



SEPTEMBER 2008

Coast Shelter News

Our mission is to support, advocate for and assist those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, while providing transitional accommodation, food, assistance and programs to move people towards independence.

Major Sponsors



NSW Department of Community Services

central coast LEAGUES CLUB



where friends meet

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
Sharing with our community

ClubsNSW
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT EXPENDITURE

THE HEALTH FOOD COMPANY
Sanitarium



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Connect DAY #08

Coast Shelter broke new ground by hosting the first Connect Day in New South Wales held during Homeless Persons' Week in August.

The day began as guests and local support services joined together with Mayor Jim Macfadyen and enjoyed a delicious cooked breakfast prepared by volunteers from the Donnison Street Restaurant.

Local support services then set up stalls and met with the homeless and those 'doing it tough'. Guests were given assistance to approach services for information and help. Connect Day provided the perfect opportunity for guests to connect with practical resources in an informal and

relaxed environment.

There was a real buzz of excitement on the day and a real spirit of benevolence was felt as services worked together in a demonstration of genuine service provision.



Breakfast with the Mayor

Among the excitement of the day, there were some tears also, as those in need were offered much needed support. As one lady said through her tears "This is the first time I



Gosford Mayor Jim Macfadyen

have been able to get help and now my family will have somewhere to live".

Donated furniture went like hot cakes while food parcels, blankets and clothing were gratefully accepted by guests.

Connect Day, which had been seen in Queensland by Coast Shelter President Gavin Shepherd, has been held in Brisbane Town Hall for the past four years and is now accessed by some 2,500 needy people each year.

Following the success of Coast Shelter's first Connect Day in Gosford this year, plans are already underway to make it a feature of Homeless Persons' Week in 2009.



Centrelink Gosford



Youth Health



Pacific Link and Department of Housing

NRMA answers our call for HELP



NRMA Motoring + Services came to the rescue of Coast Shelter by sponsoring their Race Day at Wyong on 2nd July.

Things were looking bleak for Coast Shelter's Race Day, which in spite of the magnificent efforts of our friend Anne Berry, had been unable to attract a major sponsor.

A call of "HELP" to NRMA Motoring + Services at Gosford and we were back on track again.



Races sponsored by Danrha Pty Ltd, Waterford Village, Diggers @ The Entrance, Magenta Shores Golf & Country Club, The Wyong Rugby League Club Group, Central Coast Leagues Club and Strawberry Hill Stud ensured that the day was a financial success all made possible through the untiring efforts of Anne Berry.



Restaurant Relocation

Negotiations are well under way with Gosford City Council to relocate our offices and the Donnison Street Restaurant to a more appropriate location

and provide permanent premises within the Gosford Central Business District.

While the Central Coast Leagues Club has generously provided premises for both our administrative offices and the Donnison Street Restaurant for many years, Coast Shelter felt that it was time to establish both the Restaurant and its offices on a permanent basis.

In addition to the offices and Restaurant, with the help of Gosford Rotary Club and the Central Coast Hotel's

Association, the new premises will also accommodate a Community Men's Shed.

The Men's Shed will be fully equipped to provide a workshop and meeting area for those in our community who no longer have a "shed" where they can engage in their hobbies.

The model will be based on the highly successful Men's Shed at Kincumber and we are lucky to have had the advice of Wally Morrison and Peter Jessup, the driving forces behind their project.

Kincumber Men's Shed



Homeless Memorial Service



The Donnison Street Restaurant was converted into a church during Homeless Persons' Week and Father Rod Bower conducted a very moving memorial service to honour those who had died on the streets in the past year.

Attended by local support services, families and the homeless, candles were thoughtfully placed to

remember those who had passed away in lonely and unfortunate circumstances whilst living on the streets.

In speaking to the attendees Father Rod spoke of the dignity of such persons who found themselves with nowhere to live and encouraged everyone to treat those in need with compassion and understanding.

Wyong Outreach Makes the Move

The Wyong Outreach Program has now moved to new premises. The office is now located at Level 1, 182 Pacific Highway, Tuggerah which is above the Salvos Store.

The result of a funding cut meant that the Program would be forced to close its Wyong office and operate out of head office in Gosford. Assisting residents in the Wyong Shire from the Gosford office is both a costly and time consuming option.

Thankfully however, a \$9,000 injection of funding

from the Wyong Registered Clubs through the Community Development Support Expenditure has enabled the office to remain in the Wyong Shire for another year.

By remaining in the Wyong Shire, the Outreach Program is better able to provide a more efficient and effective service to those who need a helping hand in the Wyong Shire.

In 2007-08, the Wyong Outreach Program provided 14,441 overnight beds which was 43% of all beds provided by Coast Shelter.



The average length of stay for clients in the Wyong Outreach Program is seven months which is made worse by the lack of affordable housing available on the Central Coast.

New Wyong Outreach office at 182 Pacific Highway Tuggerah

Calendar of Events

12-18 Oct **Anti-Poverty Week**

19 November **Coast Shelter Annual General Meeting**, Central Coast Leagues

December **Friends of Coast Shelter Function**, Central Coast Leagues Club.
Date is yet to be confirmed.

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

