



Pacific Link
HOUSING

Pacific Link Post

Your tenant newsletter



Community Garden Event

Summer 2026 Issue

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Message from Our CEO

It's been another great year at PLH and we're finishing it by celebrating our tenant community! With this newsletter, you'll receive our 2026 **'Capture Our Community' Calendar**, featuring photos taken by tenants of their favourite local places. Thank you to everyone who shared their photos and stories. It's great to see the pride you have in your local community.

It's also been great to see tenants enjoying their gardens through our **Annual Garden Competition**. Congratulations to everyone who entered and shared their photos.

If you're feeling inspired to improve your own outdoor area, our **Better Backyard Program** can help with interest-free loans on selected

Husqvarna battery-powered garden equipment. To learn more, visit www.pacificlink.org.au/programs.

A reminder that our **Education Support Program** is now open to help with study costs for 2026. Whether you're studying yourself or supporting a child at school, this program can make learning a little more affordable. Applications close 27 January 2026. Visit our website or call us if you need help applying.

From all of us at Pacific Link Housing, I wish you a safe and happy festive season. We look forward to another positive year in 2026!

Ian Lynch - CEO

Garden Comp Winners

Our Annual Garden Competition once again showed the amazing creativity and care within the PLH community. We loved seeing the variety of gardens entered, from colourful flower beds to veggie patches and balcony pots. Each entry reflected the hard work and pride tenants put into their outdoor spaces, and it was inspiring to hear the personal stories behind them.

* Garden * Competition



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

- » John K
- » Sarah H
- » Sandra S
- » Susan B
- » Maria B
- » Melanie B
- » Louise B



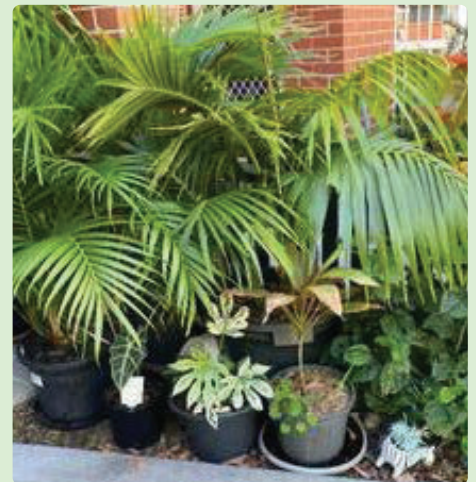
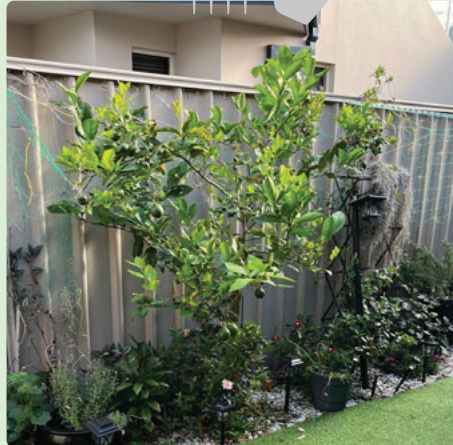
“ We used to have a large garden and now we are in a unit and don't have as much room. However, my son and myself have done well with the room we now have.”

“ I love my beautiful garden of plants inside my home. They bring me joy, serenity and wonderful energy.”

“ My daughter and I created our garden together as we both enjoy gardening and watching our plants grow. There's always something to do in the garden and it has become our favourite hobby.”

“ The backyard was bare when I moved in last year. With the help of a neighbour, we started to plant from cuttings and plants from friends. When I open my bedroom blind every morning, I say Thank You.”

“ I suffer from PTSD and anxiety and a lot of my days are dark. My flowers bring me some much-needed happiness and calmness, and they add colour to my dark days.”



MEGA CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY IS COMING!

We're excited to share that PLH will be holding our first Mega Christmas Giveaway this year. Thanks to generous donations from our supporters, we'll be drawing tenant names over **two exciting weeks** in December with some great prizes to be won.

Every tenant is automatically in the draw, so you don't need to do anything to enter. If your name is drawn, we'll contact you and deliver your prize in December.

Some of our **amazing donors** include Mercure Kooindah Waters, Gosford Kwik Kopy, Kincumber Mitre 10, Walkabout Wildlife Park, Polytech Stadium, Husqvarna and more! We look forward to sharing photos of some lucky winners in our next newsletter.

We are also pleased to share that, thanks to our friends at Westfield Tuggerah and A New Way Services, every household with children aged under 11 will receive a Christmas gift as a small way for us to spread some festive cheer.

An **apprenticeship or traineeship** could be the perfect way to kickstart your career! Central Coast Group Training employ more than 160 Apprentices and Trainees EVERY year partnering with over 120 Businesses to help you become qualified in your dream career.

