



## CEO MESSAGE

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. Whether you are new to SCH or have been one of our longstanding residents, we hope you find the information and stories informative and encouraging. Assisting our residents and communities is why we exist and we are constantly striving to achieve our mission "Provide and grow affordable housing and appropriate support for people in need". Our Focus is to build stronger communities, enable our residents and provide greater opportunity through choice, innovation and partnership.

Recent increases to the cost of living is making it more difficult for households to make ends meet. We have seen petrol prices and supermarket goods significantly increase as well as energy and utility prices. Unfortunately, there is no indication that this will get better in the short term. We understand that many people are suffering financially and we want to help where we can. The most important thing is that tenants do not fall behind in their rent as this will create a downward spiral often resulting in a tenancy becoming unsustainable. Please make sure you talk to us prior to falling behind so we can assist where we can. If tenants fall too far behind, we have no choice and must follow our legal obligation via the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

There are currently about 50,000 households on the public housing waitlist with approximately 5,000 being priority applicants. Rental vacancies are below 0.5% with stories of up to 30 people attending vacant inspections and applying. SCH currently leases about 300 properties from the private rental market and then rents them out to clients for a subsidised amount. This has become extremely challenging as private rentals have increased significantly. During this challenging environment, SCH continues to do it's best to house as many people as possible. No doubt we need more housing and more funding as the housing crisis continues to worsen.

Within this winter Newsletter edition there are many community and social opportunities. We would encourage all, as we transition back to a post Covid way of life, to consider how you can engage or re-engage with your community, build stronger neighbourhood and community connections and contribute to the wellbeing of those in greater need than ourselves.

In July SCH are commencing a new Property Care initiative. We want to recognise those Residents who are simply, by taking pride in their lawns and gardens are improving their neighbourhoods, street by street. Good Property care builds a sense of pride and belonging, this can have an impact in a person's sense of value and worth. SCH values all our residents, we especially appreciate those who contribute to our neighbourhoods and streets, just by simply taking good care of your properties.

Kind regards,  
**Alex Pontello**  
Chief Executive Officer



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## DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Southern Cross Housing would like to communicate with you by email but we can't do that if we don't have your current email address. Updating your email address with us is really easy. Just ring 1300 757 885 and let us know your details.

## IN THE NEWS

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Southern Cross Housing acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land in which we operate. We pay our respect to them, their culture and to Elders past, present and emerging in the spirit of reconciliation.

### VACCINATION CLINIC'S

On the 5th of May 2022 Southern Cross Housing held an Influenza and Covid Vaccination Clinic in Nowra. The clinic was a collaborative effort between NSW Health and the locally based community organisation, CareSouth.

A total of 76 people received vaccinations, which included Southern Cross Housing and CareSouth staff members, Southern Cross Housing residents and CareSouth participants. The majority of vaccinations were administered for Influenza and 25 people received their Covid booster shots.

Once the vaccine was administered, residents were taken to the waiting area where CareSouth provided gift bags and a snack box to munch on to pass the time. CareSouth was also able to provide transport for Ulladulla residents to attend the clinic. The day was a great success and Southern Cross Housing received many positive comments from people that attended the clinic.

Clinics were also held in Cooma, Bega and at Batemans Bay. All were well attended.



SCH staff receiving their vaccination

### BOUNCE INTO BEGA

Bounce into Bega is an after-school program that SCH has been operating with support from the Bega Valley Shire Council, PCYC and Mission Australia. The program takes place at Columbine Park in Bega which also provides a venue for a community garden that is run by local volunteers. This wonderful park also contains a basketball court which is frequented by youth from the area.

Throughout the Bounce into Bega program local service providers were able to connect with SCH residents and youth by sharing a BBQ dinner and engaging in fun activities like basketball and archery tag.

The program has seen the relationship between local youth and the community gardeners at the park transform with children now taking an interest in the foods growing in the community garden.

In the final week of the program, youth from the area were able to sit down and share their thoughts on what they like and dislike about their neighbourhood, including safety concerns. Particular concerns were expressed about lighting in the surrounding neighbourhoods and at the park. This information has been recorded by SCH and will be used to develop further projects to better support tenants in the Bega community.



Children in Bega attending Bounce into Bega event

## IN THE NEWS

### TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) UPDATES

SCH has recently held their first meet and greet for residents that were interested in joining the Ulladulla Tenants Advisory Committee. Residents were treated to coffee, tea and lunch whilst they spoke about their interest in joining the TAC. A group exercise was then held about the issues their community is struggling with and the products and services that they would like to see more of from SCH.

After the meet and greet, a second meeting was held for the TAC members to confirm the issues they raised and discuss ideas about projects they would like to work on. TAC members advised that they are interested in developing projects to address social isolation and support independent living. There is also a need to better understand SCH's maintenance processes.

The Nowra TAC met on Thursday 21st April and had a very fruitful discussion around the upcoming 2022 SCH Tenant Christmas parties, Tenant Statements and the rise in the general cost of living. TAC members expressed an interest in learning more about SCH Operational Teams and possible programs that might be able to assist in reducing energy costs.

The Bega Valley TAC met and have set in motion a number of exciting projects that they will submit to SCH for consideration. These projects include a guide for people bereaved by the loss of a loved one and a gardening project.

Our TACs are always on the look out for new members. If this is something you are interested in, please contact the Communities Assist Team on 1300 757 885.

### EAST NOWRA EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Living in East Nowra and struggling to find a job? Then the East Nowra Employment Pilot program might be of interest to you!

SCH is calling for interest from residents that live in East Nowra who are looking for casual, part-time or full-time jobs. SCH understand that receiving support from your current Jobactive or DES provider sometimes isn't enough. Intensive mentoring services will be available to 12 social housing residents in East Nowra and 3 in Bega Valley to help you gain long term suitable employment.

Your mentor within SCH will work intensively with you to understand your current work experience, goals and barriers while working on your soft skills such as writing a resume, cover letter and interview skills and referring you to support services to progress your employment journey. If you are interested in being a part of the East Nowra Employment Pilot Program. Please contact our Communities Assist Team on 1300 757 885 or email [communities@scch.org.au](mailto:communities@scch.org.au)

### SCH RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Southern Cross Housing's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is nearing completion. Our RAP will lay the foundation to strengthen meaningful and long-term relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents and our communities.

The new plan contains a number of strategies and actions, including undertaking a review of cultural learning needs within Southern Cross Housing and actively involving our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the delivery of this program.

An external Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tenants Advisory Committee (ATAC) will be formed, and we will seek further direction and assistance from the committee when implementing actions that are contained in the RAP.

If you would like to be involved in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, please contact the Communities Assist Team on 1300 757 885

### BEGA FIRST AID TRAINING FOR PARENTS

On Monday 9th of May SCH hosted a First Aid training session in Bega. Attendees learnt how to perform CPR and respond to common injuries that can be obtained by children. There were a number of key takeaways from the training and attendees left feeling more confident in their ability to respond to injuries and incidents. Attendees also received a First Aid Kit valued at \$80!

SCH recommends that people download the Emergency+ App on their phones which can be found via [www.emergencyplus.com.au](http://www.emergencyplus.com.au). The App provides a GPS location when the user dials triple zero and includes information on emergency call numbers. Southern Cross Housing would like to extend a big thank you to Bega Valley Day Care for coordinating this training and to Peter



*Pictured are Mary Pearce and Kiara Jefferey first aid training in Bega*

## IN THE NEWS

### HOW TO READ MY ENERGY BILL

Most energy retailers send bills in the post or via email, every quarter. The information on a typical bill can include confusing terms and jargon.

What to check on your bill

- Your name, address, and the date of the bill
- How much you need to pay, and when you need to pay it by
- Your meter number (check it matches the number on your meter)
- The billing period that you are being charged for
- Other fees you are being charged
- Ensure the credit for eligible concessions are listed e.g., Low Income Household rebate, Gas Rebate, Life Support Rebate



There are many reasons why your bill can be high:

- Have you been using more energy than usual?
- Does it include an overdue amount?
- Is it an estimated bill?
- Have the tariffs changed since your last bill?
- Have you received the discounts you are entitled to from the retailer?
- Does it account for seasonal usage increases? (compare to usage from the same period in the previous year)
- Have you had additional people at home?
- Are you using a new or faulty appliance?

