



Williamstown
Community
and Education
Centre Inc

Newsletter April 2020

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

2019 HOBSONS BAY
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS
WINNER



Coming Up...



Friday March 27. **Term One ends.**



Tuesday April 14. **Term Two starts.**



May 12 - **NOTICE TO MEMBERS** - The Williamstown Community and Education Centre Incorporated **Annual General Meeting** will be on Tuesday May 12 in Room One at Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson St Williamstown at 4.00 pm. RSVP – 9397 6168.



I can't believe that only a month ago, when I last sent out our Newsletter, there was hardly a mention of this virus at all.

How quickly the entire world has changed in just a few weeks.

As of Thursday 26 March, Spotswood Community House and Joan Kirner House are 'closed' to the public as a 'Community Centre'.

However, Joan Kirner House remains 'open' as a 'Learn Local', 'training organisation' and 'Childcare provider'.

Although hardly anyone is coming in anyway, nearly all programs have gone, no visitors, phones are dead quiet, students not turning up, minimal childcare.

We are still getting the place regularly cleaned.

In preparation for whatever happens, and to keep our organisation viable, we are organising some teaching staff to 'Work from Home', linking them to students, posting materials to students, looking at online options, etc.

This is working out well, and thanks to all teachers and admin staff involved, as we prepare for a possible complete shutdown.

I've been working with staff and contractors in the past few days, preparing and adjusting our work lives for what may lay ahead.

I thank all of you for being understanding.

Aside from health, hygiene, social distancing, etc, and the welfare of staff, an important task is to ensure the Centre survives.

By maintaining financial viability and keeping links with stakeholders, students, parents, staff, centre users, volunteers, sponsors, etc we can bounce back and rebuild after this crisis is over.

With Childcare, we have excellent bookings going into term two.

We are hopeful. However, with changes almost daily, there are no guarantees.

A big thanks also to all those kind people donating toilet paper, tissues, sanitiser, paper towels, etc.

Very much appreciated.

Thanks also to staff, volunteers, Committee, parents and Centre users for support, adherence to hygiene protocols and hard work over the past few weeks.

PHONE A FRIEND!

Social Connection Challenge



In times where we need to reduce our physical interaction it's more important than ever to commit to supporting those who are vulnerable.

CHALLENGE!

- Think of 7 people in your life who are (or are about to be) socially isolated. These maybe the elderly, the unwell, people who are self isolating or friends/family who are feeling anxious
- Allocate 15 minutes each day to ring, Facetime, Whatsap, Skype etc one of these people. At the end of the week you would have called all 7 of them once.

RULES!

- Ask are you ok with genuine curiosity then listen.
- Do you need anything, can I help?
- Make that person smile, even better, laugh

Do you know of someone or are you someone who would like to be contacted once a week by a friendly volunteer? Register by email;
phoneafriend@lcis.org.au



Free Counselling with an IPC Health Psychologist.

Every Monday and Wednesday - no G.P referral or
Careplan required.

Joan Kirner House

14 Thompson St, Williamstown

We can help with:

- Mild to moderate mental health problems such as anxiety and depression.
- Adjusting to family & family changes.
- Dealing with stress & traumatic events.
- Problems with relationships at home, work or school.
- Strong emotions that are hard to manage.

Who can use this Service?

All people aged 16 years and over.

How to get an appointment?

Contact IPC Health on 8368 3000. Ask to speak to an Intake Worker, then ask to be referred to Helen, Psychologist, at Joan Kirner House.

Visit from 'Share the Dignity'.



It was great to get a visit from Milane Hughes on 26 February from Share the Dignity, to inspect our Pink Box Dignity Vending machine installation.

The vending machine is in the disabled toilets at Joan Kirner House.

The machine is sponsored by Woolworths.

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. 9.00am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday, during term dates.

Council Recycling 2.0

On March 11 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.



Managers musings

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up soon on May 12. Our finances were audited, and everything was perfect. Thanks to Lara, Narelle our Accountant, and Ryk our Auditor. Yet again we've come out of 2019 with a tidy surplus.

Childcare regulations are changing soon to align Victoria with Commonwealth regulations. Not huge changes, and I can't see it affecting us too much.

Also, the Committee recently reviewed and approved updates and changes to our Policies. I ask that all staff and volunteers have a look at our Policies and familiarise themselves with the contents. Understanding our policies is an important part of our obligations under regulations and the many contracts we have.

A hard copy of our Policies is in the display stand at Joan Kirner House reception and on our website under 'About Us'. Major updates are the 'Workplace Behaviour and Social Media Policy and Procedures' on page 25 and 'Disallowed Person' update on page 36.

To reiterate, at this stage for term two, venues will be closed to public, classes will continue with distance learning, childcare is still open until we get notification, and admin staff are either at Joan Kirner House or working from home.

Please take care everyone.

Mark.

Dr Mark Brophy
Manager
Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc