



JANUARY 2009

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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.



SANTA IS ALIVE AND WELL!

Christmas at Coast Shelter has grown to become an exciting time, not only for our 120 residents but also for the many people who attend our free Christmas lunch in the Donnison Street Restaurant.

Teri and Bob were so thankful for the hard work and dedication of our volunteers who helped out in the Restaurant on Christmas Day. Welcomed amongst these volunteers was Julie Praestiin who throughout the year coordinated Sanitarium's donation of \$18,000 for the Sanitarium Community House Program and also the ongoing donation of food items for the Restaurant.

As Santa arrived in the Restaurant on Christmas Day, he told us that he had received numerous donations of Christmas presents from all the good boys and girls at ADC Krone, Gosford RSL Leisure

Living, Sanitarium and of course, Central Coast Community Chest. These gifts worked their magic by reminding our clients in our refuges and the Restaurant that they are not forgotten at this busy time of year.

Santa was also working around the clock to coordinate

distributed 2,008 hampers!

To make so many hampers, Santa and his elves have developed a well organised workshop. To see all of the volunteers and their production line under the direction of Pastors Paul and Sandra Piefke and supported by "supervisor extraordinaire" David Wooley is really something to behold.

On "Delivery Day", and in pouring rain, the massive operation continued. Warren filled in as Traffic Director and has now been approached by the NSW Police Department to control all major events in the region.

What is not known about the Christmas Hamper Appeal, is that all the hampers distributed by St Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army, Area Health, Neighbourhood Centres and welfare agencies in the Region are all made and donated by Coast Shelter.



Christmas Hamper Appeal

the annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Four years ago we joined with the House of Praise to make and distribute 700 hampers, the following year we made 1,100, then 1,500. Last year for 2008, with the help of our supporters Sanitarium and Mars Foods, we made and



ADC Krone



Christmas Hamper Appeal



Gosford RSL Leisure Living

Celebrating our Friends



Left to right:
*Julie, John & Robyn,
Laurie and Carol*

Over one hundred and fifty supporters, volunteers and friends of Coast Shelter gathered at the Central Coast Leagues Club to celebrate another year of high performance and outstanding support.

Hosted by Gavin Shepherd (President) and his Board, an atmosphere of camaraderie and community oneness was shared as we socialised and swapped stories from the past year.

Warren Price, from *The Fundraisers' Friend*, gave an outstanding and informative presentation which recognised all of our supporters, volunteers and service delivery partners.

Special thanks was given to The ORS Group Gosford who

presented Coast Shelter with a generous donation which they were able to raise at their Charity Trivia Night.

Also receiving special recognition throughout the presentation was Central Coast Leagues Club, Clubs NSW (Central Coast Region), Sanitarium Health Food Company, Mars Foods, Quay West Magenta Shores, Rotary, Lions, Lioness and the Century Challenge Bike Tour (Erina Rotary).

As part of the day, our Executive Officer Laurie Maher, congratulated all the staff, volunteers and supporters who had worked together to help record numbers of fellow

community members and contributed so generously to the Service throughout the past year.

He pointed out that although there had been no increase in base funding from the State Government, the Service welcomed the promised support from the Prime Minister and the outstanding contributions from the corporate sector, Gosford City Council and the hundreds of individual donors and volunteers.



Peter and Elwyn

John Graham, local branch manager of the Commonwealth Bank presenting a cheque to Coast Shelter President, Gavin Shepherd and Director, Rusty Wallis

Which Bank is a Good Sport?

Coast Shelter has been successful in receiving a \$10,000 Commonwealth Bank Local Community Grant to fund

a Community Recreation Program for our clients.

The Program supports youth and children living in Coast

Shelter's crisis refuges so that they can participate in local sport and recreational activities. For many of our clients, the opportunity to participate in community such activities is often a very low priority because of the financial strains associated with being homeless.

It is a wonderful opportunity for us to offer our children and youth 'time out' from the sometimes traumatic and stressful period of living in crisis accommodation. At the same time we hope it will positively improve their health, well-being, self esteem, social skills and personal development .

Perhaps we will discover a potential Mariner or Storm player in our midst and if our residents can't reach these illustrious heights, the main objective is that they enjoy themselves.



Newcastle Permanent serves up support

Coast Shelter's Donnison Street Restaurant is \$42,000 better off thanks to the Newcastle Permanent Building Society.

The Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation has supported the Donnison Street Restaurant since 2006 totalling \$126,000.

This support, along with the 400 plus dedicated volunteers from local Church and community groups, allows us to provide in excess of 60,000 free meals each year.

In addition to this support,

the marketing team from Newcastle Permanent recently volunteered in the Restaurant. All eight staff members spent the day cooking and serving meals

and all agreed the constant work the volunteers put into the Restaurant is inspiring.

As the Donnison Street Restaurant receives no



Newcastle Permanent staff volunteering in the Restaurant

government funding, the support we receive from our friends at Newcastle Permanent is absolutely essential.

The road to reducing homelessness

On 21 December 2008, the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek, released the Australian Government's White Paper on Homelessness: The Road Home which sets the strategic agenda for reducing homelessness by 2020.

With \$800 million to be spent on preventing and reducing homelessness and a further \$400 million to increase the amount of affordable and supported

housing, Christmas had come early for those in need.

The Central Coast has really been left behind in the provision of social infrastructure over the years and with the gloomy predictions for the economy and in particular unemployment in 2009, Mr Rudd's announcement is very timely.

While detailed plans are yet to be released, this is a wonderful opportunity for our

Federal Parliamentary representatives to take leadership and establish a Regional approach to address the chronic homelessness problem in our community. There are quite a number of support programs on the Central Coast, but with this new funding, a comprehensive regionally coordinated program will make all the difference and the importance of this cannot be emphasised enough.



Australian Government's White Paper on Homelessness: The Road Home

Calendar of Events

- 21st February - Fundraising BBQ** in aid of Coast Shelter - For further details phone John Gleeson on 4329 7724
- March - Homeless Sleep Out** - Details still to be confirmed
- 24 May - The Century Challenge Bike Tour**, Rotary Club of Erina see www.rotaryerina.org.au/cycle_tour.php

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

