



Welcome to the Spring edition of the Coast & Country Community Services newsletter.

As the days grow longer and we head into a new season, plenty is happening across our regions, and we have many stories to share from our clients, volunteers, staff, and communities.

In this edition, we introduce you to one of our dedicated volunteers and hear what our volunteers value most about giving back to their communities. We also share highlights from our successful Canberra overnight tour and Coffee, Cake & Clay activity, along with the launch of Ride & Thrive and an update from the ACTA National Conference.

With the warmer months approaching, you'll also find some helpful information about preparing for the upcoming bushfire season.

We hope you enjoy this edition, and thank you for your continued support of Coast & Country Community Services.

Di Hallett
CCCS Chair

What's Inside

Our Activities at a Glance	2
Volunteer Spotlight + Top 10	3
Ride & Thrive Program	4
Get Ready for Bushfire Season	4
Special Dates & Events	5
Regional Updates	5
Public Holiday Notification	5
Connect with CCCS	6
Staff Recognition	6

OUR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

It's been a busy winter across Coast & Country Community Services, with plenty happening across our regions. From delivering meals, transport and social support to our Canberra overnight trip, Coffee, Cake & Clay activities and our leadership team attending the ACTA National Conference, we've had many opportunities to connect, learn and support our communities.

Statistics for Winter



Trips
28,237



Meals delivered
5,822



Clients received Meals
134



Social Support Hrs
294.5



Social Support Clients
44



CCCS overnight tour to Canberra

Our Canberra Overnight Tour took travellers to some of the capital's best attractions, including the National Gallery of Australia, National Zoo & Aquarium, Cockington Green, the National Arboretum and the Royal Australian Mint. Thank you to everyone who travelled with us. We can't wait to do it all again!

Coffee, Cake & Clay

Clients from Ulladulla, Sussex Inlet and Nowra recently came together for CCCS's first social group at our South Nowra office. Over coffee and cake, participants enjoyed a clay-making session and the opportunity to connect, socialise and make new friendships. Following the positive feedback, we're looking forward to creating more opportunities for clients to come together.



Leadership team attends ACTA National Conference

CEO James Gould and Operations Manager Shane Baker attended the Australian Community Transport Association (ACTA) National Conference, connecting with industry leaders and exploring the latest innovations in community transport.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT + TOP 10

Volunteer Profile: From University Lecturer to Driver, Vi from Grenfell

When Virginia retired after a long career, including working as a university lecturer, she knew she wanted to stay active and connected to her community. Eighteen months later, she has found exactly that through volunteering with Coast & Country Community Services as a community transport driver.

What began as a way to meet more people in Grenfell quickly became something much more rewarding. While Virginia initially expected the role to simply involve driving people from one place to another, she discovered that every day brings new experiences, meaningful conversations, and the opportunity to visit different towns while supporting clients attending medical appointments or shopping trips. No two days are ever the same.

For Virginia, the greatest reward is seeing the difference community transport makes in people's lives. She enjoys knowing that clients can access the services they need while also benefiting from companionship and conversation along the way. She believes these simple interactions brighten everyone's day, creating positive experiences for both volunteers and clients alike.

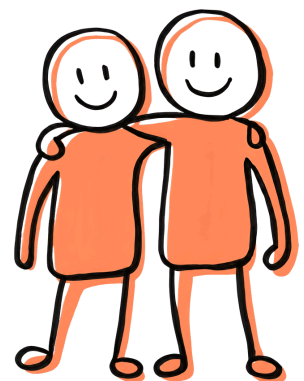


"You'll have a great time volunteering. You'll meet lots of new people, visit places you may not have been before, and make a real difference by helping people get where they need to go."

10 Reasons Our Volunteers Love What They Do

We asked our volunteers what they're most proud of, and their answers revealed the values at the heart of volunteering with CCCS.

- 1 Helping people
- 2 Making a difference
- 3 Being part of a team & learning new things
- 4 Meeting amazing people
- 5 Supporting access to healthcare
- 6 Being there for a chat
- 7 Reducing loneliness
- 8 Brightening someone's day
- 9 Supporting independence
- 10 Meaningful conversations



Interested in joining our volunteer team? We'd love to hear from you.
Call 1300 411 345 or visit cccsl.org.au.

NEWS & HELPFUL INFO

CCCS supports regions with new Ride & Thrive program



Coast & Country Community Services has launched Ride & Thrive, a Transport for NSW-funded community transport trial designed to help students, apprentices and trainees in regional NSW access education, training and work when reliable transport is a barrier. The trial is available across selected regional NSW locations, with services tailored to local needs. To learn more about eligibility, participating regions or to register your interest, visit [Ride & Thrive](#)



Bushfire season is on the way, let's get prepared

With the NSW Bush Fire Danger Period approaching, now is the time to prepare your property and reduce bush fire risks. Here is some helpful information.



AIDER program

The NSW Rural Fire Service's free AIDER program helps eligible older people, people with disability and other at-risk residents reduce bush fire risks around their homes. Services include clearing gutters, trimming vegetation and mowing long grass. To check your eligibility, visit the NSW RFS AIDER webpage or call 1300 011 737.



Bushfire Survival Plan

Every household should have a bush fire survival plan. The NSW Rural Fire Service recommends four simple steps: discuss your plan, prepare your property, know the bush fire alert levels, and stay up to date with conditions. Create your plan at myfireplan.com.au.



Hazards Near Me NSW app

Receive real-time updates on bushfires, floods, storms, tsunamis and other emergencies, plus important safety advice. Enable push notifications to stay informed about incidents and changing conditions in your local area.



ABC Radio

During bushfires, floods and other emergencies, ABC Radio provides trusted, up-to-date information and warnings. Know your local ABC frequency, download the ABC listen app, or stream your local station online so you're ready when it matters most.

WHAT'S NEW & COMING UP

Special dates & events

There is plenty happening across our regions over the coming months.

SEP

- **7-13 September** – Women's Health Week
- **14-20 September** – Dementia Action Week
- **22-24 September** – Bowral-Bundanoon Overnight Trip
- **23 September** – Bowral Day Trip

OCT

- Mental Health Awareness Month
- **5-11 October** – Active Aging Week
- **12-18 October** – Carers Week

NOV

- **November** – Men's Health Month

Grenfell Office Open 5 Days a Week

We're pleased to welcome clients and community members back to our Grenfell office, now open Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm.

Whether you'd like to book community transport, enquire about our services, or simply have a chat about how we can support you, our friendly team is here to help. Call **1300 411 345** or visit us during office hours.



Public Holiday Notification

All Coast & Country Community Services offices will be closed on Monday, 5 October 2026, for the Labour Day public holiday, and will reopen on Tuesday, 6 October 2026.



There are now more ways to connect with CCCS

Follow our social media platforms for the latest news and updates.



Coast and Country
Community Services Ltd



@coastcountryservices



Coast and Country
Community Services Ltd



Thank you to Otto and David



Our sincere thanks to Otto Halpuka and David Paterson, who have retired from volunteering with CCCS after 11 years and nine years of service respectively. We wish them both a wonderful retirement with family and friends. They will be greatly missed by everyone at CCCS.



Interested in volunteering?

Make a difference in your community by volunteering with Coast and Country Community Services.

Join our friendly team, meet new people, learn new skills and help change lives.

Scan this QR code to learn more!

