



TERM 3, 2026 NEWSLETTER

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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

We say it every year, but where has the first half of it gone! Rather than hibernate, Crossenvale has kept busy over the cooler months. We've seen a consistent rise in people accessing food relief, continued to grow our program offerings and look set to re-launch our Garden Club.

We'd like to thank our Fill-a-Bag supporters (read further to see where we're at) and get the scoop on our new adventure - The Shed Lining Project. The transition from Winter into Spring usually brings new growth, and we're hoping that Crossenvale is no different.

CROSSENVALE CONVERSATIONS

In this edition, we ask our house leaders, “*What are you excited about?*”



Rob Foran - House Manager

I am super excited about the Shed Lining Project. We have activities running in our lone indoor room and simply cannot fit both the resources and people to continue growing what we are doing. I am also excited that we are getting regular requests to join our amazing volunteers. We have had three new requests in the last month and our Monday morning food relief scramble has turned into a cantor. I hope we can keep up the momentum!



Rebecca Burns - Committee Chair

I'm excited to see Crossenvale Community House gaining real momentum as we continue to grow our impact in the community. It's incredibly rewarding to see more people accessing our food relief program and knowing we're making a practical difference for those who need it most. I'm also encouraged by the new relationships we're building with local organisations that share our commitment to supporting the community. These partnerships are opening up new opportunities to work together, expand our reach, and ensure we can continue providing meaningful support. It's inspiring to see what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared purpose.



Frank Crawley - Treasurer

I'm excited that the committee has adopted a budget for 2026/27 and reviewed and updated several policies and procedures that will be considered in the July meeting for adoption. We have finished the 2025/26 financial year with a modest surplus which is a good result given that a lot of community houses struggle to break-even. As we continue to grow it's important that we have strong finance and governance processes in place to manage the many challenges we're sure to face.

FILL-A-BAG CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Crossenvale Community House would like to thank the Echuca Lions Club for filling our ELEVENTH Fill-a-Bag in 2026. With the Committee of Management setting the goal of filling 10 bags in our first year, we are rapt that yet another awesome community minded group has jumped on board to support what we're doing.

By cutting down our food costs, our house can put more resources into building our community's capacity and connection. Our focus, in line with NHVic's requirements and community development principles, can remain on supporting growth, not just fulfilling people's survival needs.



Echuca Lions Club



All hearts to our 2026 supporters!

A thank you pack is on its way to our supporters, and we look forward to patronising and/or supporting their services in return. While we will continue to push for more supporters in 2026, we will also now turn an eye to 2027. If you, a group you are a part of, or someone you know may be interested in how you can Fill-a-Bag, contact Rob using the details on the backpage.

We thank our Inaugural Sponsors in 2026:

- Rotary Club of Echuca Moama
- Shine Bright Community Op Shop
- Latte Lane / GlutenFree4U
- Echuca Workers
- Anonymous Community Group
- John & Gwen Howe
- Echuca Lions Club



LATE MAIL: As this newsletter goes to print, we'd like to thank a generous local couple who have donated our TWELVETH and THIRTHEENTH Fill-a-Bags! Absolutely over the moon!!!

Fill a bag of food for your community

By Ryan Bellingham

Businesses and community organisations can join the food relief effort locally by teaming up with their peers to fill a bag for Crossenvale Community House.

After seeing substantial growth in demand from families seeking food hampers, ballooning from 16 per week to 30 by the end of last year, manager Rob Foran crunched the numbers.

Accounting for the cost of food, transport and packaging, Mr Foran landed on an annual cost of \$759.50 per bag, with the house open for 50 weeks of the year.

"That's what we're asking for to be able to fill a bag," he said.

Between Echuca Workers, Shine Bright Op Shop, the Rotary Club of Echuca-Moama, and Latte Lane, seven bags have already been pledged this year.

"We've got 23 more hampers to fill. That's 23 more families we can support with this funding, and it'd be lovely if we could get that going as soon as possible," Mr Foran said.

Recent data from Healthy Loddon Campaspe



A new campaign is calling on businesses to support those experiencing food insecurity. Pictured are Echuca Workers' Damien Dimech, Latte Lane owner David Cunningham, Echuca-Moama Rotary Club president Richard Carlson, Echuca Workers' Jordan Simpson, Shine Bright Op Shop's Jade Rourke and Carlie Leach, and Crossenvale Community House manager Rob Foran.

