

**Camden Haven Community at 3 Inc.**  
ABN 79 652 261 007

Edition 9 May 2021	<b>YOUR NEWSLETTER</b>
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**Committee Members:** Theo Hazelgrove (Chairman), Alan Kilminster, Fran Burns, Glenn Maas, Hima Karnati, Ann Macinante, Nathan Killick (Public Officer and Chaplain), Dr Sam Nelapati (Patron)



**MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN THEO**

I am extremely pleased to advise that our **RESPONSE CARE TEAM** (mentioned in the last Newsletter and responding to the recent floods) has attracted wonderful financial response from the community. Kew Corner Store started with a donation of \$5,000, followed by donations of \$750 from Peter & Anne-Maree Newman, \$1,000 from a local lady who wishes to remain anonymous, \$1,000 from Lake Cathie Medical Centre, \$2,000 from the local Catholic church members and hundreds of dollars donated by the Comboyne community as well as a massive gift card initiative from the Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce. In addition, I recently had the pleasure of receiving a charity grant of \$2,000 from the Kendall Op-Shop President Bill Jones (photo right) to go towards the ongoing expenses of our organisation.



**A PROMISE KEPT**

The Manager of Club North Haven, Peter Negus promised to organise ongoing funds to keep our community bus running. Alongside local businessmen Brendon Lynch, Peter Poole, Felix La Spina & Mathew Guffogg (and the very generous members of Club North Haven), all were in attendance to honour their promise, and to hand over their first amount of \$5,000 to our Treasurer, Alan Kilminster (photo left). This should be sufficient to register, insure, maintain and run the bus for a year. Thank you everyone on behalf of all those in our community who will benefit from your giving. We indeed enjoy a most generous community in the Camden Haven.



**A HARD YEAR FOR SOME OF OUR FRIENDS**

**Warren** (left) lost his beloved Serena not that long ago, and recently, his van at Brigadoon was flooded and rendered unliveable. He can no longer face the thought of returning there. **Lance** (right) too had his humble rented flat inundated with flood water. Pretty-well everything went underwater, but he says he'll get back on top again.





- ✚ Did you know that most of the Vitamin C found in fruits is in the skin?
- ✚ Did you know that the fingerprints of a koala are indistinguishable to that of a human?
- ✚ Did you know that, from surveys taken, around 30% of people refuse to sit on a public toilet seat?
- ✚ Did you know that some people think that all Community at 3 does is serve a free BBQ meal once a week? They do not know that we...
  - ✓ assist people by arranging and funding **short-term emergency accommodation** in local motels or caravan parks
  - ✓ supply to those in need **food, cash for urgent petrol, food vouchers, household furniture** and items
  - ✓ direct people to **essential services**, assist those who have electricity debts
  - ✓ help to secure **long-term accommodation**
  - ✓ assist those **referred to us from local churches, Police** and other agencies & **attend Court** with people when asked
  - ✓ have created a **stock of food products and household items** including blankets, sleeping bags and pillows (regularly sought during Winter months) and **home deliver food parcels** if people are housebound
  - ✓ **serve meals at venues** other than behind the LUSC each week, such as Christmas lunch at North Haven and at local caravan parks.
  - ✓ have a team of Volunteers ready and willing just to sit alongside people who may be **lonely, in ill-health or simply want someone to talk to**, and another team to handle more practical needs
  - ✓ have a **12-seater Bus** which is available for a multitude of transport needs for those unable to access suitable transport by other means.
  - ✓ try to engender a sense of community and belonging in those not always cared for by the mainstream of society. Every week **our Chairman and CEO spend on average about 25 hours** between them discussing and handling the needs of many in the Camden Haven.
  - ✓ As well, we have a **team of other Volunteers** who are committed to serving on a regular weekly basis.  
.....No, we don't *only* serve a **free BBQ meal** once a week! But it *is* the place where we can all regularly get together for a meal and a **chat, hear live music or a guest speaker, catch up and speak about community needs.**

#### OUR FIRST OUTING IN THE BUS

On **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021** we have an outing organised. **Tin** will be showing us around the Global Community Garden at the Kendall Community Centre, 19 Comboyne St, Kendall. Afterwards, **Tin** will take us to the Community Centre Kitchen to prepare some food to take to the afternoon meal at the LUSC. We will meet behind the LUSC (where we hold our weekly BBQ meal) at **12.00 noon** and go there & back in the Bus. Please let Alan, Theo or Glenn know if you wish to attend. It's all FREE.

#### How one of our friends endured the recent floods

"I reside in my own unit at Brigadoon Caravan Park, North Haven and I was completely flooded recently. 2.45pm first flood warning. 4.30pm second warning: "Urgent - Vacate by 7pm!" I looked outside and saw water almost



knee-deep lapping at my steps. My niece, who also lives nearby, said we have to pack essentials and go. I warned my elderly neighbour - she decided to stay. I quickly packed my cat & her food for 2 days with some of my clothes for 2 days and a few prized possessions. As we left in my car, for one moment the car aquaplaned. I was very frightened until I could feel the tyres on the road again & headed for the LUSC where we were directed downstairs onto a couch. Soon the water started to come in and we were moved upstairs. The Club staff were amazing with beds, sleeping bags, clothing, toiletries and meals for the many who were now there. Hard to sleep watching the water continue to rise. On day 2 those who stayed at Brigadoon arrived due to forced evacuation, reporting that water was now half-way to my roof and rising. I was very stressed. People now arrived by boat & the Club was bursting at the seams. So many people looking stunned, looking lost. Would the Club remain a safe place? Another night at the LUSC and the water started to recede. Relief organisations were arriving. Friends from Port arrived to take us to a house where a room was available for each of us. One week after leaving my home I was able to return. Mud and muck were over everything in sight. Rubbish everywhere. When I got home and opened the door, the mess inside was pure chaos – the stench made me sick – you know that yucky, musty, mouldy smell – it was awful. I saw the water level had gone half-way up the front windows. Everything below was now rubbish, including my bedding, books, clothes, food etc. I have never felt so crushed – my life's possessions either destroyed or damaged beyond use. Now, I am recovering – blessed by the many who have showed they actually CARE".....G

