

Junction

AUTUMN 2024

CONNECT



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Junction's registered community housing provider is Junction and Women's Housing Ltd.

Join the Junction community on Facebook and keep up to date with all our latest news.



JUNCTION ACKNOWLEDGES WE ARE LIVING ON TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL LANDS AND WE OFFER OUR CONTINUED RESPECT TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE PAST AND PRESENT.



Welcome to our Autumn edition of Junction Connect.

My name is Sara and I joined Junction as a Housing Portfolio Manager mid last year.

I want to say what a pleasure it has been to meet, and chat with, many members of our Junction neighbourhoods over the past nine months. I have been made to feel so welcome.

Junction Connect is – and has been – a great help, particularly in assisting me to gain a greater understanding of the places and people we work with. This edition is no exception.

On page 3 we hear from the Karaoke voices of Kangaroo Island. Jen, who leads the Karaoke group, speaks to us about the vocal community that has come together at our Kangaroo Island Community Centre. Their passion for singing and performing is certainly contagious but above all, their creation of an inclusive and fun space to relax is what makes this group shine.

For foster carers Marie and Tony on page 4, this edition provided them an opportunity to share their family's journey. This includes the challenges, triumphs, and everything in between which have allowed them to provide a safe, and loving home for the young girl in their care.

From central Adelaide to regional South Australia, we also hear all about the rich history of Robertstown from Daphne on page 10 – a local legend who has called Robertstown home for all 90 years of her life.

Rounding us off, it's been a busy time for the Community Engagement team, who have hit the road over these past few months to hold a number of events in good company! Keep an eye out for future events coming your way.

I look forward to getting to know more of you as the year progresses. In the meantime, happy reading and enjoy the milder weather and ever-changing colours of the season.

Sara, Housing Portfolio Manager

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Karaoke facilitator, Jen.

“SINGING MAKES ME FEEL CONTROLLED. I’M IN CONTROL OF MYSELF – AND NO ONE ELSE. IT’S MY HAPPY PLACE.”

KARAOKE FOR THE SOUL

For some, stepping up to a microphone is a test of courage – but for Jen, who runs our Kangaroo Island Community Centre’s (KICC) Karaoke Group, there is no place she would rather be.

Run every Tuesday evening out of the KICC Youth Hub, the Karaoke Group has quickly become a staple of the Centre’s regular programs.

The group, which welcomes people from all backgrounds, is a safe space for the community to unwind and have fun – all while building their confidence.

“We have people with all sorts of jobs, who have come from all sorts of places – and we’ll all sing different songs. Very different songs,” Jen said.

“It’s so supportive. People come in who are lonely or sad – lots of people in my age group who are separated and living new lives come here as well and they support each other so beautifully.”

Jen believes it is not how well someone sings, but how they feel while singing, which is important.

“I think Karaoke is all about our souls and our hearts. Even the worst singer is the best singer we’ve heard,” she said.

“It is all about making people feel good and happy. The joy that comes out of it, it’s lovely.”

Jen was never a musician growing up but found a love for singing later in life.

Dealing with chronic pain makes performing and singing difficult some days for Jen. However, she can’t imagine her life without it.

“Singing makes me feel controlled. I’m in control of myself – and no one else. It’s my happy place,” she said.

Maree Baldwin, KICC’s Site Co-ordinator, is also an avid participant in the group.

“For our community, something like a choir is too structured for people, so I think this is more inclusive,” Maree said.

“The group’s really grown, and we love it.”

FOSTERING OPPORTUNITY

Meet a heart-warming family comprising Marie, Tony, two adult daughters, and a little girl who has found a permanent place in their home and hearts. We sat down with this extraordinary family to learn about their journey as foster carers.

For Marie, the lifechanging decision to become a foster carer was born out of lived experience.

As a teenager, she was largely raised by her grandparents – something Marie is eternally grateful for.

“I didn’t have the best circumstances when I was growing up, but my grandparents stepped up around my teenage years, and now I am who I am because of them,” she said.

