

# grounded

COMMON  
GROUND



Celebrating  
good times  
and going  
forward



Support  
Karen on  
new  
journey



Giving  
a reason  
to grin



Bunnings Activity Organiser Dina at work.

## Bunnings helps CGA bloom.

A force of nature has brought Common Ground and Bunnings together to help CGA's community garden become even more sustainable.

Bunnings Warehouse Mile End will support CGA to convert raised garden beds within the garden to wicking beds by donating plastic, piping and other items.

Wicking beds water plants from below. They are, effectively, containers with water reservoirs at the base.

CGA Community Development Officer and Case Co-ordinator Mark Kruszynski said:

*"Plants can draw on the water when they need to and the moisture is more evenly*

*distributed through the soil, creating better growing conditions for the plants,"*

Bunnings Activity Organiser Dina Mitsios said she had recently visited CGA's community garden at the Joinery so when she received an email from Common Ground seeking support for the project it was "ideal timing".

*"I was really excited," Dina said. "The opportunity to be involved is a perfect fit for us because it is all about sustainability and community."*

Dina said Bunnings would also donate some plants and other items to support the project.



AUDSS officer and student Laura Smith with her peers at the clinic.

## Giving a reason to grin

The Community Dental Outreach Clinic recently held a 'thank you' evening at CGA Light Square to recognise its sponsors, donors and volunteers. The event provided supporters the chance to tour the Clinic and meet each other. It included speeches from Professor Lindsay Richards, Dean of Dentistry at the University of Adelaide; Dr John Reed, volunteer dentist and the Clinic's manager, Margie Steffens.



# Celebrating good times and going forward.



Ali Brasted and Julie Duncan cut the cake (left). Rob Martin, Giles Turnbull and Scott Cugley (top right) enjoying celebrations and HCA Vice Chair Heather McCallum speaks to guests (bottom right).



Celebrations marking Common Ground Adelaide's 10th birthday have kicked off and will continue throughout 2016.

In April, the Housing Choices Australia Board met at CGA providing the opportunity for a welcome gathering at Light Square.

Around 70 people - including staff, sponsors and supporters - enjoyed canapes prepared by the Common Ground cooking group with support from Rilka Warbanoff. Guests were entertained by the Common Ground band.

In May, an afternoon tea was also held for tenants to recognise the occasion and acknowledge their contribution to the success of Common Ground in South Australia. Ali Brasted, one of CGA's original tenants sang at the opening of the event.



Former Common Ground tenant Karen Hawke and (inset) Karen with CGA's Rob Martin and Liz Syngajewski.

## Support Karen on new journey.

Raising \$30,000 to accept the opportunity of a lifetime including a research trip to Antarctica is an ambitious task. But if anyone is up to the challenge it's Karen Hawke. The former Common Ground resident has battled the biggest of demons to pursue her dream of completing a PhD and forging a path in scientific research.

Now, Karen is hoping to embark on a new journey. She is one of just 78 women selected globally to take part in the first Homeward Bound program - a prestigious international academic initiative dedicated to engaging women leaders to build a more sustainable world.

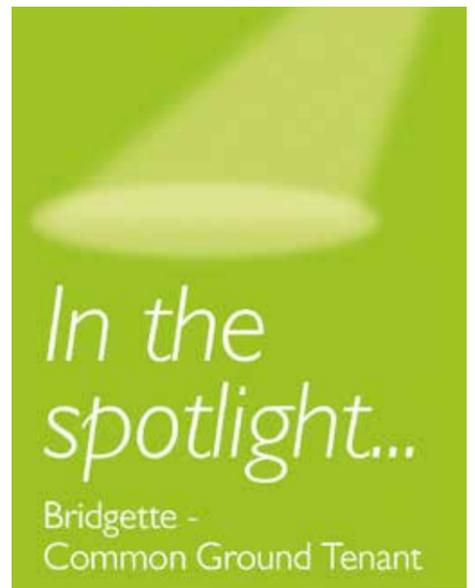
"At the centre of the program for the 78 women is a 20 day expedition to Antarctica," Dr Hawke explains. "The trip is designed to

engage and support more female scientists to become leaders and create a more sustainable future for everyone.

