



HANZA NEWS

June 2016

Issue number 21

Promoting Homeshare in Australasia

NEW LOOK FOR HANZA WEBSITE

HOMESHARE *Australia*

A new header, some fresh photos and a whole new page reporting on the World Homeshare Congress has given our website a new look!

We hope that heading our website and referring to ourselves as simply HOMESHARE AUSTRALIA will lessen confusion. It is certainly much easier to say and announce! Spelling out HANZA all the time was becoming too much of a mouthful – although, of course, that is still our full name.

WORLD CONGRESS PAGE

Six months in the making but at last you can read all about it! Please go to the World Congress page on our [Homeshare Australia website](#) for:

- ✓ a full Evaluation Report by HANZA's Alexis Hughes,
- ✓ the CONGRESS PROGRAM with papers and presentations to download and links to videos
- ✓ copies of the Congress Review, the Congress Handbook, Previews,
- ✓ media coverage links and
- ✓ a wonderful GALLERY of photographs

to remind you of our two great days in Melbourne November 2015.



FRENCH HOMESHARE – ENSEMBLE2GÉNÉRATIONS TURNS 10!



Australia sent **CONGRATULATIONS** and best wishes (in French, of course!) to mark this significant milestone for our friends Alain and Typhaine de Penfentenyo, founders of ensemble2générations.

A grand event was held in Paris on 21 May 2016. Alain emailed us proudly after the event to tell us: “It was a very impressive meeting, with the participation of many different people. We enjoyed very much the presence of Rhian and Elizabeth (Homeshare International), and the very warm and friendly speech of Rhian. She read out the special message you sent to us. Typhaine and I, we want to thank you from our heart for this message.



“You know all the gratitude we have toward Homeshare International. E2G’s successes are also HI’s successes. We have been walking together for 7 years now, and we received as much from your earliest experiences as from our own. In our turn, we try to share this experience with new programs. I am very proud to participate in this very wonderful idea of Homeshare.

“For this anniversary, we issued a book with photos and interviews of 22 matches. You already saw some extracts of this book in Melbourne. I am sending you by post 2 copies of this book ; please give one to Carmel.”

Here are some of photos from the book, which is truly a work of art – just beautiful. The stories of the 22 matches are heartwarming and convey so clearly the value and benefits of intergenerational homesharing.

Some of the quotations in the book from householders are really thoughtful and thought provoking:

“I didn’t expect to find Alicia’s arrival so stimulating. She has made me aware that I had lost the habit of talking just for the pleasure of it. Sharing your home with a young person brings you back into the world, into the flow of things. It makes me feel younger!” Paule, 83 years old.

“This type of cohabitation is a choice. And you have to think carefully about it because you have to make an effort if you want it to work. And maybe that’s more difficult for older people than for younger ones. Audrey is like a breath of fresh air for me. We both care for one another and it makes life happy.” Marie-Therese, 84 years old.

“We must rejoice in an old age that is happy, active and shared; at any age, it is better to live with others than have a solitary life, a life for others and not just for oneself, a shared life, not a guarded life. What is not given is lost.” A senior.

The ensemble2générations teams focus specifically on pairing up seniors and students. To achieve a well-matched cohabitation, they make sure that the wishes and expectations of both parties are met within a relationship of trust. In this way, the older person and the student very often get real enjoyment from each other’s company, quite apart from a reassuring presence and the shared accommodation.



Since its creation in 2006 more than 6000 students and old people have enjoyed the work of **ensemble2générations** in France.

NEWS

HOMESHARE ON AIR

The ABC Lateline program ran an excellent segment on Homeshare on 2nd June this year. We were introduced to two matches giving television audiences a real life look at Homeshare. Since then the enquiries from organizations and individuals have shown quite an increase. This has been significant in New South Wales, suggesting that there is the need that we all believe to be there. See the link to the story on our Website.

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK

In our last newsletter we reported on the three subcommittees set up within the HANZA committee. All three have been doing sterling work.

PROMOTION AND ADVOCACY: Have developed a set of statistics that illustrate the need for Homeshare to operate in areas most likely to achieve successful outcomes. I.e. Lone householders 70+ 80+ etc.: Numbers of mature age students in specific areas. Ethnic groupings of older people.

We are visiting groups and individuals with influence on the community to spread the word on Homeshare. Contemplating ways to expand Homeshare into other areas

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Work on our website – upgrading and updating

Developing a submission to fund a Training Course for Homeshare Coordinators

Attempting to teach recalcitrant Committee members to use Facebook and Twitter. (pretty hopeless!)

GOVERNANCE

Modifying the HANZA model rules. The results of these deliberations will be put to members at our AGM in November. There is minimum change.

