



MARCH 2010

Coast Shelter News

Our vision is to prevent homelessness, sustain tenancies, provide emergency accommodation and move homeless people into permanent housing.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT EXPENDITURE

THE HEALTH FOOD COMPANY



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(PO Box 1234)
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Phone: (02) 4325 3540
Referral: (02) 4324 7239

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOUR FOR OUR EO

Coast Shelter's Executive Officer, Laurie Maher has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the community through both local government and social welfare.

Laurie was born in Griffith and has travelled a great deal in his life, teaching children in the care of the Minister and in Juvenile Justice institutions. As a young man Laurie studied for the Catholic Priesthood in South Africa.



"At one stage I studied for the priesthood, so I suppose it was a natural flow-on to want to help people" Laurie said. For the past eighteen years Laurie has managed Coast Shelter where the focus is on the homeless and those doing it tough.

Laurie is very appreciative of the honour, but very humbly attributes a great deal of his success to the continuous support of his family, staff members and the community.

Congratulations on your well deserved Award Laurie!

NEED FOR FUNDING EXTREMELY HIGH

Even though Australia seems to have avoided the worst of the Global Economic Crisis, charities have reported a 30% downturn in funding from philanthropic and corporate supporters.

Coast Shelter faces a similar problem as it tries to raise the \$800,000 necessary to complete its new Community Centre.

Gosford City Council have provided the property, however renovations at a cost of \$800,000 are necessary to complete what will be a wonderful 'one-stop-shop' for those doing it tough.

Work is underway with a contribution of \$110,000 from the State Government and a further \$200,000 from fundraising efforts. Unfortunately, until Coast Shelter can raise a further \$490,000, work will have to stop.

"I know it was never meant to be easy,

however, I am confident this innovative addition to our social infrastructure will be completed" Laurie Maher, Executive Officer of Coast Shelter said.

"We are more than half way there, however we now depend on the generosity of our magnificent supporters to complete the project", Laurie concluded.



Proposed Community Centre - 346 Mann St

**Sign up to our electronic newsletter at www.coastshelter.org.au
and find us on Facebook or Twitter for more news updates**



Jim Picot

A PICTURE IS WORTH ...

Coast Shelter would like to extend a very warm thank you to **Jim Picot** who donated his time and expertise to take photos of our programs recently.

Jim is an extremely talented local photographer from Toowoomb Bay who has travelled across Australia and

overseas for his photography.

Coast Shelter is very grateful and we look forward to featuring Jim's photos in our brochures, newsletters and on our website.

Visit www.jimpicot.com to see Jim's amazing photography.



COAST SHELTER NO INTEREST LOANS

Coast Shelter is now accredited by Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service to operate a No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) from the Donnison Street Community Centre.

Coast Shelter NILS will provide interest-free loans for low income earners in the Gosford LGA.

Loans vary between \$800 to \$1,000 and the repayment period is usually around 12 to

18 months.

NILS is generally for the purchase of essential household items such as a TV, bed, refrigerator, washing machine or dryer.

However, loans may also be used to meet other essential needs such as health aids or education costs.

Visit our website coastshelter.org.au/nils.html for more information.

Summer holiday at Kiama



Rumbalara and Maya residents enjoyed a summer getaway to Kiama during the Christmas holidays.

Cabins were close to the beach and everyone was able to enjoy swimming, walking on the foreshore and strolling around the headlands. The major highlight for our residents of course, was spending a day at Jamberoo Fun Park. The weather was perfect

and everyone made the most of the water activities and toboggans.

Other highlights of our trip were visits to the Tree Top Walks, Minnamurra Rainforest, Tien Temple, feeding the horses on the farmland behind our cabins and also going out to a restaurant for dinner.

The drive home along the coast road was absolutely gorgeous, passing through Austinmer, Scarborough and other quaint little towns. We stopped for lunch at Stanwell Park before travelling on to the Royal National Park.

All of our residents had a great time and staff were appreciative of the opportunity to take a great group of young people on such a fun holiday.

CONTRIBUTION FROM JAMES N KIRBY



JAMES N. KIRBY
FOUNDATION

The James N Kirby Foundation has made an outstanding contribution of \$18,000 to our Wyong Outreach Program. The extra funds will allow us to continue leasing four properties in the

Wyong Shire.

The Wyong Outreach Program provides accommodation, outreach support and case management to clients to help them maintain their tenancies and assists the homeless to obtain and successfully maintain independent accommodation within the community.

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Bridgecoast Finance Group in Gosford are selling ex-rental equipment at amazingly cheap prices and donating \$100 from each item sold to Coast Shelter.

Items available include:

- Computers - \$200
- Data Projectors - \$650
- Fujitsu Lifebooks - \$550
- Toshiba Laptops - \$350

For further details please contact Brenda at Bridgecoast on 4323 1975 and make sure you mention Coast Shelter.

