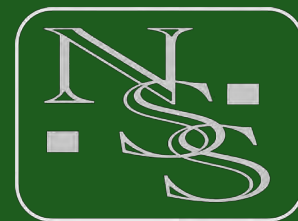




Focus

Newsletter of Northern Settlement Services Ltd
December 2020



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SHARON DAISHE

As 2020 winds to a close, we at Northern Settlement Services (NSS) send our blessings to you and your families. Our hearts are with those of you who are unable to be with your loved ones to celebrate. We are overjoyed for those of you who are now allowed to travel and can reunite with your family and friends.

I would like to thank the staff at NSS who quickly adjusted to the new way of working in a pandemic so that we could remain open and serve our vulnerable clients. Thank you also to our wonderful volunteers who support our services, and to our Board Directors who generously volunteer their own time, expertise and services to lead and guide NSS.

Importantly, I thank our funders – you make it possible for NSS to continue to serve the most vulnerable. In particular, after joining our voice to sector advocacy, NSS received funding from Multicultural NSW and has been providing direct emergency relief and casework support to vulnerable temporary visa holders who otherwise had no means to support themselves during the pandemic.

On the positive side, COVID led to a great deal of innovation in service delivery this year and overall, our communication with clients increased as we conducted regular welfare checks.

Staff and clients alike are now happy that group activities are recommencing in a COVID safe way. NSS has an exciting program to look forward to in 2021 especially in Armidale as we work with our Ezidi clients and the Rotary Club of Armidale on an agricultural employment program. We have also planned an internal restructure of our aged care services that will enable us to continuously improve the quality of our client care.

We farewell three Board members – Violetta Walsh, Christine Warrington and Enza di Stefano and thank them for their services to NSS. We welcome three new directors – Rozyta Englert, Sandra Feltham and Carla Silva and look forward to working with them

To every adult and child in the culturally and linguistically diverse communities served by NSS, we hope that whatever your circumstances, you may share joy and peace and celebration in some form and that 2021 will be a better year for you and for the world.



NSS AGM

9th December 2020

Northern Settlement Services Ltd conducted our Annual General Meeting on 9th December 2020 at the Hellenic Centre, Hamilton. The elected Board of Directors for 2020/21 is as follows noting that an election of office bearers occurs at the Board Meeting on 16th December 2020.

CHAIR	Jon Chin
VICE CHAIR	Ewa Korczynski
TREASURER & A/G SECRETARY	Alexander Seccombe
DIRECTOR	James Garvey
DIRECTOR	Barney Langford
DIRECTOR	Alex Burns
DIRECTOR	Sandra Feltham
DIRECTOR	Carla Silva
DIRECTOR	Rozyta Englert



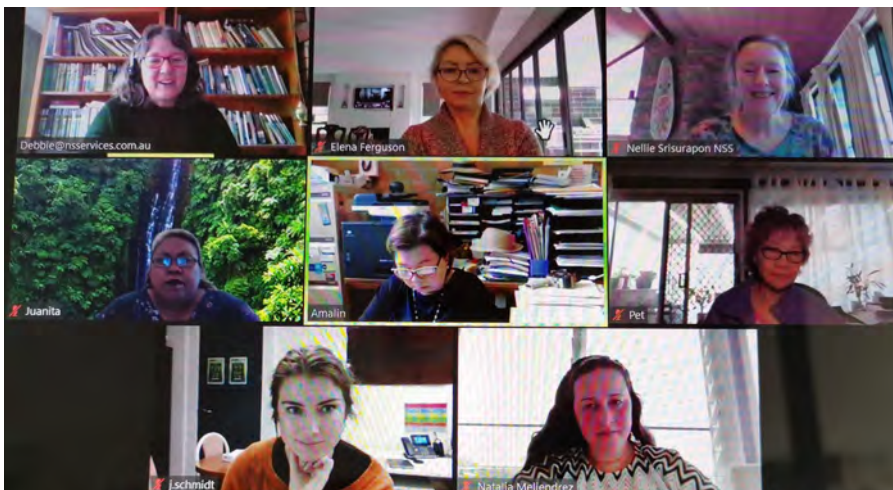
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During the COVID Pandemic NSS like many other organization has been forced to utilize technology with the likes of ZOOM meetings, SKYPE and Microsoft Teams for communication with staff working from home and meetings with staff and agencies. Left and below are some examples.

Above: WH&S Meeting

Right: NSS Families Team Meeting



Left: Temporary Visa Holders Meeting



CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS TRAINING — COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME & AGED CARE VOLUNTEERS

On Tuesday the 24th November, John Biswas gave a very informative presentation on Cultural Responsiveness to eleven of our CVS and Aged Care Volunteers. It was very well received as was the delicious lunch afterwards. The next session also being presented by John is on Tuesday the 19th January 2021 and the subject will be Elder Abuse.



MULTICULTURAL SOCIAL SUPPORT— CENTRAL COAST

On 2nd December the Central Coast MSSS Spanish-speaking Group had their last gathering for the year with a picnic in Woy Woy Lions Park.

Everyone enjoyed a barbeque cooked by Hugo and his helper Ana. Everybody brought a plate to share, it was a great day despite the chilly wind.



TALKING AROUND THE WORLD— CENTRAL COAST

At the end of every year, the NSS Talking Around The World English conversation group celebrates people and cultures coming together. As usual, it was a lot of fun, food and fantastic information.

Each community member talked about their own cultural background. We all joined in on a game of "Guess Who? + Guess What?", which brought heaps of laughs. The group consisted of families and individuals from Bangladesh, Tibet, Iran, Dominican Republic, Hungary, China, Indonesia, Thailand and The Philippines. We also had our lovely NSS volunteers to support the group and join in the fun. All participants received an NSS bag/hat and sunscreen for the holidays.

