



TERM 1, 2025 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- House Recap - Term 4
- Community Garden Update
- What's On in Term 1, 2025?
- Guests of Crossenvale
- Resources for Resident
- Community Food Relief Grant
- Share the Dignity Update
- Season's Greetings
- Get Involved at Crossenvale
- Dates for the Calendar

OUR MISSION

Crossenvale Community House aims to **engage** the local community in providing **resources** and necessary **services** to fulfil the community's potential to **achieve** their aspirations.

OUR VALUES

Participation - Inclusion
Ownership - Empowerment
Advocacy

HOUSE RECAP

Christmas has come and gone and we're into 2025! Our Community Garden is off the Ground and DFFH is supporting this initiative.

We had an amazing Halloween Trick or Treat Event in the front yard with Christmas feeling like it was only days later. Hampers galore!

We conducted our AGM with several members staying on and a few new people coming onto the committee. A great balance of experience and fresh ideas!

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Crossenvale community now has its own Community Garden, with Crossenvale Community House's newly formed Garden Club taking ownership and getting their hands dirty.

You may remember the commencement works of Echuca Moama Apex from the last edition of the newsletter, but their efforts along with donations from Rock Solid Echuca and the Echuca Moama Plant Farm have transformed the back block into a little food oasis.

The garden has already started producing food for Crossenvale's Food Relief Program, adding much needed fresh veggie nutrients. This is best demonstrated in Lisa's beautiful vegetable slices and pasta sauces that contain vegetables from our very own garden, supplemented by food from Crossenvale's Food Relief Program.



CCH Garden Club Member Lisa with the Christmas Harvest

COMMUNITY GARDEN (cont.)

Not only is the garden feeding our neighbourhood, but the garden is also bringing people together. Garden Club members coordinate when things need to be done, share tips to enhance the quality and quantity of what is produced, and have made friendships along the way. This was always the hope we had for the garden, and it is great to see it doing so well in its infancy.



CCH Garden Club Members Penny and Lisa tending to the plants in the early stages of the garden

A massive shout out needs to go to Members Penny, Lisa, and Terri who, as inaugural members of the Garden Club, have taken more and more initiative in not just growing and harvesting the plants, but planning for the future of the garden. They are excited to put the bathtubs donated by the Rotary Club of Echuca Moama to good use and develop the site of the garden to be more user friendly.

If you'd like to join the Garden Club or help our Garden Club out, please use the details at the end of the newsletter.

WHAT'S ON IN TERM 1, 2025?

MONDAY

Cuppa & Chat 10am-11am
Cut Lunch 12pm-1pm
Games & Puzzles 1pm-2:30pm

Food Relief 10am-2:30pm



Garden Club, Wednesday Walkers and **Craft & Lunch** are looking for awesome volunteers to lead these activities. Think you have what it takes? Have a look at the *Become a Volunteer* section of the Newsletter!

TUESDAY

Garden Club* 10am-12pm
Toasty Toosday 12pm-1pm
Paint by Numbers 1pm-2:30pm

Food Relief 10am-2:30pm

Room Hire is available for businesses and community organisations. Please call the house to find out more!



WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Walkers* 9:30am-11pm
Souper Dooper Soup 11am-12pm
Mosaic Magic 12pm-2pm

Food Relief 10am-2:30pm



All people over 18yo are welcome at our activities as members of Crossenvale Community House.

THURSDAY

Admin Support 9am-2:30pm
Please book in advance

Employment Support

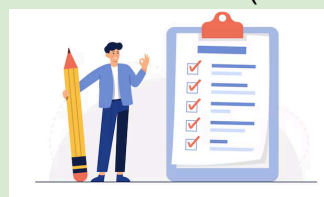
- Resumes & Cover Letters
- Applications
- Interview Skills

IT Support

- Crash Course Computing
- Printing (10c B&W / 20c Colour)

Forms Support

- Housing
- Services Australia (Centrelink)



VISITORS TO CROSSENVALE COMMUNITY HOUSE

At CCH, we love having people come to visit. More than this, we love to show off the wonderful things that we do and expose more people to the world of community service and volunteerism. If you; or a group you work with, would like a tour please get in touch.



Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School

ETRSS popped by as part of their Work Skills class to see what life is like in community development settings. There was some real enthusiasm from some of the attendees and we hope that their exposure to CCH inspires them to consider care roles.

Vivid

The Vivid Crew stopped by to see what programs run at CCH while also giving their opinions about what they would like to see offered. Mosaics, art, and the community garden were all highly sought after, but some thought they might like to try their hand at volunteering with food relief in 2025.



Peter Walsh MP

Our local member popped by the house to catch up on the latest, get a tour, and see how he and his team might be able to help the house. Thanks Peter!

Thanks to our visitors in 2025! If you; or a group you work with, would like a tour please get in touch. We would be delighted to show you around and get you involved.



RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS

Community House Library

While you're at the house learning, meeting friends or picking up some food relief, make sure you check out our mini-library. With books for the young and young at heart, there'll be something to entertain and inspire.



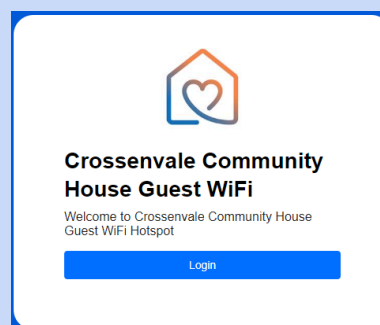
Have old books you're not going to read any more?

Don't let them just sit there collecting dust! We'd love you to donate them and give others the chance to experience the thrill and adventure of reading? We will take books of all shapes and sizes for every age.

Free Wifi

From your laptop or mobile device, click on **Crossenvale Guest Wifi** and follow the prompts. You can then find a space inside or chill out in the garden while getting your online needs sorted.

If you have problems getting online our staff and volunteers are more than happy to help!



Food Relief

Our food relief program turns your \$2 coin into 2-3 days worth of delicious food. Hampers contain bread, milk, fresh produce and pantry staples, as well as a few goodies.

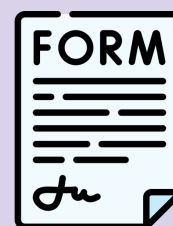


Our Awesome Partners

We thank Foodshare Bendigo and the FoodBank for their support on behalf of food relief programs everywhere.

Printing, Forms, Applications and More

Applications and paperwork can be a real pain, but we're here to help! Book a time or pop in for support and guidance. We can then help you onto our wifi for you to update and submit those important documents.



COMMUNITY FOOD RELIEF PROGRAM GRANT

Crossenvale Community House has been fortunate enough to be funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to complete the project titled *Crossenvale Community Kitchen and Garden Upgrade* under the 2024-25 Community Food Relief Program - Local Grants.

The Community Food Relief Program – Local Grants supports food relief activities and food security initiatives delivered by neighbourhood houses, community and volunteer-led organisations across Victoria.

Crossenvale Community House will upgrade our kitchen to improve safety and capacity, including commercial fridge and freezer, benches, and storage; be able to access additional food purchasing; deliver cooking and nutrition education, and facilitate food safety training for community members and volunteers.

We are thrilled to be chosen to deliver this program and would like to thank everyone who contributed to the development of the application. With your support, we can do some amazing things in 2025.



SHARE THE DIGNITY UPDATE

Thanks to Michelle and the team at Share the Dignity in Echuca for resupplying Crossenvale Community House with more bags for women through their annual *It's in the Bag* campaign. We now have more capacity to support women and those who menstruate to access the items that they need. If you or someone you know finds themselves in need of sanitary and hygiene items, please contact us and we can support.



