



Pacific Link
HOUSING

Pacific Link Post



Your tenant newsletter



Summer 2025 Issue

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Message from our CEO

As we wrap up our 40th anniversary year, I'm truly honoured to have served as CEO during this milestone. Reflecting on four decades of supporting our community has been humbling and inspiring, and it motivates us to continue making a difference.

Congratulations to the winners of our Annual Garden Competition. It's wonderful to see the effort and pride tenants put into creating beautiful gardens that brighten not only their homes but also their neighbourhoods.

If you or your children are studying in 2025, our Education Support Program is now open and can help ease the financial pressure of education. Apply before 27 January 2025.

We're excited to take part in the NSW Government's Cadetship Program for 2025. This 12-month program offers paid employment and training, leading to a Cert IV in Housing. Two of our valued team members, Amanda and Cathy, began their careers through the program. If you're interested, act quickly - applications close on 10 January 2025.

From all of us at Pacific Link Housing, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season. We've included a special 'Capture Our Community' calendar with this newsletter as a token of our appreciation. Thank you to everyone who shared photos and stories to make it possible.

Ian Lynch - CEO

PLH's Education Support Program Now Open!

PLH Program



Our Education Support Program is now open, providing various resources to help tenants reach their educational goals. Whether you're pursuing studies yourself or have children in school, this program is designed to offer the support you need!

What you can apply for:

- Technology needs: Home computers, laptops, software, printers
- Educational fees: Course fees, private tutoring
- Study materials: Textbooks, workbooks, study guides
- Specialised equipment: Items for medical, art, music or photography courses
- Other educational expenses: Various costs upon consideration

"It has given Rylahn the opportunity to not only keep up with his homework but has also enhanced his coding skills for his future employment dreams."

"Good news, I have finished all of the TAFE content and passed everything! The only part left is my student placement hours, I have already completed 130 hours. The past four years of study have taken me a long way in personal growth. A very exciting time for me."

Apply online before the 27th January 2025!

Visit www.pacificlink.org.au/education-support or call us at 4324 7617 if you have any questions or need help applying online.



Pacific Link Housing's Tenant Programs

Pacific Link Housing offers a range of programs to support our tenants. Visit www.pacificlink.org.au/programs to find out if you're eligible and apply, or give our office a call on 4324 7617!



Learner Driver Program

Get free driving lessons with a professional driving school! This program is open to tenants of all ages with a learner's licence and helps improve road safety, build driving skills and boost confidence – getting you on the road sooner.

"The professional driving lessons were so helpful to me and the money I saved went towards buying a used car. I have more work opportunities now because I don't have to rely on buses and trains to get there."



Health & Wellbeing Program

We can support tenants of all ages to join registered sports, health and community activities to improve fitness and wellbeing. This program helps cover costs like registration fees, uniforms and other related expenses.

"I signed my daughter up to netball classes. It helped to pay for the registration, uniform and even some new runners! Her confidence has improved and I love to see her being active after school with new friends."



Tech Connect No-Interest Loan Program

With this program, you can buy new laptops and devices through affordable, interest-free repayments. It's a safer option than short-term loans, giving you access to the latest technology without financial stress.

"We purchased a new tablet to keep in contact with our grandchildren. We have learnt how to make video calls and it's great to talk to them face-to-face with the help of technology."

Energy-Saving Tips for Summer: Stay Cool and Save Money

Keeping your home cool while managing energy costs can be difficult during summer. Here are some energy-efficient cooling tips that could save you money on your electricity bill:

- Use fans before air conditioners - they cost less to run.
- Keep curtains closed during the hottest part of the day.
- Open windows during cooler times to allow airflow.
- Turn off lights and smaller appliances when not in use.
- Run washing machines with full loads to save energy.

