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Coast Shelter Office: Rear 97 Donnison Street (PO Box 1234) Gosford NSW 2250

www.coastshelter.org.au Phone: (02) 4325 3540 Referral: (02) 4324 7239

# Coast Shelter News

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

## COMMUNITY CENTRE LAUNCH

It's all happening at Coast Shelter these days with another step towards establishing the **Coast Community Centre** in Mann Street Gosford.

On Friday 4th June, Gosford City Mayor Chris Holstein launched our media campaign to generate government, corporate and philanthropic support to raise the last \$490,000 to complete our \$1.6 million Community Centre.

There has been a lot of talk about addressing Australia's level of homelessness, but Coast Shelter has taken up the challenge to provide a unique and wide ranging practical response to helping those who are homeless or doing it tough in our community.

With the support of Gosford City Council, the State Government and our supporters, Coast Shelter will provide a one-stop-shop where



Gosford City Mayor Chris Holstein and Executive Officer Laurie Maher at the launch

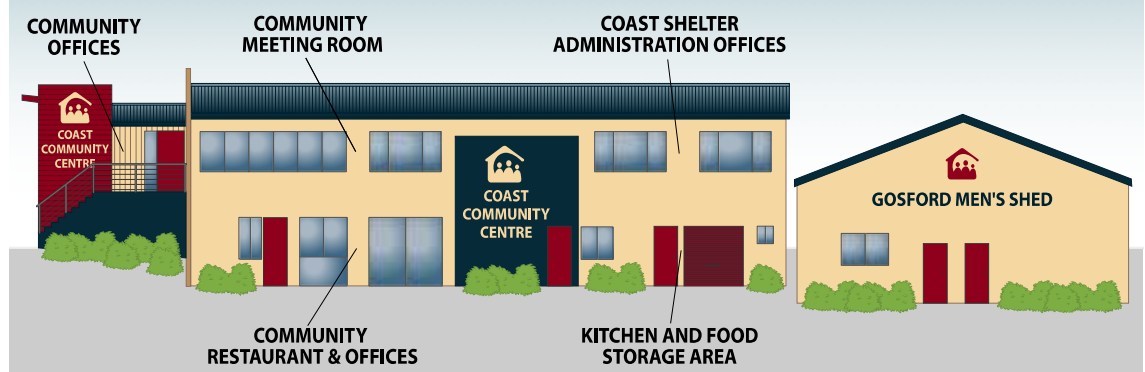
members of our community can come to receive practical support and advice to help them maintain their accommodation and if they have fallen through the gap, obtain emergency accommodation while they get their lives back in order.

In speaking at the launch, Laurie Maher explained that the Centre

would provide free meals, clothing, food parcels, shower and laundry facilities, no interest loans, as well as information and referral to legal, tenancy and accommodation services.

In asking for financial support, Laurie said that this was a wonderful opportunity for Gosford City to set the benchmark for other communities in "turning off the tap" to homelessness.

### Our plan to reduce homelessness on the Central Coast...



Sign up to our electronic newsletter at [www.coastshelter.org.au](http://www.coastshelter.org.au) and find us on Facebook or Twitter for more news updates

## GOLF DAY A GREAT SUCCESS



Nick Farr Jones, Shayne Silvers (Operations Manager) and Laurie Maher (Executive Officer)

Gosford Private Hospital organised a fantastic **Charity Golf Day** at the Kooindah Waters Golf Course on the 28th May. Over 150 attended the event, which was hosted by Nick Farr-Jones, philanthropist, former Wallaby captain and international rugby union legend who entertained guests by sharing his stories and anecdotes about rugby.

Nick is a current Board Member for Wesley Mission and has a

strong commitment to raising awareness and providing support for the homeless. Laurie Maher (Executive Officer) knew Nick from when he was in charge of NSW Rugby Union, and enjoyed catching up and discussing their shared passions; homelessness and rugby union.

A big thank you to Gosford Private Hospital, Nick Farr-Jones and all attendees for raising funds for Beyond Blue and Coast Shelter.

## CENTURY CHALLENGE CYCLE TOUR

A cold winter's morning at Mount Penang was the venue for the **Erina Rotary Club's Century Challenge Cycle Tour** held on the 23rd May. Although the weather was chilly, the gods smiled on the event and kept the rain away for the day.

In its tenth year, the Century Challenge Cycle Tour is a wonderful family event, which is growing in numbers each year. This year was enjoyed by over 500 enthusiastic cyclists, who took part in either the 100km or the 40km ride. Gosford City Mayor Chris Holstein started the event and we hope to see him "on his bike" at next year's tour.

A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Erina for organising such a successful



event to raise money for Coast Shelter. Thank you to Priceline Pharmacy, the major supporter of the day, all of the cyclists who participated and also the volunteers who helped make the day run so smoothly.



## THE GFC IS OVER... SO THEY SAY

Australia was lucky enough to avoid the **Global Financial Crisis**, so we are told. But it seems we are having our own National Financial Crisis if the numbers of families and individuals approaching charities for assistance is any indication.

Like other charities, Coast Shelter has experienced an ever-increasing demand for assistance. This year Coast Shelter has provided 28,344 overnight beds to homeless families and individuals, which is an increase of 23% over 2008-2009. At the

same time, we were unable to provide accommodation to 1,039, which is up 60% on last year.

In April alone Coast Shelter had to turn away a total of 111 homeless people, which included 18 men, 48 women, 36 children and 9 youth.

