



Williamstown  
Community  
and Education  
Centre Inc

# Reflections on 2020 – and the Year Ahead

## **Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House** **For Members, Committee, Staff, Volunteers, Students, Parents,** **Stakeholders, Centre users, Partners, Sponsors and Our Community**

### January 2020

In the January 2020 break, we repainted Joan Kirner House childcare area, the staff room, office, room six, and the toilets.

We also received a detailed glowing report for our VRQA Audit for the year before.

We received and set up 14 brand new iPads thanks to the *Tim Watts Stronger Communities* Program

New programs started up such as *Preschool Piano* at Spotswood Community House and *Parental Workshops* at Joan Kirner House.

Our new *Health My Way* initiative commenced, supported by the Australian Digital Health Agency.



**Be Connected**  
Every Australian online.

The project supported people to learn essential digital health literacy skills that are critical to ensuring every Australian can make informed, confident choices when it comes to supporting their health and wellbeing online.



### February

Ongoing programs restarted, including –

- *Active Neighbourhoods for Older Australians*. Three different exercise groups running at Joan Kirner House in Williamstown and Dulcie Shaw House in Altona North.
- *Supporting West Welcome Wagon Volunteer English Tutors*. Assisting the volunteer tutors helping refugees and asylum seekers learn English. Sponsored by Hobsons Bay City Council to support West Welcome Wagon, a volunteer run not-for-profit dedicated to providing material aid and support to asylum seekers in Melbourne's west.



- *Building Digital Skills*. This was a joint Good Things Foundation charity and Australian Government initiative. It is an Australia wide program aiming to empowering all Australians to thrive in a digital world.
- *Activity Book for EAL Students*. An Adult Community and Further Education Board (ACFE) grant to develop and design a student Activity Book focusing on Hobsons Bay, for teachers delivering pre-accredited English Language courses and the Accredited English as an Additional Language (EAL) Framework Course.



**Be Connected**  
Every Australian online.



We had The Honourable Gayle Tierney, Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education and Ms Maria Peters, Chairperson of the ACFE Board launch the Learn Local Awards and the ACFE 2020–25 Strategy at Joan Kirner House.



We had a visit from Milane Hughes from Share the Dignity, to inspect our Pink Box Dignity Vending machine installation.

The machine is sponsored by Woolworths.



## March

Council Recycling 2.0 was introduced and Lisa and Shaun from Hobsons Bay City Council visited Joan Kirner House and gave a very informative session on the new Council recycling initiative.

Over 30 students and staff attended. This also helped our Centre organise ourselves in recycling our waste.





**Then the first lockdown occurred.**

We were still open as a Learn Local and were providing some childcare.

We then introduced distance learning for students, staff worked from home and many programs, centre users and rentals vanished within a week or so.

## April

Although activities were significantly reduced, we were able to launch our Hobsons Bay Learners' Activity Book Launch

A timely resource, the student Activity Book focuses on Hobsons Bay, for teachers delivering pre-accredited English Language courses and the Accredited EAL Framework Course.

It was an extremely busy and daunting time – in lots of different ways.

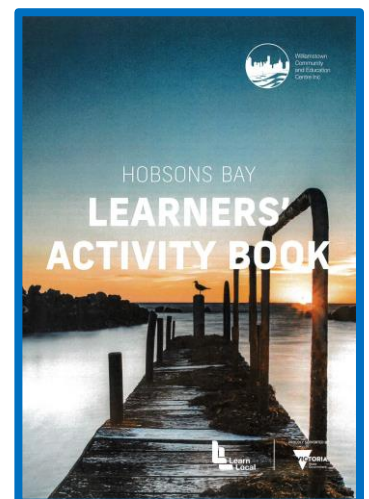
Lynne and the teachers had been innovative and worked hard to experiment and adapt to a new 'mixed mode delivery'.

Working from home and being online using Zoom, WhatsApp and even just messaging, email and phone calls, we tried to keep in touch with all learners.

As well we set up a system of 'Study Packs' where teachers dropped in during the week and prepared hard copy work for students.

They were then put in trays for each class to collect.

On Fridays we opened for a few hours for students to drop of their work, sign off and collect a new Study Pack.





