



Williamstown
Community
and Education
Centre Inc

Newsletter October 2019

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

Find us on 

2019 HOBSONS BAY
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS
FINALIST



Coming Up...

- September 21 to October 6. **Term break.**
- September 30 to October 14. **Spring into Life.** Hobsons Bay City Council. Pick up the booklet at our Centre. Lots of activities, or see [HERE](#)
- October. **Hobsons Bay Seniors Festival.** Pick up a booklet full of a range of activities at Joan Kirner House.
- Monday October 7. **Term Four begins.**
- Monday October 7 to 18. **Chickens coming to Childcare!**
- Tuesday October 8. **FREE Hobsons Bay Police – Seniors Connection Forum,** Joan Kirner House at 10.30 am. Details below.
- Wednesday October 9. **FREE Hobsons Bay Spring into Life and Seniors Festival Willi Walking Group History Tour** from 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House.
- Wednesday October 9, 16, 23 and 30. **FREE Community Morning Tea.** 11.00 am at Joan Kirner House.
- Wednesday October 9, 16, 23 and 30. **FREE Barista style coffee** at the **Pop-Up Social Café.** Joan Kirner House at 11.00 am.
- Thursday October 10. **NEW Introduction to Computers Class** starts at Altona Meadows Library. Call Lynne for details 9397 6168.



**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



- Thursday October 10, 17, 24 and 31. **Bone Boosters**. Gentle exercise for older Australians. Joan Kirner House from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm. Call Penny on 9397 6168 for more details.
- October 14 to 20. **Get Online Week**. Anne will be doing workshops with students, linking 'Be Connected' resources with our recycling initiatives.
- Tuesday October 15. – **Bringing Language to Life - Teaching EAL to Adults through Drama**, Joan Kirner House at 5.00 pm. Details Below
- Tuesday October 15. **FREE Parenting with Presence Workshop**, Joan Kirner House at 7.00 pm. Details below.
- October 19 to October 27. **National Children's Week**.
- Wednesday October 16, 23 and 30. - **FREE Willy Walking Group** from 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House.
- Tuesday 22. **Children's Week Sausage Sizzle**, Joan Kirner House, 12.00.
- Friday October 25. **Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Award** winners announced. Details [HERE](#).



Be Connected
Every Australian online.



MUSCULOSKELETAL
AUSTRALIA



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme

Joan Kirner House are now taking interview bookings for people wanting to access this Scheme.

The St Vincent de Paul Society No Interest Loan Scheme offers people on low incomes the opportunity to purchase essential household items or services that can improve quality of life.

More details [HERE](#).



Pick up a brochure at our Centre or call 5229 8829 for more details.

Just let them know you want to book your appointment in Williamstown.

Update - Parking at Joan Kirner House

Our ongoing campaign to have reserved parking for our Centre users on the Thompson and Cecil street frontages of Joan Kirner House...

We met with Matthew Irving, Manager Capital Works from Hobsons Bay City Council and presented our case.

Matthew will compile a report with options and recommendations to present to Council members.

The Report will not be ready until November.

He promised that we could see and comment on the Report before it is submitted at the December Council Meeting.

New!



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Pinkbox Dignity Vending Machine

Purely and simply the Pinkbox Dignity Vending Machine, is a vending machine that dispenses a FREE pack of 6 tampons and 2 pads.

'Share the Dignity' supply the vending machine and keep it supplied with FREE products.



This initiative is based on the belief that access to pads and tampons is a right, not a privilege and that no woman should ever have to choose between eating and living with dignity.



Located at Joan Kirner House. 14 Thompson St. Williamstown.

In the Disabled Toilet and Baby Change Room, down the hallway to the left of reception. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday, during term dates.

Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House
9397 6168 admin@wcec.com.au TOID: 4640

Our Centre was successful in an application to be a part of this 'Share the Dignity' Initiative.

The story of the founder of this organisation is inspirational.

'Rochelle Courtenay is Share the Dignity's founder and Managing Director; the title she is most proud of though is 'Pad Lady'. This title came about and stuck while she collected of over 1.1 Million packets of pads and tampons across Australia over three years. She learned of homeless women going without basic sanitary items during their menstrual cycle.

Most noteworthy, Rochelle decided the question was not "Why is no one doing anything" but rather "What's stopping me from doing something?" First of all, in March 2015 Rochelle took matters into her own hands collecting sanitary items within her local community and distributing to local shelters.



As a result, a simple idea of giving dignity to women, Share the Dignity has grown into a national charity. Consequently, it has over 4,400 volunteers Australia wide, and most noteworthy, provides multiple initiatives aimed at giving dignity to women.'

The Share the Dignity website is [HERE](https://www.sharethedignity.com.au).

FREE Programs!



STRUGGLING WITH PARENTING?



Then come to
Present Mindfulness Academy's
**FREE PARENTING WITH PRESENCE
WORKSHOP**

Tuesday 15th Oct 2019
7pm - 8.30pm
Williamstown Community Centre
14 Thompson Street Williamstown
Suzanne Marambio | 0430 151 953
 @presentmindfulness



VICTORIA POLICE

Hobsons Bay Police

Seniors Connection Forum

An interactive workshop facilitated
by Hobsons Bay police staff.
Information on awareness in your
local areas. Morning tea provided.

