

HOUSING FUTURES



PLANNING AHEAD FOR EMERGENCIES

We encourage all members to have a simple plan in place in case of an unexpected hospital stay or medical emergency. This might include thinking about who can care for children, pets, or manage important household matters if you are suddenly unavailable.

We also ask that you provide us with an up to date In Case of Emergency contact person.

This helps ensure we can reach someone you trust if we are unable to contact you directly and there are concerns about your wellbeing or your tenancy.

Having these details on file supports your safety and helps us respond appropriately in unexpected situations. Please see the back cover of this newsletter for the Emergency Contact Form.

Thank you for helping us look out for your wellbeing.

MAY 2026 MEMBER MEETING



Monday 25 May 2026

Meeting starts at 7:15pm

Dandenong Club 1579 Heatherton Road, Dandenong Nth

Members encouraged to attend in person if possible.

Zoom will be available for those unable to attend in person

FROM THE CEO



Autumn is here, which means the footy season is just around the corner.

I hope all members had a great Christmas and New Year period, with plenty of time for family, friends and relaxation.

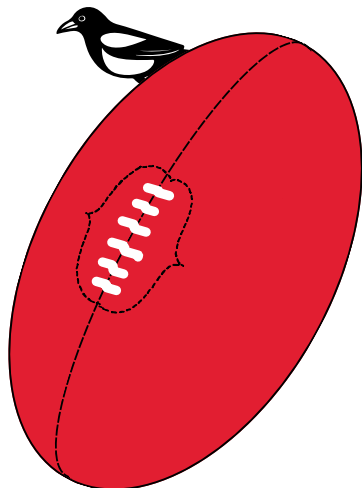
As stated, the AFL season starts shortly – Thursday March 5th to be exact – when Carlton does battle with the Swans at the SCG. I plan to be at that game as my son-in-law Ben Ainsworth (number 12) will be playing his first game in the Navy Blue. I encourage all members to join our FREE footy tipping competition to be in the running for \$600 in prizes. It is only open to co-op members, and details of how to get involved appear below.

Also in this newsletter you will find:

- information regarding planning ahead for emergencies
- an article devoted to the need for planning ahead insofar as the future housing of members' adult children is concerned
- contacts for emergency relief agencies
- featured photos sent in by members of their homes
- an article on a BMW award won by SouthEast and presented to Independent Director Ankur Pandit in Munich, Germany
- suggestions for accessing financial assistance to help with power and utility bills

As we enter 2026, the staff of SouthEast and I look forward to working with our wonderful Board of Directors to continue to provide housing services to our members. See you all at the Member Meeting on the 25th of May!

Steven Morrissey
CEO



2026 Footy Tipping

FREE footy tipping competition for Co-op members
1st prize - \$300, 2nd prize - \$200, and 3rd prize - \$100

[click here to join](#)

PLANNING AHEAD

future housing for adult sons /daughters

As our member households age, it's important to think ahead about what future housing might look like especially when adult sons and daughters, including those with disabilities, are living in the family home.

We understand that many adult sons and daughters play a vital role in supporting their parents, and the home can be an important source of stability. However, it's equally important to be aware that if the member / renter (the parent) passes away, the adult sons and daughters do not automatically have the right to remain in the property.

While SouthEast Housing Co-operative considers each situation on a case-by-case basis, generally SouthEast properties are not passed on to adult children of members on the member's death.

For this reason, future planning is essential. Exploring long-term housing options early ensures that adult sons and daughters - particularly those with additional needs or disabilities - have the best chance of securing safe, stable accommodation when the time comes.

This may include considering supported accommodation pathways, applying for social housing independently, or working with support services to plan for long-term needs.

We encourage members to start these conversations now and seek advice or guidance where needed. Being proactive today can make a significant difference tomorrow.

EMERGENCY CONTACT ONLINE FORM

in case of an emergency please contact

Members are asked to complete either the online form using the link below, the form on the back of this newsletter or contact Melissa on 0400 313 948 if you need a printed copy of the form to complete and **return by Monday, 16th March**

[Click here to complete the online form](#)





Emergency Relief

What is Emergency Relief (ER)?

