

# BEACON NEWS

## From the Coordinator ...

We have not put out a newsletter for quite a while - so, my apologies. The Covid 19 situation has been challenging for Beacon as it has been for the whole Australian community.

Following is a rundown on what we have been doing for the last 6 months and some highlights which we have been happy to celebrate.

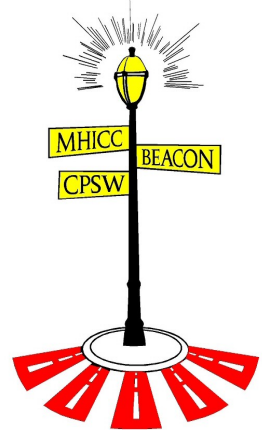
### Client Service

Beacon has been running a modified service for the people we assist since March this year and we have been careful to adhere to all the Government Health guidelines around social distancing and hygiene. This service has involved providing clients with pre packed bags of goods and general advice. We have not interviewed clients or provided other forms of financial assistance or counselling/information advice.

Four volunteers deserve special recognition for keeping Beacon open during this time, so thank you very much Carol, Janet, Pam and Gillian.

These volunteers kept the administration, reception and pantry areas humming during this time and also meant we could receive a lot of donations of cash and goods. It also meant that the community was aware Beacon was still "open for business" Thanks also to James and Chris and all the Blackwood Church of Christ staff for supporting us through this period.

We have now recommenced our full service to our clients.



*Local Churches working together to help Local People*

### CONTACT DETAILS

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*Geoff Sherlock - Beacon Emergency Assistance Coordinator*

### Donations and Community Support

Beacon have received a lot of donations of cash and goods from the Hills Church community, community groups and the general local community over the last 6 months and we are most grateful for all this support. As in the past, Beacon could not function without all this generous support.

Drakes Foodland, Blackwood Rotary, Blood Sweat and Gears Bike Club, Blackwood Uniting, Anglican, Catholic and Lutheran Churches and local schools are among those who offer us ongoing support.



## Happenings and events over the last 6 months

1. On August 7 four of our volunteers, Carol, Brigid, Gloria and Chris participated in the Walk a Mile Challenge to raise money for the homeless. They raised \$200 for The Hutt St Centre and had a lot of fun as well doing the walk. Carol told me they had regular coffee stops along the way. Congratulations on an excellent effort everyone.
2. During September a small group of year 7 students from Blackwood Primary visited Beacon with their teacher. They were working on a school project which showed how Beacon assists people in the local community. On their 2<sup>nd</sup> visit the students brought in over \$200 worth of food to help Beacon assist others, which we greatly appreciated. I am sure the students also gained an insight into community service in action.
3. In mid September the coordinator of Beacon was invited by Blackwood Rotary to give a presentation at one of their meetings on the role of Beacon in the local community. The night provided an opportunity to thank the Rotarians for their ongoing support for Beacon.
4. In August many of our volunteers attended a very enjoyable lunch at "The Duck Inn" at Coromandel Valley and our past coordinator, Jenny Horne, also attended. We all had a great time meeting up socially. The Duck has been our favourite restaurant to have informal Beacon catch ups over the last few years.
5. Beacon are hoping to purchase an iPad which will allow interviewers to access information on agencies to which it may at times be appropriate to refer clients for extra assistance outside our expertise at Beacon. For example, accommodation services, information on health, financial counselling, Centrelink issues, legal assistance and financial assistance grants. Beacon has begun using one particularly useful site called Affordable SA which lists a very wide range of services available for people and is very "user friendly".



## Beacon Trading Table Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 12.30pm

Beacon will be running their annual trading table to raise funds on Saturday morning November 7th. We will be located on Main Rd Blackwood outside Terry White Pharmacy near the pedestrian crossing. If you have the time please drop by and see all the goodies we have for sale and hopefully buy something. We would also be grateful for any donations of plants, preserves or baked goods for us to sell on the day.

## Christmas Hamper Donations

Any time from now until December 2nd Beacon would welcome donations of food and gifts for our annual Christmas Hampers which we provide to some of our clients. Traditionally we have provided around 25-30 hampers and also Christmas gift packages just before Christmas. Gifts are usually roughly age targeted for children and we also make up gifts for men and women and families. So any donations can be dropped into us at Beacon on a Wednesday between 9am- 1pm or delivered to Blackwood Church of Christ outside these times.



## Foodland Keytags

Please remember to use the key tag when shopping at Drakes Supermarket. They have been a major supporter for many years.

