



TERM 4, 2025 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- House Recap - Term 3
- Community Garden Update
- CFRG Update
- What's On in Term 4, 2025?
- Seniors Bus Tour
- Keep Our Doors Open
- Halloween Spooktacular
- Resources for Residents
- Program Updates
- AGM - A New Committee
- 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

Wow, how are we heading (very quickly) towards Halloween and Christmas already? Time stops for no one, and this could not be truer for Crossenvale Community House.

In this edition, get a glimpse of our Halloween and Christmas plans, see our Seniors out and about, get involved in our latest campaigns, and welcome our new committee.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

After the Big Lift Crew completed the shift of our garden from the back block into our yard, the Apex Echuca Moama fellas have commenced work on leveling the garden, installing the watering system and replanting all of our produce. We are a few weeks away from planting, but the results will be terrific!



The Apex crew cleaning up after the Big Lift did their magic

Matt from Apex reckons, 'we're glad to be able to get involved in projects with Crossenvale Community House. It's such a great thing they do for the community and to be a part of that is pretty special. We know that what comes out of this garden ends up on plates of people who really need it. We're also pretty rapt to be part of healthier eating in our community.' Well summed up I'd say.



Chef Lisa with her amazing Spag Bol

Once this is all done, Lisa will be delighted to have extra produce for her super tasty meals. She is very excited!

COMMUNITY FOOD RELIEF GRANT UPDATE

We have entered the final phase of this program which includes the roll out of training for Food Safety training and Cooking Classes. We have already conducted one food safety course facilitated by Kyabram Community & Learning Centre trainer (and former committee member) Helen Ozdilek, with another three sessions available. With Rob, Lynne, Beth and Belinda all passing, it was a successful first effort!



The installation and the final product

Future dates for the Food Handling Courses will be advertised on Facebook and our website soon, with spaces limited. We are excited to not only learn how to cook amazing dishes, but to also bolster our food relief efforts.

Of course, Crossenvale Community House acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund.



WHAT'S ON IN TERM 4, 2025?

MONDAY

Food Relief Prep	9am-10:30am
Morning Tea	10:30am-12pm
Food Relief	10am-2:30pm



* Fortnightly. Bookings preferred.

** Dates left in 2025

- 28/10
- **Cancelled** 11/11
- 25/11
- 9/12

TUESDAY

Garden Club	10am-11am
Women's Group**	11am-1pm
Bendigo TAFE Resumes*	1pm-3pm
Food Relief	10am-2:30pm

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



WEDNESDAY

Craft w CCH & Vivid	10am-1:30pm
Souper Dooper Soup	12pm-1:30pm

Food Relief	10am-2:30pm
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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

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

Forms Support

- Housing
- Services Australia (Centrelink)



SENIORS WEEK BUS TOUR

In what is quickly becoming an annual event, Rob took 5 Crossenvale participants on another tour of the Campaspe Shire. The crew set off from Crossenvale and headed to Torrumbarry Weir to take in the awesome power of the water flowing through, as well as to learn about the history of dams and lochs in the area.

The bus then set off for the Gunbower Workshop Cafe for a coffee boost and a light snack before meandering through the Whipstick National Park. Arriving in Lockington, the group had an amazing lunch at the Lockington Community Pub before a terrific opportunity led to an impromptu change in plans. Rather than take in Iddles Lane in Rochester, new house Chair Bec organised a private tour of the Lockington & District Living Heritage Complex. Their collection only comes second to the customer service and is well worth a look.



Visiting the Heritage Centre and with John giving an insight into SFLG's work

The gang then capped off the day by visiting the Strathallan Family Landcare Group's Glider Sanctuary to see their latest conservation efforts and get up close and personal with a glider at feeding time.

All involved had a sensational day out and are looking forward to going on another adventure during Seniors Week in 2026. Everyone wished to thank Campaspe Shire Council for their contribution to the day. Thanks also to Bec who was wearing two hats as a representative of the Campaspe Shire Council (and chief photographer), as well as representing the house.

KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN

BACK THE CAMPAIGN TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF OUR SECTOR

Imagine every neighbourhood in Victoria thriving — where people of all ages and backgrounds can access support, build skills, find connection, and belong.

Neighbourhood Houses are the heart of these communities — offering vital services, education, and a welcoming place for everyone.

But right now, Neighbourhood Houses are at breaking point. Nearly half of all Houses in Victoria have recorded a loss for two years running. The Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) no longer covers the true cost of employing a manager for the funded hours (let alone other operational costs!), and inadequate funding has become the number one wellbeing issue identified by managers across the state.

Years of underfunding mean too many Houses are operating with limited staff and stretched resources — despite growing demand and a rise in complex safety issues, including mental health crises and instances of violence. Houses are being forced to cut open hours, reduce programs, or fundraise just to turn on the lights.

Unless government acts, more doors will close — and communities will lose trusted, safe and inclusive spaces they rely on every day.

Our Campaign Ask

In the 2026 Victorian Budget, we call on the State Government to increase the NHCP hourly rate by 25% (an additional \$11.7M annually). This increase is the minimum required to restore funding to sustainable levels.



Neighbourhood
Houses Victoria™





Neighbourhood
Houses Victoria™



KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN

BACK THE CAMPAIGN TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF OUR SECTOR

Why it matters

Neighbourhood Houses are the heart of our communities. With restored funding, we can continue to:

- Keep our doors open for the most vulnerable
- Provide pathways into jobs and lifelong learning
- Deliver emergency food and material relief
- Support volunteers and strengthen social connection
- Build safer, healthier, more resilient communities

The Bottom Line

Neighbourhood Houses deliver enormous social and economic value. But with the NHCP rate 20% lower than a decade ago, open hours have dropped to their lowest level in 10 years.

It's simple: without sustainable funding, our doors will close. With fair funding, we will continue to be the safe, welcoming places every Victorian community needs.

By the Numbers

- **\$230 million lost:** In 2024–25, communities lost \$230 million in benefit when activity funds were diverted to basic operating costs.
- **45–46%:** Almost half of Neighbourhood Houses ran at a loss in the last two years.
- **Fundraising for basics:** Neighbourhood Houses are now forced to fundraise and hold sausage sizzles just to pay for basics like phones, internet, and electricity.

Without fair funding, we risk losing:

- **183,000** weekly visits to Neighbourhood Houses
- **5,900** jobs and **12,000** volunteers supported
- **\$921 million** in measurable community value — a **\$11.02** return on every \$1 invested
- Ran over **426,000** group activity sessions and provided **10,400** referrals
- Provided over **244** tons of food relief monthly
- Supported over **5,945** other community groups

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

New volunteer and Halloween enthusiast Belinda is going to be leading the team this year to put on a Halloween event for the kids of Crossenvale. In the final year of her VCE-VM studies, Belinda will be able to count elements of the planning, promotion and carrying out of the event towards her studies.

Bel is excited, and a little nervous, about pulling together the event, but she can be assured that she will have the house and community's full support. Bel is planning small activities, spooky decorations, photo ops, and of course a bucket load of lollies (or candy, if you want to be all American!).



Last year's very spooky guests posing for a photo

The event will be on Halloween, Friday 31 October from 3:30pm - 5:30pm. All ages welcome and costumes encouraged!



Resident Spookster Belinda... I wonder what costume she will be donning?!

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.

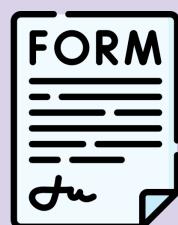


Our Awesome Partners

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

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.



