

# COMMUNITY News

WINTER 2024 - EDITION 52



## BLIND SPEED FUNDRAISING DINNER

On 14 June we partnered with We are Vivid to co-host a fundraising dinner with the world's fastest blind man on a motorcycle, Ben Felten - Blind Speed and his mate Kevin Magee, a former Australian Grand Prix motorcycle racer. Together they shared their story of being lifelong friends and their pursuit to break the Guinness Book of Records.

Tiffanee Cook, a professional boxer, coach, and host of the podcast 'Roll with the Punches', was the MC for the evening and we are grateful for her support of the event.

Our event sponsors were Edge FM, Riverine Herald, Echuca Toyota, Rich River Golf Club and Highside Motorcycles.

# A message from our CEO

Welcome to the 52nd edition of our newsletter.

This time of the year means that we are preparing our budgets for 2024-2025. It also means that it is a good time to donate to a charity of your choice. We'd love you to choose us.

Any donation above \$2 is tax deductible. If you donate before 30 June, you can claim your donation in your upcoming tax return, which means you don't have to wait long to claim back your donation.



## To donate visit

**<https://www.givenow.com.au/clrs> or in person at our office at 26a Percy Street.**

Run Echuca Moama was launched on the 1 May and we are busy behind the scenes preparing for a great event on Sunday 4 August 2024. Registrations are coming in at a great pace... pun intended. The name change from Johnno's Run to Run Echuca Moama is bringing in more people from out of town, which is great to see, and our local community is continuing to sign up in great numbers.

We are delighted to have Beechworth Bakery and Let's Do Coffee support us on the day providing food and coffee. Beechworth Bakery and Edg.Space have come on board as major sponsors this year joining Worklocker Echuca, Riverine Herald, Revolution Print, Cosgriff Lawyers, Edge FM, Fast Finish Event Timing and Radiant Media Productions. The Moama Bowling Club is our event sponsor for Run Echuca Moama 2024.

During May, we celebrated National Volunteer Week because we couldn't do what we do without the support of our wonderful volunteers.

Volunteers are important to the success of Run Echuca Moama and we would love your help. Roles for 2024 include: marshalling on course, registrations, setting up the fencing, pulling down the fencing at the end of the day, handing out race bibs.

To volunteer please call Liz Rowsell at 03 5480 2388 or register here <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/64824/run-echuca-moama/volunteer/register>

The focus of our work over the next three months is getting our new client management and staff scheduling systems rolled out and planning for a review of our Strategic Plan in 2025.



*Liz Rowsell*



# Toby's Story of Independence our CEO

Most of us fondly reminisce about our youthful days, especially when we were 21. But for Toby, a spirited young man, that dream is unfolding right now.

Toby is 21 and this year has secured employment at a local restaurant. For the past seven months, he has diligently worked behind the scenes, proving himself as a dishwasher extraordinaire.



Armed with unwavering support from his team, gathered by his Support Coordinator Liss, Toby has carved out a niche for himself in the busy kitchen. Toby's employer - Radcliffe's Echuca, stated "Having Toby on board has been a breath of fresh air. He quickly adapted to his role, and his infectious sense of humour keeps everyone in good spirits during work hours."

Reflecting on his employment journey, Toby expressed his joy at being an important part of the team. "Everyone includes me," he said, "and they say I'm the best."

Working towards his independence, Toby's achievements don't stop there. Recently, he took a significant step towards independence by moving out of home into his own place and through diligent saving, Toby became the proud owner of his very first car.

CLRS Support Coordination has been a vital partner in supporting Toby to build his capacity and make the right connections. Since the inception of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Toby has benefited from the CLRS Support Coordination service.



The team has witnessed his remarkable personal growth and his confidence build throughout his journey.

Toby's story serves as an inspiration to us all — a testament to resilience, teamwork, and the power of unwavering support. We celebrate Toby's achievements and look forward to seeing the next chapter of his life living independently.



# Blind Speed Fundraising Dinner



**Photos taken by Aidan Briggs Riverine Herald. From left to right:** Leanne Dynon and Lauren Pritchard (Highside Motorcycles), Deanne Armstrong (Rich River Golf Club), Laura Buckley (Riverine Herald), Scott Alexander (CEO Vivid), Ben Felten, Kevin Magee, Angela Parker (Edge FM), John & Emma Merritt (Echuca Toyota) & Leah Taaffe (CLRS CEO).



Kevin Magee, Ben Felten & MC Tiffanee Cook



Ben Felten & Kevin Magee



Auctioneer John Moyle & Gillian Noelker



Clip from 'Dark Rider' film



Breakfast with the stars, Ben Felten, Ian & Sue Daldy, Kevin Magee & Tiffanee Cook



Leah Taaffe (CLRS CEO), Scott Alexander (Vivid CEO) & MC Tiffanee Cook



# Thank you to our volunteers

From our CEO



National Volunteer Week (20 - 26 May) recognised the millions of people who volunteer every year in Australia. 2024 theme - **‘Something for Everyone’**

The aim for 2024 was to recognise the diverse passions and talents everyone brings when they volunteer. Highlighting there’s a place for everyone in the world of volunteering. Whether you’re drawn to environmental causes, community outreach, education, or other things, there is a place where your unique skills and interests are so valuable.

**We say a heartfelt thank you to everyone that volunteers for CLRS.**

**‘Something for Everyone’ volunteering opportunities at CLRS are;**

- Recyclability Op Shop
- Murray River Tea Rooms
- Fundraising Committee - help with the Annual Fundraising Dinner and Riverboats raffle.
- Ambassadors
- Board of Management
- Run Echuca Moama (previously Johnno’s Run) - being part of the working group and/or on event day



**RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS NOW** - For more information contact Liz our Volunteer coordinator on 03 5480 2388 or [lrowsell@clrs.org.au](mailto:lrowsell@clrs.org.au) or to apply visit <https://clrs.org.au/job/volunteer/>



Volunteers enjoying a thank you morning tea at Recyclability in May.

**Back Row:** Di Chapman, Sue Coulston, Leah Taaffe, Sally Brennan, Lauren Davy, Tracey Abbey, Hayley Cunningham, Bianca Cole, Kim Taylor, Travis Mc Donald.

**Front Row:** Kim Boland, Annie Peat, Anthony Osborne, Elizabeth Rowsell & Gillian Noelker

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**In our**

- ✓ Recyclability Op Shop
- ✓ Murray River Tea Rooms
- ✓ Fundraising Committee

**To learn more or apply**  
<https://clrs.org.au/job/volunteer/>

Three circular portraits of volunteers are arranged on the right side of the poster. The top two are women, and the bottom one is a man.

# 2024 RUN ECHUCA MOAMA

Building homes for people with disability

SUNDAY 4 AUGUST 2024

Kerrabee Soundshell,  
Moama

5KM, 10KM OR 21.1KM  
& JUNIOR BOLT  
(400M FOR 5-7YRS AND 800M FOR 8-10YRS)

SCAN TO ENTER



[www.clrs.org.au/runechucamoama](http://www.clrs.org.au/runechucamoama)



EVENT SPONSOR

MAJOR SPONSORS



Riverine Herald

