

# Co-op Connect

Promoting the housing co-operative model

Winter 2016



## WOMEN WANTED!

One of our member co-ops, Inanna's House, is seeking low-income-earning women interested in exploring the possibility of joining its ranks.

Located in Hilton, Inanna's House is a nine-household co-op created to house low-income-earning women and their families.

It is a women-managed co-op (but not a women-only co-op – men and children live there too), so each household must include one member, and that member must be a woman. Women with children in their care will be given priority for available housing.

### More information

Call Ishara on 0415 593 408

Email [inannashouse@gmail.com](mailto:inannashouse@gmail.com)

Web [www.co-operationhousing.org.au/inannas-house](http://www.co-operationhousing.org.au/inannas-house)

## CO-OPERATING FOR GROWTH

Co-operation Housing's CEO Rebecca Hicks (pictured, far right) is currently collaborating on an exciting new project with sustainable community builder Eugenie Stockmann from Green Fabric (centre), co-operative specialist Elizabeth Cheong and local supporter of co-operative housing Andrew Shack (at left) to develop a demonstration project for presentation to the City of Fremantle's Innovative Housing Working Group.

The project proposes an innovative solution to the current shortage of affordable, sustainable housing, based on co-operative identity, values and principles.

Anyone interested in supporting or being a part of this project in any capacity is invited to contact Co-operation Housing for more information, or visit:

<http://greenfabric.com.au/index.php/get-involved>



## CONGRATULATIONS, SHAC!

The creative folk behind SHAC (Sustainable Housing for Artists and Creatives) have been busy raising the necessary funds to build a community hub and studio as part of their emerging housing co-op in White Gum Valley.

They recently held an art auction and set up an online crowdfunding campaign that raised more than \$50,000 from likeminded people and organisations within and outside the sector. Well done, SHAC!



## OUR FEE-FOR-SERVICE RATES TO STAY LOW

Following a government-set wage increase, an internal review by Co-operation Housing has determined that our fee-for-service rate for member co-ops will remain at the existing rate of \$50 per hour (+ GST), with Co-operation Housing absorbing the increased wage costs. The rate for non-member organisations will increase slightly from \$60 to \$65 per hour (+ GST), to cover the wage increase.

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## CELEBRATING THE POWER OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MODEL

This year we again joined forces with FOHCOL to organise a joint celebration of International Co-operatives Day. The successful event focused on the theme of **Housing co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future** and, as well as the usual food, festivities and fun, featured the following presentations:

- > The Power to Act: Applying the principles of co-operation for a sustainable future
- > Adding Value: Introducing the principles of co-operation to an existing community
- > CoHo Style: Collaborating for more innovative, sustainable, affordable housing
- > Stronger Together: The National Co-operative Housing Network

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Co-operation Housing is delighted to welcome Pinakarri Community as an associate member. Associate membership is formal recognition of the ongoing support and goodwill extended by Pinakarri Community towards Co-operation Housing's purpose and objectives.

We greatly appreciate and value Pinakarri Community's efforts to strengthen Western Australia's housing co-operative sector through this relationship.



## FAREWELL, BERNIE

We are very sad to announce that the lovely Bernie Rowney, founding member of our Bunbury member co-op, ARCH, passed away on Easter Sunday.

Bernie was greatly loved and respected, and will be sorely missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

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## HAVE YOUR SAY ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The City of Fremantle is currently working to improve housing affordability and diversity in Fremantle and surrounding suburbs.

Beginning in September, the City will be seeking input from community members towards this important goal. Register your interest at:

[mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/diverse-housing](https://mysay.fremantle.wa.gov.au/diverse-housing)

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## STRONGER TOGETHER

This quarter we've supported each of our member housing co-operatives through their annual capacity audits, which give them an opportunity to identify their current strengths and any areas in which they'd like to develop their capacity. We then work with them to facilitate this development in whatever way they wish. We also administered their Member Satisfaction Surveys, which ask them to reflect on which aspects of Co-operation Housing's service they are happy with and which they'd like us to do differently. We continue to support them with their compliance responsibilities, including by guiding them through the requirements of the newly introduced *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*.



## Co-operation Housing

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