Do you have a leaking hot water system? View the Energy and Water Ombudsman's (EWON) range of factsheets for help with common energy and water issues <http://ewon.com.au/page/customer-resources/factsheets>.

If you have any questions about your bill, your energy retailer's phone number should be on the bill. Have your bill with you when you phone your retailer. If you are not happy with their explanation, please call EWON on 1800 246 545 Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm

### ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTS PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (EAPA)

If you're having difficulty paying your current household energy bill because of a short-term financial crisis or emergency, such as unexpected medical bills, or reduced income due to COVID-19, you could be eligible for Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) \$50 vouchers.

EAPA vouchers are sent electronically to your energy retailer to help pay your home electricity or gas account. Applying for EAPA Vouchers involves an eligibility assessment.

How to apply?

- 1. Enquiry.** Call (02) 4276 2224, on Monday to Thursday, between 9am to 3pm.
- 2. Application.** You will need to have an interview with an EAPA Consultant, in person, via email or via phone. At that time your NILS Consultant will review your paperwork and discuss your financial crisis and help you apply.
- 3. Assessment.** Your EAPA application will be submitted to Service NSW on your behalf.
- 4. Approval.** If approved your voucher will be applied by your electrical retailer. If your application has been declined, and EAPA Consultant will call you.

### EAPA PROVIDERS

Please contact the below providers in your area for assistance with EAPA vouchers.

- **All Saints Community Care Nowra** - 4423 1099
- **Mission Australia Nowra** - 4448 2000
- **St Vincent De Paul Society Moruya** - 6234 7400
- **St Vincent De Paul Society Bega** - 624 7485
- **Salvation Army Bega** - 6492 5097
- **St Vincent De Paul Society Cooma** - 6340 1100



## IN THE NEWS

### SENIORS WINTER FIRE SAFETY

Being physically impaired or frail can significantly affect your ability to survive if you are unfortunate enough to be caught in a home fire. Nearly 50% of house fire fatalities are associated with people that are aged 65 years and over. Fire and Rescue NSW recommend using this simple safety checklist to help keep you fire safe this winter:

- Take note if your smoke alarm isn't working and let your Housing Officer know if it isn't. Smoke alarms are tested every time that you have a Housing Inspection.
- Don't fight the fire - get out and stay out and dial '000' immediately.
- Know two safe and clear ways out of every room in your home.
- Make sure all keys to all locked doors are readily accessible.
- Have an escape plan in case of fire and practice it regularly.
- Never ever leave cooking unattended.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Place screens in front of open fires.
- Be careful of loose fitting garments near heaters and cooking appliances.
- Make sure heaters and their cords are not a trip hazard.
- Consider using wall mounted heaters or oil-filled column heaters.
- Keep portable heaters away from curtains, tablecloths and bedding.
- Place drying clothing at least 1 metre from heaters or fireplaces and never leave unattended.
- If you use a dryer, clean the lint filter each and every time you use it.
- Don't overload power points and switch off when not in use.
- Always handle candles or any other open flame with care.



### ARE YOU IN NEED OF A NEW WASHING MACHINE?

The Residential Washing Machine Replacement Trial is being delivered under the NSW Water Efficiency Program.

To be eligible for the program you must be living in social housing in NSW, hold a valid pensioner concession card, health care card or low-income health care card from Centrelink and have an existing top-loader washing machine to replace.

The program will replace your inefficient top load washing machine with a new water and energy efficient front load washing machine at a heavily subsidised price.

By purchasing a new washing machine, your household can expect to save around \$245 per year on water, energy and detergent costs.

To apply for the program, please visit this link at [washingmachines.water.dpe.nsw.gov.au/eligibility](https://washingmachines.water.dpe.nsw.gov.au/eligibility) and complete the questions to determine your eligibility.

