

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

A helping hand for those in need in our community

"..Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Jesus – Matthew 25:40)

Edition
27
February
2023

YOUR NEWSLETTER

Need help? Call Alan (0412-840644) or Theo (0419-370076) or at Comboyne call Ray (0427-117950)
We meet every Wednesday at 3.00pm for a FREE MEAL at the rear of
Laurieton United Services Club, 2 Seymour St Laurieton – all are welcome

2 Mission Terrace, Lakewood NSW 2443 PO Box 103, Laurieton NSW 2443 ✉ communityat3pm@gmail.com

☎ 0419-370076 🌐 communityat3.org.au 📘 <https://www.facebook.com/communityat3/>

Committee Members: Theo Hazelgrove (Chairman), Alan Kilminster, Fran Burns, Glenn Maas, Hima Karnati, Ann Macinante, Brian Giles-Browne, Ray Peters (Assistant Chaplain), Cec Wasson, Lesa Sutherland, Philip Sutherland, Nathan Killick (Public Officer and Chaplain), Dr Sam Nelapati (Patron)

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the original custodians, the Biripi People, and elders past and present, on whose land we walk, work and live.



MESSAGE FROM CEC - COMMITTEE MEMBER & OP-SHOP COORDINATOR

It's been a privilege to be on the Committee for the past few years. I am the link between the Anglican Op-Shop and Community at 3 as well as other charities. What does an old, retired carpenter do? You may have seen my (not always) trusty ute about with odd bits of furniture. The guys at the Op-Shop say it's the same old stuff just to look busy. But a call from Alan or Theo and we do what we can to meet the need. I am a link in the chain that makes our community stronger. Teamwork makes the dream work.

ATTENTION PUBLIC MEETING ALL WELCOME

If you have received this Newsletter, then you have also received an Invitation to attend a Public Meeting called to advise the progress of our purchasing a property for transitional accommodation to help address the crisis in homelessness in our area.

We are seeking to ensure the long-term viability of a local facility to assist in alleviating this problem.

We hope you can attend the Public Meeting and continue to support the efforts of Community at 3.

Meeting: Thursday 9th March 2023

Where: Laurieton United Services Club

Time: 5.30pm

Please RSVP to donbri23@hotmail.com.au



Community at 3 acknowledges the passing of **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI** at 95 years in late December and offers prayerful support for his family and Catholics throughout the world



COMBOYNE DONATES AT CAROLS NIGHT

At the Comboyne Christmas Carols event, the local community once more generously donated the collection to Community at 3.

Thank you again Comboyne.

All proceeds go to those in need in the Camden Haven and Comboyne areas

(Colin & Ray on the BBQ)



WE LOVE STORIES LIKE THIS ONE



Andrea joined our Community at 3 family several years ago, at a time of financial difficulty and job insecurity. She tried a number of jobs but none of them were very satisfying.

To compound matters, Andrea rarely smiled as she had front teeth issues. After working hard and putting money aside for the dental work to remedy the issues, Andrea was a little short of the amount needed and she so wanted to smile again. After knowing her for quite a while, Community at 3 decided to help with the shortfall. Teeth fixed, now Andrea has a permanent job at a Port Macquarie facility where she has the opportunity to help others. Her main role is the preparation of 100-120 meals per week for the local needy there. When interviewed, Andrea said, "Community at 3 has been so supportive of me. I can't thank them enough".

Well done Andrea – and we all love your new smile.

(Bill loves writing poems
Here is one of his)

JUST ANOTHER STUNNED FISH

I am crying inside
And trying to hide
Like a rock on the beach
Above the high tide.

Nothing will ever change
The way that I feel
I'm buzzing all over
Like an electric eel.

I have been feeling lonesome
Since you went away
And keeping low to the sand
Like an old stingray.

Floating around, just another stunned fish
You were my mermaid – Oh how I wish
You would come swimming over, over to me
And take me to the clover, and out of this sea.



(Bill and his wife Raelene)

WHY IS STUART SMILING?

Stuart is one of our very reliable and hardworking Volunteers. Someone said, "Who would like to decorate our Christmas tree?" Well, Stuart is an arborist and found the offer irresistible! He did a very "thorough" job and was extremely pleased with his effort. Well done Stuart.



A COUPLE OF HELPING HANDS

- ✓ A 16-year-old Aboriginal girl was made safe over Christmas when a female Community at 3 Committee member offered her accommodation until satisfactory arrangements were made for her to be reunited with her family.
- ✓ Community at 3 yet again assisted a homeless family to reunite. This family of 4 had been separated from family for some time. After spending time with them, we were able to organise their travel home to Sydney to once again be with their family. Travel by train was arranged and the family now have accommodation and are all together again.

LOCAL CATHOLIC CONGREGATION DONATES COLLECTION

The congregation of the **Laurieton Catholic Church** has donated an entire collection to the work of Community at 3. Support from the church members, right up to the Bishop, has been wonderful. Photo shows Fr. Michael handing the proceeds to Chairman Theo.



A SMALL MIRACLE

A telephone call to Community at 3 regarding a man lying in the gutter on Ocean Drive Laurieton. He was 28 years old and homeless. We immediately responded and took the man to a doctor who said, after examination, that he had less than a day to live as he was diabetic, addicted to ice and his body was shutting down. After some fast investigation, we learnt he had family in Taree who he had not seen for 9 years, and we arranged to drive him to Taree hospital as an ambulance could not be organised quickly. Meanwhile we found his family who met us at the hospital. They re-connected and he passed away that evening in the arms of his family, but not in the gutter at Laurieton.

SOME PEOPLE LOVE TO SMILE

Something happens when a person smiles - they light up a place. Rob is such a person. He joined us at our weekly BBQ gathering to check it out. He kept coming back and has now joined the team as a Volunteer. We love having him around.



(here is Rob at the barbie with Garry, another great helper)

ANOTHER REUNION

Recently, we found a 36-year-old lady with two young children sleeping in a local shopping arcade. She was homeless. After spending time with her, reminding her that she is not forgotten and people care, she agreed we contact her mother in Coffs Harbour. She had not spoken to her mother for some time through various circumstances. Her mother agreed for her to come home to Coffs Harbour with the children. A Community at 3 Volunteer drove her to Coffs Harbour (we of course paid for the fuel) where a re-connection was made. A happy ending.