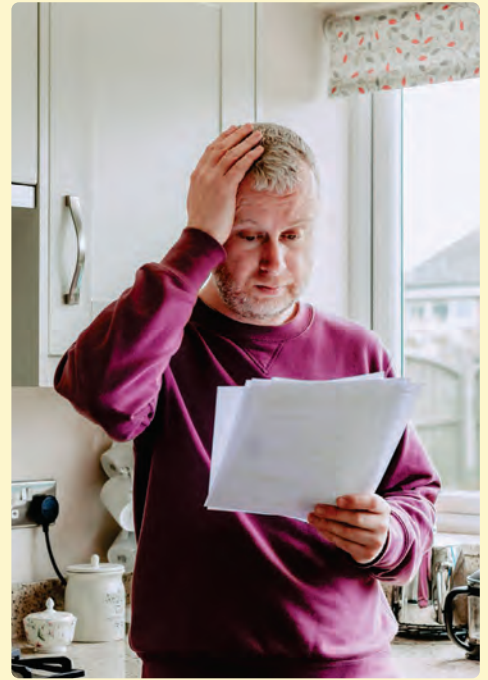
Need Help with Energy Bills?

The NSW Government offers rebates to support lower-income households. To see if you qualify for assistance, visit www.energy.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-grants-and-schemes



Talk to your Energy Provider

It's also a good idea to regularly check with your energy provider to make sure you're on the best plan for your needs.



Central Coast Mariners Holiday Clinic

We are incredibly thankful for the generous support we receive at Pacific Link Housing, including from our valued partners like the Central Coast Mariners!

They have kindly offered us free tickets to their Mighty Mariners Holiday Clinics each school holidays! Tickets are limited, so please email

Adelle at programs@pacificlink.org.au as soon as possible.

The Holiday Clinics promise a fantastic experience filled with team building activities and football drills over three fun-filled days. Previous tenants who attended had an absolute blast!



"Thank you to Pacific Link and The Mariners. I liked the School Holiday Clinic a lot. They showed me how to kick a goal and my favourite part was the adults versus children game at the end."

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What to Do If You're Locked Out After Hours



Getting locked out of your home can be stressful, especially outside of office hours. Here's what to do if it happens:

- 1 Call our [After-Hours Emergency Line on 0409 341 457](tel:0409341457). A staff member will help arrange for a local locksmith in your area.
- 2 If your call isn't answered right away, please [leave a detailed message](#). We will respond as soon as possible and take steps to assist you.

For non-urgent questions, please contact our office on 4324 7617 during regular business hours and we'll be happy to help.

Holiday Closure Period



The PLH office will close at 12pm on Tuesday 24th Dec 2024 and reopen on Thursday 2nd Jan 2025.

Useful contacts during closure:

- Storm or Flood Damage: SES 132 500
- Power Failure: AusGrid 13 13 88
- Pacific Link Housing's After Hours Emergency Repairs: 0409 341 457

Finding Support This Festive Season

The holiday period can be a fun time filled with lots of celebrations, but it's also common to face extra financial and emotional pressures.

If you or your family need some extra support, community organisations can provide food hampers, meals and even Christmas gifts so that everyone can experience some holiday cheer.

Services operating across all areas:

- Vinnies - 13 18 12
- Salvos - 13 72 58
- Lifeline - 13 11 14

We have also put together a list of support agencies and community centres that may be closer to you. Visit www.pacificlink.org.au/support to find assistance in your area. Reaching out for support is a brave step and our community is always here to help!



Stay safe and take care this holiday season!



Summer Maintenance Tips for your Home

As summer approaches, it's important to keep up with home and garden maintenance to ensure your property stays safe and in good condition. Here are some reminders:

- △ **Tidy Your Garden:** Mow lawns, trim overgrown plants and remove weeds regularly to prevent pests like cockroaches, spiders, snakes and rodents.
- △ **Dispose of Garden Waste:** Clear away grass clippings, leaves and branches promptly to reduce fire hazards and keep outdoor areas tidy.
- △ **Prevent Termites:** Avoid storing items against walls for long periods, as this can trap moisture, attract termites and even damage the building. Check for signs of termites, such as damaged wood or mud tunnels and report any concerns to PLH.



Report any maintenance issues or hazards to our Assets Team as soon as possible.

Phone: (02) 4324 7617 #4 - 9am to 5pm, Mon to Fri

Email: maintenance@pacificlink.org.au

PLH After Hours Emergency Repairs: 0409 341 457



We're proud to have two PLH team members who started their careers through this program! Pictured above is Amanda, our 2022 Cadet, at her Graduation Ceremony. Cathy, our 2024 Cadet, is set to graduate next year.