If you need assistance to submit your application, please contact the NSW Department of Planning and Environment at [washingmachines@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:washingmachines@dpie.nsw.gov.au).



### CARER SUPPORT

Are you a carer or have you had experience as a carer? Weavers is a peer to peer program that provides support to people caring for one another. The program exists to support carers by sharing stories, exchanging know-how and walking beside others. The program can help you with:

- Navigating and negotiating services
- Connecting with family and friends
- Emotional challenges
- Sustaining things for yourself

Find out more at [www.weavers.tacsi.org.au](http://www.weavers.tacsi.org.au) or contact Sue on 0491 147 153.

## Policy News

### Maintenance

SCH's Maintenance Policy provides our tenants with information about our repairs and maintenance services.

It is important to us that your home is safe, secure and in good repair. You can help us to achieve this by ensuring that you report the need for a repair as soon as you identify that something has been damaged and/or is not operating properly.

There are four types of repairs, Emergency, Urgent, Priority and Routine.

As soon as our Maintenance Team receive a reported repair, it is categorised into one of the four types. Each type has a specific timeframe in which the matter will be dealt with.

#### 1. Emergency

Such as a burst water service, dangerous electrical fault, gas leaks. These will be responded to within 4 hours of maintenance being notified.

#### 2. Urgent

Such as a breakdown of hot water, cooking appliance or heating. These will be responded to within 24 hours of maintenance being notified.

#### 3. Priority

Such as cracked floor tiles with raised edges, window not opening, electric plug not working. These will be responded to within a time frame of 14 days of maintenance being notified.

#### 4. Routine repair

Such as an exhaust fan not working, a screen door locking difficulty. These will be responded to within 28 days.

When you report a maintenance issue you will be provided with a customer reference number. Please record this number and refer to it if you need to contact SCH about the issue again.

Maintenance services are also responsible for the general upkeep of lawns and gardens in common areas of complexes, roof and gutter inspections and smoke alarm inspections. This occurs on a scheduled basis. Additionally, planned maintenance such as internal/external painting, floor covering replacement, kitchen and bathroom upgrades and fence replacements occurs on a lifecycle schedule.

If you would like to find out when your property is scheduled for maintenance services, please contact the Maintenance Team on 1300 757 885.

Receiving feedback about our maintenance service is important to SCH, as it gives us the opportunity to better manage our service and meet your needs. On completion of a maintenance request, maintenance services will conduct a phone survey seeking your feedback as to how well the service went.

For further information on our Maintenance policy, please go to <https://www.sch.org.au>.

Tenants are responsible for keeping their property reasonably tidy and clean and for undertaking minor repairs such as:

- The replacement of smoke alarm batteries
- The replacement of light bulbs
- The replacement of lost keys

For all repairs whether they be an emergency, urgent, non urgent, priority or routine please

- Call the SCH Maintenance line on 1300 757 885 or;
- Completing the on-line Maintenance Request Form at [www.sch.org.au](http://www.sch.org.au) or;
- Visit your local SCH Office or;
- Write to SCH at P.O. Box 2351 Bomaderry NSW 2541



## OUR DEVELOPMENTS



Southern Cross Housing has received Council approval to build a much needed short to medium term accommodation property for women in Cooma. The building will be well located with only a short walk to all shops and services.

When complete the property will consist of six fully self-contained studio units and a common room with a kitchen and bathroom. Three of the units have been designed for clients with mobility issues with off street car parking spaces provided.

The units will be finished with very attractive external colour schemes and will have lovely modern finishes throughout. All units will have a small, landscaped courtyard so residents can enjoy the surrounding landscaped gardens.

The units will also be energy efficient and equipped with all modern fixtures and appliances. Construction has been funded under the Commonwealth's Safe Places Program.



*Schematic view of proposed housing in Cooma*

## Jobs & Training News

### YOUTH AWARE OF MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING (YAM)

YAM – Youth Aware of Mental Health, is a school-based program for young people that are aged 13-17 to learn about, and discuss mental health. YAM is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help deliver the YAM program in schools across the Shoalhaven.

