



Williamstown  
Community  
and Education  
Centre Inc

# Newsletter September 2017

## Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House

**For Members, Committee, Staff, Volunteers, Students,  
Parents, Stakeholders, Centre users, Partners,  
Sponsors and Our Community**

### Innovative New Program!

'Reaching Across the Ages' will be a new project commencing in Term Four this year.

Thanks to a successful application and grant from the *Hobsons Bay Community Fund* we will establish a program where mature aged volunteers, including students, will meet and read stories with children in our Child Care.

The concept of "non-familial intergenerational interactions" is centred around the simple idea that old and young can bring new energy, knowledge and enthusiasm to each others' lives.

In the last 20 years or so this concept has been increasingly picked up – particularly in the US, where more and more [shared care facilities](#) are being opened.



**Hobsons Bay Community Fund**

A Sub Fund of the Australian Communities Foundation

Our Centre is ideal for this initiative as we have a shared facility in Joan Kirner house where adult learning and child care occurs under the same roof.

We also have many existing mature aged students that can contribute to Child Care.

Research has proven that these interactions can have fantastic benefits for each generation.

[In Australia](#) and [the UK](#) studies have shown that activities that include children and older adults in a Child Care facility can increase self-esteem and promote friendships. In Japan, shared play activities have been found to result in [greater smiles and more conversation](#) for elders.

Older adults can provide positive role models for children, sometimes furnishing a caring relationship for children. It also gives older adults valuable ways to get involved in their community.

Intergenerational programs are effective because they draw on the natural strengths of children, youth, and older adults to help meet many needs within the community while supporting interpersonal relationships between generations.

### Upcoming Birthdays

Peter, President on 8 September and Zohreh, Volunteer on 22 September,

### In The Media

- **WCEC Receives Funding for Solar Installation** in [Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Newsletter](#). July, page 10. See [HERE](#)

### Job Vacancy

- At Joan Kirner House. We are looking for a **Receptionist / Administration Officer**. Part Time Permanent. 33 - 35 hours per week (negotiable). The full Position Description is [HERE](#).

### Coming Up

- **Adult Learners Week** is from 1 to 8 September. Free Morning Tea on Wednesday 6 September at 11.00am at Joan Kirner House.
- **Spring into Life - Free Zumba** at Joan Kirner House on Wednesday 20 September from 12.00 to 1.00pm. Book at 9397 6168, [admin@wcec.com.au](mailto:admin@wcec.com.au) or at Reception.
- **Free Community Healthy Lunch** at Joan Kirner House on Wednesday 20 September at 1.00pm. All welcome!
- **Spring into Life - Build Your Own Worm Tower** at Spotswood Community House on Friday 22 September from 9.30am to 11.30am. Book at 9397 6168, [admin@wcec.com.au](mailto:admin@wcec.com.au) or at Reception.
- **Art in Public Places - Joan's Garden Satellite Event** at Joan Kirner House. Public viewing and free Morning Tea on Wednesday 6, 13 and 20 September at 11.00am.



## **Welcome to Australia Program**

We now have 12 participants in this Slater and Gordon sponsored Program, including Jim's group at Spotswood Community House.

This Program aims to provide English language education to asylum seekers, refugees and others ineligible for government subsidised training.

Countries represented include Syria, Pakistan, China, Hungary and Lebanon.

We do have those that drop off, but for good reasons...

One student gained her Partner Visa and found a pathway into the Adult Migrant English Program at Yarraville Community Centre.

Another found work at a pizza shop.

Three gained Permanent Residency and started training in Aged Care.



## **Network West Orientation and Innovation Tour**

On Wednesday 16 August we had the Network west Tour group drop in for our regular Morning Tea.

Staff and Committee members from Wingate Avenue Community Centre, Flemington Community Centre, Westvale Community Centre, Delahey Community Centre, Community Plus, Good Shepherd, Kensington Neighbourhood House and Djerriwarrh Community House attended.

Well done to all staff who made them feel very welcome!



## **Childcare**

There are still places available for the 2018 Pelicans Three Year Old Program. Call Lara on 9397 6168 to find out more.

Also the shade cloth in Childcare has been repaired and replaced. Well done to Cathy and Andrea for the fun book Week activities. Children and staff loved it.



## PD for Teachers

Professional development opportunities are available for teachers at the VET Development Centre. This training is free for staff of Learn Locals registered with ACFE.