Tuesday 8 October
10.30am

VENUE:

Joan Kirner House,
14 Thompson St, Williamstown

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:

Please call Penny on 9397 6168
(Williamstown Community &
Education Centre).

Bringing Language to Life – Teaching EAL to Adults through Drama

Using drama techniques in the teaching of adult EAL provides learners with authentic, meaningful contexts in which to practise the language, while increasing their motivation and speaking confidence.

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn some useful drama-based activities which can easily be adapted for various language levels. You don't need to be an actor, an extrovert or have a background in drama teaching; just bring an open mind and a sense of fun!!

Jodie Whitehurst, EAL Teacher, Williamstown Community and Education Centre.

October 15 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm. Joan Kirner House. 14 Thompson St. Williamstown.
VicTESOL Members \$10. Non-members \$20. Bookings - [HERE](#)

New!



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Recycling Pens & Markers

Williamstown Community and Education Centre
are now collecting used pens and markers for recycling.



All writing instruments (except for wooden pencils, crayons and chalk) are accepted

Mechanical pencils
Fountain pens
Felt tips

Eraser pens
Ink cartridges
Highlighters

Correction tape and fluid
Pens
Markers



Once collected, the old writing instruments are cleaned and melted into hard plastic that can be remoulded to make new recycled products.



While councils are still sending recyclables to landfill, here's a chance to make a small difference.

Active Neighbourhoods for Older Australians

We were successful in a recent tender application and will be rolling out a 12 month initiative starting term four.

The grant comes from Musculoskeletal Australia and the University of Sydney, who received a grant from the Australian Government through Sport Australia's 'Move it AUS – Better Ageing' initiative.

Some of the aims of the 'Active Neighbourhoods for Older Australians' project is to improve access to physical activity amongst older people, enable physical activity to be a regular component of the participants' lives and support older people's engagement in physical activity at Neighbourhood Houses.



This Project will allow us to continue and expand on current programs as well as introduce new initiatives.



Connecting with our Local Primary School

Year One children at Lumineer Academy, a local Primary School, have been busy collecting old bicycle parts.

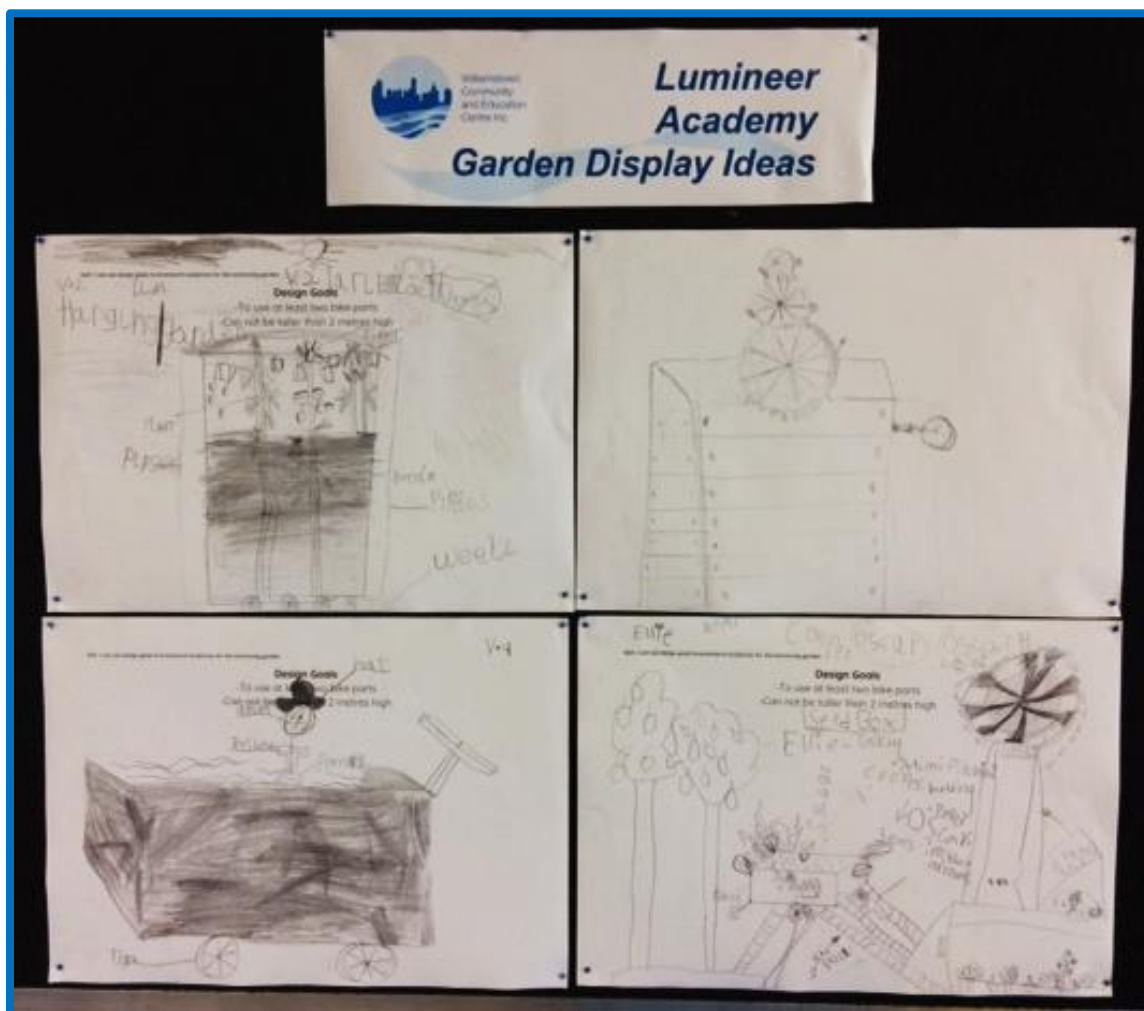
As part of learning about the environment, recycling and repurposing they are using the old bicycle parts to make a garden display structure for our garden at Joan Kirner House.

