Winter 2026 | Edition 60

## Community Living & Respite Services

# Community News

## A message from our CEO

To listen to our news click here

Hello everyone,
I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lauren Davy, and I have recently stepped into the role of Interim CEO.

I've had the opportunity to work alongside many of our clients, families and community partners and I am looking forward to getting out and meeting more of you over the coming months.
Our focus stays the same: supporting great staff to deliver great support - something I'm proud to keep being part of.

One of the things I am looking forward to is Run Echuca Moama on Sunday 2 August.
It is a genuinely inclusive event where everyone can take part in a way that suits them. People can run, walk or use a mobility aid across the 21.1km, 10km or 5km courses.
The course itself covers two states, both Victoria and NSW, two river crossings taking in lovely views of the Murray River. The course winds through the Port of Echuca and finishes in style by crossing the iconic Old Echuca–Moama Bridge, closed exclusively to traffic for the event.

It is a great opportunity to come together and be part of this fun local event.

To join in, you can register here or if you would prefer to be involved behind the scenes, we are also looking for volunteers here.

You may have heard about recent NDIS reforms. Some of these changes will affect people differently, and it is completely normal to have questions. We are here to help.
You can find more information on the NDIS website - https://www.ndis.gov.au/new-way-of-planning/changes-ndis, or a helpful overview of timelines and changes here.

You can also speak with your Support Coordinator, Local Area Coordinator, or reach out to your Team Leader if you need help understanding what it means for you.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Community News and the stories that celebrate the people, partnerships and possibilities shaping 2026 for CLRS.

## Lauren Davy

### Interim CEO

**Community Living & Respite Services**

www.clrs.org.au

# National Volunteer Week

**Theme - 'Your Year To Volunteer'**

National Volunteer Week 2026 celebrates the commitment of current volunteers and invites everyone to discover how giving their time and talents can spark joy and a deep sense of purpose.

2026 is the United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, recognising the vital role volunteers play in building sustainable, inclusive communities worldwide.

Volunteering at CLRS takes many forms—from Board members sharing their expertise to community members giving a couple of hours to support programs like Run Echuca Moama. Every volunteer contribution, big or small, makes a meaningful difference.

This National Volunteer Week, Community Living & Respite Services (CLRS) proudly celebrated more than 10 years of supported volunteering, recognising the dedication, growth and contribution of people with disability across our social enterprises Recyclability and the Murray River Tea Rooms.

CLRS staff and community volunteers work alongside clients, adapting tasks to meet individual needs and providing encouragement, coaching and positive reinforcement. This person-centred approach ensures each volunteer is supported to succeed at their own pace. Over time, many clients demonstrate increased independence, improved communication skills and growing confidence in their abilities.

*Kim has been a valued supported volunteer at Recyclability since the program began in 2015 and is now a familiar face at the Recyclability Op Shop counter, well known to many of the program's regular customers. Starting with hands-on recycling tasks, Kim has grown significantly in confidence, developed strong workplace routines, and built positive relationships with staff, fellow volunteers and community members. This strong foundation has enabled Kim to expand her volunteering to community events and, most recently, the CLRS Annual Fundraising Dinner Working Group.*

Make sure you check out this short clip of supported volunteering created by The Riv as part of National Volunteer Week.

## CEO Leah Taaffe update

After more than ten years with the organisation, including over six years as CEO, Leah Taaffe has made the decision to step away from her role. She has relocated to Timor-Leste, where her partner has been posted with the Australian Army.

Throughout her decade at CLRS, Leah has played a significant role in guiding the organisation, with many team members benefiting from her calm, steady and coaching-focused leadership. Her approach has supported the growth of others and helped shape leadership across the organisation.

Under Leah's leadership, CLRS has undertaken important work to remain stable and sustainable in a changing industry. This has included strengthening systems and processes to ensure a continued focus on what matters most, supporting clients and staff. The organisation is particularly proud of how it responded during challenging periods such as COVID-19 and the floods, experiences that have contributed to a more mature and resilient organisation, well positioned for the future.

At the heart of Leah's leadership has been a genuine care for clients, staff, the organisation and the wider community. Her belief that well-supported staff deliver great service has guided much of the organisation's work and will remain an important part of its legacy.

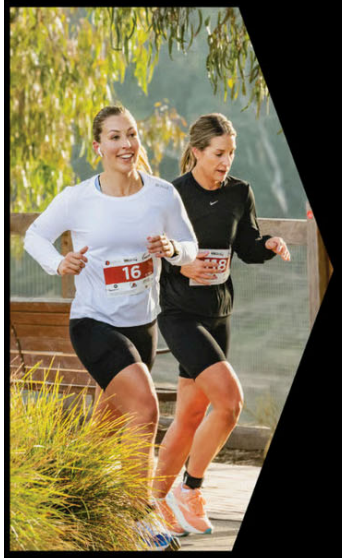
While Leah moves on to her next chapter, we extends our sincere thanks for her valued contribution and wish her every success in the opportunities ahead.