“I wanted to be that person for someone else. I felt like it was time to give that opportunity to someone else, to give back.”

Marie’s husband, Tony, agreed.

“It wasn’t part of our big grand plan, but I thought we should give it a go after Marie suggested it,” he said.

“Our two daughters have grown up now and they’re off doing their own thing, so it seemed like the right time.”

To embark on their fostering journey, the family connected with Junction.

“We initially had an unsuccessful attempt at fostering where it wasn’t the right fit. It wasn’t long after that we received a call from Junction who suggested we take on a different child. They said, ‘we’ve got a little girl for you to meet.’ Of course, we did. That was it, we fell in love with K. That was three years ago.”

Tony said most people were curious when he told them about his family’s role as foster carers.

“The response was usually really positive,” he said.

“People would relate to it with their own stories, and some would say that they would like to do it one day too.”

While becoming a foster parent presents unique challenges, the family were prepared through the pre-requisite ‘Shared Lives’ pre-assessment training as well as Junction’s specialised Trauma Training for foster carers.

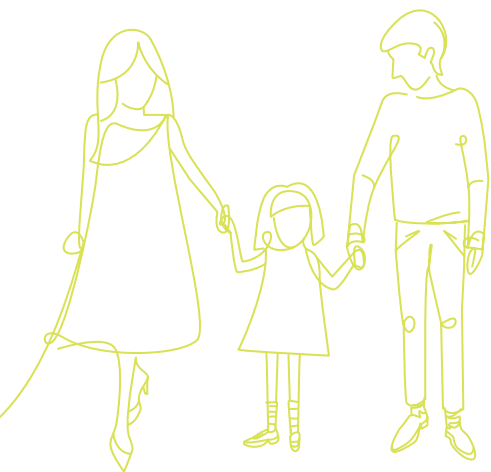
“Parenting a child who has experienced trauma is different,” Tony said.

“Different things affect her behaviour compared to what our daughters were like at the same age. We did some training on this through Junction before we became foster carers, so we knew what to expect and how to handle it.”

Importantly, K maintains a connection with her biological mother, facilitated by Marie and Tony, through monthly catch ups.

“It’s important for her to have a connection with her birth Mum. It’s where she came from, and we will always make the effort to ensure that relationship exists. She understands that she has two Mums, and she enjoys seeing her in the visits. K really benefits from it.”

Recently, Tony and Marie became the legal guardians of K, completing their experience with Junction’s Foster Care program.



"I explained to K that it means she can stay with us forever, and she was so excited. She received a special certificate which she took to childcare to show everyone," Marie said.

"My hopes for her future are just that she is happy. She always asks me if she can be this or that, and I tell her she can be anything she wants to be."

Tony added: "She is a part of this family, there is no doubt. We will give her all the opportunities and guidance that we can, just like we did for our now adult daughters. The world is her oyster."

As of February 2024, Junction supports 56 foster carers, who provide love and support to 53 children across 41 families and households.



K, Marie and Tony.



**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING
A FOSTER CARER? LEARN MORE BY VISITING
[JUNCTIONAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU/FOSTER-CARE/](https://junctionaustralia.org.au/foster-care/)**

**A big thank you to Kenneth from Port Elliot
for submitting this poem to share in this edition.**

If you're an avid writer and have a piece you'd like to put forward
please email it to communityengagement@junctionaustralia.org.au
or post to us at PO BOX 493 Park Holme, SA, 5043.

Kindness

*Kindness is akin to rain in the desert
as the desert is desolate
due to the lack of water.*

*So the human heart may become
due to the lack of kindness.*

*But when it rains in the desert
it transforms desolation
into life and beauty
even if only momentary.*

*So too an act of kindness
can bring a dry desolate heart
back to life.
that may last a lifetime.*

T.B.T.J. (Kenneth)



WAYS TO BE ENERGY EFFICIENT

With little changes to how you use energy around the home, you can help the planet and have lower electricity bills – it’s a win-win! We’ve pulled some ideas together for you to get started.

