Meals on Wheels™ Eurobodalla

VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026



Dear Volunteer
What a great start we have had for our 2026 spring season, but how much do we need some rain -although maybe not as heavy as we got over the weekend.

I am sure many of you are busy with planting out the gardens, pruning and even 'spring cleaning'! I hope most of us are also preparing for summer and doing the tasks which will help should bush fires become a threat and that you've adjusted your clocks!

It has been a busy month for us all and I was so pleased to see a good number attend one of our two **High Tea** thank you gatherings. You all do so much work, that it is nice to bring you together, say thank you and to share some laughs. If you were unable to attend, I hope those who attended are able to tell of a good afternoon and excite you about joining us in Septembr 2027!

I do wish to reintroduce the **Volunteer Forum** events. These we have held in the past to allow volunteers to meet with me to tell the good, the not so good and to see how we can work to improve what we do. This is part of our Strategic Plan and one of our Core Values.

After the Annual General Meeting has been held (12 October) I will issue invitations for you to meet with me. I hope you may take the opportunity. I may be able to shed light on matters which confuse you as to why we do, or have to do certain things.

Feedback is a cornerstone of the Aged Care system, and it is noted in the Aged Care Act 2024. So, any time you wish to tell us something, feel free to do so, and these Forums will be another avenue. There will also be Client Forums so clients can also tell me what they think.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the Batemans Bay office on Monday 12 October, at 10.30am. You are most welcome to attend and hear about the year just gone and the plans the Board has for the future. If you are a Member you can vote, but if you are not a Member you may observe.

If you are not sure whether you are a Member or not, then please call me. If you are not, then we can complete a **Membershiop application form** and put your name to the Board. There is no joining fee being charged and it is great to have a strong membership base.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that the Federal Government will be keeping the CHSP (*Commonwealth Home Support Program*) in place. I also noted that there will be consultation on this work and that the process was to start 'within months' of the Ministers announcing the new arrangement. At this stage we have not heard when this will start, but once we do, we shall let you know.

Continuous Improvement

We seek to be the best we can be in our dealings with others and in the way we conduct the business and affairs of the organisation.

We seek to improve our efforts and evaluate our performance and achievements regularly.

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.

Congratulations to Kelley on becoming a grandmother again.
Her third grandson arrived on Friday



What kind of shoes do frogs wear when spring comes?

Open-toad.

I wish to say **thank you** Past President Phil Armstrong OAM for his work over the last month. He has been our Acting Finance Officer while Nicole has been overseas. He has done a wonderful job and all our accounts have been paid, staff have been paid and the Direct Debits have gone out. Thank you Phil for your work, support and continued contributions to the wellbeing of Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels and now you can get back to your real day job -retirement!



Last week I spoke to the Eurobodalla Shire Council about an Expression of Interest we had submitted. This was to do with the management of reopening **Batemans Bay Community Centre**.

We had expressed an interest in managing the facility for the community. We did not think our application was well considered as we did not have an opportunity to speak to our proposal. The Council heard my presentation and has asked Council staff to speak with us. Therefore, the reopening has been delayed for a month.

Our proposal revolves around

A community group managing the Community Centre for the community.

It we are not granted the management rights, then we will support Council as it is an exciting day that this facility is coming back into use for the many community groups in the area.

At present we are looking closely at our **Code of Conduct pamphlet** which is given to new volunteers when they attend their Induction session. We believe it reflects well our ideals and we are making sure it also reflects the Code of Conduct set by the Government for Aged Care. Once completed we shall circulate this widely for your information.

The same document has been used for our clients but we are creating a separate one. Why? Because under the new Act there are specific actions and behaviours clients must show towards volunteers and staff (Statement of Responsibilities). While we have been noting these at every opportunity, it is wise to have a pamphlet available just covering this area. Again, this will be made available to all.

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.

Thank you are two words which can be forgotten to be said. The thank you High Tea and the AGM Annual Report presentation highlight the work of volunteers, I can confidently say that the Board, and I, are very grateful for all you do. You are the lifeblood of our organisation. Please feel free to **invite** neighbours and friends to join you in supporting the older members of our community. We gain just as much as the clients do from the social contacts we make.

Alan Russell
Manager



Thinking about everyone in Ulladulla and hoping nobody suffered from the tornado which went through. It was very frightening. I am very pleased that Laura and her family are well as the tornado passed over her home. Thankfully no damage or any injuries.