

Committee of Management

President - Peter Hanlon

Peter has been on the Committee since 2014. He worked in the TAFE sector for over 15 years specialising in the Tourism and Hospitality areas.

He was on the Board of the Williamstown Festival for eight years and he currently runs his own business in home improvements.

Peter's qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Business Administration and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.



Vice President - Sonja Ilievski

Sonja has been on the Committee since 2014. She started work in the Government sector and moved on to the private sector in a firm which she co-founded.

Her expertise is risk management consulting and auditing. She holds qualifications in Economics, Internal Quality Auditing and is a Department of Health Auditor.

Sonja is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, an Associate Member of the Institute of Community Directors and holds a Master of Business Administration.



Treasurer – Veli Fikret

Veli has been on the Committee since 2015. He is a Senior Director in Federal Treasury and has significant experience in the Government Sector in Public Administration, Law, Finance, Data Management and Transformational Change.

He has also held academic and teaching positions with the Australia Asian Business Consortium in Shanghai, China and Khon Kahn University and Thailand.

Veli's qualifications include Teaching, Education and Training, Linguistics, Policy, Law and Tax Administration.



Secretary – Lucienne Galea

Lucienne has been on the Committee since 2014. She has experience in the not-for-profit sector including working as a Business and Development Officer for Table Tennis Victoria.

She has completed a Bachelor of Laws and is now working as a Trainee Lawyer at Nicholsons Lawyers and Consultants. Lucienne can speak two languages, both English and Maltese.

Lucienne also holds a Bachelors Degree in Arts and Business with a major in Human Resource Management and Philosophy.



Member – Jeffrey (Jeff) Bolton

Jeff has been on the Committee since 2015. He works as a Horticultural teacher for Islamic Schools of Victoria.

He also runs his own local landscaping business and has previously worked in the TAFE sector at Victoria University and Holmesglen.

Jeff has his Certificate IV in VET Assessment and Workplace Training, Diploma of Education and Training and a Bachelor of Education.



Member – Jonathon (Jon) Grima

Jon has been on the Committee since 2015. He is the founder and director of Joncol Building Services.

After completing his Carpentry Apprenticeship and fine tuning his skills on site, Jon specialised in renovations and extensions and is now a Registered Building Practitioner.

His creativity is evident in his own house, which was featured on the Channel 7 TV show 'Australia's Best Homes'.



Member – Jacqueline (Jackie) Green

Jackie has been on the Committee since 2015. She is the Principal at Spotswood Primary School and significantly supports the Spotswood Community House, which in fact is the school's old caretaker's cottage.

She is involved with community events such as the Williamstown Festival, Relay for Life and Newport Lakes Reserve projects.

Jackie has a Bachelor of Education with Honours and is undertaking a Master of Educational Management.



Management

CEO / Manager - Mark Brophy

Mark started at the Centre in 2012. He has worked in the education, training and community development fields for over 30 years.

Mark has worked in universities, government departments and community organisations.

He has a Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Bachelor of Education, Master of Education (TESOL) and a Doctor of Philosophy.



Operations Coordinator - Lara Janka

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

She has a Bachelor of Business and Advanced Diploma of Community Sector Management.



Education and Training Coordinator - Lynne Hewet

Lynne has been at the Centre since 1992. During this time she has worked in a variety of roles including Volunteer, Committee Member, Manager, teacher and tutor.

Aside from Coordination, Lynne is also our teacher in the Dulcie Shaw House Course.

Lynne has a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diploma of Teaching.



Administration and Project Officers

Reception and Administration Officer - Penny Dean

Penny started at the Centre in 2017. She has experience working in both the not-for-profit and private sector as an Administrator, Receptionist and Analyst.

Her skills include writing, editing, website maintenance, data management, IT and financial management.

She holds a Diploma in Counselling, Diploma of Community Services, Diploma of Family Support, Certificate III in Children's Services and Level II First Aid.



