

Bowen Meals on Wheels President's Report – 2020.

2020 has been a challenging year around the world and especially for those organisations who rely on volunteers; many of whom are retirees and have been considered more vulnerable to the COVID 19 virus. While Bowen has not been directly impacted with positive cases, it has still meant that we must comply with all the government COVID – 19 regulations.

A big thank you to must be extended to our loyal volunteers who have remained dedicated to Meals on Wheels during these trying times. Special note must be made of the fact that long standing volunteer Beryl Read has been acknowledged by Qld Meals on Wheels with a "Living Legend" award. Congratulations Beryl you most definitely deserve to be recognised for your years of commitment; and thank you to our Treasurer Chris for all her work preparing the nomination.

Beryl has been a stalwart of this organisation ensuring the rosters are done and stepping in anywhere there is a need. Thank you Beryl for your ongoing dedication to the organisation.

A successful application for a Volunteers Grant enabled the purchase of name badges, hand sanitizer and fuel vouchers to be distributed to volunteers.

Bowen Meals on Wheels has seen some changes over the past year, largely due to the expertise of our Treasurer, Chris, who has guided us further into the world of modern technology, firstly introducing online banking/bill paying and then the introduction of Polixen software which has the ability to store a multitude of information that is readily available at the touch of a button.

Tamara our cook, continues to be a great asset to the organisation, ensuring meals are tasty and nutritious and all areas of food handling and regulatory compliance are maintained.

Throughout 2020 the total meal outputs have steadily increased; having service agreements in place with home care providers has been beneficial enabling clients to pay a co-contribution and their home care package paying a greater portion of the costs.

The Criminal Justice Work program workers have resumed working at the kitchen following a period of being away due to COVID restrictions. This arrangement provides opportunities for these workers to gain useful skills for the future while supporting Bowen Meals on Wheels.

Our building has recently had a face-lift both inside and out with a fresh coat of paint and the new signage and logo on the front is very eye catching to the passing public.

The community continues to be very supportive of meals on wheels who have been the recipient of some generous donations throughout the year. To those individuals and organisations, we would like to say a big thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to maintaining these and forging new relationships into the future.

- Monty Gordon Trust Fund
- LiveLife Community Support
- Helen McKenzie
- Barty
- Bow Pak
- Jim (IGA)
- Peter Project
- Adani/Abbott Point Bulk Coal
- Brett Campbell & Jen Wilson

- Graham Williams
- Pest Evict
- Lewie Fire Protection

I would like to say a big thank you to the Committee members for your hard work to ensure the smooth running of Bowen Meals on Wheels. For the elderly of the community, Meals on Wheels is much more than a meal delivery service, it provides a regular friendly face stopping by to brighten their day and for some who don't have family living in Bowen it gives them confidence that they are not alone.