

BELL CARES INC. ... COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT THE SENIORS OF BELL  
 LOCALS CARING FOR LOCALS

## Our news and update:

I feel as though I always start off with how busy it's been ... gotta put the positive spin back. It is just busy, no two ways about it. We now have 3 staff in the office – and everybody is fully occupied all the time.

We have had two big fund-raising events since last newsletter – the Community Garage Sale and Blues & Brews. Both were really fun events – again, very busy! I did have some helpers for the garage sale, which made life easier. The Blues night was just really flat out – Danielle and I spent most of the night with our heads in the bain-marie, only surfacing to have a quick bit of rehydration with a prosecco or three, then back into it.

The reviews were good, and the two events gave us a nice add into the bank of around \$4000 – a nice little start towards our town bus. Maybe next year we'll spread them out a bit – it was a lot of work in just a few weeks.

Fortunately, we have two wonderful husbands who pretty much did whatever we needed them to do for the week before and the clean-up afterwards. Thanks Luke and Paul!

## THANK YOU

*for your support*

Our recent fundraising events were a huge success! With fantastic support and generosity from our community, the Bell Cares Garage Sale and Brews'N'Blues event raised \$4090. This money will go towards helping Bell Cares Inc to achieve our vision, mission and goals.

*The greatness of a community is accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.*

Coretta Scott King

WE RECOGNISE THE CHALLENGES OF COUNTRY LIVING AND ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING LOCALS GET BETTER VALUE CARE. YOUR HOME. YOUR WAY. YOUR CHOICE.



### STAFF PROFILE Rebecca Pope

Rebecca joined the Bell Cares Team in March this year working in our office part-time, bringing with her a wealth of business experience and has quickly become a valued member of the Bell Cares family.

Living in town with her much-loved dogs, Max and Jack, Bec is a local girl who in recent years moved back to her hometown to be closer to her family and was delighted when offered an opportunity to be part of our locals supporting locals initiative.

Bec is a big supporter of rural and remote areas and strives to support these communities in her work and volunteering efforts. She loves a good yarn, a good laugh and enjoys opportunities to meet new people and learn their stories.



# Trilogy Care Update

## Home Care Package Subsidy & Fee Increase

Effective from 1 July 2023, the Australian Government will be investing \$11.3 billion to increase the wages of aged care workers. As a result, there will be an 11.9% increase in the Home Care Package (HCP) Subsidy to accommodate the wage rise for home care recipients. Starting from 1 July 2023, the new subsidy amounts for each level of care are as follows:

HCP Level	Current Daily Subsidy	Daily Subsidy from 1 July 2023
Level 1	\$25.15	\$28.14
Level 2	\$44.24	\$49.49
Level 3	\$96.27	\$107.70
Level 4	\$145.94	\$163.27

If your package is currently fully allocated towards care and services, the subsidy increase may not cover the increased charges for those services. If you have a Level 1-3 package, please contact your Care Partner to discuss the possibility of requesting a reassessment from the Aged Care Assessment Team. For Level 4 packages, we may be able to apply to the Government on your behalf to bridge the gap in costs.

### OUR FEES

We want to assure you that the basis and percentage calculation of our pricing remains unchanged however, from 1 July 2023, the dollar amount of our fee will increase proportionately to the amount of your package subsidy. Our new fee schedule is as follows:

HCP Level	Daily Subsidy	Our fee over time				
		Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Annual
Level One	\$ 28.14	\$ 6.47	\$ 45.31	\$ 90.62	\$ 196.86	\$ 2,362.35
Level Two	\$ 49.49	\$ 11.38	\$ 79.68	\$ 159.37	\$ 346.22	\$ 4,154.69
Level Three	\$ 107.70	\$ 24.77	\$ 173.40	\$ 346.81	\$ 753.45	\$ 9,041.42
Level Four	\$ 163.27	\$ 37.55	\$ 262.86	\$ 525.76	\$ 1,142.21	\$ 13,706.52

Service providers employing Aged Care Workers may need to raise their rates to accommodate the wage increase, but need your consent to do so. If you consider a rate rise is reasonable and related to the wage increase, we encourage you to accept it. Once you agree to a rate increase, please contact your Care Partner to ensure the new amount is reflected in your Home Care Package care plan and care budget.

