

COMMUNITY UPDATE

November 3, 2022

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Celebrating 25 years of Mallee Track success

It was wonderful to be able to gather, despite the rain, to celebrate 25 years of the Mallee Track Health and Community Service. Our organisation was founded in 1997, bringing together services from Murrayville, Underbool, Patchewollock and Ouyen, before later being joined by Sea Lake, to better service the community. The anniversary event was an opportunity to reflect on the progress made over the years and recognise the people who have made a massive contribution.



Pictured above: Staff and supporters gathered for our 25-year celebration.

Good news on masks

We have been cautious in easing mask requirements until we feel confident in doing so, and we are grateful for your understanding in keep our vulnerable community members safe. We are taking one little step at a time, but we are now comfortable to move to surgical masks for a two-week trial period for:

- All staff
- All visitors to Aged Care (with a negative RAT)

Please remember, COVID is still an issue, especially in Aged Care facilities. So, we must keep doing the things that keep us safe:

- Social distancing
- Hand sanitising
- Not gathering in numbers (this is particularly important in Aged Care)

Building our workforce

MTHCS is having great success "growing our own" workforce, with two of our Ouyen trainees, Hannah Allomes and Leisa Cronin, now enrolled to study their Bachelor degree. They are working and studying at the same time – an amazing commitment.

Currently, we have vacancies in our early years workforce - two kinder teaching roles (maternity leave) and an educational leadership role at Mallee Minors, Ouyen. These positions have incentive payments to relocate available through the Department of Education and Training Victoria. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team, please get in touch.



Pictured above: Early Years educators Hannah and Leisa are studying while building their practical skills at Mallee Minors in Ouyen.

Floods hit region

We know there are staff and community members in our region who are directly impacted by the floods, and others who are worried about family who are in the flood zones. Our thoughts are with you, and please contact us if the floods are causing issues for you. Please also be aware, when you need to be out on the roads there are diversions in place and road conditions have changed a lot! Please allow extra time because you may be on unfamiliar roads, and many of the roads being used for diversions are becoming more dangerous to drive on.

Flooding has also increased mosquito numbers and increased risk of illness and disease. To limit mosquito breeding around your home, try to remove any pools of standing water.

Recognising our OTs

Last week was a chance to recognise the contributions made to our community by occupational therapists. OT Week 2022's theme was: "What OT means to me". Here at Mallee Track we are fortunate to have two fantastic OT staff. Occupational therapy is all about supporting people to live their best life and enabling them to participate in the activities they find meaningful and important.



Pictured above: OT Week recognises the work of Occupational Therapists such as our very own Lyndal (left) and Fiona