

## Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou katoa – Greetings to you all

### Hi Everybody,

It's great to be in spring, seeing some warmer weather and longer days. Winter brought the issue of cold housing to the fore in the media. It's pleasing to see the opportunity that has presented with Council raising a loan to fund heating improvements in some of the houses that are older, hard to insulate and hard to heat. TAG is supportive of this work and see that speeding up this work can only bring about improvements for tenants' comfort and wellbeing.

We are thrilled to hear of progress relating to OCHT's employment coach scheme - our first tenant has become employed after seeking Tracie Palmer's services. Congratulations, we hope more will follow. Remember this is a free service.

OCHT ran more of the popular will writing sessions in September. To the delight of many tenants, City Harvest Foodbank parcels are continuing to be delivered by our very dedicated tenant drivers. Thank you!

TAG have organised a bus trip to Kaikōura on 1 November and a Christmas Dinner for tenants on 6 December. This month the winner of the Housing Heroes will be announced. There was a record number of entries – 20 nominees in total compared with 6 last year. Well done, this is so good to hear!

Until next time,

**Irmgaard van Schouten**  
(Deputy Chairperson)

## Welcome to the Spring edition

**Kia Ora,**

**This is a great time of year with the colourful new spring blossom and hopes of warmer weather for us all to enjoy.**

The nominations for the Housing Heroes awards have been received. Thanks to everyone for your interest. Keep an eye out for the December newsletter for the winners! The community development team has been busy organising the complex BBQs which started again mid-September.

We have worked closely with Christchurch City Council to see that insulation was compliant by 1 July 2019 and we are now working with Council to

bring forward the next stage of improvements for those properties that comply with legislation but are not fully insulated. We will let you know once plans are formalised.

We have purchased eight new homes in Hornby. The two-bedroom homes are modern, warm and dry and increase homes for families.

Our new developments at Charles Street, Hastings Street and Cresselly Place are well underway. These are three exciting housing projects delivering a total of 40 new homes which will open between March and July next year.

**Cate Kearney** (CEO)



Cresselly Housing Development

## Garden Makeovers

There has been a great uptake on the new garden service offered by Oderings and 13 tenant gardens have been completed. Tenants can select a one-off garden tidy up for \$109 or a garden removal for \$247. These services can be paid off at a minimum of \$5 per week and \$10 per week respectively. Most tenants have requested the garden removal option and we have had great feedback:

*“The contractors were nice people, very quick and pulled out all the weeds and left the plants”.*

*“It’s so much easier for me to manage. Now I can just pour some boiling water on any weeds that appear, and it’s done”.*

*“The area is now dry, neat and tidy. My unit feels warmer as the bark heats up in the sun and the warm air travels into vents under the floor of my lounge making it feel warmer”.*

*“With the area barked I can now use this area during summer to put some seats on to sit out in the sun”.*

**Talk with your Tenancy Manager if you are interested in this service.**



Before



After

## Something broken or need repairing?

**Don’t wait to tell your Tenancy Manager about maintenance issues at inspection time.**

Ring our friendly call centre staff on 0800 624 456 when something goes wrong and they will assess the job and put it through to our maintenance contractors.

### Call Centre Hours

Remember the OCHT call centre is operational Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00 pm.

Out of hours calls are taken by another organisation but often referred to us the following Monday.

## Monthly Garden Tips... from the Oderings Team

As the weather warms up, you may choose to spend more time outside in the garden. In upcoming newsletters, we will share tips on how to make the most of your garden.

Over the winter months greenery in some areas was pruned back to encourage new growth and get these areas back into shape. As spring unfolds you will begin to see accelerated growth which will mean healthier shrubs and hedges.

As soil temperatures rise so do the weeds! We use organic sprays and good old-fashioned back work to keep on top of the weeds around each complex so you can rest assured there are no harmful chemicals.



## Milestone Birthdays

At OCHT we like to acknowledge and celebrate tenant’s milestone birthdays. We think a cake and card celebration are perfect. We use The Cake Eating Company in Sydenham for our birthday cakes and from feedback, people seem to be happy with the choice. Check out photos of recent celebrations.