Talking Around The World is on every Tuesday through school term from 10 am to 12 at Erina. Classes start again on 9th February 2021. For info contact our Central Coast office 43343877



MULTICULTURAL SOCIAL SUPPORT - CENTRAL COAST

Magdalena is an MSSS client, from the Spanish Speaking Group.

MSSS Coordinator Marilin went to visit her early September and she was gardening and wearing NSS hat.



Volunteers End of Year Dinner 2020

Volunteers and Co-ordinators in the NSS Settlement Programs (Newcastle) enjoyed a delicious end of year dinner at Surtaj Indian restaurant on 3rd December. This occasion was an opportunity for everyone to relax and socialise, and also for NSS to say a huge 'thank you' to volunteers for their dedication in overcoming the many challenges of 2020 to continue supporting our clients.

NSS Volunteers, you are all wonderful!

Michael Freund

Settlement Volunteer Co-ordinator

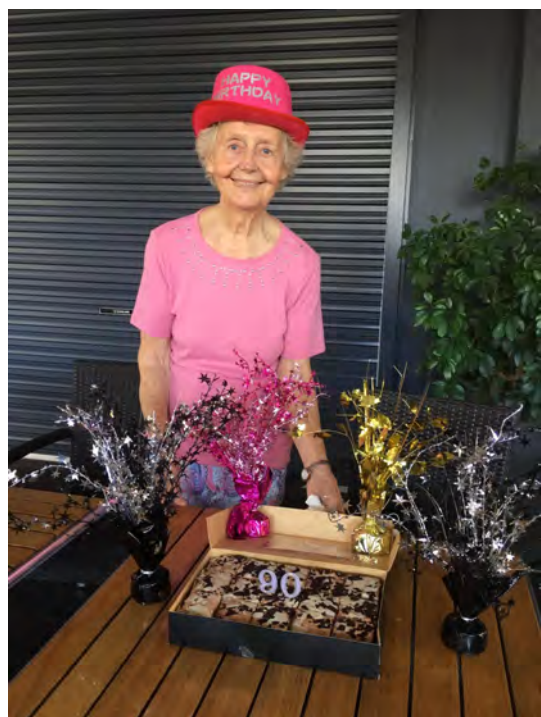




COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME - CENTRAL COAST

We celebrated the 90th birthday for our awesome CVS volunteer! Jean Paterson, on October 2020. Jean started volunteering with NSS from 2013 with Multicultural Social

Support program and still is an active volunteer as a community visitor scheme volunteer, having her full driver licence, visiting isolated people and giving them love and care.



Charity Run We Care Connect—Central Coast

One car load of essentials from We Care Connect going out to our vulnerable CALD families.



“ In November our Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (Settlement) team participated in a Staff Team Development Day as well as plan for our NSS Settlement work in 2021”



On 4th December, MSSS Central Coast Volunteers celebrated Christmas Lunch at the Entrance Leagues Club.

“Recycling Correctly and Water Saving “Information Session—Tamworth 20 Nov and 04 Dec 2020

Two information sessions were held separately: one on the 20th Nov for the Karen community members living in West Tamworth and another on the 4th December for the North Karen community members and other participants. These sessions were attended by a total of 19 people who found the topics useful and timely.

They learnt tips on how to recycle rubbish especially the different types of plastics. Understanding water conservation is important as Tamworth is still on level 3 water restrictions and the dam at only 33% full.

At the end of the sessions, the attendees were given free sunblock and some pens from NSS, and a big yellow recycling bag, a 4 minute hourglass water saver and a plastic water nozzle as water savers from the Tamworth Regional Council.

Everyone went home happy despite the scorching heat outside the meeting room.



NSS Families Team

This year, NSS Families Team began delivering a structured Parenting Program, "Bringing Up Great Kids" aims at helping parents raise independent, self-motivated children who are able to appropriately use the support of parents and friends as they grow. BUGK also helps parents learn understanding, persistence, imagination, energy, knowledge and patience as they raise their children. This program is all about promoting positive parenting.



The parenting program is being delivered to 3 NSS Multicultural Parenting Groups of families in different venues: Warners Bay, North Lake Macquarie, The Willows in partnership with Uniting Church and Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre in partnership with Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre in a 4 - weeks setting.



During November and December the program was delivered to families from different backgrounds: Russian, Pacific Islanders, Spanish, Indian, Afghan, German, Vietnamese, Indian, Pakistan and Indonesian.

We will resume delivering the program in February next year on Tuesdays at NSS, Wednesdays at Warners Bay, Lake Macquarie and Thursdays at Jesmond NC, Jesmond from 9:30 – 12 Noon.

For parents who are interested, please contact NSS on 02 49693399.





CHINESE SOCIAL SUPPORT

Since September the we started to organise the Chinese Social Support groups in the different outdoor settings. 1 & 2 Newcastle group went to Islington Park to have a walk and morning tea. 3 Maitland group went to Maitland Park and Yum Cha at Greenhill shopping centre. 4 Charlestown group went to Jesmond park and had a BBQ.



Newcastle Group at Islington Park



Newcastle Group at Islington Park



Maitland Group having Yum Cha



Charlestown Group at Jesmond Park





XMAS / NEW YEAR CLOSURE

NSS will be closed
from c.o.b
23/12/2020 and will
reopen on 4/1/2021

Feliz Navidad 圣诞快乐
nollai DHUIT
shona DHUIT
Wesołych Świąt
Krisema
Maligayang PASKO
BUON NATALE
Mele Kalikimaka
CHRISTMAS
Frohe WEIHNACHTEN
Gesëende Kersfees
Sretan BOŽIĆ
GLÆD JOYEUX
GEOL NOEL
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DISCLAIMER

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