



COMMUNITY NEWS
MTHCS
Mallee Track Health
and Community Service

COMMUNITY UPDATE FROM ACROSS THE MALLEE TRACK

AGM news

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual General Meeting in Ouyen on December 4th. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lois O'Callaghan and Board Chair Mark Wilson were pleased to release the MTHCS Report of Operations which is now available on our website. The CEO reported it had been another challenging, but rewarding year at Mallee Track and thanked staff for their dedication, hard work and compassionate service.

Finding solutions to workforce challenges

Like almost every rural health service in Australia, MTHCS is facing workforce shortages among GPs, doctors and nurses. As a multi-purpose service, integrating primary health and allied health with other services, partnerships with neighbouring services and regularly using agency nursing and medical staff has helped meet ratios to fill gaps in delivery. The use of locum doctors has had a significant financial impact, but has been a necessary expense to keep services operating for our community.

MTHCS continued to find new solutions to sustainability in response to ongoing workforce challenges including partnering with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Robinvale District Health Service and Sunraysia Community Health Service. Strengthening the use of technology such as telehealth in the medical clinics, residential aged care facility and planned expansion into the Urgent Care Centre at both Ouyen and Sea Lake is also allowing continuous service delivery.

Staff service awards

Staff who were eligible for service awards and who were present at the AGM were given their Service Recognition Awards. The awards were:

- 40 years: Judy Pengelly
- 30 years: Gael Stacey and Sue Gilchrist
- 25 years: Nicole Magnisalis
- 20 years: Lynne Coates
- 15 years: Tanya Wight, Rosemary Cattanach, Gayle Budde, Wendy Stone, Louise Fitzpatrick-Leach, Renae Bonica, Marie Cummings, Lorraine Kelly and Pauline Munro
- 10 years: Debbie White, Kellie Matthews, Yvonne Saunders, Rhonda Lockett, Grant Doxey, Melanie Bates, Maree Allan, Kim Heaslip, Joanne Mallinson and Casey Crothers.

Keeping our communities informed

MTHCS continues to welcome consumer, carer and community participation in all aspects of our work in both formal and informal ways. Available on our website at www.mthcs.com.au is the Report of Operations and the Quality Report. The Quality Report provides information on specific performance indicators relating to patient care, infection prevention and control, hygiene and initiatives to improve patient experience while a patient as well as upon discharge.

New Board members welcomed

New Board members Darren Law and Mary Rydeburg were officially welcomed at the Annual AGM. Both Darren and Mary bring diverse new skillsets with Darren employed for the past 25 years as a Paramedic in the local region. His most recent experience includes his current role as Team Manager involved in patient care and safety and clinical governance. Mary has a diversity of experience in health services and aged care reforms and has previously served on other Boards in the Mallee and Sunraysia. Mary is currently employed by Mildura Rural City Council as Transition Coordinator for Aged and Disability services.

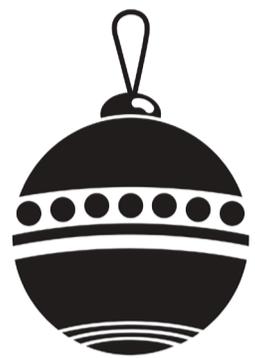
Outgoing Board Members

The Board Chair also thanked outgoing Board Members Laurice McClelland, who was recently recognised with a Life Governorship by the former Sea Lake and District Health Service, and Hodi Beauliv for her insights into the management of health services.

Plan ahead for Christmas holiday service hours

Some of our services and programs will close during the Christmas holiday period and we encourage clients to plan ahead. Refer to our advertisement on the website and on our Facebook page for details of operating hours for other services.

MTHCS would like to thank all of our clients, service partners, communities and staff for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.



Contact us

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