

Autumn 2026 | Edition 59

Community Living & Respite Services

Community News



A message from our CEO

[To listen to our news click here](#)

Welcome to our Autumn 2026 Community News. As we settle into the year, I'm pleased to share some wonderful achievements, partnerships and moments that have shaped a very positive start to 2026 for CLRS.

Our team, our supporters and our wider community have already contributed to an energising first quarter, and I am grateful for the momentum we are building together.

We were proud to once again to be the Community Partner for the Riverboats Music Festival. This year's event raised \$7,738, a result that reflects both strong community spirit and the generosity of everyone involved. Our ongoing partnership with Dave Fraser and the Riverboats team continues to be a highlight of our year, allowing us not only to raise essential funds but also

to strengthen awareness of the services and supports we provide across the region. Their dedication to our organisation and our vision is deeply appreciated.

March also saw us host our 18th Annual Fundraising Dinner, held on Thursday 5 March. It was a standout evening, filled with energy, learning and connection.

Our keynote presenter, Dr Jordan Nguyen, along with his remarkable robot Koobo, captivated the room with an inspiring and thought-provoking presentation. Their contribution brought excitement and insight to the night and will be remembered as one of our most engaging guest appearances yet.

Events like this are only possible because of the extraordinary generosity of our community. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Moama Bowling Club, our event sponsor, and to our Major Sponsors; AUSURE, AWM (supported by SEC Services and GoodWe Au), CED Group, Complete Scissor Lift Hire, 2QN/Edge FM, Echuca Carpet Court, Echuca Toyota, Forty Winks Echuca, Mawsons Concrete & Quarries, Riverboats Music Festival, Murray River Council and The Riv. Your ongoing support enables us to continue delivering this important annual event.

We were also delighted to welcome 15 local businesses and both our local Councils who took tables at the dinner, as well as the many businesses who donated vouchers, services, or products. This generosity underpins our ability to raise funds each year, supporting essential programs for people with disability across our region.

I am thrilled to share that this year's event raised \$97,300, a truly outstanding result.

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



Leah Taaffe

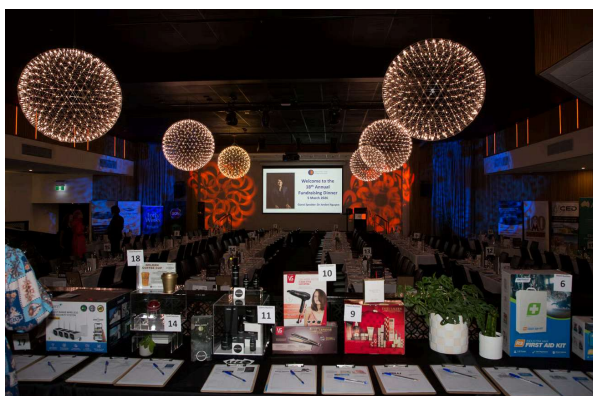
CEO

Community Living & Respite Services

www.clrs.org.au

18th Annual Fundraising Dinner

Here are some photos from our 18th Annual Fundraising Dinner held on Thursday 5th March 2026 at the Moama Bowling Club with guest speaker [Dr Jordan Nguyen](#).





18th Annual Fundraising Dinner Sponsors

THANK YOU to our incredible 2026 Annual Fundraising Dinner sponsors. Please support them by shopping local and supporting local businesses.

Event Sponsor - [Moama Bowling Club](#)

Major Sponsor - [Riverine Herald](#), [102.5 Edge FM](#), [Riverboats Music Festival](#), [Murray River Council](#), [Forty Winks](#), [Echuca Carpet Court](#), [Mawsons](#), [AWM Electrical Echuca](#), [Echuca Toyota](#), [Complete Scissor Lift Hire](#), [Ausure Echuca](#) and [CED Group](#).



Back Left to Right – George Santos (Moama Bowling Club), Lachlan Stacey (SEC Services), Jamie Maddison (CED Group), Cr John Harvie (Mayor Murray River Council), Scott Worsnop (Forty Winks), Mark Watson (Complete Scissor Lift Hire), John Mawsons (Mawsons Concrete & Quarries), Michael Sistanis (Echuca Toyota).

Front Left to Right – Byron Hall (AWM Echuca), Tim Dale (Ausure Echuca), Leah Taaffe, Melissa Thomas (The Riv), Angela Parker (Edge FM) and Dr Claire Goodman (CLRS President).



GO PACK!

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY



Go Pack! Emergency preparedness bags are now available for NDIS participants in the Campaspe region.