"Part of becoming a great leader is stepping outside your comfort zone - Antarctica is one of the fastest changing places in the world, it provides a perfect platform to challenge ourselves about how we improve our planet.

"Most of all I just want to help other people to believe you can really turn your life around and anything is possible."

To help Karen reach her goal, you can contribute directly through SAHMRI either as a donor or a sponsor. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Bridgette has been living at Common Ground Mellor Street with her son Matthew for the past 18 months. She's a proud mum and fastidious cleaner!

**What do you like about living at Common Ground?**

We feel very blessed to have a brand new apartment and the security and safety it provides us.

**Name your top five dinner guests.**

My son and our closest 4 friends.

**What makes you smile?**

Everything.

**If money was no object, what would your next holiday destination be?**

Wow.. Don't think I can narrow it down. If money was no object I would have a massive bucket list of all the places I would love to show Matthew. I would probably start with a self-drive Europe adventure.

**How do you relax?**

I love to read.

## Co-Op at Common Ground.

The achievements and challenges faced by Common Grounds across the country underpinned a special meeting of the Common Ground Community of Practice last month. The group, chaired by Mercy Foundation CEO Felicity Reynolds, converged on CGA - where the unique supportive housing model was launched in Australia a decade ago. Supporting people out of homelessness and housing stress was key to meeting discussions and importantly, plans for future actions and initiatives.



The Common Ground Community of Practice in the CGA Light Square courtyard.

## Powerful partnership in fight against homelessness.

One is a community housing provider - the other a leading oil and gas producer. On the surface, Common Ground Adelaide and Santos couldn't be more different. But the pair's shared values have underpinned a strong partnership - resulting in support for hundreds of people in need and now, a prestigious housing award.

CGA and Santos were recognised at the 2016 PowerHousing Awards winning the Business Partner of the Year category. The nomination was submitted by Housing Choices Australia. Santos is Common Ground Adelaide's foundation sponsor. Over the years, Santos has contributed \$3 million as well as generous in-kind support to help CGA establish and grow operations in South Australia.

PowerHousing Australia provides a unique forum for peer-to-peer exchange and collaboration amongst housing professionals who are dedicated to improving lives through the provision of affordable housing.



# Playgroup key to learning and growth.

A child's brain develops more and faster in their first five years than at any other time in their life. That's one of the many reasons why organised playgroups - such as Light Square City Playgroup - offering a chance for children and parents to meet, play and learn together are so beneficial.

Minister for Education and Development Susan Close recently visited the group highlighting the advantages to families and the community.

"The early years are the most important to our children's development, and participating in a playgroup helps our little ones learn to socialise and develop through play," Dr Susan Close said.



Minister Close with Playgroup members Cindy (mum), Charlie and Abbey.

*"Parental involvement is equally important, and playgroup participation is an excellent way for parents to not only be hands-on educators for their children but also to be part of a positive community group."*

The LSCP, facilitated by Sturt Street Children's Centre, is run out of the art

room at Common Ground Light Square. It has now been operating for almost a year with around 10 families attending each week.

The Playgroup runs every Wednesday from 10am until 11.30am except during school holidays.



# Homestart gives reason to believe in great Aussie dream.



Did you know that HomeStart Finance has helped Common Ground tenants get out of the rental cycle and into their own home? Even if the dream of owning a home seems far away, HomeStart could help you get started on the journey and into your own home, sooner.

**For more information visit [www.homestart.com.au](http://www.homestart.com.au) or call 1300 636 878.**



 **Something to say?** Tenant feedback forms are available in or near the common areas at Light Square, Franklin Street, Mellor Street and Augusta Terrace. Feedback from all members of our community is welcome at any time. Email [admin@cgadelaide.org](mailto:admin@cgadelaide.org)

 **Rather receive this newsletter by email?** Subscribe by emailing [admin@cgadelaide.org](mailto:admin@cgadelaide.org)

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