There are so many career options as an apprentice or trainee from trades and technology to business and community services, CCGT can help support you in career making decisions.

Find out more: Visit www.ccg.com.au to register for job alerts or view current vacancies, or call their friendly team on 4353 2655.



PLH Program



Special thanks to Husqvarna for supporting our PLH community with reduced-cost equipment as part of this exciting new program!

For more information and to apply, visit www.pacificlink.org.au/better-backyard or call us on 4324 7617.



Create a Better Backyard with Our Help

Do you enjoy spending time in the garden or want to make your outdoor space easier to care for? Our new Better Backyard Program can help you get started.

Tenants can apply for an interest-free loan to buy battery-powered gardening tools from the **Husqvarna Aspire Range**. This includes quality gear like lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, grass trimmers, pruners and shears which are perfect for keeping your yard neat and tidy.

To make it even more affordable, PLH will cover part of the cost through a subsidy, which means you'll have less to repay on your loan. It's an easy way to invest in your garden without the stress of upfront costs.

FREE Holiday Clinic with the Central Coast Mariners!

Are your kids full of energy and love playing soccer? Here's a great way to keep them active these school holidays! Thanks to our friends at the Central Coast Mariners, our tenants can register for a chance to attend a free **Mighty Mariners Holiday Clinic**.

The clinic runs over three fun-filled days with football drills, team games

and skill-building activities. It is perfect for kids aged between 6-15 of all abilities, offering a great chance to make new friends, stay active and have fun during the holidays.

Places are limited and selected at random, so get in early! Email Adelle at programs@pacificlink.org.au to find out more or put your name down.

My son attended the Central Coast Mariners Clinic during the last school holidays and learned skills and had the best fun. Meeting the soon-to-be men's A-league Champions and getting their autographs was a highlight.



Pacific Link Housing's Tenant Support 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

Tenants with a learner's licence can access free driving lessons with a certified instructor. Available to eligible tenants of any age to help build skills and confidence on the road.

"The professional driving lessons are giving me confidence. I know this will be a great stepping stone to me getting a job in the future."



Health & Wellbeing Program

Supports eligible tenants to join sports, fitness, creative or community activities. You can apply for up to \$250 to help cover fees, equipment or other related costs.

"I was able to put my children into swimming lessons. I've wanted to do it for a long time but it's been hard with the cost as a single mum."



Tech Connect No-Interest Loans

Apply for an interest-free loan to purchase a laptop, tablet or smartphone (up to \$1,000). PLH also provides a \$250 subsidy to reduce the total amount you repay.

"My mobile phone broke and I was able to replace it quickly. The no-interest loan makes it easier to manage the repayments."



Community Garden Event



Award-Winning Development!

We're proud to share that our Lake Macquarie apartments recently received a national award for quality design and construction in affordable housing. It's always nice to be recognised, but what means the most to us is hearing that our tenants are happy in their homes.

As part of the award nomination, we asked tenants what they thought about living in the property and the feedback was very positive. Tenants told us their homes are quiet, well-designed and comfortable. Many said they love the size of the complex and the shared courtyard area, where they've created a small community garden. Others mentioned the friendly atmosphere, secure parking and easy access with the lift. One resident said simply, "I feel like I'm home. I'm happy." It means a lot to us to know tenants feel safe, comfortable and connected in the homes we build.

Simple Ways to Reduce Clothing Waste

PLH's Green Team is shining a light on **clothing waste**. 'Fast fashion' means clothes are cheaper, but they often don't last as long and end up in landfill. Before you bin it, try:

- **Swap:** Exchange clothes you no longer wear with friends or family.
- **Repair:** Sew on a button or mend a small tear before throwing away.
- **Donate:** Give good-quality items to an op shop or community centre.

- **Recycle:** Some op shops accept damaged clothing for recycling but ask before dropping them off.
- **Repurpose:** Use old sheets or towels as cleaning rags or check if a local animal shelter can use them.

Got a clever clothing reuse idea?

Maybe a T-shirt turned into a tote bag or jeans made into shorts? Share it with our Green Team at greenteam@pacificlink.org.au.



For more recycling tips and to find local businesses who accept donations, visit www.recyclingnearyou.com.au

Do you have an idea for the Tenant Newsletter? Let us know at programs@pacificlink.org.au

Want to feel more confident using your phone, tablet or computer?

The **Be Connected** website has free lessons, videos, activities, games and easy guides to build your digital skills for everyday life. You can learn how to:

- Make video calls with friends and family
- Use apps and search the internet
- Shop or bank safely online
- Fix common phone or internet problems
- Plan trips with Google Maps
- Connect devices with Bluetooth
- Take screenshots or scan QR codes

Be Connected also runs **free online webinars** each month, where friendly presenters explain things in easy steps. You can join live from home, ask questions and learn at your own pace. Topics include protecting your personal information, spotting scams, using government websites, smart phone basics and even how technology can support your health.



