

Catch-up with the latest at Family Life!

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Dear

A warm welcome to Yolande, who has recently joined us as our Mornington Peninsula Volunteer Coordinator. We also want to extend a big welcome to our [new volunteers](#)—be sure to give them a friendly greeting when you see them in the store!

In November, we proudly introduced a new chapter for Family Life with the successful launch of Family Life: The Edit at our new Black Rock site at 597 Balcombe Road. A huge thank you to the team for bringing this exciting vision to life and for celebrating the opening with festive flair as Christmas magic filled the store.

We'd also like to congratulate our incredible volunteers and the Social Enterprise Team, who played a key role in the opening of our two new stores, including the new Brighton location (117 Church Street), which will open on December 19th. With this expansion, we now have a total of 12 Community Op Shops, and we couldn't have done it without your hard work and dedication!

As we look ahead to the New Year, be sure to keep an eye on your emails for exciting new training opportunities. For now, enjoy catching up on all things Family Life. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you back in 2025!



Celebrating 2024: our Volunteer End of Year Function

We were absolutely thrilled to celebrate with everyone at our recent End of Year Function at the Moorabbin Bowls Club. It was a fantastic occasion, filled with laughter, connection, and gratitude as we gathered to reflect on the incredible year we've had together. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces, all of whom have contributed to making 2024 such a special year for Family Life.

The evening provided the perfect opportunity to reconnect with our dedicated volunteers and Social Enterprise Team, all while enjoying some delicious food and lively music. It was a time to relax, reflect, and celebrate the impact we've made together in our community.

We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event so memorable. Your presence and enthusiasm truly made the evening unforgettable. We are grateful for each and every one of you who has supported us throughout the year—your dedication, hard work, and passion are what make Family Life thrive.

If you'd like to relive the memories from the event, be sure to check out the [gallery of images](#) from the evening by clicking [here](#). A special thanks to our talented volunteer photographer, Nick, for beautifully capturing the spirit of the night.

Thank you once again for being part of this special celebration and for all you do throughout the year. We are looking forward to even more shared successes in 2025!



2023/24 Performance and Impact, Annual Report, and RAP now available

We are proud to share with you the 2023/2024 Performance and Impact Report, and Annual Report now available for viewing on our [website](#).

These reports highlight the significant impact we've made during a year marked by both achievements and challenges, including the ongoing efforts to address the family violence epidemic. In the past financial year, Family Life provided support to 5,550 families through our various programs and services.

In November, we celebrated the launch of our inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Our Family Life RAP is a pivotal step in achieving our organisational value of Capable Communities, Strong Families and Thriving Children. We believe that promoting reconciliation will create a positive change not only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but for our community as a whole.

We extend our gratitude to Reconciliation Australia, and everyone involved in reaching this significant achievement. You can view our RAP online now, via our [website](#).



Lending a helping hand: our Community Christmas Drive

Each year, Family Life coordinates the collection and distribution of toys and food hampers to local families in need during the Christmas season.

Our Community Christmas campaign relies on the generosity of our community, with donations of pantry items, gift cards, and toys. These donations are then turned into hampers and delivered to families by our dedicated Family Life staff. This year, the ongoing cost of living crisis has led to a record number of families seeking our support.

While we are fortunate to receive incredible donations from our community, there are times when we need additional items to ensure we can meet the demand. Our Donation Card drive in our Op Shops plays a crucial role in supporting this campaign, allowing us to continue helping families in the years to come. Thanks to the overwhelming success of our 2023 Donation Card drive, we were able to provide hampers for over 220 families this year.

Community Christmas is a wonderful opportunity for our community, staff, and stakeholders to come together and make sure local families can enjoy a truly special holiday. We are immensely grateful to all of our volunteers for their hard work and dedication in selling Donation Cards in-store.

We look forward to sharing the results of the Donation Card drive with you in January, including announcing the winning stores for the most cards sold and the most creative display. Thank you again for your continued support in making this campaign a success!



Volunteer Profile: Bob from Rosebud

Hi, I'm Bob Spalding, and I joined the Rosebud team in mid-June 2024.

What do I love about being here? Well, the store manager is definitely a standout (haha), but on a serious note, I really enjoy the social interactions. It brings so much positivity to my day and gives me a strong sense of purpose.

The most unusual donation I've come across? A personal wedding DVD—it's not every day you see something like that!



Store Spotlight: Our Distribution Centre

The Distribution Centre (DC) is a dynamic hub for the Social Enterprise team, with the incredible Tina leading the charge.

Tina keeps the operation running smoothly, managing stock flow at lightning speed, staying on top of OHS standards, and bringing joy and energy to the site! In just eight weeks, Tina and the team have transformed the space, creating clear walkways and efficient systems to ensure seamless stock movement—keeping our stores thriving and bustling with activity!

Thank you to all of our amazing DC team and volunteers!

Help us deliver crucial services to families, kids and communities doing it tough. Every contribution counts.

[Donate Today](#)



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