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MEDIA RELEASE

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NRMA Motoring & Services has stepped in to help volunteers at the Donnison Street Restaurant with a donation of two new air conditioners.

Mr Tony Stuart, CEO of NRMA Motoring & Services showed his organisation's philanthropic spirit when he provided the air conditioner after working a mealtime shift at the Restaurant.

Kevin Redmond, Manager of the NRMA Motoring & Services Customer Contact Centre at Gosford, was able to organise for the installation of the new air conditioners over the festive season with no disruption to the Restaurant or its services. Volunteers from the Church and community groups now work in much more comfortable surrounds as they provide and serve meals to those in need in the community.

The NRMA Motoring & Services Gosford Customer Contact Centre staff also work in the Restaurant and provide financial assistance each alternate Tuesday.

This assistance, on top of the support provided by the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and the Central Coast Leagues Club goes a long towards ensuring the viability of the Restaurant.

The Donnison Street Restaurant, for the last four years, has provided meals and support to the most disadvantaged people in our Central Coast community – those who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness due to crises such as loss of employment, family breakdown, mental health issues and those living with a disability to name a few. In 2006 the Restaurant provided 65,516 meals to those in need.

"The Restaurant is a wonderful example of the community looking after its own" Executive Officer Laurie Maher said.

"Unfortunately the increasing numbers of those in need attending the Restaurant on a daily basis is a clear indicator of the level of need within our community" he said.

The Restaurant receives no Government funding and relies solely on the local Churches and community organisations, fundraising activities, corporate sponsorship and donations from within the community to keep operating and providing the high level of service.

Coast Shelter is currently seeking volunteers to assist in the Restaurant for both lunch and evening meal times. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to support your community. To find out more please contact Melanie Law on 4325 3540.

For further details on this media release contact Laurie Maher or Melanie Law

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