SWITCH TO LED LIGHTING

One of the easiest ways to cut down on electricity usage is by replacing traditional light bulbs with energy-efficient LED lights. LED bulbs use significantly less energy and last much longer, making them a cost-effective and environmentally friendly choice.

UNPLUG AND POWER DOWN

Many appliances and electronic devices consume energy even when not in use. Unplug chargers, turn off power points, and switch off devices when not in use.

HARNESS THE POWER OF NATURAL LIGHT

Maximize natural light during the day to reduce the need for artificial lighting. Keep curtains and blinds open to allow sunlight to illuminate your living spaces. In the evening, opt for just using lighting in specific areas rather than lighting entire rooms.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

If the time comes to replace an old appliance, choose models that have the ‘ENERGY STAR’ label. This usually applies to washing machines, fridges, and other appliances with high energy efficiency ratings.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

If you have heating and cooling, there are things you can do around the home to reduce having to switch it on as often. During the colder months, seal gaps in windows and doors and use draft stoppers at the bottom of doors. In warmer weather, close blinds during the hottest part of the day, and set your thermostat a few degrees higher.

LOOK FOR LEAKS

Heating water accounts for a large portion of household energy consumption. If you have any leaks make sure to report them promptly.



Prize draw winner, Leasha, holding her lego hamper.



Manfred at his computer ready to use DocuSign'

STACKS OF FUN!

In the previous edition of Junction Connect, we invited the Lego enthusiasts out there to enter a random prize draw for one of three Lego hamper giveaways.

The response was overwhelming, with over 360 of you putting your names into the draw!

**Congratulations
to our lucky winners:**

**Margaret, Leasha
and Jessica**

Keep your eyes peeled for future Junction Connect giveaways!

DOCUSIGN SUCCESS

A big shoutout to 91-year-old Manfred who was one of the first tenants to use DocuSign, a program which allows people to securely sign their documents quickly and efficiently, all electronically. Manfred returned his documents back to us electronically in just 2 days. We're delighted with the positive response on moving to this environmentally friendly and efficient system.

"It was really easy, I just signed it using my mouse and clicked to send it back," said Manfred.

To date there have been a total of 331 DocuSign Documents sent with an average turnaround time of just 2.2 hours and an 85.8% completion rate. The environmental savings generated from the move to DocuSign are even more impressive, with 385 lb. of carbon emissions reduced and 483 gallons of water conserved all due to cutting down on paper waste.

To find out how you can use DocuSign, please contact your Housing Manager.



385 lb.
of carbon
emissions reduced



483 gal.
of water
conserved



ENSURING SAFETY FOR ALL

In the hustle and bustle of the everyday sometimes we can overlook the potential risks of having pets in your home, especially during inspections. However, recent statistics and regulations have reminded us to take extra care at times to ensure the well-being of staff, contractors, neighbours, and other community members.

Whilst we understand the love and companionship pets provide, it's important to follow the processes in place and to prioritise safety at all times.

A couple of points to remember:

- If you would like to get a pet, you must seek approval through our pet application process before allowing pets on the property.
- As per the terms of Junction leases, you must seek approval from Junction before bringing a pet onto the property. This ensures we assess the suitability of the pet for the property and broader community, including the pet not posing a threat to others.
- You are responsible for always keeping pets under effective control and restraining your pet during Routine and Asset inspections, Smoke Alarm testing and when there are contractors on-site.

- Ensure your pet is not a nuisance or danger to other people or animals.
- Should your pet/s attack, harass or chase a person or another animal, then external authorities will become involved including Dog and Cat Management Board, the local council or RSPCA. They could issue the owner or person responsible of the pet with an expiation notice or a summons to answer a charge.

By adhering to these guidelines, we not only protect you, ourselves and our pets but also contribute to creating a safer environment for everyone.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ATTEND YOUR SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE APPOINTMENTS, OR LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT.



A LIFE WELL-LIVED

In the heart of Robertstown, we had the pleasure of sitting down with Daphne (Viola) – a remarkable woman from our communities who recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Daphne's story is not just a personal narrative but reflects the evolution of the town she has, for a very long time, called home.

