VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear Volunteer
Welcome to Spring!

This is a wonderful time of the year but I do believe that our winter has been more mild than we expected it to be. And the rainfall has been well below the normal levels.

I hope our predicted hot spring and summer are not like those experienced in the northern hemisphere. The pictiures of very dry grass in London is not normal and recent pictures I have seen made me think of outback NSW at the height of summer. Not London as we know it!

It is time for us to be preparing for the summer and start the cleaning out of gutters, trimming bushes and having emergency systems organised.

There is a great deal happening in the world of aged care at present.

The biggest change was made on Thursday 20 August when the Minister of Health (Hon Mark Butler), and the Minister of Aged Care and Seniors (Hon San Rae) made a significnt annoucement….that the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) will **not** be merged into Support at Home (S@H).

For organisations like Meals on Wheels and Community Transport, this is a significant development, and for many, many clients this is also welcomed news.

Our funding agreement with the Commonwealth was due to end on 30 June 2027, now it goes through until 30 June 2029. And over the next two years the programme will be reviewed and remodelled as a stand alone health system.

While this is exciting, there will be much to do for those who are on various Boards, committees, in academia or simply operating a service. The Government has said that they wish to get this right and to make it cost effective and easy to use! This is great news and a change from what the new act is presently doing.

To do this they need data…and as you will have noticed, we are having to supply this. We have been noting travel times but now they are asking for social engagement time spent with a client.

We started asking for this to start earlier this month when new reporting measures were introduced. This was a sign that change could have been planned…and so it has happened.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your compliments and complaints.

Please contact your nearest office with any feedback.

As part of our Continuous Improvement objective your feedback is important to our organisation.

GREAT NEWS

as told in the Clients' Newsletter

On Thursday 20 August the Ministers responsible for Aged Care announced that the CHSP scheme will remain until 30 June 2029.

The scheme will **NOT** be rolled into the Support at Home scheme but will remain a standalone, funded, first step into aged care services for clients.

Now CHSP organisations will be asked by Government to assist in designing the remodeled scheme, so clients are well served and at an affordable cost.

At last, someone has listened and acted….now to build the scheme.

Meals on Wheels Eurobodalla

Board of Directors
is pleased to invite you to the

The Volunteers' High Tea

Eurobodalla
Wednesday 23rd September 2026
2pm to 4pm
@ Batemans Bay office
R.S.V.P. Friday 11 September
on 4474 4464

Southern Shoalhaven
Tuesday 22nd September 2026
1.30pm-3.30pm
@ Ulladulla office
R.S.V.P. Friday 11 September
on 4474 4464

Please advise any dietary needs

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

Thank you for your assistance and I am well aware that you did not volunteer to be a 'minute counter' or 'fact finder' for the Government but if it helps our clients, please would you keep doing it.

So, a Spring Clean within aged care has started and the Aged Care Minister said that the review will start within the month!

A sunny outlook for 830,000 registered CHSP clients….plus the many others on Waiting Lists or who have been assessed for a new S@H level and are just waiting!

The Support at Home system will also get looked at as part of this review. Some functions may come under CHSP…so an opportunity to create two fair and comprehensive services for those involved in aged care.

On our home front there are things happening as well.

We believe that we have a very good story to tell and have started to gradually update various aspects of our media presence.

There are simple changes to our Website, there are gradual updates to our facebook posts, there is an advertising campaign on the back of a Batemans Bay bus being commissioned to promote our Group Social Support programmes, a new radio advert has been written and we are discussing using a television advert within this region

But the big announcement is that we have High Tea happening in September.

This will be in two locations -Tuesday 22 September (1.30-3.30pm) in Ulladulla and on Wednesday 23 September (2-4pm) in Batemans Bay. I hope you will join us and asked that you book in by 28 August….which has now passed but we are able to extend this until 11 September !! Please book through tthe Head Office receptionist (Janette) on 4474 4464.



I have been very pleased in the past to receive excellent feedback on this event and hope you will again enjoy the opportunity to gather, to meet other volunteers and to share some laughs and a good time. See you on the 22nd or 23rd!

Alan Russell
Manager

Code of Conduct
Act with respect for people's rights
Act in a way that treats people with dignity and respect.
Act with respect for the privacy of people
Provide care, support and services safely
Act with integrity, honesty and transparency
Promptly rase and act on concerns.
Prevent violence, discrimination, exploitation, neglect and abuse.