*Tony, Colin and Viola enjoying their birthday celebrations. Shortly after this photo was taken Viola passed away, however her family were pleased that we could share this photo and highlight her final birthday.*



**It was great to receive so many fantastic nominations for our amazing Housing Heroes.**

The winner will be announced in October and we will share all the photos and stories with you the next issue of Our Chat.

## Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust

# Art Exhibition 2020

The Trust will host the first OCHT Art Exhibition from Monday 24 February to Sunday 1 March 2020. The exhibition will be held in the Pumanawa Exhibition Space at the Arts Centre on Worcester Boulevard. This exhibition will be open to the public. Here's some details for you.

### Categories and Specifications:

- ◆ **Paintings** - your painting or drawing can be no larger than 60 cm x 80 cm and weigh no more than 10kg. It can be in any medium e.g acrylic, oil, watercolour. Needs to be framed and/or stretched.
- ◆ **Sculpture** - maximum size 1 metre square, weigh 10 kg maximum.
- ◆ **Craft** - no larger than the specifications for paintings or sculpture.
- ◆ **Photography** - minimum 20 cm x 25 cm, (8 x 10) print on photographic paper or heavy, good quality paper. Preferably framed. Maximum 46 cm x 31 cm, (31 x 46)
- ◆ **Creative Writing** - this can include poetry or a short story. Maximum size one x A4 and/or approximately 500 words.

### Exhibition Opening:

- ◆ Opening - Tuesday 25 February 2020. Details to come - all tenants that enter the exhibition will be sent a personal invitation.

### Entries Close:

- ◆ Entry forms must be received by OCHT by **Monday 16 December 2019**.
- ◆ Your work for exhibition must be completed and received by OCHT no later than 4.00 pm Friday 31 January 2020. (OCHT team can pick up from tenants between 29 and 31 January).
- ◆ Artwork must be created by OCHT tenants only. Maximum of two entries per tenant.  
**For more information, contact Rick Fraser, OCHT, phone 0800 624 456.**



### Entry Form:

#### Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust Art Exhibition 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: *tick box*

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paintings | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craft     |   |

Entry forms must be received by OCHT by Monday 16 December 2019.

Please post entry forms to OCHT, PO Box 53, Christchurch 8140 or hand it to your Tenancy Manager.



## Garden Awards - 2020

The annual OCHT garden awards are coming to you soon and we love to recognise those tenants who have a high standard of presentation of their garden. Judges from the Christchurch Beautifying Association will be judging summer gardens in your complex during the week of 20 to 24 January 2020.



You do not need to enter as all gardens will be viewed.

We will let successful gardeners know the outcome and winners will be invited to the award presentation where there will be certificates, prizes, and a trophy for the grand champion. There will also be a BBQ celebration for the top three complexes.

We will also be awarding certificates to the best pot and tub gardens and we have introduced three new award categories this year. These are the most improved individual garden, most improved complex, and a special award for the most unique garden.

**Here's some hot tips on what judges will be looking for during their inspection:**

- Good healthy plant growth
- Tidy garden presentation
- Few weeds
- Good colour and/or a wealth of healthy vegetables.

# TAG Tenant Events

## Friday 1st November

**Event:** Kaikōura Bus Trip

**Time:** 8.00am - 6.00pm approx

**Where:** Departing from the Bus Exchange on Litchfield Street

**Details:** Stops at Amberley, Cheviot (toilet/tea breaks)  
Visits to Seal Colony for half hour and Fyffe (Whale House)  
Stop over in Kaikōura for 2 hours (approx)

**Cost:** \$35 per person

**Contact:** Yaz 021 133 2909 to book and for more info

## Friday 6th December 2019

**Event:** Christmas Function

*The Tenant Advisory Group cordially invites you to our Christmas Lunch*

**Time:** 12 noon - 1.30pm

**Where:** Cashmere Club, 50 Colombo Street. Parking available

**Details:** Enjoy a three course Christmas Lunch  
and meet people from other OCHT complexes.

**Cost:** \$25 per person

**RSVP:** Colleen Hanson 332 4599. Bookings Essential

# Thank you from...



## Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust

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