



WELCOME TO THE TEAM, CORRINA ROUTH

We're pleased to introduce a new face in our team and our town. We welcome Corrina to BWNG in the role of Ageing and Disability Services (ADS) Team Leader.

Having recently moved to the area from the Central Coast, Corrina brings extensive experience in Disability Services and Aged Care and will be working closely with our administration team to oversee BWNG's Ageing and Disability services and supports. Corrina has already proven to be a valuable addition to our team, and we look forward to working with her.



UPDATE – BWNG'S COVID-19 MANAGEMENT PLAN

As restrictions ease across the state and regional areas open up to visitors from Greater Sydney, we are remaining vigilant to keep our clients, team members and community COVID-safe.

The BWNG staff providing your services continue to follow the most up-to-date advice from the Department of Health, including directions on vaccination and the wearing of masks.

In line with these instructions, all BWNG team members must have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine by 29/11/21.

Additionally, we have recently introduced regular Rapid Antigen Testing of our staff, volunteers and cottage participants. This is a revolutionary screening process that can identify COVID-19 in people who are not yet showing symptoms, in as little as fifteen minutes from a simple nasal swab.

Rapid antigen testing will detect most cases of COVID-19 but is a *screening* process rather than an actual diagnosis. It is not a substitute for a standard (PCR) test from a COVID-19 testing clinic and is not suitable for people exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

Should any team member return a positive rapid antigen test, or display symptoms of COVID-19 they will self-isolate, and will not return to work until they have returned a negative COVID-19 test from a COVID-19 testing clinic.

Out of area health transport is available to any destination for locals needing to travel for appointments, but you must go directly to the destination, then back.

If you have any queries about your services or would like to know more about BWNG's COVID-19 management plan, please phone our team on 65582454.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S DRAFT AGEING STRATEGY

An Ageing Strategy is a plan developed by governing bodies, from local councils to the federal government, to lay out how they plan to work with people at different life stages to help them remain healthy and independent for as long as possible.

MidCoast Council has developed a Draft Ageing Strategy using the feedback of 700 local seniors who participated in the planning process earlier in the year. The draft strategy is now on public display, for the community to review the strategy and provide feedback, as a final check before the strategy is adopted.

The strategy covers five focus areas of living in the MidCoast local government area:

- Health and wellbeing
- Working and retirement
- Getting around
- Housing choices
- Inclusive communities

To review the strategy and have your say, please visit:

https://haveyoursay.midc oast.nsw.gov.au/ageingstrategy

Alternatively, if you would like a printed copy please contact our team on Ph: 6558 2454.

November 2021 Newsletter





L to R: Josh, Katrina, Ellie, Jodie B, Anne-Marie, Tracy, Melinda, Natasha, Ian, Kate, Jodie Z, Penny.

HALLOWEEN 2021

Every year we look forward to our Halloween party with participants at 'The Cottage.' How great are some of this year's costumes?

A FAMILIAR FACE IN A NEW ROLE

We're pleased to welcome the familiar face of Georgine Wise back to the BWNG team in the role of Resource Officer.

Georgine was BWNG's founding CEO, serving in the top job from 1989 until handing the reins to current BWNG CEO Anna Burley in 2014. Georgine brings a wealth of experience and industry knowledge to the role and will be tackling various projects within the organisation and the community.

We're excited to have Georgine back on board and have loved seeing the warm welcome she has received from the many clients and team members who remember her.



HELP TO UNDERSTAND AND REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

BWNG has recently started the Energy Assistance Program in partnership with Energise Gloucester - a community organisation aiming to help the community develop and run their own environmentally friendly energy programs, understand electricity bills better, and make changes that can help reduce energy costs.

Through this programme volunteer, Kerry can help you to read and understand your bill, compare costs between electricity companies as well as discuss your energy usage and ways to reduce it.

To access this program, you can make an appointment for Kerry to visit you in your home, or you can arrange to meet with Kerry in our office at 88 King Street Gloucester as part of a monthly Electricity Assistance Clinic.

If you are experiencing short-term financial hardship due to a crisis, and have an energy bill or Telstra bill due, you may also be eligible for vouchers through the EAPA (Energy Accounts Payment Assistance) scheme, which can go towards these costs.

For appointments, or to find out more about either of these programmes please contact our Safety Net Officer Amber, by calling 6558 2454.

CONTINENCE AIDS PAYMENT SCHEME (CAPS)

The Continence Aids Payment Scheme is a yearly non-taxable payment (The 2021-22 payment rate for CAPS is up to \$635.10 per person) to cover some of the costs of products that help you manage incontinence.

To be eligible for this scheme you must:

- be 5 years or older
- have permanent and severe incontinence confirmed by a registered health professional
- be an Australian permanent resident or citizen for as long as you get the payment.

This yearly payment is paid to your bank account. It does not affect your taxable income.

To find out more, or to apply for the scheme please call 1800 239 309 or visit:

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/ medicare/continence-aids-payment-scheme