The children came up with four design ideas.

Our Centre will choose one of the ideas for our garden.

The children at Lumineer Academy will then build the structure out of their recycled bicycle parts and install it in one of our raised garden beds.





This Month's Profiled People

Kate McCracken - Bell – Teacher

Kate started at our Centre in 2017 and is teaching the Introduction to Computers classes at Altona Meadows Library, Joan Kirner House and Altona Meadows Library.

Kate is a local in Williamstown and has previously worked at Community West, Victoria University and in secondary schools.

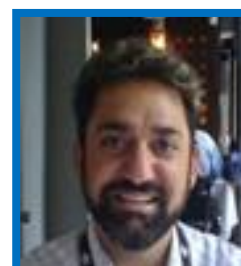
Kate has a Bachelor of Science, Diploma of Education and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.



Veli Fikret - Committee of Management Treasurer

Veli has been on the Committee since 2015. He is an Acting Commissioner at the ATO and has significant experience in the government sector in public administration, law, finance, data management and transformational change.

Veli's qualifications include teaching, education, linguistics, policy, law and tax administration.



Lara Janka - Operations Coordinator

Lara started with the Centre in 2011 and her role is fundamental to the Centre's ongoing operations. She covers everything from payroll, tax, forecasting, budgeting and compliance to bookings, administration, resources, materials, etc.

She has a Bachelor of Business, Advanced Diploma of Community Sector Management and significant experience in a wide range of positions in the banking sector.



Managers Musings

We found out recently that our Treasurer Veli Fikret was a Nominee and short listed in the Commonwealth Bank and Our Community '2019 Not-for-Profit Treasurers' Award'.

Congratulations Veli!

Having started in 2015, Jeff Bolton has recently left our Committee to undertake other commitments. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

We thank Jeff for his valuable contribution to our Centre, and our community, over the past five years.

Especially his experience in working in the VET sector. Very much appreciated.

In other news, Peter Dewar will be replaced by Caroline Baxter as our Willy Walking group leader on Wednesdays.

But don't worry, Peter will still be a regular walker with the group. Thanks, Peter, for all the terrific work you've done over the years.



Also, thanks to all staff involved in our VRQA Audit preparation, and those at other centres through our Learn Local Quality Partnership group.

We can all be proud of our sector when ten community centre RTOs can help each other out in a complex compliance environment.

At the last Committee Meeting our new Business Plan and Policies were approved.

These are available on our website and at reception.

From a business and financial perspective, the Centre is running well, and we are on target to hit yet another surplus for this year, almost doubling our surplus of 2018.

Staff to note please –

- There is a new **Portable Long Service Leave (LSL) Scheme** that was introduced by the Victorian State Government for our sector mid-year.

Fundamentally, it is a scheme that allows workers in our sector to build up LSL, even if they change employers but remain in the same industry.

More details are on the Portable LSL Authority website [HERE](#)

Our Centre has registered with the Portable LSL Authority, and staff will hear from them sometime after October this year.

Although a bit of work for our administration, it shouldn't be an issue for most staff. If you want to learn more, ask Lara or myself.

- The Victorian government has decided to align the Victorian **Children's Services Act 1996** with the Education and Care Services National Law. A few details [HERE](#).

The reform aims to simplify licensing arrangements for providers and ensure consistency across the two regulatory regimes. Changes will be mostly administrative, and details on how this affects us 'on the ground' is not clear yet.

This change will come into effect in May 2020.

- The '**Alteration to Regular Salary Form**' has changed slightly.

Staff need to get signed approval from their supervisor before they do extra hours and the Form is submitted. Ideally, the same should apply for leave hours.

For teachers and Education Admin this will be Lynne, Reception / Admin to Lara, Childcare staff will be to Barb or Kate, for Childcare Room Leaders, project officers and all others it will be me.

If you are not clear on this, please ask?

For those taking the term break, enjoy!

Thanks.

Mark.

Mark Brophy, PhD
Manager
Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc