



Williamstown
Community
and Education
Centre Inc

Newsletter

April 2021

Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House

For Members, Committee, Staff, Volunteers, Students, Parents, Stakeholders, Centre users, Partners, Sponsors and Our Community

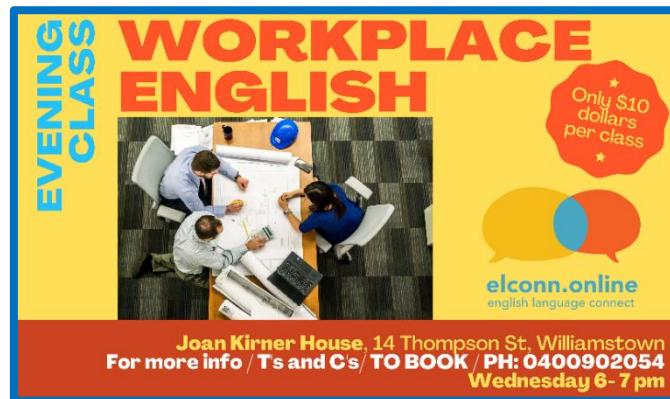
Coming Up...

- **Term Break** and Easter - Friday April 2 to Sunday April 18.
- **Term Two** – starts Monday April 19.
- **FREE Willy Walking Group** - Wednesday April 21 and 28 from 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House.
- **Be Connected Info Session** - Wednesday April 21, at 11.00 am in the foyer of Joan Kirner House (See below).
- **FREE Community Morning Tea** - Wednesday April 21 and 28. Joan Kirner House. 11.00 am. All welcome!



New Programs

English Language Connect – Wednesdays 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm at Joan Kirner House.
Call Alison for details on 0400 902 054.



Music Lessons for children – Mondays and Thursdays 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Spotswood Community House. Call Shaylin for details on 0455 330 626.



In the Media

March 2021

Watts up in the West?

Inside:

- 1 Gellibrand Australia Day Honours
- 2 COVID Misinformation
- 3 Gellibrand Stronger Communities Grants

Dear Resident,



Gellibrand Stronger Communities Grants



I've had the great pleasure of visiting recent recipients of the Gellibrand Stronger Communities Grant over the last few weeks, which gives community groups up to \$20,000 for projects.

Williamstown Community and Education Centre received a grant to purchase iPads to support their mature aged student to become technologically literate and gain access to online employment services.

Laverton Community Centre received a grant to create an outdoor sensory space for students with Spectrum Disorder to enhance the environment.

The Williamstown CYM Club also received a grant for a scoreboard at the Fearnsfield Oval that will also be used by sporting clubs.



Mind Australia moves to new premises

Mind Australia, which provides support to people with mental health challenges, is moving from its Osborne Street base after more than 30 years.

Its Amaroo Williamstown site will be used by Hobsons Bay council horticultural staff from the adjoining Williamstown Botanic Gardens.

Mind practice lead Veronica Red said services would be provided from two other Hobsons Bay locations.

"We'll still be running our psychosocial group activities out from Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House," she said.

"We are sad to be leaving Amaroo. We've had some consumers who have been coming to the centre for more than 30 years; they all have mental health challenges and are obviously very sad about the changes.

"It's a very emotional time for them because coming out of COVID they were looking forward to coming back to the centre to resume our group programs."

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the Williamstown site hosted multiple groups each day.

"We would facilitate a variety of groups, with our arts programs being the most popular," Ms Red said. "These groups were held every weekday."

"We'd have a community centre where our participants can sit and have a cuppa and enjoy socialising in a safe and familiar environment or engage in the group activities."

"The employees are all community mental health practitioners, and participants are thoroughly supported."

"We are still providing short term respite opportunities for participants, and supporting carers."

Mind will continue to provide services from: Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson Street, Williamstown, and Spotswood Community House, 598 Melbourne Road, Spotswood.

Mind will be hosting a farewell event on March 31 from 11.30am-1.30pm.

For information about Mind services, call Mind Connect on 1300 286 463.



Mind Australia is moving out of its Amaroo Williamstown site in Osborne Street.

(Damjan Janevski) 229171_04

3 MARIIBYRNONG & HOBSON'S BAY STAR WEEKLY Wednesday, 10 March, 2021

Reconnecting Venue Hirers

Our Centre was recently successful with a Hobsons Bay City Council 'Make It Happen Grants Program'.

The grant will support our venue hirers, who suffered financially last year due to the lockdown, and found it difficult to re start and continue to deliver their programs into 2021.

We have subsidised all rental fees for term one 2021, for all 2020 private venue hirers who continued with us into this year (Excluding government funded, supported, peak bodies, large private, etc.).



Free rental for the whole term!

This will ensure that many local small service providers will get support, programs will continue and remain sustainable, local people will be re engaged in activities, funds from savings may be used to support local suppliers and shops in Hobsons Bay, or possibly reduced fees for local participants.

The local businesses, community groups and hirers that this grant will benefit include Willy Wargaming, Sunrise Yoga, Zonta Club of Melbourne West, Australian Boating College, French Club for Kids, Adam Turnbull acting, Art therapy, Bone Boosters, Bible Believers and Peer Powered Gaming.



