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NEWSLETTER November 2018



Sharyn Guy, Manager

As we are nearing the end of the year, I think it's fair to say we have come a long way. What we have accomplished in such a short time frame is nothing short of incredible.

One thing we were unable to finish with the rebuild was the flooring to the administration areas and in the new function area, along with window furnishings. I'm super happy to announce that we have received a grant to allow us to completely finish off the build!!! This means the entire flooring will be finished along with blinds

throughout the building. This will assist with not only making it look great but eliminate the echo in both the function and conference room and will also help with keeping the area cleaner and tidier.

Community Lunch - Our Community Lunch was better attended this month with a total of 25 meals served. November will be our last community lunch for the year, so we encourage everyone to book in early and come and have a delicious two course meal for only \$7 (\$5 for members.) Our lunches will start back up in February. Remember - bookings are essential for catering purposes.

The Big Shed - Some time ago, we asked our Volunteers to submit suggestions to give our op shop a new name. This saw a large number of names submitted and our marketing committee narrowed them down to a final 4, to then be selected by our BOM. We can now say our shed has been officially named 'The big Shed' Op Shop. After all, we have always referred it to as the Big Shed!

Christmas - Now is the time to start thinking about Christmas. Have you got your presents organised or at least thought out? We have a great selection available in the Big Shed for reasonable prices all year round, however we will be at the rotary village fair again this year. Saturday 3rd November and will have yet another large selection of gifts made up. These are always popular, and of course affordable. So come down on Saturday and say hello, we'd love to see you there!

Our Christmas lunch is on again this year. This is held every year at the Elderly Centre, to offer people somewhere to go, who would otherwise spend the day alone. So, if you or

someone you know fits this category, please keep in mind that this is another option. Bookings are essential. It's a great chance to gather and celebrate a time of year that should bring us happiness and not have to feel like we are alone. Please contact our office if you would like to know more or would like to book.



Colleen Moyne, Coordinator

We're gearing up for our end of year celebrations and what a year it's been! Massive changes and amazing milestones.

We currently have 57 active volunteers. In the past year we have had 16 volunteers leave and one who sadly passed away. We have had 12 new volunteers start and 4 currently going through the recruitment process. We are very fortunate that our volunteer workforce remains steady compared to the turnover of many other not-for-profit organisations. Our volunteers come – and they stay! - and that is a really good thing for all of us.

Since this time last year, our volunteers have contributed almost 17,000 hours!

One of the changes we have made regarding volunteer recognition, is to introduce 'Milestone' badges to commemorate years of service. Volunteers now receive a two-year, five-year and ten-year badge.

Relocating our shop out into the big shed has proven to be a good move. Combined with the extra security and the creation of a new Concierge (front of shed) role, we have found that it has significantly cut down losses of stock through theft.

We continue to receive positive feedback about the quality and prices in our shop and have built a regular following.

The uptake of our membership program has been phenomenal, and members are able to take advantage of special discounts and sales.

The installation of EFTPOS facilities (finally!) is making life a lot easier for those who don't carry a lot of cash and the phasing out of plastic shopping bags is no being accepted after a bit of a rocky start.



New Volunteers

We would like to introduce new volunteers, Von (left) and Dianne (right.) They both work on Mondays, Von in our Op Shop and Dianne in the role of concierge. If you need assistance to find what you're looking for, ask Dianne! Next time you're in on a Monday, stop and say hello to both of them.



REPURPOSING OLD SUITCASES

Suitcases come in a huge variety of sizes, shapes, colours and conditions. If you have an old one stored away, or are lucky enough to pick one up for a bargain price (like at our shop, for instance?) here are some nifty ways to repurpose them:



GARDEN NEWS



We have some beautiful juicy strawberries ripening in our garden. One of my favourite fruits. I chop them up and keep them in my freezer for smoothies, stirred into yoghurt, sprinkled on cereal or just as an icy summer treat on their own.

Here are a couple of other ways to enjoy strawberries...

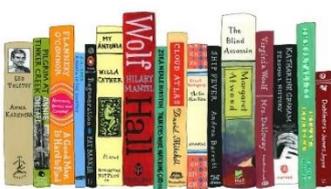
- Dip them in chocolate, white, milk or dark. They all compliment the sweet taste of the strawberry.
- Sprinkle over a salad of fresh greens.
- Add to pancake mix. Strawberries and choc chips together take pancakes to a whole new level!
- Make a refreshing summer drink by blending them with lemon juice, water and sugar - or simply with store-bought lemonade.
- Melt ice-cream and add blended strawberries then re-freeze. A much better flavor than store-bought strawberry ice-cream.
- Strawberry jam or coulis – easy on the sugar so that the fresh strawberry flavour comes through. It might be a bit runnier, but the taste is worth it.

