



Williamstown  
Community  
and Education  
Centre Inc

# Newsletter June 2021

## Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House

With Programs running at Altona North Library, Altona Meadows Library and Dulcie Shaw House in Altona  
**For Members, Committee, Staff, Volunteers, Students, Parents, Stakeholders,  
Centre users, Partners, Sponsors and Our Community**

**Currently CLOSED. Re opening on Friday June 4.**

### Coming Up...



Wednesday June 9, 16 and 23. **FREE Willy Walking Group** from 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House.

Wednesday June 9, 16 and 23. **FREE Community Morning Tea**. Joan Kirner House. 11.00 am. All welcome!

Tuesday June 8. **FREE Pop-up Baby Bounce** at Spotswood Community House. 10.00 am to 10.30 am. Details below.



Wednesday June 9. **FREE Introduction to MyGov** workshop in Joan Kirner House foyer at 11.00 am. Call Renee for details on 9397 6168.



Wednesday June 9. **Hobsons Bay Community has Heart Roving Hub**. Joan Kirner House. 10.30 am to 2.00 pm. Details below.



Wednesday June 9 and 23. **Coffee Caravan** visit to Joan Kirner House. 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. Gold coin donation for a coffee.

Monday June 20 to June 26. **Refugee Week**.

Friday June 18. **FREE Refugee Week BBQ**. 12.15 pm at Joan Kirner House. All welcome!

Monday June 28 to Friday July 9. **Term break**.

Monday July 12. **Term three starts**.



Wednesday July 14. **FREE Introduction to Internet Safety** workshop in Joan Kirner House foyer at 1.00 pm. Call Renee for details on 9397 6168.

### In the Media

- Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay **Star Weekly**. May 12. Page 9. Our President, **Sonja Ilievska**. See [HERE](#) and below.
- Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay **Star Weekly**. May 5. Pages 4 and 12. See [HERE](#)
- **The Westsider**. May. Pages 11, 14, 15 and 19. See [HERE](#)

## **New Program**

Williamstown Community and Education Centre is working with Laverton Community Education Centre to run an Education Support course at Spotswood Community House in Semester Two of 2021.

We are looking initially at Expressions of Interest. Details below.



**Delivered at Spotswood Community House, 598 Melbourne Rd, Spotswood**



Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc

CHC40213

# Certificate IV in Education Support

This course is designed to provide you with the skills to work in a range of education and school settings and work collaboratively with teachers and students. With this certificate, you will have the opportunity to put your learning into practice with our supervised vocational placement, allowing you to gain practical skills to support teachers in the classroom. Support workers at this level may be employed in a mainstream classroom, a special development schools or in any number of specialised areas such literacy and numeracy programs

This course is a full-time study load for Centrelink purposes



### Course Details

Study 2 days per week  
27 week duration  
100 hours of practical placement



### Location

Spotswood Community House  
598 Melbourne Road,  
Spotswood 3015



### Course Fees\*

Funded concession: \$245.00  
Funded non-concession: \$645.00

## **ENQUIRE TODAY!**

**Phone:** (03) 9369 2726  
**Email:** [education@lcis.org.au](mailto:education@lcis.org.au)  
**Website:** [lcis.org.au/courses](http://lcis.org.au/courses)



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED TRAINING

\*This training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding subject to eligibility requirements. Enrolment in a funded place for this course may have a later impact on your ability to access future government funding. We encourage people of all abilities to apply.

## Power Saving Bonus Outreach Program



Through a Good Shepherd and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria initiative, our Centre can now help people redeem a Victorian Government **\$250.00** Power Saving Bonus.

To be eligible you must be a Victorian residential energy consumer and must be receiving payments under one of the following concession benefits.

- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card.
- Jobseeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy or Abstudy.
- Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.
- Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card.

If you, or you know of anyone who is eligible, call Tahlia or Renee on 9397 6168 to make a time to complete the online application at Joan Kirner House. Bring with you –

- Your power bill.
- Centrelink or DVA card.

