

# Homeshare around the world

Newsletter editors: Hilary Todd and Judy Winchester, Oxford, UK

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## An honour for Carmel!

We were thrilled to learn that **Carmel Hurst** has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her pioneering work in establishing homeshare 'down under' in the 1990s. Warmest congratulations from all of us!



## Melbourne, here we come! Save the date: 5 – 6 November 2015

With less than a year to go, our friends in Melbourne are well ahead with plans for our next international congress.

There is growing excitement among our colleagues in Melbourne who are planning the programme and making arrangements for the next homeshare congress, our fourth international event. Trustee Beris Campbell is one of the organisers and says, "We have decided to use the theme '**Homeshare ticks the boxes**' because homeshare addresses so many agendas that are vital for all governments:

- encouraging active ageing – ageing well
- enabling independent living for people with disabilities
- creating intercultural relationships
- fostering age-friendly cities
- supporting intergenerational solidarity
- affordable housing for students, young professionals and key workers

"We've found a marvellous conference venue in central Melbourne with a range of accommodation for delegates nearby. Sponsorship is now coming in to help us meet the costs of running the event and, if we are very successful on fundraising, we may be able to offer some bursaries to help hard-pressed organisations to send a delegate to the congress."

**Call for papers – and why Melbourne is a 'must' – see page 2**

A cheery *bonjour* from some of the students who have been matched with older householders by ensemble2générations in France.  
Photo courtesy of Typhaine de Penfentenyo



## Let's go to Melbourne!

The Melbourne Congress will be the first homeshare congress to be held outside Europe and demonstrates our commitment to making homeshare a truly global success.

We accepted Australia's offer to host the congress because of their proven track record in delivering world-class homeshare programmes, setting up a very effective national umbrella body, HANZA, and getting the ear of their national and regional governments. It promises to be a first-rate event in one of the world's great cities.

### Call for papers

Now is the time to start thinking whether you would like to offer a talk to the congress. We'd welcome presentations and workshops on any subject relevant to the theme. They might include practical tips for programme coordinators, research findings and policy analyses. If you'd like to contribute this way, please contact Beris Campbell [hanza@hotmail.com.au](mailto:hanza@hotmail.com.au)



### Reasons to linger ...

Melbourne in spring-time will be glorious, with many attractions for delegates who want to enjoy a holiday 'down under' as well as attending the congress. Melbourne is a vibrant, multi-cultural city that is simply brilliant for sight-seeing, shopping, theatre, art galleries, river trips, cricket, Victorian and modern architecture, trams, eating out ... You don't need to travel far to enjoy stunning natural scenery, virgin forests of eucalyptus, vineyards, cuddly koalas, fairy penguins and more.

And, just before the congress starts, you have the opportunity to join in the **Spring Racing Carnival** including the Melbourne Cup (3 November), a horse race that brings the whole nation to a standstill! It's not just an exciting time to be in Melbourne but also a busy and expensive one, with hotels booked up well in advance – **a good reason to book early!**

Our next newsletter will contain booking forms for the congress and accommodation we have reserved. We expect the **congress website** to be up and running by Christmas with **online registration** ready to go!

To help you plan your trip, see your travel agent as soon as possible (to get the best deals on flights) and visit [www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)



## News round-up

### Big boost for homeshare in the UK

**Big money is about to be invested in pilot programmes in the UK thanks to the Lloyds Bank Foundation and the National Lottery.**

Both partners will provide £1 million to support a number of pilot developments. The funding will also enable them to test and evaluate the homeshare model to prove it is a sustainable and effective response to the challenges of high housing costs and an ageing population.

The project will be delivered by working in partnership with:

- **Age UK** – it will lead on supporting the local schemes and on the relationships with householders
- the **Foyer Federation** – will support homesharers given its expertise in helping young people
- **Shared Lives Plus** – will give insight and expertise in supporting homeshare programmes
- **Lloyds Banking Group** – will provide support on business development and marketing and
- the **Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)** – will lead on the evaluation of all aspects of the programme.

### A role for HI too

We are very excited that **Elizabeth Mills** has been invited to provide consultancy to the project. It means we get a golden opportunity to promote the homeshare concept and the HI Network and forge new links.

Elizabeth says: “Being invited to undertake this consultancy on behalf of HI is an excellent demonstration of the regard in which HI is held across the homeshare family worldwide”.

### Meet our new Trustee

**Alan Hatton-Yeo** joined the Board of Trustees a few months ago. Alan brings a wealth of experience and we are delighted to welcome him.



Until recently Alan was the Chief Executive of the Beth Johnson Foundation, a UK charity that aims to improve the quality of life of older people. Its work ranges from grass-roots initiatives to tackling policy issues, with the aim of shaping the national agenda.

Alan set up The Centre for Intergenerational Practice under the Foundation’s banner and has become one of the country’s most respected practitioners in this new and expanding field. He was awarded the MBE for this work. As homeshare could be called one of the ‘ultimate’ intergenerational programmes, his experience is particularly relevant to us. Alan has already agreed to lead our new Research Advisory Group (see next page).

