

# NEWSLETTER 3

## August/September 2024



### MONASH OAKLEIGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INFORMATION SERVICE INC

Reg. No. A0002446N  
ABN 71 024 168 108

25 Downing Street Oakleigh 3166  
Phone: 9568 453  
Web: [www.mocsis.org.au](http://www.mocsis.org.au)  
Email: [admin@mocsis.org.au](mailto:admin@mocsis.org.au)

#### DIARY- UPCOMING DATES

Foodbank Deliveries:- 4<sup>th</sup> Sept, 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, 30<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Next Committee Meeting:- 12<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Training:- 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, 1.30-3.30pm. Sth Oakleigh Bowling Club  
Grand Final Public Holiday- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Sept **MOCSIS CLOSED**  
Melbourne Cup Day- Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov **MOCSIS CLOSED**  
MOCSIS AGM- 14<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### September roster is out

*There are still 3 gaps to fill*  
**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> – 1 place, Mon 30<sup>th</sup> – 2 places**

#### October roster is out now

*There are still quite a few gaps to fill*  
**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> – 1 place, Tues 15<sup>th</sup> – 2 places**  
**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> – 2 places, Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> – 2 places,**  
**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2 places, Mon 28<sup>th</sup> – 1 place,**  
**Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> – 1 place**

## THANK YOU

We send a big thank you to *StreetSmart* for their donation of \$1,000 and ladies clothing and knitted scarves donated by *Meri Chenhall and Sam*.

*Tobin Brothers* donated \$700. Here is Kathy receiving the cheque from their representative.

The *Rotary Club of Glen Waverley* donated \$1500 worth of groceries and \$100 Bunnings vouchers.

*Monash Council*

*Community Care Blanket*

*Project* have donated multiple knitted items over the years.

Rachit Garg (former client) donated \$1,000 and Focus IT Consulting donated \$2,000.

We have also received a number of donations of clothing from deceased estates and fruit from local gardens. We sincerely thank everyone.



## MONTHLY VOUCHERS

Apparently June's distribution of family vouchers was down compared to March by 13% and single vouchers down by 9%. Also noted that compared to this time last year food parcels are down by 23%! There was also a drop by a whopping 40% in the number of fruit & vegetable bags and bread being taken !!! I find this surprising as every time I have volunteered- it's been really busy!!

Maybe people are forgetting to put down their postcode on the sheet?? Our shorter hours may also be a major contributing factor?

As we have received some additional funds from *Department of Social Services (DSS)*, the committee has decided to increase the value of the Coles vouchers.

From **August 1<sup>st</sup>** - singles vouchers will be **\$50**, household vouchers will be **\$60**.

It will be interesting to see what future data shows, as most volunteers feels it is getting busier.

## Training

The on-going training session held in August was a great success with 20 volunteers attending. The guest speaker was unable to attend due to illness, Allison organised a quiz instead. Kathy gave us an update on what is happening with the Monash Council grant application.

When the grant request was finally submitted for consideration, Council decided they were unwilling to set a precedent and consequently would not approve the **paid position** of coordinator.

Instead we were told we would be required to apply for a one-off grant of approximately \$78,000 by 26<sup>th</sup>

July. Again, this was an arduous task requiring at least 500 words per question. Chris from Waverley has agreed to collaborate with us on the writing of the application. It has been confirmed that no organization other than MOCSIS will be eligible to apply for this grant. However, it cannot be used for the salary of a paid coordinator. Furthermore, we were advised not to use the word **coordinator** in the application.

We sought the services of a project manager to help us and we were successful in receiving the grant. YAY

However..... Kathy has now to do MORE paperwork before the funds will be deposited into our bank account!!! It's just a waiting game.

*Here's hoping that Kathy has not been strangled by the red tape Karen suggested should be included in the next submission!*

**The Director of Community Services agreed our current position was not sustainable and this funding could be used to look at merging the 2 organisations, and reviewing our business model to improve our viability. There will be another meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, to progress the merge process.**

**Our next training will be at South Oakleigh Bowling Club on North Road, at 1.30-3.30pm- 1<sup>st</sup> October.** The speaker will be Annika Povey Registered Psychiatric Nurse and Case Manager Monash Health Community Mental Health Service. This is the Service at the end of Downing Street in Atherton Road who occasionally send clients to MOCSIS. The topic will be 'An understanding of Mental Health conditions and some of the challenges they bring'. This may assist us to understand the background of some of the clients who seek support from us and to assist them in an appropriate way in an emergency relief setting. There will be time for questions following the presentation.

Could you please place your name in the diary with your RSVP to assist us with catering for afternoon tea to follow the presentation. Mt Waverley CSIS has also been invited. Please let **Liz or Allison** know if you need transport to the venue.





## Email Management

Peter currently manages our emails, cleaning up and categorises them. As Peter will be leaving MOCSIS after the AGM, *Kathy* has volunteered to take this on.

**Good on you Kathy!!**

## AGM

The AGM has been moved from September to *November 14<sup>th</sup>* and will be at the **Oakleigh Carnegie RSL**. The Smith Family have agreed to provide a guest speaker.

.....

## Purchase of printer

Due to some ongoing issues with the large colour printer in the second office, the committee has decided to purchase a replacement for this printer. The printer will need to print duplex, in colour, have wireless connectivity, be able to copy and scan multiple pages, and be faster than our current printer. I for one can confirm it is definitely much EASIER to use!



