



## TERM 1, 2026 NEWSLETTER

### IN THIS ISSUE

- House Recap - Term 4, 2025
- Fill-a-Bag Campaign Launch
- CFRG Update
- What's On in Term 1, 2026?
- Volunteer Achievements
- Christmas @ CCH
- Keep Our Doors Open
- Resources for Residents
- Program Updates
- 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

We hope you have enjoyed the Christmas holiday period and are refreshed and ready to go.

In Term 4, we supported the Keep Our Doors Open Campaign by NHVic, spread heaps of Christmas cheer through our annual hamper haul, added cooking and food hygiene to our programs and completed the Community Food Relief Grant Program.

While there's another year in the rearview mirror, there's no time for resting on our laurels as we burst into 2026. Let's dive in!

## FILL-A-BAG CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

In February 2026, Crossenvale Community House will launch its Fill-a-Bag fundraising campaign, an initiative designed to support families in our community who need a little extra help. The goal is simple but impactful: to fill 30 bags, each representing a full year of essential food support for a local family.

S

Each bag costs \$759.50, an amount that provides nutritious food and peace of mind for an entire year. Thanks to the generosity of our community, seven bags have already been filled, giving seven families the security of knowing their basic needs will be met in 2026.



A sneak peek in a bag, and some of the meals that are lovingly made with food relief items

But there is still more to do.

Every bag filled brings us closer to our goal and makes a tangible difference in someone's life. For families facing rising living costs and food insecurity, this support means less stress, healthier meals, and the ability to focus on education, wellbeing, and connection rather than survival.

The Fill-a-Bag campaign is about more than fundraising; it's about community care, compassion, and shared responsibility. Together, we can ensure that 30 families start and move through 2026 with dignity, nourishment, and hope.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Echuca Moama (x2), Shine Bright Op Shop (x2), Latte Lane / GlutenFree4U and Echuca Workers (x2) who have already backed our Campaign. Please make sure you support our generous backers!

## COMMUNITY FOOD RELIEF GRANT UPDATE

We have expended the Community Food Relief Program, and have six Cooking Classes and a Nationally Recognised Food Handling Course left to run in 2026. Over \$41,000 of new equipment, training, food relief and kitchen/garden materials have put the house in an even stronger position to achieve one of our primary goals; to ensure the food security and connection in Crossenvale!



Our brand new fridge and freezer before they were chock-a-block full of food

I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts and understanding when we had moments of upheaval (it's not every day that two enormous white goods are dropped on your door step at a moment's notice). We just got on with the job and now enjoy the amazing new amenities.

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



# WHAT'S ON IN TERM 1, 2026?

## MONDAY

**Food Relief Prep** 9am-10:30am  
**Cuppa & Chat** 11am-12:30pm

**Food Relief** 10am-3pm



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

**Start dates for each program vary. Drop into the house or check our socials for more details.**

## TUESDAY

**Garden Club** 9am-11am  
**Women's Group\*\*** 11am-1pm  
**Cooking Classes** 1pm-4pm

**Food Relief** 10am-3pm

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



## WEDNESDAY

**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.

## THURSDAY

**Crossenvale Craft It** 11am-2pm  
**Admin Support** 9am-2:30pm

Employment Support

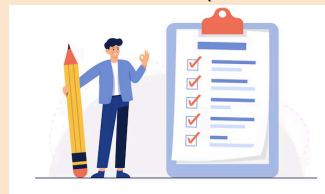
- Resumes & Cover Letters
- Applications
- Interview Skills

IT Support

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

Forms Support

- Housing
- Services Australia (Centrelink)



## VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

Our 2025 Campaspe Shire Council Echuca Volunteer Group of the Year Winners did not disappoint off the back of their award! Our volunteers clocked 1,679 hours of hard work and dedication at the house, equating to a gargantuan 44.2 full time weeks worked! At Australia's minimum wage, this is approximately \$42,000 worth of effort that has been kindly donated to the house. Can you believe that?! Bloody legends!

And while it is hard to single out achievements, for fear of missing someone out, it feels important to share some.

After being nominated by the house, Lisa attended Parliament House in Melbourne as a Victorian finalist in the Francis Pennington Award. Accompanied by Mollie and Beth, Lisa was recognised for her outstanding contributions and growth over the past twelve months at the house.

Lisa was brought up to receive a High Commendation amongst a group of high calibre nominees. CCH is proud of the contribution of all of our volunteers, but congratulations to Lisa on this fantastic recognition.



Lisa and Bel with their awards

Not to be outdone by her aunty, Bel completed her Year 12 at Bendigo TAFE, earning a Community Contribution Award. Bel used some of her volunteering activities and learnings to complete aspects of her studies. The house could not be prouder to have been a small part in her educational journey and wish her all the best in Bendigo in 2026 (and expect her to still come back and help when she can!).