- **Learner support and wellbeing** will include ways of supporting learners who suffer from trauma and social challenges so they can continue to participate in education and training.
- **Teaching and learning** for inclusive practices and a learner centred approach. In addition, aspects of how to design pre-accredited programs and co-design pre-accredited training programs with industry and welfare agencies.
- **Pathways** will focus on developing effective pathways and transition plans for learners through partnerships with TAFEs, other training providers, Industry, and community organisations.

More details on Staff Notice Board or [HERE](#)

If interested please see me.

## Advocates for the Environment Healthy Lunch Program Grow, Cook, Create and Tell Program

*The broad beans are in flower in our garden. We are hoping for a bumper crop.*

*We will use the broad beans in our Healthy Lunch Program and what we don't use will be left in the Garden Produce Exchange in the foyer at Joan Kirner House.*

*Don't forget if you have any excess garden produce please bring it in for the exchange.*

*Remember, we also have our Seed Share Program which is a great resource for all our gardeners.*



**HOBSONS**  
**BAY CITY**  
COUNCIL



Anne Douglas  
Project Officer

## This Month's Profiled People

**Phillip Quinn** is one of our volunteers who teaches 'one on one' English with clients.

He is a Teacher, Instructional Designer, Trainer and Assessor and has conducted RTO compliance auditing.

Phillip has a Bachelor of Science, Diploma of Education Graduate, Certificate in Instructional Design and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment



**Peter Hanlon** has been our President and Chairperson since 2015. He has worked in the TAFE sector for over 15 years specialising in the Tourism and Hospitality sector.

His qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts, Masters of Business and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Peter has lived in Williamstown for 20 years, has been on the Board of the Williamstown Festival, was the Manager for Seaworks and currently runs his own local home improvements business.



## Lara's Lines

*Over the past couple of weeks I have run Defib information sessions for students in Claire, Jodie and Heap's classes.*

*After watching a demonstration video, the students had the opportunity to see the unit in action. All were very interested and asked lots of questions.*

*Following on from these sessions and sponsored by Ambulance Victoria, the '4 Steps for Life Plus' Program will be rolled out at the Centre.*

*This is an innovative CPR awareness program designed to deliver CPR and defibrillation awareness through group education and participation.*

*Our aim is to increase awareness and confidence to assist individuals when dealing with emergency situations.*



Lara Janka  
Finance and Administration Coordinator

## Managers Musings

**Participate Hobsons Bay** is the online community engagement site for Hobsons Bay City Council.

Participate Hobsons Bay is a space for the community to share ideas, discuss important topics, provide feedback on Council plans and contribute to the future of Hobsons Bay.

It's also a way to let Council know how important our work is, as well as all other Community Centre's in Hobsons Bay. Let them know!

Register here - <http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/register>

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Our **Facebook** launch has had excellent results. We are five star rated and have many followers in just a few weeks.

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Find us on 

The broken dishwasher in the Staff Room has been replaced.

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In the past month we have had visits from **Cr Peter Hemphill** and **Cr Angela Altair**. It's great that we have sincere interest and support from our Hobsons Bay City Council councillors and that they come out to see our work 'at the coal face'.

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Our Centre has also submitted an application for **the Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Award** this year. In 2015 we were one of three Finalists in the Not-for-profit category, but missed out on winning (Congrats to Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre who won in 2015).

Putting together the Application was a good exercise in looking at our organisation in detail. An opportunity to reflect and document our achievements. Several staff have commented on how it provides a real insight into our Centre. A copy of the Application is on our website if you want to peruse [HERE](#).

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We recently had delivery of our customised notebooks, pens and bags with our logo on them. These will form part of a new '**Showbag**' we will put together for new students once they enrol.

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Our Committee has been busy too. At their August meeting they reviewed and approved our new **Business Plan** and **Policies** (Both now on our website). This is an important task as we need these for our upcoming Contract application to deliver Accredited training.

Lara and I will now be working on a new **Three Year Budget** for the Committee to review and approve at their October Meeting.

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**Paula O'Shea**, our Reception / Administration Officer will be leaving our Centre soon. There is a 'Send off' at Morning Tea on Wednesday 30 August at 11.00am. Her last day will be Friday 1 September.

Paula has been an outstanding asset to our Centre for the past five years, and I know many will miss her. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

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While we are looking for a new Receptionist, I ask all staff to be patient and understand that we will be short staffed for a while.

Lara's workload will increase as well, so I ask you to **support Lara**, help her, and help each other out. Thanks.

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If you wish to subscribe to this Newsletter electronically please email me on [manager@wcec.com.au](mailto:manager@wcec.com.au)

Thanks,

Mark

**Mark Brophy, PhD**  
**Manager**  
**Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc**

