

# **2020 Financial Year Annual Report**

**(period covered 01.07.2019 – 30.06.2020)**

## **The East Loddon Food Share Program Inc. (ELFS Program Inc.)**

The ELFS Program Inc. is a fully voluntary, self-funded organisation which provides emergency food, personal toiletries and basic household care parcels to families and individuals who are suffering as a result of extreme circumstances.

Extreme circumstances can strike anyone at any time. Natural disasters, such as drought or bushfire, have an enormous impact on the day-to-day lives of people living within the effected zone. Similarly, illness or an unexpected loss of income, can place people in a sudden and very difficult situation.

The East Loddon Food Share Program Committee recognises that everyone needs a hand at some time. Through the distribution of emergency food support provided through the ELFS Program, the committee works to provide some relief to families and individuals when times are tough.

Emergency support includes:

Non-perishable food parcels

Toiletries

Breakfasts for school children

Toilet paper and cleaning products



The work of the East Loddon Food Share Program Inc. is supported by many wonderful volunteers and organisations. It is through their generosity: with donations, time, distribution networks and love that we are able to reach so many people, ensuring support gets to those most in need. Our charity status now means we can provide a tax deductible receipt for any monetary donations received.

Ruth Barkla, Chaplain with Salvation Army Rural Outreach Program, and local schools & CFA Fire Brigade Volunteers play an important role in the distribution of food parcels to families who are needing help in local and surrounding areas. Respecting people's dignity and privacy is of paramount importance to our program's credibility and we understand the standards required so that the recipient doesn't feel judged for their circumstances.

## Background information...

## EAST LODDON FOOD SHARE PROGRAM

During the prolonged drought of the last decade (1999 to 2009), our East Loddon Community Network Group Inc., started working diligently at a program providing 300 food parcels each month which were distributed by local volunteers to our local area and beyond to support families, going through a tough time, not because of their farming practices but simply because of the weather. This program involved over 40 local volunteers, travelling to the East Loddon Community Centre, unloading food trucks, storage of groceries in a specially set up foodbank, packing days and then distribution. Most of the volunteers were dealing with drought too, but this program worked at providing a sense of connectedness, friendship & hope as volunteers were involved in distributing the food parcels in their own areas. Any concerns were referred on to professional support agencies, Salvation Army for follow-up. Some of the feedback received then was that the groceries were gratefully received but it was the visit and the communication which were paramount, addressing the isolation issues and not feeling alone. Back then, most of the groceries were free so we were able to operate on minimal funding.

We have continued with this program, regulating supply to demand, through the floods of 2011 and now, again, as the weather continues to be unpredictable and global market prices impact on our dairy industry. We are finding an increasing number of people are asking for our help this time. In a nutshell, we have a great group of volunteers, always willing to lend a hand, at the drop of a hat, and while we are very grateful that Victoria Foodbank are available, we now have to buy the groceries, albeit at a reduced rate, but this means that we have to source funding to continue.

Our ELFS Program provides a vital service to our rural communities by providing essential food support to people in need but our challenge remains sourcing the funding to continue purchasing the groceries. At present, we are able to order from Victoria Foodbank on a fortnightly basis, with packing days once a month or as required, then distribution.

We also work in with the East Loddon P-12 College Breakfast Program by providing breakfast to over 100 school aged children twice a week and provide food parcels to the Salvation Army Rural Outreach Program and to 15 local CFA Brigades.

In the interests of accuracy, please note that the Food Share activities have been undertaken since 2007 until early 2017, under the organisation East Loddon Community Network Group Inc.

We have now registered the organisation East Loddon Food Share Program Inc. as a separate PBI entity, to solely reflect on the Food Share activities, and this also allowed us to seek Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 Status to support our activities.



Volunteers from CWA, Rotary, CFA, Salvo's and East Loddon P-12 College joining with East Loddon Food Share Program Members to accept a donation of \$25,000 from Rural Aid Australia near the East Loddon Community Centre, Dingee in July 2019

## 2020 F.Y. East Loddon Food Share Program Facts



L to R: Karla from the Millewa-Carwarp Landcare Group, near Mildura in Northern Victoria, accepting 100 grocery hampers for their area's drought-stricken farmers with Suzie, Vice-President of the ELFSP Inc.