Project Officer - Anne Douglas

Anne started with us in 2016 and works across several projects and in administration.

She has experience as a Librarian, course designer, tutor and management in Australia, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

Anne has a Diploma of Librarianship, Bachelor of Social Science and a Master of Arts.



Project Officer - Peter Dewar

Peter has been with our Centre since 2015. For a time Peter was a Committee Member and now leads our Walking Group.

Peter has a management background and currently contributes articles to local papers and publications.

Peter has a Bachelor of Commerce, Graduate Diploma in Organisational Change and Graduate Certificate in Communication.



Teachers

Claire Hynes

Claire started with us in 2012 and is our Monday Mild Intellectual Disability group teacher as well as English language and Introduction to Computers teacher.

She has a wide range of skills and experience from arts and crafts, beauty therapy and IT to design and retail.

Claire's qualifications include a Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and a Graduate Diploma in TESOL.



Claire Teisen

Claire has been with us since 2010 leading the Wakety Pals Drama Group on Thursday afternoons at Joan Kirner House.

She has trained in both the USA and France and is an inspiring and dedicated leader of this group.

Claire has had a very eclectic background, including working at Circus Oz and the Victorian Arts Centre. She is also an experienced Puppeteer and Fire Eater!



Fedra Bazargani

Fedra started at our Centre in 2010. She is a very talented and experienced Teacher delivering English language learning.

She also teaches our English Language courses at Altona North Library, and has a keen interest in learning languages and aside from English, speaks Persian, Turkish and French!

Fedra has a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters Degree in Education with a TESOL major.



Heap Lay Ma

Heap started with us in 2016. He is a popular Teacher in both English language learning and Computer classes.

He is a very energetic and passionate teacher with significant experience.

Heap has a Bachelor of Education and a Graduate Certificate in TESOL.



Jim Lynch

Jim started with us in 2016 and teaches a Computer Class at Joan Kirner House and an English class at Spotswood Community House.

He also teaches with our friends at Duke Street Community Centre.

Jim previously spent 20 years in Japan teaching English.

He has a Bachelor of Education, Graduate Diploma in Commercial Law and a Graduate Certificate in TESOL.



Jodie Whitehurst

Jodie has been with us since 2012. She is an English Teacher at both Joan Kirner House and at Spotswood Community House.

Jodie is a very innovative teacher, bringing music, drama, games and engaging interactive activities into her classroom.

Jodie has a Bachelor of Education, Post Graduate Certificate in TESOL and is currently studying for her Masters of Education.



Kate McCracken - Bell

Kate started at our Centre in 2017 and is teaching the Introduction to Computers Class on Monday afternoons at Joan Kirner House.

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.



Lucy Docherty

Lucy started with us in 2003 and is a very popular English Language teacher.

She also she conducts detailed training and learning assessments with students.

Lucy has a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Postgraduate Diploma of TESOL and Literacy, Secondary Teachers Certificate and a Bachelor of Arts.



Rita Dobrotka

Rita started with us in 2016 and is one of our English teachers.

She has had significant experience working in the Adult Migrant Education Program at NMIT, Kangan, and at community centres. Prior to this Rita was a Secondary School teacher in the subjects of Maths and Spanish.

Rita has a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education.



Robyn Shilton

Robyn is one of our teachers who started in 2018.

She has had significant experience in the sector, working at Victoria University, the Migrant Resource Centre and the Manager of Community West for over eight years.

Robyn's qualifications include a Master of Arts, Diploma in Education, Diploma of Arts and Diploma of Management.



Roger Hersey

Roger started with us in 2018 and takes the Introduction to Computer classes for Wednesday afternoons, Thursday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

He is also delivering a Computer class at Altona North Library on Wednesday mornings.

Roger has had significant experience in the IT field, working on large, complex projects around the world.

Roger has a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.



Childcare

Gemila Esmail

Gemilla started with the Centre in 2014 and is a Team Leader with Barb in our Occasional Care and Activity groups.