Our Emergency Relief service provides food vouchers to assist people experiencing financial hardship, resulting from their current situation or an unexpected crisis event.

We provide confidential, non-judgemental support to maintain the dignity of individuals and families.

How can I access support?

A phone appointment must be made to access Emergency Relief (no walk-ins).

To make an appointment, please call 1800 223 650 on Monday or Wednesday between 9:30am – 11:30am.

How can I refer someone?

Community service organisations can make referrals into the Emergency Relief service by calling **1800 223 650** during the above open times.

Eligibility

ER support from CCV is available to residents in the following areas. Please note that **not all suburbs** within each council are eligible.

- Cardinia Shire Council
- Casey City Council
- Greater Dandenong City Council
- Monash City Council
- Kingston City Council

Find out if you're eligible:



www.catholiccarevic.org.au/emergency-relief



www.catholiccarevic.org.au

MEMBER HOMES SPOTLIGHT



Hansen Family backyard



Li Donni family Christmas lights

If you would like us to feature your home or garden here please send photos to melissa@sehc.org.au

BMW SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD

SouthEast Housing Co-operative Recognised Internationally

SouthEast Housing Co-operative is proud to share that we have been named a recipient of the 2025 BMW Group Award for Social Responsibility.

Now in its 14th year, the award recognises outstanding social commitment connected to employees of the BMW Group. The program celebrates meaningful community impact and highlights organisations that are making a tangible difference through dedication, innovation, and service.

Our nomination was submitted by SouthEast Housing Co-operative Independent Director, Ankur Pandit, whose connection to the BMW Group made this opportunity possible. Following the nomination process, SouthEast Housing Co-operative was selected as one of just ten finalists internationally an incredible achievement in itself.

Ankur had the pleasure of travelling to Munich in late 2025 to accept the award on behalf of the co-operative. The recognition includes a financial contribution of €2,500, which will directly support our ongoing work and strengthen our capacity to serve our members and community.

This award is a testament to the collective effort of our staff, board, members, and supporters. It reflects the commitment, care and social responsibility that underpin everything we do.

We extend our sincere thanks to Ankur for his nomination and representation, and to the BMW Group for recognising the vital role community housing co-operatives play in creating stable, supportive, and inclusive communities.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RENTERS

With energy bills continuing to rise, it's important that community housing renters are kept informed about relief packages and assistance they may be eligible for. These include:

Power Saving Bonus

Concession card holders in Victoria can apply for a \$100 one-off payment per household to ease cost-of-living pressures. Renters can apply online or call the Victorian Energy Compare helpline on 1800 000 832. Their local Neighbourhood House can also help them apply.

Utility Relief Grants

Renters with electricity, gas or water debts can apply to receive a maximum of \$650 for each utility type over a two-year period (or \$1,300 for households with a single source of energy (for example, electricity only).

For very high energy users there is an [Excess Electricity Concession](#) and an [Excess Gas Concession](#). Large households or anyone with a very high bill may be able to get this help, including if high energy costs are due to hosting family for 'sorry business'.

Energy Assistance Program

This free, over-the-phone service supports Victorians who are having trouble paying their energy bills. It can help renters access energy affordability programs, find the cheapest plans, and understand their consumer rights and protections. Call 1800 161 215 to book an appointment.

www.sehc.com.au

Maintenance - Sandy 0429 558 826
Tenancy - Melissa 0400 313 9484

*Member
Experience*

RIGHT SIZING

“I SAID YES AND NEVER LOOKED BACK”

As a sole parent with a 13-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter, I knew back in 1996 that I could not sustain the current rental costs within the area of Clayton South and was searching for cheaper housing potentially down along the Mornington Peninsula. However, another move would significantly impact my children's education. My daughter had already attended Prep at one school before we moved again, starting Grade 1 at our new location where she had established great friends. The thought of a third move was really concerning.

Applying to become a Member of the Oakleigh Rental Housing Co-operative was, without question, one of the most impactful and positive decisions I have ever made. We were assigned a three-bedroom weatherboard home in a quiet street, within a short drive to my daughter's school, while my son continued catching the bus to his college. It gave us stability, security and a place to truly call home.

