

# BRAT NEWS

*Broadmeadows Resident Advisory Team*

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

JOHN RUTHERFORD DEC 2021

Dear Residents,

### Chairperson's Report 2022

The year 2021 was a very difficult year for residents and members of Broadmeadows Residents advisory Team (BRAT).

Members together, with residents, participated in a range of well planned activities organised by BRAT and the Dallas Neighbourhood House.

### The Covid Pandemic

As we say goodbye to a tumultuous 2021 BRAT says well done to all those who responded positively to the health authorities call for wearing of masks, observing social distancing and other protective measures.

In particular a big thanks to all those who have been fully vaccinated. The higher the rate of vaccination the safer we will all be.

Australia currently has 93% of people 16 and over vaccinated. This is good, but sadly less than 3% of people in low-income countries have received a vaccine dose. The Democratic Republic of Congo, the second largest country in Africa, has a fully vaccination rate of less than 3%.

Not only is this unjust for the population but it will result in the continuation of new Covid variants. This of course is a major problem for us here in Australia and all other countries.

We need our Federal Government to call for, and support, international help so all countries can receive the vaccines they need.

We also need to call on the Federal Government to learn from the disastrous impact of Covid on aged care facilities and improve the standards of these services. Also, to recognize that "living with the virus" must ensure that our hospitals, health and social services be restored, and even improved, to pre pandemic times.

### Concerns Over Family Violence

There is ever growing concern in our community over the increase in family violence.

On average one woman a week is killed by a current or former partner. One in six women and one in sixteen men have experienced violence from their intimate partner.

Family violence and domestic abuse costs Australia \$21.7b every year and is a leading factor of homelessness for women.

People in our society should not be expected to tolerate this situation.

If you require any help assistance or advice on this very important matter don't hesitate to contact BRAT.

Advice is also available from;

- Safe Steps 1800 015 188 (24/7 line)
- The Orange Door 1800 2710 151
- Anglicare Victoria 03 9301 5200

### Call for Volunteers

BRAT is always looking for help to assist with our various activities. In particular assistance is required with the preparation of food parcels. This is an essential activity as they meet the necessary food requirements for many residents.

If you or your friends are interested in becoming a volunteer please make contact with us by ringing 9302 2131.

Yours sincerely,

John Rutherford  
Chairman BRAT



# BRAT; WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

We are a group of volunteers and students on placement supervised by DNH, who help residents with issues primarily relating to housing as well as other issues of concern.

We hold two to three events annually that focus on topical issues or concerns in and around the Broadmeadows area. Due to Covid-19 outbreak we were not able to run activities for most of last year. We support and promote activities and training to the local community on behalf of them and other organisations.

Some of our main inquiries are:  
Food Parcels  
Help filling out forms; Centrelink, passports, citizenship and school applications  
Referrals to the VPTA (Victorian Public Tenants Association) regarding housing issues that they were not able to resolve on their own but with the help of Michael and his fantastic team, we have happier public housing tenants in our community.  
Resumes and applying for jobs online.



*BRAT exists to represent the voice of local residents in the 3047 area and surrounds.*



## BRAT OPEN MEETINGS

BRAT holds monthly meetings. We will discuss local issues effecting you. Plan topics for forums.



Its a great opportunity to get to know your neighbours, and also talk about the positives along with the negatives of living in the Broadmeadows community.



**Dates & Times:**  
**3rd Tuesday of the month**  
**15 Feb, 15 Mar 12 Apr, 17 May & 21 Jun**  
**12pm**

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## BRAT ASSISTANCE APPOINTMENT SERVICE

If you have an issue let us try and help! Broadmeadows Resident Advisory Team is a group of volunteers who can offer help with;



- Assistance finding and contacting support services in our local community
- Assistance completing forms
- Free computer access (bookings required)
- Just ask a question and we will do our best to help

**Dates & Times:**  
**Monday - Thursday**  
**10am - 1pm**

**To make a booking please contact BRAT on 03 9302 2131**

# WELCOMING BACK THE COMMUNITY

It has been great to be able to welcome back our wonderful community members to access the services and programs we offer here at DNH. Our social Spanish group, bingo, and English and computer lessons have all been back in full swing with members very happy to be able to reconnect again.

Coming out of the extended Covid-19 lockdown Melbournians have had to endure again, we have also been running a number of Wellness Workshops focused on selfcare and care for people with disabilities and their carers. It is so important at this time, for each and everyone of us to take care of ourselves and those we love.