## Hobsons Bay Boomerang Bags

Boomerang Bags work to reduce the use of plastic bags by engaging local communities in the making of Boomerang Bags – community made using recycled materials.

Boomerang Bags provide a free, fun and sustainable alternative to plastic bags. Pick up yours today, in the foyer of Joan Kirner House.





## New Program



### **STARTING FROM 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

Please be advised that Arteaze will be delivering group support at the following venue from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Spotswood Community House  
598 Melbourne Road  
Spotswood Vic 3015**

#### **For Group inquiry contact:**

Sharon Albuquerque (Creative Art Therapist)

Mobile: 0431 068 130

Email: [arteaze9@gmail.com](mailto:arteaze9@gmail.com)

#### **Arts & Crafts Groups**

Come along make new friends catchup and explore the benefits of art for mental health and wellbeing. With a focus on self- expression and creative process, rather than finished product, the benefits of art will help you to manage your feelings, reduce anxiety and improve self -esteem.

No artistic ability required, and all art materials will be provided

**Supported by New Business Assistance.  
An Australian Government Initiative**

#### **Dates:**

##### **Tuesdays**

11, 18 and 25 May;

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 June;

6, 13, 20, 27 July;

Time: 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Where: Spotswood Community House

##### **Fridays**

7, 14, 21, 28 May;

4, 11, 18, 25 June;

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 July;

Time: 1.00pm – 4.00 pm.

Where: Spotswood Community House

Bookings essential to secure your place contact:

**Sharon Albuquerque on 0431 068 130 or email: [arteaze9@gmail.com](mailto:arteaze9@gmail.com)**



# LCF Fun Languages



## WILLY FRENCH CLUB!



### Fun French for kids

**Wednesdays 3.45pm – 4.45pm**

**Joan Kirner House**

**14 Thompson St**

**Register your interest today!**

Learning French through games, stories, songs and activities - a learning program designed especially for 5-12 year olds

Native-speaking teacher/Help your child develop an ear and a feel for foreign language

**Ph. 0432 719 034**

**[jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au](mailto:jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au)**

**[www.lcfclubs.com.au](http://www.lcfclubs.com.au)**





Williamstown  
Community  
and Education  
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# Be Connected Workshops

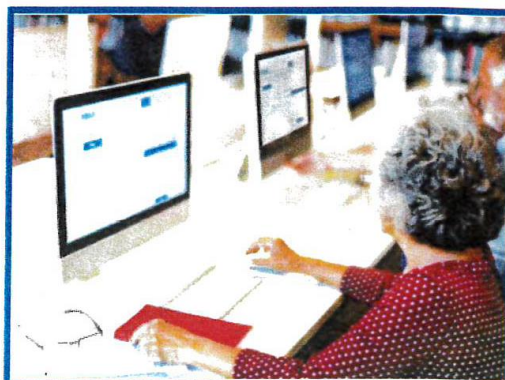
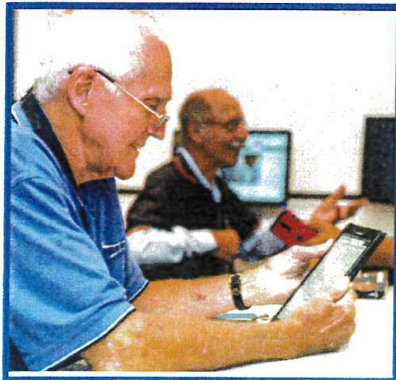
## Building Digital Skills in our Community

*There has never been a better time to get online.*

As a Be Connected Network Partner, we can help you discover how being online can add new skills and experiences to your life. We are hosting several free workshops to help you gain the confidence and skills to get online.

