

## grounded

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## Maria's Message.

When someone asks me what I most like about working at Common Ground, I'd be lying if I didn't include the Monday cooking group.

It gives you some insight into my love of food – but I assure you there's more to it.

The cooking group, like so many other programs run through our organisation, is about bringing people together in a relaxed way to learn new skills and build friendships.

These connections, along with a safe, stable and affordable place to live, are the foundation for a better future for many of our tenants.



## A special birthday for a special sponsor.

Santos - CGA's foundation sponsor - is celebrating its 60th year of operation in South Australia in 2014.

The SA-based company was instrumental in supporting CGA to, quite literally, get off the ground and continues to help Common Ground evolve through funding and in-kind support.

Common Ground is not the only one to benefit from Santos' goodwill and generosity.

Last year alone, Santos invested more than \$12 million to support a range of causes, initiatives and events. Along with Common Ground Adelaide, Santos supports the Art Gallery, Botanic Gardens, the Aboriginal Power Cup with the Port Adelaide Football Club, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Tour Down Under.

It's also important to remember initiatives like the cooking group wouldn't be possible without support from our corporate and community partners and sponsors. OzHarvest Food Rescue, for instance, has been supporting us for the past two years by providing fresh fruit, vegetables and other food. OzHarvest staff also led a Monday cooking group for six weeks with a focus on food preparation, hygiene and healthy eating.

Tenants are the heart and soul of Common Ground Adelaide – but many people, businesses and organisations - including government - keep us ticking.

As well as goods and services we also receive cash donations while many people volunteer their time to help CGA.

Thank you to every one of you, including our staff, who help make Common Ground a place and a name we are all so proud of.

**Maria Palumbo**  
Chief Executive Officer

## In the spotlight...



## David...

David has lived at Common Ground Light Square for the past three years.

### What do you enjoy most about living at Common Ground?

I like the place, the view and the convenience. Buses and the markets are close by. There is a general friendliness – and the staff are tremendous. In some ways, I'm the most content I've ever been.

### What are you passionate about?

Art, classical music and contributing to the community.

### What are you looking forward to?

Living as long as I possibly can.

### Who would be your top five dinner guests – and why?

John Jay McCloy (former World Bank President); Leopold Stokowski (British conductor); Anne Bancroft (film star) Dame Joan Sutherland and Nelson Mandela. I've met all of them except Mandela!



## Colin on Common Ground

Former international BP executive Colin Goodall has been appointed Chair of the Common Ground Adelaide board.

Colin replaces Alexander Downer who has moved overseas following his appointment as Australia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

Colin has settled in Adelaide after a distinguished international career in the gas and oil industry, predominantly with B.P.A chartered accountant, his roles included: the first Chief of Staff within the BP Group; BP Europe's Chief Financial Officer and BP's senior representative in Russia.

He has been involved in several significant community projects to support people who are disadvantaged and at risk of homelessness and has served on the board of Habitat for Humanity Australia.



“ I HAD LOST ALL HOPE... ”

## Website new face of Common Ground.

It's the tenants who tell the Common Ground story better than anyone else. So it makes sense they are the face of the organisation's new website.

The site, which is now operating, will be the first port of call for many people looking for information about CGA.

Importantly, the website features Our Place Manager – the online avenue through which Common Ground community members can post blogs and let each other know about events, services and visits.

Visit the new site at [www.commongroundadelaide.org.au](http://www.commongroundadelaide.org.au)



## Building better futures in the city.

Common Ground Adelaide will be able to support more people out of homelessness with the development of three new city buildings.

A seven-storey apartment complex is underway on the iconic Balfours site in Mellor Street while other projects are also being constructed in near-by Crowther Street and Shannon Place.

The Mellor Street building will provide a home for a range of tenants who had been or were at risk of homelessness including young single-parent families for whom there is a lack of safe, budget accommodation in the city.

The seven units being built in Crowther Street are specifically for vulnerable people who would find it extremely difficult to secure and sustain a tenancy in the private market.

Some tenants from the Light Square site, who have become more independent, will move to Crowther Street.

The five new units in a development on Shannon Place will provide a stable place to live for people on low incomes needing affordable accommodation in the city.



## Port Augusta Gold!

Many people have long known Common Ground Port Augusta is an Australian trailblazer in supportive housing – now it is official. Common Ground Port Augusta is the reigning national winner of the Leading Housing Project Award - part of the Australasian Professional Excellence in Housing Awards.

Sponsored by the Australasian Housing Institute, the Awards were held during the National Housing Conference in Adelaide late last year.

Common Ground now has two sites in Port Augusta – Boston Street and Augusta Terrace. Opened last year, the Augusta Terrace site comprises 20 one-bedroom units and is providing on-site support for tenants who are extremely vulnerable and who were or are at high risk of homelessness. Boston Street is now mostly home to low-needs tenants who are working or engaged in education or training.

# More than words...

Emotional. Reflective. Fun. These were some of the ways Common Ground tenants described a workshop recently presented by the SA Writers Centre. The group's efforts, combined with guidance from facilitator David Chapple, culminated in a poem called *Home*.

## **Home**

About a week ago – I was a child  
From an imagined flight path, from high above  
I viewed the past.  
Home  
A cat's purr  
An appliance whirr  
An ideal place  
That smells and tastes  
Relatively plain  
Still it hits my nostrils and I see my neighbours scramble for clothes  
As demon Dad light the backyard furnace.  
Grow up. Get used to different smells and houses  
As I enter you will know my perfume  
A fragrance with no name.  
Couldn't, wouldn't identify it but know that it is comfort.  
Happy, sad, angry, escape the unresolved and on to my future home.  
I chose friends over family  
I have enough rooms to suit my guest's tastes  
I have space for silliness with cousins  
It sounds with Grandparent's yarns  
But its bed time in steamy Darwin  
It's the last hours of light  
Ignore my peasant background  
Take pride in the forty thousand trees planted by my parents  
Happiness that we produced something.



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