



MHS MATTERS

The quarterly
newsletter of Murray
Human Services.

SUMMER 2017

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WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER EDITION

Welcome to the Summer Edition of MHS Matters.

Recently MHS held its very first 'Staff All In Day' and boy was it a success! I can't tell you how proud I felt standing in a room with almost all of the MHS team from all of our sites across Echuca, Kyabram, Kerang and Swan Hill. One hundred and ten of us filled the room for a day of professional and personal growth. It came at the perfect time of year - a chance for us to come together as a team and reflect on 2017.



It has been a challenging and extremely successful year at MHS. There have indeed been some big moments for everyone connected with our organisation.

Top of the list must be the introduction of the NDIS - a seismic shift in how disability services are delivered in Loddon and, soon, in Mallee. The stresses and strains imposed by this truly massive reform are being felt throughout the disability sector, including of course MHS, and certainly will continue to be felt for some years to come.

The NDIS and the other big moments that have occurred behind the scenes at MSH all have a common theme. The common thread here is teamwork. We are a team. And we can't succeed without being one.

I would like to thank the entire MHS Family for continuing to prove to me that the whole is so much greater than the individual parts. We exist because of our entrenched belief that every person can make a positive contribution to their community, despite our varying levels of ability. When we come together as a team, we are an unstoppable force in making this vision a reality.

I would like to thank you all for a wonderful 2017 and wish you a fantastic Christmas and holiday period. 2018 is set to be another big year for MHS and I can't wait to connect with you all in the New Year.

Enjoy the read!
Scott Alexander, CEO

GET IN TOUCH WITH MHS



03 5480 6611



PO Box 1, Echuca



@murrayhumanservices.org.au



www.murrayhumanservices.org.au

MR SANDMAN'S DREAMS COME TO LIFE IN SWAN HILL

The Swan Hill Town Hall came to life on Thursday 16 November thanks to Jeanette Young and the Expressive Arts Team who put on a magical performance titled 'Mr Sandman Has A Dream.' Held in conjunction with Swan Hill Lions Club Inc, Swan Hill Rural City Council, Hilltop Resort and Ridgee Digital - Modern Media Solutions, the story was one of belief, trust, friendship and, of course, dreams! A huge congratulations to everyone involved in this fantastic performance.



DINNER DANCE

The annual Client Dinner Dance was once again a spectacular success and a night of fun.

Held at Moama Bowling Club with the theme of 'Emergency Services', everyone enjoyed a meal together and non-stop fun on the dance floor.



- Pictured 1) Hannah Hunt
- 2) Our Koala Mascot with Sharon McCann
- 3) Neville Newman & Toni Barton
- 4) Karen Betts
- 5) Carol Stevens with Caroline Hall & David McHardy
- 6) Jordan Betts
- 7) Ruth Costaglou

Over page: The MHS 'gang' with representatives from Echuca Fire Brigade.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Share your experience with MHS to your friends and family so they can learn more about our work
- If you would like to make a financial contribution, you can call 5480 66 11. Any contribution, big or small is grateful appreciated.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This Christmas, MHS is proud to be telling the story of Jill to our supporters and the general community.

Jill came to Echuca in mid-2015 from her home town in Gippsland and subsequently immersed herself in various programs and activities at MHS. We provide Jill with a range of supports including Day Services, Supported Employment and One on One support.

It's been a long road for Jill to feel empowered and happy in her life and we are so proud to be a part of Jill achieving her goals.

This Christmas, we're inviting our community to get behind the work of MHS by making a financial contribution to our work with Jill and the 250 adults who we support.

A TRUE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

It didn't take long for Rani and Neelan at Cafe Three 620 to find a special place in their hearts for Murray Human Services.

It all began when our Kyabram 'Out and About' program started to regularly visit the local cafe for afternoon tea. The program is designed to provide meaningful interactions with other community members and groups whilst developing essential skills for independence such as literacy and numeracy. The relationship with Cafe Three 620 has developed however, to provide so much more.

Cafe Three 620 business owners, Rani Bhardwaj and Neelan Prabha welcomed MHS into their hearts and business from day one. "We like helping people in our community, MHS clients create a great atmosphere." Rani said. The sisters have lived in the area for thirteen years and opened Three 620 five years ago.

MHS disability support worker Mary Powles said "All the staff at Three 620 are so welcoming, kind and very generous. Not only with their time but also by becoming financial donors." MHS clients Christine Foley and Gabby Pettifer both participate in small tasks each week at the cafe and thrive on their connection with the business.

MHS thank the entire team at Three 620 for providing meaningful opportunities for the people we support, and for their ongoing financial support to our organisation.



TRI STATE GAMES WRAP UP

The Tri State Games were held in November and the annual sports competition was once again a huge highlight for all involved.

The Tri State Games has a long history. Established by the Christie Centre Mildura in 1986, their vision was to invite other organisations to compete in sporting activities with the aim to bring together people with disabilities.

The event is held over a week and athletes compete in a range of activities ranging from table tennis, track & field, football distance kick, swimming and croquet, just to name a few! All competitors are in events based on their skill levels providing a fun event for athletes, carers and spectators.

In accordance with tradition, the Games begin with an opening ceremony and while the Tri State Games flag is being raised a chosen athlete recites the oath: "In the name of all athletes, I promise we can and we will do our best, at the Tri State Games, in the true spirit of friendship and sportsmanship."

MHS' Murray Magics Team battled all weather conditions. Firstly, the intense heat for two days, and then rain for the final three days.

"The sportsmanship and support shown by the members of the 'Murray Magics' team is something to be proud of," Joellen Vesty, Team Leader said. With the support of six staff members, the competitors were able to enjoy both the social and sporting events at the Games.

The Murray Magics Team:

- Tracey Abbey
- Joel Awty
- Karen Betts
- Nicholas Clapp
- Damien Cleary
- Leigh Coffey
- Brian Coolahan
- Corey Davis
- Dennis Eastham
- Darryl Grayling
- Brad Holdroyd
- Hannah Hunt
- Victor Leris
- Helen Main
- David McHardy
- Jaiden Poole
- Terri Smith
- Jeffrey Somerville
- Tam Toma

Well done to the entire team for an awesome Tri State Games in 2017!





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Junction Moama is teaming up with MHS to host a feast like no other on 25 March 2018.

Sit back and enjoy a three course shared menu designed by Junction's Head Chef Dave Palmer in the exquisite setting of Junction Moama.

While guests are enjoying the delicious local produce and regional beverages, they'll be able to feast their minds on the work of MHS and learn more about the varied services and supports we provide to people with disabilities.

Our 'Creative Kitchens' team will actively participate in this event by preparing components of the meal, learning new cooking tips from the Junction team and more.

A portion of each ticket sale will directly support MHS.



Dave Palmer,
Head Chef at
Junction Moama

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Sunday 25 March

Time: 12.30pm

Venue: Junction
6 Shaw Street
Moama

Tickets: \$163 per person
A portion of each
ticket sale will
directly support
MHS.

To purchase your ticket, go to
www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au