She is friendly, kind and caring with a passion for working with children.

Gemila has a Certificate III in Children Services and a Diploma of Children's Services.



Barbara (Barb) Olsen

Barb started with us in 2018 and is a Team Leader with Gemila in our Occasional Care and Activity groups.

She has had considerable experience including being a Director of Occasional Care and Coordinator of a Creche.

Barb has the equivalent qualifications as a Diploma in Childcare.



Carene Danre

Carene started with us in 2018.

She is currently on leave having recently had her first baby. Carene will return to us in Term Two 2019 and Lead both the Tuesday and Wednesday Activity groups with Gemila, Barb and Andrea.

Carene has a Bachelor of Early Childhood Development.



Andrea Kydd

Andrea started at our Centre in 2007 and works with Gemila and Barb in our our Activity groups.

She previously worked in Childcare with our friends at the Yarraville Community Centre.

Andrea is a fantastic support to other staff and is extremely well qualified and experienced.



Yuri Akamatsu

Yuri started at our Centre in 2011 and works with Barb, Gemilla and Andrea in Occasional Care and the Two Plus Year Old Activity Group on Tuesdays.

Yuri has a Certificate III in Children's Services and a Certificate III in Aged Care - Home and Community Care.



Volunteers

Alice Brophy

Alice started with our Centre in 2018 and looks after our IT requirements.

She helps maintain our office and classroom PCs.

Alice has worked in the Transport and Logistics sector and is currently raising two young daughters.



Caroline Baxter

Caroline has been with us since 2012 and helps Claire with the Mild Intellectual Disability groups on Mondays. She also helps out with our regular Wednesday morning Willy Walking Group with Peter.

Caroline has significant experience and skills working with disabled learners in both the UK and Australia.

She holds a Vocational Qualification III in Teaching Assistant from England.



Kay Reay

Kay started with us in 2015 and helps out in the Mild Intellectually Disability Art Class on Monday afternoons.

She has been a Bookkeeper, Receptionist and Administrator in the medical sector.

Kay has a keen interest in sewing, arts and crafts.



Malour Guy

Malour started at the Centre in 2018 and helps out with students in computer classes.

Malour has worked at Williamstown North Primary School helping children with special needs.

She holds a Certificate of Education Support from Monash University.



Maria Stanley

Maria started with us in 1998 and is a very well known and dedicated Volunteer at our Centre and helps out with many tasks.

She is always one of the first people to arrive each morning and helps set up our Joan Kirner House for the day.

Maria is a keen supporter and advocate for our Centre. She is also a student in the Monday Literacy class and a computer class.



Mary Hannebery

Mary started with us in 2007 and helps out with Lucy's English class on a Thursday.

Mary is a retired teacher who spent over thirty years working at schools in Melbourne's western suburbs.

When she retired as Principal of Sunbury Primary School, she taught in China for three years.



Maureen Shaw

Maureen started with us in 2008 and helps out Claire Hynes with the disability Literacy group on Mondays mornings at Joan Kirner House.

She has significant experience and knowledge in helping people with a disability.

Maureen has a Certificate III in Disabilities and Aged Care.



Robbie McAree

Robbie has been with us since 2005. He is also a student in our computer classes.

Robbie is a great help at our Centre and assists in many duties including gardening, general cleaning and maintenance.

He also helps out with a large range of tasks at the Centre.



Rose McVicar

Rose started with us in 2017. She has worked for Hobsons Bay City Council, been a Volunteer Coordinator for 'On My Feet', helping unemployed and homeless and an Administrator for the local 'Buy Nothing Project'.

She is currently running our Recycling Made Easy Project.

Rose has an Advanced Certificate in Textile Technology and an Associate Diploma in Applied Science.



Yvonne Curwen

Yvonne started with us in 2018. She is a volunteer teacher with us on the English Language Class with Fedra at Altona North Library on Fridays.

Yvonne was a Vet Nurse, is currently working in retail and is near completing her Diploma of TESOL.