**Foodbank helpers-** Thanks to the regulars- Joy, Andrea, Durkanai, Karen, Colin, Rosalie, Doug, John & Rob. Rob & Doug also drive to collect food as well. **Thanks everyone, your help is essential and very much appreciated.**

I plan to come in and take your photos for the next newsletter!

.....

Our new student placement, John Carruthers, has decided to not follow through with his placement at MOCSIS. We are negotiating to get another student placement to help with the roster.

## RECYCLING CANS & BOTTLES

A reminder that if you wish to donate your can & bottle cash to MOCSIS- you need to enter the following code **C2000008941**

## Garden Coordinator

**Joy** is stepping down as the *Garden Coordinator*, *Dianne Knight* has agreed to take over and *John Allan* will be assisting *Dianne*.

The committee thanked Joy for the fantastic effort she has put into the garden, especially the hard work Joy and *Phillip* have done in setting up the wicking beds. **Thank you, Joy.**

**Joy and Dianne**



*Joy is very passionate about helping others and had campaigned at Council for a number of years to get them to fund a Community Garden. (apparently she already had a couple of vacant plots of land in mind!) Needless to say Council were not forthcoming. So it was suggested that Joy use the back garden at MOCSIS. With the help of a volunteer and her tireless, indefatigable husband Phillip; Joy & Phillip put in many hours constructing the wicking beds. This included ordering and sourcing the materials required and then moving the many tons of soil needed to fill the boxes. It was a MASSIVE task that never really ended.*

*As the planting, watering, picking, weeding, trimming, planning, co-ordinating, buying, cleaning out, replanting etc never ends... and there are the compost bins...!*

***We all thank you Joy and Phillip for the wonderful dedication you have put into the MOCSIS garden***



**Joy & Phillip**

**Thank you** to Margaret Mc, who has come in on many Monday mornings to help with Oz Harvest fruit & vegies- as well as assisting with doling out bread to the clients. You have been a Godsend!

This has resulted in a regular Monday morning roster, where the extra person starts at 11am and is overseeing the distribution of the fruit & vegies.

Thank you to these other Monday morning volunteers- Margaret, Kathy, Helene, Lyn, Bev, Rosemary & Jane.

The volunteer roster for the *Monday morning* is pinned on the notice board, near the main roster. Many times have been filled, but there are still plenty of gaps for those who would like to assist.

**We have gaps for Mondays-** Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>

*Thank you Liz for making this official- I personally do not know how we would have coped over the past 2 Mondays, without the 3<sup>rd</sup> person!*




**VOLUNTEERS**

We have 3 new volunteers you may not have met yet.

Here we have **Lyn** and **John**.

Lyn will be working with clients and **John** is assisting Dianne in the garden and helping with bread & Foodbank on a Wednesday.

(They are not a couple- just next to each other for the photo!) 



**Chris** is also going to be on the roster for assisting clients.



We welcome you all to the MOCSIS family!!

**OP- SHOP**

We have to continue to thank our Op-Shop stalwarts **Maureen & Robyn**. With little regular assistance, they continue to manage the op-shop and all the donations that keep flowing in!

*Robyn & Maureen recently went to Monash maternity and donated some baby clothes. We all thank you so much for your tireless work and dedication to MOCSIS.*



Maureen is still asking for anyone who could help her with the op-shop. She has in the past spent 8 hours per week, and it's now becoming too hard to maintain this time commitment. Maureen isn't going to give up altogether, just cut down on the time she donates. If you are able to give an hour or 2 out of your week, or you know of someone who may want to assist- just let Maureen know. Thanking you in anticipation.

You can contact Maureen on 0466 993 122. [maureenwinestone@gmail.com](mailto:maureenwinestone@gmail.com)

**Pharmacy**

Just a reminder about free medication- *Terry White Chemist*. The money is through philanthropic sources and it is believed there are sufficient funds for 3 years- a first for MOCSIS and the pharmacy. **277, Huntingdale Rd Chadstone**.

The process is in the top of filing cabinet 5 – labelled Chemist. It must be a PBS script and the client needs to go to the pharmacy. If the client cannot get there, we need to scan the script and send it through; Terry White will arrange home delivery.

Data entry:- Funding source is community donations and assistance type is Health.

*Kathy's email from 24<sup>th</sup> July has extra detail.*

Apparently some clients have presented a health care card with another family member's name, other than their own. Check that the client's name matches the current health card and the prescription, otherwise the pharmacist won't be able to help the client.

**Back Door**

The new lock is on a slight angle, instead of being vertical when in the locked position. The key is the same as before. If unsure, lock from the outside, then close the door.



**GRANDCHILDREN PHOTOS**

For your grandchild's/niece/nephew's photos to be also included in the newsletter.

Send them in a text, or email them to me.

[sjminogue1@gmail.com](mailto:sjminogue1@gmail.com)



Liz A's  
gorgeous  
grandsons  
**Jonas &  
Jeremiah**



Here is **Elliot**,  
grandson of **Joanna**  
& **Colin**. He's dressed  
as his 100 yr old  
grandmother,  
celebrating his first  
100 days at school.  
*So cute!*



*Samara is still as cute as ever*  
XXX  
*...and will feature every newsletter, even if  
no-one else sends me any pics*

Additions to the newsletter can be emailed to me at  
[sjminogue1@gmail.com](mailto:sjminogue1@gmail.com).