

VOLUNTEER WORKER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

Dear Volunteers

This is the first newsletter from our expanded organisation just for volunteers.

For the first half of the year, it was important that everyone was kept up to date with our developments and knew the same story. Now, as time has moved on, we can make our Newsletters more focused on specific groups.

SIRS (Serious Incident Response Scheme) I have mentioned this scheme before. It is where we report any serious incidents we have had reported to us about the welfare of our clients. This is an expectation from the Australian Aged Care Quality Commission, and while at the Australia Meals on Wheels Conference we were given more information on this which we are investigating. We have asked our Services Coordinator in the Ulladulla office to take the lead on this. Laura Cockroft has attended some training and has accepted this role. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me in Moruya, or Laura in Ulladulla on 4455 2861.

Get together for High Tea An invitation has been sent to all volunteers, and should you know of anyone who has missed out, please tell them about the event. There are invitations at each of the centres. As in the past, we hope we get a wonderful rollup and an afternoon of fun and laughter plus the opportunity to meet with those from the 'other' services. We will have three buses bringing volunteers from Ulladulla on the day. I hope that assists people who may not wish to drive. A further opportunity to laugh and chat with like-minded people as you travel to and from Moruya Jockey Club.

Australia Meals on Wheels Conference. The President

From Conference,
Kevin Humphries DSC



He spoke about Noble Leadership and said, "there are two kinds of people; those who care and those who do not care enough." Thank you to you for being the first one!

and I have just attended the biannual conference in Sydney. There were many interesting speakers and much discussion about issues facing Meals on Wheels. We can meet the needs of our clients but there are services in NSW and Brisbane who have met their Outputs and cannot take on any more clients. Media is focusing on these concerns as clients are being put on a Wait List for meals services. Often these organisations have been told "there is no more funding and you cannot take more clients", no matter their needs. There will be more to this



Meals on Wheels
Eurobodalla

Board of Directors

is pleased to invite you to the

The Volunteers' High Tea

Wednesday 4th September 2024

2pm to 4pm

@ Moruya Jockey Club

Donnelly Drive at North Head Moruya

opposite the Moruya Airport

Catering – Moruya Rotary Club

R.S.V.P. Tuesday 27th August 2024
on 4474 4464

Please advise any dietary needs
Transport will be provided from
Ulladulla

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING
Volunteers like you are the life blood of
Meals on Wheels

Please Note: The bar will not be operational.

but the Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels organisation, throughout its region, is able to assist present and even more clients.

NSW Premier at Conference Chris Minns spoke at the conference and was most interesting. He did make some thoughtful comments such as "Volunteers are always exceptional people." "The value of your work can't be quantified." "The importance of the human touch can't be replaced by an App or someone on an electric bike." To me it was good to hear that the Premier knows the reality and what we do. He said that you all have a real 'sense of community' about your efforts.



Elgas Act of Kindness On Radio 2EC and Power FM there was an opportunity for community groups to be supported by the public. Thanks to the public, and I am sure many of you, Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels was well supported and won the category for volunteers over 50 in number. We won \$1500, so thank you to those who did vote.

Eurobodalla Business Awards Our congratulations to Nicole McDonald our Finance Officer who won the Outstanding Employee of the Year in the recent awards. The presentation was made at the Black-Tie dinner at the Bay Pavilions and recognises her hard work as we have merged the two organisations together.



Food van The Board has approved the purchase of a 'Food van'. This will be used to transport food from one centre to another and to distribution points. This van will be refrigerated and make sure our meals do not get spoiled while transporting them to where they need to go. This should be here for the start of August.

Aged Care Act There has been much written about the proposed new Aged Care Act. This was expected to be in place by 1 July 2024. Now it is planned to go to Federal Parliament this month. We are not sure if this will get through the Parliamentary process before the election next year. At this stage, 1 July 2025 is the planned implementation date. The new Act is person centred and should greatly support the older people in the community. The Royal Commission into Aged Care called for the new Act and for the system to be simpler. I am not sure it is going to be! Until the Act is passed into law, it will be business as usual.

Volunteering Nationally there has been a drop in volunteering hours since 2010. This drop is 37% or the loss of 29 million hours. However, the population has increased by 15%. We would love more volunteers and especially younger folk and can arrange their hours to meet their availability. Our clients would love to see younger folk joining you as you support them. Do you know anyone who would like to assist?

There are many reasons why people don't volunteer

"Not sure how...never been asked."

"Cost of uniform and fuel."

"Lack of flexibility"

We can discuss such concerns especially at Volunteer Inductions.

"None of us know the impact we have upon others unless that person has the grace and courage to tell you."but our recent Client Survey did confirm to us that you continue to have a huge and valued impact upon our clients.....so, the Board, and I, thank you.

Look forward to seeing you at High Tea next month.

Alan Russell
Manager
August 2024



Your husband will always be your biggest and oldest child that requires the most adult supervision.

