

Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE #1

♦
January 2025



Here's what has happened in the last few months and what's to come!

Welcome to our newsletter for the first quarter of 2025! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to make a positive impact in our community.

Our AGM was held in October 2024 and the document can be found on our website under Publications.

In terms of our recent activities, we have successfully won an \$18,000 grant from Border Trust's 2024 Give500. Our Cultural Exchange program will benefit from this grant and the funds will help retain the services of our bilingual support worker and keep our two 12-seater buses on the road to transport participants to the programs, which is so vital to maintaining community connection.

Our Cultural Exchange program also supports other programs to break down the barriers to inclusion for people from cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of our team and volunteers who have continued to support me during these challenging times. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to keep our programs running smoothly and effectively.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that our organisation relies on the kindness and support of our community. If you are able to donate your time or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us either by telephone or through our website.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy this month's newsletter!
Thank you,



Renee Wilson
General Manager

In this newsletter you can expect:

Staff News

Volunteer
Spotlight

Spotlight
Agency

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Story

Contact Details



Cultural Exchange News

We thank Lou Newman, Cultural Exchange Project Coordinator for her contribution and dedication to the Cultural Exchange Programs, and unwavering support for the volunteers and clients in the programs. We wish her well in her future endeavours.



SETS News

We thank Adrienne Petty, Caseworker with our SETS, and previously project coordinator for the very successful Coffee in the Hood program for her supportive, enthusiastic work in both of these roles. We wish her well in her future endeavours.



Volunteer Spotlight

This month's volunteer is Guni Buckpitt and one of the students from the Homework Help program held at the Wodonga Hyphen Library.

It's wonderful to recognise Guni for her volunteer work this month. Her selflessness and dedication to helping children from CALD backgrounds to learn English to help them in their school subjects.

When she isn't volunteering, you'll find Guni enjoying family time!



Spotlight Agency

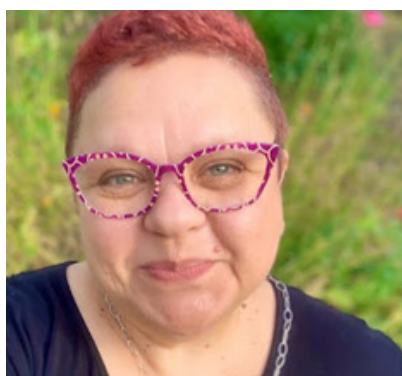
Albury Wodonga's FoodShare Community Pantry service offers a flexible and empowering approach to food relief.

The Shop offers the freedom to choose from a variety of categories, including fruit and vegetables, dairy, meat, bakery, frozen food and pantry staples as well as hygiene and cleaning products. Opening hours are:

Location: 81 Wigg St., Wodonga

Purchase your \$25 Voucher (valued at \$150) from our Wodonga office at Shop 15, Southside Tce, Beechworth Road.

New Staff Profiles



Lenni Morkel-Kingsbury

Lenni comes to AWVRB with over 20 years of experience in project management, learning design and facilitation, co-design and community engagement, including volunteer work experience. Her background spans the design, healthcare, education, creative industries, IT, business management sectors as well as working for social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations. She is also a practicing visual artist who has managed community based, artist run spaces and projects. As an advocate of creative and relational approaches, Lenni strives to support strengths based, compassionate actions and projects in communities that build sustainable and inclusive futures for all. We all welcome Lenni and look forward to the program's growth and development under her guidance.



Maureen Heron

Maureen has a passion for supporting vulnerable communities in their settlement journey. She joins AWVRB with considerable event and project management, community engagement and community development experience. Maureen honed these skills and experience with over 20 years working in the not-for-profit community services sector in senior management roles. Maureen holds a Degree in Indigenous Studies, Diploma in Community Services, Graduate Certificate in Mental Health and Diploma in Financial Counselling. We all welcome Maureen to the team and look forward to her dedication and contribution to our clients in the CALD community.



Sea of Orange

Jessica Carrick, our Settlement Services Team Caseworker and Jorja Esler helped organise the event to bring awareness and solidarity in the Wodonga Walk Against Violence, in particular gender-based violence.

The walk was an overwhelming success of a sea of orange with at least 300 women, men and children wearing orange walked from the Cube along High Street to Richardson Park. A BBQ was organised by Wodonga Men's Shed, and games and activities to engage community as part of the conversation.



Good News Story - Omnia Inclusive

The Albury Wodonga Resource Bureau proudly celebrated the success of participants who completed the Pathways to Volunteering and Employment program.

Over an engaging three-day workshop, attendees explored various local volunteering opportunities and developed essential employability skills, including resume writing, interview techniques, and workplace communication.

The program culminated in a heartwarming presentation, where participants were awarded certificates of completion. A photo of the group holding their certificates reflects their enthusiasm and sense of achievement. Omnia Inclusive participants brought energy and determination to the program, showcasing the value of community and the potential to make a difference, meeting individuals with diverse goals.

"It's incredibly rewarding to see participants grow in confidence and achieve milestones such as securing work placements or gaining new skills," Wade Leonard

The Pathways to Volunteering and Employment initiative demonstrates the power of connection and skill-building in creating meaningful contributions to the community.

Albury Wodonga Resource Bureau looks forward to running future programs to empower even more individuals on their journey to employment and personal growth.

Thank you for reading!

**ALBURY WODONGA
VOLUNTEER RESOURCE
BUREAU**

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