Daphne spent her childhood growing up one mile outside of town on a farm. One of six children, she is the sole survivor today.

After her father's untimely death in 1942, when Daphne was just eight years old, her family found themselves in financial hardship. With limited resources, they made do with a horse-drawn sulky since they couldn't afford a motor car.

Robertstown, like Daphne herself, has seen many changes over the years. In the past, the town was a hub for livestock sales, attracting people from far and wide.

"We used to have big livestock sales here every weekend. Everybody brought their animals to the sale. Both sides of the main street were full of cars," she said.

Nowadays, the close-knit community Daphne remembers from her earlier years has evolved and, she admits, new residents remain somewhat of a mystery to her.

Nevertheless, as a state champion in lawn bowls and a great tennis player in her youth, Daphne is grateful for the personal community these sports have helped her build.

"We used to go every Easter to the Burra tennis tournament. My husband would milk the cows in the morning, I'd get the five kids in the car, and then we'd head off," she said.

"We were really good, and people often said we were the best pair out there. All the kids played tennis too. We'd make a day of it. We met lots of families there. Sport holds a community together."

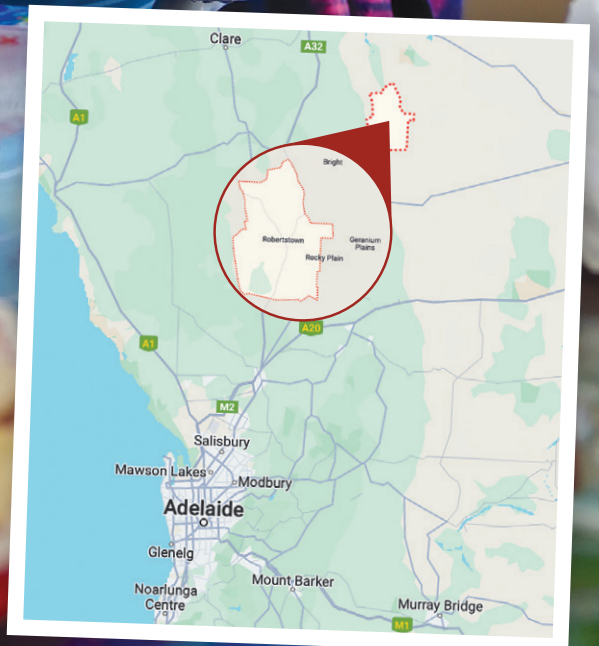
To celebrate Daphne's 90th birthday, her family organised a gathering at the Robertstown bowls club.

The occasion was a reunion, bringing together people she hadn't seen in over 30 years, including family, nieces, and nephews.

As she looks back on her 90 years in the town, she has witnessed countless changes and challenges.

Daphne stands as a living link to the history of Robertstown, a town that has shaped her life.





Daphne cutting her 90th Birthday Cake'



DIVING IN

A splashin' good time was had by all who attended our Annual Waves of Sound event at the Marion Outdoor Pool in February.

Over 150 children and families came along to enjoy free music, food, swimming, and poolside activities.

A very special thank you to our partners for supporting this event.

*"We had an amazing time!
It's great to have a free event
my family can attend."*

– Emily from Mitchell Park

*"It was a great event for kids
and adults." – Karen from
Oaklands Park*





Strathalbyn



Goolwa



Goolwa

ON THE ROAD

We've been out and about over the summer, hosting events, catching up with new and familiar faces, sharing good food and festive cheer.

From Nuriootpa down to the Fleurieu – we've seen you all play your part in building connections, fostering community spirit, and creating memorable moments.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us, and we are looking forward to seeing you at our future events in your area.



Oaklands Park



BEC'S FOOL PROOF SCONES

A big thank you to Junction staff member Bec for sharing her 'Fool proof scones' recipe with us!