YAM is an evidence-based program which gets young people involved and talking about mental health through role-play and discussion. This free 1.5hr training session will develop your knowledge of the YAM program and the role of the helper. You will then be provided with a list of schools and dates where helpers are required.

The training dates (via zoom) are:

- Tuesday 19 July 2022, 2.30-4pm

To register your interest please contact: Melissa Cameron [melissa.cameron@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:melissa.cameron@det.nsw.edu.au)

**YAM**™ YOUTH AWARE OF MENTAL HEALTH

### SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Volunteer opportunities are available to support Eurobodalla residents who were impacted by the Black Summer bushfires through the Volunteers for Bushfire Recovery Program.

Volunteer roles include social outings such as a cuppa and a chat, participating in exercise classes, going fishing, walking or enjoying lunch in one of the Shire's picturesque locations.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Eurobodalla Council's Volunteer Development Officer Maxine Plant: 4474 7445 or [Bushfire.Volunteers@esc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bushfire.Volunteers@esc.nsw.gov.au).



## Jobs & Training News

### INTRODUCTION TO AGED CARE (FEE FREE)

The Statement of Attainment in Introduction to Aged Care is designed to give you an understanding of how the body works, what happens as it ages and what happens to it with disease. In this course, you will discuss working with diverse people across the aged care landscape, and gain your first-aid certificate. This course is a great way to start your journey into working in aged care.

- This course will be delivered via a connected classroom on a Tuesday from 10.00am to 2.30pm
- There will be 1 practical skills workshop to complete your First Aid certificate
- Students can access Microsoft Teams by going to their local campus and accessing a
- Library computer or by using a personal computer at home.
- Students may have to travel for First Aid workshop.
- Students will complete 3 days of work placement at an Aged Care facility.

For more information and to express your interest please go here: [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au) and search Statement of Attainment Introduction to Aged Care

### MARINE RESCUE EDEN

Marine Rescue in Eden are looking for volunteers to join the Marine Rescue Team. Marine Rescue operations involve monitoring of emergency marine radio channels and on-water rescue in a sea-going rescue vessel. If monitoring the radio isn't your thing, there are other areas where volunteers can make a real difference such as fundraising, grant writing and administration. For more information contact Nancy Weatherman on 0409 309 321.



### CERTIFICATE III IN ALLIED HEALTH ASSISTANCE

The nationally accredited Certificate 3 in Allied Health Assistance will help turn your passion for health into a rewarding career.

For more information and to express your interest please go to: [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au) and search Certificate 3 Allied Health.

### STATEMENT OF ATTAINMENT IN READING FOR ADULTS (FEE FREE)

This course will help you communicate on online platforms and gain confidence in reading and preparing emails.

For more information and to express your interest please go to: [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au).



### OUR VOICE IN ACTION – BEGA VALLEY/ EUROBODALLA

'Our Voice in Action' is a workshop for people with a lived experience of suicide who are ready and keen to explore opportunities to be involved in suicide prevention work. The program is designed specifically for people that are ready to use their lived experience to help others and inform future direction for suicide prevention.

The workshop is being run by Roses in the Ocean a not for profit organisation that was formed when a young Australian chose to end his life in 2008.

If you want to be involved in this workshop please read the following: <https://rosesintheocean.com.au/are-you-ready-to-be-involved-in-suicide-prevention/>

The workshop will take place in Narooma on Friday 5 & Saturday 6 August 2022 from 8:30am - 4:30pm

To register your interest in attending this workshop, please call 1300 411 461.

# Supporting YOU

## START SAFELY

Start Safely is a private rental subsidy that assists people who are experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness due to having experienced domestic or family violence.

The subsidy assists people by offering subsidised rent in the private rental market for a maximum period of three years. For the first 12 months the persons rent contribution is assessed at 25% of the household income, then every 6 months thereafter the rent contribution is tapered to gradually increase to assist with people gaining financial capacity to pay the market rent.