We always recommend seeking your own independent advice on any changes to your Home Care Package from a family member, a friend, or an official agency such as the Older Persons Advocacy Network.

You may wish to book a face-to-face appointment with an Aged Care Specialist Officer from My Aged Care by contacting Services Australia on 1800 227 479. The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) can be contacted on 1800 700 600, and can provide you with information about your rights and support you in communicating with Trilogy Care or the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Thank you for your understanding and continued trust in Trilogy Care. We value our partnership and look forward to serving you in the future.



### Are you receiving your Home Care Statements from Trilogy Care?

Statements are sent at the end of the month via post. If you are not receiving them, please let the Bell Cares office know.

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## Senior Spotlight Ruth Storey

Ruth is a very familiar face and valued member of the Bell Community. Since settling in Bell with her husband Barry, children Murray and Liane to live together with Ruth's parents, Colin & Betty Murray some 43 years ago, Ruth has been and remains a tireless volunteer. Ruth has boundless enthusiasm for all things creative and a great sense of community. From directing the Bell Theatre Group Productions to organising the yearly Bell Art Group Exhibitions and overseeing the day to day running of the Bell Bunya Community Centre, Ruth has a proven passion for making positive contributions to her community. When Ruth is not spending her time volunteering, she enjoys painting and spending time with her family as a much-loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

## How we're tracking

104 People in our Care Project

88 People using their Home Care Packages and receiving in home services

31 Local people employed through the project

18 People awaiting their Home Care Package

## Rural and Remote Delivery - Home Care Skills

Date: 25 - 27 July 2023, 9am to 3.30pm

Location: Bell Bunya Community Centre - Lot 71 Maxwell St, Bell

Skills Generation (RTO 41008) and Mable have partnered to launch nationally accredited training opportunities for independent support workers in your area.

Join the growing carer community in Bell and surrounding areas.

Training is coming to you! Upskill or re-skill to build your confidence.

### Short Courses Available:

CHCCCS011 Meet personal support needs

HLTINF001 Comply with infection prevention and control policies and procedures

HLTHPS006 Assist clients with medication

HLTWS005 Conduct manual tasks safely

Please contact Danielle on 0472 673 856 or register by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR Code.



Skills Generation: 1800 838 295



## Rediscover the sounds you love



Free\* hearing checks available at

Location: BELL COMMUNITY CENTRE  
PRESENTATION + CONVERSATION

17 August 2023  
10:00am - 12:30pm  
Call 04 0085 1417

Tai Chi class  
at the Bell Bunya Community Centre

Further details  
Contact Ruth  
07 4663 1087  
bellbunyacommunitycentre@gmail.com

2023 Annual Theatre Restaurant  
**THE HARDCASE HOTEL**

Matinees:  
Saturday 26th &  
Sunday 27th August  
Nights:  
Friday 1st &  
Saturday 2nd  
September

The Hardcase Hotel  
by  
Devon Williamson  
by arrangement with  
David Spicer  
Productions

The Booking Office is now open  
Phone Ruth to secure your  
seats  
07 4663 1087  
bellbunyacommunitycentre@gmail.com

JIMBOUR  
150  
STATE SCHOOL  
16TH SEPTEMBER

Jimbour State School 150yrs  
OR  
Email: 150@jimbourss.eq.edu.au

## DATE CLAIMERS

### JULY 2023

Sat 1 July - 9:30am

Morning Melodies with Kadi  
Bell Bunya Community Centre

Thurs 6 July - 10am

Morning Tea @ Pips'n'Cherries

Thurs 20 July - 10am

Morning Tea @ Bell Bunya Community  
Centre - optional Tai Chi \$10 per person

Tues 25-Thurs 27 July - 9am

Home Care Skills Training @  
Bell Bunya Community Centre

### AUGUST 2023

Thurs 3 August - 10am

Morning Tea @ Pips'n'Cherries

Thurs 17 August - 10am

Morning Tea @ Bell Bunya  
Community Centre  
Guest Speaker: Hearing Australia  
\*Free Hearing Checks

