

# BEACON NEWS

## From the Coordinator ...

Our first Newsletter of 2019 must begin with a huge THANK YOU to all of you who have so generously supported us throughout the past 12 months. Your generosity has been astounding.

Beacon Emergency Relief, as I am sure you know, receives no government grant; it is only through the generosity of the local churches, the local community, both organizations and individuals that Beacon has been able to continue to provide assistance to those in need. We are very grateful to all the local primary schools and local organizations for their amazingly generous donations of food and gifts and money throughout 2018. We were also very fortunate to receive the proceeds of the "Boutiques on Parade" organized by the Blackwood Action Group. This very generous assistance from the Blackwood community has meant that for the last few years Beacon has not had to be subsidized by the Mitcham Hills Inter Church Council.

In December 2018 we provided 26 Christmas Hampers for local clients and assisted the Circle of Friends to provide Christmas Hampers for 4 refugee families, as well as helping St. Vincent de Paul with gifts for a family.

This was made possible through the fundraising and donations from the community, churches and schools.

The Christmas Hampers consisted of basic foods (e.g. baked beans, tinned tomatoes, pasta, tinned meat or fish) as well as some Christmas foods and treats; we were also able to include a number of gifts for adults and children. The Food Hampers and gift wrapping were done by our wonderful Beacon Volunteers and others from the Blackwood community who generously gave of their time. We have now begun the season of Lent and preparation for Easter. All here at Beacon wish you a very happy Easter.

*Jenny Horne*



*Local Churches working together to help Local People*

### CONTACT DETAILS

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## **VOLUNTEERS**

Beacon volunteers provide our clients with a dedicated service. We have just said farewell to Jane Marlowe who volunteered for many years but has had a change in work commitments. We wish her every success in her future endeavours.

We are always interested in improving our knowledge and skills; recently Gloria attended a "Suicide Prevention Workshop", her report is below:

### **OUT OF THE BLUE - SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK MITCHAM**

Recently I attended the free training sessions provided by this Network at Blackwood Hills Baptist Church. I was most impressed with the 50 -60 people present including a dozen or so young adults.

WHY DID I ATTEND? As a volunteer with Beacon I felt I needed to be able to identify and assist a client should they reach out to us in a time of distress.

One suicide is one too many! People of all age groups, gender, cultures and backgrounds can be at risk of having suicidal thoughts.

(8 people a day in Australia, - more than are killed on the roads - take their own lives).

#### VALUE OF ATTENDING

I feel more competent to recognize signs of distress, to address them with confidence and compassion and guide a person through their thoughts and feelings to a safer place.

**FURTHER COURSES will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 6.30pm – 9.00pm at the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church, 72 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood. To book for this Free training, please email, [ootbcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ootbcommittee@gmail.com)**

OR a support group meets on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Blackwood Community Centre 4 Young Street, Blackwood, from 5.00 – 6.30pm

Email: [ootbcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ootbcommittee@gmail.com)

## **FUNDRAISING**

We have booked the Beacon Emergency Relief Trading Table for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

As always we look forward to seeing many, many customers.

Of course we also need donations of preserves, baked goods and plants.



## **KEEP IN MIND**

Please also remember to use your Drakes Foodland key tag – this scheme provides a significant amount of funding for Beacon.



## **THINKING OF A HOLIDAY?**

Flight Centre have promised us 1% of the amount on any holiday booked through them, so please keep them in mind when planning a holiday.

**Flight Centre**

Unit 2, 237 Main Road, Blackwood, SA, 5051

