

COMMUNITY UPDATE ACROSS THE TRACK



Community Update #41 December 24, 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM MALLEE TRACK HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



Wishing everyone in the Mallee Track catchment a safe and happy Christmas and New Year! This year has had many challenges, but Mallee communities have ~~risen to the challenge~~, worked together and supported each other through it all. Thank you for continuing to support MTHCS and we look forward to a wonderful year in 2021!

Staff recognition: The MTHCS Annual General Meeting was held recently and provided the opportunity to recognise the amazing contributions of 23 of our longest serving staff who have been

with the organisation for a combined total of 410 years. Among the highlights was Catherine O'Shannessy, who was recognised for 45 years of service; Glennis Barnes and Dianne Monaghan, who have both served 35 years; Joanne Grayling for 25 years; and Carmel Bonica, Shirley Vallance, Linda Steele, Lisa Bursill and Susan Willox who have all served 20 years. We also recognised those staff who have completed 15 and 10 years of service – but were unable to list them all here. Congratulations!

COVID-Safe Christmas: To keep yourself and your loved ones safe this Christmas, remember to keep following the COVID-Safe Summer regulations. In summary:

- You must carry a face mask with you when you leave home.
- Wearing a face mask is only mandatory while in taxis or ride share vehicles, on public transport, or when going to large retail venues, including shopping centres, supermarkets and department stores.
- Wearing a face mask is strongly recommended indoors and outdoors when you can't keep 1.5 metres distance from other people.

The COVID-Safe Summer restrictions are detailed in full online at
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live>

Travel to and from other states: Travel restrictions to and from other states may change very quickly – as we have seen in the last week with New South Wales. The cluster as identified in Sydney shows that this pandemic is not over yet – and we still need to be cautious and vigilant in being COVID-safe. The movement of people means our risk of exposure to COVID 19 changes as well. We will do all we can to keep our community safe – and ask for your understanding if we need to make changes at short notice. Make sure you keep abreast of any changes which will be posted on our Facebook page.

Unwell children: Even though the school year is drawing to a close, it remains important to keep unwell children at home, even if they have the mildest of symptoms. This is likely to mean some of our staff members may be unable to be at work and, as a result, could impact on delivery of some of our services. Please understand this and continue to support MTHCS by being patient. The health and wellbeing of our community remains the top priority and this includes our children.

Roaming Santa: There has been lots of Christmas cheer spread across the Mallee lately, including the MTHCS Roaming Santa visiting Murrayville (*pictures right and below*).



Visitors have been returning to our aged care facilities and it's wonderful to see so many smiles on our residents' faces. In addition to that, there's been plenty of Christmas gatherings and celebrations.

Pictured left (clockwise from top left) is the Speed PAG meeting for a Christmas lunch at the Ouyen Club; Christmas celebrations at the Ouyen Nursing Home; the team from Ouyen Mallee Minors in front of the Oke Street tree they decorated for Christmas; resident Joyce being visited by her daughter, Lorraine; and resident Alan Hannig, with daughters, Dianne and Katrina.

Lois O'Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer,
Mallee Track Health & Community Service

Contact us

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www.mthcs.com.au

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Happy retirement: We would like to wish Dr Ros McCallum all the very best for her retirement. Dr Ros has cared for the Sea Lake community for more than 20 years and her professionalism and commitment to the Mallee will be greatly missed.

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Visitors have been returning to our aged care facilities and it's wonderful to see so many smiles on our residents' faces. In addition to that, there's been plenty of Christmas gatherings and celebrations. Earlier this month the students from St Mary's visited and performed some dances for the residents, followed by a speech by the school captains wishing the residents a Merry Christmas.



Pictured (clockwise from top left) students from St Mary's performing for the residents; another shot of the students performing; MTHCS nurse Jess Cleary and Tyrrell College staff member Shani Gallagher with a Christmas tree the Tyrrell College students made for our aged care residents; and another picture of the beautiful performance by St Mary's students.



Pictured left (main image) members of the Sea Lake PAG group celebrating Christmas with MTHCS staff members Kerri and Liz; (bottom right) the Christmas wreath made by our aged care residents; and resident Ken Robinson getting a haircut from hairdresser Tammy Tait.



Lois O'Callaghan,
Chief Executive Officer,
Mallee Track Health
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