Feedback from venue hirers...

- ***"Bloody great news Mark! A top team at WCEC"*** - French Club for Kids
- ***"This is great news and very generous! Thank you so much and it is greatly appreciated"*** - Adam Turnbull Acting.
- ***"Fantastic News! Well done to you all"*** - Zonta Club of Melbourne.
- ***"Thanks, 🙏"*** - Art Therapy
- ***"Just wanted to say Thank You so much on behalf of our Association. This will go a long way in supporting our cause and we greatly appreciate the assistance you have given us. May God Bless WCEC"***- Bible Believers.

Building Digital Skills

“WCEC has been successful in securing a grant through ‘Be Connected’ to run programs to support the mature aged community to develop their digital skills and confidence.



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

Programs will be either one-on-one or in smalls groups and be using the online resources available through the Be Connected Learning Site.



The program will commence mid-April and I will be running an info session on Wednesday April 21, at 11.00 am in the foyer of Joan Kirner House.”

Renee Daniele
Community Development Coordinator

‘Spice things Up – Celebrate Our Cultural Diversity Through Dance’

A few pictures from this popular Cultural Diversity Week event on March 15 at the Laverton Hub.



**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



Hobson Bay Mayor Councillor Jonathon Marsden, seen raising a sweat below (blue shirt in middle), was the highlight of the event with his fantastic hula dancing!



Cultural Diversity BBQ



At Joan Kirner House on March 16. A new record of 60 sausages devoured!



Do you want to learn how technology can save you time and money?

Leep offers free* one-on-one support from a volunteer Tech Mate, who can assist you on your phone, laptop or tablet.

Your Tech Mate will guide you to learn at your own pace.

*We welcome voluntary contributions to hold acknowledgment events for our digital mentors

To book a session, call 1300 163 106.

For more information, visit www.leep.ngo

leep Understand Technology

FREE

**12-25
YEAR OLDS**

APRIL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

To register visit: hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram

up
belong - aspire - create

to belong

- Outdoor Cinema
- Game of Skate

to aspire

- Playing Like a Pirate - Basketball Program
- First Aid
- AFL Program

to create

- Skate Art Program
- DIY Beads





HobsonsBayUP

COME AND TRY CROQUET FOR FREE

Visit our website or send us an email to sign up to our 'Come and Try' sessions.
No experience or equipment necessary, just wear flat soled shoes.



WHAT IS CROQUET

-  A friendly, fun and stimulating outdoor sport.
-  Suitable for all ages and levels of fitness.
-  It can be described as snooker on grass.
-  From relaxed games at the club to competition at every level, croquet is for everyone.

Sunday Afternoons in 2021
2pm-4pm

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME



WILLIAMSTOWN
Croquet Club

Williamstown Croquet Club
104 Victoria Street
Williamstown



williamstowncroquet.org.au
secretary@williamstowncroquet.org.au
fb.com/WilliamstownCroquet

Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House

9397 6168 admin@wcec.com.au ABN: 67 864 341 860 Inc. Ass. Reg. No: A0014000T TOID: 4640

Neighbourhood Connect Program

The 'Let's Get Neighbourly Neighbourhood Connect Mentoring Program', sponsored by our Centre, has found locals who are being supported to be community connectors, organising events for neighbours to meet one another, get to know one another and develop a sense of community.

Willy locals met at the Rotunda on Sunday March 28 to celebrate Neighbours Day and make some new connections.

If you'd like to be a connector or to be invited to be part of a neighbours group for Williamstown please contact Irene Oppen at irene@neighbourhoodconnect.org.au or call 0413 706 233.



Student Visit From Williamstown High School

Renee and I recently hosted a visit of students from Williamstown High School to Joan Kirner House.



"Hi Mark and Renee.

My class and I would like to thank you very much for your wonderful talk and tour today.

The students got so much out of it, and were busy asking me questions about career choices on the walk back to school.

Thanks again.

Kind regards

Geraldine."

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

The Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc.
Annual General Meeting, will be held on -

Tuesday May 11, 2020, 4:00 pm.
Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson St. Williamstown. Room One.
RSVP to Tahlia on 9397 6168.

Managers Musings

A fantastic month, and term, for our Centre. People are back in their droves.

We are as busy as ever, with so many people and programs, across all venues, at Altona North Library, Altona Meadows Library, Spotswood Community House, Dulcie Shaw House, and Joan Kirner House.

Room bookings are nearly double what they were previously.

There are also record numbers enrolling in classes. We have used up over half of our allocated pre-accredited hours already, and we are only in term one!

Extra cleaning and re stocking of consumables is constant.

All staff and volunteers have been outstanding in their commitment to re starting our activities after many months of lockdown.

New programs, new initiatives, new staff, more volunteers, successful grants, upgrade of Spotswood Community Centre, packed Cultural Diversity Week events, big numbers on Willy Walking Group – we are back up and running at nearly full capacity.

Well done everyone!

Enjoy the Easter break and take care.

Mark.

Dr Mark Brophy PhD
Manager / CEO
Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc