

BRAT NEWS

Broadmeadows Resident Advisory Team

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

JOHN RUTHERFORD
JUNE 2021



Dear Residents,

The June 2021 issue of the Newsletter of the Broadmeadows Residents Advisory Team (BRAT) welcomes the easing of the State Government restrictions regarding the coronavirus.

Corona Vaccinations.

Well done to all those who have been vaccinated. The sooner that we get this done the safer we will be.

The current use of science has not let us down in the current pandemic, and the development of Covid vaccines like AstraZeneca and Pfizer highlight the value of evidence based medicine.

It has been unfortunate that the Federal Government has not properly dealt with the Covid19 inoculation process for people in aged care, for those with disabilities and health care workers.

This situation must be resolved as a matter of urgency.

Road to recovery.

Dallas Neighbourhood House (DNH) & BRAT organised a community event on 30 March 2021 to provide information to residents on the impact of coronavirus on their every day lives.

Guest speakers from Northern Community Legal Centre, DPV Health and Hume City Council, provided a wealth of information to the meeting and answered a range of questions.

All the conclusion of the discussion, those present enjoyed an excellent lunch arrangement.

National Volunteers week

DNH and BRAT celebrated national volunteers week on Tuesday 18th May 2021.

Recognition was given to the important and valuable service that our volunteers provide to our community.

This year our volunteers had to work under very difficult circumstances. While many of us stayed at home, these people continued to organise and distribute packages and often care and support to many residents and their families.

Following an excellent meal Ms. Maria Vamvakinou M.P for the Federal seat of Calwell presented the volunteers with well earned certificates of appreciation.

Today it is nationally recognized the more than 6 million Australian's voluntarily contribute their time, in creating a stronger, safer more connected community.

Thank you volunteers for a job well done.

Invitation to join meetings.

A special call is being made for interested residents to attend and participate in our BRAT meetings held monthly. Our next meeting will be on the 29th June at 12pm.

Any ideas you may have on types of projects, arranging events and forums or raising items of community concern would be most welcome. Your opinions on any of these issues, particularly an interest in BRAT activities can be raised with Louise at the BRAT office, located at 180 Widford St Broadmeadows, phone number 9302 2132.

Take care, stay safe,
Yours Sincerely,
John Rutherford
President

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

We are a group of volunteers and students on placement supervised by DNH, who help residents with issues primarily relating to housing as well as other issues of concern.

We hold two to three events annually that focus on topical issues or concerns in and around the Broadmeadows area. Due to Covid-19 outbreak we were not able to run activities for most of last year. We support and promote activities and training to the local community on behalf of them and other organisations.

Some of our main inquiries are:

- Food Parcels
- Help filling out forms; Centrelink, passports, citizenship and school applications
- Referrals to the VPTA (Victorian Public Tenants Association) regarding housing issues that they were not able to resolve on their own but with the help of Michael and his fantastic team, we have happier public housing tenants in our community.
- Resumes and applying for jobs online.



BRAT exists to represent the voice of local residents in the 3047 area and surrounds.



OUR FIRST FORUM FOR 2021 - BEGINNING THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Tuesday 30 March 2021

This forum was designed to assist local community members to assess the impacts of Covid19 and know where they can access additional support services locally.

Our first speaker was Cass Meade, a Family Law and Family Violence Lawyer with Northern Community Legal Centre. Cass spoke about the increases in family violence in Hume. Sadly the City of Hume has the second highest rate of family violence incidents in Melbourne. Cass's presentation built our knowledge around Intervention Orders, what they are, how they can be obtained and how Northern Community Legal Centre can be of assistance in respect of Family Violence in the Community. She shared recommended contact numbers with us.



Emergency:
Call 000



Nationwide:
Call 1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732



Victoria - wide:
Call 1800 015 188
03 9322 3555

Our second speaker was Eugenia Castro who is the Team Leader of Counselling, Psychology and Social Work Service at DPV Health. She is a Fellow of the APS College of Counselling Psychologists and Clinical Fellow of the Australia Catholic University. Eugenia talked about the loss and resilience we experienced during COVID-19 and how we can look forward using a hope and strengths based focus.

Our final speaker was Julie Andrews who is the Coordinator of Community Capacity Building at Hume Council. Julie has a background in psychology, business management and youth, family and community services. Julie's current role oversees the development and implementation of key social justice strategies including the Multicultural Framework, Reconciliation Action Plan, Creative Community Strategy and delivery of community development services. Julie shared the work of their team and Council during the COVID-19 restrictions and the role Council has in supporting community recovery.

VOLUNTEERS LUNCH

On Tuesday 18th May we celebrated Volunteers week with a lunch. Most of our volunteers were able to attend and enjoy a specially prepared lunch cooked on site in our kitchen by Nevin one of our cooking teachers.



Also in attendance was Maria Vamvakinou our local member of Parliament for Calwell. Maria assisted in presenting Certificates of Appreciation to our volunteers.

Volunteers are extremely important to all the areas of Dallas Neighbourhood House & BRAT, including, governance, community support, BRAT & Emergency Relief programs.



*Never underestimate your ability to make someone else's life better
- even if you don't know it. ~ Greg Louganis*

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We are seeking Emergency Food Relief Logistics and Handling volunteers

Requirements of the role include:

- Being physically able to bend and lift small boxes from pallets onto trolleys to bring inside.
- Being physically able to load these items onto shelves in our cupboard or walk in fridge inside the building.
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice principles
- Good interpersonal and verbal communication skills
- Reliable and punctual
- Willing to commit to the role for a period of a least six months
- Willing to undergo a Police Check (DNH will fund the cost of this)



None of the items will be particularly heavy work and will be done in pairs where required & trolleys will be used, but bending will be required.

POWER SAVING BONUS \$250

Dallas Neighbourhood House is helping community members experiencing financial hardship to access the State Government's \$250 Power Saving Bonus.

The Power Saving Bonus provides eligible Victorians with a one-off \$250 payment, to assist households with the cost living during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To be eligible for the Power Saving Bonus, applicants must hold a pensioner concession card or receive JobSeeker, Austudy, Abstudy or Youth Allowance.

Please bring a copy of your recent electricity bill.



For assistance with accessing the Power Saving Bonus, please make an appointment by ringing 03 9302 2131.

FOOD PARCELS

Dallas Neighbourhood House runs a food parcel program which supplies food parcels to around 120+ households per week!

Food Parcels cost \$7 each.

For residents of the City of Hume Whittlesea and Moreland.

Pick up at 180 Widford St, Broadmeadows every Thursday between 11am – 1.30pm

Pick up 22 Calivil St, Dallas every Friday 10am – 11am

By appointment only – you must ring us by Wednesday each week to book a parcel.

Please only book into one pick up location per week.

Ring 9302 2131 to book or email coordinator@dallasnh.org.au



By appointment only - you must ring us to book by Wednesday each week for Thursday or Friday pick up. Ring 03 9302 2131

WHERE ELSE CAN I FIND HELP?

These are challenging times for us all. It is OK to ask for help, here are some numbers of organisations offering assistance:

- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline 1800 551 800
- MensLine Australia 1300 789 978
- Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue 1300 22 46 36
- Headspace 1800 650 890
- QLife 1800 184 527



COVID19 VACCINATIONS

Many of us are now eligible for a Covid19 vaccination.

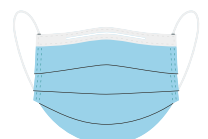
The current advice of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI): (9 June 2021)

- the Pfizer vaccine will be offered to people under 60 years of age
- the AstraZeneca vaccine will be offered to people aged 60 years and over
- if you are aged under 60 years and are currently eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine you need to book an appointment by calling 1800 675 398.
- if you need an interpreter, call the Victoria Coronavirus Hotline 1800 675 398 and press 0.
- If you or the person that you are booking has a disability and needs additional support to get a COVID-19 vaccine, email DLOCoordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

You can contact your local GP to ask if they are able to administer Vaccines.

Our Nearest Vaccination center is at the Broadmeadows Town Hall.

(This information was taken from www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au on 9 June 2021)



MEET OUR NEW COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

Name:
Louise



? How long have you been working the hub?

A I started working in here in late April. A few years ago I did my student placement & volunteered at the Hub, I am so pleased to be given the opportunity to be employed at Dallas Neighbourhood House.

? What are you responsible for?

A I am currently looking after social groups at the hub including Bingo which is great fun. Also BRAT and ways of getting more community members involved. We are also looking at new programs to address the needs of our local community.

? What's your favorite thing about your local community?

A I really love the diversity of our community in Broadmeadows. I love how people really want to help out others. Awareness of community issues and really wanting to help out their neighbours doing it tough.

? What's your favorite thing about the hub?

A The staff, volunteers and visitors really are the heart of the building. I enjoy meeting new people and seeing them connect with the hub.

MEET ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Name: **Kylie**



? How long have you been volunteering at the hub?

A About 4 months

? What made you want to be a volunteer?

A I wanted to give back to the community who've been helping me.

? What do you do in your volunteering role?

A Help with the food parcel program. Unload the truck, prepare the parcels & hand them out. Sometimes also some admin work.

? What's your favorite thing about the hub?

A The people, other volunteers & meeting the community members who come into collect their food parcels, having a quick chat with them as they pick up their food.



MEN'S GROUP

Our Men's group meets every other Tuesday at the Broadmeadows Community Hub.

A small group of local men who catch up for a chat and a cuppa.

Dates: 29 June, 13 July, 27 July, 10 August, 24 August, 7 September, 21 September, 5 October, 19 October, NOT 2 November (public holiday), 16 November, 30 November



Men's Group meets

Every other Tuesday at 10.30am

BRAT ASSISTANCE APPOINTMENT SERVICE

If you have an issue let us try and help! Broadmeadows Resident Advisory Team is a group of volunteers who can offer help with;



- Assistance finding and contacting support services in our local community
- Assistance completing forms
- Free computer access (bookings required)
- Just ask a question and we will do our best to help

Dates & Times:

Monday - Thursday 10am - 1pm

To make a booking please contact BRAT on 03 9302 2131



IMPORTANT DATES

- 20 June: World Refugee Day
- 4 - 11 July: NAIDOC Week
- 12 Aug: International youth day
- 1 - 8 Sept: Adult Learners Week
- 9 Sept: RU OK Day
- 15-16 Sept: Yom Kippur
- 1 Oct: International day of Older Persons
- 4 Oct: World mental Health Day
- 11 - 17 Oct: Anti-poverty Week
- 29 Oct: National Teachers day
- 31 Oct: Halloween
- 1 Nov: Melbourne Cup Day
- 11 Nov: Remembrance Day
- 25 Nov: International day for the elimination of violence against women.
- 28 Nov- 6 Dec: Hanukkah



BRAT OPEN MEETINGS

BRAT holds monthly meetings.

We will discuss local issues effecting you.

Plan topics for forums.

Its a great opportunity to get to know your neighbours, and also talk about the positives along with the negatives of living in the Broadmeadows community.

Dates & Times: 12pm

29th June, 27 July, 31 Aug, 28 Sept, 26 Oct, 30 Nov

Last Tuesday of the Month at 12pm



Broadmeadows Community Hub

Address: 180 Widford St, Broadmeadows, 3047

Phone: 03 9302 2131 or 0459 310 754

Email: brat.residents@gmail.com

Website: www.dallasnh.org.au