

# grounded

COMMON GROUND



All smiles at dental fundraiser



Delanie swoops in for success



Recipe book on menu after great race

## Top of the season to you from the Common Ground team!



*The pungent, resigning smell of a festive pine tree, trimmed with glassicles and coloured lights can only mean Christmas. And then the rustle and crackle of wrapping paper being torn, and with it, a happiness you can hear as my children - long ago - opened their Christmas bounty. All the different smells and noise and a feeling of unrivaled joy permeates the world, and continues each and every Christmas for me.*

Teddi Maclean, Common Ground Adelaide resident

From top left: Rob, Lana, Vikki, Ash, Mark, Charlotte, Karina, Liz, Danielle, Giles, Tash, Michael, Lincoln and Julie. Absent: Steph, Daniel, Kathy and Kirsty send their best wishes too!

# Common Ground Port Augusta

Common Ground Port Augusta was opened in December 2012 with the establishment of the Boston Street site. This was followed by another development at Augusta Terrace in August 2013. Boston Street comprises 15 units for low-needs tenants who are working studying or engaged in training while Augusta Terrace provides housing for higher needs tenants and incorporates offices for on-site support staff. Kirsty Dadleh is the Operations Manager for CGPA. The support team comprises three Salvation Army staff: Olivia Tobin (Team Leader); Julie Dowling (Case Manager) and Diedre Mahomed (Case Manager).



The Pt Augusta team from left: Julie Dowling, Olivia Tobin and Diedre Mahomed (Salvation Army) and Kirsty Dadleh (Common Ground).

## Delanie swoops in for success.

When Common Ground Port Augusta resident Delanie Weetra began a new job in spring, there was only one thing worrying her. "I started walking to work and was getting swooped by magpies," she explained. "Luckily one of my colleagues now gives me a lift." The 19-year-old has otherwise had a smooth transition to the workforce after gaining a traineeship with RTC Facilities Maintenance Group at Port Augusta. She is front office receptionist at RTC. "For my first job I wouldn't want to do anything else," Delanie, who completed year 12 in 2014, said.

"One of my teachers had been looking out for me and asked if she could forward my resume to RTC when the opportunity came up. I've been really lucky!" Delanie said she had "grown up" a lot in the past 12 months. "Since November last year I've moved out of home and got a full time job so that has been a big adjustment and forced me to be more responsible. Common Ground has been great for my partner, Andrew and me. At the moment we're saving really hard. We'd like to eventually buy a house of our own. We'll see."



Delanie Weetra at work.



Common Ground Augusta Terrace



Common Ground Boston Street

*Common Ground Port Augusta provides case management and support through The Salvation Army for tenants. The case managers help tenants to overcome barriers that may have contributed to the risk or experience of being homeless. Programs and resources are offered to help tenants achieve their goals including links to education, training and employment.*

## Sundrop helps residents reap fruits of their labour.



Adrian Simkins and Olivia Tobin at the Common Ground Port Augusta Community Garden.

The Common Ground Port Augusta community garden is coming up roses – in the form of tomatoes, chilies, jalapenos, capsicums and silverbeet – thanks to support from Sundrop Farms. Sundrop Farms is a pioneer in sustainable horticulture for the arid world, growing high value crops using seawater and sunlight. Over recent months, the company has been working with the CGPA community to breathe new life into the community garden at Augusta Terrace.

"It was a great opportunity for us to help out," Sundrop Farms Head Grower, Adrian Simkins, said. "We collaborated to develop a plan on what would work best in each bed, identifying plants that would be suitable year round. "We put an emphasis on vegetables so the community could really get something back for the effort they put in. When people can use the produce, it really helps foster that ownership of the garden. It's about getting people involved and excited more than anything."

CGPA Operations Manager Kirsty Dadleh said Sundrop's expertise and help had been "fantastic".

"We are very fortunate to have their advice and support," she said. "Having the growers come out and work with us to not just plant, but properly plan the garden puts us in a good position to keep it going."

Salvation Army team leader Olivia Tobin, who drove the initiative, said the Sundrop partnership had brought out the best in the CGPA Community.

"Tenants are planting, watering, harvesting and cooking their own produce, which is great health-wise and from a personal development perspective," Olivia said. "It also enables clients to build skills, work towards gaining employment and to develop connections both within Common Ground and the Port Augusta community." Sundrop Farms is the only company in the world to operate greenhouses in locations that have little or no access to arable land, fresh water or grid energy. The company began operating its first greenhouse pilot facility in Port Augusta in 2010. Earlier this year it commenced construction of its 20 hectare commercial scale facility near its original site south of Port Augusta, representing a scale up of 100 times the pilot facility.

## Trevor turns life around at Common Ground.

It was a tough start to the year for Trevor. The 38-year-old lost his job in the mines and his relationship broke down. Then he found Common Ground.

"It gave me the opportunity to get my life together," Trevor said. "After working in the mines for 18 years I hadn't known anything different. Since coming here (to Common

Ground) I've got myself fit and healthy. I've been able to study and apply for jobs." Trevor, a qualified boiler maker, began a Certificate Two in Business at TAFE. He is now well on the way to completing the course and recently gained employment as a trade assistant with Sundrop Farms.



Trevor, Port Augusta Common Ground resident

"I can see the opportunities opening up now," he said. "I know I've got a bright future. I've just got to go out and grab it."

# All smiles at dental fundraiser.

There was a room full of dentists - but no drills in sight - when 130 people gathered for a special event to support the Community Outreach Dental Program in October. Hosted by Keith Conlon, more than \$45,000 was raised for the Program, based at CGA Light Square. Managed by the University of Adelaide, the clinic runs using a core group of volunteers as well as dentistry students.



# Advisory group a vocal asset.

The first resident advisory group is now up and running at Common Ground. The group aims to facilitate communication between residents and Common Ground; represent residents' diverse needs and interests; and enhance community development and the engagement of all residents in the community. Meanwhile, a recent independent survey of Common Ground tenants has revealed a high level of satisfaction. A total of 191 tenants were surveyed with 92 respondents revealing a 93 per cent overall satisfaction rating. Areas covered included property, location, maintenance, customer service and support services.

# Recipe book on menu after great race.

A recipe book by Common Ground residents is now on the menu following the Great Food Rescue Race. Presented by OzHarvest and Santos, the CGA community formed teams competing in a "pressure-cooker" series of food rescue themed challenges across the CBD on Friday, November 6. The competition raised funds for OzHarvest - Australia's first perishable food rescue organisation. OzHarvest collects quality excess food free of charge to 600 charities including Common Ground. The experience was made particularly special with staff from Santos - CGA's foundation sponsor - working with residents to scribe their favourite recipes and their personal meaning, in record time. Santos' Manager Community and Corporate

Responsibility Beth Worrall said the event was a fun way to celebrate Adelaide's food culture and raise funds and awareness for OzHarvest. "Santos is a very proud supporter of both OzHarvest and Common Ground, so it's wonderful to come along and support these organisations in such a fun and delicious way!"



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



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