



Newsletter

ISSUE 23

DECEMBER 2015

SEE BEYOND TODAY - INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

PREVIOUS ISSUES

You can read [previous issues on our website](#)

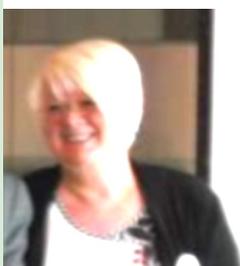
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- From the Chair- 1
person
- MECOSS 2
- MECOSS 3
- Community 3
- MECOSS Event 3
- Do you know? 4
- Contact us 4

ABOUT THIS NEWS- LETTER

MECOSS publishes a regular newsletter that includes articles and news for people and organisations providing services to the people of Manukau East.

From the Chair



Dyann Calverley

Seasons Greetings,

Christmas will soon be upon us. Please make sure you drive carefully and stay safe.

Wow! What a fantastic second Community Safety Breakfast we had on 17th Novem-

ber, with Glen Green from 'There's a Better Way' as our speaker.

Glen is an inspiring, motivating, enthusiastic, real life, down-to-earth, entertaining, energising, and highly credible professional. Everyone was very, very impressed, and once again the Howick Club put on a delicious breakfast.

On November 25th, we held our Howick and Pakuranga Community Network Meeting at Te Tuhi Centre. Adele White—Deputy Chair of the Howick Local Board and former Police Youth Education officer spoke to us about Internet Safety. Her talk made us realise how important it is for families, and especially children, to own an awareness and understanding of the possible lurking dangers when surfing the Internet.

Our office will be closed from 1:00pm on Tuesday, 22nd December and reopen at 9:00am on Monday, Jan 11th. I will be available if anyone needs to contact MECOSS over this period at dyanncalverley@gmail.com

Our AGM is coming up on Tuesday, 12th April, further details to come. If you are interested in joining our Executive Board, please send me your Curriculum Vitae later in January

or early in February.

We have a very impressive Board as you will have seen from our latest posts on MECOSS' Facebook page—with two of our Executive members being awarded 'NZ Local Hero of the Year' medals. Please do go into our FB and like our page, and acknowledge the great work both Yongjie Li and Harjit Singh do for our community.

I look forward to catching up with you early next year.

Don't eat too much Xmas Dinner!!

Dyann



The MECOSS team wish you and your family a happy and refreshing summer break.

We look forward to seeing you in 2016.

www.mecoss.org.nz

MECOSS



Thank you for your involvement with MECOSS over the previous year. We hope you have benefitted from the many opportunities offered to participate in MECOSS networking, educational programmes and capacity-building workshops.

2015 has been a busy year for MECOSS with a full programme of events extremely well attended.

Our Community Safety Breakfast meetings have been popular; we've had phenomenal speaker's including Glen Green from 'There's a Better Way'.

Once a victim of a dysfunctional family, Glen addressed our members about the circumstances that've shaped his life.

He spoke about the pivotal point in his life when an Anglican minister questioned him about carrying intense anger.

He spoke about being in a dark place and moving into crime because of the company he kept.

He bravely described the vivid memories he's held since the age of four, watching his dad being handcuffed and driven away in a police car.

Glen says the breakthrough for him came when he released his pent up anxiety and anger by *forgiving* his father

Glen joined the NZ Police Force and was committed to helping the community, especially youth. He designed a basketball programme to temper at-risk-kids focused on becoming gang members.

Because he came from the same kind of background, Glen connected emotionally with them.

His hands-on involvement during basket ball games pre-empted any prior distrust they'd perceived of him. Eventually he gained their respect and was privileged to witness seeing some of them discard their gang patches.

Glen's inspirational story of change came to the attention of the FIBA. 'There's a Better Way' street basketball is now backed by FIBA 3x3 World Tour— an international 3x3 basketball event held in New York and Mexico.

His philosophy, 'You can either be the victim of your circumstance or the creator of your destiny' is living proof that positivity does inspire change.

Annual Subscription Fees

A reminder that your Annual Subscription fees are now due for the 2015 year. We would like to see as many of our existing members as possible renew their membership, and we encourage and welcome new members. To become a MECOSS member email admin@mecoss.org.nz and note 'Membership' in the subject line.

