

CHRISSY AUSTIN

CRESWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

☎ 0435 667 572 ✉ manager@cnc.org.au



I am incredibly passionate about community and advocating for rural and regional communities- I can't believe I have the good fortune of working in this sector in my town! .

MY SUPERPOWERS Community engagement, connections and partnerships. I'm quite good at getting people to do things! I'm a natural busy-body, so I usually know what is going on around town with groups and organisation, so constantly looking at ways to leverage off this or link people together – working smarter, not harder!

ABOUT ME: I grew up in Hopetoun NW Victoria, so remain a country person at heart even after 20 years living in Melbourne. I have worked in the NH sector for only 2.5 years but it has by far been my favourite job! I have mostly worked in community development so it has been great to utilise my experience and skills in such a versatile and responsive way to respond to community need as it arises. I have the flexibility and diversity of working for the NH and seeing how much of a positive impact we can have in our community. I have worked extensively in local Government in both Melbourne and Ballarat as well as State Government, community sector and NFP.

I am heavily involved in my local community of Creswick, and have a terrific team of staff and volunteers, so coming to work is never a drag! We have fun and try to see the positive side of things, even in adversity.

NH SECTOR EXPERIENCE:

- CNC Market Volunteer
- CNC Committee Member - 3 years
- CNC Chairperson - 2 years

TOP SKILL AREAS:

- Building Partnerships
- Children's Programs/ Playgroups
- Community Development and Engagement
- Community Programs
- Customer Service
- Event Management
- Food Relief/ Security
- Grant Writing
- Local Government Engagement
- Managing Conflict
- Recruitment

NH INITIATIVES:

COVID RECOVERY: I am very proud of the team I have created and all that we have achieved to reopen the house and return a warm and friendly vibe back to the place. Together we have reactivated all the spaces, hosted events, kicked off new programs and brought volunteers back to the house!

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Getting to know really vulnerable and marginalised people living in our community and seeing the good this program has done for them, is the most rewarding part of this role. I pride myself on being very hands on and having a friendly approachable management style, which suits this house very well.

BEYOND THE HOUSE...

I live in Creswick with my husband and three boys, and we like to go away a lot with our caravan- very outdoorsy. We like to hike, mountain bike, go the beach and do lots of travel with our van. When I'm not doing that, I am singing with the Creswick Community Choir, catching up with friends, playing tennis or sitting out the back of our place with a nice white wine reading a book from the library (while the kids fight on the trampoline- haha).

I have a Bachelor of Education, Diploma of Management and Leadership, and an Advanced Diploma of Management and HR.