



## Carevan newsletter

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## Carevan News

### The Road Back

#### **WE ARE BACK!!!!**

**On Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of July** we will return to our Lalor Park family – but things will look a little different.

***But before we get into our new look operations let us take a moment to discuss why we suspended our service.***

With the outbreak of COVID-19 it became evident that social distancing within our Lalor Park community, was becoming more difficult, in fact near impossible to put into practice. A gathering like ours, located in an open community facility like the carpark and the skate park, makes it hard to keep people looking after themselves and their peers by practicing safe distancing.

We were placing the very people we care about, at great risk as well as not complying with government regulations. So it was agreed to pull back our services until a time when we could safely provide our community with support again. This was the hardest decision that the Carevan committee has ever had to make.

We looked to two large like-minded charities to see what they were doing; Reverend Bill Crews' Fishes and Loaves restaurant at Ashfield and the Wayside Chapel in Sydney. Both were still operating, albeit offering a modified service. These services have the distinct advantage of having a building to operate from, whereby they could limit numbers, control flow and social distancing in designated areas, at any one time.

**So**, we approached Blacktown Council and have now secured the use of **Lalor Park Community hall**, in the same location that our Lalor Park family are accustomed to – right next to the Lalor Park library.

The use of a hall will allow us to control the social distancing and our Lalor Park community will be able to enjoy a nice meal, non-judgmental care and attention and most of all... some great conversation... all out of the elements!

We will of course be adhering to council regulations regarding cleaning, distancing and numbers in attendance/ capacity, as well as all usual measures.

We have also been busy during this "lock down" period keeping in touch with interested parties and community members, picking up meals from old supporters and new ... joining with the wonderful "Plate it Forward" team at Colombo Social, Enmore. So we are stocked up and ready to go!

## Our People

Carevan's most important asset is its people. Without YOU, our volunteers, we would be nothing. Our volunteers give up their valuable time to come out and care for those who struggle to care for themselves.

We would like to officially welcome all our volunteers back and note that our **C2 team will be the first team out on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July.**

We also note that our hours will be slightly changed due to time required to set up the hall. **We will be commencing services at 6.30pm**

We are also running another volunteer training session on **Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July.** This will be a little different as we will be **using zoom** for the first time to do our training!!

## Our Finances

During the COVID-19 pandemic Carevan's finances were put under pressure. While we are blessed with enormous community support in the form of food, blankets and donations of all kind to help us do what we do each week, we don't have a regular source of financial funding.

Every year it cost approx. \$10,000 to keep Carevan running These costs include, insurances (motor vehicles, public liability, directors insurance), maintenance on our Carevan van, food supplies, lease arrangements on storage facilities and other running expenses, such as paper plates, take away containers, milk and coffee etc.

We have been blessed as always, over the past few months by donations from our regular supporters; **Dearest Lips** continues to donate a % of all their sales, **Rotary Roseville and Chatswood** made a financial contribution towards the purchase of additional tables and chairs and another generous donation from **Genworth.**

We've also had several donations made online via the website or getting in touch directly, from supporters who wish to remain anonymous, but no matter how big or small this support is appreciated and put to great use.

Finally, a big thank you to one of our volunteers, **Michael Harvey**, who nominated Carevan for a Commonwealth Bank grant with their community "SmartyGrants" program. We applied and were successful!! This grant will be a tremendous help and we would like to thank the **Commonwealth Bank** for their generous donation.

We have other applications in the pipeline and are always on the lookout so let us know if you have any thoughts or ideas

Of course, '*donations in kind*' are a big part of the community support we receive and this has continued during "lock down" Harvey Norman Blacktown have kindly donated a freezer to assist with storage of meals during this period and the Winter Blanket Appeal which has been running since the chilly months set in

## Our Committee

The committee have met three times through the pandemic (of course all meetings were done via tele conference) We have been working towards getting back out on the road as soon as we're able and establishing ways to do this, in a way that is sustainable, ensures the health and wellbeing of all and is of course in alignment with any restrictions.

One of our long serving committee members Geoff Coley has decided to stand down from the committee due to work commitments. We would like to thank Geoff for his continued support of Carevan. Geoff was instrumental in gaining as our initial insurances and developed our very first website. We wish Geoff all the best and know he will always be part of the Carevan family.

Your current committee members are Andrew Scott (CEO) Lynne Wood, Kym Corless, Taylor Kew and Caroline Del Aguila.

If anyone is interested in joining the Committee please reach out to us at the below e mail address.

## Our Supporters

There are so many supporters we would like to thank for helping us make a difference to our Lalor Park family. Our supporters are many and include;

- Norwest Christian School
- Hunter Hampers
- Genworth
- Delicious Lips
- Rotary Roseville & Chatswood
- Plate-it-Forward Campaign
- Parklea Markets
- The Blacktown Council
- Western Sydney Blanket Patrol
- Tyndale Christian School
- The Blacktown Sai Centre
- The Commonwealth Bank
- Blacktown Masonic Centre
- Rotary Richmond
- Daily Fresh
- Kellyville Anglican
- Storage King Artarmon

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