



BUCKETTS WAY

Neighbourhood Group Inc.

May 2021 Newsletter



Volunteer Driver, Col, receiving his flu shot.

BWNG TEAM RECEIVING INFLUENZA VACCINATION

The BWNG team is getting their annual flu shot ahead of the flu season to protect themselves and the community members that they care for.

Influenza (flu) vaccines are given as a needle each year to protect against the most common strains of the virus. Influenza vaccines, which are funded through the National Immunisation Programme, are available to all people aged 65 or over, and other at-risk groups.

Be sure to speak to your GP or pharmacist to organise your vaccination before the flu season starts.

ACCURATE VACCINE INFORMATION

“With new COVID-19 vaccine developments every day, it’s normal to have questions or concerns, and possibly feel hesitant about getting a vaccine. That’s why we’re providing accurate, evidence-based answers to questions about COVID-19 vaccines.”

– from www.Health.gov.au

You can find reliable information through these organisations:

- Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Australian Academy of Science
- World Health Organisation
- National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance

Or through the Department of Health ‘is it true?’ page:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/is-it-true>

STAYING COVID-SAFE: THE NEW NORMAL

Remember; It is important to continue to practise good hygiene and physical distancing even after you have been immunised.

A safe and effective vaccine is only one part of keeping our community safe and healthy.

VACCINATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE 50 YEARS AND OVER

The Australian Government is making it possible for in-home and community aged care recipients and workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccination quickly and safely. People living in Australia who are aged 50 years or over can now receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. If you would like to be immunised against COVID-10 you can access the AstraZeneca vaccine by contacting your GP, if you have not done so already. There is no cost to you to receive the vaccine, which is administered in two doses given twelve weeks apart.

SMOKE ALARM MAINTENANCE

Did you know that you should test your smoke alarm batteries every month? You can perform this test by pressing and holding the test button for at least five seconds until you hear the beeps. There are a few other steps you can take to ensure your smoke alarm can be depended upon in an emergency.

- **Every 6 months** - Vacuum dust off your smoke alarm. Keeping your smoke alarm free of particles helps reduce false alarms and ensures smoke can easily reach the internal sensor.
- **Every year** – replace lead or alkaline batteries every 12 months.
- **Every 10 years** – replace all smoke alarms with new lithium-powered smoke alarms every 10-years, or earlier if recommended by the manufacturer.





BEST OF LUCK, ERIN!

Training & Social Ventures Team Leader Erin Lute will soon be moving on from BWNG.

Erin has been a part of our organisation for the last four years.

She has been a key figure in our Meals on Wheels service and has been instrumental in the creation of several BWNG programmes, including the Social Ventures of 'Bluey', the 'Gloucester Pool Kiosk and Ice Creamery' and 'Blueprint Kitchen'.

Erin's background in hospitality and youth work was invaluable in the initiation of our traineeship programme, which has helped numerous local people access training and education and has spring-boarded them into rewarding careers.

We value the contribution Erin has made to BWNG, and wish her the very best of luck in the future.



Erin Lute

JESS & JAMIE NAMED REGIONAL FINALISTS – NSW TRAINING AWARDS

We were pleased, recently, to learn that BWNG team members and Gloucester locals Jess Anniwell and Jamie Neilson had been named regional finalists for 'Trainee of the Year' category of the 2021 NSW Training Awards.

The Annual NSW Training Awards recognise achievements in the vocational education and training sector for both individuals, educators and organisations.

Through their employment with BWNG, Jess has recently completed a Certificate IV traineeship in Human Resources; and Jamie, Certificate III traineeship in Individual Support – Ageing.

The NSW Training Awards play a role in illuminating the many training pathways available to potential participants, and in encouraging more employers to participate in training schemes.

If either Jess or Jamie are successful in the regional phase of the competition, they will have reached the state round and will be in the running to act as ambassador for Training Services NSW.

The recognition of Jess and Jamie's achievements is well-deserved, and wish both ladies luck. Whatever the outcome of the competition, they are valued members of our team and we know they both have great things ahead of them.



Jess and Jamie – Regional Finalists - Trainee of the Year Award

SAFETY NET PROGRAM – HELP WITH TELSTRA AND ELECTRICITY BILLS

If you are having difficulty paying your gas or electricity bill due to a short term crisis BWNG can provide assistance through the [Energy Accounts Payment Assistance \(EAPA\) scheme](#).

This NSW Government Scheme provides vouchers to be used to pay a portion of your home electricity or gas bills if you are experiencing a crisis or temporary hardship due to an emergency situation such as a medical bill, an unusually high energy bill or loss of income.

We can also help with Telstra Bills through the [Telstra Bill Assistance Program](#). To access these programmes you will need to meet certain [criteria](#), and will need to have your circumstances assessed in an appointment with BWNG's Safety Net Officer. Assessments are available 10am - 2pm Tuesday and Thursday by appointment. Please call our team, speak to your Support Worker or call us to make an appointment. Ph: 6558 2454.