DATE	TIME	WORKSHOP	DURATION
Wednesday June 2	11:00 am	Introduction to MyGov and setting up your account	30 – 60 minutes
Wednesday July 14	1:00 pm	Introduction to internet safety	30 – 60 minutes
Wednesday August 4	11:00 am	Using email	30 – 60 minutes
Tuesday September 7	1:00 pm	How to use Zoom	30 – 60 minutes
Wednesday October 6	11:00 am	Internet banking	30 – 60 minutes

All workshops will be held in the foyer of Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson St Williamstown. They are free and everyone is welcome.



*For more details, please call Renee, Community Development Coordinator on 9397 6168*



**Be Connected**  
Every Australian online.



Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House  
9397 6168 [admin@wcec.com.au](mailto:admin@wcec.com.au) TOID: 4640

## Pop Up Baby Bounce at Spotswood Community House

**Hobsons Bay**  
Libraries

# Pop-up Baby Bounce

*Baby Bounce is on the move and popping up in locations around Hobsons Bay.*

Join our children's librarians for a gentle session of stories, songs and rhymes designed to spark a love of literacy-based learning. Baby Bounce empowers carers with fun techniques, literacy tips, music resources and activity ideas for pre-walking babies aged 0-12 months.



**All sessions 10am - 10.30am**

### **ALTONA NORTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

Tuesday 20 April

Tuesday 18 May

Tuesday 15 June

### **LAVERTON COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

15 Crown Street, Laverton

Tuesday 27 April

Tuesday 25 May

Tuesday 22 June

### **SOUTH KINGSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

43 Paxton Street, South Kingsville

Tuesday 4 May

Tuesday 1 June

### **SPOTSWOOD COMMUNITY HOUSE**

598 Melbourne Road, Spotswood

Tuesday 11 May

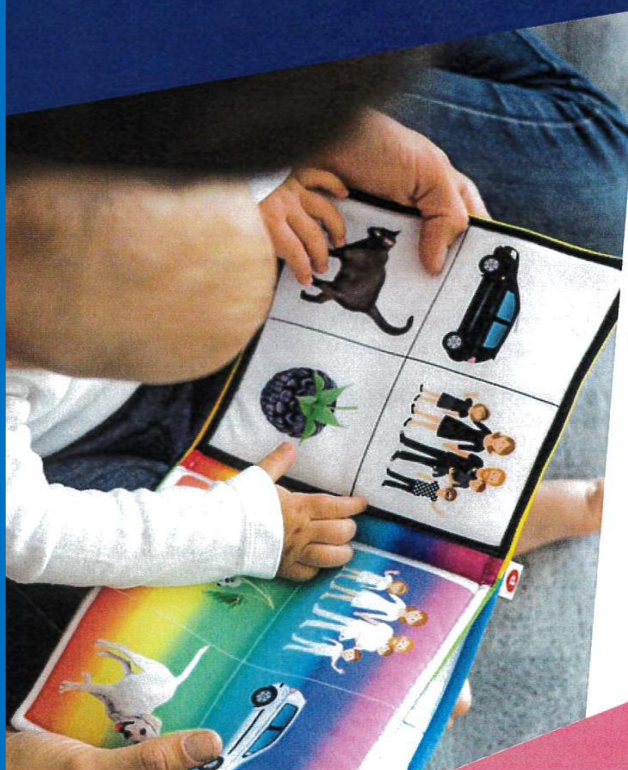
Tuesday 8 June

### **Bookings**

We are committed to staying COVID safe.

Places for each session are limited to allow for social distancing and so bookings are essential.

Please visit the library website to register.



[libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)



HOBSONS BAY  
LANGUAGE LINE  
9932 1212

**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**





## **Hobsons Bay Community Has Heart Roving Hub**

The Hobsons Bay Community Has Heart Roving Hub was at Joan Kirner House in April, and will return again on **Wednesday June 9 from 10.30 am to 2.00 pm.**

Operated by Council staff and volunteers, the roving hub provides mobile outreach for people in the community to:

- Meet with Council staff and volunteers for a casual and friendly catch up.
- Discuss ideas on how Council can support community members experiencing social isolation and loneliness.
- How to get help and support for you or someone you know.
- Provide feedback and discuss ideas.



