



# BUCKETTS WAY

Neighbourhood Group Inc.

September 2021 Newsletter



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## A COVID-19 UPDATE FROM THE BWNG TEAM

Due to the extension of the NSW statewide lockdown, we have assessed the risk associated with our current opening hours and services, and would like to share the following updates:

- Please limit attendance to our office. Where possible we ask you to phone us with any queries, rather than visiting us.
- For account payments, we would prefer payments to be made online, but can also process credit card payments over the phone.
- Safety Net Programme (Hardship assistance through help with energy bills, Telstra bills, and help with the cost of food or medicine) is strictly by phone appointment.
- The donated food pantry remains available, but with a few changes.
- Aged care services are being provided on a case-by-case basis. Our team will be in contact if your services change.
- Disability services are being provided on a case-by-case basis, but 'The Cottage' (Group centre) will be closed until further notice.
- Health transport is available within Gloucester, but remains closed for trips to Newcastle, Maitland, Lake Macquarie, Taree, Foster and Port Macquarie, but if you have any concerns about reaching appointments please call us to discuss your situation.
- Hot Meals on Wheels will continue to be delivered as usual. We also have frozen meals available, which can also be delivered.

Please be assured that as a community organisation we are following the advice of various Government bodies, and have the health and safety of all in mind.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us between 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

## COVID-19 CHECK-IN CARD

The new COVID-19 check in card is a hard copy (printed) card with a QR code that contains your unique details. It can be scanned by businesses that you visit to record your name and contact details, the details of the business and the time of your visit.

Details of your visit are held by Service NSW (not the business that you have visited) for 28 days in case contact tracers need to contact people who have visited a specific place.

The card provides an alternative check-in method for people who don't own a smart phone, or are not comfortable using the Service NSW online form.

Our team can help you register for a QR code over the phone.

Please call us on 6558 2454. We will arrange for a digital version of the card to be emailed to us. We will then print it and post it to you.

If you have any queries please phone our team Ph; 6558 2454.



## GIVING PROOF OF VACCINATION

Once you have received the COVID-19 vaccine you may be asked to provide a record of your vaccination in order to travel, to access certain venues or to participate in various activities within the community.

To have a copy posted to you, phone the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 (Monday-Friday 8am-5pm) and request an immunisation history statement for proof of vaccines to be posted to you. Keep in mind, it may take up to 14 days to arrive.

Alternatively, if you have an online MyGov account, and have linked it with your Medicare you can access your immunisation history or your COVID-19 vaccination certificate by following these steps:

1. Sign in to myGov and select Medicare.
2. On the Immunisation history tile, select View immunisation history
3. Select your name and then either View immunisation history statement (PDF) or View COVID-19 digital certificate (PDF).

## VACCINATION VIA HOME VISIT

Gloucester Medico has asked us to advise you that you can have the COVID-19 vaccination administered in your home if you are unable to travel to the medical centre.

To arrange a home-vaccination, or to find out more please contact the Gloucester Medico directly by phoning 6558 1604.



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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & BOARD NOMINATIONS

BWNG'S Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 27 September at our King Street premises.

The meeting will be held in accordance with COVID SAFE rules. The community is welcome to attend, but due to COVID spots are limited, so if you would like to attend please contact our team to let us know that you are coming along.

Current (financial) members of BWNG are invited to nominate board members for this financial year. To nominate someone to the board please contact our team to collect a Board Nomination Form.

If you are not currently a member, although membership renewals are due at the end of each financial year, it is worth keeping in mind for next year. Membership fees are currently \$10 per year, which gives you board nomination and voting rights at the annual general meeting, and therefore a say in the organisation that provides your care.

If you have any queries about membership or our AGM, please contact our team by phoning Ph: 6558 2454.

## CELEBRATING AGED CARE WORKERS DAY

Thank you everyone who returned cards of appreciation to BWNG to mark Aged Care Workers Day on 6<sup>th</sup> August. We know that your kind words and messages of appreciation meant a lot to our support workers. We have displayed your cards in our reception area for our workers to see each day as they arrive.



## SENIORS ENERGY REBATE - \$200 EACH FINANCIAL YEAR

Holders of the NSW Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) in NSW can again apply for their Seniors Energy Rebate to help cover the cost of electricity.

CSHC are means-tested concession cards issued by Service NSW and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Seniors Energy Rebate is \$200 per household, per financial year. If your application is successful, the rebate will be paid directly into your nominated bank or credit union account. Please note that gas accounts are not eligible for the rebate.

If you hold a CSHC you can apply for the rebate by calling 137 888 or visiting <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-seniors-energy-rebate>