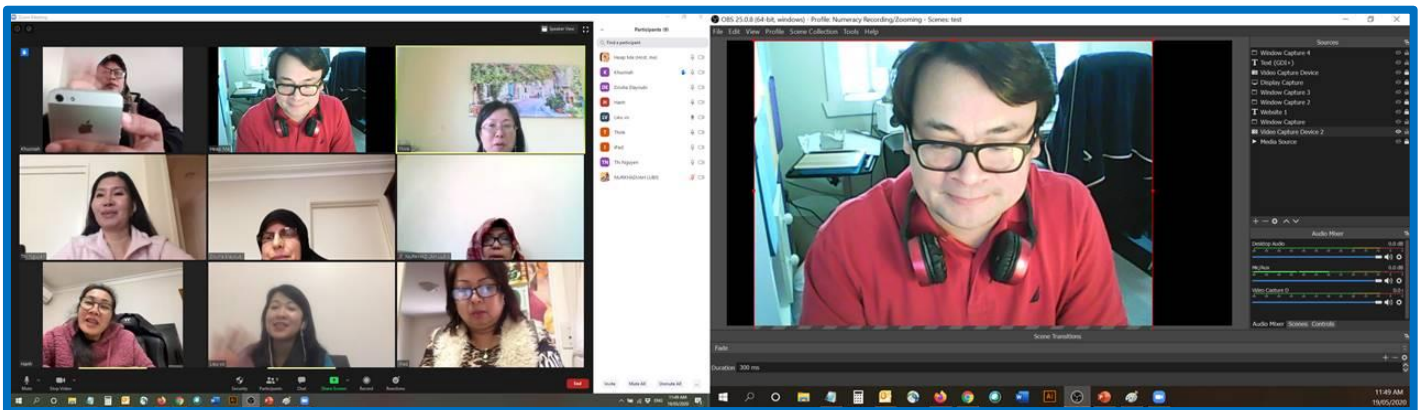
## May

Restrictions were eased slightly, and for a while a few people started to drop in.

All with proper social distancing and adhering to hygiene requirements.



And our world of Zoom started in earnest with multiple Zoom subscriptions.



## June

Home sewn face masks were generously donated to our Centre by the Vietnamese Association in Hobsons Bay.

Retired members of the Association wanted to help the community during the pandemic.

The community group decided to unpack their sewing machines and make cotton face masks for the community.



Computer classes were back!

Safe distancing, every second computer not used, eight students maximum for the classroom and instructions to sanitise mouse, keyboard, screen, and headphones before and after class.



Willy Wargaming was up and running again on Friday nights.



## July

In the media.



Lynne Hewet with colleagues Tablia Kotiau and Lara Janika. (Gaye Dmytryshchak)

### Computer classes continue

Williamstown Community and Education Centre will continue to run computer classes amid the COVID-19 lockdown.

Classes will be held at Joan Kirner House on an optional basis.

Manager Mark Brophy said although neighbourhood houses had closed, they could stay open as training organisations.

"No longer is IT a want - you need to have it," he said. "You have to have it if you're on Centrelink benefits, myGov ... for health."

"There's a significant amount of people out there who just want the basics ... and they have you can live these days."

"Traditionally, we're dealing with people with compounded disadvantages - they're isolated, they're lonely."

"Especially in these times, we've got to work out how we can remain open so that those feeling isolated have got somewhere to go."

He said the centre had all the mandated and best practice strategies in place, such as signage, hand sanitiser, wipes, room limits, closed kitchens, and gloves and masks available.

The Vietnamese Association in Hobsons Bay has donated cloth masks to the centre for staff

Education co-ordinator Lynne said classes would have safe distancing, restricted student numbers and time limits.

"Officially, the community centre is closed per regulations but education is one of the reasons where people can leave home and be engaged," she said. "We're hopefully to start our term on July 20."

Child care at the centre is also expected to resume on this date.

Details: 9397 6168 or visit [williamstown-spotswoodcc.org.au](http://williamstown-spotswoodcc.org.au)



**Then in early July we faced the second - harder lockdown.**

Again, all classes and programs were suspended.

Childcare was shut down due to low numbers.

Teaching and admin staff started working from home and anything we did, needed to be strictly online.

We were announced as a Finalist in the Victorian Training Awards in the category of Community Training Provider of the Year.



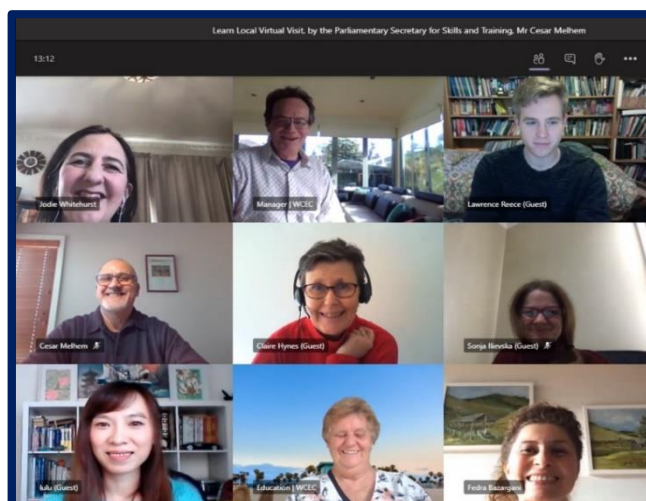
## August

**Early August curfews were introduced, travel over five kilometres was banned, with outdoor time limited to one hour a day.**

Parliamentary Secretary for Skills and Training and Member of the Western Metropolitan Region in the Legislative Council, Mr Cesar Melhem, had a 'virtual online visit' to our Centre.

