



HOUSING FUTURES

CEO REPORT



Autumn 2026

Autumn is ending, which of course means the footy season is now well underway, cooler Melbourne mornings, and the usual reminder that one day can still manage to deliver all four seasons.

Footy Tipping

It has been great to see members getting involved in the footy tipping again this year, with plenty of friendly competition already underway. Currently we have joint leaders with Liz O'Connor and BlueBagga4life both just ahead of the pack as of May 27th.

Member Meeting

It was very pleasing to see such a strong turnout at our recent general meeting, both in person and via Zoom. Meetings are an important part of co-operative life, and the level of participation from members are a great reflection of the strength of our co-op community.

It was particularly good to see such a mix of members in attendance, including new members attending one of their first meetings, alongside long-standing members who have contributed to SouthEast over many years. This mix of experience, involvement and fresh perspective is exactly what helps keep the co-operative model strong.

For those who attended in person, thank you for making the effort to come along on a cold and wet evening. For those who joined via Zoom, thank you also for your participation and we hope that the online experience was almost as good as being with us in person.

We were also pleased to welcome Tom Mason as our guest speaker. Tom presented to members on the dangers of scamming, including the ways scams can occur and the importance of being alert to risks.

This was a topic requested by the Board, as it was considered useful and relevant information for members. Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated, and people of all ages can be targeted. Based on the positive feedback received after the meeting, many members found Tom's presentation to be an eye-opening experience.

Future Meeting Topics

We are always looking for ways to make general meetings useful, informative, and relevant for members. If you have any ideas for future guest speakers or topics that you think would be helpful to discuss at a general meeting, please let us know by contacting Melissa. Suggestions might include practical information, community issues, safety topics, housing-related matters, or anything else that you think would be of interest to the broader membership.

Steven Morrissey
CEO

Member Experience Survey

We Want to Hear from You!

Message from the Board

Co-operatives today are much different from 20+ years ago. Then we could have “working bees” for members to help other members in our community – but today we have many new rules, OH&S regulations, strict government oversight, and compliance requirements like never before which prevent us from doing things we once did.

So being part of a “co-operative community” gets harder and harder every year. With the Government “giving” SEHC 189 properties to manage, it is only fair that they ask us to make sure we look after things and much of our Management and Board time is devoted to this necessary compliance to validate that we are doing all the things THEY consider important.

As you might know, every 2 years they stipulate that a “compliance” survey must be conducted for all members to ensure their technical/regulatory questions are answered. The last one was in 2025, and the next one will be in 2027.

However, as a Board, we increasingly feel that the regulators don't ask a very important question: that is – HOW DO YOU (the members) FEEL? Is being part of a Co-op helping you:

- with your everyday life?
- with your family or household?
- with your sense of belonging?
- with your mental well-being?

As a Board, we think these kinds of questions are important so that we can try to find out if SEHC is fulfilling its core mission of providing housing for those in need and improving people's lives in doing so.

As a result, this year we have decided to try out a new short 15 question survey of members to see how being part of SEHC works towards those goals. This survey is NOT required by government; it is purely for our own internal understanding of how being part of a Co-op like SEHC might impact the wellbeing of our members – both old and new.

The survey will be sent to members at the end of June 2026, and we ask that you please take the time to complete the survey. We will then consider your responses and see where we might be able to take things from there.

We are not sure what you will say or what exactly we might do with the outcomes – but we do think it important that we ask, if nothing else than just to get a better understanding of how you feel.

Thank you

WELCOME

Since 1 July 2025, the Co-op has welcomed nineteen new members and their families into co-operative housing. These new allocations have been made possible in part through the generosity and community spirit of six long-term members who chose to right size from larger family homes into properties better suited to their current needs.

For some members, this meant moving from homes they had lived in and cared for over many years. Their willingness to make this transition has helped create housing opportunities for other individuals and families in need of safe, secure and affordable housing within our co-operative community. We sincerely thank them for their contribution and commitment to the co-operative values of fairness, participation and supporting one another.

We look forward to seeing our new members become active participants in co-operative life and hope they feel welcomed and supported as they settle into their new homes and community. We are pleased to warmly welcome the following new members to the Co-op community:

David and Lynette, Candice, Angela, Shea, Kayla, Cassandra, Serife, Justin and Taylor, Shae, Matthew and Naomi, Tahlia, Tia, Narelle, Jazmine, Judy, Stacey, Jessica, Yu Ling and Casey



Get comfortable with TECHNOLOGY

Need help using a mobile phone, tablet, computer or online services?

The Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) helps older Australians build their technology skills and stay safe online. Through ASCCA, you can find local computer and technology clubs offering friendly, practical support.

ASCCA also offers online learning opportunities, information sessions and events to help seniors feel more confident using technology in everyday life.

