



Williamstown
Community
and Education
Centre Inc

Newsletter August 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



In our last Newsletter we were reporting that we were slowly rebuilding with lots of old and new programs, projects, classes, and initiatives starting up.

Now we are back to square one...

All that work and preparation for zilch.

If every time you take
one step forward you
take two steps backwards
don't be discouraged.
You just learned how to
country line dance.

So, we are back to being closed as a Community Centre and Neighbourhood House, but open for Childcare and Training.

With constant and regular change, finding new ways of doing our work, adapting, making mistakes, being creative and re working systems, process and protocol, I am reminded of the quote by renowned sociologist R.W. Connell –

“There is a whole ocean of error and a few islands of truth, and neither chart nor compass to go by.

We build up the map by accumulating shipwrecks.”

1

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

We have now closed Spotswood Community House completely.

At Joan Kirner House we are running some childcare, and small and brief computer and English classes.

Administration functions are still running and there are at least one or two staff about each day.

The Centre kitchen is now closed, and we are sanitising high touch points and surfaces twice a day.

Reminder for those that do turn up -

- Wear a face mask - Optional for teachers and childcare workers while in their rooms.
- 1.5 metres social distancing.
- Observe maximum people limits for rooms.
- Use hand sanitisers and wipes regularly.
- Clean your personal property, phones, glasses, iPads, pen, purse, wallet, bags, etc. Refrain from placing them down on public surfaces.
- Keep face to face meetings as short as possible and keep distance.
- Limit contact with others, no physical contact, etc.
- Keep doors open, and windows open if possible.
- Use wipes on PC keypads, screens, head sets and mouse before and after use.
- Wash hands regularly. Before and after eating, after coughing and sneezing, after using bathroom, after touching surfaces, after changing tasks, etc.
- Put rubbish and waste into bins, don't leave lying around.

From Hobsons Bay City Council

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Victorian Government has announced a \$1.7 billion Economic Survival package, which includes the introduction of the Working for Victoria program.

Council is partnering with state government as one of 15 councils across Victoria to have recently joined the Working for Victoria program, creating more than 130 jobs within Hobsons Bay through the partnership.

Roles are for a six-month duration and will suit people with experience and skills across a range of areas.

The Working for Victoria staff will work on Council core projects with the key areas of focus being:



- *environment and biodiversity works, including accelerating Council’s ambitious Urban Forest Strategy, and landscaping and mulching programs*
- *local paths, footpaths and infrastructure, including outdoor maintenance and improvements, accelerating significant bike and pedestrian paths, supporting recycling reforms, and other concreting and civil works projects*
- *local business service and stakeholder engagement roles, working with local businesses to support them in reopening and prospering in the coming months, as well as communications programs to continue to further connect with our community*
- *digital and business transformation programs which support the ongoing digital shift of Hobsons Bay services, including data analytics, digital arts, digital process transformation, and mapping and GIS improvements*
- *community services teams that will support tailored services direct to residents and community members, including specialist roles such as counsellors and nurses, as well as broader roles working directly with vulnerable community members*

The state government has also partnered with Sidekicker to deliver an online jobs platform for Working for Victoria. Council encourages people who have not already registered with Working for Victoria through the Sidekicker platform to lodge their details and keep an eye out for Council’s roles.

If this is of interest to you, please sign up to Sidekicker. Many of the jobs in Hobsons Bay will be uploaded onto this platform in the coming days, with more roles to come. People looking for employment will be matched with jobs listed on Sidekicker that are relevant to their skills and experience.

The state government encourages access to the Sidekicker platform via their website at www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria. On their website you can find out more about the Working for Victoria fund and register your interest in applying for one of the jobs at Council. This information is also on Council’s website [HERE](#).

In the News

Star Weekly - Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay. July 15, 2020. Page 10.



Lynne Hewet with colleagues Tahlia Kotiau and Lara Janka. (Goya 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

While in Lockdown...

Louis Joel Arts and Community and Hobsons Bay Libraries are offering a great variety of Zoom programs.

Laverton Community and Integrated Services and **Outlets Co-operative Neighbourhood House** are offering Emergency Relief Services.

Laverton Hub is offering FREE craft sessions, Pilates, Yoga, Zumba, and Line Dancing online.

At South Kingsville Community Centre there is an online **Book Club** and **Chat and Coffee** sessions.

Other Resources

- Making masks for beginners – [HERE](#).
- Emergency Relief and meals - Providers in the West - [HERE](#)
- Helping children understand Coronavirus - [HERE](#).

