



MHS MATTERS

The quarterly
newsletter of
Murray Human Services.

SPRING 2017

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WELCOME TO OUR SPRING EDITION

The year certainly is flying by and I'm excited to be welcoming you to the Spring edition of MHS Matters which is literally jam packed with stories from Echuca, Swan Hill, Kerang, Kyabram.... and Bali!

When putting this edition together, we had so many great stories to draw upon that we had to make some tough decisions on what to include. I urge you to follow our Facebook page for regular stories every couple of days so you don't miss out on the great work that is being achieved by our clients, staff and wider MHS Family.

On the cover of this edition we have a fantastic photo that was taken recently at Task Force in Echuca. Corey Davis is our 'Spring Edition Star' pictured hard at work on the Little Blue Towels contract that we are extremely proud of.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the philanthropic support that we have received recently including the amazing local businesses who got behind our Lockington Golf Day. Without their backing, we wouldn't be able to host such great events and provide quality support to over 290 people. On page six is another great example of partnership and support making a difference to our organisation. Thanks to FRRR we are so excited to give our Kerang nursery a face lift as we head into the warmer months.

Please enjoy reading this edition of MHS Matters and be sure to get in touch with us if you have feedback or would like to talk to me about any of our work.

Happy Spring!
Scott Alexander, CEO



GET IN TOUCH WITH MHS



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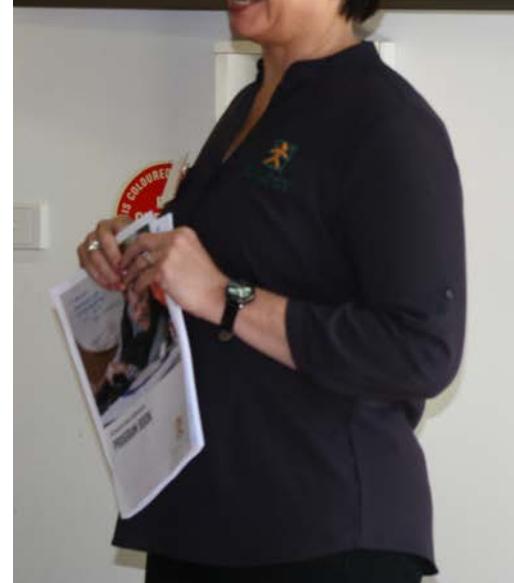
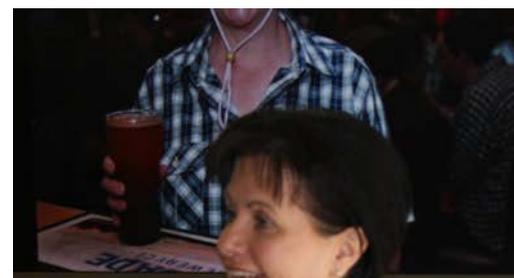
NEW ECHUCA PROGRAM BOOK LAUNCHED

On Friday 1 September, MHS officially launched its Echuca Program Book. This was an inaugural event with over 60 clients, parents, carers and staff gathering for morning tea and official proceedings.

"The team at MHS work very hard on designing quality programs and continuing to develop the suite of services that we offer," noted Scott Alexander.

The Echuca Program Book sits with our Swan Hill and Kyabram Day Services program guides and are great examples of the individual, innovative and flexible support services that MHS offers our clients across the region.

If you would like a copy of the Program Book from Echuca, Swan Hill or Kyabram, please phone 5480 6611 and we will arrange for a copy to be sent to you.



“ MHS brings the ideal mix of care, history, experience and innovation combined with a wide range of flexible services..... This Program Book works directly with your NDIS plan and gives you a range of great activities and stimulating programs to choose from.

- Nicole Doolan, MHS Services Manager

LOCKY GOLF DAY

Thanks to our amazing corporate sponsors, the annual Lockington Golf Day held on Sunday 20 August was a huge success.