HOMESHARE WORKSHOP

As a follow-up to the Congress, Dr. Meg Montague and Beris Campbell ran a workshop for the three Melbourne HS programs. The purpose of the exercise was a “Review and reflection on the last 3 years”.

As note taker, I found the day extremely interesting. Participants were focused, passionate and eager to exchange ideas and to support one another. The main messages I got from the proceedings were that :

- a. Mutual support from colleagues is of great benefit in any undertaking. All delegates discovered they were dealing with the same problems and practice hurdles.
- b. We must prepare ourselves for the changes to funding models. It will require education and some serious thinking. We will have to change the way we practice.
- c. The future of Homeshare. There are opportunities to expand the program into other areas and anxieties about the way in which our ambitions can be realized.

Delegates agreed about the value of the day and organized to continue with such workshops – run by themselves three times a year.

Notes from the Workshop are very illuminating. Anyone interested should contact me. (Carmel)

INTERNATIONAL HOMESHARE

5th WORLD HOMESHARE CONGRESS

SAVE THIS DATE: 26th – 27th May 2017

The dates are set for the 5th World Homeshare Congress – and the theme proposed is:

GROWING HOMESHARE - BUILDING BRIDGES

Host organisation *SOLIDARIOS* has secured the support of the Madrid local government office. Negotiations are well underway for the Congress to take place in the Cibebe Palace (previously the headquarters of the Post Office, and since 2007 used as Madrid City Hall).

Start planning your trip to Spain now!

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORKING TOGETHER

Another reminder for members to join in the Community of Practice teleconferences, the next one is on 28th September. A must for practitioners – or aspiring practitioners. Contact us on hanza@homeshare.org.au

NEWS FROM HANZA MEMBERS AROUND AUSTRALASIA

AVIVO - WA - (formerly Perth Home Care Services)

Troy and Aaron - a true story, with excerpts from a book that a Homesharer wrote from his perspective.

A little background....

Aaron is a man in his twenties. His parents called Avivo to explore whether Homeshare could be an option for him in his new unit. He had just moved out of the family home and wanted someone to share with him. Being a very sociable guy, he wanted someone with similar values and interests as him. He had a big interest in gaming.

Aaron also wanted to learn how to cook and run his own home. Like many young people, his parents did most of this when he was living at home. He wanted someone who had a bit of experience with this to share with him.

Troy, a guy also in his twenties saw the ad to share with Aaron and applied; thinking he didn't have a chance of living with and supporting someone with a disability. He told us he was very nervous before and after the interviews. We thought Troy would be a great guy to share with as he liked similar things to Aaron but also had had some challenges in life with anxiety and trying to make ends meet.

This is how he starts his book...

"This is something I decided to write as part of a memory to myself but also for other people to read and for them to hopefully get an understanding of that no matter what walks of life people come from, we can all give a little bit of our time to help someone else that may need it more than we do ourselves and in return, feel good about ourselves. This is my life and my story about living with Aaron".

Troy describes meeting Aaron and his family for the first time. Following their first getting to know each other chat, Aaron showed Troy around the house. Troy said that Aaron said to him: "'this is your bedroom". It made me feel as if he wanted me to move in, just by simply saying "this is your bedroom".

"I felt like everybody liked me which gave me the confidence in thinking that I had a good chance of getting the home with Aaron."

After receiving Troy's Police Clearance he was informed that he was successful. We thought he was a great candidate and more importantly, so did Aaron and his family.

Troy was elated "I called my parents after and told them the good news. They were very pleased for me. They knew that it was something that I will be good at and that I wouldn't let anyone down.

A few chapters later - move in day for Troy...

"I noticed in the driveway that there was a BBQ in a cardboard box. Aaron had bought it so we could use it for dinner that night. He said to me, we need to put this together before mum and dad come around tonight for dinner at 6pm.

Before all of this happened, I wasn't very happy with how my life was, especially having anxiety. I learnt some breathing techniques to help me feel better again. But, moving in and living with Aaron made me feel better and he still does."

Troy says that the friendship he has formed with Aaron has been invaluable to his own life!

Gelinda Kock - Manager - Shared Living, AVIVO

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - ACT

"We had a nice night recently – one householder turned 40 and her Homesharer organised a party for her in a local restaurant where 17 people gathered. She had never had a party on that scale before and really enjoyed being the "guest of honour". The 17 were a mix of support workers, church friends, neighbours, the Homesharer and 4 co-workers at her place of employment. There was a mix of people with and without disabilities. It was genuinely a very good occasion."

Lee Harrison, Homeshare Manager

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HANZA AND HOMESHARE IN AUSTRALIA

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