Photo: Ryan Bellingham

found food insecurity had nearly doubled in its catchment since 2019. Around 150 meals leave the Crossenvale kitchen each month, supporting the growing number of people struggling with the cost of living by subsidising their food bill.

While the community house is glad to support those in need, Mr Foran hoped the new campaign would free up resources to address other important issues. By covering the cost of the food relief program, the more government and grant funding can be directed towards social inclusion, education and development activities.

"If we can fill all 30 bags, then we can run some really vibrant programs," Mr Foran said. "We can redeploy those funds to do stuff like tackle the loneliness epidemic that Australia is facing at the moment."

The community house currently runs two craft groups, a gardening club

and a public morning tea, alongside cooking and food handling classes each term.

Mr Foran thanked the businesses and groups that had already contributed to the campaign, and said he looked forward to hearing from more. "It makes our life here 1000 times easier every

time we get one of these bags filled," he said.

For more information about the campaign and how to join, email crossenvale@gmail.com or phone Mr Foran on 0459 049 474.

Anyone in need of food relief is welcome to visit Crossenvale Community House at 28 Boothman St, Echuca.

WHAT'S ON IN TERM 3, 2026?

MONDAY

Food Relief Prep 9am-10:30am
Women's Group 11am-1pm

Food Relief 10am-4pm



Bookings essential for most of our programs due to space. Please use the details at the end of the newsletter to nab your spot.

Women's Group now WEEKLY!

WEDNESDAY

Mosaic with Vivid 10:30am-2pm
Lookin' to Get Cookin' 11am-2pm

Got a Program Idea? Come have a chat with Rob!

Food Relief 10am-3pm



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

TUESDAY

Garden Club 9am-11am
Cuppa & Chat 11am-1pm
Lookin' to Get Cookin' 11am-2pm

Food Relief 9am-4pm

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



THURSDAY

Community Meals 10am-1pm
Crossenvale Craft It 11am-2pm

Admin Support 9am-2:30pm

Employment Support

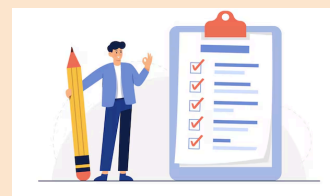
- Resumes & Cover Letters
- Applications
- Interview Skills

IT Support

- Basic Computer Troubleshooting
- Printing (10c B&W / 20c Colour)

Forms Support

- Housing
- Services Australia (Centrelink)



SHED LINING PROJECT

Well, you've gotten to the article in the Newsletter that you've been waiting for (and I hope you didn't skip past our musings on Page 2!). The Committee of Management have decided that, given the lack of space available for new activities in the house and the community outcry for programs we aren't currently able to offer, the Crossenvale Shed Lining Project needs to get underway.



Completely accurate depiction of Before and After

We have spent some of the past twelve months decluttering the shed, finding new homes for items that we no longer have use for and repurposing others. Now, we have begun the process of:

- Developing a broad plan of attack and a bit of a wishlist,
- Considered funding opportunities, and,
- Commenced conversations with council and local tradies.

Our goal is for the shed to become the home of our creative programs (mosaics, craft, women's group etc), with the addition of some new art and craft activities and youth space. Our room inside the house will be used for meetings and classroom activities.

We absolutely cannot wait to get the shed operational, and we welcome your feedback and ideas as to what we could add to the project or what courses we could use the shed for.

WINTER BLUES GUITARS

For the second year in a row, Crossenvale Community House has proudly supported the Echuca Moama Winter Blues Festival's popular Guitar Decorating Project, once again bringing creativity, community spirit, and plenty of colour to the event.

This year, participants from a range of Crossenvale programs came together to transform 12 guitars into unique works of art. Using a variety of techniques including painting, mosaics, and scrapbooking, each guitar became a one-of-a-kind creation reflecting the imagination and talent of the people involved.



Rob and Wendy modelling some of the terrific guitars

The project provided a wonderful opportunity for community members to connect, learn new creative skills, and contribute to a major local event. It also showcased the inclusive and welcoming environment that Crossenvale Community House strives to foster through its programs.

The decorated guitars will be displayed as part of the festival, adding to the vibrant atmosphere and highlighting the incredible creativity that exists within our local community. The Echuca Library and the Winter Blues Festival organisers were delighted with the quality and originality of the finished guitars and expressed their appreciation for Crossenvale's ongoing contribution to the project.

Crossenvale would like to thank We Are Vivid for their contribution to this activity, with many of the mosaic guitars expertly assembled by the team.

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.



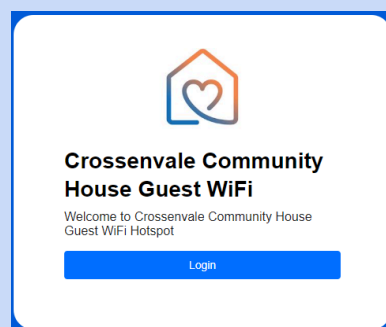
Have old books you're not going to read any more?

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 donation 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.

Share the Dignity and Hygiene Supplies

Please speak to Rob or our volunteers should you need feminine hygiene products, condoms, or any other hygiene supplies. We also have dignity bags for women who have recently become homeless or are escaping violence.



NEW DESIGN FOR MOSAIC PROGRAM

Crossenvale Community House is excited to welcome Belinda Threlfall as the new leader of our popular Mosaic Group. After volunteering with Crossenvale for the past 12 months, Belinda is stepping into her first ongoing program leadership role, bringing enthusiasm, creativity, and a passion for community connection.

Belinda is currently studying Community Services at Bendigo TAFE and leading this program is a great way for her to put some of her learning into practice. We are excited to see the program continue to grow under Belinda's leadership and welcome anyone interested in joining to come along and get involved.



Bel mid-design of our latest mosaic project

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to We Are Vivid for launching the Mosaic Program in 2024. Their vision and support have helped establish a thriving community activity that continues to bring people together.

The group has already completed several impressive community projects, including beautiful mosaic Aboriginal and Australian flags, and is now working on a large Crossenvale Community House logo to complete its current project.

To celebrate the group's creativity and achievements, Crossenvale Community House will host a special showcase later this year, giving the community an opportunity to admire the participants' incredible mosaic artworks and celebrate everything the group has accomplished together.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Food Relief

Three Days per Week - Year Around

Monday-Wednesdays, 10:00am-3:00pm

Come in to get your pantry staples, fresh produce, frozen meals and more.



Women's Group NOW WEEKLY!

Weekly - In Term

Mondays, 11:00am-1:00pm

Come join us for morning tea and some craft projects as we celebrate our second year. Lisa has some great ideas to kick off the year, with your input valued.

Mosaic Madness

Weekly - In Term

Wednesdays, 10:30am-2:00pm

After completing an Aboriginal and Australian Flag mosaic, as well as Winter Echuca-Moama Winter Blues Festival guitars in 2025, the team will continue their mosaic madness in 2026. Keep your eyes peeled for a start date.



Crossenvale Craft It

Weekly - In Term

Thursdays, 11:00am-2:00pm

Term 3 will see a focus on scrapbooking and card making, but Wendy is always happy for you to bring in your own craft projects to work on. As always, it's free to join with some materials provided.

Lookin' to Get Cookin'

Twice Weekly - Year Around

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11:00am-1:00pm

Help us get healthy, delicious home-cooked meals out into our community. Join our cooking group, learn new skills and make new connections.



PROGRAM UPDATES (cont.)



***Community Meals NEW**

Weekly - Year Around

Time: Thursdays, 10:00am-1:00pm

Pop in and grab a home cooked meal to eat with the group or take home. We would love for you to stay and chat!

Garden Club

Weekly - Year Around

Time: Tuesdays, 9:00am-11:00am

We're back up and running again! Tend to the garden over a cuppa, and enjoy a little bit of dirt therapy. Also, come pick from our garden 24/7 when you want to bulk up your meals at home.



Cuppa & Chat

Weekly - In Term

Time: Tuesday, 11:00am-1:00pm

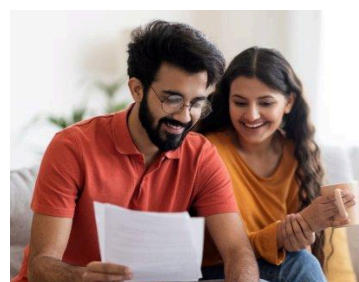
Changing to Tuesdays! Come in for morning tea and get involved in a puzzle or quiz.

***Thursday Admin Support**

Weekly - Year Around

Time: 9am-2pm

While we can do the odd job here and there, Thursday is still the dedicated day to sit down with Rob for forms help, employment support and computer needs.



***Bookings Preferred**

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 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.



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU SOON!!**



Contact Us



Manager Rob Foran - 0459 049 474



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CrossenvaleCommunityHouse



crossenvale.com