Benefits of MECOSS Membership

1. Community Safety Breakfasts
2. Community Network Meetings
3. Training programmes and workshops

Please Note: We're not a fully funded organisation; in order to maintain and deliver these quality services it is necessary for our members to assist financially. Your subscription fee is a vital contribution to MECOSS. Thank you.

MECOSS

MECOSS Annual General Meeting

Members are invited to attend our AGM being held on Tuesday, 12th April 2016 At the Te Tuhi Centre, 13 Reeves Road, Pakuranga From 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Please note it is important that your annual subscription is paid before the meeting, as only financial members are able to vote.

Have you considered being on the MECOSS committee? Or nominating someone whose skills and interest would benefit the organisation? Here's your chance to influence/have a say on what MECOSS does.

Update Your Details by January 20th

Thank you for subscribing to our MECOSS Newsletter.

Has your email address changed?

To update your contact details? [Click here](#)

Want to take a break from us completely?

[Click here](#)

COMMUNITY

Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund

Includes provision for training for financial planning and/or good governance. Community organisations need to demonstrate the community benefit of the organisation receiving training. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Grad Dip NFP Management

Unitec's Graduate Diploma in Not for Profit Management has been designed for managers and coordinators of nfp organisations, team leaders, volunteers and board members. Study in a supportive and cooperative learning environment, taught by lecturers who have experience in the nfp sector themselves. Designed with busy managers in mind, this is a part-time programme with classes offered in blocks. The programme consists of eight courses exploring the fundamentals of managing in a complex community setting. All assessments are based on the student's organisation and provide a rich opportunity for their organisations to benefit from this dynamic learning community. There are scholarships available to assist with fees. To find out more: [Click here.](#)

Services for Older People Conference

New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services will host a Services for Older People Conference in Auckland in May 2016. If you are working with older people in residential care, home support or community based services you will find it valuable.

Date: 12th-13th May, 2016

Venue: Rendezvous Hotel, Auckland city.

To find out more: [Click here.](#)

2016 MECOSS EVENT

Our third **Community Safety Breakfast** is being held in **March 2016**.

Please do avail yourself of this opportunity and watch out for details of timing and venue in our January Newsletter.

Do you know?

Kiwi Christmas Tree

The pohutukawa tree, with its crimson flower, has become an established part of the New Zealand Christmas tradition. This iconic Kiwi Christmas tree, which often features on greeting cards and in poems and songs, has become an important symbol for New Zealanders at home and abroad.

In 1833 the missionary Henry Williams described holding service under “wide spreading pohutukawa.” The first recorded reference to the pohutukawa as a Christmas tree came in 1867 when the Austrian geologist Ferdinand Von Hochsetter noted that settlers referred to it as such. Pohutukawa and its cousin rata also hold a prominent place in Maori tradition. Legends tell of Tawhaki, a young Maori warrior, who attempted to find heaven to seek help in avenging the death of his father. He fell to earth and the crimson flowers are said to represent his blood.

Source: Botany and Ormiston Times, Thursday, 3 December, 2015

Speed Threshold Reduced for Holiday Season

If you're driving, remember to “check your speed”. These holidays the speed threshold reduces to 4km/h . Police will be enforcing the reduced speed threshold from 1st December 2015 to 31 January 2016.

Win an Auckland Multipass

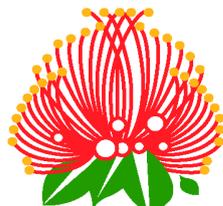
Looking for ways to entertain bored kids these summer holidays? The Auckland Multipass gives card holders discounts on entry to Auckland's five top attractions:

- [Butterfly Creek](#)
- [Sky Tower](#)
- [Rainbow's End](#)
- [Kelly Tarlton's](#)
- [Fullers ferry to Rangitoto](#)

OurAuckland is giving away an Adult Auckland Multipass

Email ourauckland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz (Subject: Auckland Multipass Competition), with your name, phone number and address by noon on Wednesday, 16 December to enter.

Contact us



Manukau East
MECOSS
Council of Social Services



MECOSS

All Saints Community Centre

30 Cook Street , Howick 2145

P.O Box: 39266

Tel : 09-533 3685

Email: admin@mecoss.org.nz

Website: www.mecoss.org.nz