

# Manufactured Home Owners Association (Vic) Inc.

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## NEWSLETTER

### **JUNE 2024**

Where did this month go! We've been busy with preparations for a Site Rental Survey which will be issued next month as well as attending meetings and chats with journalists.



MHOA is making news....

# ABC Gippsland Local News By Rachael Lucas 28 May 2024

Manufactured Home Owners Association of Victoria president Judith Duff said while caravan park living was an affordable option, a lack of regulation could leave tenants vulnerable to unexpected rental increases.

She said of the 100 or so residential caravan parks on the association's radar, only 10 per cent were registered with local councils.

"There's no accreditation, there's no registration, owner-operators have been able to play their own game for the last 15 to 20 years," she said.

Judith said cabin renters could also be too afraid to speak up about maintenance issues such as mouldy walls or non-functional toilets and showers in fear of being priced or bullied out, with some park owners taking an "if you don't like it, leave" attitude.

# THE SENIOR newspaper June Edition 2024

#### **NEWS**

#### PEAK BODY FOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS

A NEW advocate body has formed to be a voice for people living in land-lease retirement villages.

The Manufactured Home Owners Association (MHOA)Victoria was formed in 2023 and is recognised by MPs and government departments as the peak body for land-lease manufactured home village residents.

"Advocacy means getting support from another person to help voice our views andsupport us in standing up for our rights," president Judy Duff said.

Email: info.mhoa.vic@gmail.com

I would like to **correct some statements** in the news items above. We are not classified as caravan park living but land lease and mixed parks, and I don't believe we are cabin renters, but manufactured home owners renting sites.

Recently reported in the NATIONAL SENIORS newsletter:

## Rising scam threat for seniors

The latest Targeting Scams report has revealed older Australians suffered the greatest harm at the hands of scammers and scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

The <u>Targeting Scams report</u> shows people over the age of 65 were the only age group to experience an increase in reported losses. Losses for people over the age of 65 increased by 13.3% in 2023 to \$120 million.

The report compiles data reported to Scamwatch, ReportCyber, the Australian Financial Crimes Exchange (AFCX), IDCARE, and Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).

## Top tips to avoid scams

STOP – Don't rush to act. Scammers will create a sense of urgency. Time is your biggest weapon here. Check with your bank before making any kind of payment.

Do not be coerced or swayed by threats or blackmail.

THINK – Ask yourself if you really know who you are communicating with. Scammers can impersonate others and lie about who they are— especially online.

They are capable of intercepting emails and mirroring legitimate sources like banks.

Always take measures to verify, such as visiting a bank branch or calling them.

PROTECT – Act quickly if something feels wrong. If you have shared financial information or transferred money, contact your bank immediately.

Help others by <u>reporting to Scamwatch</u>.



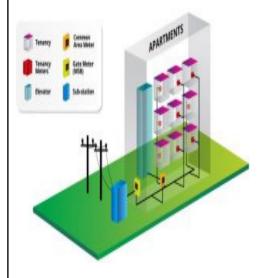
### Site Fee Increase Notices

Residents who have received their increase notice which takes effect from 1st July, don't forget to obtain a copy of your increase notice and post, or take it, into Centrelink. **Centrelink**, **Locked Bag 7834**, **Canberra BC**, **ACT 2610**.

This enables Centrelink to ascertain if and when you could be entitled to a Rental Assistance increase.

**REMINDER:** MHOA membership fees for 2024-25. A renewal notice will be sent to all current members on 30th June. Please do not deposit into our bank account until after the 1st July.

Does your village have an embedded network? If so, you will need to apply... MHOA will provide further information on the process as it becomes available.



### If you live in an embedded network

Households in embedded networks (such as where you receive electricity from your strata or landlord in a caravan park, apartment building or retirement or village) will be eligible for a rebate through an application to their state and territory government.

More information on applying for your rebate will be released before 1 July 2024.

You can read the full information here: https://www.energy.gov.au/energy-bill-relief-fund

### Resolve your problem with an embedded network operator

Embedded networks must be members of the EWOV scheme. Customers have access to EWOV's free complaint and dispute resolution services, if an issue arises with an embedded electricity network provider.

To check whether an embedded network has joined the scheme, visit ewov.com.au>members then click on <u>Find an embedded network member</u> or call 1800 500 509.

You can also report to the ESC that your embedded network is not a member of the EWOV scheme by emailing <a href="mailto:exemptionregister@esc.vic.gov.au">exemptionregister@esc.vic.gov.au</a> or calling 03 9032 1300.

Consumers, small businesses, or renters who buy their electricity from an embedded network also have rights under the Australian Consumer Law (ACL).

For more about your ACL rights and the potential remedies, view <u>Problem with a service</u>. If you believe that your embedded network has breached their obligations to you under the ACL, refer <a href="https://consumer.gov.au">https://consumer.gov.au</a> (bottom of screen 'contact' for more information.)

Judy Duff