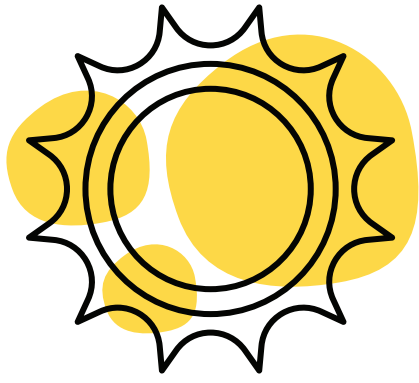
Ingredients

- 2 cups self raising flour
- 1 teaspoon of melted butter
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon of sugar
- Pinch of salt

Method

1. Begin by preheating your oven to 200 degrees
2. Whisk together the egg and sugar until well combined
3. In a separate bowl, melt the butter and mix the milk into it
4. Add a pinch of salt into the sifted flour
5. Create a well in the flour mixture
6. Add the egg and sugar mixture into the butter and milk blend.
7. Using a butter knife, carefully blend the ingredients
8. Roll out the dough and delicately cut it into 5cm squares
9. Arrange these squares neatly on a tray
10. Gently dust the squares with flour
11. Bake at 200 degrees for 8–10 minutes
12. Best served with Jam and Cream





Weather Word Search



T	C	L	O	U	D	Y	T	Z	H	G	M	N	H
G	U	R	R	T	N	Y	G	H	U	M	I	D	H
W	C	W	B	W	D	S	S	H	L	O	T	W	N
D	I	O	F	H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E	N
A	I	N	S	D	H	F	A	G	T	O	E	N	L
U	S	S	D	O	O	R	R	H	A	I	R	E	R
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U	D	O	D	U	W	A	R	M	S	T	I	T	F
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E	T	H	G	I	N	E	S	T	O	R	M	S	S
S	D	W	N	A	W	H	E	A	T	W	A	V	E

Hurricane
Frosty
Blizzard

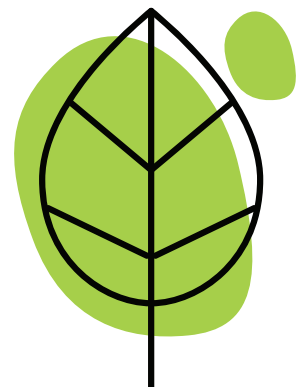
Cloudy
Cold
Tornados

Floods
Autumn
Summer

Hot
Heatwave
Humid

Warm
Rain
Windy

Night
Snow
Storms



Summer Edition Crossword Solution

Down 1. Blueberry, 2. Mango, 3. Grapes, 5. Banana, 7. Granny, 9. Kumquat
Across 4. Strawberry, 6. Raspberry, 8. Cranberry, 10. Lemon, 11. Pineapple



MEDIATION MATTERS



Do you need help reaching a resolution with a dispute?

Uniting Communities mediation service can help you work out disputes at an early stage.

We work with you to help you find an agreement or resolution that everyone is satisfied with. This can avoid drawn-out legal proceedings or court visits, which are expensive and take time.

The most common disputes we deal with include:

- neighbourhood disputes involving fences, noise, children, pets, overhanging trees and behaviour
- broader disputes involving many people or groups.

This may be for a whole community or a small not-for-profit organisation.

We offer mediation in a variety of ways:

- face-to-face
- 'shuttle', where parties don't have to be in the same room at the same time
- teleconference for rural and remote clients.

Our mediators are trained and accredited to help you reach a solution. They are impartial, meaning they don't take sides, give advice or pass judgement. They will guide you through a structured process, where all parties have a chance to speak and be heard.

Accessing the service:

In most cases, it's free to take part in mediation if one of the parties has a low income or no income.

Before you apply for mediation, you should be willing to meet with the other party to resolve the dispute.

Our services are available in all regional and metropolitan South Australia.

If you live in metropolitan Adelaide or surrounding suburbs, please call 08 8202 5960, or if you live in a regional or remote area, please call 1300 886 220.

AS ATTENDING MEDIATION IS ALWAYS VOLUNTARY, WE CAN ONLY PROGRESS MATTERS WHERE BOTH PARTIES HAVE INDICATED THEY'RE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE.