

# Interview with *Inside Westside* Editor Felicity Rai

At the end of 2021, *Inside Westside* was announced the winner of the Tenant Led Initiative category of the Australasian Housing Industry (AHI) Awards (which recognises excellence in the community housing sector).

This is a fabulous achievement and well-deserved recognition of the talent and hard work of *Inside Westside's* long-term Editor Felicity Rai.

Westside Housing tenant Felicity volunteers behind the scenes to write for and edit *Inside Westside*. We thought, given the occasion, that it was time we introduced Felicity to recognise her achievements and she agreed to be interviewed for this edition.

## Felicity's background

Felicity has been a tenant for around 10 years. She originally came to Westside after the Permaculture Co-operative that she was a part of decided to find an organisation that could support them following changes to government legislation.

Felicity had many adventures over the years with many interesting tales to tell. Before her retirement and her involvement with *Inside Westside*, she studied widely and held noteworthy professional roles with lots of travel adventures.

She grew up in England and started her career in teaching and acting (doing various roles, including working with actor Sid James)! Felicity travelled extensively during this time, and eventually settled down for a number of years in Hong Kong. Whilst there, she worked as a journalist at the *South China Morning Post* and had her first child, a son.

It was on a work trip to Australia that Felicity found that she could get residency here, and after a period of travelling between Australia, Hong Kong and England, she decided to move permanently to Australia. She felt that living in Australia would be the best environment for her son to grow up in.

Felicity settled in Adelaide and worked as a journalist and travel editor for *The Advertiser* for a number of years and had her second child, a daughter, while also studying. She studied Media and Communications at the University of Canberra and Entrepreneurship and International Studies at the University of Adelaide (where she was the Postgraduate Student President for many years).

At one point, as a mature age student, Felicity decided to take six months out to study Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, which she says was a fun experience living on campus with younger students.

She has even written a book titled *Japan's Non-Nuclear Policy!* And, although technically retired, Felicity now volunteers her time editing the *Global Media Post* and *Inside Westside* and so is still quite busy.

## The best part about editing *Inside Westside*?

Felicity has been involved in *Inside Westside* since its inception, both editing and writing articles. She says that she loves working and can't imagine not being involved in editing or writing. She likes to keep well informed about what's going on in the world and thinking about what could go into future editions. Her favourite part of her job is editing.

## And future editions of *Inside Westside*?

Felicity says that she would like to see some more tenant-led articles in *Inside Westside*. She feels that writing is very rewarding and there may be readers who would like to try their hand at writing content. She would love the opportunity to support someone in becoming a regular contributor.

## What has winning the AHI award meant?

Felicity says she is very proud to be involved with *Inside Westside* and for it to have won the AHI award. It has been enriching for her to have been an integral part of this project and she would encourage anyone interested in learning how to improve their writing skills. She believes *Inside Westside* is a nurturing environment that would support those wanting to get involved.

The Westside Housing team would very much like to thank Felicity Rai for all her involvement in *Inside Westside*.