



**"THE PERFECT SOLUTION": HOMESHARE ON COMPASS!**

Last night's episode of the ABC's long-running documentary series *Compass*, entitled "Perfect Match", was all about homeshare. The episode explores the early days of a new match -- between retiree Loris Barrington and architect Gunhild Krogsdam -- as well as the legacy of one of homeshare's most successful matches: between renowned botanical artist Margaret Stones and her homesharer Bernard Xu.

The duo featured in another homeshare-focused segment of *Compass* back in 2010, and this new episode features archival footage from that episode. It's accompanied by a new interview with Bernard, who shared with Margaret until she passed away on Boxing Day 2018 -- Margaret's niece describes him as "being like a son" to her. It's a beautiful story, and a testament to the enrichment homeshare can bring to the lives of both homesharer and householder.

For Australian readers, the episode is [available via the ABC's iView service](#).

**CAN YOU HELP?**

HANZA greatly appreciates any and all donations! We are staffed entirely by volunteers, and even small donations can make a big difference. If you'd like to contribute, you can do so [via our website](#). All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



**HOME SHARE MELBOURNE: STRIKING A MATCH**

As we reported in our last newsletter, Home Share Melbourne was one of the organisations involved in the all-star comedy gala held at the St Kilda Town Hall last December. The show was a smashing success, leading to many hosting enquiries -- and, most importantly, to the first successful match under the HSM [asylum seeker program](#)! An attendee at the show is now sharing their house with the holder of a protection visa, a match that has proven hugely beneficial to both parties. HSM is proud to have been able to offer homes to two other women needing safe housing, and in this time of uncertainty and fear, it's been wonderful to see something beautiful rise out of the sadness and difficulty. Home Share Melbourne has never seen so many people offer their spare bedrooms to asylum seekers. This says something about our community, when things are tough we pull together!

**LIFE AS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

On a more general note, HANZA is proud to be building Home Share Melbourne as a social enterprise. To date we have made seven matches and we are seeing demand for the service growing. In addition to the asylum seeker program, HSM is also running a disability-focused Homeshare program -- the only dedicated Homeshare program in Victoria for people who live with a disability. Both use rigorous safeguarding procedures to ensure safety for all involved and see housing people in the community with likeminded people as being the key to building a home. We receive no government funding and see building a sustainable social enterprise as the only way to ensure that we can provide this service long term. We hope that HSM will continue to grow and will lead to hundreds of Homeshare matches improving the quality of people's lives and increase housing options for people who traditionally have very limited options.

Find HANZA on the internet and social media!



HANZA's Board of Directors, 2020  
(clockwise from far left): Heather McKee, Jenny Cato, Wendy Francis, Tony Cavedon, Alexis Hughes, Beris Campbell, Nancy Norton, Meg Montague

**HANZA NEWS: BOARD ADOPTS NEW STRATEGIC PLAN**

HANZA is looking to the future of homeshare in an ever-changing landscape with a new three-year strategic plan, which was approved by the Board of Directors (formerly the Committee of Management) at the March Board meeting. The Plan sets out our vision, mission and values, along with our strategic goals for the next three years, and our plan for achieving those goals. Interested readers can find the document on our website!

There's also a whole lot of new blood and new energy at Board level. As we reported in our last newsletter, we've welcomed two new Directors -- Jenny Cato and Wendy Francis -- both of whom have hit the ground running, and we look forward to an exciting and productive year.

**HOMESHARE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

The first meeting for 2020 was held in February, and brought lots of good news from various Homeshare programs:

**New Zealand**

There is a huge housing crisis in Hawke's Bay, and Age Concern Hawkes Bay has been busy bringing aboard new energy to re-start their program. They recently welcomed new coordinator Tanya Jeffcoat, to take up the part-time position at their homeshare program Let's Share. She'll get straight to work commencing interviews for new matches.

**New South Wales**

Excellent news from Holdsworth Homeshare in Sydney, who are going from strength to strength. Since launching in October 2018, the program has received an overwhelming response; 120+ enquiries from prospective householders, and 150+ from those interested in sharing, from across NSW. The program has now successfully reached 70% of our second year target matches (including the one featured on *Compass* last night)!

**ACT**

The Community Connections program has received funding from the ACT government to operate for an initial 18-month period. The program was originally funded by Disability ACT, and made some 55 matches in its first year; and only three matches remain. They're hopeful that this new funding will allow the program to rebound successfully.

**Victoria**

The Care Connect program is home to perhaps the single most intriguing homeshare match currently operating: a homesharer supporting nine ageing nuns in a convent. A second homesharer has now joined the 'household'! This is a great example of the flexibility of the homeshare model. Elsewhere, the program is currently in discussion with Darebin Council regarding the inclusion of homeshare in the latter's Healthy Ageing Strategy.