Sat 26 & Sun 27 August

*The Hardcase Hotel*  
2023 Annual Theatre Restaurant  
Matinees, Call Ruth on 46631087  
to book tickets

### SEPTEMBER 2023

Fri 1 & Sat 2 September

*The Hardcase Hotel*  
2023 Annual Theatre Restaurant  
Call Ruth on 46631087 to book tickets

Thurs 7 September - 10am

Morning Tea @ Pips'n'Cherries

Sun 16 September

Jimbour State School 150 Years

Thurs 21 September - 10am

Morning Tea @ Bell Bunya  
Community Centre



28 Sept to 2 Oct 2023  
Jimbour House, Jimbour Qld  
<https://bigskies.westerndownsqueensland.com.au/>

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## The last word

Lots happening in the Our Town Cares project world. Jandowae has made the jump into looking after their elders – Wambo Care will run out of the GP practice of Dr Luke Dwyer, able coordinated by Nicole. It has been fabulous to see this start in a GP setting – and bouquets to Luke and Nic for addressing the need for care for their elderly patients in such a proactive manner. Wonderful things will be happening over there, for sure.

We've had contact with the good folk of Texas – still early days – but a very committed group of locals is stepping up to the challenge. I also expect great things will happen in Texas.

Our good friends at Yarraman Cares has now gone well past the 50 packages under their care – they have powered ahead and are really making a change in their town.

We had a very useful Pop Up Info site at Dalby Shopping world a few weeks ago. Brad and Linda, our Mable colleagues, came along for the day and we did lots of talking to many, many people. It was really a great thing to do and we picked up a handful of not only clients, but also workers in Dalby.

We now are care coordinating 45 home Care Packages in Dalby and we are really working hard toward setting up a Dalby Cares. This will be run from Bell, but because Dalby has such a large population, we have to make sure we aren't swamped. At this stage, Kate stays in Dalby on a Tuesday, doing intakes, care plans and welfare checks. It's working very well, but we will spread ourselves a bit thin unless we have something concrete for Dalby. Stay tuned – more to report.

I've been invited to an Aged Care Summit in Mildura next week. Hopefully I can spread the good news of our story further afield. I'll report on that next newsletter.

Another hot topic recently has been the increase in the Home Care Packages, to cover the increase in pay rates for Aged Care Workers. This is really confusing for those of us who are self-managing. Our workers are self-employed contractors, so this should not impact us at all. The new pay rates will apply to residential care workers and workers who are employed by the traditional providers. Of course, our workers have the right to make regular increases to their rates – but it's not in line with any Government rates. You will be seeing stuff in the mail from both Trilogy and the Minister for Ageing ... but it does apply to us because your HCP will be increasing, but it won't impact on our worker's fees.

If wrinkles must be written on our brows,  
let them not be written upon the heart.  
The spirit should never grow old.

James A. Garfield



## Think **F.A.S.T** Stroke Awareness

Did you know that Stroke is one of the biggest killers in Australia.

The good news is that we have effective treatments for stroke, but time determines how much you will recover – the faster you get emergency treatment, the better your chances of surviving and recovering well.

**Know the signs and think FAST.**

- F.** Facial droop
- A.** inability to lift your Arms
- S.** slurred Speech
- T.** Time is critical.

When any of these signs happen, call an ambulance immediately!



Your honest opinions, feedback and suggestions are important to us and we appreciate your help.

Please take just a few minutes to complete the short online survey available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R938FZM>.

Alternatively if you would like to complete a paper-based survey, please pop into the office and we will gladly give you one to complete. Thank you!

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