



News from Engadine Community Services (February 2021)

Message from Mel – ECS Manager

Here we are in February already, and ECS remain dedicated to supporting our community to live well with the best services we can provide. I remain thankful to staff, volunteers and local businesses that assist us to succeed, in true community spirit.

Yes! We have been around for 50 years in 2021, with a range of services for people of all ages. Personally, I have been involved with the organisation for more than 20, as have some of our clients. We are very proud to continue assisting them and their families and look forward to engaging everyone in our story, and our celebrations throughout the year.

Sadly, the closeknit ECS Team is struggling with a sudden and massive loss this month, due to the passing of a beloved volunteer Sandra Bennie. There are more details below which convey some of our thoughts for Sandra and her family. It is a personal loss to all of us who have had the pleasure of working with Sandra.

Finally, I encourage you to make note of dates that may be of interest to you, family or friends:

- Toy Library sale – Saturdays 13th, 27th February
- *Welcome to Your Aged Care Journey* (free 30 minute consultations) – Saturday 17th April

News from ECS Resource Centre

Centrelink and aged care nominee forms have changed

Services Australia has simplified the [Authorising a person or organisation to enquire or act on your behalf \(SS313\)](#) form. Customers now use this form to nominate someone to act on their behalf for both Centrelink correspondence and aged care costs. Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) income support recipients use the [Aged Care Request for a nominee for DVA customers \(AC019\)](#) form to nominate someone to act on their behalf for aged care costs.

These improvements are part of the [changes to Centrelink and aged care nominee arrangements](#). My Aged Care representatives are not affected.

ECS Services highlight – Toy Library

Do you have (or know of) young kids/grandkids who need entertaining, but you have limited space to store new toys? Our toy library is open to members on Monday from 1-4pm, Thursday 1-4pm and Saturday 9-12pm [two Saturdays each month].

For membership fees and to join, go to <https://www.ecs.org.au/fun-for-kids>. You can rent a toy that is new to your child/grandchild and return it when they have had enough of it - a cost effective way to enrich language, numeracy, fine motor skills, imagination and creativity.

We take our toys and fun seriously! Last week, we invited 5 year old Jasper to test one of our new toys, a lego train set. It passed with a big '*CHOO-CHOO*se this toy' from Jasper!



If you know a good toy tester, give us a call for our next test!

Can you name a popular toy that's over 50 years old and still going strong?

Yes it's the Shape-O!

And it's just one of over 500 toys in our library. We would love to hear back from you if you remember playing with this toy, and let us know of any other 50 year old toys you fondly remember. We would love to see some photos!



As we update our toy selection, we are also selling off some toys and puzzles during February – please drop in on Saturday mornings for some great bargains.

Note: All our toys are thoroughly cleaned after each rental and are in good condition. Our first priority is to remain COVID-safe for our community.



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Vale Sandra Bennie

Our volunteers are an important part of the success of the ECS family and the community they help support.

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that our dear friend and colleague, Sandra Bennie, passed away on 27th January, after a short illness.



Sandra has been the calm and kind voice on the phone and helpful, smiling face at ECS' front desk on Mondays and Tuesdays for the past 3 years, as a volunteer, and as paid office administrator prior to that. Nothing at ECS has been achieved during the past decade without her heart, sound advice and boundless generosity.

Sandra was a very organised lady, and her spreadsheets and folders for everything from Tax Help and Computers for Seniors bookings and JP rosters to volunteers' Criminal Check renewals were legendary; however, her real passion was working for the aged. Whether making her detailed Friendly Phone Calls or ringarounds to confirm bookings on bus outings, Sandra set the standard for professionalism and class, speaking to every person with care, respect and genuine interest. She continued with the phone calls while in lockdown last year [following our confidentiality rules, of course].

Over the years, Sandra has been a member of the ECS Management Committee, compiled the annual report and assisted with seniors' social groups, including bus outings. Sandra's daughter has told us how much she loved being part of the ECS community. Thanks to everyone who phoned, emailed or visited us to share our sadness. Due to COVID restrictions, Sandra's family has asked ECS to host part of her funeral on Tuesday 9th February. Please RSVP to join us in our meeting room to watch the service on Zoom at 11.30 am.

We're also collecting donations for ovarian cancer in lieu of flowers, as requested by Sandra's daughter. During the month of February, we are collecting donations for ovarian cancer research and support for

women fighting the disease. Please drop in to our centre [9.30-4 weekdays or 9-12 on 13th or 27th February] or make your donation online to:

<https://www.ovariancancer.net.au/page/155/ovarian-cancer-awareness-month>

Special offer to our members

At ECS we are passionate about working with like-minded people and companies to provide an holistic service to our members. In this newsletter we are delighted to introduce Karen Buckley, Director, Your Aged Care Journey.

Karen has nearly 20 years experience in all aspects of the Aged Care industry. She is passionate about working together with clients and their families/loved ones to plan for "the now and the future". She is dedicated to supporting, empowering, educating and developing pathways for all involved to ensure the best quality of life is not only achieved but is also sustainable.

Karen now has her own independent consultancy business "Your Aged Care Journey".

<https://www.youragedcarejourney.com.au/>

As part of Seniors Week (13 – 24 April 2021), Karen, together with ECS, is offering a FREE no obligation 30 minute appointment (booking essential) on Monday 12th April 2-5 pm and Saturday 17th April 9-12. You are invited to bring all that overwhelming aged care paperwork or just come and chat about you and/or your elderly loved one and what is available for them to age and live well.

Look out for other special offers and events on our Facebook page!

Birthday Fun fact #1: In 1956, when the poultry farm at the corner of Station Street and the Old Princes Highway Engadine was sub-divided for shops, Sutherland Shire Council wanted to acquire land for a community centre. A group of local people formed in 1958 to support the push. *Do you remember anyone who was involved?*

Birthday Fun fact #2: The ECS archives tell us that Engadine Community Services was originally part of the Senior Citizens Centre. *Do you have any photos of the early building?*