**Over 67,048 individual tins/bottles/packets of food & personal items packed by volunteers.**

**Helping approx. 462 families in local & surrounding rural areas.**

**Involving local community volunteers and senior VCAL students from East Loddon P-12 School**

**2,312 food parcels delivered to local farming families via our partnerships with the Salvation Army, Schools and local CFA volunteer fire brigades**



Our wonderful volunteers at a packing day – we always have a great crew and a lot of fun



East Loddon Food Share Program Inc. Committee Volunteers Heather and Margaret in the process of making up the 1,000's of boxes needed to run our program each year. They arrive flat-packed! Great job, lovely ladies xx



Setting up the meeting room for a packing day. Planning and lots of elbow grease go into the ordering, handling & packing of thousands of tins & packets of food, to fill the food parcel boxes. We like them full!!!



Care parcels going out to every family at the local rural East Loddon P-12 College via school buses every term. Here's Maddie and Happy (school bus driver) loading the buses





Meeting room set up for an ELFS Program Packing Day! These days are organised every 3 to 5 weeks, to pack between 144-288 food parcels, full of essential items, to be delivered directly to families in need. School students regularly help to un-load all the groceries and love being involved.



Lachlan & Linden Barry with custom made donated boxes, packed into their van in Melbourne, ready to come up to East Loddon Community Centre for a Packing Day



Volunteers from 3 separate local CFA Fire Brigades help each other to load their respective vehicles with grocery boxes collected from the East Loddon Community Centre. These will go into the Powlett Plains, Mitiamo and Jarklin farming areas.



In June 2020, over 100 boxes were delivered to Lockington Primary School by East Loddon Food Share Program Inc. Volunteers for distribution to every school family. There are 17 regional schools on our delivery list and all have appreciated the food support for their school families.

# East Loddon Food Share Program Inc.

## 4 Year Activity Summary

2017 to 2020 inclusive



	Financial Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of individual tins / bottles / packets of food purchased, packed & distributed		27 225	54 120	73 370	67 048
No. Food Parcel boxes delivered to recipients		825	1640	2530	2312*
Number of families assisted by receiving ELFSP Inc. Food Parcels		165	328	506	462
Number of individual people directly supported by receiving a ELFSP Inc. Food Parcel		495	984	1518	1386

\* Please note: Co-Vid 19 Pandemic Restrictions have impacted on our ability to purchase bulk groceries, organise packing days and our distribution process from March 2020 to June 2020

## **The Next Chapter, moving into 2020/21 and beyond**

**Moving forward, the biggest challenge facing rural communities into the 2020/2021 financial year, are unpredictable weather patterns, drought recovery and CO-VID Restrictions. Our East Loddon Food Share Program Inc. organisation has a dedicated committee of volunteers who are devoted to supporting initiatives and programs which will benefit the long-term prosperity of our community.**

**Expected outcomes for end of financial year 2021 include:**

- \* Improving lifestyle/social interaction**
- \* Improving personal situations**
- \* Promoting health and wellbeing**
- \* Promoting a positive community spirit**
- \* Providing a platform from which programs promoting community growth can be achieved**

**The work of the East Loddon Food Share Program Inc. is supported by many wonderful volunteers and organisations, who help make our program possible. This year, we would like to formally recognise the following patrons for their generosity and thank them so much for their kindness:**

**Salvation Army - Ruth Barkla – Salvation Army Rural Outreach Chaplain**

**Bank of Melbourne Foundation**

**Rotary Club of Bendigo – Strathdale and Bendigo**

**Feed Melbourne Appeal**

**FRRR – Tackling Tough Times Together Grant**

**Foodbank Victoria**

**Country Women's Association of Victoria – Bendigo & Northern Group Clubs**

**Rural Aid Australia**

**15 local Volunteer CFA Fire Brigades at: Jarklin, Dingee, Serpentine, Mitiamo, Pyramid Hill, Loddon Vale, Mysia, Salisbury**

**West/Powlett Plains, Kamarooka, Kotta, Pine Grove, Tennyson, Campbells Forest, Yarrawalla, Raywood**

**William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund**

**Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and Collier Charitable Fund**

**The Hive Network – Bendigo**

**Lactalis Employee Community Sponsorship Fund**

**Probus Club of Kangaroo Flat**

**Numerous Individual Sponsors including Kevin Heyhoe, Tony Riley, Julie McEwan, Thomson Family, Lyn Comer & Family,**

**Miller Family, Barry Family & Cath Polinelli**

*Thank-you so much for making a difference*

**From:** Amanda  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 December 2019 12:51 PM  
**To:** [elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** thank you

