**BRANCH UPDATE**

The start of a new year and we have had some staff changes which you may already be aware of. I would like to welcome Brett, our new Housing Manager. Brett comes to us with a wealth of experience and is very excited about meeting you all and working with you throughout the year.

Alexandra has also come on board as the Community Participation Officer and has hit the ground running with some great programs coming up.

Unfortunately I am moving on from The Meeting Place as Manager and will be begin a new role within Compass. My role now is the Coordinator of the Grow A Star project, a project where Compass strives to give young people opportunities in life that they would not normally have access to without Grow A Star funding and support.

During my time at The Meeting Place, I have had the pleasure of meeting a large number of our tenants and I would like to thank you for all your cooperation and assistance.

I would also like to announce that the new Local Area Manager is Chris, who commenced in February. I hope you give him the same courteous reception you awarded me.

Cheers

Shane

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**Community Participation Officer**

- **Alex**

Hi Everyone!

I’m the new Community Participation Officer and I have replaced Jo, who has moved across to our Tuggerah Branch so I have big shoes to fill!

I’m excited about being part of the KBT Meeting Place and want to thank the team for making my first couple of weeks easy.

To kick the year off we have some exciting events happening which include:

- Volunteer morning tea
- CPR Training
- Well Being Day
- CTEP Bunnings BBQ
- Co-Op Fruit and Veg Boxes are back
- Stepping Forwards Program

More details are inside this newsletter. Please contact me Mon-Fri on 02 4388 1064 for more information.

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Compass Housing Services Co Ltd
1 Northumberland Way, Tumbi Umbi
NSW 2261

Phone: 02 4388 1064 Fax: 02 4388 5630
*Appointments required outside of drop in hours.

**Drop in Branch Hours**

Monday to Friday—10am - 2pm
Can’t pay your fines?
Clear your fines debt. Get your licence back. Make a fresh start.

With a Work Development Order (WDO).
The WDO Scheme is a world-first initiative that allows vulnerable people to clear outstanding fines (penalty notice and court fines) with activities or treatment rather than money. A person is eligible to participate in the scheme if they are experiencing acute financial hardship (ie on a Centrelink benefit) or if they are homeless, have a mental illness, intellectual disability, cognitive impairment or serious addiction to drugs or alcohol.

Ignoring unpaid fines has serious consequences. Penalties include driver’s licence and car rego suspension or cancellation, money taken directly out of wages and property seizure orders. And the debt increases as State Debt Recovery Office enforcement costs are added.

The WDO Scheme enables eligible people to clear up to $1000 a month from their fines by participating in vocational, educational or life skills courses, counselling (including case management), financial counselling, medical, mental health or drug and alcohol treatment or voluntary work. These activities can be provided directly by the organisation supporting the WDO or by referral. Ask Alex about doing a WDO.

(The Meeting Place) or by referral.
Ask Alex on 02 4388 1064 about WDO.

‘The Meeting Place’ NILS

What is NILS?
The No Interest Loan Scheme provides interest free loans for individuals or families on low income. It’s a community based program that enables people to access fair, safe and equitable credit for purchases of goods and services.

How does it work?
When a borrower makes a repayment to a NILS program, funds are then available as a loan for someone else in the community.

What are the loans for?
NILS is generally for the purchase of essential household items like a fridge, washing machine, TV, computer or bed. NILS may also be provided to meet other essential needs such as health and mobility aids or educational costs.

NILS IS NOT FOR EMERGENCY RELEIF, BOND, RENT, LIVING EXPENSES OR DEBT REPAYMENT.

For more details please contact Alex on 02 4388 1064.

Please note there is eligibility criteria and waiting lists may apply.

Volunteers Required

Ever thought about volunteering?
Ever thought, why should I volunteer?
Volunteering is a great way to meet people, create new networks, learn new skills and use existing skills and knowledge, add value to your community, pay off fines, utilise volunteer Time Banking and gain a recent work reference if you’re looking for work, among many other benefits.

We are looking for volunteers to work in our reception, garden and SHAK areas.