The cost of living, energy, water and food in addition to rental prices and the shortage of affordable housing for those on low incomes, creates our own Financial Crisis.



Two young students from **Point Clare Public School, Mikayla and Maddison**, are to be commended for their efforts in prompting a **Canned Food Drive**, which has now spread across the Central Coast.

The two girls were concerned about



**A fantastic effort from Green Point Christian College**

homeless people living in their local area and wanted to help out. With the support of their mum, Amanda and Principal Lee

Oliver, a Canned Food Drive was organised and the efforts of all students at Point Clare Public was overwhelming.

The response prompted Coast Shelter to write to other schools and already, Green Point Christian College and Valley View Primary School have made outstanding contributions. The canned food will be used to provide free meals for the homeless and needy and also to make up food parcels, which are available to individuals and families who are experiencing financial difficulties.

This is an amazing example of how two small voices can make a very big difference in the local community.

**Amanda, Mikayla and Maddison**



## AUSTRALIANS ARE MISSING OUT

The **Australia Institute** recently released a report that 168,000 Australians who were entitled to assistance missed out, either because they didn't know about their entitlements, or found that the application process was too complicated.

Members of our community who were entitled to Parental payments, Carer's Allowance, Disability Support and Bereavement Allowances totalling \$623

million, missed out on support provided by the Government.

At a time when more and more in our communities are in dire need of assistance, it is a downright disgrace that the agencies responsible for providing it, don't spend more time making sure people are aware of their entitlements.

Perhaps Coast Shelter's Community Centre might help get the message out there.

*Community members entitled to payments totalling \$623 million missed out on support provided by the Government*

## BOWLED OVER BY SUPPORT

A **Barefoot Charity Bowls Day** raised \$6,000 for Coast Shelter's Intoxicated Persons' Program, which provides safe protective accommodation for intoxicated or drug affected homeless men.

The Entrance division of the Tuggerah Lakes Liquor Accord organised the day at the Greens Bowling Club and invited

Wyong Mayor Bob Graham to be part of the fun. A great day was had by all those who attended with raffles, auctions, BBQ and of course, barefoot bowls.

The Entrance Liquor Accord implements strategies to reduce the impact of alcohol consumption on the local community.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- June 2010 Entertainment Books still available. Order your book now by visiting [coastshelter.org.au](http://coastshelter.org.au)
- 2-8 August 2010 Homeless Persons Week
- 4 August 2010 Homeless Persons Memorial Service
- 26 October 2010 Coast Connect Day

**To add to this list please contact Gavin on 0408 871 172.**

# COAST SHELTER REFUGES

**Coimba** is our men's refuge, which offers crisis accommodation and support for up to 13 men. It is centrally located within easy walking distance of Gosford CBD and transport.

Residents are offered assistance in finding permanent accommodation. Staff also assist residents to address issues which may have led to their homelessness (unemployment, alcohol, drugs, gambling etc) with referrals to local support services.

**Kara** is our family program, which offers crisis and medium-term accommodation for single women and women with accompanying children. Clients usually stay between 1-3 months.

Clients are offered assistance with parenting, living and social skills. Our ultimate goal is to assist residents to find permanent independent accommodation. We work closely with the Housing NSW, Centrelink, Pacific Link Community Housing and other agencies to achieve this.

**Rumbalara** is our medium term youth refuge, which provides accommodation for six homeless young men and women aged between 15 and 18. Residents can stay at Rumbalara for up to 12 months.

Residents are encouraged to continue with schooling, training or employment during their stay. Family reconciliation is the main focus, where this is not possible, clients are assisted to move into semi-independent living with the continued support from staff.

**Maya** is our medium-term young women's refuge, which provides accommodation for up to six young women aged between 14 and 18. Residents can stay at Maya for up to 12 months.

Maya is designed to empower young women and help them to continue schooling, enter the workforce or undertake full time training. Residents are offered assistance with living skills to prepare them for family reconciliation or where this is not possible, semi-independent living.



# COAST SHELTER SERVICES

The **Donnison Street Community Centre** is a hub for practical support services to help homeless, vulnerable, financially disadvantaged and socially isolated citizens on the Central Coast.

The Community Centre is based on the principles of social inclusion and community participation. The overriding aim of the Centre is to assist people to maintain their tenancies and avoid homelessness.

The Centre receives no Government funding and only operates thanks to a huge volunteer workforce who prepare and serve free meals.

As well as free meals, the Centre provides food parcels, referrals, pharmaceutical assistance, No Interest Loans (NILS), Electricity (EAPA) Vouchers, free legal advice, clothing and linen, shower and laundry facilities.



The **Wyong Outreach Program** offers support to medium and long-term accommodation for homeless families and individuals in cottages and units in the Wyong Shire.

All clients are assisted to find and maintain their own accommodation. Staff work closely with government departments, non-government agencies and local real estate agents to help clients overcome barriers preventing them from securing a residential lease.

The **Intoxicated Persons Program** is an initiative which provides safe protective accommodation to intoxicated or drug affected homeless men.

Local Police, Gosford Hospital and Coast Shelter work together to ensure that those who are found intoxicated or drug-affected on the streets are safely accommodated. Clients remain until they are sober and are invited to join one of our programs.

## 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.

I would like to make a donation of .....\$ .....

All donations are GST inclusive and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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 By Email  
 By Post

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 .....