Hi I am writing on behalf of my father Barry who is a farmer in Carwarp. He received one of your lovely hampers recently and is very grateful and wanted to pass on his thanks to all that contributed. He did say that he didn't really need it and that there are lots worse off than him, but from a daughter, knowing he goes off to work every day and comes home after a long hot dry day at work to an empty house, it will have lifted his spirit no end. So, a huge thank you from Dad and myself.

Thank you  
Amanda

**From:** Faye  
**Date:** 25 June 2020 at 5:31:53 pm  
**To:** "[elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com)"  
**Subject:** Food hamper

Dear Sirs and Madame's, Today I had a visit, out of the blue, from a lovely lady named Helen. She came with one of your hampers to give to my husband and myself. I was blown away at the generosity and the amount of items were amazing and very much appreciated. We would just like you to know how much this means to us.  
Many thanks faye & neil xx

**Feedback received from very grateful recipients of our care parcels, delivered to farmers in our local rural districts.**

**From:** Janet  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 November 2019 1:30 PM  
**To:** [elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Thankyou

Dear East Loddon Food Share Program'

I would like to thank you on behalf of my brother for the food parcel he received last weekend via the Salvos. To have some good nutritious food for him and ingredients for me to make him more complicated meals was so much appreciated, but to see his face light up at the cakes, sweets and CUSTARD was simply wonderful. It is a very long time since he has had things like that and he was dancing around like a kid.  
The boost to his diet was terrific but the boost to his emotional well being was really special, for me, as well as him. He couldn't believe that complete strangers would do something like that.

The practical things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, paracetamol and bandaids were also very welcome.

Thankyou, sincerely, thankyou,  
Janet for Stuart.

**From:** RENAE  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 December 2019 3:40 PM  
**To:** [elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Food Share Hamper

Hello,  
Just wanted to send a very big thank you for our food share hamper.  
It was such a lovely gesture and very much appreciated.  
Kind Regards,  
Renae & Family  
Gunbower Primary School

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 December 2019 11:03 AM  
**From:** Robyn  
**To:** [elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elcommunitynetworkgroup@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Wendy  
**Subject:** Thank You

Dear East Loddon Food Share Program Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you for assisting us to support our local community here in Numurkah and surrounding districts with food hampers in the lead up to Christmas. As I'm sure you will know, our local community and in particular our rural farming families have been impacted by the struggles of dry seasons over the past few years.

We spent time last week delivering your food hampers to many of our rural families and small gifts for the women (donated by our staff here at NCN Health – Numurkah). We would like you to know how much the recipients were humbled by these generous donations and the act of kindness shown. There were many tears at the sight of us at the door with hampers and gifts.

I hope that your festive season is filled with time spent with your families and friends, and that 2020 brings you health, happiness and good times.

On behalf of NCN Health – Numurkah, and our local community, thank you.  
Kind regards  
Robyn



**Current contact details for:**

**East Loddon Food Share Program Inc.**

**Website:** [www.eastloddonfoodshare.com.au](http://www.eastloddonfoodshare.com.au)

**Location Address:** East Loddon Community Centre  
789 Dingee Road  
DINGEE VIC 3571

**Postal Address:** East Loddon Food Share Program Inc.  
Nick Marlow – Treasurer/Secretary  
286 Yarrawalla East Road, YARRAWALLA VIC 3575

**President:** Suzie Jacobs  
Contact details: 0448 970 909 or [president@eastloddonfoodshare.com.au](mailto:president@eastloddonfoodshare.com.au)

**Vice President:** Margaret Gledhill  
Contact details: 0427 368 336 or [vicepresident@eastloddonfoodshare.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@eastloddonfoodshare.com.au)

**Chairperson:** Linden Barry  
Contact details: 0411 591 484 or [chair@eastloddonfoodshare.com.au](mailto:chair@eastloddonfoodshare.com.au)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Nick Marlow  
Contact details: 0438 028 656 or [secretary@eastloddonfoodshare.com.au](mailto:secretary@eastloddonfoodshare.com.au)

