



## Winter Newsletter 2017

**Welcome to the Winter Newsletter** of Common Ground Canberra.

### **ACT Government Commitment to Common Ground**

In October 2016 the Chief Minister committed to developing a second Common Ground in Dickson. The recently announced ACT Budget for 2017/18 committed funds to develop options for the design, location and construction of an additional Common Ground. We are looking forward to working with the ACT Government in developing the next stage of Common Ground Canberra.

### **Board Changes**

The Board has been reinvigorated with three new members bringing fresh energy for our vision. The new members, Andrew Rowe, Liz Williamson and Larissa Toozeoff, have all hit the ground running and are working with the rest of the board on future directions for Common Ground Canberra.

Sadly we said farewell to board member Jon Lovell. Jon has been with Common Ground Canberra from the beginning. He played a major role in developing the business plan for Common Ground. We will miss Jon's contribution and wish him and his family all the best.

Daniel Casey has also resigned from the board, but will continue to contribute to the future of Common Ground.

We also farewelled Sheree Bamforth, our administrative assistant. Sheree played an important role in getting us on our feet.

Kate Dawson is now working as our Executive Officer.



### **Gungahlin Art Project**

The Northside Community Development team are currently working in partnership with Belconnen Community Services to develop an art project that was first proposed by one of the Common Ground Social Housing tenants. The tenant proposed creating an opportunity for artists such as himself to hone their skills and exhibit their art. He is a keen and active



participant in this project and we are excited to see what develops over the coming months.

The Gungahlin Art Project will highlight the talents of artists from the Gungahlin region and will focus on what it means for them to call Gungahlin home. The project will run over 10-12 weeks and will be facilitated by an Art Therapist with years of experience in multiple art mediums. There will be a minimal cost involved to cover the resources used and we hope to be able to include an overnight artist retreat towards the end of the workshops. The project will culminate in a series of art exhibitions in a number of locations- including the CGC common area- that will showcase the artists' journeys over the 12 week period. We are aiming for a late July/early August start date but will keep everyone updated along the way!

### **Gungahlin Community Engagement**

As part of its strategic focus over the next couple of years, the Northside Community Development team are working on a series of community consultations with the broader Gungahlin community. This is focused on uncovering aspects of living in the Gungahlin community, and asks community members to think of their Big Idea for Gungahlin:

1. What do people like about living here?
2. What do they want to see more of?
3. What can they contribute to their community?

The team spoke to over 180 people revealing similar 'Big Ideas'. One such Idea was for a community garden

because there was not space in the broader community set aside for people to come together and create a shared garden. Further consultation is required to determine whether this could be developed on site at Common Ground Canberra. Another common idea was for an ethnically diverse cooking group that could come together and share the recipes and stories of their culture. Again, further consultation will explore whether this is a possible use of the common areas in Common Ground Canberra.

### **Love poem to Faith by Ross Graham**

Locks of molten gold  
I swim in a sea of hazel  
Faith lost  
Faith born anew  
Please take me there  
To drift in dream of Rose's

Ross also creates beautiful name tags for the staff and recently produced one for Common Ground!



Thanks Ross for making our days brighter.



## Clare's Story

Clare has lived at Common Ground since it opened in 2015. Before moving to Common Ground, she was living in a bed-sit nearby and was delighted when she saw the Common Ground advertised on All Homes. She was attracted to having more space at an affordable rate. Clare has enjoyed living at Common Ground and the opportunity to mix with other tenants.

Clare has appreciated the support provided at Common Ground. Earlier this year she was unfairly dismissed from her job. Flexibility around paying rent helped Clare focus her energies on obtaining a fair resolution. "It was great to have support around. Sometimes I would be feeling down and would run into the support worker. She always reminded me that I am strong and resilient. This helped me feel very supported during a difficult time."

Clare has now returned to full time work that she is really enjoying, as well as studying a Certificate 3 in Business Administration. She is very grateful for the amazing support & home Common Ground offers. 'Common Ground sure is redefining community services'!

## How you can help

As a team we are looking to develop a database of volunteers and sponsors who would like to contribute their time, resources and talent to assist our service providers, Argyle Community Housing and Northside Community Services, and our residents.

We encourage a vibrant and inclusive community at Common Ground Canberra and are open to all ideas and

happy to work flexibly around your busy schedules.

If you would like to be involved or like more information on how you can assist, please contact:

Kate Dawson, Executive Officer

Mobile: 0435 351 059

Email:

[admin@commongroundcanberra.org.au](mailto:admin@commongroundcanberra.org.au)

Further information on Common Ground can be found on our website: [www.commongroundcanberra.org.au](http://www.commongroundcanberra.org.au)

If you have a specific query please contact our Executive Officer on 0435 251 059.

## How to make a Tax Deductible donation

- **Send a cheque directly to**  
Common Ground Canberra  
Box 44  
130 The Valley Avenue  
Gungahlin ACT 2912  
(Please include your name and address so a receipt can be mailed to you)
- **via our Facebook page**  
*DONATE NOW* button  
<https://www.facebook.com/CommonGroundCanberra/?ref=bookmarks>
- **via Hands Across Canberra** -  
Click on the Icon and then **nominate a donation to Common Ground Canberra**

