

ECHO Gazette

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Working together to care for our community.

Christmas Edition 2016



CEO's Message

Merry Christmas Everyone

ECHO has had a successful year and I anticipate an even bigger year in 2017. Having said that it can be a time of uncertainty, and I have become aware of a few rumors floating around about next year which need addressing. So here it is, straight from the horse's mouth.

- Is ECHO Closing? NO. That's it.
- Is ECHO going to charge higher fees? NO. Our fees for HACC clients (which are most people getting this newsletter) are determined by HACC and we have to follow them but that's it. Our CDC clients will see no significant increase in fees.
- Is ECHO going to be swallowed up by a large organization? NO. ECHO is looking at what we need to do to offer value for money, like all agencies in this industry. That's all.

If you do hear anything that worries you, come and ask. I can set you straight.

Happy New Year (from the horse). I hope that this time is one of happiness and joy for you and yours.

Phil Baker CEO

Client's Christmas party



Last Thursday we had our Client's Christmas Party. And a good time was had by all.

All up we had about 140 clients attending, along with Brady, one of our support staff, acting as DJ to provide the music. All our staff got involved and

became waiters for the day. I don't think they dropped anything on anyone, so that was a good effort.

Santa and his assistance was a big hit this year, as he kindly volunteered to pass out the prizes to the lucky raffle winners.

It was great to see so many people there and was also an opportunity to see our gardening crew dressed in something other than safety gear. They did a great job behind the bar and they really looked the part.

Congratulations on a job well done to Lisa who organised the function, Alison who provided the decorations and decorated the room, and of course to Margy who baked, decorated and wrapped all the cakes the clients were given as a take home gift. Also the office staff, support workers and of course our volunteers for their efforts on the day, we could not have put together such a great day without the efforts of all these people.

Thank you everyone for coming and also giving us feedback on what we did in 2016. We need you to tell us what you think. That way we can make it even better.





New Life Members

ECHO is proud to announce our new Life Members.

Volunteering at ECHO is for many a long term commitment, and ECHO was proud to recognise the contribution of several long standing Volunteers by awarding them life membership at a recent Christmas celebration at the Oasis Restaurant in the Swan Valley.

From left to right, Sally Cawley, Bill Cross, Yvonne Hosie (already a life member) Norm Chappell and Kathleen Howell. Another new life member, Adrian Skehan, was unable to attend but we'll catch up in the new year.

Congratulations to all the worthy recipients and a big THANK YOU to all our amazing volunteers. Without you, ECHO could not do everything we do now.

What is changing in the Aged Care Sector

As some of you may know, there are changes to the aged care system Australia wide, which will commence in February 2017. This will not affect most people, things will remain the same. However, if you have an ACAT assessment and are assessed as eligible to receive a Home Care Package Levels 1 to 4, or are eligible for Residential Care there are a few things you need to know, and, to do to be ready for the changes.

Most people who have home care approval should have received a letter from the Health Department outlining what they need to do, should you have any question in regards to the reforms, please do not hesitate to contact ECHO and we will be able to address your concerns.

A new national prioritisation process will be established for home care, including the establishment of a national package queue, which will assign packages to consumers based on their individual needs and how

long they have been waiting for services, regardless of where they live.

ECHO has some information sheets regarding the reforms which we are happy to share with you.

Yes, as a consumer you have choice and control over who provides your service, you can even change providers if you wish.

REMINDER:

ECHO will only be providing essential services during the Christmas New Year period – our offices will be attended from 8am to 2pm during that period unless it is a public holiday.

The Sunshine Club

ECHO has a specialised Day Centre for people with Dementia.

The club continues to grow and next year we are looking to add an extra day to keep up with the demand.

Everyone who comes enjoys the fellowship, the music, the activities, and most especially Charlie the Dog. His many fans will want to know how he is spending Christmas. Be assured, he is looking forward to a bit of a rest and quiet time with family, but is also keen to get stuck in next year



Leave all the troubles in December...

Leave all the troubles in December,
Forget all worries and sad days.
Now the New Year is coming
Bringing new dreams and new ways.

From the Team at ECHO