



Meals on Wheels
Eurobodalla

VOLUNTEER WORKER NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

What a better start to the year we have had and what a difference it has made to how we look at life. While we still have the Covid-19 pandemic, and likely to have this for as far as we can see, we are learning to deal with it and look after ourselves. We can plan our response where the Bush fires were so fast and destructive, we did not have time. I hope this Newsletter does find you well and in a better frame of mind. I hope that your work with us is going some way to assisting you get life back to 'normal' as it has for our clients.



The Board is very aware of the need to keep you safe and to make sure our clients are well cared for. Each month the Board reviews our Covid precautions to make sure these objectives are being reached. While at present we ask that masks are worn, that homes are not entered, that the 1.5m social distancing remains, that hand sanitiser is used and that if you are ill in any way that you do not attend, they are keen to reduce these demands. At the meeting on 22 February the Board will look at the situation again and we hope to ease these requests. But on behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

So, who is this **Board**? We did welcome two new members at the AGM in October otherwise the Board has been very stable for the last four years. The members are Phil Armstrong (President), Cathy Milliken (Chair, Policy and Administration Committee), Deborah Buchanan (Chair, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee), Les Carter (Chair, Food Panel), Jim Greenshields, Sue Proud, and Jan Young. The Manager attends the meeting and acts as the Secretary, and each subcommittee meeting. Bethany (Client Services Officer) attends the Food Panel and Nicole McDonald (Finance Officer) attends the Finance meeting. These people kindly give their time each month for the Board meeting and as required for the various committees. They are aware that they build upon the legacy they have inherited from previous Directors.

We have a good balance on the Board.

- Composition: 4 women and 3 men.
- Locations within the Shire: 2 from Batemans Bay; 2 from Mossy Point; 1 from Moruya; 1 from Tuross Head and 1 from Narooma.



The Board is looking at several issues this year. The big one is the new Strategic Plan. Consultation with groups within the Cooperative will take place during the year and feedback will be welcomed.

The work on the **Strategic Plan** will also feed into a review of the Cooperative Rules. These have not been reviewed for some time and the world has changed since 2014. All of these are timetabled for completion by the **Annual General Meeting** in October. A good reason for your attendance at that AGM which will be held in Moruya on **Monday 25 October**.

Another date for you is our **High Tea**. We are hoping to host you all this year on **Wednesday 8 September** in the Members Lounge at the Moruya Jockey Club. Last year we had to cancel this occasion, but we did introduce a series of morning teas (3 a week for three months) to provide the necessary Covid training and as a chance to stay in touch.

These Morning Teas may start again in March so we can catch up with those who were unable to attend last year. I was incredibly pleased with each event and the happiness that came from each morning tea was 'catching'. Your generosity of spirit is catching. We were fortunate to get a Grant through Volunteering NSW to assist with these Morning Teas and we thank them for the support.



As you are on the roster you will receive a small package with a mask for you. We have been able to do these through Covid money we received from the Federal Government. Along with the new bags which were funded the same way, we have tried to make sure we are meeting the highest of standards of cleanliness and safety. If you need another EMoW mask, it will cost \$7 and can be purchased at the office.

Our **Marketing** is important and needs to be clear. We have car signs, name tags (next to be updated), shirts (do you have the new one yet?), and new bags. All of these should make it obvious when we enter a property and keep you safe. We are marketing to our clients, so they know who is coming to their door, and to the general public. We know that our service is well regarded and recognised but it is important to keep the name obvious and to attract new clients and new volunteers. Thank you for your efforts.

Work, Health and Safety is an important part of our caring for volunteers. Please could you let me know if there is an incident, accident or if a hazard appears where you are working. These are logged and reported to the Board each month along with the actions we have taken to fix the issue. We have been most fortunate not to have had any issues of late, but you need to be aware of the reporting process. We also have a WHS Rep (Les Carter, contact on 44723632 or 0491441968 or email proteaplace6@gmail.com) should you wish to speak to someone other than the staff.

We have been raising the matter of the **Batemans Bay Community Centre** with the Shire Council. The Council still plans to lease out the complex (and eventually sell it). They are in discussions with the preferred party at present. I have had a meeting with the CEO of the preferred group and noted my concerns. We will remain at the BBCC for our meals storage and distribution and we have not taken up the Council's offer of free accommodation elsewhere for our Thursday Out and About Group. They will remain at the BBCC until the end of June at this stage. However, we do not agree with the Council's decision to encourage groups to move to 'underutilised facilities' and we do not agree with the argument that should groups move now that they will automatically move to the new complex at Mackay Park in 2022. While at the BBCC recently I was speaking to a lady from the Scottish dancing group who will now be dancing in the Basketball stadium! She was cleaning out their storage cupboard. Suitable? Keep watching this matter as the local Government elections come around in September.



In Brief.....

MEALS NEWS

We have our first Specials Menu for the year going to clients at present. We continue to be pleased to hear how well our meals are received and especially the Christmas Menu. Our new bags appear to be working well and able to hold the meals well. Please remember your shirts and name tags.

OUT AND ABOUT NEWS

Our programme is gradually starting to grow in popularity again as people start to leave their homes and join with others again. We have been pleased with the number of new clients. We have been sad to have Neil retire as our Tuesday bus driver after such wonderful service. He will be missed.

INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL SUPPORT NEWS

Our developments in this area have been great but we do need more volunteers who could assist in taking clients shopping, on an outing or just visiting them once a week. Do you know who may be able to assist?

VOLUNTEER FORUMS

- ❖ Volunteer Forums have traditionally been held twice a year.
- ❖ Last year we did not have any due to Covid but the Morning Teas were an opportunity for Feedback.
- ❖ This year we hope to host these and to get your input into our Strategic Planning process. (Dates soon)

FIRST AID TRAINING

We wish to organise a course for Volunteers. Could you let the office know if you would like to update your skills and knowledge? At present we have 6 people who are Out and About volunteers, but we would like Meals and ISS people too. Please contact the office (4474 4464) by February 12th to register.

Your WHS Rep: Les Carter Contact on 44723632 or 0491441968 or email proteaplace6@gmail.com

You are the heart beat of our Cooperative... thank you for your wonderful contributions and big smiles!
Alan Russell, Manager

