



Meals on Wheels
Eurobodalla

VOLUNTEER WORKER NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021

It is a strange world we live in and if you are like me, you listen each day to the local and national news for the latest numbers...not on temperatures rising due to spring, or the improving dollar, or for better interest rates or for improved employment figures, but for the local number of Covid cases here, throughout the state and nationally. These numbers guide what we will do next and for us at the office this has certainly been the case.

During the lockdown we have centralised everything to the Moruya office. Our routine is to make sure all orders for meals are in on Friday and we pack for the Shire on Monday. Chelsea and Keith, delivered on Tuesday (Moruya and Broulee), Batemans Bay on Wednesday and the south on Thursday (Tuross Head, Narooma, and surrounds). This worked well but we do not want this to be the norm going forward.

Over recent weeks we have started to move back to using volunteers. It is great to see everyone again and thank you for being willing to start up again. For our meals clients our volunteers started to return in Moruya on 19 October and in Batemans Bay on 20 October. Narooma recommenced on 29 October.

Group Social Support clients saw volunteers from 1 November and our Individual Social Support clients have had some contact as shopping has been done for clients and some gardening has continued.

It is also wonderful to know that 100% of our staff and active volunteers have had two vaccinations. This is great and each Tuesday we must report to the Government on our figures as we are working with a vulnerable community group. Thank you for those who have allowed us to view your vaccination status to verify our data. Keep washing hands!!

Our clients are also providing this information which allows us to let volunteers into homes soon and those attending Out and About to do so safely. It means that clients can be taken to appointments or shopping, visits to homes for the 'cuppa chat' or a game of cards can happen and generally support is able to be offered where it is required. Keep wearing the masks when with clients.



The Board continues to look at the Covid Policy each month and sets our protocols and procedures for the upcoming month. These resolutions are included in the Policy document which is on file and available should you wish to see it.

Thank you everyone...you have been most supportive as we have had to deal with the lockdown and not being able to use you to support the older members of our community.

We were sad that Chelsea finished her role as Out and About Coordinator and thus hasn't been working with us over the last month. Karen who has returned from leave following the lockdown ending and when Out and About restarted on 1 November, started assisting Keith with the programme and administration. We know that our clients have been keen to get back to the fun and activity that they do each time they meet. We do have the capacity to help more people, so let your elderly neighbour know of this opportunity.

With Chelsea leaving we have had to make some changes and the following is underway

- Out and About will meet on three days each week (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)
- Monday in Narooma will remain located at the Youth Café in the Community Centre.
- Lunch About on Tuesday will restart.
- Thursday will be based in Batemans Bay at the Malua Bay Community Hall.
- The November programme has been sent to clients and a great success.
- The programme will be developed for a three-month period and there will be a theme underlying the activities so that a major 'presentation day' can happen at the end of that period. The summer programme is ready.

Our **Annual General Meeting** was held on the 25th of October in Moruya. There was a ballot for all positions and Derek Hoare from Tuross Head was elected as were the three sitting members who were up for re-election. These directors will serve a two-year term. It has been a long time since we had such interest in the Board and the future of the organisation. Thank you to all who stood for the Board. The Annual Report and financial statement is available at the office.

The Board met after the AGM and elected the office bearers for the next year. The Board for this year is

President:	Phil Armstrong
Chair, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee:	Deborah Buchanan
Chair, Policy and Administration Committee:	Cathy Milliken
Chair, Food Panel:	Sue Proud
Directors:	Jan Young, Jim Greenshields, Derek Hoare

The Board has 4 women and 3 men and people from Narooma, Tuross Head, Moruya, Mossy Point and Lilli Pilli. I believe we are well balanced, representative and the skills amongst the Directors which will enable us to navigate the future.

At the AGM our **Strategic Plan** was launched and this will guide us until 2023 when the new Aged Care Act will be in place following the Aged Care Royal Commission. The flyer highlighting key points from the Plan will be available at the various centres.



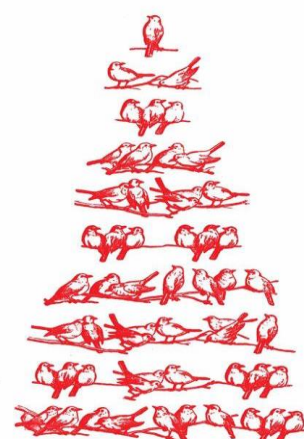
In Batemans Bay we are still working with SEARMS who have won the lease of the Batemans Bay Community Centre to finalise our agreement. We are likely to be back there in the new year but at present we are trialling a new system. I look forward to the feedback from the volunteers being used in this trial.

But the whole issue around the **Batemans Bay Community Centre** has caused the community, and us, a lot of grief which I believe was unnecessary. I am sure all Councillors on our present Council believe that they have done the right thing for the future. However, I think Clr Pollock, Clr Tait and Clr Thompson who are standing again may see over time that the community did need the centre and that the affordable prices generously given by Council to Not for Profit groups allowed small organisations and clubs to develop and bring new activities to our community. I thank Clr Mayne (also seeking re-election) who along with one other Councillor did fight to keep this centre for the community. I am sure time will show that their opposition was correct. I know where my support will be when the Council is elected on December 4th!

Christmas is fast approaching, and we all hope that we will be able to catch up with family and friends. This will be wonderful as many of us have not seen family for many weeks, months and even years. Having missed special occasions, this festive season will be an opportunity to catch up, have some family fun and smile!

For many clients the contact with you as a volunteer leading to Christmas could be the only 'friendly' face they will see. Please remember your smile and cheerful greetings over the next few weeks.

Our Christmas menu has been set and noted by the Food Panel, and the meals have arrived (*we did not want our clients to miss out should there be issues with delivery and/or supply*). Our gift to each client is nearly complete as the calendars and envelopes, and the special pens are here. Our Christmas cards for each client are being designed and created by the students at Broulee Public School.



We will close for a period over Christmas starting on 23rd December at noon and reopen on 4th January for meals. Out and About will start on 10th January.



Wanted ...a new WHS Rep!

Les Carter has retired, and we would like to have a new person in place. Please contact me if you are interested and would like to discuss what is involved.

Alan Russell, Manager