2026

# RUN ECHUCA MOAMA

Building homes for people with disability

## SUNDAY 2 AUGUST 2026



Kerrabee Soundshell,
Moama

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

SCAN TO ENTER

www.clrs.org.au/our-events/run-echuca-moama

EVENT SPONSOR

PLATINUM SPONSORS

# Run Echuca Moama 2026

**Registrations are OPEN!**
Get involved and support our organisation to raise funds for our Opening Doors Project.

**Sunday 2 August**
Run, walk or wheel (mobility aids only)

- **21.1km**
- **10km**
- **5km**
- **Frinkle Junior Bolt** (400m & 800m)

**Click here to register**

Make your way across **two river crossings and two states — Victoria and NSW —** while soaking up the stunning scenery of the Murray River. The course passes historic paddlesteamers, winds through the Port of Echuca, and finishes in unforgettable style by crossing the **iconic Old Echuca–Moama Bridge**, closed exclusively to traffic for the event.

All funds raised support our **Opening Doors Project** – building homes for people with disability. Through this project, we've already **built 3 homes and 12 units**, supporting **22 people** to live with greater independence and inclusion within their community.

Visit our website or follow us on socials
**Website -** Run Echuca Moama – Community Living & Respite Services
**Facebook -** Click Here
**Instagram -** Click Here

# Run Echuca Moama Sponsors 2026

**THANK YOU** to our incredible 2026 Run Echuca Moama sponsors.

**Event Sponsor -** Moama Bowling Club

**Platinum Sponsors -** Riverine Herald, Worklocker Echuca, 102.5 Edge FM, Radiant Media Productions, Revolution Print, EDG Projects Australia, Beechworth Bakery, Rich River Golf Club and Switched On Electronics.

**Junior Bolt Sponsor -** Frinkle Moama

We are so grateful to have these fantastic local businesses on board supporting this great local community event.

Please shop local, buy local and support local.

## Volunteers needed for Run Echuca Moama 2026

We need volunteers to help at Run Echuca Moama 2026. It is a great way to experience the buzz of this great community event without having to tie up the laces.

**Volunteer roles include**

- Marshall on course
- Manning the water stations on the course
- Assisting with on the day registrations
- Help pre event set up from 6am
- Help with post event pack down
- Handing out medals and water at the finish line
- Photographing the event

As a thank you our volunteers will get

- 1 FREE Egg & Bacon roll from Beechworth Bakery on site stall
- 1 Donut from Beechworth Bakery
- 1 Drink either hot drink from Let's Do Coffee OR 1 cold drink from Beechworth Bakery on site stall

**Click Here to Register to Volunteer at Run Echuca Moama**

# RUN ECHUCA MOAMA

2026

Building homes for people with disability

# RAFFLE

# PRIZES TO WIN

**1st Prize**

**iPhone 17 Pro Max**

**2nd Prize**

**74L Brass Monkey Portable Fridge Freezer**

**3rd Prize**

**$100 Worth of Fuel**

**Raffle Supported by**

SWITCHED ON ELECTRONICS

$5 per ticket

DRAWN

**Sun 2 August 2026**

# Run Echuca Moama Raffle

We're excited to welcome new **Platinum Sponsor,** Switched On Electronics, who have generously donated the first two fantastic prizes for our Run Echuca Moama 2026 Raffle!

**Raffle Prizes:**
**1st Prize:** iPhone 17 Pro Max
**2nd Prize:** 74L Brass Monkey Portable Fridge/Freezer
**3rd Prize:** $100 fuel vouchers

**Buy Raffle Tickets here**

# Vacancies for client supported volunteering

## Learn these skills

- Make coffee
- Serve customers
- Food preparation
- Money handling & EFTPOS

## Contact us

03 5480 2388
reception@clrs.org.au

Community Living & Respite Services

# Current Vacancies for Murray River Tea Rooms

The Murray River Tea Rooms is a social enterprise offering a unique blend of a cozy café with a stylish op shop.
We provide a welcoming and inclusive space where people with disability can gain real-world experience in hospitality, customer service, retail and food preparation. Our supportive environment is designed to build skills and boost confidence.

Using NDIS funding, clients will be supported to learn how to make coffee, serve customers, prepare food and money handling using the till and EFTPOS machines.

**Current Vacancies:**

- **Monday – 9:30am to 12:30pm x 1 spot**
- **Tuesday – 12.30pm to 3:30pm x 3 spots**
- **Wednesday – 12:30pm to 3:30pm x 1 spot**

**To learn more:**
Follow us on Facebook or Instagram
Visit our website here
Contact Team Leader - Charmaine on 5480 2388 or reception@clrs.org.au

Sent to: events@clrs.org.au

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

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