



Mia Mia

Renter Newsletter
Edition I, April 2025

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Aboriginal Housing Victoria Renter Newsletter | Edition 1, April 2025

Welcome to the first edition of Mia Mia, AHV's Renter Newsletter for 2025. In this edition, we'll share important tenancy updates, maintenance reminders, and information on upcoming events. We'll also highlight some of the fantastic initiatives happening across our communities and ways you can get involved.



How to Enrol to Vote

Australia will have a Federal Election this year, it will be held on Saturday 3 May 2025. Voting is not just a right – it's a powerful way to have your voice heard on the issues that matter to you.

Voting is compulsory by law if you're an Australian citizen aged 18 or over. If you are 16 or 17, you can enrol now so you're ready to vote once you turn 18. If you've moved house since the last election in 2022, it's important to update your details through the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Remember that failing to enrol or vote can result in fines.

Enrolling is an easy process. You can check, register, or update your enrolment online through the AEC or complete a paper form to mail in. Find out more at aec.gov.au/enrol.



From the Housing Services Team...

The next Annual Rent Review (ARR) will commence in April 2025. You can expect to receive further information by mid-April.



Learn more about free TAFE courses available...

Did you know that Aboriginal Victorians can access fee-free TAFE courses? In a range of studies including healthcare, early childhood education, construction, hospitality, community services, IT and more. Learn more by calling TAFE Vic on 131 823 or visit yourcareer.gov.au/fee-free-tafe/first-nations.

AHV also offers a **\$500 Work & Training Scholarship** to help with additional costs associated with getting back to study or work, such as text books or tools. Learn more by scanning the QR Code or visiting ahvic.org.au



Celebrating Renter Milestones!

An AHV Life Coaching participant has celebrated a **big milestone** following goal setting work with Coach, Trudi.

Their goal was to realise their dream of becoming a foster parent to First Nations children. After initially providing respite care, they have been able to take in and care for **8 children in 6 months**. As a participant in the Life Coaching program for over 18 months, their next goal is to move into a larger property and expand their fostering capacity.

A big congratulations from everyone at AHV to this special renter making a difference in community.

Save The Date: 2025 Community Consultations

Following on from our 2024 consultations, we invite you to join CEO, Darren Smith, alongside senior AHV staff to yarn about the issues that matter to you.

Hear about AHV's long term plans to improve housing, housing options and housing services, and let us know how we can better meet your needs and hear your feedback.

Sessions are from 10am-12pm, followed by lunch. To find your nearest location and venue details visit ahvic.org.au/tenants/community-engagement-and-development, email community@ahvic.org.au or call AHV on 1800 248 842.



3 April
Frankston

29 April
Warrnambool

30 April
Geelong

14 May
Shepparton

15 May
Echuca

An update from the Maintenance Team...

Allowing access for Maintenance & Property Inspections

Help us help you keep your home safe.

Allowing our contractors access to your property for routine inspections and maintenance helps us prevent major repairs and safety risks.

These inspections help AHV identify repairs early and track property condition for future works. If a scheduled visit conflicts with your availability, work with your Housing Officer to find a suitable time.

A pilot **Property Condition Inspection Program** is set to begin in the Western Region in 2025. After which, the broader program will roll out, ensuring all properties are regularly assessed and maintained.

What is the RentSafe Taskforce?

A **cyclical maintenance program** is underway in AHV properties, conducted by **Rent Safe (RS) Taskforce**, to check the safety of property features like smoke alarms, electrical and gas fittings, and more.

You will be contacted directly by RS Taskforce regarding the safety inspection.

Meet Andrea - AHV's new State Maintenance Manager

Andrea joins AHV with a wealth of knowledge in the aged care and community services sector. He's a foster dad to two rescue Staffies, and enjoys cooking. Andrea is looking forward to meeting renters at our upcoming Community Consultations. Be sure to say hi!



Community News and Events

Geelong, Barwon and Western Regions

AHV Community Consultation - Warrnambool

29 April, 10-12pm

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative
64 Harris Street Reserve, Warrnambool

Woonggoorweel Wathaurong Deadly Games

12 May - 16 June, Mondays @ 5.30-6.30pm

Corio Leisure Time Centre

Have fun and get fitter and healthier through traditional games and current day exercises.

Contact Ben for more info on 0487 235 073.

The Beautiful Shawl Project

19-23 May

Budja Budja, Halls Gap

BreastScreen VIC's mobile screening van offers free breast screens, in a culturally safe space with a female radiographer. Women receive a free shawl to use and keep.

10 minute appointments: (03) 5356 4751

AHV Community Consultation - Geelong

30 April, 10-12pm

Corio Library
11-15 Cox Rd, Norlane

Wathaurong Open Day

Monday, 7 April, 3-7pm

Norlane ARC, 1-9 Cox Road, Norlane

Learn about Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative and the services, program and supports they offer for Mob.

Yoorrook's Walk for Truth

May-June

Yoorrook Justice Commission Deputy Chair, Travis Lovett will walk 370 kms from Gunditjmara Country in Portland to the Victorian Parliament on Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Country in May and June 2025. Join him on the Walk for Truth. More at yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/events

Bendigo, Shepparton and North West Regions

AHV Community Consultation - Shepparton

14 May, 10-12pm

Location to be confirmed

Visit ahvic.org.au for up to date venue details.

