Newleaf Communities and the Bonnyrigg Sensory Garden is central to this community.

**New Way to Contact
SGCH for All Customers**

We have a new free phone number
to make things easier for you:



**FREE CALL
1800 573 370**

CATALYST HELPS TURN PAGEANT DREAMS INTO A REALITY



Carrie and Leonie

Congratulations to one of our ambitious customers, Leonie, who was recently crowned Ms Australia Elite at the Ms World Beauty Pageant.

Leonie hit hard times after being diagnosed with the chronic disease, lupus, and losing her job. After a period of homelessness, things picked up when Leonie found a home with SGCH, but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Leonie was out of work again.

A close friend knew Leonie had dreamt of one day participating in the Ms World Universal Pageant and wanted to give her a boost. Her friend entered Leonie into the contest, covering the costs of the entrance fee, hairstyling, makeup, photography and her dress.

“I was so excited, but I quickly realised I would need more financial support to make this dream a reality, so I reached out to SGCH for some support.” explains Leonie.

Through the Catalyst Employment program, SGCH helped Leonie with the cost of accommodation for the pageant. Combined with her own savings and generous donations from a range of local businesses, Leonie was able to compete in the pageant and win the title of *Ms Australia World Elite*.

“I’m so incredibly thankful to have this opportunity. The pageant was so much fun, but I am most excited to use this platform to be an advocate in the community and to explore future employment opportunities and make connections”, says Leonie.

“I want to raise awareness for a great organisation, Parents Beyond Breakup, as well as homelessness programs and lupus awareness, two causes that are very personal to me.”

Leonie plans to compete in the Ms World pageant in 2022 and hopes to use the opportunity to help others in need.

CATALYST IS AVAILABLE FOR ANY SGCH TENANT AND OFFERS SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING.

For more information on Catalyst visit www.sgch.com.au/tenants-2/catalyst/ or get in touch with Employment Opportunities Manager, Carrie Yang on **1800 573 370** or at catalyst@sgch.com.au

HAVE YOUR SAY AND WIN

We are currently doing our annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. We value your feedback and everyone who participates will go into a draw to win a \$50 Coles/Myer gift card.

Look out for an email or a letter about it and share your feedback for a chance to win.



MORE THAN JUST HOUSING MAKE THE MOST OF SGCH SERVICES

In addition to our tenancy services, we provide a range of products designed to help our tenants' health and wellbeing.

CALL 1800 573 370 TO FIND OUT MORE

DIGICONNECT - BUY DISCOUNTED DIGITAL DEVICES TO REPAY OVER ONE YEAR

The DigiConnect program gives you an opportunity to buy digital devices at a discount from regular retail price. Choose one of the devices we have on offer and pay us back through fortnightly repayments over one year, with no interest.

For more information contact Housing.Plus@sgch.com.au

NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME (NILS)

We are a registered NILS Service Provider and can help you apply for an interest free loan of up to \$1,500 (for repayment over 12-18 months) to buy goods and services. For more information contact Housing.Plus@sgch.com.au

STRIVE SCHOLARSHIPS – HELP WITH THE COSTS OF EDUCATION

The Strive Scholarships program helps students in primary, secondary or tertiary education to pursue their goals. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,500 based on age group. The next round of scholarships for primary and secondary school students will open in October 2021. Follow us on facebook so you don't miss out.



STRIVE 2021

SGCH recently granted 186 scholarships in the 2021 K-12 round and 70 in the Tertiary round to the value of around \$250,000.

"I'm deeply touched by the generosity from the sponsorships and your department for giving me this golden opportunity in advancing my education in readiness for prospective future employment opportunities."

"I am currently in first year, and have just completed first term and continuing onto second term with ACAP. As my subjects are a



blended mix of on-campus and on-line (with Criminology being tutorials from their Melbourne Campus) and all lectures on-line, I rely on reliable working technology. I will put the scholarship funds towards technology, ongoing education costs and I also need to purchase new optical/spectacles, as my eyesight is failing - my current specs are not very good!" Anonymous Strive recipient.

NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN REDFERN - APPLY NOW

Our latest affordable housing development in Gibbons Street, Redfern is now ready to welcome customers. This property offers adaptable, accessible and affordable accommodation in the heart of Sydney, with one, two and three bedroom apartments available. Each apartment includes designer bathroom and kitchen, private laundry, built in robes and large balconies with great common areas such as a kids play area, bbq areas, bike storage and more on offer.

We encourage you to apply if you are:

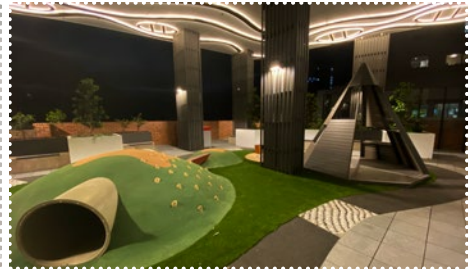
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Are currently employed
- Meet the income limits for affordable housing.

To check your eligibility visit

www.sgch.com.au/applications/affordable-housing/

As with all SGCH tenancies, our customers will be offered support making links to health, education, employment, training and specialist services in an effort to create a great place to live and a build a sense of community.

For more information email us at gibbons@sgch.com.au or call **0411 517 491**.



CENSUS 2021 – TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) counts every person and household in Australia via The Census, including all SGCH properties. The next Census will be held on **Tuesday 10 August, 2021**.

If you have any questions, please discuss with your Tenancy Manager.

IMPROVEMENTS WORKS COMPLETED AT FOUR PROPERTIES

SGCH is committed to maintaining and updating our properties to make sure they are safe and functional for our customers. We do this through planned maintenance and upgrades and thanks to recent funding from the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), we were able to fast-track planned work on a number of properties ahead of schedule.

We have just finished works at Morehead Street, Redfern, Belair Street, Punchbowl and Taren and Curtis Streets in Caringbah, with improvements to the look and feel of these properties as well as fixing some safety concerns. This included:

- Fresh paint in common areas and external trims
- Fixing concrete pathways/trip hazards
- Trimming of trees
- Fixing fences
- Replacing damaged drains/gutters
- Replacing broken glass on windows

Thank you to all of our customers who were involved for their patience and cooperation while these works were being completed. We hope you enjoy the improvements.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

At SGCH, our aim is to ensure that you receive excellent customer service and genuine care from us.

If you have feedback to share, get in touch with our

Manager Customer Feedback,
Amanda Anders on **1800 573 370** or
email feedback@sgch.com.au