You can also visit Coast Shelter's website and download information flyers on each product available.

www.coastshelter.org.au/equipment.html

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER

Coast Shelter welcomes **Charles Boyton** as the new Program Manager of the Donnison Street Community Centre.

Charles' role will include coordinating and supporting volunteers in the Restaurant, as well as meeting with clients who require assistance with electricity vouchers, food hampers and no interest loans.

Charles has a long history in helping the homeless and needy in the Gosford area. He has worked at Coimba Men's Refuge since 2007 and has volunteered providing and serving meals at the Donnison Street Restaurant since it opened in 2002.

Prior to 2002, Charles distributed free meals to the homeless under the Brian McGowan Bridge with the Liberty Church.

Many people in the community know Charles from when he owned Erina Chicken & Ribs. Charles often donated food from his shop to help feed the needy in Gosford. On a quiet night after finishing at 9pm, Charles would deliver the left over chickens to the homeless he knew in the area.

We are very lucky to have Charles as our new Program Manager.



Charles Boyton

HELP OUT BY DINING OUT...



Purchase a 2010-2011 Entertainment Book (Newcastle, Central Coast and Hunter) to help feed the homeless.

For every \$60 Entertainment Book that is purchased through Coast Shelter, \$12 goes directly towards our Donnison Street Community Centre which provides free meals and support to those in need.

The Entertainment Book is a restaurant and activity

guide that provides special 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from many of the best restaurants, hotels and attractions throughout Australia.

Visit our website www.coastshelter.org.au or contact Heidi on 4325 3540 for more information.

For every \$60 Entertainment Book that is purchased through Coast Shelter, \$12 goes directly towards our Donnison Street Community Centre

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| End of March | Entertainment Books arrive. Order your book now by visiting www.coastshelter.org.au/entertainmentbook.html |
| 10-16 May | National Volunteer Week |
| 2-8 August | Homeless Persons Week |

To join this list please contact Gavin on 0408 871 172.



COAST SHELTER REFUGES

Coimba Men's Crisis Refuge accommodates nine homeless men over 18 years of age. Programs assist residents to address alcohol, drug and gambling problems and where appropriate, provide assistance with referrals to rehabilitation centres. During their time with us, many residents are helped to seek employment which will enable them to re-enter the private rental market.



Kara Cottage is our family crisis refuge which can also accommodate single women. Most residents have experienced family breakdown, while some have suffered abuse and violence and require special care and support to re-establish themselves. Kara's Child Support program assists children to continue their schooling while parents receive support through advocacy, referral and counselling.



Maya Young Women's Refuge accommodates six homeless young women aged up to 18 years of age. The program is designed to empower our residents and help them continue schooling or enter the work force. Maya is a charming secure cottage designed to reflect family life. Residents who cannot return home are assisted through semi-independent living programs to establish their independence.



Rumbalara Youth Refuge is home to six homeless young men and women aged 14 to 18 years old. All residents either continue their education, work or actively look for work during their stay at Rumbalara. In-house programs prepare residents to return home or move to their own accommodation. Family reconciliation is the main focus but this is not always achievable.



COAST SHELTER SERVICES

The Donnison Street Community Centre is one of the most innovative and successful examples of community partnerships with community organisations, local churches and volunteers working together to provide free meals to those in need. Receiving no government funding, the Centre only operates through corporate and community donations and an amazing volunteer workforce. The Centre also provides electricity vouchers, food hampers, no interest loans, pharmaceutical assistance, free legal advice and referrals to other organisations.

Wyong Outreach Program provides supported accommodation to homeless people in the Wyong Shire. All clients are supported by caseworkers who assist them to obtain their own accommodation. Success is measured by the number of residents who are able to move into and maintain their own accommodation. To make the program a success, staff work closely with local real estate agents and other agencies to overcome some of the barriers which prevent some people from securing their own residential leases.

The Intoxicated Persons Program provides safe accommodation for homeless men who are intoxicated or affected by drugs. This is a joint operation in which the local Police, Gosford Hospital and Coast Shelter work together to ensure that those who are found intoxicated or affected by drugs on the streets can be brought into the program where, not only can they recover their sobriety, but are also encouraged to alter their lifestyle. This program operates 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

DONATION FORM - REGISTERED CHARITY No. CFN 15695

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
 Organisation (If any) _____
 Address _____
 Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____
 Email (for newsletter) _____

I wish to receive upcoming special event notices and newsletters from Coast Shelter.
 I do not wish to receive any further information from Coast Shelter.

Preferred method of contact:
 By Email
 By Post

I would like to make a donation of\$

All donations are GST inclusive and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.
 A receipt will be issued to the above address.

Please accept my payment by:
 Cheque or Money Order
 (payable to Coast Shelter)
 Credit Card
 (please complete details on right)

Visa Name on card
 Mastercard Cardholder's signature
 Card Number/...../...../..... Expiry/.....

Signature..... Date