SEASON'S GREETINGS: PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Spooky Scenes at Crossenvale

CrossenWail wasn't a CrossenFail as about 12 families descended on CCH for an hour of activities, lollies and family fun. Scavenger hunts, floors of lava and spooky decorations made for a brilliant time.



Given the success of the small event this year, and the cars still going past after the event had finished, staff and volunteers are looking forward to this year's event being bigger and better. We will also be carving pumpkins again after Belinda's trial effort was a success.



Spreading Christmas Cheer

30 Crossenvale families had an extra special Christmas in 2024 in 2025 with hampers going out to members. A special thanks must go to Echuca Woolworths for their amazing coordination of quite a lot of goodies, and Echuca Big W for their generous contribution of toys to our toy drive. Thanks David, Stacey and your teams for your amazing efforts in what is always a busy and tiring time of year for retail staff.



Thanks also to our beautiful members who provided us with overwhelmingly lovely feedback. It certainly put a pep in staff and volunteers' steps heading into the break.

Easter 2025

Have you got ideas for how we can celebrate and decorate Easter in 2025! We will have some crafts running but if you've got the ideas, we've got the passion to make them happen. Pop in and chat with us!



GET INVOLVED AT CROSSENVALE

BECOME A MEMBER

Becoming a member is super easy. We'll help you fill out your application and, once approved by the committee, you become a member!

What does it mean to be a member of Crossenvale Community House?

- You are part of an awesome community organisation of that includes members, volunteers, committee of management and staff,
- You are welcome to join activities as a participant,
- You have the right to vote and have your say at Committee of Management meetings.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Want to be heard AND contribute more to the Crossenvale community? Then volunteering might be for you!

We are looking for generous people who have some spare time and an interest/passion that they can share. Once you've completed our induction, we'll support you in your role and provide free training. You'll be building our community's capacity, your self-confidence and your resume.

JOIN OUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Learn the finer details of governance and operating a community group from Crossenvale and Echuca-Moama's expert committee of management team. Don't just have your say, but be part of making decisions that shape the future of Crossenvale Community House.

To become a member, a volunteer, or to join our committee of management team, please see Rob for a copy of the paperwork and to discuss the process.

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

JANUARY

24

International Day of Education

In celebration of the role of education for peace and development

unesco.org/en/days/education



Australia Day
To unite all Australians through celebration and reflection
australiaday.org.au/about/nadc

26

FEBRUARY

1-7

World Interfaith Harmony Week

Recognising the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people

un.org/en/observances/interfaith-harmony-week



Anniversary of the Apology to members of the Stolen Generations
Marking the anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations, who suffered trauma because of past government policies of forced child removal
healingfoundation.org.au/apology-2/

13

20

World Day of Social Justice

Enhancing the concept that advancing social justice should be the central aim guiding all national and international policies

un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day



Ramadan
The ninth month of the Muslim calendar and the holy month of fasting. It begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon

27/3 -
9/4

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR (cont.)

MARCH

3

Clean Up Australia Day

Improving and conserving our environment, one piece of litter at a time!

cleanup.org.au/cleanupaustraliaday



International
Women's Day

International Women's Day

Achieving gender equality and women's well-being in all aspects of life is more crucial than ever if we want to create prosperous economies and a healthy planet

un.org/en/observances/womens-day

8

18-24

Harmony Week

A celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds

harmony.gov.au



Easter Weekend

For many Christian churches, Easter is the joyful end to the Lenten season of fasting and penitence

18-21

30

International Day of Zero Waste

Addressing the unsustainable production and consumption practices are driving the planet towards destruction

un.org/en/observances/zero-waste-day



Apologies for missing any dates that are significant to your culture, religion or beliefs. Please share them with us as we would love to know more.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON!!



Contact Us



Manager Rob Foran - 0459 049 474



(03) 5480 3583



28 Boothman Street, Echuca



crossenvale@gmail.com



CrossenvaleCommunityHouse



crossenvale.com