

Happy New Year to everyone within the Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels area.

Our area now goes from Sussex Inlet in the north to Wallaga Lake in the south. It is a very large area to cover with major towns such as Sussex Inlet, Ulladulla, Batemans Bay, Moruya, and Narooma plus numerous smaller villages along the way.

To cover this area, we have a distribution centre in the middle of the Sussex Inlet township. This is open on Friday mornings, and we are so lucky to have Michele and Ros looking after everything there-the delivery runs, the ordering, the volunteers, and the clients.

In the south, we have a distribution centre in Narooma. This we will use as a Food Hub this year. We plan to use the freezer to store meals as we look to increase our menu items and to see how we may be able to lower prices. This trial will happen between February and May.

In the middle, we have our main office in Moruya and a smaller office in Ulladulla. In each of these we have very dedicated and compassionate staff working to support every client. They also care for the wonderful volunteers who give so generously week in and week out; and some do it daily as they look after clients through our Group or Individual Social Support programmes.

In the area we are 'More than a Meal'! We offer meals as our core business item, but we also offer Group Social Support and Individual Social Support programmes. These are not well known outside 'our circle' so we need to spread the word during 2024! There are also two Special Groups operating within the Ulladulla office and through the Moruya office with the monthly gathering of Elders at the Wallaga Lake Koori community and through PALZ every second month which serves our clients who may have the onset of dementia. There are many strings to our bow.

To deal with governance of Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels we have a Board of Directors. These seven volunteers, elected at the AGM in October, give generously of their time and skill. The members of the Board are elected, and all are bringing special skills to the discussions. A skills-based Board is important especially when we are a Not-for-Profit business and a Not for Loss business!

The Board

President: Phil Armstrong

Committee Chairs:

Finance, Risk and Audit: Deborah Buchanan

Policy and Administration: Cathy Milliken

Food Panel: Jan Young

Directors:

Jim Greenshields, Derek Hoare, Michael O'Connor

The Board, as well as being skills based, has had a good gender balance and representative of the former Eurobodalla region. It is hoped that this will remain the same and that skilled people from throughout the new region may consider joining the Board as vacancy arises or at the AGM.

The Staff

The staff are most important to the operation of the



organisation but more for the culture that exists within the system. We are very fortunate with the team operating within each office.

Management

Manager: Alan Russell

Finance Officer: Nicole McDonald

Moruya Office

Client Services: Kelley Hill

Group Social Support (Out and About): Cathy Cooper, Rachel Cooper

Administration Assistant/Individual Social Support: Barbara Phelan

Office assistant: Amy Lockton from Yumaro, comes each Friday.

Ulladulla Office

Services Coordinator: Laura Cockroft

Volunteer Coordinator: Suzy Gibson

Social Groups Coordinators: Emma Donnelley and

Rowena Barton

And then we have our wonderful **volunteers**. The heart of the organisation. The folk with the generosity, smiles and desire to assist others makes our organisation what everyone loves....a supportive, extended family within an environment of compassion and caring. Thank you to each of you for what you have been able to provide in the past, and we hope you will do so into this new year and beyond.

But we all work, or volunteer, to support our lovely **clients**. The thanks and lovely feedback we receive each time we visit or see you. These comments make our job or vocation a pleasure, and motivates us to want to do more.

With the changes to the Aged Care Act there may be the possibility to assist you further. We shall see how our organisation is able to provide what you presently receive and whether we are well placed to expand with the new opportunities.

But we want thinking caps on.

The Board is aware of the new organisations large footprint and wants **a new name** which will represent the area, our work, and the services we provide. We would like ideas, so we can rebrand Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels from 1 July 2024.

As you start thinking, remember; the area and its features, the services we provide, that we have a huge volunteering base, that respect, compassion, empathy, honesty, patience, integrity, kindness, and generosity are values noted in our Strategic Plans.

What do you think could be our name? Please send your ideas to me at manager@eurobodallamealsonwheels.com.au or in an envelope addressed Manager, Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels 6/73 Vulcan Street Moruya 2539 or left in an envelope at one of the offices or distribution centres by **Wednesday 6th March**. The Board will then consider these and hopefully make a decision at its March meeting on the 18th which will be held in Ulladulla. This gives us time to go through various channels to have our name changed.

I am excited about 2024 and cementing our new organisation into being the best community service group assisting the communities we serve.

Alan Russell, Manager
January 2024