Cadetship to Learn, Earn and Grow!

PLH is excited to once again take part in the NSW Government's Cadetship Program for 2025! This 12-month program offers paid employment and training with a Community Housing Provider. Cadets develop frontline skills, learn about the community housing sector and will achieve a Cert IV in Housing at the end of the program. It's open to residents of NSW who are social housing tenants and clients aged 25+ or unemployed and aged 21+ years.

Interested? Act fast!

Visit www.communityhousing.org.au/cadetship for more information. Applications close

10 January 2025, with employment starting in February.



The Soft Plastic Warriors!

At one of our housing complexes, a group of tenants, proudly calling themselves the 'Soft Plastic Warriors', have taken big steps to promote recycling. Inspired by the Curby iT soft plastic recycling program featured in a past tenant newsletter, they launched their own recycling project.

With support from our team to help spread the word, they began collecting soft plastics and quickly filled a 10L bag! This early success motivated them to encourage even more residents to bring their donations to the monthly garden days for recycling.

How do I get involved?

Currently only operating in the Central Coast and Newcastle Council areas, Curby iT enables households to recycle soft plastics right from their yellow recycling bins. To find out more, visit www.curbyit.com.



Outside the Central Coast and Newcastle areas?

Discover your local recycling solutions at www.recyclingnearyou.com.au and contribute to a greener future no matter where you are.



Change your newsletter preference

Don't forget, to support our commitment to the environment, you can choose to receive our Newsletter by email instead of by post. Update your preference at www.pacificlink.org.au/newsletter



FREE Internet for School Students

If you have a school-aged child at home without an nbn connection, you might be eligible for FREE home internet until the end of 2025! The School Student Broadband Initiative is an Australian Government program that helps families and carers struggling with bills.

To find out if you're eligible, call the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 or visit anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet. If eligible, you'll receive a voucher to connect through a participating provider by 31 December 2024. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity!



Capture Our Community Calendar

We're thrilled to include a special end-of-year gift with this newsletter which has been made possible with your help! The 'Capture Our Community' 2025 Desktop Calendar is a collection of photos and stories about the places that hold special meaning to you.

Thanks to tenants who participated - your contributions have made this calendar truly unique to our PLH community, highlighting the beautiful places and landscapes that surround us. We also loved reading about why these places are meaningful to you.

We hope you find the calendar both beautiful and useful in the year ahead!



The cover features a photo of Blackwall, submitted by Robyn - "Sunrises and sunsets make the Central Coast absolutely beautiful. I love living here."



New Coercive Control Laws in NSW

As of 1st July, new laws in NSW make coercive control in intimate partner relationships a criminal offence. Coercive control involves a pattern of abusive behaviour aimed at controlling or intimidating a partner. This can include emotional abuse, isolation, monitoring and threats. Each person's experience is different and it's important to recognise that these behaviours are serious and can escalate over time.

If you or someone you know may be experiencing coercive control, help is available. Call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) for support and resources. In an emergency, always call 000.

Understanding and identifying coercive control is the first step to protecting yourself or someone you care about.

Garden Comp Winners

Our Annual Garden Competition highlighted the impressive gardening skills in the PLH community! We loved seeing the diverse and beautiful gardens, a testament to our tenants' hard work and dedication. It was also inspiring to hear the stories behind these special spaces and what they mean to each gardener.

"My garden is my happy place, it makes me smile when I look out at it and when I moved in it was a blank canvas, not one plant, I didn't have much money so friends and family gave me pieces and cuttings."

"I moved into this new property almost a year ago. The gardens were sparse and needed some love as well as the front lawn. I have added much-needed colour to the front. In my small courtyard, I am growing delicious food and enjoying sharing it with my beautiful neighbours. We have a great little community here amongst the six other Pacific Link families. We couldn't be happier."

"I was blessed in April to be offered a unit in Wyong. The gardens were covered in neglected half-dead hedges. So I set to work and created this cute little garden. Gardening is my passion I suffer from PTSD and the garden is my happy place and saviour."



These garden competition winners received a Bunnings gift card to reward their efforts. Great work!

- » Lisa B
- » Steven M
- » Jimmy Y
- » Alison B
- » Joan M
- » Marilyn J
- » Vikki D

