

grounded

COMMON
GROUND



From
Canberra
to Common
Ground



Connecting
at the
Joinery



New
faces
in our
spaces

Mellor St
wins
excellence
awards

A place to play and learn.

Lily, 2, enjoying activities at the playgroup.



Common Ground is hosting a new city playgroup to cater for a growing number of families choosing to make their home in the CBD. Facilitated by the Sturt Street Childrens' Centre, the Light Square City Playgroup is held on Wednesdays at CGA Light Square. Julie Duncan, Common Ground Adelaide's Executive Manager, Business Development, said the playgroup provided a comfortable way for families from all over the community to come together to learn and develop.

"Playgroups have been proven to be a powerful platform to support both children and parents in those crucial early years,"

Ms Duncan said.

"We are welcoming parents, carers and most importantly, children from all over Adelaide, including those who live at Common Ground.

"We want to ensure we not only support our residents to go out and connect with the wider community but also, to bring the community into Common Ground."

Light Square City Playgroup runs every Wednesday (except school holidays) from 10am until 11:30am at Common Ground, Light Square. For more information or to register interest, phone 8205 1600.

Common Ground Adelaide recently hosted South Australia's State Cabinet at the Light Square development. Many elements that make Common Ground a great place to live were showcased including an array of paintings by residents that adorned the walls in the room in which the Ministers met. Led by Premier Jay Weatherill, the group then shared lunch, provided by the CGA cooking group, with residents, staff and staff from Santos – Common Ground's foundation sponsor. The meeting also provided CGA with the chance to outline its commitment to the Common Ground model while providing more affordable housing options for people on low incomes and those in housing stress.

CGA on display.



CGA resident and artist, Christine McDonald with State Arts Minister Jack Snelling.



Two new senior staff specialising in key areas of the business have been appointed at Common Ground Adelaide. Julie Duncan has begun as Executive Manager, Business Development while Rob Martin recently started as Executive Manager, Client Services. Julie has significant housing and management experience at each level of government, the community housing sector

and crisis accommodation. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts with the University of Adelaide, a Graduate Certificate in Housing Management and Policy from Swinburne University, and a Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of South Australia. Rob holds an MBA, Master of Laws, Master of Arts in International Relations, Master of Social Work with a

New faces in our spaces.

Graduate Diploma in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. His extensive qualifications are well supported by a diverse work history including managing crisis homelessness services, consultancy services and managing practices and programs in child protection advocacy services across Australia.

Joining forces in housing.

An agreement has now been formalised enabling Common Ground Adelaide and Housing Choices Australia to join forces. In what is believed to be the first national partnership of its type, CGA is now operating as part of the Housing Choices Australia Group. The agreement provides Common Ground with increased capacity to grow and become more sustainable without comprising its proven model of housing coupled with case managed support. By joining forces, Common Ground and HCA now provide more than 3,700 tenancies across three states, for people who would, for a range of reasons, struggle to maintain housing in the private rental market.



CGA's Julie Duncan with the Mellor Street project team.



Mellor Street wins excellence award.

Common Ground Mellor Street has often been touted as a top class development. Now it's been confirmed with Hindmarsh Construction winning the Excellence in Affordable Housing Award at the 2015 SA Master Builders Association Awards for CGA's seven-storey apartment block. The title is a well deserved honour for everyone involved.

Connecting at the Joinery.

A traditional Aboriginal performance at the launch of The Joinery.



You didn't have to be a green thumb to have fun at the launch of The Joinery – a Conservation Council of SA initiative supported by Common Ground Adelaide. Living up to its mission as a space where the community can come together to connect, 111 Franklin Street

was brought to life as more than 150 people gathered to officially open the project as well as the new Adelaide Natural Resource Centre. Plants from Common Ground's community garden have now been replanted into the new community garden at the Joinery.

His Excellency, The Governor Hieu Van Lee and The Honourable Ian Hunter MLC were among those to speak at the opening which included the opportunity for guests to write their ideas for the space on a 'wishing tree'. A traditional Aboriginal performance was among the

many highlights of the night.



Pen to perfect.

Home is where the heart is - and inspiration lies – if a new book featuring the work of Common Ground residents is anything to go by. Local published and widely acclaimed author Victoria Purman (*Only We Know*) launched *Perfect – An Anthology of Poetry and Prose* on August 6. The book was produced by the SA Writers Centre following a series of workshops with CGA residents funded by Community Benefit SA. David Chapple, Writing Development Manager at SA Writers Centre, said the initial grant supported the workshops with the Writers Centre and CGA contributing extra funds to support the publication of the book.

"We realised very quickly that within this group there was an

Victoria Purman, David Chapple and Fleur Green at the launch.



extraordinary amount of talent and stories to tell," David said. Liz Syngajewski, Support Team Leader at Common Ground, said the initiative had exceeded expectations. "Each one of our writers can be enormously proud of what they have achieved," Liz said. "I know the skills they have learnt and the confidence they have gained through this experience will benefit them no end when they are pursuing further study, employment or in their personal development." Ten Common Ground residents have work published in the book – seven from Adelaide and three from Port Augusta.

From Canberra to Common Ground Adelaide.



Minister Morrison at the Community Outreach Dental Clinic at CGA Light Square.

Affordable housing and supporting the most vulnerable South Australians to improve their lives was firmly on the agenda when Federal Minister for Social Services Scott Morrison

visited Common Ground in August. The Minister toured the Mellor Street and Light Square developments including the Dental Outreach Clinic, chatting with staff and residents.

Lifting the bar to better health.



Personal trainer Kris Massie with client, Phil.

Chi Holistic Personal Training and Common Ground have teamed up with CGA lending room within its Light Square development to the fitness group. The personal training groups, led by former AFL player Kris Massie, have offered tenants free fitness sessions in exchange for CGA support. Chi PT operates most classes on Light Square using the CGA accommodation for stretching and yoga sessions and in inclement weather. For more information, phone Kris on 0402 900 107.



Common Ground key to cook off.

THINK.EAT.SAVE



Common Ground residents came to the food rescue again this year for the annual OzHarvest Think. Eat. Save. A very committed group from CGA joined some of Adelaide's top chefs and many other volunteers who donated their time to make free meals from rescued produce. Food waste costs Australia up to \$10 billion annually. The event is aimed at changing the public's awareness and behaviour.



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