



JUNE 2020  
EDITION

# BRAT NEWSLETTER

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**Drop in and see us**  
**180—182 Widford St**  
**BROADMEADOWS**  
**3047**  
**BRAT**  
**(03) 9302 2131**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**10am - 1pm**  
**Dallas**  
**Neighbourhood**  
**House**  
**Office hours**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**9 am—4.00 pm**  
**Ph:(03) 9302 2131**

Dear Residents,

Broadmeadows Resident Advisory Team (BRAT) is pleased to welcome you to read the December 2020 Newsletter.

Christmas is almost upon us and we can finally have something to look forward to, given the figures on coronavirus.

If they continue on this way we will emerge from the pandemic bruised but not beaten.

Congratulations to the Premier of Victoria and his scientific team, and well done to Victorians for following the recommendations in such an incredible way.

### Welcome To New Manager

I wish to inform residents that Ms Carolyn Webster is the new manager for Dallas Neighbourhood House (DNH).

Carolyn started work at the House on the 4th of November 2020, is settling in, and already aptly dealing with the many activities associated with DNH.

Carolyn's days of work are Tuesday—Friday and residents are invited to meet our new manager at ones convenience and make her welcome.

Carolyn replaces Suzelle Allet as Manager, who resigned from the position for personal reasons.

We take this occasion to wish Suzelle well in her future endeavours.

### Investment In Public Housing

Residents will welcome the state government announcement that it will invest \$5.3 billion dollars to construct more than 12,000 new homes state wide, and replace 1100 old public housing units.

BRAT firmly believes that everyone in our society has the right to adequate food, clothing, and shelter.

Experience has shown the brutality of the private rental market.

Public housing provides security of tenure and rent set at a level that allows people to build their lives.

It provides a safety net that allows people to live in dignity, safety and provide the chance to be involved in their community.

BRAT will monitor the governments new housing program, particularly its application in Broadmeadows to ensure that it addresses homelessness and peoples housing needs in our community.

### Thank You To Volunteers

During Covid-19 our volunteers continued to take up issues of concern to residents including information and details on the availability of community services.

In particular we express a special "thank you" to all those who have assisted with the food parcel program and meeting all the rules and requirements in these difficult times.

Credit also goes to all those volunteers who arranged the unpacking, layout and distribution of clothing and other items to residents that had been donated to Dallas Neighbourhood House by BigW.

### Finally

The year 2020 will be one we all remember. Wishing you an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Yours Sincerely  
 John Rutherford  
 President

# Who we are & 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 and any other issues of concern.

We hold two to three events annually and all to do with issues or concerns in and around the Broadmeadows area. Due to Covid-19 outbreak we were not able to do any events. 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 with filling out forms for Centrelink, passports, citizenship and many more
- Many referrals to the VPTA (Victorian Public Tenants Association) have helped local residents with housing issues that they were not able to solve on their own but with the help of Michael and his fantastic team, we have happier public housing tenants in our community.
- A few resumes and people needing help finding and applying for work online.

**"Thanks to all our students and volunteers. We couldn't get along without you."**



## Meet Our New Manager



A warm welcome to Carolyn Webster, who has joined the Dallas Neighbourhood House family in November, 2020. We all look forward to another great year with more classes and more multicultural events for the community.

Congratulations and on behalf of all the members. We are all happy and excited about your inputs and contribution to our Neighbourhood House.

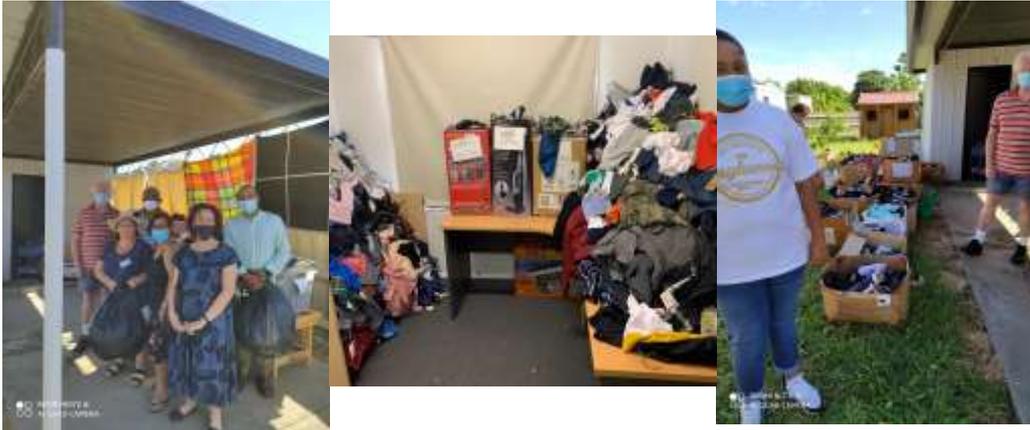
## Share The Dignity

Thank you to Sandra and Kate from Share The Dignity for dropping off 70 bags packed with sanitary and personal care items. We have distributed these before Christmas to the local women and girls!



# BIGW– Goods360

We would love to say thank you to BIGW for your generous donation. We are thrilled to have your support. Through your donation we have been able to reach people who are in more need during these hard days. You truly made the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful! We were honoured to see that you have chosen to increase your donation this year.



