



COVID-19 has had an impact on our everyday life in the community.

Here are a few stories that show how our community life in Brighton is still thriving and strong.

## CEH keeps foot on the pedal to deliver new homes

Centacare Evolve Housing has continued to deliver much-needed social and affordable housing during the Coronavirus pandemic, with 55 new dwellings completed since January, and 62 new homes on track for completion by the end of June.

“These new homes are providing a safe place for many vulnerable Tasmanians currently on the public housing waiting list. Demand for the supply of new housing will be as great as ever, and construction will be an important economic driver for the State, post-pandemic,” said Centacare Evolve Housing CEO, Ben

Wilson.

The Centacare Evolve Housing office in Bridgewater has remained open for business during the pandemic, with staff strictly adhering to Government regulations on social distancing.

“Our work in supporting our tenants and the community has continued unabated during these unprecedented times of need. Our doors remain open, and our staff provide service and advice to our tenants and other people seeking housing assistance by phone,” Ben said.

Centacare Evolve Housing successfully manages more than 1800 tenancies, and provides important wellbeing services to the community.



Work to provide social and affordable housing has continued unabated, despite COVID-19.

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## Join a window walk in Brighton

When you are out walking and our streets seem so empty, here is a way we can still connect with each other. Simply join in by putting something in your window for those passing by to see.

Some people have teddy bears in their windows and these are really putting smiles on people's faces.

The window walks have been so popular that they are being extended. These are the themes for the next few weeks:

- ***Monday May 25 your favourite bird in a picture***
  - ***Monday June 1 farm animals***
  - ***Monday June 8 Queen's Birthday***
  - ***Monday June 15 we can go camping – camp fires, tents, caravans***
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## Grandparents and Grandkids still have that special bond

The Bridgewater/Gagebrook community is busy finding ways to keep connected while staying indoors. Concerned that Grandparents and their grandchildren are missing each other, and knowing the important bond that they have, Mark and Ange from the Bridgewater/Gagebrook Clean Up Group have launched a Facebook competition, with the help of Centacare Evolve Housing.

Community members are invited to share a photo, drawing or poem or video letting their grandparents know how special they are and that they are loved.

People have responded with such lovely heartfelt messages! One young lady made an Easter hug pillow case for her Nan, filled with one million hugs and kisses.

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## Joining together in song

Locals are finding their voice during this Covid-19 event, with a small group of residents working closely with Centacare Evolve Housing's Community Development Officer, Sheryl, on ways to encourage community connections.

Starting with an idea to connect people through music, the song Choir by Guy Sabastian was chosen and then we got everyone playing and singing the song at the same time in their homes. Before long, radio stations were contacted by the residents and asked to play the song at the same time and Guy Sabastian was also asked if he would support this idea!

Before long, Guy Sabastian emailed back that he loved the idea!

Our community member asked him to record his support, and very soon two radio stations were on board, the Mercury were running an article, and Guy Sabastian was on line sending a shout-out to the local resident. Just imagine her surprise when she heard him mention her by name!

This small group is continuing to encourage community connections through a range of ideas that are keeping everyone busy and connected.



## Sharing thanks

After the recent Pay it Forward Day, Centacare Evolve Housing staff arrived at work to find a large thank you on the footpath outside their office doors.

Community members had been active thanking many businesses and services that had remained open during the pandemic. They shared thanks around the area to many, including police and shops.

Community members also received special thanks to mark Pay it Forward Day with coffee, tea and a chocolate put into bags and popped into letter boxes in the area. Community members also included our building contractors in this wonderful gesture with many also receiving this special 'pay it forward' gift.



## Making a Mother's Day difference

While children were not at school in the lead up to Mother's Day there was no opportunity for them to buy their Mum a gift from the school Mother's Day stall.

As a mother herself, Centacare Evolve Housing tenant Elaine understood what this would mean for children, so she undertook to make a difference.

Elaine decided to hold her own Mother's Day stall with free gifts for children who needed one for their Mum.

She spoke to local businesses seeking some donations and soon had over 100 lovely gifts. Other local residents also got behind the idea and donated gifts as well which allowed the stall to run over a few days.

With physical distancing in place, the children often called out "Thank You, lady" as they left with their present in hand.



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