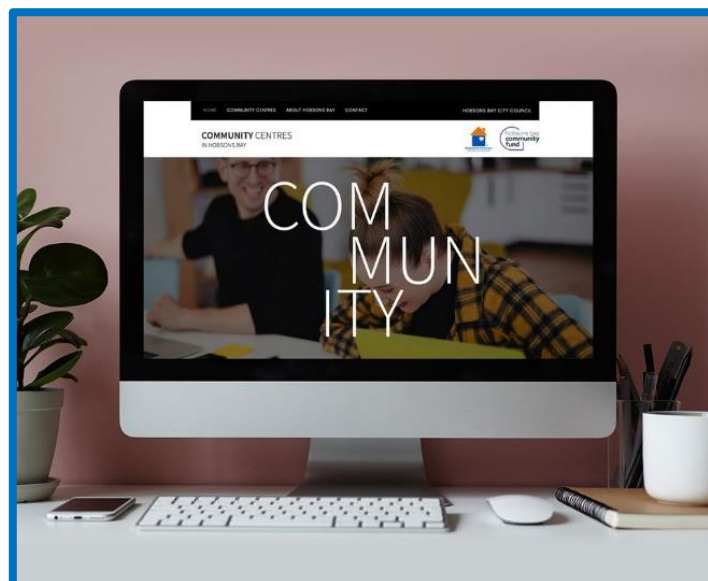
## **Hobsons Bay Community Centres Website Launch**

We would like to say a big thanks to Hobsons Bay Community Fund for sponsoring this website.

The Community Centres and Neighbourhood Houses of Hobsons Bay are united and connected through this website sponsorship.

This project shows the quality of leadership and commitment the Centres and their staff have to deliver what are high quality programs and services to the communities across the whole of Hobsons Bay.

The website is [HERE](#).





# Refugee Week 2021



20-26 June 2021

Get involved at [www.refugeeweek.org.au](http://www.refugeeweek.org.au)

Refugee Week



Coordinated by



Refugee Council of Australia

Event Partners



The Wheeler Centre  
Books Writing Ideas



Photo credit: Michele Aboud

Major Partners



Multicultural NSW



Partners



Head to Health



Supporters





## Neighbourhood House Week



On May 10 we had a Neighbourhood House Week Community BBQ, and a show in the foyer of Joan Kirner House led by Jodie and her students.



Big thanks to the students, Jodie and the staff and volunteers who helped organise.

## National Volunteers Week

During National Volunteers Week we had Volunteer West 'Meet and Greet' session as well as a BBQ celebration, and we presented Certificates of Appreciation to our volunteers.

A big thanks to our dedicated and talented team of centre volunteers including Malour Guy, Maureen Shaw, Rob McAree, Rose McVicar, Christine Richter, Karina Seylim, Rosa Hailu, Cody Rollinson, Maria Stanley, Caroline Baxter, and Paul Axiak.



Acknowledgements also to our talented Committee members – Sonja Ilievska, Lucienne Galea, Veli Fikret, Jon Grima and Linelle Gibson.



## Neighbourhood House Week Tributes



**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

*We have a lot of activities that increased our knowledge and have a beautiful teacher who's nice and patient to teach us.*

**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

*My teacher helps me a lot and is kind and I have a lot of friends. I'm happy to study English at the Community Centre.*

**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

*everyone is so friendly and we learn a lot of interesting and helpful things.*

**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

*because all the teachers are very friendly.*

**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

*People in charge are great helping all of us. We are so lucky to have a place like this one and being helped in all different ways. I hope that this centre will stay open for ever. Thank you*

**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

It's a Friendly and relaxed environment, with classes being informative and easy to learn.

