



The Living Co-operatively Consortium

Living Co-operatively

Affordable Housing - Sustainable Communities
Petersham Town Hall, Sydney, 13-14 February 2008

The *Living Co-operatively* Consortium proudly presents a 2-day symposium to develop a 'co-operative' response to Australia's affordable housing crisis. Co-operative researchers, urban planners, state and national housing politicians investigate the link between co-operatives and strong, sustainable communities and debate models and options for local government provision of affordable housing.

The Symposium will be opened by the **Hon Linda Burney**, NSW Minister responsible for Fair Trading, Youth, Volunteering and Co-operatives. The Scandinavian model for affordable housing through co-operative ownership is explored by international keynote speaker, **Gun-Britt Mårtensson**. Former chair and president of HSB Riksförbund, Sweden's largest organisation for co-op housing and a current Board member of the international peak body for co-ops, the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), and Cecodhas, the European organisation for housing, Ms Mårtensson is an outspoken advocate of the benefits of co-operative living.

The theme "Living Co-operatively" captures the idea of communities living in a co-operative and democratic manner, and focuses on the co-operative organisational model, which in Sweden is an integral part of community life. Ms Mårtensson is joined by speakers Professor **Julian Disney**, chair National Affordable Housing Summit; Professor **Jenny Onyx**, director Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre, UTS; **Steve Bevington**, chair Community Housing Federation of Australia; **Peter Webber**, Emeritus Professor of Urban and Regional Planning Sydney University; Clrs **Dimitrios Thanos**, Mayor, Marrickville Council and **Paul Barber**, Lord Mayor, Parramatta City Council ... and many others.

Sessions

- Building social capital through co-operative living: the civil society framework
- Affordable Housing: case studies, models and options
- Case studies of success in Australia
- Financing options for affordable housing
- Options for Local Government
- The State and Federal view
- Ideas and solutions: setting the agenda

The symposium should appeal to representatives of local and state government, housing bodies, political and social advocates and all those interested in the debate around housing and sustainable communities.

Key consortium members are University of Technology Sydney, Marrickville Council and Parramatta City Council, supported by Association to Resource Co-operative Housing (ARCH), Co-operative Federation of NSW and The Mercury Centre.

Registration, speakers and program: www.mercury.org.au/lc

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