Ask us for your own Go Pack!



Go Pack! emergency preparedness bags are ready!

Go Pack! emergency preparedness bags are now available for NDIS participants in the Campaspe region.

A Go Pack! is a bright green bag to help people get ready for an emergency. Emergencies can happen quickly and may include floods, storms or bushfires. You may need to leave home fast. Please speak to your residential or programs coordinator at CLRS to organise a Go Pack!.

Intereach are also offering a pickup point as the Campaspe Local Area Coordinator. To collect bags through Intereach, please phone 1300 488 226.

Go Pack! was developed in partnership with Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit, Campaspe Shire Council, Vivid and CLRS.

[Click here for Easy Read version about Go Pack!](#)

Riverboats Music Festival 2026

Riverboats Music Festival was a wonderful success with the amazing crowd supporting us by purchasing raffle tickets and shopping at our marquee, proudly stocked with hats and blankets donated through our Recyclability Op Shop.

We raised \$5620 from raffle ticket sales for our Opening Doors Project and \$2117.65 for our social enterprise [Recyclability](#), through marquee sales! A very big thank you goes to our dedicated volunteers who sold a staggering 1,124 raffle tickets in just 3 days!

We're incredibly grateful to Dave Fraser & the Riverboats team for continuing to be great partners and these wonderful local businesses who supported us:

[Echuca Moama Signs](#), for donating signage for our A-frames

[Rich River Party Hire](#) for the weights to keep our marquee secured

A massive thank you to our Riverboats 2026 raffle sponsors

1st PRIZE - Riverboats Music Festival 2027 - 2 x Weekend Tickets

2nd PRIZE - Winery E-Bike Tour for 6 people donated by [Green Pedal Cycles](#)

3rd PRIZE - \$100.00 [Pacdon Park](#) Free Range British Butchery voucher

4th PRIZE - \$100.00 [Johnny & Lyle](#) café voucher

5th PRIZE - [The Port Ice Creamery](#) 10 x single cone vouchers \$55

6th PRIZE - \$50 [Murray River Tea Rooms](#) voucher

7th PRIZE - \$250 [Junction Moama](#) voucher

Congratulations to our lucky raffle winners!

1st PRIZE - Laura Gregoire

2nd PRIZE - Sophie Kenny

3rd PRIZE - Julie Nicholson

4th PRIZE - Lydia Johns Putra

5th PRIZE - Sara Daly

6th PRIZE - Rachelle Chapman

7th PRIZE - Caitlin Meyer





Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria (RDA) is looking for volunteers

RDA Victoria - Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria offers horse-related activities that enhance the quality of life for people with disability.

RDA Echuca - Sessions run every 3 weeks. Echuca Racecourse Murray Valley Highway, Echuca.

Volunteers needed!

RDA Echuca is currently looking for volunteers to help their riders and programs. If you can spare some time and want to make a real difference in our community, they would love to hear from you. RDA brings smiles, confidence and joy to everyone involved – riders, volunteers and families alike.

To learn more or get involved? Contact Megan from RDA: rdaechuca@gmail.com



CLRS New Board Members

The Board have recently welcomed three new Board members. These are Tim Dale, John Chellappan and Clint Flanigan.



Tim Dale is a well-respected local businessman with more than 40 years' experience in business. He is the owner and director of Ausure Insurance and Finance.

Tim started his career in farming and since leaving farming in 1997 has established 3 companies servicing clients in 3 sectors: Insurance Broking, Financial Planning and Finance Broking. Tim has been active in the Echuca Moama community and beyond for many years. His significant experience in business, and connections to our local community, are a great asset to the Board and the organisation.



John Chellappan joins us from Melbourne. John is the Director of JNM Consulting and has significant expertise in designing and implementing technological solutions for large corporations. John also has experience of the NDIS, managing his child's NDIS funds and supports. John recently graduated from the AICD's Company Director's course and is joining our Board to support good governance practices as well as bringing his own lived experience of disability services as well as his work in large organisations in multiple countries.



Clint Flanigan is a well-known local pharmacist. Clint, along with his partners, developed and grew Moama Village and Meninya Street Pharmacies. He also runs a medication management company. Clint has been a member of the Make your Mark fundraising committee, which successfully raised significant funds for Echuca Regional Health. He is a current member of Echuca Moama Apex Club and the Boys Night Out Committee. Clint's experience with clinical governance, business management and community engagement are a welcome addition to the Board and the organisation.



Sent to: events@clrs.org.au

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