To be eligible for this subsidy the person needs to be eligible for Social Housing Assistance and provide evidence surrounding their experience of violence or risk of harm.

Brokerage support of up to \$2000 is also available to assist in establishing a tenancy and reaching long term goals.

Rent Choice Brokerage funds may be used for the following purposes:

- Assistance with education and training
- Employment related costs
- Household establishment
- Professional services that assist the client in sustaining their tenancy or prepare them for employment or training
- Counselling related services
- Transport related assistance

For any enquiries about Start Safely please contact our Access and Demand team on 1300 757 885.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT

**If you are in immediate danger, call 000 for Police and Ambulance.**

**1800RESPECT - 1800 737 732**

This is a 24-hour national sexual assault, family and domestic violence counselling line for any Australian who has experienced, or is at risk of, family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

**ELDER ABUSE HELP LINE - 1800 353 374**

Free information and support services for people who experience or witness the abuse of an older person. Operating hours vary.

**MENSLINE AUSTRALIA - 1300 789 978**

Supports men and boys who are dealing with family and relationship difficulties. 24/7 telephone and online support an information service for Australian men.

## WHAT'S ON Shoalhaven

### FEELING FATIGUED?

Like many places throughout the world we have faced many challenges over the past few years from Covid, Bushfires and Floods.

Are you feeling a bit overwhelmed or tired with all that we as a community need to deal with? If so, then watch these two videos that explain in even more depth how to deal with Resilience Fatigue, and top 10 tips to overcome it - [www.psychcentral.com/lib](http://www.psychcentral.com/lib)



### POP-UP STYLING - SHOALHAVEN

A pop-up styling service is being offered by 'Dress for Success Sydney' to Shoalhaven women during the month of August. Dress for Success offer free clothing, styling and presentation skills to women wanting to enter or return to the workforce.

The organisation also provides appropriate clothing for important life events including court appearances, correctional services release, graduations, networking and functions. Transgender and nonbinary individuals, comfortable in women's spaces, are welcomed.

The service will be available from 10am-12pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during August at Sanctuary Point Youth & Community Centre. To book a styling appointment go to <https://bit.ly/ShoalhavenPopup> or email [illawarra@dfssydney.org](mailto:illawarra@dfssydney.org) or phone the Communities Assist Team on 1300 757 885



### INDIGENOUS TALENT ID DAY

Do you want to take your sport to the next level? See what it's like to be an Illawarra Academy of Sport athlete at the Indigenous Talent ID Day. Participate in strength and conditioning testing, try a variety of sports, and learn how you can be supported in your sporting pathway being an MCR Indigenous Sports Program athlete. The day will run from 9:30am-2pm on Thursday 28 July at the University of Wollongong Sports Hub. To register, contact Scott Hatch via email [sports@ias.org.au](mailto:sports@ias.org.au) by 20 July 2022.



### FREE JIGSAW PUZZLES - SHOALHAVEN

Tired of spending your weekends scrolling through Netflix trying to find a decent movie? Why not spend your time doing a puzzle! Puzzles are both fun and stimulating for the brain and can be turned in to decorative features around the house. SCH currently has a collection of free puzzles available for pickup in the Kinghorne office. If you would like a free puzzle, contact the Communities Assist Team in Nowra on 1300 757 885.



# WHAT'S ON Eurobodulla, Bega & Snowy Monaro

## VOLUNTEER WITH EUROBODALLA LANDCARE

Eurobodalla Landcare is a network of 26 Landcare groups extending from South Durras to Narooma on the NSW South Coast. Landcare volunteers perform a variety of activities such as weed control, planting, erosion control, fencing, feral animal control and rubbish collection.

Volunteers undertake training to improve their skills in a range of natural resource management practices and are also active in promotion and education events with the wider community. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Emma Patyus at [emma.patyus@esc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emma.patyus@esc.nsw.gov.au) or visit their website <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/environment/landcare>.