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## DISCO SOUP

On Wednesday the 24th of November, as part of Social Inclusion Week, we hosted a yummy and fun Disco Soup event dancing away to disco music while serving up lentil soup, bread and dessert for everyone to enjoy. There were a few laughs as people dressed up in disco accessories to have photos taken and get into the spirit of the event. Thank you to the Awesome Foundation for the funding to be able to host this event.



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## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

On Thursday the 25th of November, DNH along with Hume City Council took part in the UN Women's 16 Days of Activism that is a global initiative to address gender inequalities, gender-based violence and to take action to prevent violence before it starts.

With DNH being one of a few meeting and starting points within Hume, staff and volunteers dressed in the colour orange that is associated with the prevention of gender-based violence, before joining community members on a walk around our area.



# FOOD PARCELS

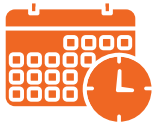
Dallas Neighbourhood House runs a food parcel program which supplies food parcels to around 120+ households per week!

During the Covid-19 lockdown, we were able to continue our food parcel service despite having to move location temporarily and operate from the Dallas Tennis Hall. We understand the importance of this service to our community members, so we were happy we could continue.



**Please note, starting in January 2022 there will be a couple changes to how we continue to provide our community members with the food parcel service due to the high demand.**

**Thank you for your understanding. We would dearly love to help everyone but don't have the capacity so we need to focus on helping people in our immediate community.**



**THURSDAY'S 11AM - 12.30PM**  
**APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**  
**RING 9302 2131 TO BOOK**



**\$7**



## Eligibility by suburb

Local need is so high that now we will only supply parcels to residents of the following suburbs:

- Broadmeadows
- Dallas
- Jacana
- Glenroy
- Campbellfield
- Meadow Heights
- Coolaroo



## Health Care, Pensioner or Refugee's

We will need to check your Health Care card, Pension or Immi Cards to prove eligibility and suburb residence, we will accept people who have submitted applications.



By appointment only - you must ring us to book by Wednesday each week for Thursday or Friday pick up. Ring 03 9302 2131

# MEET ONE OF OUR PLACEMENT STUDENTS

**Name: Bec**



? **What are you studying?**

**A** A dual Diploma in Community Services and Community Development at VU (Victoria University).

? **What do you do in your student placement?**

**A** Help anywhere I can within the hub, food parcels, bingo, enrolments & BRAT.

? **Where do you think you would like to work?**

**A** Anywhere in the community helping its members get the best for themselves and where they live.

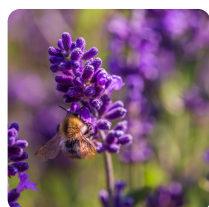
? **What's your favorite thing about the hub?**

**A** The way it brings a diverse group of community members together, providing a safe space and great support, services, programs and events.

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# MEET ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Name:  
Heather**



? **How long have you been volunteering at the hub?**

**A** Since the start of 2021.

? **What made you want to be a volunteer?**

**A** I have been a volunteer for a number of years at different organisations because I enjoy helping people.

? **What do you do in your volunteering role?**

**A** I help with the food parcel program and the admin associated with it.

? **What's your favorite thing about the hub?**

**A** Meeting new people.

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# TAKE THE FIRST STEP VIDEO LAUNCH



In partnership with Northern Community Legal Centre, Dallas Neighbourhood house will be launching and premiere of our Take the First Step video, a short video which encourages women in abusive relationships to take action. It has been developed by our Peer Educators, for the women of Hume. Hear from a range of speakers, meet our Peer Educators and be there for the premiere screening of the video.



**Save the Date Tuesday 8th March**

Register your interest 9302 2131 or [coordinator@dallasnh.org.au](mailto:coordinator@dallasnh.org.au)



## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

### We are seeking Emergency Food Relief Logistics and Handling volunteers

Requirements of the role include:



- Being physically able to bend and lift small boxes from pallets onto trolleys to bring inside.
- Being physically able to load these items onto shelves in our cupboard or walk in fridge inside the building.
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice principles.
- Good interpersonal and verbal communication skill.
- Reliable and punctual.
- Willing to commit to the role for a period of at least six months.
- Willing to undergo a Police Check (DNH will fund the cost of this)

None of the items will be particularly heavy work and will be done in pairs where required & trolleys will be used, but bending will be required.



