

Spring 2025 | Edition 57

COMMUNITY LIVING & RESPITE SERVICES

Community News



A message from our CEO

Welcome to our Spring 2025 Community News.

I hope everyone is enjoying the change in weather. This is my favourite time of the year.

I encourage everyone to come along to our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23 October, where, amongst other items, we are farewelling Board members, Wayne Jenkin and Erin Langman. Wayne & Erin have completed the maximum term allowed on our Board, which is 9 years.

CLRS is seeking new Board members with experience and knowledge in risk management, corporate governance, financial management and accounting, asset management and/or ICT strategy and governance. If you have any of these skills and want to support the delivery of our organisation's vision of empowering individuals and families to live the life they choose in a community enriched by the inclusion of all, please reach out to Gillian Noelker, Executive Assistant, on 03 5480 2388 or email ea@clrs.org.au. Our Board meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month, rotating between in-person meetings and online.

Run Echuca Moama 2025, our second major fundraising event of the year, took place on Sunday 3 August and was a great success. Together, we raised an amazing \$54,309.05. The event would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, local businesses and all the volunteers who help us out on the day, so a big thank you to each of you.

Thank you!

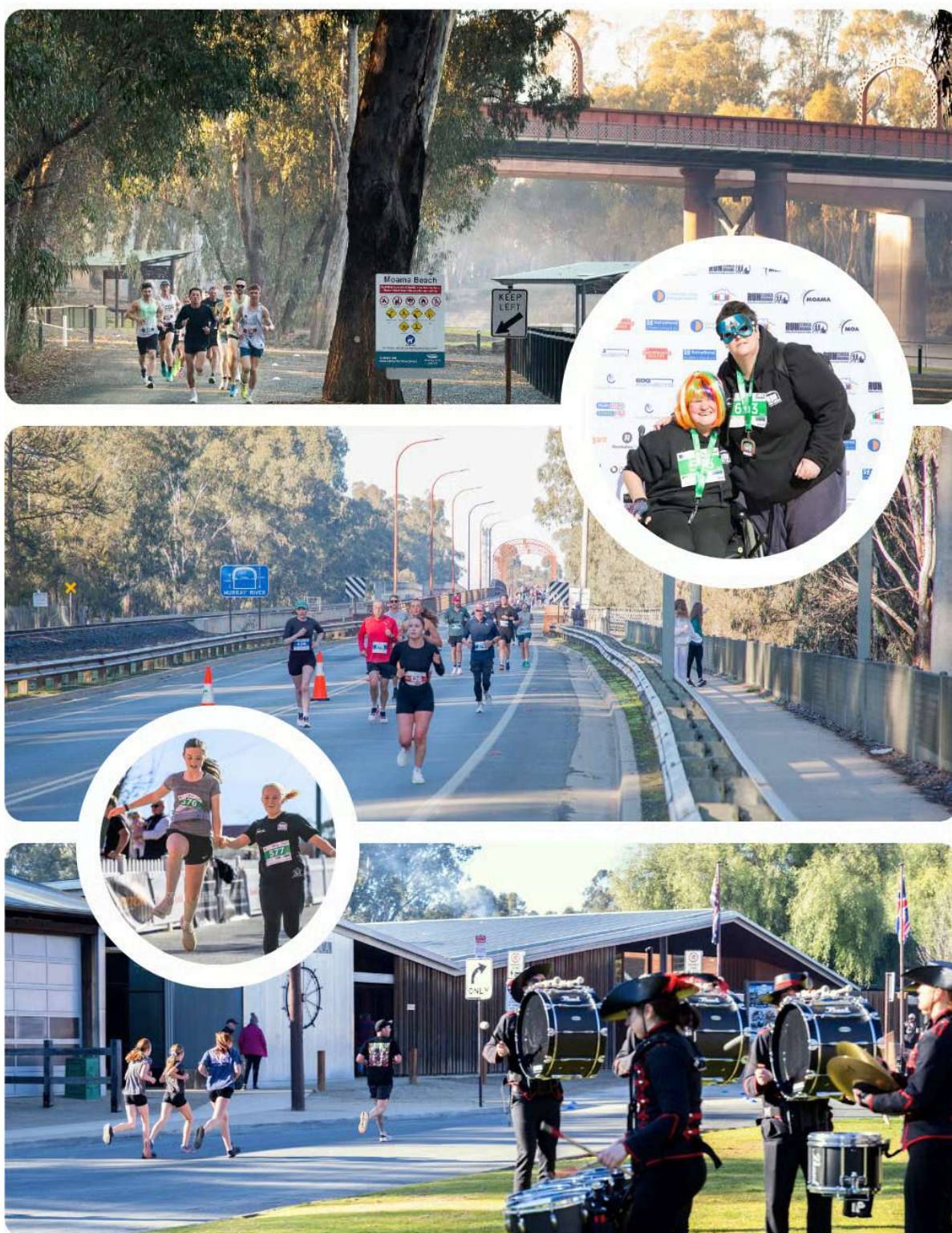


Leah Taaffe

CEO

Community Living & Respite Services

www.clrs.org.au



Run Echuca Moama 2025

This year, we welcomed **801 participants**—a record-breaking turnout! As part of the 21.1K, 10K, 5K, and Frinkle Junior Bolt events, we closed the **iconic old Echuca Moama Bridge** to road traffic, giving participants the rare and memorable experience of running, walking, or wheeling across it towards the finish line.

Participation Snapshot

- **21.1KM (Half Marathon):** 256 participants
- **10KM:** 228 participants
- **5KM:** 251 participants
- **Frinkle Junior Bolt (5–7 yrs):** 43 participants
- **Frinkle Junior Bolt (8–10 yrs):** 23 participants

That's **184 more people than in 2024** (617) and a huge leap from our first local event in 2022 (233 participants)!