The sun was shining and the fairways were in top condition for all of our players. We would like to give a huge MHS 'thanks' to everyone who got behind this event - your support ensures quality services within our region.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



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Horsfall Optometrists
Hunters Echuca
Nichol Trading
Cottam Family Butcher
Betta Electrical
Lucky Lotto Echuca.





KERANG NURSERY TO GET A FACELIFT

MHS was thrilled to learn that FRRR and North Central Rural Financial Counselling Service is getting behind the improvements to our nursery at Task Force in Kerang.

The grant of \$5,000 will allow the crew to purchase a new shade sail, install an organic worm farm and purchase iPads that will be used to catalogue the plants.

The upgrade will take place over the coming months in time for a busy summer period selling plants to the local community. Be sure to pop in and say hello if you're in the area.

IAN'S BALI HOLIDAY

MHS prides itself on individual support to suit the needs of the people we work with. So when Ian Tobias said that he'd like to go to Bali on a supported holiday, MHS employees Shernice and Lyn were there ready to go! The three of them journeyed to the Southeast Asian nation for seven nights in July.

Ian's sister-in-law Joanne got in touch with us after the holiday to say that "Lyn & Shernice went far and beyond, a fantastic memorable holiday for Ian that would not have been so without their amazing support!"



SPOTLIGHT ON KYABRAM

Albion Street in Kyabram is home to Murray Human Services which runs a boutique Day Services program. Lead by Janet Hawthorn, the team of nine staff support twenty clients.

A true highlight of the Kyabram service offering is the annual supported holiday. For the past two years the group have traveled to Dubbo, NSW where they have seen the ABBA revival concert.

In 2018 the group are planning to head to Tasmania in what is set to be a truly memorable holiday.

The Kyabram business community regularly show their support for MHS by contributing financially or in-kind which highlights the fantastic local community that we are lucky to be part of.



The Ky crew in Dubbo!

MEET MATT

Matthew McGann works at MHS in Swan Hill in Day Services and Task Force.

Matt's passion for his work in the Disability Sector stems from his younger brother Jessie who was on the autism spectrum and had an intellectual disability. Matt and Jessie's relationship as siblings was extremely close and developed into an amazing friendship in their adult life.

When Jessie passed away 10 years ago, Matt's life began to spiral out of control. "I was going off the rails for some time." Matt said. He made a decision that he wanted to make Jessie his legacy, devoting his time to making a difference in the lives of other people.

Matt began working for MHS two years ago and enjoys it immensely. He loves

getting to know the staff and working closely with clients. "One of our favourite things to do is taking groups on community excursions in the 'Out and About' program. I also love working with the supported employees, supervising the pallet contract."

Beyond MHS, Matt plays country cricket and enjoys watching AFL and going fishing. He also works casually at the local bottle shop and married his partner Rachel nine months ago.



SILENT VOICES WOO THE CROWD

Silent Voice is a truly unique performance group that showcases non verbal communication. The talented group learn sign language to songs and love performing to a crowd. So they jumped at the opportunity to show their skills to the Rochester Aged Care facility recently. It went so well that they've been asked to return for a regular session. Well done guys!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You're invited to join Murray Human Services at the 18th Annual General Meeting at

1pm on

Wednesday 25 October

at Moama Bowling Club.

Finger food will be served following the AGM and we ask that you RSVP to Lotta on 5480 6611 by Tuesday 17 October if you're planning to join us.

This year we are excited to give you a copy of the 2016/17 Annual Report and the opportunity to hear from our Board, Scott Alexander, CEO and a panel of MHS participants. We look forward to welcome you.

- Be the first to receive a copy of the 2016/17 Annual Report
- Hear first hand about the positive impact MHS has on the daily lives of our clients
- Hear from our Board & CEO
- Members will have voting rights for the election of Board Members.

Nominations for election to the Board of Management must be made on the prescribed form, be signed by two Members, have the written consent of the Nominee and must be lodged with the Secretary by 5pm on Wednesday 18 October 2017