WRF

Your Warrawong Community Centre

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Warrawong Residents Forum Inc (WRF)

Is based out of Warrawong Community Centre in NSW Illawarra Region. We are a small organisation with a 1.1 staff and a handful of volunteers in one of the Illawarra's most under resourced and disadvantaged communities (SEIFA Index of 2%). We provide a range of support to the community from Early Intervention – through to – Emergency Relief; Including: information, referral, links, assessment, and advocacy. We provide several initiatives that serve as soft entry points for the community including a community lunch, food hubs, food parcels, and take away meals, – this basic need and resource sees vulnerable people visiting the center, engaging with the team, and building a sense of trust where they can ask for help and engage in our resource.

IN OCTOBER RESCUED APPROX. **1,995KG'S OF FOOD**
AND SERVED / ENGAGED **1,812 PEOPLE**
1,189 ADULTS AND 623 CHILDREN
VIA THE FOLLOWING FOOD INITIATIVES

OUR FOOD INITIATIVES

Our food initiatives are run on donations, grants, and gifts that we receive. We would like to thank and acknowledge Oz Harvest for their enormous weekly efforts through their partnerships with Woolworths and Aldi. We'd also like to thank Green Connect, our local community members and businesses, sponsors and champions who's contribution go a long way in the maintaining of our essential food services.

FOOD HUB

Each Tuesday we sort through our food delivery to fill grocery bags for individuals and families that are in need.

TAKE AWAY MEALS

Community members who are transient or do not have facilities/ skills to cook at home are provided these meals to ensure they have access to a meal.

FOOD HUB BUNDY

Each Tuesday we visit families in Bundaleer and provide food assistance and support.

FOOD PARCLES

We store long life products and are able to provide canned goods from the oz harvest deliveries and donations to use for these instances.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Since 2003, we have been providing a free community lunch every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. These meals are hearty and also serve as a great opportunity for socializing

MEET SHANNON

Shannon is a father of 2 children under 15 years.

We met Shannon at our Thursday Service hub a few months ago and learnt that he and his partner had difficulties in connecting with supports due to their own experiences as children in the community services sector.

The distrust for service support coupled with barriers with literacy and anxiety resulted in concerns raised for their children's welfare and intervention from DCJ services.

Shannon and his family became are a regular visitor to the center, engaging in resources and services which resulted in complex issues to do with Centrelink, housing, fines, and food insecurity resolved.

With relationship and trust built, we have been able to support Shannon in working through his worries of services in his home and seeing his families needs being addressed.

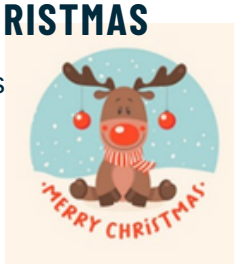
Shannon is a generous and giving person and would regularly host family/ friends who are experienceing homelessness and transience as he says**'i know what it feels like to have no where to go'.** This was an area of concern for DCJ for a number of reasons,.

We now see Shannon supporting these individuals to engage in WRF supports for accommodation and basic need resulting in Shannon not having to host these individuals in his home and reduces his sense of guilt that he felt and more importantly allows his family home to be a space for his children's needs to be priority.

UPDATES

WRF
Your Warrawong Community Centre

AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, ITS BEGINING TO LOOK ALOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



Last year we raised enough funds to create 150 Christmas hampers to give to families, this year we will reach will aim to reach 200, in response to the growing need in the community. Like last year, we aim to ensure that each child under the age of 16 is able to receive a gift.

Please see attached Xmas Flyer for further information on how you can get involved.

VOICE OF WARRAWONG IS NOW RELEASED

We have shared our findings with DCJ minister. The minister acknowledged the findings and recommendations however is not able to provide any additional support or recourse to support our community's needs.

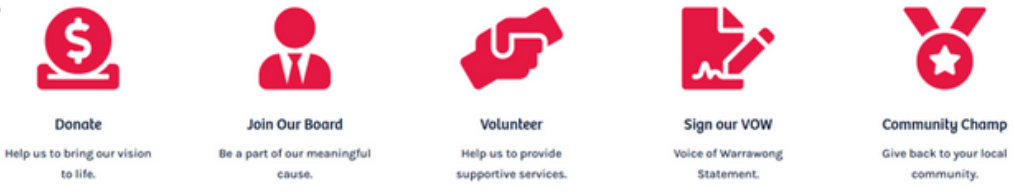
Back to the drawing board to source support to bring these recommendations to fruition.

WEBSITE IS READY FOR ACTION - WRF.ORG.AU

Our website has now been refreshed and is up and running, here you can learn more about our service, community announcements, resource and ways to get involved and support our community.

SOCIAL MEDIA, COMING SOON ...

Our newsletter will be posted monthly on the site and from 2024 we will send out newsletters to individuals who have signed up.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? OR TO GET INVOLVED.

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