**“Volunteers are special. We appreciate you and everything you do!”**



**“Thank you for volunteering your time and expertise.”**



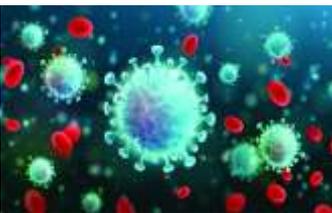
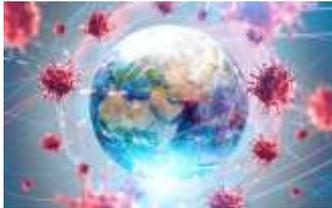
# FOOD PARCELS



This year we continued distributing food parcels during Covid-19 Outbreak and so far we have distributed over 2,940 parcels. Thank you so much for helping us out with our Food Parcel program. We are always in need of volunteers and students who are hard-working, organized and get along well with the people in the community. It’s only with the assistance of local volunteers and students on placement that we can rise to meet the challenge. Looking forward to continuing our program with our volunteers and students on placement.



# COVID - 19 OUTBREAK



What a year was 2020! This year we have been experienced toilet paper panic buying, social distancing, lockdowns, mandatory face coverings, hotel quarantines, washing and sanitising hands more than usual, elbow-bump greetings, only takeaway dining's and Zoom meetings.

Lets have an overview of what has happened from the second half of 2020 until today about Covid-19 in Victoria!

- 6 June, no new cases reported in the last 24 hours.
- 10 June, 4 new cases reported in the last 24 hours.
- 20 June, restrictions started.
- 30 June, lockdowns across 10 postcode areas.
- 4 July, 2 more postcodes added for lockdowns with 9 public housing towers.
- 7 July, Metropolitan Melbourne was under lockdown.
- 19 July, face coverings became mandatory.
- 22 July, visitations in aged care were restricted.
- 30 July, over 700 new cases reported in last 24 hours.
- 2 August a state of disaster was declared in Victoria. The increased restrictions included a curfew from 8pm to 5 am.
- 6 September, Victorian Government released five-step roadmap to reopening.
- 13 September, Melbourne moved from Stage four to the First step.
- 28 September, Melbourne moved to the Second step. Night-time curfew ended and some restrictions were loosened.
- 19 October, restrictions were eased.
- 24 October, there has been reported under 100 cases in the last 24 hours.
- 26 October, zero new cases and zero deaths reported in last 24 hours.
- 1 November, Australia recorded zero cases for the first time since 9 June.
- 8 November, Melbourne moved to the Third step.
- 22 November, Melbourne has moved to the last step.
- 7 December, restrictions eased more and more. Victoria moved on to a CovidSafe Summer.

As restrictions ease, it's important that we act to keep ourselves and others safe. Hopefully in 2021 everything will get back to normal soon and we will not experience something like this again!

# Meet our Students on Placement

## RANDALL



### What's your role in the Hub?

I was a student on placement helping to organise the food parcel program. I would assist when the items were delivered, would help prepare the food parcels and then provide them to the community. Mainly I worked on the table selling the extra products available, such as laundry powder and milk.

### How long have you been a student at the Hub?

I was a student at the Hub for approximately 3 months.

### What other skills have you gained in the community?

I have gained an understanding of running community projects such as the food parcel program. I witnessed the hard work that went into making sure it could run smoothly each week, especially facing the difficulties of COVID.

### What's your favourite thing about your role?

Meeting the people in the community and working alongside the staff and volunteers!

### What's your favourite thing about the hub?

That is a welcoming space where people work together to help each other.

## JOEL

### What's your role in the Hub?



My role in the Hub is to help the staff with any programs that are running and use my experience as a learning tool for my future employment within the community services field,

### How long have you been a student at the Hub?

I have been a student at the Hub for the last few months and I have enjoyed my time interacting with all the staff and the community

### What other skills have you gained in the community?

I have improved my cultural awareness with my time at the Hub and I have also improved my skills in my client interaction

### What's your favourite thing about your role?

The thing I enjoy the most is the interaction with the community, volunteers and the staff.

### What's your favourite thing about the hub?

The thing I like most about the Hub is that I can interact with people from many cultures that are different from my own and able to use what I learn about the different cultures as a base in how I will interact with them in my future career.



**"Everyone wants to be appreciated, so if you appreciate someone, don't keep it a secret."**



**2020**

**Students & Volunteers**



**"I love the way people help each other in this community"**





**Broadmeadows  
Resident Advisory  
Team**

**180-182 Widford St  
BROADMEADOWS  
3047**

PH: 03 9302 2131

brat.residents@gmail.com

## BRAT Assistance Appointment Service

If you have an issue let us try to help. Broadmeadows Residential Advisory Team is a group of Volunteers who can offer help with;

- Assistance finding & contacting support services in our local community
- Assistance completing forms
- Free Computer Access (Bookings required)
- Just ask as a question and we will do our best to help

Date & Time: **Monday - Thursday 10:00am—1:00pm**

Free to community members

To make a booking please contact BRAT (03) 9302 2131

## Important Dates

23 Oct	Fri	AFL Grand Final Eve
3 Nov	Tues	Melbourne Cup Day
25 Dec	Fri	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Sat	Boxing Day
28 Dec	Mon	Boxing Day Holiday

## BRAT Open Community Meetings 2020

**1st Tuesdays of the**

**Month unless notified by email**

**10.00am – 11.00am**

**Due to COVID -19 Outbreak we were not able to hold on our  
monthly meetings.**

## BRAT Office Hours

**Monday – Thursday**

**10:00am-1:00pm**

You can also find us on Facebook

BRAT Broadmeadows Residents Advisory Team,  
Community Organisation