

# Community News

Autumn 2025 – Edition 55



## Community Event of the Year: Run Echuca Moama: Community Living and Respite Services

\*Picture courtesy Riverine  
Herald: Emily Donohoe

Our Run Echuca Moama working group were delighted to win the Murray River Council Community Event of the Year Award in January 2025. This wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors, volunteers, participants, community and both Campaspe Shire Council & Murray River Council.

We want to thank our event and major sponsors; Moama Bowling Club, Cosgriff Lawyers, Riverine Herald, 102.5 Edge FM, Worklocker Echuca, Radiant Media Productions, Beechworth Bakery Echuca, EDG Projects Australia, Fast Finish Event Timing and Revolution Print.

# A Message from our CEO

Welcome to our Autumn 2025 Community News.

It has been a very busy few months since our last Community News. Run Echuca Moama was named Murray River Council's Community Event of the Year, Riverboats Music Festival was a great success and lastly, we held our 17th Annual Fundraising Dinner.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Hoff".

Curtis McGrath OAM was our guest speaker for the event and wow he was brilliant. His story of losing his legs while on duty in Afghanistan in 2012, representing Australia in the Paralympics just 4 years later in 2016 and all that he has achieved is truly incredible. I would recommend reading his book 'Blood, Sweat & Steel'.

I am thrilled to share that we raised \$83,197 on the night, thanks to the generous support of our community. The total raised through the fundraising dinners has now exceeded \$1,000,000 which is an amazing achievement. The work of all the fundraising committees over the years, who delivered these 17 events, has made this possible, as has the incredible support for our dinner.

The generous support of our business community in donating items, vouchers and professional services enables us to raise these funds and CLRS is grateful for every bit of support we receive.

At the dinner we released a video, called [Out of Home Care - Safeguarding the Future](#), which shares the story of the 24/7 residential care services we provide to children and young people. This has been released on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and would love you to share this with your family, friends and colleagues.

I'd like to thank Jim Cosgriff, who was an outstanding MC. He kept the event to time and kept our guests entertained and engaged. Troy O'Brien and Gary Wood delivered a great auction and their support is appreciated.

We are already looking forward to next year's event and would encourage anyone who would like a table or a ticket to let us know. This year's event was at capacity and tables sold out before Christmas!!



Curtis McGrath OAM on stage

# Riverboats Music Festival 2025

Riverboats Music Festival 2025 was an absolute blast! We are thrilled to say that we sold out of raffle tickets across the 3 day weekend, thanks to the support of the amazing crowd.

They also shopped up big at our marquee that was onsite for the weekend, which was filled with generous donations from our Recyclability program.

In total, we raised \$7,100. We made \$5,700 from raffle tickets, this money goes directly to our Opening Doors Project - building homes for people with disability. We made \$1,400 from Recyclability on-site marquee sales that go directly back into our Recyclability program.

A huge shoutout to our dedicated volunteers who sold a staggering 1,200 raffle tickets in just 3 days.

We had generous contributions from: Worklocker Echuca, who printed our bright blue t-shirts, making us impossible to miss in the crowd, and Echuca Moama Signs for donating the signage for our marquee and A-frames.

A very big thank you goes to our wonderful raffle sponsors; Riverboats Music Festival, Junction Moama, Port of Echuca and the Murray River Tea Rooms.



David Mc Hardy and Claire Paynter



Leah Taaffe (CLRS CEO) & the winner of 1st Prize of the raffle - Sandra Tenge and her friend.



Amy Ebert and Liss Scott



Prue O'Dea, Anjani Rai & Melissa Thomas



CLRS Marquee at the Riverboats Music Festival 2025



Leah Taaffe & Brian Nankervis announcing the raffle winners on stage

# 17th Annual Fundraising Dinner



## Event Sponsor & Major Sponsors

**Back Row:** Mayor Cr John Harvie (Murray River Council), Jack Keogh (Forty Winks Echuca), Mark Watson (Complete Scissor Lift Hire), Gary Harvey (Mawsons Concrete & Quarries), Russell Knight (Echuca Carpet Court), John Merritt (Echuca Toyota), Liam Fleming (Moama Bowling Club).

**Front Row:** Angela Parker (Ace Radio/2QN & Edge FM), Kerry Vevers (Riverine Herald), Leah Taaffe (CLRS CEO), Dr Claire Goodman (CLRS President), Suzanna Barry (Green Pedal) and Byron Hall (AWM Echuca).



Curtis McGrath OAM



George Santos and Di Leech - winner of the \$3,000 Travel Voucher



Curtis McGrath OAM and members of the local Inland Outrigger Canoe Club



Curtis McGrath OAM on stage at the Moama Bowling Club



Auctioneer Troy O'Brien and Gary Wood from Charles L King

# 17th Annual Fundraising Dinner



Loud Auction at the 17th Annual Fundraising Dinner at the Moama Bowling Club



Curtis McGrath OAM



Jim Cosgriff - MC



CLRS Fundraising Committee - Kathy Kostoglou, Gillian Noelker, Liz Rowsell, Leah Taaffe, Sarah Pagram and Kim Boland



Curtis McGrath OAM



Lauren Davy and Cris Stevens-Todd

# RUN ECHUCA MOAMA

Building homes for people with disability



## SAVE THE DATE



## SUNDAY 3 AUGUST 2025

Registration for Run Echuca Moama will open late April 2025. Stay tuned to our social media -

**Facebook - Run Echuca Moama** and **Instagram - Run Echuca Moama**

or the **CLRS website** for updates and the exact launch date.

If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to us at [events@clrs.org.au](mailto:events@clrs.org.au)