

Seasons Greetings from MECOSS!



19 December 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Another year gone and soon we will be heralding the arrival of 2012. On behalf of the MECOSS Committee and staff, I would like to thank you personally for your continuing support in the running of a very effective Programme during 2011. We would not have been able to do this without your presence at our meetings and events.

2011 has marked another milestone in the history of MECOSS. We have now extended our boundaries to encompass the entire Howick Ward. Our MECOSS team has done a superb job in identifying how we can better serve the Howick Community through supporting our service providers to deliver more quality care, through our new Programme 2012.

I would like to once again remind you that the core functions of MECOSS are to support our service providers by creating opportunities for networking, making available a platform to voice concerns and providing learning and development workshops to upskill them. All through 2012, we will be engaging with you to evaluate and deliver programmes to meet your needs. With this in mind we now have a Community Liaison person, Peter Lane, in addition to Robyn Mackey our Co-ordinator. We also have on our committee, experts such as Jack Shen, Michele Zackey and Aryana Khadem. We have the privilege of having Community Advisors Bernadette Pereira and Yongjie Li on board as well. All of who have a finger on the pulse that makes this community tick. This keeps us involved in local decision making. MECOSS provides you with a platform to voice your thoughts and share your ideas at Community level.

On this note, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Vasu Moses, MECOSS Chairperson

MECOSS PROGRAMME

Our events programme was extremely well attended. As usual, our Cluster Meetings and Capacity-Building Clinics have proven popular; we had a great variety of speakers and topics at our Cluster meetings, and fantastic presenters who educated many at our fabulous Capacity Building Clinics.

The popular 'Developing & Managing Staff Performance' Capacity-Building Clinic – July 2011



Our ME Race Relations Day Festival was well supported with involvement from local community groups, organisations and schools; who each contributed to the demonstrations, dances, and entertainment in various ways.

The Choir from Mellons Bay School opening with the NZ National Anthem at the Race Relations Day festival - March 2011

We encourage and welcome feedback on our programme, and over the duration of the year have received very positive comments and suggestions; this helps us to plan and build on our programme for the following year.

MECOSS END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



We were honoured to have the Mayor of Auckland, Mr Len Brown, and Michael Williams, Chair of the Howick Local Board, speak at our recent MECOSS End of Year Celebration on Friday 18th November. Our wonderful Shopping Shuttle volunteers were each presented with a Certificate in appreciation for their work in the community. Guests were entertained by the 'Rock Mellons', the Mellons Bay School marimba band. Overall it was great opportunity to catch up, to network and say thanks to our supporters, and to celebrate another successful year

TRANSPORT SERVICES

We continue to promote and administer the two transport services for the community; the Manukau East Patient Transport Service (MEPTS) and the ME Shopping Shuttle. These services are well established and have continued to be valuable assets to the Manukau East region, addressing the needs in particular of our older people. The CMDHB has continued their funding subsidy for the Patient Transport service another year through to end of June 2012. The Shopping Shuttle service, which is primarily managed through volunteers, makes alternate trips to the Westfield Pakuranga Plaza and Botany Town Centre on Thursdays. This has become a highlight in the week of our many regular clients who patronize this service.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers, who have made it possible to offer this important facility. We'd like to thank Age Concern CM who up until August this year took the bookings for this service. This has now been handed over to our invaluable volunteer co-ordinator, Maureen McKechnie.



MECOSS PROGRAMME 2012

We believe our full and exciting **MECOSS Calendar of Events for 2012** will offer something for everyone. Look out for the email notification coming out soon with a link to the Programme on the MECOSS website.

Please do avail yourselves of these opportunities, and watch out for the details of venues and timings as each meeting draws near. We look forward to seeing you at as many as you can get to!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

A reminder that your **Annual Subscription Fees** are now due for the 2012 year. Subs invoices will be posted out within the next few weeks. The Subscription form will also be available on the MECOSS website – we will post a link there shortly and advise you. Alternatively, email admin@mecoss.org.nz and note 'Membership 2012' in the subject line. There has been a slight increase in membership fees to help cover expenses and increases in costs beyond our control. We would love to see as many of our existing members as possible renew their membership.

BENEFITS OF MECOSS MEMBERSHIP

MECOSS Membership provides the following benefits:

1. Discounted cost for 'Capacity-building Clinics'.
2. Cluster Meetings are FREE for Members. Non-members pay \$5 per meeting.
3. General Networking Meetings/Celebrations are FREE.

Please Note: We are 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.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to acknowledge the support of COGS, NZ Lottery Grants Board, ASB Community Trust, and CMDHB, who with their financial support, have enabled MECOSS to continue our Programme and Services to the Howick Ward community.



MECOSS AGM

You are invited to attend the MECOSS AGM

Wednesday 22nd February 2012 from 4 – 6 pm

**Venue: Social Room, Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts
13 Reeves Road, Pakuranga**

**Have you considered being on the MECOSS committee in any role?
Or nominating someone whose skills and interest would benefit the organisation? Or can
you spare a few hours to help with some volunteer work? Or present at one of our
meetings?**

Here's your chance to influence/have a say on what MECOSS is and does.

Email your interest to: admin@mecoss.org.nz



MECOSS OFFICE CLOSED OVER HOLIDAY PERIOD

MECOSS is now closed for the year, and will re-open on 30th January 2012.

MECOSS will continue to be staffed by our Co-ordinator, Robyn Mackey, and Peter Lane, Community Liaison, along with the support of the MECOSS Committee. With your continued support we will foster the organisation and the vision we all share to build a resilient and robust community in the Manukau East region.

Our warm regards to you all and we wish you a safe and restful holiday season.

The MECOSS Team