What are people doing in your backyard?

Description:
This was a project exploring the physical, social and cognitive benefits of participation in community organisations in the Shoalhaven.

It was undertaken by Jamie Meyer, a Masters student from the Western Michigan University as part of her international fieldwork placement at AOSC from May – July 2011.

Project aims:
- to gather information about 6 organisations in the Shoalhaven that promote people’s participation, physically, socially and cognitively
- to explore perceptions and experiences of participants and supporters of the organisations
- to encourage the general public to join community organisations that promote participation in physical, social and cognitive programs

Methods:
To gather information about the organisations and obtain the perceptions of members, the following methods were used:
- literature review
- observation
- participation
- interviews with administrators and members

Outcome:
The project outcome was a poster display for the general public. The display was exhibited in the foyer of the Bomaderry Bowling Club for one week.

Acknowledgements:
- The South Coast Register provided some of the photographs.
- Members kindly agreed to be interviewed.
- Administrators gave their time and support to enable this project to be undertaken.
- The Manager of Bomaderry Bowling Club gave permission to display the posters in the foyer.

Ethics approval:
This project was approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Wollongong.