

VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

Dear Volunteer

Since my last newsletter the world has changed and the flow on effects are hitting us in Australia. I wish to firstly say thank you for the continued support you have been offering as the fuel situation has become worse by the day.

I have met with staff and we have formed a Plan for the future.

I have met with the President and we discussed the Plan and how we are going to make sure our services are able to continue. The Board is committed to our clients.

At the time of writing our Plan has been greatly assisted by the Federal Government making changes so fuel will cost less due to the tax being reduced. But that will be for a period of time, and if the war in the Middle East gets worse, or goes longer, we need to be ready. Planning is essential to make sure we can continue what we do.

At the centre of our Plan are the clients. We want to make sure we are delivering meals which is our core business, but we also wish to maintain the social services we provide. The interaction between people is vital but when times are harder this even more important.

Therefore, as long as we can, we shall proceed as usual.

However, we can not do what we do without our wonderful band of volunteers. Our Plan makes sure we are supporting you in the care and compassion you bring to our clients. The fuel vouchers we offer are available should you be using your vehicle to deliver meals and these are available at each office when needed.

If you are having issues with the increasing costs please discuss this with the staff at each office so we can design ways of supporting you and keeping you part of our team. The social interaction for volunteers is just as important as it is for our clients.

Together, Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels will make sure we are supporting each other and our communities.

I am sure that you have heard that there is a great deal of concern being voiced about the new Aged Care Act and what it is costing clients. This was a concern when the Act was drafted and often these issues were raised but we are still finding the issues have not been addressed. Also the Assessment for clients is not accurate



FIRST AID COURSES

2026

We will be offering two courses again this year.

Wednesday 22nd April
Batemans Bay

Filling fast and we may have to have a second course.
Register now!

Tuesday 23rd June
Ulladulla

If you would like to attend one of these courses, please let the office at Batemans Bay know on **4474 4464.**

and an 'algorithm' is calculating what a person needs! Some who had been assessed as in need of care can find themselves now not eligible!

The Government has been planning to incorporate the CHSP (Commonwealth Home Support Programme) in with Support at Home (S@H). This is taking the one good and well run programme and putting it with the new one which can not manage the 300,000 people it already caters for. To add another 800,000 is silly and going to cause more issues. To destroy a successful programme is not good practise.

I believe that the CHSP model should continue as the Primary Aged Care programme and S@H should be the Secondary Aged Care programme. I therefore support the newly formed CHSP Alliance group who are trying to encourage the Government to not make another mistake. They haven't got their new system working yet.

The world is a funny place at present and we often do not know who to believe and what is truth and what is fiction. But we do know that the Easter season is often the last family gathering we have before winter. I hope you were able to enjoy the Easter weekend with family and friends, have some fun and laughter, smiles and the opportunity to create some special memories. Hold these close.

ANZAC Day follows and we remember all who have fallen for our country. Many of our family groups will be remembering members who served at some stage, and we all owe them a huge thank you, especially as we see so many awful conflicts happening at present.

I am sure there will be many of you, like me, who will take time out on the 25th to sit quietly, watch marches and say thank you as we see the lines of men and women who have taken an oath to protect us.

All of us have decided to serve our community through Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels as well as through the many other organisations to which you belong. The Huber Social Report told us that volunteering is good for us and it did point out that doing so for Meals on Wheels was very good, in fact one of the very best ways.

On April 13th, one of our own will receive the OAM from the Governor General in Canberra. Phil Armstrong will be one of a few at this event, as many other recipients get their awards at their State Capital. We hope Phil and his wife Kim, and his siblings enjoy the occasion in Canberra.
Congratulations.

Alan Russell,
Manager