Rumbalara's Easter Family Day

9 April, 4.30pm-7pm

Rumbalara Activities Centre, 95 Ford Road

Join Rumbalara's Community and Connected Families team for an afternoon of fun, games, food, music, and a visit from the Easter Bunny!

To register call Lana Scott on 0429 143 254

Rochester Community Gathering

16 April, 12-2.30pm

Rochester Skate Park, Cnr Campaspe/Gillies St

Enjoy live music, dance and a free BBQ with Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-Op.

All are welcome!

AHV Community Consultation - Echuca

15 May, 10-12pm

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
103107 Hare St, (Old 208 Primary School) Echuca

Giggle and Yarn at Bendigo Art Gallery

9 May, 9.30am-10am

Bendigo Art Gallery

Join First Nations Learning Officer Annie Brigdale for traditional storytelling, songs, and play based activities. Ideal for 0-5 years, with parents and carers encouraged to join.

MVAC Women's Group

Every Thursday, 11am-1.30pm

MVAC Hall

A chance to come together, share yarns, and build knowledge of culture.

More info: Call Mariah - 0447 809 846.

Gippsland

GEGAC On Country – Fishing & Cultural Days

March – May

Connect with community and culture through GEGAC's Fishing Days on 17 April and 8 May, and 'A Day On Country' on 3 April.

To book call/text Scott on 0499 834 694.

South East Treaty Update @ GEGAC

8 April, 6 May, 10 June and 8 July

GEGAC Bairnsdale, 12-1pm

Come yarn with Alice Pepper, First Peoples' Assembly representative, about Treaty negotiations and have your voice heard.

Metro Melbourne & Surrounds

Casey Easter Eggstravaganza!

16 April, 4pm-7pm

Casey Aboriginal Gathering Place

20 Agonis St, Doveton

Enjoy Easter basket making, an Easter egg hunt, and a visit from a very special bunny! Mob Only
Family, parents, and carers are all welcome.

Ancestral Dreaming Clap Stick Painting

16 April, 10.30am for 5-8yrs, 1pm for 8-12yrs

Frankston Library, 60 Playne St, Frankston

Connect with culture & Country making Clap-Sticks with Traditional Custodian Josh West of Ancestral Dreaming.

VACCA's Windook Dads Group

Mondays, 5.30-8.30pm (ex. school hols)

Nairn Marr Djambana, Frankston

A safe space for fathers, carers, uncles, and granddads to connect. RSVP: Barbara Ingram on 9108 3500 or barbarai@vacca.org.

Barrbunin Beek Mob Dinner

11 April, 2 May, 14 June from 5.30-7.30pm

55 Catalina Street, Heidelberg West

A chance to gather, connect, and have a feed together.

Bushtucker Walk & Talk with Aunty Jo Russell

26 April, 2-4pm

Westmeadows Indigenous Community

Gardens

Come yarn with Aunty Jo about Aboriginal cultural plants throughout the gardens.

Deadly Creative Arts @ City of Whittlesea's Autumn Holiday Program

9 April, 1-3pm

Laurimar Community Centre, Doreen

Explore traditional and modern First Nations art forms, from painting to weaving and storytelling. Best suited for kids aged 12-18.

Sisters Day Out – 1 Day Workshop

8 April – Yarra Glen

Hosted by Djirra – A space for Aboriginal women to support each other, learn about legal rights, and access support services. To register, call 1800 105 303 (press 3).

VACCA Western Women's Group

Thursdays, 10am-12pm

Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Community Centre

Connect with community and share culture. Open to all Aboriginal women living in the west. RSVP: vaccawestculturalevents@vacca.org.

Djirra's Dilly Bag – Women's Gathering

14 & 28 April – Taungurung Country

An on Country cultural gathering designed to promote healing, connection and Aboriginal women's ways of living meaningful lives.

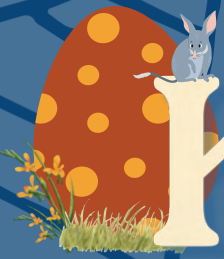
Reconciliation Week Storytime

26 May, 2-2.30pm

Sunshine Library, 301 Hampshire Road

Learn through stories and songs, and come together for a special preschool Reconciliation Week Storytime. Children & Families 3-5 years

All events listed are free.



Kids Corner



Can you find all the
describing words in
the puzzle?

- KIND
- PATIENT
- PLAYFUL
- EXCITED
- CURIOUS
- CARING
- THOUGHTFUL
- DEADLY
- CHEEKY
- HAPPY
- BRAVE
- SMART

P	S	L	Q	P	C	H	E	E	K	Y	E
A	M	S	K	L	C	A	R	I	N	G	X
T	A	U	I	A	V	H	A	P	P	Y	C
I	R	J	N	Y	E	V	U	D	B	C	I
E	T	Q	D	F	Z	B	R	A	V	E	T
N	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	F	U	L	E
T	S	Y	J	L	D	E	A	D	L	Y	D
C	U	R	I	O	U	S	W	U	F	H	H

The word that best describes me is... _____



Help the bunny
find its eggs!

Who Am I?...

Through the bush, I run so fast,
Hiding eggs in leaves and grass.

With big tall ears and a furry nose,
I bring sweet treats where gum trees grow.

I'm not a bunny, but I bring delight...
Who am I on Easter night?

Answer: The Easter Bilby

