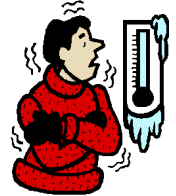




## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER



### 2018 WINTER EDITION



#### ***WE CONTINUE TO GROW AND GROW.***

Our last month of Autumn has become our biggest ever. 510 hampers to 216 families...that's 1200 people. Year to date figures are also up...5,000 people, 900 families, 360 groups, 67 Tonnes of food.

Currently a number of new Volunteers are being trained up to help with this increase in demand.

Amazingly the food stocks continue to hold up thanks to the community response to publicity and Facebook requests for groceries.

Hats off to our long standing volunteers for your loyalty, "can-do" support and the way we all help our new volunteers get up to speed. We are grateful for all the help from all quarters. A special welcome to all new volunteers....Ree, Kerry, Barry, Brendan and Ken. Welcome to the crew, hope you enjoy your time with us.

#### ***WINTER WOGS AND SUN CHASING***

Along with the decline in our beautiful autumn weather comes the bleak, cold and gloomy winter weather. Our senior volunteers are hooking up their vans to go north, not to mention a few O/seas trips (just jealous) The winter bugs have also hit early and we wish our sickies a speedy recovery.

#### ***NEW WEBSITE DESIGN***

New Board member Tonia Wilcox has been very busy preparing our new look website which is just about ready to launch. Tonia has really linked it all up and browsers will get lots of Food Share info very soon. Welcome aboard also to our newest Board member Mark Fidge.

#### ***WAREHOUSE UPGRADES***

Our thanks to the Board who approved our recent \$6k upgrade. New and increased floor coverings, amazing stainless steel bench tops and cupboard doors have us looking very spiffy indeed. Everyone's pride with our first impressions is clearly evident with the amount of voluntary unsolicited cleaning, wiping and sweeping that happens on the daily level- thanks so much for keeping us spick and span...awesome!

#### ***DRIVER SAFETY***

New risk assessments have been ordered by the Board and I am currently working with TAFE volunteer Shannyn Carter to prepare some risk assessment data for the Board. In the near future a short daily vehicle control safety-check is to be implemented. The aim here is to have our responsible drivers check, lights, blinkers etc. before each daily trip...a 5 minute check to ensure everyone's safety. We also have a new trolley for use by our roadies to carry any heavy boxes to the van.

#### ***CORPORATE VOLUNTEER NEWS.***

Our seven groups are just amazing. (Ceebeks, Silvan Ridge, Callaghan's, TAFE, Roma Britnell's Office, Wannon Water & in recess People's Choice Credit union.)

By now many have had multiple FoodShare shifts and the level of support and assistance coming from you all is terrific. The more people attend their rostered FoodShare shifts the better informed and aware they

are of the daily chores and this support really allays the chaos created from the high demand days...well done everyone. New employee training is planned for Callaghan's to allow new staff to hear about the Foodshare volunteer work.

### **WINTER CHILLS**

Best news of the season...WE HAVE GAS!! Special thanks to Board member Don Swanson who recently secured Bunnings sponsorship for free gas to our winter heater. We have lots of gas to burn and turn up the cold day temps.

### **SCHOOLFRESH PROGRAM.**

Terrific news recently with a \$5k grant from the South West Community Foundation. This money is for \$100 per week for 12 months to buy fresh fruit to support the fruit boxes for schools.

### **APPLICATION TIME.**

A crucial task each year is for us to apply to local philanthropic foundations to gain some ongoing funding to allow us to continue into the future. This is really hard money to get because it pays for our \$100k annual running expenses. July is application month...time to sharpen up the pencils.

### **SOME HELPFUL REMINDERS.**

- New volunteers take time to settle and learn the many aspects of our hamper making. We have a number of really effective processes that ensure our daily hampers are ready, correctly prepared and ready for collection. We do have a few food rules and practices and its terrific the way our long-termers explain and assist the newer volunteers. We all learn off each other and help each other every step of the way.
- Don't forget to rug up for winter...extra layers are essential n those wet and cold mornings.
- Winter wood sales are doing great. We banked \$600 in May. It is an extra task but a good earner for us...thanks for doing the extra miles bagging the wood.
- Also, it is great to get extra help with Friday cleaning after closing. Usually takes about ½ an hour only...please let me know if you'd like a turn to help out.
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***I never cease to be amazed at how our volunteers keep those bright smiles and happy faces each and every day. I am indebted to you all for your terrific work and "Dedy management" (ha)  
Our work makes an enormous difference to people in hard and difficult times... thank you all for what you do.***

***Dedy Friebe      Executive Officer***