Be Connected is a government program that helps older Australians build digital confidence and stay safe online. You can learn at home or find a free computer class at your local library or community centre. For more information, visit www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au or call the Be Connected Helpline on 1300 795 897.



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

PLH's Education Support Program Now Open

Our Education Support Program is now open, offering help for tenants with study costs and school-related expenses. Whether you're studying yourself or supporting a child at school, the program can make learning a little more affordable.

You can apply for help with:

- Technology needs - computers, laptops, software or printers
- Educational fees - course costs or private tutoring
- Study materials - textbooks, workbooks or study guides
- Specialised equipment - items for art, music, photography or medical courses
- Other education costs - considered case by case

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.



PLH Program



With help from this program, one tenant was able to cover band fees for her son, who now plays clarinet in the school band. Well done, Jaiden!

"This was an awesome opportunity for Jaiden as without the support I wouldn't have been able to afford the cost of extra music lessons. It's been wonderful to watch him not only perform but also learn how to read music, be part of a team, and watch his confidence and self-esteem grow! Thank you very much!"



Healthy Living Begins with One Step

Want to start the new year feeling a little healthier and more confident? Looking after yourself doesn't have to be hard. Small changes can help you feel better, have more energy and stay well. The NSW Government's Healthy Living website has easy tips and free programs to help you get started at your own pace.

You'll find support with:

- Healthy eating and simple meal ideas
- Easy ways to stay active at home or outside
- Managing stress and looking after your wellbeing
- Building small habits that fit into everyday life
- Goal setting and staying motivated

The website also has budget-friendly recipes. We've included a Bread and Butter Pudding recipe which is quick, easy and a great way to use up stale bread. You might already have everything else you need in the cupboard.

Visit www.healthyliving.nsw.gov.au to explore more recipes and healthy living tips!



Bread and Butter Pudding

4 slices wholemeal bread
2 eggs
2 cups milk (reduced fat if available)
2 tablespoons sugar
Margarine to thinly spread on bread
Optional: 1/2 cup sultanas

1. Thinly spread margarine on bread
2. Cut slices of bread in half or into triangles and place in a baking dish.
3. Beat the eggs, milk and sugar together then pour over the bread.
4. Bake in a moderate oven (about 180°C) for about 30 minutes or until set (a knife inserted in centre should come out clean).
5. Remove from oven as soon as cooked.

This recipe was published in Quick Meals for Kooris at Home resource by Nutrition Services, Central Coast Local Health District.

Finding Support This Festive Season

The holiday season can be a happy time, but it can also bring extra stress and costs. If things feel a bit hard this year, there are local groups that can help with food hampers, free meals and Christmas gifts so everyone can enjoy the season. Support services across most regions:

- Vinnies - 13 18 12
- Salvos - 13 72 58
- Lifeline - 13 11 14 (24-hour support line)

You can also find local support and community centres near you by visiting www.pacificlink.org.au/support



Christmas and New Year Closure

Pacific Link Housing's office will be closed for the holiday break. Our closure dates are:

- **Closing:** 12pm, Wednesday 24 December 2025
- **Reopening:** 9am, Monday 5 January 2026

Useful contacts during closure:

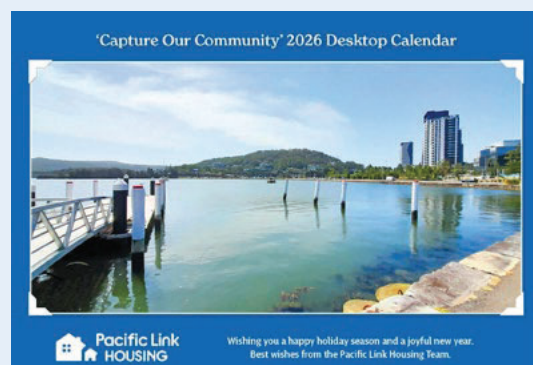
- Storm or Flood Damage: SES 132 500
- Power Failure: AusGrid 13 13 88
- Pacific Link Housing's After Hours Emergency Repairs: 0409 341 457



Capture Our Community Calendar

We're excited to share a special end-of-year gift that was created with your help! The Capture Our Community 2026 Desktop Calendar brings together photos and stories of the places that mean the most to our tenants.

A big thank you to everyone who took part. Your photos and words have made this calendar something truly special, showcasing the beautiful local areas and hidden gems that make our communities unique. We hope you enjoy using it throughout 2026 and that it reminds you of the wonderful places we call home.



The cover features a photo of Gosford, submitted by Robbie