JUST FOR FUN

Are you proud to be an Op Shopper? I know I am. We're doing our part to help the environment and save money at the same time – not to mention supporting a good cause. Here's how you can show off that pride to the world (Funny, though, that these are all new products.) 😊



FRIDAY BOOK CLUB



Friday Book Club

We still have spots available for Friday Book Club. Come along to this FREE activity. Join in with others and share your love of the printed word. Led by experience volunteer Sean, this is a fun, informal group. Tea, coffee available for a small fee.

CURRENT COURSES

Weekly Program

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 <p>Monday Games Group 1:30pm - 3:30pm Free</p>	 <p>Conquering Computers 1.00pm – 3.00pm \$6.00</p>	 <p>Introduction to Leather Work 10.00am-12.00pm \$10.00 (Taking expressions of interest)</p>	 <p>Designing with Mosaics 10.00am-1.00pm \$15.00</p>	 <p>Art for Enjoyment 9.00am-12.00pm \$6.00 (taking expressions of interest)</p>
	 <p>I.T. One on One Available by appointment \$10.00</p>	 <p>Language, Literacy and Numeracy Available by appointment - \$6.00 English as a Second Language classes also available by appointment.</p>	 <p>Language, Literacy and Numeracy Available by appointment - \$6.00 English as a Second Language classes also available by appointment.</p>	 <p>Friday Book Club 10.00am – 12.00pm Free Taking expressions of interest</p>
		 <p>Budget Cooking 9:30am -12:30pm \$6.00 (taking expressions of interest)</p>	 <p>Creative Writing 10.00am – 11.30am \$6.00</p>	<p>Community Lunch, Last Friday of every month. 2 course meals \$7. Bookings are essential (Members only \$5)</p>

Taking expressions of interest for: *Creative Writing ~ Introduction to Leather work ~ Art for Enjoyment ~ Book Club ~ English as a Second Language (ESL)*



TAX HELP - THANK YOU PENNY!

Our FREE tax help service has wrapped up for the year and we would like to thank volunteer Penny for all the time and care she has put into the role. The Tax Help program is celebrating thirty years this year and has seen about 800 volunteers in 600 locations around Australia giving their time to help those on a low income to lodge their tax returns. In the past thirty years the program has helped around one and a half million people!

If you think you'd like to become a Tax Help volunteer, contact the ATO.



Christmas Closing
We will be closed for Christmas from
4pm on Friday, December 21st and
re-open on January 7th

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Here are some shots from the first Community Lunch to be served in our new Function Room from our new kitchen! Everything went smoothly, and it was great to be able to serve our visitors in a comfortable climate-controlled space. Many thanks to our Manager, Sharyn Guy for stepping in to help out when we were short-staffed. A sterling job! Thanks also to volunteers Diane Fraser and Jenny Langmead.



The need for connection and community is primal, as fundamental as the need for air, water, and food. (Dean Ornish – American Physicist and researcher)





ROOM BOOKINGS

It's fantastic to see our new rooms being used by other groups. We welcome students from AUCTUS who will be with us every Thursday and Friday while they complete their studies in Disability and Aged Care.

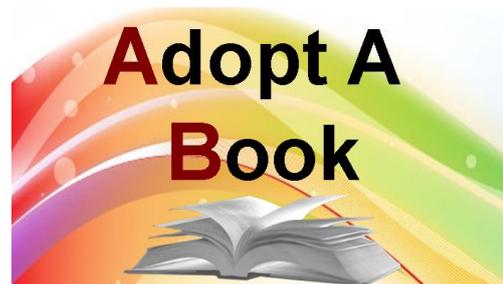


GROW FREE

Don't forget to check out our 'Grow Free' cart when you visit. Anything you see on there is free to take if you need it. If you have any excess fresh produce from your own garden, we would love it if you could swap or share.

FREE BOOKS

We also have a Free Books table at the front of our Op Shed. Even old books still have love to share. Why not adopt one and take it home?



CAR PARKING

Many of our customers are unaware that we have parking at the rear of our facility. To access the carpark, enter through the gate to the left of the building. It's important to observe the speed limit (5km per hour) as there are often people walking across the yard or other cars moving about. There is also disabled access.



OTHER GROUPS & SERVICES AVAILABLE AT GAWLER COMMUNITY HOUSE

- Tutti Arts 1st and 4th Monday
 - Relationships Australia - 2nd Monday/Tuesday
 - Northern Carers - 3rd Monday - 8284 0388
 - E-Tax – Free tax help - July to October annually
 - Gawler Radio (Gawler Broadcasting) - 8522 6441
- Call us for more information