Bateau Bay Neighbourhood Centre are looking for volunteers to work in administration, computer tutors, homework group, gardening and disco D.J.

Speak to Alex about volunteering 02 4388 1064.
The number for emergency maintenance matters outside office hours is 1800 633 496

WELL BEING DAY
Friday 28th February 2014
10am –1pm @ ‘The Meeting Place’

TENANT MORNING / AFTERNOON TEAS
Month of April—Learn to read your tenant statement, you will be sent an invitation.

Laycock Theatre, Neil Hanson—Everything Old is New Again - March 5th

BAREFOOT BOWLS—March 26th

End of Daylight Savings
Turn your clocks back
Sunday 6th April 3am.

Know Your Local Neighborhood Services
Bateau Bay Neighborhood Centre
10 Cynthia St Bateau Bay—02 4332 7450

• Bateau Bay Homework Group—4pm to 6pm Tues to Wed
• Electricity and Gas Support—Thurs
• Food Store 9—3pm prices range 50c to $2.00

Many more services and support are available!

ITS BACK! The Meeting Place
‘Fruit & Veg’ Co-Op

How does it work?
Boxes are pre-ordered and pre-paid so we know exactly how much to order and pack.

Boxes will be available for pick up on Fridays from 10am-1pm. Boxes will be packed by volunteers between 9am-9.30am on Friday mornings. You can help out with box packing for a 10% discount.

How much does it cost?
We will have two sizes available a $8 and a $13 box. A 10% discount will apply to one box within the month if you have completed your volunteer hour within that month.

Do you do home deliveries & is there a charge?
Yes we home deliver between 10am—12pm on Fridays within the areas of Killarney Vale, Bateau Bay & Tumbi Umbi only. The cost is $2 per box delivery.

How do I order and pay?
Drop in to The Meeting Place to place your order by 2pm on Wednesdays. We will need your name, details, box size & payment and you will be placed on a list. When you pick up your box you can pre-pay and order again. We only accept cash.

This co-op is for the benefit of this community so the more local input the better!
Welcome new staff member!

Brett
Housing Manager!

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Brett and I am the new Housing Manager at KBT- The Meeting Place.

I commenced with Compass Housing in August last year, initially at the Newcastle Branch, before transferring to the Central Coast Branch. Just prior to Christmas I moved to my present position at KBT- The Meeting Place.

Having met many of you, I am developing an awareness of the challenges faced by our tenants. Therefore I see my role as one which will assist residents to sustain their tenancies within the KBT community. In this regard I pride myself on being readily accessible, so if there is an issue or concern you have, please feel free to contact me at The Meeting Place (phone: 02 4388 1064) or just drop in, at 1 Northumberland Way, during Branch hours.

To those residents I am yet to meet, I look forward to meeting you in the near future. To those I have already met, I look forward to our reacquainting.

In the meantime, all the best.

Brett

Enjoy some old fashioned memories.

Neil Hanson—Everything Old is New Again

Wednesday March 5th 2014

Laycock St Theatre Cabaret Show
followed by lunch. Will fill fast.

Transport will be arranged where possible

Cost: $5 per head. Lunch at Central Coasts Leagues at own cost.

Contact 02 4351 1191 for bookings.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY?

Free Senior CPR Course

When: Monday March 17th 2014

Where: 1 Northumberland Way
Tumbi Umbi

Cost: Free

Time: 10am-2.00pm
Please bring your own lunch
Bookings essential
Please contact the office for more information.

As of 1st February, 2014 The Meeting Place office will no longer be accepting cash payments.

Payment options available to tenants are:

1. Direct deposit at any Westpac Bank
2. Centrepay Deduction
3. Internet banking
4. Payment Card - Australia Post

You must use your tenant reference number when making a payment.

Upcoming Event

Interested in some gentle exercise?
Barefoot Bowls might be for you.

Event to be held at Toukley Bowling Club
March 26th 2014 10am-2pm

To register your interest please contact Jo on 02 4351 1191.