Fast forward 29 years – now on my own, with two empty bedrooms and a massive garden that was gradually becoming more than I had the energy to maintain to the standard that I used to manage, I realised it might be time to consider something smaller. The idea of a more manageable home and garden actually began to feel like a relief.

After hearing that the co-operative was purchasing some 2-bedroom units for members to rightsize into, I expressed my interest and started to seriously consider what a new lifestyle might look like – something easier, lighter, and with far less guilt. There are so many families who would completely fall in love with my lovely three-bedroom weatherboard if they were only given the opportunity... just like I was all those years ago.

Sandy showed me this unit and when I walked in with my daughter I said immediately “I could live here”; It was that instant, and that easy. I was so surprised. There was a small courtyard garden just waiting for my touch, the bedrooms were well positioned, and there was beautiful natural light throughout.

Six months ago, I said “yes” to rightsizing – and really, I have never looked back.

Of course, there was a fair bit to organise to fit into my smaller home. I sold extra artworks, furniture, two white storage units and so much more on Facebook Marketplace, raising \$1,255. I used that to purchase new (and often smaller) pieces – also through Marketplace – that fit the unit perfectly, particularly for my bedroom. Plus, the unit has built-in robes which are absolutely fabulous!

One unexpected bonus that I had not considered when moving to my new unit has been the reduction in my weekly bills. Electricity is now around \$12, gas is \$13, and water under \$10 – all of which are a delightful saving.

Initially, rightsizing felt too complicated and overwhelming and a lot to get my head around. But you might be totally surprised at how naturally it all comes together. You can live in a smaller, cosy, easy-to-maintain home – and at the same time, give a local family the opportunity to fall in love with a house just as I once did and to join SEHC as a Member of a truly life-changing organisation – one that really does take care of us all.

Avril Lochhead
Member of SEHC

*Member
Experience*

RIGHT SIZING

**"I SAID YES AND NEVER
LOOKED BACK"**



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



A Very Happy SEHC Family Day at the Melbourne Zoo, December 2025

The Co-op's Family Day was held at the Melbourne Zoo on Sunday 7th December 2025. This is the second-year members have asked us to use this venue for our Family celebrations.

The location is convenient for most families, and there is something for people of all ages to see and do.

Judging by the good turnout, about 65 adults and children, the zoo certainly has been a great choice and will almost certainly be the venue again in 2026!

The venue for our lunch was the Leopard Function Room, located close to the Big Cats viewing areas. Members and their children enjoyed a buffet-style lunch that catered to all needs and tastes.

Feedback from all who attended on the day (including many who came the year before) all agree that the zoo is the perfect venue for adults and children of all ages.

Your Chairman and SEHC staff had the opportunity to mingle with Members and their families, and we all just enjoyed each other's company and a very pleasant lunch.

Thank you to all members who attended with their families. Fingers crossed, we may choose the Zoo for the 2026 Family celebration.

Best wishes,
Steven Grange
Chairman



EMERGENCY CONTACT

in case of an emergency please contact

Emergency Contact Consent - Only for those who have not completed the online form

To help us ensure everyone's safety, we ask each member to provide the name and contact details of one emergency contact person.

This information will be used only in an emergency where we are unable to reach you directly and immediate contact is necessary, such as a medical emergency or serious safety concern.

Emergency contact details will not be used for routine communication or shared with third parties. Any information provided will be limited to what is reasonably necessary for the situation and handled in accordance with applicable privacy legislation.

Providing this information is intended solely as a precaution to support your well-being and peace of mind.

By providing an emergency contact, you agree that we may contact this person only if we have made multiple unsuccessful attempts to contact you and have concerns about your safety.

Member Name	
Address	

My emergency contact person is

Name	
Relationship	
Phone	
Email	
Do you have pets at the property? If yes what type	
What plans have been made for their care in an emergency	

I confirm that I have advised my nominated emergency contact and consent to them being contacted in the circumstances outlined above.

Signed -

Date -