People ran, walked, wheeled, cheered, volunteered, and fundraised—all in support of our **Opening Doors Project**, building homes for people with disability. It was a beautiful celebration of **community supporting community**.

Event Highlights

The day kicked off at 8am with the Half Marathon and 10KM events starting together from the iconic old Echuca Moama Bridge, closed to road traffic for the occasion.

At 9.15am, the 5KM event took off, followed by the Frinkle Junior Bolt at 10.15am. The young runners brought lots of energy, cheering on the half-marathoners before their own race. All the kids were excited to cross the finish line and receive their FREE Frinkle voucher!

Our Amazing Volunteers

We were supported by over 50 passionate volunteers who helped make the day run smoothly. We had:

- Course marshals and water station attendants
- Race HQ check-in crew
- Medal distributors at the finish line
- Early risers who set up fencing and signage
- Event pack-down team
- Lead bikers for each race
- Our dedicated first aid officer
- Fitness instructors from [Snap Fitness Echuca](#) and [Echuca Moama Run Club](#) who warmed up the crowd's pre-events
- 8 photographers generously volunteered their time to photograph the day from various locations around the course. 5 of them were from the [Echuca Moama Photography Club](#)

To view the great photos taken on the day please visit - <https://photos.raceroster.com/en-US/galleries/cmdzeq4ws000211pmfnh2fia3>

A massive **THANK YOU** to our incredible 2025 sponsors

Event Sponsor - [Moama Bowling Club](#)

Major Sponsors - [Riverine Herald](#), [Worklocker Echuca](#), [Radiant Media Productions](#), [Revolution Print](#), [102.5 Edge FM](#), [Cosgriff Lawyers - Yes We Are Lawyers But We Do A Whole Lot More](#), [EDG Projects Australia](#), [Beechworth Bakery](#) and [CLK First National Real Estate Echuca Moama](#).

Junior Bolt Sponsor - [Frinkle Moama](#)



2025 Victorian Child Protection Award Nomination

We are proud to share that our Out of Home Care (OoHC) team was nominated and shortlisted as a finalist for the 2025 Victorian Child Protection Awards – Minister's Award for Excellence in Protecting Children (Team or Group Nomination).

This award recognises individuals and teams who have advanced their approaches to achieve the best possible outcomes for children, young people, and their families or carers. Being selected as a finalist is an acknowledgment of the dedication, compassion, and innovation our OoHC team brings to their work every day.



Although the team did not take home the award at the ceremony held on 2nd September in Melbourne, their nomination alone is a testament to the impact they have on the lives of the young people they support. Their commitment to providing safe, nurturing, and empowering environments continues to make a meaningful difference in our community.

Congratulations to the entire OoHC team – your efforts are deeply valued, and this recognition is well deserved.

Pictured below are some of the OoHC team.



Updated signage at the Murray River Tea Rooms

Have you driven past the Murray River Tea Rooms recently and noticed any changes. We have recently had the opportunity to refresh the external signage at the Murray River Tea Rooms, made possible through the generous support of grants from the Moama RSL and Murray River Council.

After eight years, the original signage had become faded and weathered. The new signage has revitalised the Murray River Tea Rooms' appearance, helping us maintain a professional and welcoming presence that continues to attract both loyal patrons and new visitors to our social enterprise.





Community Living
& Respite Services

You're invited to our 46th

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 23 October 2025

Commencing at 7pm

Echuca Workers, 165-171 Annesley Street Echuca

Followed by:

Presentation to Retiring Board Members

Staff Years of Service Awards

Key Announcements

Light refreshments served prior to the meeting from 6.30pm.

ALL WELCOME

RSVP – Ph: 5480 2388 / Email: events@clrs.org.au



CLRS Board Member Vacancies

**Are you interested in supporting the strategic leadership of
Community Living & Respite Services?**

JOIN OUR BOARD AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SUPPORT SERVICES LOCALLY

Community Living & Respite Services (CLRS) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1979, dedicated to providing high-quality disability support services in the local region. Supporting over 300 people annually, CLRS is a registered provider with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), ensuring a strong focus on client safeguarding, governance, and robust systems.

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

CLRS is now recruiting interested community members to join our volunteer Board. These positions provide an exciting opportunity to volunteer your skills and expertise to support the strategic leadership of disability support services in our local community.

Board members should be able to understand the overall responsibilities of serving on a governance board, including the ability to read and interpret CLRS financial statements and contribute to the Board's fiduciary and strategic decision-making.

They are expected to attend at least 6 meetings a year, read Board materials in advance of Board meetings, and come prepared to ask questions and participate in discussions.

Board members will serve on at least one subcommittee of the Board, responsibly represent CLRS to their respective communities, and advocate for CLRS's vision and

services as appropriate.

TIME COMMITMENT

It is anticipated that a commitment of 3 – 4 hours per month is required, including meeting time. All Board work, including meetings, can be completed remotely. Board terms last for 3 years, and Board members can serve for up to 3 consecutive terms.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

All applications will be considered; however, the Board would particularly welcome applicants with lived experience of disability, as well as those with expertise in financial management and accounting, asset management, corporate governance, ICT Strategy and audit and risk management.

HOW TO APPLY

For all enquiries regarding the board, please contact Gillian Noelker on [03 5480 2388](tel:0354802388) or email ea@clrs.org.au.



Sent to: events@clrs.org.au

CLRS, 26A Percy Street, Echuca VIC 3564, Australia

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