

## Dishing out at Ricky's

RICKY'S Place provides tasty and healthy meals for lunch on Wednesday and Friday and dinner on Monday night.

Usually St John's Church hall is the venue for Ricky's Place but the kitchen there is being renovated so it has been temporarily moved to the Red Cross rooms in Church St, Bega.

To provide the lunches and dinners many volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clear up.

Although many have put their hands up to help, more volunteers are always needed.

Ricky's Place also provides showers and free legal help.



• Preparing Ricky's Place lunches at the Red Cross rooms in Bega (from left) Dianne Lockhart, Kody Lloyd, Jo Clayson, Cheryl Pym, Michaela Pascolutti, Helen Spiropoulos and Faye Millikin.

## Driving those in need

IAN Scougall has been with Bega Valley Community Transport for five years.

At that time he decided he wanted to do something to benefit not only himself but the community.

"I heard about Community Transport and thought I'd give them a bit of a go so went to the office (then in Auckland St), met the crew and that's how it all started," Mr Scougall said.

He was trained in how to handle clients and the paperwork involved and then was off "thoroughly enjoying myself".

Mr Scougall volunteer drives one day a week and is on call if someone is sick.

He mainly drives people to Canberra for specialist appointments but also goes to Batemans

Bay, Moruya, Narooma and as far as Nowra.

"They're all wonderful people," he said.

Eligible for Community Transport are those who live at home or in an independent living unit and are a frail older person, or someone with a disability (any age) without access to transport.

Carers are also eligible and as those who are isolated with no other means of transport.

Those eligible can be transported locally to doctors or medical appointments, day care, shopping, recreational activities or visits to friends.

Clients are asked to contribute to the cost of the service.

For further information on Community Transport ring 6492 4188.



• Bega Valley Community Transport volunteer, Ian Scougall, beside the bus he usually drives.

## Valuable contribution

NATIONAL Volunteer Week will be held from May 13 to 19 and is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the valuable contributions made by volunteers across Australia.

In particular, the Bega Valley Shire Council would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contributions volunteers make every day around the shire and recognise that they are essential to keeping our many important community services going.

Council's community services manager, Simon Schweitzer says "the Bega Valley Shire's residents have a strong community focus and a long history of volunteerism".

"Council recognises that volunteering is an important part of our local community and we value the contributions that our

volunteers have made.

"The work undertaken by volunteers contributes to the provision of key services and infrastructure across the Shire, that council would otherwise struggle to fund," he said.

Council's volunteering coordinator, Nathan Marshall says, "with the help of our fantastic volunteers, the council is able to improve its services, including the home library service".

"This service is for people who are unable to attend the library themselves due to illness or disability.

"Volunteers assist clients by attending libraries on their behalf and then deliver books, magazines and audio books personally.

"It's a fantastic service and one that relies on volunteers to remain viable."

"Our volunteers also pitch in to raise the standards in our parks, gardens, halls, cemeteries and sports grounds.

"With such a spread out shire and so many facilities, council resources only spread so far.

"Much of the basic maintenance around the shire can be carried out by staff and contractors, however we rely on teams of volunteers who get together and take care of the finer details," he said.

"Council also has many volunteer committees that are delegated certain responsibilities and functions by council and operate subject to adopted procedures and guidelines.

"These committees not only act as advisory bodies to council, such as the Youth Council and Access committee, but also assist in the management

of facilities like our hall and sportsground committees.

"Committees are a way for communities to get involved in decisions and allows them to have direct input into what their community really needs," Mr Marshall said.

Most volunteers do not expect any reward for their volunteering, however, it is important to recognise their contributions and achievements.

National Volunteering Week is a great opportunity to do this and to ensure that all the shire's volunteers are acknowledged in some small way.

If people are interested in how they can volunteer, or would like to suggest a project they can contribute to, please contact council on 6499 2222.



# Bega Valley Shire Council

## Recognising our volunteers



Phone 6499 2222  
www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au