

## Community welcomes UCare

Members of the community, local churches, council and other related organisations attended the official opening of Eudunda's UCare branch on Friday.

UCare has been running in Eudunda for several weeks now, and in the first few weeks of operation staff were able to get an initial feel for the demand for such a service.

Currently open one day a week on Fridays from 10am to 2pm the service caters for a broad range of areas such as emergency assistance, counselling services, set up loans, No interest loan scheme [NILS] up to \$1200 and Step Up loans with low interest up to \$3000 for individuals or families on low income.

It's a community-based programme which enables people to access fair, safe and equitable credit for the purchase of goods and services.

Regional Council of Goyder Mayor Peter Matthey attended, along with Mr John Neal, Councillor for the Robertstown Ward.

Mayor Matthey is pleased that Eudunda now has such an important service which is easily accessible to those who need it.

"It is such a wonderful initiative, and I must congratulate the members of the community and the Uniting Church for transforming which was once a plain tin shed into a comfortable building," Mayor, Matthey said.

"Organisations like this are vital in small rural areas such as Eudunda, especially where there is no public transport. Services such as this can be found all over populated areas with a lot of people relying on them to survive.

"But as great as it is to be able to offer those who are struggling this service we have to ask ourselves why are they needing it; is there anything we can do to prevent them from reaching this situation?"

"Educating people on money and teaching them how to budget and handle their money needs to be looked at," said Mayor Matthey.

Reverend Richard Carter, UCare Gawler Chief Executive officer,

undertook the official opening for the day. He is very excited to see that UCare is now able to assist those who live 50 minutes away and are unable to travel to seek help.

Reverend Carter said that the main branch at Gawler will help to finance the Eudunda Branch but the community's positive response to the service has been fantastic.

"Although we can help by giving food hampers, fuel vouchers and other financial assistance, this also gives those who are down knowledge, self-esteem and confidence, something you just can't buy," said Reverend Carter.

Chairperson of Uniting Care Kapunda, Richard Mickan attended the opening to wish the new branch and community all the best. He is involved in the Kapunda branch and witnessed several people travelling from Eudunda to access their service. It was this initial demand that instigated the UCare location at Eudunda.

Jennifer Flory who coordinates the Eudunda branch said that the UCare in Gawler currently services 8000 families per year and this year there are currently 800 Christmas hampers booked in for families of Gawler and Barossa.

Members of the local churches and other groups combined and meet prior to Christmas to ensure that there is only one basket being arranged between them per family. Previously other departments and schools have been known to nominate families to receive a basket unbeknown to the family and so they could have received more than one for that Christmas.

Jennifer said the kettle is always on and a large assortment of food items is available which have been donated by Foodbank.

Due to UCare being a non-profit organisation, they are always extremely grateful for donations of cash, food, clothing or blankets.

For further information you can contact their Gawler office on 08 8522 4522, or the Eudunda UCare branch now has a facebook page.



Charmaine Luckett, UCare Gawler; Geoff Benier, president Gawler UCare and his wife Raelene Benier, Administration officer UCare Gawler.



Richard Mickan, Chairperson Uniting Care Kapunda and Pastor Josh Muller of Eudunda.



Trish Wilkes from Eudunda who volunteers her time with the UCare service is shown with an example of food which is available to take for free on Fridays.



Richard Carter and Valarie Mosey of Robertstown.



Trish Wilkes of Eudunda with Regional Council of Goyder Mayor Peter Matthey and Cr. John Neal.



Jennifer Flory (Eudunda UCare coordinator and Reverend Richard Carter (Uniting Care Gawler) cutting the cake.

## Cloe hosts Girl's Night In

Cloe Diener from Eudunda has had a big year as a Youth Ambassador for the Cancer Council.

Cloe held her third fundraiser for the Cancer Council on Saturday October 10 by hosting a Girls Night In and raised over \$370 for women's cancers.

"I was so happy with the way the event ran. Over 20 friends and family came along to help fundraise.

We had a great time and I was very grateful for the donations," said Cloe.

"I will definitely do some more fundraising for the Cancer Council next year," said Cloe "I have really enjoyed being a Youth Ambassador for the Cancer Council and I would recommend any Year 8 to Year 12 give it a go. It was rewarding and fun."



Youth Ambassador Cloe Diener at her Girls Night In fundraiser for women's cancers on October 10.



Jennifer Flory (Eudunda UCare) with Margaret O'Brien and Helen Walker from Lutheran Community Care, Barossa.

## Bower progress association September Yack n Snack

A sunny spring day set a positive note to the Bower Progress Association's bi-monthly Yack n Snack luncheon held at Bower on September 30.

Sixty-one former residents, newcomers, visitors and current residents of the Bower District created the happy sound of animated conversation.

These loyal folk came from Adelaide, the Barossa Valley, Robertstown, Eudunda, Stonefield, Sutherlands, Mount Mary, the Riverland and the visitors were from Victoria and Queensland.

As is always the case at a rural function, the meal was superb - soup, main course and sweets.

The meat tray raffle was won by Desma Wilksch from Robertstown. There was a sombre aspect to this Yack n Snack because Nick Manos, a

loyal Bower community resident had passed away only a few days earlier. Nick, a former Chief Magistrate of South Australia, retired to Bower with is wife Lorraine some 26 years ago and they both enthusiastically embraced country life - promoting Bower and District and the Bower Progress Association.

Tributes to Nick's dedication, motivation and ability to achieve outcomes were expressed by James Sander, Roger Schubert, Colin Menz, Mike and Margaret Rogers.

After some quiet moments of personal reflection and consideration, the positive mood of the day returned and those persons present declared that once again Bower had delivered an outstanding Yack n Snack.

Arrangements and preparations are in hand for the forthcoming Bower Christmas Party Barbecue.