

Dear Clients and Volunteers

Change can often be hard....we get use to the way things have been and then someone comes along with a bright idea to change everything!

Often, we hear 'when its not broken, why change it!' I guess there are some who are thinking this with the merging of the two Meals on Wheels organisations into one, and that the name is Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels....when we don't live in the Eurobodalla!



If we go back a few steps and think about why meals on wheels organisations were established over 70 years ago in Australia, we will note that the core of the philosophy behind the foundation is still the same.

In fact, the philosophy has grown and changed from just providing meals to providing social services as well. I am sure none of us want us to go back to the old times because we are committed to the full well-being of every client.

Both Eurobodalla and Southern Shoalhaven Meals on Wheels organisations were formed when smaller groups combined. This is what is happening throughout the state once again....organisations are combining so to be in a better position for the changes coming through the proposed new Aged Care Act.

Our new organisation was formed, as previous ones were, to address changes in services, the lack of people wishing to serve on boards, the need for management and generally changing times. Our merger has made sure our Mission is achievable.

I believe that we are now well positioned to face any changes which the Government may ask of us by being bigger, stronger and with our clear focus on maintaining our caring and compassionate culture across our south coast.

But the one change we haven't settled upon is our operating name. Our business name will be Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels, but we want an operational name which will be reflective of the area. The Board discussed this again at their June meeting and worked on one suggestion put forward.



What do you think of this one.....Far South Coast meals and social services or this one.....Eurohaven meals and social services or maybe.....South Coast meals and social services

I am interested in your feedback on these three, or any others you have, in time for the July Board meeting. So, I have some forms at the office where you can indicate your thoughts or speak to a volunteer as they deliver meals or take you on an outing and fill in a form with your preference, or suggestion.

Now for some other changes!

Number 1.... Over the last six months I have been sending the Newsletter to everyone...clients and volunteers. It has been important that everyone knew what was happening and how we were moving forward as a new organisation.



However, following feedback at various Forum events, we will be reverting to a Clients Newsletter one month and a Volunteers Newsletter the next. There have been other suggestions as well and we will implement some of them going forward.

Number 2....SIRS (Serious Incident Response Scheme) is an initiative from the Aged Care Quality Commission. Its aim is to deal with serious complaints about the older persons wellbeing and safety. We have been looking at this and a Policy has been approved by the Board. But we need to have one person leading this within our organisation. This person is Laura Cockroft (Services Coordinator) from the Ulladulla office (44552861). Laura has attended a training course and has briefed the Ulladulla staff. If you have a concern, please mention it to the staff in your nearest office and we shall pass the matter to Laura to follow through with.

One suggestion, as mentioned above, was for me to introduce people to you so...

Who is the President?



Phil Armstrong is our President and has been in the role since October 2017. He has a great deal of experience in Aged Care, being the CEO of Banksia Village at Broulee for 16 years. He has been on several state committees dealing with Aged Care and has just been appointed to the Banksia Board. Phil was the Chair of Campbell Page in the UK and on the Australian Board of this business dealing with employment. He is a Past District Governor for Rotary, which saw him representing Rotary International within our region. He has chaired committees dealing with the distribution of considerable sums of money following the droughts and bushfires in recent years. We are very fortunate to have him on our Board and as our President.

Who is the Manager?

I am Alan Russell and I have been the Manager since October 2017. Previously I had been President of Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels for two years. My background is in education, and I was Headmaster of a Preparatory School in New Zealand before I was asked to be Headmaster of Tudor House in Moss Vale from 1996. From 2009 until 2013 I was Head of College at St Peter's Anglican College. I have been the National Commission in New Zealand's Scouting movement and a senior rugby referee in New Zealand and I still support the All Blacks!! I have twice been President of Batemans Bay Rotary and am presently the Youth and Vocation Director.



Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels has a Mission which is **help make our community stronger by providing services that contribute to the health, wellbeing, and independence of people.**

Everyone, staff and volunteers are working hard to make sure this happens. Thank you for your efforts to date and we appreciate your plans to contribute more to our future.

Alan Russell
Manager
July 2024

