



Meals on Wheels Eurobodalla

VOLUNTEER WORKER NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

Thank you everyone...you have been most supportive as we have had to deal with the lockdown and not being able to use you to support the older members of our community.

Our phone calls to many of you to check on vaccinations and other matters have indicated that many want to still be supporting our clients through the packing and delivery of meals; through assisting on Out and About activities and through supporting individuals with gardening, shopping, taking folk to appointments and visiting. We understand how much you are missing the clients and we know they are missing you!

We appreciate how frustrating the last month has been to you and to our clients who have missed you and your smile. We are working to start having you back as soon as regional lockdowns are lifted. We can only hope this will be soon especially here as we have had no cases (keeping my fingers crossed) and we have an excellent vaccination rate. At the time of writing, we are hoping for Monday 13 September as that start time, but all will depend upon the Governments Regional Lockdown strategy. We should know something by September 10th.



May I thank you for having the job and letting us know. I wish to thank those who have had an objection to the vaccination but who have done it so to be able to continue serving our clients and the community....sincerely, thank you.

It is great to hear of Eurobodalla Shire being well ahead of many other areas with the community accepting the necessity of having the job. Over 72% with the first and over 40% with the second. Great effort.

Over the last month the following has been happening-

Meals...We have done all packing in Moruya and then distributed on the appropriate days.
We have used Chelsea and Keith (Out and About staff) to do the delivery runs.
We are maintaining a great stock level should we end up in a harder lockdown.
Our suppliers have been very good and stock has arrived on time.
We are delighted with the number of volunteers who wish to return and who have their second job.
We have prepared a return schedule of volunteers for when we can start to use you again.

Group Social Support (Out and About)...We have had to shut this due to regional lockdowns.
We have rung the clients each week so to stay in touch.

Individual Social Support...We have been doing shopping FOR clients.
We are looking to start gardening again when restrictions ease.
All other support is on hold.
We have stayed in contact with our clients.

Wallaga Lake Elders Group...For the second month this has been cancelled.
The October session could also be cancelled.

Office...Chelsea and Keith have been on the road three days a week doing the meals delivery runs.
Karen has been on Leave for the past three weeks.
Bethany, Nicole and Alan have maintained their days but with changes to routine.
The office door is closed and we meet clients at the door.

Board...The August meeting was cancelled.
The Audit papers have gone to the Auditor.
The Board is about to notify Members of the Annual General Meeting details.



Strategic Plan

There has been a focus Workshop following each monthly Board meeting this year. The new Plan has been presented to the Board along with the Business Plan. It is hoped that they will sign off on it at their September meeting. It will then be launched at the Annual General Meeting in October.

There are still several factors affecting the Plan, so it has been designed for a three (3) year period. This fits with the developments in Aged Care following the Recommendations that came from the Royal Commission, and the ongoing Pandemic which is causing havoc to our community, economics, business confidence and community needs.

But we have a Plan, and direction, which will guide us for the next three years. Of course, there is scope within the Plan to be able to meet changes, challenges and opportunities which may come our way during this time.

Our Covid Policy continues to be viewed by the Board each month. Although they did not meet in person, the following were the recommendations to the last meeting. We have been working to these recommendations which are in line with the Public Health Orders.

We must follow the state health orders and adopt these as our policy. Therefore, our first responsibility is to adopt the lockdown and health orders and do all we can to comply while making sure our clients receive meals.

- + I recommend that we limit those involved in the packing and delivery of meals while the lockdown is in place to staff members and invited volunteers who have had their vaccinations.*
- + I recommend that all Group and Individual Social Support assistance ceases during the lockdown unless there is an urgent need for shopping to be done FOR a client.*
- I recommend that our present protocols remain in place for the next month which requires masks to be worn in the office, and while on packing and delivery of meals.*
- I recommend that Hand Sanitiser must be used by staff in the office, by packers and delivery teams when working with meals.*
- I recommend that all who work and volunteer for Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels are expected to have the Covid vaccine and that we report our numbers to the Government when asked for.*
- I recommend that anyone who has not started their vaccination process, or who will not be having the vaccine will not be rostered on to work with our clients or in our office.*
- I recommend that we discontinue to do outdoor gardening for clients and that we only do urgent shopping FOR clients under our Individual Social Services programme.*
- I recommend that our Out and About programme does not return until the state-wide lockdown is lifted.*
- I recommend that staff/volunteers who deliver meals do not enter the home of clients and that only one of the pair delivers the meal to the door.*
- I recommend that we review this again in September but that a weekly review needs to be maintained at present.*
- I recommend that our Out and About staff be used in other areas to complete a pay period should we need to Lockdown; and evaluated at the end of that pay period.*

In the attached Covid Policy there is an additional section at the end on staffing matters. This prepares us for staff members not being able to work, and related matters.

The last part is in preparation should staff become affected and is in line with a Business Continuity Plan which is part of the Covid Policy, but which will soon become a standalone document.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in October and Members will receive separate information about the meeting, nominating suitable people for the Board and the general routines around the meeting.

High Tea

Unfortunately we had to cancel High Tea, but I am hoping we maybe able to replace this with something for Christmas. This would be an opportunity to get together and look to the holidays and to the new year with some hope and excitement.



Wanted ...a new WHS Rep!

Les Carter has retired, and we would like to have a new person in place. Please contact me if you are interested and would like to discuss what is involved.

Alan Russell
Manager