Speaking about his appointment, Alan says: “I have admired the work of Homeshare for nearly 20 years and am delighted that my retirement from full-time work means I am now able to play a part in this wonderful initiative”.

### More start-ups!

#### Counting on Canberra

The recently-established Canberra programme set up 16 matches in its first year of operation, something of a record in Australia.

#### A Scottish first ... and more from the UK

A pilot homeshare programme is about to be launched in **Fife**, the first in Scotland. Anna Sandland from the Forth Valley Enterprise C I C is the co-ordinator and says: “We think there is scope for a homeshare programme in Scotland due to the ageing population and shortage of affordable housing. We already have the backing of NHS Fife and Fife Council has expressed an interest. We’re really excited about the project and hope to start making matches soon.”

Elsewhere in the UK Methodist Homes for the Aged have launched a new programme in **Manchester**, while Ategi is setting up a programme in **Windsor and Maidenhead**.



#### Across the generations in Ireland

An article in the *Irish Times* in August prompted contact with a new programme being set up in Ireland, [www.generationaccommodation.org](http://www.generationaccommodation.org). This is a social enterprise matching students and older people in Dublin, supported by Enactus. It aims to bridge the generational gap between dependable students and senior members of the community, founded by students from University College Dublin.

## Ups and downs in Canada

Cheryl Snider is moving on from the Calgary programme she ran but has sent us this update.

The Newfoundland program is concluding its pilot and invited me to be part of their celebration and launch of the final report. Andrew Harvey was kind enough to say that Calgary “sets the standard for best practice in Canada”. They have had 30 matches during the pilot and I believe they are now planning to open the program to non-student home seekers.

Conversely, the program in Red Deer is struggling and I am trying to provide moral support and encouragement.



While updating the website I discovered two programs in Quebec that have been operating for years!

## New research group for HI

We are pleased to announce the formation of a Research Advisory Group to support our work.

We see research as the key to convincing people of homeshare's contribution and sharing our learning effectively.

Alan Hatton-Yeo is leading the group, with much support and encouragement from Mariano Sanchez and others. The group is about to start developing a series of factsheets that summarise what we already know. The factsheets will be of practical help to practitioners, covering issues such as tools for evaluation, impact on isolation, homeshare as a preventive solution and so on.

Email us if you'd like to know more – and we'll update you next time.

Homeshare International is a charity, registered in England and Wales  
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## And from Cairo ...

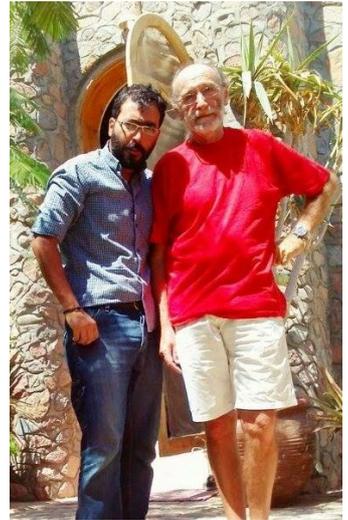
When Mahmoud Aboutabl had to move to take up a job and could not afford to rent, he came up with – homesharing! This is his story.

“When I went to work in Dahab, Egypt, I could not afford to lodge anywhere so I thought of homesharing. This is against all social norms in Egypt and my parents and friends were very apprehensive about it.

After a hard search, I found a retired Frenchman who kindly and hospitably gave me a free room in exchange for gardening, looking after his cat and spending time together listening to music, watching TV, going to the beach, riding bikes through the town and once in the mountains. This has been one of my best experiences.

Now I am back to Cairo to take up a better job but I intend to invite my householder to my new home. I hope awareness of homeshare increases. I am working on this in my community.”

Thanks for sharing this with us Mahmoud and good luck in spreading the word. Please send us your stories – email [admin@homeshare.org](mailto:admin@homeshare.org)



## Director's diary

We are thoroughly enjoying working with our super new Chair, Rhian Bradley. Under her leadership the Board has agreed to change our governance, from a charitable trust with unlimited liability for the Trustees, to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). CIOs are designed to be a more efficient way to run an educational charity such as HI as the regulation is neither complex nor onerous.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Care in the UK undertook a special enquiry into the barriers to downsizing for older people living in their own homes. I presented the case for homeshare as an alternative to downsizing and this point has been included in the final report which will be published shortly.

I was delighted to speak about homeshare to some social policy students from the University of Michigan who spent a semester in London. Several of the students went home enthusiastic enough to enquire about the availability of homeshare in their university.

Apart from an excellent piece in the *Sunday Times* in the UK, I have been interviewed on both radio and television recently.

Links with Spain were strengthened when Mariano Sanchez stayed in my home for a month while he undertook research at the Institute of Ageing at the University of Oxford.

Enquiries from organisations as far afield as Mexico, Ireland, Denmark and Hong Kong have plopped into my e-mail box recently. We hope some of these will become successful programmes in time.

Elizabeth Mills



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