Learning new technology can help you stay connected, access services and use the internet more safely.

To find a local club or view upcoming events and training, visit ascca.org.au and select Find a Club, Training or Events.

Cost of Living Relief

With household budgets under pressure, it is worth checking whether you are eligible for any of the rebates, discounts and concessions available to help reduce everyday living costs.

Cost of Living Discounts

A wide range of discounts, benefits and rebates are available in Victoria to help with the cost of living. Services and programs cover: Energy and utilities, Transport, Health and Wellbeing, Seniors, Family, Education, Recreation and Leisure. The following link details all the available benefits and how to apply: <https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/personal/managing-finances/cost-of-living>

If you are a concession card holder, make sure you apply to your energy provider to receive 17.5% off your annual electricity usage costs and 17.5% off your winter gas usage costs (from 1 May to 31 October each year).

Did you know that you can claim a pet registration discount from your council if you have an eligible concession card? For more information and to apply, phone your local council. [Find your council contact details here](#)

VicRoads 20% Registration Rebate
— Cost-of-living relief for eligible Victorians —

20% REBATE
ON LIGHT VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES

- The Victorian Government has announced a cost-of-living relief package.
- Eligible Victorians can apply for a 20% rebate on light vehicle registration fees.
- Applies to registration fees paid between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.
- Applications can be made through Service Victoria from 1 June 2026.
- For more information, visit Service Victoria or call 132 VIC (132 842).

Visit Service Victoria | Call 132 VIC (132 842)

Have something you want to share in the newsletter?

send to
melissa@sehc.org.au

Keeping warm this Winter

As Melbourne heads into the cooler months, many households start to feel the pressure of higher energy bills. The good news is that a few small changes can make your home warmer, safer and more affordable to run.

1. Heat the person, not the whole house

Before turning the heater up, try warm layers, socks, blankets, hot water bottles or heated throws. These can help keep you comfortable without needing the heater.

2. Keep heating between 18 and 20 degrees

Setting your heater between 18°C and 20°C is generally recommended for comfort and energy savings. Every degree higher can increase heating costs, so try to avoid overheating the home.

3. Close off unused rooms

Keep doors closed to bedrooms, bathrooms and laundries when they are not in use, and use door snakes or rolled towels to reduce draughts.

4. Use your window coverings well

Open window coverings during sunny parts of the day to let natural warmth in, then close them before dark to help keep the heat inside. Windows can be a major source of heat loss during winter.

5. Watch for condensation and mould

Cold weather can increase condensation. Use exhaust fans, open windows briefly when practical, and avoid drying clothes inside without ventilation. Report ongoing mould, leaks or ventilation concerns early.



***All maintenance requests must go via Sandy,
please do not contact our trades directly.***

Thank you

Mould Myth No. 1

Why Bathroom Windows Should Be Closed



Bathroom exhaust fans operate by creating negative air pressure within the bathroom. This allows the fan to:

- Draw warm, moisture-laden air away from ceilings, grout, silicone and fixtures
- Remove steam directly from the source
- Discharge moist air externally through ducting

TIPS

from
The Mould
Doctor

If Windows Are Open



When the bathroom window is open while the fan is running:

- The fan pulls in outside air instead of extracting steam from the shower area
- Moisture remains trapped around ceilings, grout lines and painted surfaces
- Condensation levels stay elevated, increasing the risk of mould growth

In Summary

For an exhaust fan to work effectively, the bathroom should remain a contained space during showering. Once moisture has been removed, the window can then be opened to assist with general air exchange.

Garden

LOVE



Judy and Bob McDonald's garden

Avril continuing to add a personal touch to her new home, after right sizing last year.



Do you want to share what you have done to add your personal touch to your home and garden?

Send us your photos to melissa@sehc.org.au

ONLINE TRIVIA NIGHT

SouthEast Housing Co-operative recently held its first online trivia evening.

The event was just like a traditional pub trivia night, but from the comfort of our own homes. Some members even involved their families, with each household forming its own team to test their general knowledge and compete for the prizes on offer.

A fun and enjoyable evening was had by all, and we hope to hold another trivia night later this year.

We encourage all members to participate in the Co-operative's social events, whether it be trivia nights, the supper following General Meetings, or our annual Christmas celebrations. These events provide a great opportunity to connect with other members and strengthen our community, and we hope to see attendance continue to grow at future events.



ANNUAL RENT REVIEW

The Annual Rent Review process will commence in September.

If your household has wage or variable income, please start keeping your pay slips from 1 July.

If you have any questions contact

Melissa 0400 313 948



Monday 30 November	AGM - Dandenong Club / Zoom
Saturday 28 November	Adults Christmas lunch
Sunday 6 December	Family Christmas Party