Upcoming Events

Cinema Under the Stars
Date: 28th February, 2015
Time: 5.30pm
Cost: FREE
Venue: King Edward Park, Newcastle

Newcastle Permanent Cinema Under the Stars is Australia’s largest free outdoor cinema program and is coming to a town near you! Gates open at 5.30pm for a fantastic afternoon of family-friendly entertainment, with the big screen lighting up at sundown. For details visit our website newcastlepermanent.com.au/cinema. A free shuttle bus is available for this event, please refer to the above website for further details.

Christmas Closure
Date: 24th December - 4th January
Time: 
Cost: 
Venue: -

The MyPlace Property office will be closed from 12pm 24th December, 2014 until 4th January, 2015 for the Christmas break. The office will reopen on Monday 5th January 2015 at 9am.

Christmas Nativity Exhibition
Date: 1st November - 28th December, 2014
Time: 9am - 5pm
Cost: FREE
Venue: Morpeth Gailey - Green Street, Morpeth

Discover a forest of trees, thousands of ornaments, as well as light-ups, Christmas music, modern and traditional Christmas figurines and nativities in all shapes and sizes, made from all manner of materials, glass, wood, resin, tin, ceramic and pottery.

Contact: 02 4933 1407 or email: info@morpethgailey.com

New Year’s Eve
Date: 31st December, 2014
Time: 5pm - 8.30pm
Cost: FREE (Face Painting $5)
Venue: Newcastle Museum - Workshop Way, Newcastle

A night with a bite! Get your teeth into some good old fashioned fun at a special annual New Year’s Eve event. See amazing creatures in our blockbuster Permian Monster Life before the dinosaurs exhibition. Try a game of Ammonite Twister, find the frog hidden in the Museum to win a prize, and meet some amazing animals from Blackbutt Reserve. Bring a picnic to enjoy on the lawn before you wander over to the Harbour for the 9pm fireworks.

For more information please contact the MyPlace Property branch on (02) 49 262 009

Congratulations to our Tenant Incentive Scheme winners!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 2014</th>
<th>October 2014</th>
<th>November 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold: Cathie</td>
<td>Gold: Linda</td>
<td>Gold: Carol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver: Susan</td>
<td>Silver: Kathleen</td>
<td>Silver: Chloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze: Madelaine</td>
<td>Bronze: Maurissa</td>
<td>Bronze: Loraine</td>
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You are eligible to go into the monthly draw automatically if your rent is in advance, your invoices are paid and are up to date and you are taking good care of your home.

For more information on how you can win a $50 gift card please call the branch for a flyer!

Update from the Team Leader
MyPlace Property is on the move!
We are now located at 1 Brown Street, Newcastle, about 100 metres from our previous location.
This purpose built office has been fitted out to provide private meeting rooms for your convenience and will accommodate extra staff as the business continues to grow.
If you would like to meet with one of the MyPlace property staff at the new premises, please contact the office and our Administration Officer can book in an appointment time convenient for you.
Our contact details will remain the same:
Phone: (02) 49 262 009
Fax: (02) 49 291 358

On behalf of MyPlace Property team I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tips & Tricks
Being Water Wise
There are many simple ways around your home to use water efficiently:
* Keep a bottle of water in the fridge for drinking instead of running the tap until the water is cool.
* Thaw food in the fridge or microwave instead of under running water.
* Wait until you have a complete load in your dishwasher or washing machine to save water and energy.
* Wash fruit and vegies in half-filled sink instead of running water.
* Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth.

Emergency Maintenance After Hours Contact 1300 333 733
www.compasshousing.org
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Hello again!

It has been a fantastic year for Compass. I encourage you to have a look at our website to see our 2013-14 Annual Report.

I would like to thank the vast majority of our tenants who are caring, committed and responsible towards their property and their lease obligations as we also seek to be with our obligations, and in addition, to go beyond that and add other meaningful value to our Compass community. I think we are generally achieving that and the benefits grow each year and I want to thank our committed, competent and creative staff for making this organisation a standout community housing provider in Australia.

Tenant satisfaction is very high. The number of tenants who performed voluntary work is at an historic high. We are consistent in our maintenance spend per annum and getting more efficient. I am happy with all that. I am particularly happy with the greater strengths-based approach to the tasking of our staff and their specialist roles and the virtual call-centre that was recently launched. I congratulate Lisa Tierney, other executive and managers who worked so well to implement these initiatives.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year.

* ONE MAN'S OLD SHIRT IS ANOTHER MAN'S NEW START *

We encourage anyone that has any unwanted items around their home to donate these to charities in your area.

By donating items such as clothing, books, home wares and furniture, you are helping the environment and community by introducing less waste, as well assisting other's who may need a helping hand.

If you would like more information on donating in your local area, please contact Adam on 49262009.

Dealing with Neighbourhood Disputes

Over time, there may be at least one issue which may cause disagreements between neighbours. If you are experiencing a dispute or problem, it’s important to try and resolve it as early as possible. Sometimes, the most effective way of resolving this is good old-fashioned communication. This doesn’t have to be a confrontational conversation and it isn’t necessary to be yelling to get your point across.

Before talking to your neighbour about your concerns, take a step back and remember to:

- Not to over-react to what may be a one-off event.
- Try to look at the situation also from your neighbour’s point of view.
- Keep your approach low key and pleasant.
- Try to offer a solution where both can be in agreement.

Grow A Star

Grow A Star is a Compass initiative which encourages generational change and enables identified youth at risk to access sporting, musical, academic activities and other opportunities that they may not have otherwise had. Since February 2014, the program has had the opportunity to assist many young people with financial support packages for an array of activities which has assisted them to become more engaged in the community and giving them a feeling of social inclusion. Grow A Star has assisted with sports fee’s, uniforms, scouts, education and modelling fee’s. Our focus is to identify and support youth at risk that show an eagerness, talent or passion to develop their skills in a chosen field. It is this focus that will lead to generational change and allow youth at risk to fulfill their dreams.

Get involved with Grow A Star by coming along to one of our activities. Call your local Compass Branch for upcoming events or for more information log onto www.compasshousing.org.

Inflatable Swimming Pools

Although inflatable swimming pools can be a great source of fun in the summer, there are serious hazards associated with these products:

* Children drown in very shallow water.
* Children can become unwell when pool water is left unsanitised for long periods of time.
* Electrocuton is a very real threat when portable electrical pumps and filters systems are not used correctly.

A tenant must not, without Council and Landlord’s written consent, install or erect a swimming pool or spa on the property. This includes prefabricated or inflatable pools.

Affordable Housing Rent Review

Affordable Housing tenants should have received a letter advising of the rent increase effective from the 30th November, 2014. For those who did not return their income information to our office, your rent has been increased to the market rent. This means you may be paying more rent than is required. If you have not returned your up to date income information to our office, please make sure you do this as soon as possible. It is very important that proof of income is provided for each household occupant as this information will be used to calculate your rent accurately. Providing your updated income information is part of your obligation under the Affordable Housing Scheme.