## CHRISTMAS AT CROSSENVALE

In the midst of the silly season, the Crossenvale team again banded together to make 28 family's Christmases just that little bit brighter. Woolworths Echuca (and in particular Store Manager David) dragged over 750 items off the shelves and delivered them to the house for us to sort, pack and hand out. Combined with over 250 items from our food relief reserves, it was a Herculean effort once again!



Representatives from Woolworths Echuca store posing with the goodies

Big W also brought out the big guns, with 4 enormous bags of gifts for our Crossenvale kids. This was a result of the generosity of our community who purchased pressies and left them at the front of the store coupled with the coordination of Big W (and Store Manager Stacey).



We picked up that enormous crate... times two!!

We can't thank the community and these stores enough for the kindness and Christmas cheer that they spread every year. Looking forward to doing it again in 2026!

# KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN

Crossenvale Community House, as one of over 400 houses in Neighbourhood Houses Victoria's (NHVic) network are proudly supporting its push to Keep Our Doors Open. With our primary funding not keeping up with inflation and other pressures, it means that many houses in the state are struggling to financially maintain their operations at the level their community requires.



Managers handing the Hon Peter Walsh MP our houses' postcards

In December, Rob and the managers of the other 7 houses in our Campaspe Cluster met with the Hon. Peter Walsh MP to hand him our postcards that will be presented to parliament as part of our statewide petition. Thanks to those who filled out a postcard, as everyone sends a unique message to our leaders that more is needed. Our next push will be NHVic's 'Day of Action' in February.



Our campaign goes on!!

# 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.



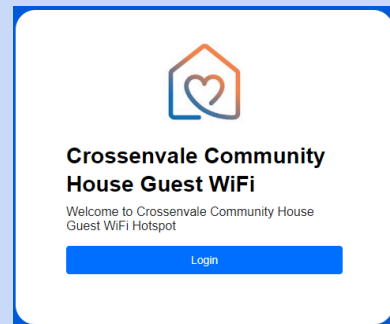
*Have old books you're not going to read any more?*

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.

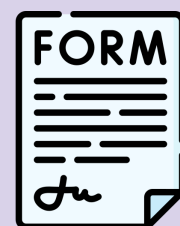


*Our Awesome Partners*

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

## Food Relief

Mon-Wed 10am-3pm

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



## \*Women's Group

Start Date: Tue, 3 Feb (Fortnightly)

Time: 11am-1pm

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.

## Mosaics with CCH and We Are Vivid

Start Date: Wed, Late Feb

Time: 10:30am-1:30pm

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

Start Date: Thu, 12/2 (Weekly)

Time: 11am-2pm

Wendy joins our team of volunteers to provide your weekly craft outlet. 1-3 week projects in T1 include Jewellery Decoration, Scrap Booking, and Easter Crafts.

## \*Cooking Classes

Start Date: 10/2 (6 Sessions)

Time: Tue, 1pm-4pm

Helen leads our cooking group to create simple, home cooked meals that bring items you'll find in our food relief to life. May be held off site depending on numbers.



## PROGRAM UPDATES (cont.)



### **\*Food Handling Course (Nationally Recognised Training)**

Date: 20/2 (One Session)

Time: 10am-1pm

Become hospitality industry ready by completing your Follow Workplace Hygiene Procedures ticket in a supportive, friendly environment.

Thanks to Kyabram Community & Learning Centre (KCLC) for your support with the Cooking Classes and Food Handling Certificate. Thanks also to the Victorian State Government for their support in funding these activities.

### **Garden Club**

Date: TBA (Weekly)

Time: TBA

Our amazing team from Echuca Moama Apex Club are putting the finishing touches on our recently moved community garden for us to relaunch the Garden Club in 2026.



### **Cuppa & Chat**

Date: Mon, 9 Feb (Weekly)

Time: 11am-12:30pm

When our food relief sorting crew knock off, they'd like to join you for a small morning tea and chat. Come along for a cuppa and a laugh!

### **\*Thursday Admin Support**

Every Thursday

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 Required

# 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](http://unesco.org/en/days/education)



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION



**Australia Day**  
To unite all Australians through celebration and reflection  
[australiaday.org.au/about/nadc](http://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](http://un.org/en/observances/interfaith-harmony-week)

WORLD 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/](http://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](http://un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day)



WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE  
20 FEBRUARY



**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

16/2-18/3

# DATES FOR THE CALENDAR (cont.)

## MARCH

1

### Clean Up Australia Day

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

[cleanup.org.au/cleanupaustaliaday](http://cleanup.org.au/cleanupaustaliaday)



### Easter Weekend

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

3-6

8

### 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](http://un.org/en/observances/womens-day)



International Women's Day

## HARMONY WEEK

### Harmony Week

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

[harmony.gov.au](http://harmony.gov.au)

16-22

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](http://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