



MORE JOBS • LESS WASTE • FAIR FOOD

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 20 July 2021

Help Green Connect support people doing it tough in lockdown

As Wollongong and Shellharbour endure an extended lockdown, many in our community are struggling with social isolation, home schooling and financial hardship.

Illawarra-based social enterprise Green Connect is asking locals to consider donating a fruit and veg box or care package to people who are doing it tough right now.

The fruit and veg boxes are filled with chemical-free and locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables from Green Connect's 11-acre permaculture farm in Warrawong and delivered to people's doors.

The care packages have been put together by the Green Connect op shop team. They are hand-picked according to what each recipient needs most and may include things like warm clothes, blankets, cookware, books or toys. All items have been gently used and are packed in a COVID-safe way.

Green Connect General Manager Kylie Flament said: "We're delivering free fruit and veg boxes to people who may be struggling financially or working reduced hours at the moment.

"Our amazing op shop team have also put together and delivered the first round of care packages to people stuck at home in lockdown.

"How can the community help? We're asking people to go to our website and donate a veg box or care package, which we will deliver to someone in need.

"People can also nominate someone they know who may benefit from a free care package, or four weeks of free fruit and veg boxes delivered to their door."

Green Connect has been working with other local organisations including SCARF, the Red Cross and Koori Men's Shed to identify those most in need. Currently there have been 179 requests for help. The Illawarra community has thrown its support behind the initiative, with 136 care packages or veg boxes donated so far, but more are needed.

Deliveries of care packages and fruit and veg boxes not only benefit those in the community who receive them, they also allow Green Connect to keep local staff employed.

"We are a not-for-profit social enterprise and most of our employees are young people and former refugees, many of whom are doing it tough themselves," Ms Flament said.

"The Illawarra community is always supportive of Green Connect and we're so grateful. We're also honoured to be in a position where we can coordinate help for people who need it most right now. As we're hearing from the families receiving these boxes, a little bit of kindness goes a long way."

To donate a veg box or care package to someone in need in Wollongong or Shellharbour, or to buy one for yourself or a friend, go to <https://green-connect.com.au/care-packages/>

To nominate someone you know in Wollongong or Shellharbour to receive a free care package go to <https://green-connect.com.au/op-shop/nominate-care-package/> (care package recipients will be decided by Green Connect after nominations are made)

To nominate someone you know in Wollongong or Shellharbour to receive a free veg box go to <https://green-connect.com.au/fair-food/nominate-veg/> (veg box recipients will be decided by Green Connect after nominations are made)

Photographs are available on request.

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT

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Green Connect is a social enterprise based in Wollongong, NSW. We create jobs and employment pathways for young people and former refugees in work that helps the planet and the community. We run a farm and an op shop, provide zero waste services at events, and staffing solutions to businesses and councils.

www.green-connect.com.au