**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

The teachers are good and is kind. They teach us a lot of different things and are friendly. I like my classmate and the teacher makes the works is sometimes hard. I love my community and Education Centre.

**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

I'm learning a lot there and I feel very comfortable in the class. I would love to learn more English and talk to my friends and I love to see my teacher Jodie and all my friends.



**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

The centre is very good people. They help me speak English and write English very well.

**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

All the teachers and staff try to do everything well, and we are comfortable there. All teachers and staff and students are very friendly together and I learn a lot of things such as English, Education, good behavior and ethics. They are compassionate and helpful with students. I really appreciate them.



**I ❤️ Williamstown Community and Education Centre because...**

OF THE SAUSAGE SANDWICHES





## **Volunteering Photo Exhibition 2021**

Joan Kirner House hosted this exhibition from May 20 to 26 in the foyer of Joan Kirner House.

A Virtual Gallery is available online [HERE](#). See our President Sonja Ilievska, featured in the exhibition, on pages 36 to 39.

Some extracts of Sonja's story, and pictures below.

### **Sonja Ilievska**

#### **Williamstown Community and Education Centre**

My name is Sonja and I am currently the President of Williamstown Community and Education Centre (WCEC). I have lived in Williamstown for 18 years with my husband and two (now grown up) children. WCEC operates out of Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House providing education and skill development as well as family support and social activities to our community within the Hobsons Bay area. My volunteering activities here are usually done after hours, which suits my busy work schedule by allowing me to contribute to my local community in a different way to most of our other volunteers at our centre. My activities include and are not limited to: collectively determining the strategic direction of the centre, going over agendas, budgets and financial reports, liaison with the centre manager on strategic matters and partnerships, attending meetings and centre events, ensuring the centre is compliant and meets community needs.

I got involved with the centre after I realised my children needed less of my time as they got older and more independent. I wanted to connect with my local community beyond my immediate neighbours and see if I could be involved with creating a positive impact on a local level. My professional background is in compliance audit and risk management and I have been able to bring this experience to the committee of management at WCEC as part of my voluntary governance role at the centre. It has been great to be able to contribute in a way that fits in with my experience, lifestyle and values.

The best thing about being involved is the meaningful connections and friendships I have made during my time at the centre. Also, gaining insight into how diverse our community is. It has given me real clarity on the fact that nothing is a 'one size fits all'. When I get the chance to attend during the day, I am often overwhelmed at the bustling activities going on, seeing all the smiling faces and people chatting over a cuppa. We hear about all our programs and activities at our meetings, but it is always so rewarding to see the centre bustling with activities and people connecting in a common inclusive and safe environment.

My advice for others thinking about volunteering is definitely get involved in any way you can. I never thought I could contribute in a meaningful way, as I worked business hours. I just found a way that fit in with what I could offer - time wise. So, even when you think you don't have the time, it is so rewarding and is also a two-way street. You benefit as much as you give back, from a personal perspective, by knowing you have made a difference and had an impact on something you value, fine tuning/developing your current skills and particularly working with a great group of people.



## **Volunteer West 'Meet and Great'**

Thanks to Michelle and Laura from Volunteer West who visited us at Joan Kirner House on Thursday May 21.



## **Exhibition at Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre**



***Councillor Pamela Sutton-Legaud with WCEC President Sonja Ilievska, at the Hobsons Bay City Council's National Volunteer Week 2021 Volunteering Photo Exhibition launch, at Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, on Saturday May 15***



## In the Media

# Focus on city volunteers

By Goya Dmytryshchak

Hobsons Bay volunteers are in the spotlight in a photo exhibition opening at Altona's Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre.

The exhibition will tour the municipality for National Volunteer Week from May 17-23, featuring images of local volunteers and their stories.

More than 12,000 people volunteer in Hobsons Bay, according to the 2016 Census, an increase of 26 per cent since the previous Census (the next census is on August 10, 2021).

Volunteers contribute across a diverse range of fields, including supporting the vulnerable and disadvantaged, caring for the environment, and protecting heritage in Hobsons Bay.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many volunteers adapted to connect and support one another, even during periods of lockdown.

The exhibition includes neighbours Kate and Daniel, who share how they started a community pantry in Seaholme after seeing first-hand how quickly people's circumstances could change financially and emotionally.

Another volunteer featured is Vesna

McDonald who has been with Vinnies for nearly eight years.

Seabrook Community Garden volunteer Bridget Kirsch recommends volunteering as a way to be part of the local community.

The exhibition is at Altona's Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre until May 18, Williamstown Community and Education Centre from May 20-26, South Kingsville Community Centre from May 28-June 9 and Laverton Community Hub from June 11-18.

Details: [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/volunteer-photo-exhibition](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/volunteer-photo-exhibition)



Volunteers Sonja Ilievska from Williamstown Community and Education Centre and Tammy Todd from Seabrook Community Garden.  
(Damjan Janevski) 236331\_01

*Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong Star Weekly. May 12. Page 9*

## Bendigo Bank Support

We were recently successful in an application with the Altona, Laverton, and Point Cook Community Bank, who have provided valuable funding and support to our Centre.



Altona, Laverton and Point Cook  
**Community Bank®** branches

Our Centre provides English language classes for many, however numerous refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are not eligible for Government subsidised training.

This support will help with the enrolment costs of ineligible students.

Not only can these people now become students and learn English, but they can increase their networks, seek assistance, and engage in other activities at our centre.

## New Committee Member

At our Annual General Meeting on May 11, a new Committee Member was accepted.

Some locals may perhaps know of **Linelle Gibson**.

Linelle worked as a high school teacher for ten years in South Africa, England, and Australia and in the TAFE Sector for 14 years as an Industry Trainer and Assessor.

Other positions included working as an **Electorate Officer for Joan Kirner**, Research Officer, managing a Research Centre at the University of Melbourne, and as a project officer at Education Services Australia.



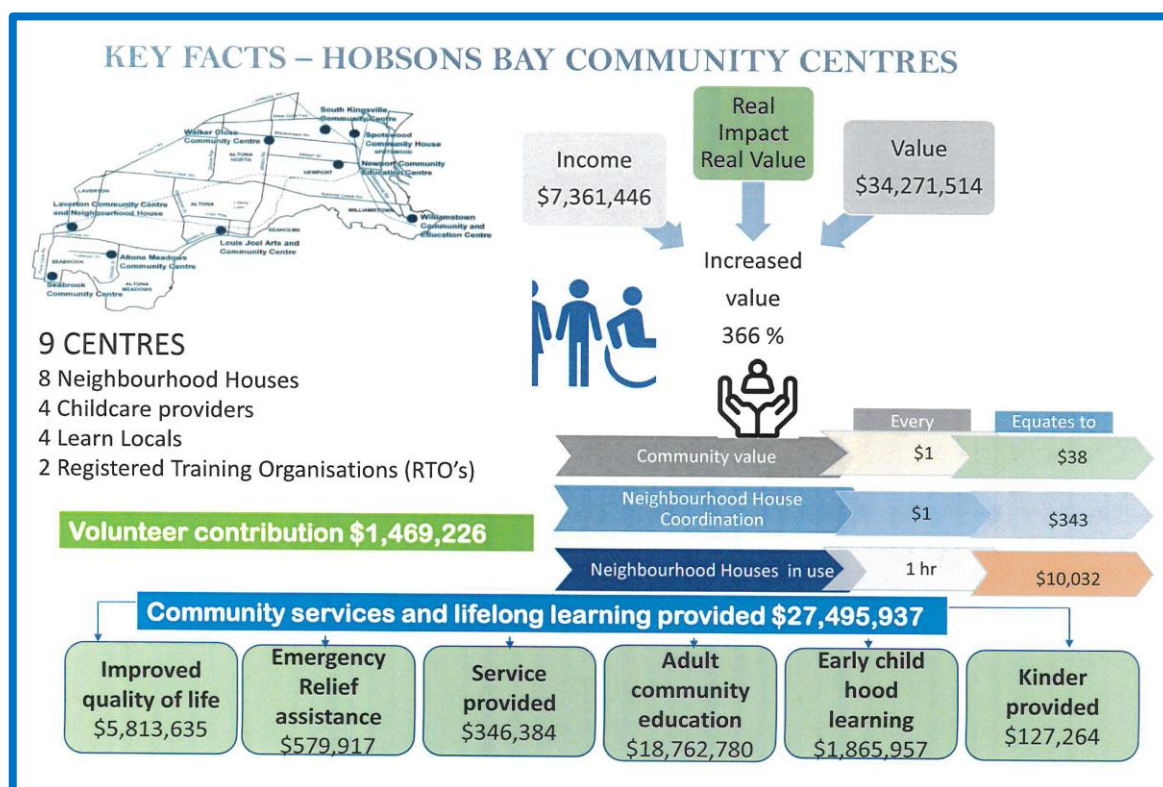
Linelle has lived in Williamstown for 42 years and was **previously a Hobsons Bay Councillor**.

Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts, Secondary Teachers Diploma, Cert IV in Training and Assessment, and Diploma of Training and Assessment Systems.

## Real Impact – Real Value

Thanks to Ayelign Tessema, the Manager of Walker Close Community Centre, who collated all the Neighbourhood House Coordination data across all community centres in Hobsons Bay.

Ayelign developed this graphic below.





## **Manager's Musings**

Our 2020 Annual Report is now available on our website [HERE](#), and hard copies are on display at Joan Kirner House reception, and at Spotswood Community House.

An extract, from the Annual Report by our President below.

### **President's Report**

On behalf of the Committee of Management I am pleased to announce a very successful result for 2020.

Again, we have recorded a surplus which places us in a very good position to continue to deliver our Vision and Mission.

In 2020 we met or exceeded all contractual obligations across all service delivery areas.

Joanne Wheelahan and Peter Hanlon resigned from the Committee during 2020 and I would like to thank both Peter and Joanne for their contribution, with a special thanks to Peter as outgoing President for all his leadership, dedication and hard work over the years. Lucienne Galea took up the position of Vice President.

A highlight of 2020 was the Centre being a finalist in the Victorian Training Awards.

During 2020 the Committee reviewed our Vision and Mission, refined our Forecast management tool and oversaw reviews of the Manager, coordinators and staff.

The Committee also reviewed and updated our Business Plan, Policies and three-year budget as well as approving ongoing professional development for staff.

I thank the Committee members for all their hard work and help during the year. It's been a real pleasure working with such a diverse, professional and experienced team.

In what was a very challenging and isolated time in the year that was 2020, on behalf of the committee I would like to thank management, staff, volunteers, students and our centre users for their dedication, resilience and adaptability during a challenging year.

Finally, thank you to all the stakeholders and sponsors for their significant contribution.

Regards,

**Sonja Ilievski**  
**President**

***Wednesday morning tea  
at Joan Kirner House***



***'The Admin Team'.***

***A picture from the  
Volunteer Photo Exhibition.***

***From left to right.  
Yours truly; Renee Daniele,  
Community Development  
Coordinator; Sonja Ilievski,  
President; Lynne Hewet,  
Education Coordinator;  
Lara Janka, Operations  
Coordinator; and Tahlia  
Kotiau, Administration and  
Reception Officer.***

A reminder to all that June 1 is a significant date for our Centre. On this exact date - Joan Kirner passed away in 2015; Joan's Garden was opened in 2016; and Jeannie Johnson passed away in 2018.

Take care.

Mark.

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