PROGRAM UPDATES

WOMEN'S CRAFT & CHAT

We have had a few sessions now and the group is thriving. So far the gang have created journals and mandalas, as well as started a jigsaw puzzle. Lisa has really pulled out all the stops in getting this program off the ground and the reward has been everyone having a great time together. We can't wait to see how this program expands and are pleased to announce that it is a permanent part of our weekly calendar.

So come in every second Tuesday, grab some delicious morning tea (currently being supplied by Moama Bakery), and enjoy the company of some fabulous women.



What a top group of people!!!

MORNING TEA GROUP

We're still waiting on an amazing community member to be the host of our Morning Tea group. If you've got an hour spare and happy to help out, we'd love to hear from you!



PROGRAM UPDATES

VIVID x CROSSENVALE ART & CRAFT

- Australia Flag
- Aboriginal Flag
- Personal Project - Winter Blues Guitars for 2026

The Mosaic Group have worked hard this year to complete two amazing murals and a little something for themselves. Now on the final stretch of their mosaic program, their last hurdle will be getting a Crossenvale Community House mural done.

Do you think they can do it? ... Of course they can! We look forward to having a celebration day and unveiling of the murals, likely in early 2026. Thanks to Vivid for their ongoing support and Jackie for her patient guidance. What a heap of fun!



A combination of fun and focus in this picture

SHARE THE DIGNITY

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.



AGM 2025 - A NEW COMMITTEE

Welcome to our new Committee of Management!

Rebecca Burns comes in as our new Chair, Beth Kimball remains our Secretary, and Iris Hicks, Robin Webb and Lisa Roberts are joined by Derek Jones as ordinary members.

Rebecca noted that, "I came across a callout on the Crossenvale Community House Facebook page seeking committee members, and it struck me as a great chance to get involved with a local organisation doing meaningful work in Echuca. Although I'd only recently joined, there was an opportunity to step into the role of chair and I was glad to put my hand up and contribute." We're glad you took a punt Rebecca!



The New Committee (Iris Absent) with Manager Rob

We are still on the look out for a Treasurer. If you have great financial governance, or are looking to develop your skills, please contact the house for a chat.

The committee thanks departing committee members Mel Cordy, Sheridan Clark, Helen Ozdilek and Kevin Shead for their contributions to the house's governance over the past twelve months and beyond.



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

OCTOBER

1-31

National Safe at Work Month

For employers and workers across Australia commit to creating safe and healthy workplaces
safeworkaustralia.gov.au/national-safe-work-month



World Teachers Day
Celebrating the Gift of Learning and Teaching
worldteachersday.edu.au

5

10

World Mental Health Day

Raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilise efforts
who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day



National Coming Out Day
Be proud of who you are and your support for LGBTQ+ equality
hrc.org/campaigns/national-coming-out-day

11

20

Crossenvale Community House AGM

11am at 28 Boothman Street, Echuca
All Positions Vacant and All Welcome



Anniversary of the Uluru Handback
Commemorating the Handing Back of Uluru to Traditional Owners in 1985
deadlystory.com (Search: Uluru Handed Back)

26

NOVEMBER

11

Remembrance Day

At 11am a minute's silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation.
awm.gov.au/commemoration/rememberance-day



Transgender Awareness Week
Raising the visibility of transgender people and address issues members of the community face
lgbtqhealth.org.au/transgender Awareness_Week

13-19



NOVEMBER (cont)

19

World Toilet Day

For billions of people, sanitation is under threat from conflict, climate change, disasters and neglect
un.org/en/observances/toilet-day



#NOEXCUSE

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Beginning of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign
un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day

25

DECEMBER

1

World AIDS Day

Bringing together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS
worldaidsday.org.au/



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Promoting understanding and mobilising support for the dignity, rights and well-being of people with disabilities
idpwd.org

3

10

Human Rights Day

To promote the values, and rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day



International Migrants Day

We reflect on and celebrate the contributions of millions of migrants worldwide
un.org/en/observances/migrants-day

18

10

Christmas Day

Ho, Ho, Ho... Merry Christmas



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

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