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## END OF YEAR

As we come to the end of another successful year despite Covid-19, we would like to thank each and everyone one of you for your continued support and participation at DNH. Without our wonderful community we wouldn't be who we are.

The centre will be closed from Friday the 17th of December, reopening on Monday the 10th of January.

We wish everyone a fun, relaxing and safe break, and we look forward to seeing and welcoming you all back in the new year.



# 2022

## GET OUT OF THE HOUSE & MEET SOME LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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### MEN'S GROUP

Our Men's group meets on Tuesday's at the Broadmeadows Community Hub.

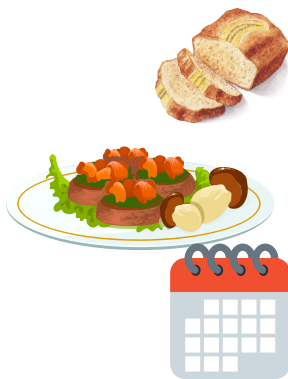
A small group of local men who catch up for a chat and a cuppa.

**Dates & Times:**

**Tuesday 11am**

**During school Terms**

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### COMMUNITY LUNCH - \$3

Join us for fun, friendship and food. Share a meal and meet new people without blowing your budget.

**Dates & Times:**

**Monday's 12pm - 1.30pm**

**Bookings Essential 03 9302 2131**

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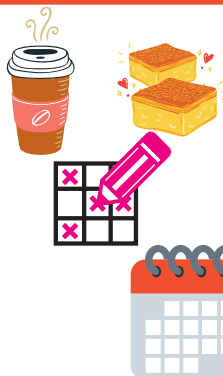
### SOUL SOUP - FREE

Enjoy a lunch of freshly cooked soup and bread that has been lovingly prepared by our wonderful volunteers. Help reduce waste by bringing your own mug. Vegetarian and halal friendly.

**Dates & Times:**

**Friday's 12pm - 1pm**

**Book now 03 9302 2131**



### COFFEE & BINGO - GOLD COIN

Join us for coffee, cake, friendship and some bingo fun! We've got a showcase of prizes (grocery items) up for grabs. Gold coin donation.

**Dates & Times:**

**Tuesdays 10.30pm - 12pm**

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# WHERE ELSE CAN I FIND HELP?

These are challenging times for us all. It is OK to ask for help, here are some numbers of organisations offering assistance:

- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline 1800 551 800
- MensLine Australia 1300 789 978
- Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue 1300 22 46 36
- Headspace 1800 650 890
- QLife 1800 184 527



Family Violence support services

- Safe Steps 1800 015 188 (24/7 line)
- The Orange Door 1800 2710 151
- Anglicare Victoria 03 9301 5200

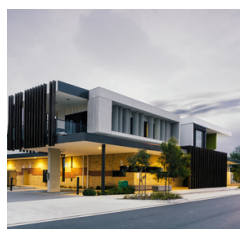


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## IMPORTANT DATES



- 1 Jan: New Year's Day
- 26 Jan: Australia Day
- 1 Feb: Chinese New Year
- 20 Feb: World Day of Social Justice
- 7 Mar: Clean Up Australia Day
- 8 Mar: International Women's Day
- 14 Mar: Labour Day
- 15 Mar: World Social Work Day
- 21 Mar: Harmony Day
- 21 - 28 Mar: Cultural Diversity Week
- 26 Mar: Earth Hour (8.30pm - 9.30pm)
- 27 Mar: Neighbour Day
- 31 Mar: International Transgender Day of Visibility
- 2 Apr: World Autism Awareness Day
- 2 Apr - 1 May: Ramadan
- 15 - 23 Apr: Passover
- 17 Apr: Easter Sunday
- 24 Apr: Orthodox Easter
- 25 Apr: ANZAC Day
- 2 May: Eid-al-Fitr
- 9 - 15 May: Neighbourhood House Week
- 16 - 23 May: National Volunteer Week
- 26 May: National Sorry Day
- 27 May - 3 Jun: Reconciliation Week
- 20 Jun: World Refugee
- 13 Jun: Queen's Birthday
- 15 Jun: Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 20 Jun: World Refugee Day



### **Broadmeadows Community Hub**

**Address:** 180 Widford St, Broadmeadows, 3047

**Phone:** 03 9302 2131 or 0459 310 754

**Email:** [brat.residents@gmail.com](mailto:brat.residents@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.dallasnh.org.au](http://www.dallasnh.org.au)