## U-NITES

PCYC is hosting U-Nites in the Bega Valley, an after school program for youth aged 10-17. The program includes a free dinner, special guests and prizes. The program will be run on Tuesdays, 4-6pm at the Eden Evangelical Church Hall, Eden and 3:30-5:30pm Thursdays at the Resonat Church Hall, Bega.

## TAX HELP PROGRAM

It's tax time again and the Volunteer Tax Help Program will be provided by the Eden Community Access Centre. If your taxable income is \$60,000 or less and your tax affairs are simple you may be eligible for assistance through this free program. Tax Help will commence in August and will be appointment only. To make an appointment contact the Access Centre on 6496 3970.

## CARING DADS

Caring Dads is a group program for men that are committed to the safety and wellbeing of their children. The program runs once a week for 17 weeks and will assist dads to:

- Develop skills to cope in healthy ways with frustrating situations
- Understand how different fathering strategies and choices effect children
- Increase their awareness of controlling abusive and neglectful attitudes and behaviours
- Be provided with strategies to strengthen their father-child relationship

For more information contact Jade Dryden 0467 923 411 or James Brown 0438 197 810.

## Y DRIVE

Y drive helps disadvantaged young people in Eurobodalla accrue the 120 hours of driving experience required to get their P-Plates. The program connects volunteer licensed drivers with learners who are finding it difficult to get the driving experience they need.

If you require support to be ready for a driving test, Y Drive can assist by providing:

- Professional driving lessons
- Mentored driving lessons
- Access to a vehicle
- Safer driving courses and practical workshops

Y drive will provide you with training and a vehicle to use for lessons. Requirements are 2-4 hours a week to help your young person learn to drive, driving knowledge and a bit of patience. Please follow this link to express your interest <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/community/community-and-family-services/youth/Ydrive-learner-driver-program/mentor-expression-of-interest>



## INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY GARDENING

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Community Greening will be providing a free Introduction to Community Garden course in Moruya in June and July. Participants will learn about basic techniques when planning a food garden, how to collect seed and plant material for propagating plants, preparation and planting techniques.

Dates: 5 and 6 July

Time: 10am to 3pm (lunch and morning tea provided)

Location: Pantry Club at the Southern Life Church, Moruya.

To enrol in the program, contact Ailee on 0477 981 675 or email [ailee.calderbank@botanicgardens.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ailee.calderbank@botanicgardens.nsw.gov.au)



**YOUR STORIES**



**THOMAS - EUROBODALLA**

Thomas moved into an SCH property with his 2 children in August 2021 and has created a stunning garden out the front and the side of the property.

Prior to Thomas moving in, there were no gardens present out the front or side of his property and he has done a wonderful job gardening in the time he has been living there Well done Thomas!

**JESSICA - SHOALHAVEN**

Jessica's property was transferred to SCH from FACS a few years ago and at the time she was struggling with addiction which was impacting on her home life.

Recently her Housing Officer completed a housing inspection and was proud to find that Jessica has been able to get her life back on track and has implemented some very positive changes that are benefiting both herself and her son.

Jessica has been working diligently with her counsellor and other supports and can proudly say that she has been substance free for a year and a half. In her spare time, she enjoys aqua-aerobics and gym which make her feel good.

Her son has recently begun at a new school and has made some really positive changes, trying out for the Tournament of the Minds and even receiving a speech award!

Awesome stuff Jessica!

**MAUDE - SHOALHAVEN**

Maude enjoys spending her time supporting her community along with her sisters. She is a proud Aboriginal Woman of the Yuin country and a current SCH tenant living in Bomaderry.

During the 1980s, Maude and her sisters helped establish a culture centre in Nowra where she volunteered her services to do cooking and cleaning.

Maude then went on to volunteer at Oolong House, an organisation to support Aboriginal men with drug and alcohol problems. At the centre Maude earned respect from the men and was later gifted paintings the men had created as a thank you for her support during their stay at the House.

When asked why she volunteered her time, Maude said "I had a hard life and the kids in Nowra and Bomaderry had a hard life. I didn't want them to have the same."

We are proud to have you with us Maude!



Maude receiving her award