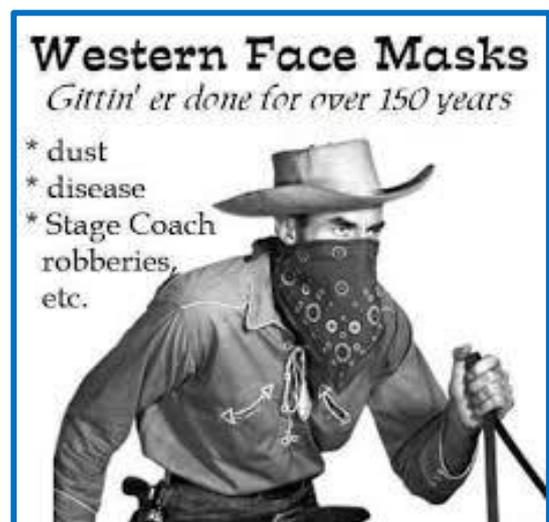
Face Masks.

We have a limited amount of reusable home sewn face masks available for anyone connected with our centre.

These have been donated to us by the Vietnamese Association in Hobsons Bay.

If you want one, call Joan Kirner House – 9397 6168 – and let them know you are dropping in to get one.

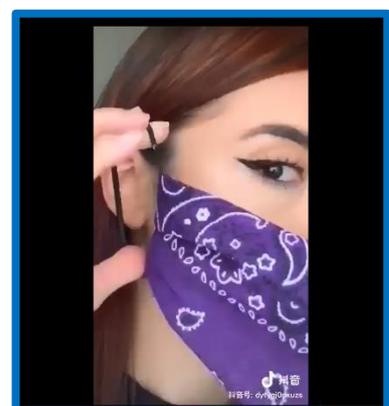
Ring the bell out the front, on the right when you get there.



Here is a Good Idea!

Lulu, one of Jodie's students, wanted to share this video with everyone on how to make a face mask from a bandana – and its easy!

It's on our Facebook page.



family
violence
support is
available

#YouAreNotAlone



You are not alone

The impacts of COVID-19 will continue to put added pressure on families. But times of stress and hardship are never an excuse for violence.

Everyone has the right to feel safe at home. During this time, services are still open if you need support.

If you are in immediate danger always call 000.

For 24/7 crisis support Melbourne wide call safe steps 1800 015 188. If you cannot safely call, email safesteps@safesteps.org.au and a support worker will reply ASAP.

For support for women who live in the Western suburbs:
Women's Health West on 9689 9588
Open Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm.

Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
Mensline: 1300 78 99 78

For a specialist LGBTIQ family violence service:
WIRespect : 1800 542 847



**Elder abuse.
Hard to
picture.**

Elder abuse is a form of family violence and it is unacceptable.

Elder abuse is any act occurring within a relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which results in harm to an older person. Elder abuse may be physical, sexual, financial, psychological, social and/or neglect.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of elder abuse, you can discuss these concerns with a trusted family member, GP or physician.

For further information and for independent advice, contact:

Seniors Rights Victoria – 1300 368 821
1800 RESPECT – 1800 737 732
Men's Referral Service – 1300 766 491

If you are concerned for your immediate safety or that of someone else, please contact the police in your state or territory or call Triple Zero (000) for emergency services.

For more information, please visit
www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au



Free to Good Home

We have about a dozen chairs, in good condition, that require a new home.

If interested in getting one or some, call me on 9397 6168.

First calls – first get.



Managers musings

It is vital that all staff, teachers, volunteers, or anyone attending our Centre now, and into the future, are fully aware of health, safety, plans, policy and best practice regarding this virus.

Please familiarise yourself with -

- **Coronavirus Safety Plan** for the Centre is on our website [HERE](#).
Thanks to Bill at Laverton Community Education Centre for his help with this.
- **WCEC Risk Assessment – COVID 19** for Childcare is on our website [HERE](#).
Thanks to Sandra at South Kingsville Community Centre for her help with this.

Complete –

- The online COVID-19 Work Safe-and-Clean tutorial here - <https://www.hha.org.au/>
(For staff, once done, please send me certificate so I can file)

Watch –

- If you have Netflix, I highly recommend the three-part series '**Coronavirus Explained**'. It covers the pandemic itself, finding a vaccine, and how we can all cope in these difficult times.

Finally, thanks to all staff and volunteers who have done such a tremendous job in these tough times.

We should all be proud of ourselves in keeping our Centre going, being innovative, creating new ways to do our jobs, supporting each other, our community and stakeholders.

Many thanks.

Mark.

Dr Mark Brophy
Manager
Williamstown Community and Education Centre
Inc