The Parliamentary Secretary gave a very heartfelt and warm congratulations for our Centre for becoming finalists in the Victorian Training Awards.

We were also able to get a couple of Childcare Occasional Care sessions restarted with limited numbers and under strict protocols.



Our recycling efforts continued, and we were recognised for our achievements.



An independent NHVic evaluation report was released for our Centre.

# Joan Kirner House

Real Impact. Real Value.



## INCOME

**\$948,766**

### Services include:

- Computer/internet usage: **\$2,880**
  - Room hire: **\$13,500**
  - Résumé assistance: **\$360**
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: **\$480**

## Employment value

**16.46 FTE jobs**

including 11.8 direct and 4.6 indirect  
Full Time Equivalent positions



These calculations were conducted by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Based on data provided in the 2019 Neighbourhood Houses Survey. Only activities where a determinable valuation method exists are included.



## VALUE

**\$6,073,162**

### This figure includes the value of:

Improved quality of life through social connection: **\$477,231**

Volunteer contributions: **\$175,399**

Services provided: **\$17,220**

Adult Community Education: **\$5,298,707**

Early childhood education and care:  
**\$104,604**

### This community value equates to:

**\$6.40** for every \$1 of income

**\$74.83** for every \$1  
of Neighbourhood House Coordination  
Program funding

Over **\$2,130.93** for every hour the  
neighbourhood house is in use

## October

Restrictions started to ease in late October.

Some staff came back, and we were able to start the Willy Walking Group again with limited numbers.



## November

Lockdown restrictions eased even more.

We started 'COVID Safe' outdoor student catch ups.



Our 2020 [Celebration Zoom Dance](#) was launched.





## December

### Restrictions eased significantly.

Many programs recommenced –

- Willy Wargaming
- Sunrise Yoga.
- Australian Boating College
- Plus Yoga - Yoga For All Bodies
- Zonta Club of Melbourne's West.



Our English and computer classes returned, with limited numbers.

For the first time since March, we had over three sessions running at a time.

And many more booked in for starting in 2021 –

- French Club for Kids
- Adam Turnbull Acting
- Art Therapy
- Odyssey House
- IPC Health
- Music Lessons
- Wu Tau Dance.



### Over 2020, during a pandemic, we have –

- Successfully completing and acquitting all projects.
- During lockdown, developed mixed-mode and online delivery for students and teachers including Zoom accounts, 'study packs', meeting students in parks, etc.
- Exceeded ACFE contracted student contact hours.
- Grew student numbers in the Skills for Education and Employment program.
- Not only maintained, but increased staff numbers during the pandemic.
- Provided ongoing professional development and staff support.
- Upgraded and made improvements at both Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House.
- Produced a financial surplus for the year.
- Provided assistance to Foodbank, West Welcome Wagon, Share the Dignity, Vietnamese Association in Hobsons Bay, and the Hobsons Bay Community Fund.
- Loaned and funded iPads and laptops, and donated funds to isolated students to help with IT and to keep them engaged with our Centre.
- Secured funding for refugee students ineligible for government subsidies.
- Rolled out training to all students and Centre users for the Hobsons Bay 'Recycling 2.0' initiative.

# What's New in 2021



Williamstown  
Community  
and Education  
Centre Inc

## 2021 Calendar of Events

February	Welcome Back BBQ Wednesday February 3. 12.15pm
March 14 to 22	Cultural Diversity Week BBQ Tuesday March 16. 12.15pm
May 8 to 15	Neighbourhood House Week BBQ Monday May 10. 12.15pm
May 18 to 24	National Volunteers Week BBQ Thursday May 20. 12.15pm
June 14 to 20	Refugee Week BBQ Friday June 18. 12.15pm
July	Welcome to Semester 2 BBQ Wednesday July 14. 12.15pm
September 1 to 8	Adult Learners Week BBQ Tuesday September 7. 12.15pm
September Dates TBA	Spring into Life events
November 9 to 15	Recycling Week BBQ Thursday September 11. 12.15pm Clothes Swap all week
December	Christmas Centre Lunch Friday December 17. 12.15pm

Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House  
9397 6168 [admin@wcec.com.au](mailto:admin@wcec.com.au) ABN: 67 864 341 860 Inc. Ass. Reg. No: A0014000T TOID: 4640



## LET'S GET NEIGHBOURLY!



### Imagine this....

Every street across the community has a local neighbour group, that helps build relationships, provide support, plan and run fun activities, share resources and help people feel like they belong.

## Become a Community Connector

BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING PROJECT AND YOU CAN HELP BUILD THIS VISION FOR A MORE CONNECTED COMMUNITY.

Participants will be given **FREE** individual mentoring, plus skill and confidence building group workshops to bring your neighbours together for a fun and relaxed gathering and support to create an ongoing Neighbour Group.

**About you...If you are welcoming, like to organise or lead, enjoy bringing people together and want to be a part of a more connected community - we would love to hear from you!**

A choice of day and evening workshops will be held in February and March at Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson St, Williamstown.

**LIMITED PLACES!  
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AT**

Email: [hello@neighbourhoodconnect.org.au](mailto:hello@neighbourhoodconnect.org.au)  
or call Irene 0413 706 233.  
[www.neighbourhoodconnect.org.au](http://www.neighbourhoodconnect.org.au)

Sponsored by



Williamstown  
Community  
and Education  
Centre Inc



**Book NOW!**

Wednesday 17 February 2021 6.30pm or Friday 19 February, 12.30pm.  
Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson St. Williamstown. **Call Irene: 0413 706 233.**



# BE WORK READY IN 9 MONTHS

**There is high demand for essential workers in  
aged care and disability care**

WomenCan Australia, together with VU Polytechnic, are supporting women to learn new skills and find paid employment through The Placement Circle Program.

## Study for FREE\* and qualify in 9 months

Study a Free TAFE course in CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support at Victoria University Polytechnic and



**Applications close on 15 January 2021**

### How it works

- Peer-supported program – women only classes
- Small groups of students
- Study skills and English language support
- Free TAFE\* course which means eligible students won't pay tuition-fees for this course
- Clinical placements with genuine employment opportunities



### Register now

[www.placementcircle.org](http://www.placementcircle.org)



### FIND YOUR PLACE

[contact@womencanaustralia.com](mailto:contact@womencanaustralia.com)

CRICOS Provider No. 00124K  
(Melbourne), No. 02475D (Sydney),  
RTO Code 3113

## Programs booked in for 2021.

- **Willy Wargaming** every Friday night fortnightly from 5.00pm to 9.00pm at Joan Kirner House. For more details contact Matthew on 0438 054 740.



- **Sunrise Yoga** every Thursday morning from 7.00am to 8.00am at Joan Kirner House. For details contact Ron on 0411 723 669.

- **Australian Boating College** (Powerboat and Jet ski licences) at both Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House. Call Daniel on 0408 369 664 for more details. Website - [abcboating.com](http://abcboating.com)



- **Plus Yoga - Yoga For All Bodies** on Saturday mornings at Spotswood Community House. Commencing early 2021. For details contact Nina on 0418 175 744.

- **Zonta Club of Melbourne's West**, once a month at Joan Kirner House on Tuesday evenings, starting early 2021. Call Faye on 0411 607 995 for more details. Website - [www.zontamelbwest.org.au](http://www.zontamelbwest.org.au)



- **Willy Walking Group** every Wednesday from 10.15am to 11.00am at Joan Kirner House. Starts Wednesday February 3, Contact Tahlia for details on 9397 6168.

- **French Club for Kids** on Wednesday afternoons at Joan Kirner House. Starting early February 2021. All prep to grade six children welcome. Call Jim on 0432 719 034 for details.

- **Adam Turnbull Acting** starting early 2021 on a Thursday afternoon at Joan Kirner House. Call Adam on 0419 593 257 for more details.



**Art Therapy** at Joan Kirner House has also recommenced, and more programs are booked in for early 2021 including **Odyssey House** counselling, **IPC Health**, **Music Lessons**, **Wu Tau Dance**, **Peer Powered Gaming**, and others.



-----

In this 'unprecedented' year, where we all have lived through something quite incredible, I would like to thank our supportive Committee, talented staff, dedicated volunteers, and partners who together helped make 2020 yet another exceptional year for our Centre, even in tough times.

As a Centre, I feel we have come through these testing times even stronger than before.

Overcoming challenges has required us to problem solve, adapt quickly and work together, becoming a closer team, that supports each other.

You should all be very proud of your efforts, positive contribution, and the critical role you continue to make to our community.

Wishing everyone a happy, safe, and excellent break.

Thanks.

Mark.

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

