



Williamstown  
Community  
and Education  
Centre Inc

# Newsletter June 2017

## Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House

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



***Some of our volunteers receiving their 'Certificate of Appreciation'  
during National Volunteers Week***

### **Birthdays**

Jodie on June 13 and Kate on June 19

### **In The Media**

- **'A (long) Day in the Life of Joan Kirner House'** in The Westsider. June. Page 9. By Yours Truly!  
Hard copies at houses.
- **'Hobsons Bay Community Centres Research Project Launch'** in Neighbourhood Houses Victoria News. May. Page 5.

- **'Coastal bird - watching can be fun, even without a Red-neck Stint'** in *The Westsider*. June. Page 6. By Peter Dewar. Hard copies at houses.
- **'Meeting Our Bay Birds'** in *The Star Weekly*. May 24. Page 7. By Goya Dmytryshchak. See [HERE](#)

### Coming up....

- **Queen's Birthday Public Holiday**. Monday June 12. Centre will be closed
- **Refugee Week**. June 18 to 24
- **Refugee Week Fundraiser for the Hobsons Bay Refugee Network**. Gold coin donation to guess how many lollies in the jar. See Paula at Joan Kirner House Reception. Drawn on Wednesday June 21 at 12.00
- **Free Healthy (and Multicultural!) Lunch**. Wednesday June 21 at 12.00 at Joan Kirner House. All welcome!
- **Multicultural Fashion Parade** at Laverton Hub. Friday June 23, 10.00am to 1.00pm. Lunch provided. For more details call 8368 0100
- **Term Break**. Monday July 3 to Sunday July 16. Centre closed to public, but some programs will still be running



### Help Us Raise Funds!

Our Centre is closely linked to the Bendigo Bank, unique *Hobsons Bay Community Financial Services*, 'Community Bank<sup>®</sup>' model with Laverton, Altona and Point Cook branches. See [HERE](#).

They provided support to our Centre, and we have an account at the Laverton Branch.



The Community Bank<sup>®</sup> model is currently being promoted through the NOVA radio network.

Part of this promotion is the "Brownny's Community Chest" grants for community groups. \$3,000 a day for two weeks and a grand prize of \$10,000. The competition went live on Monday May 29. **To help our Centre**, go to the NOVA Win page - [HERE](#). Write in 25 words or less why we deserve to win.

For example -



*Williamstown Community and Education Centre*

*"We need up-to-date resources and materials for our teachers, students and our Centre.*

*Many students are mature aged, migrants, refugees, unemployed, disadvantaged and intellectually disabled."*

You could mention this; or the need for childcare resources; we are a great Centre providing services to 100s of locals; need for community garden plants and equipment; Centre maintenance; repairs and upgrades; cooking equipment and resources; professional development for staff and volunteers; more computers and iPads, etc.

**The more people who enter, the greater chance we have to win.** Thanks!

## **FREE Mindfulness Meditation Workshop**

Are you feeling: Distracted and Scattered? Physically worn down? Annoyed by others around you? Feeling stuck and frustrated?

Then come to the **Present Mindfulness Academy FREE workshop** and learn how Mindfulness can help you deal with these difficulties.

Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson Street, Williamstown, Wednesday 21 June 2017 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Contact Suzanne on 03 9391 6678 or [suzanne@pmacademy.com.au](mailto:suzanne@pmacademy.com.au)  
Register at - [www.pmacademy.com.au](http://www.pmacademy.com.au)



## **New Program**

A 12 month 'Welcome to Australia' Program sponsored by Slater and Gordon and their Community Fund will be commencing soon.

Melbourne based Principal Lawyer Andrew Baker commented, "*The Slater and Gordon Community Fund program was created to support community projects. We are committed to limiting the barriers for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and I congratulate Williamstown Community and Education Centre for developing such a beneficial initiative.*"



The Project is free to Refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and new arrivals to undertake everything from English language classes, cultural experiences, excursions, etc.

Bendigo Bank, Community Bank<sup>®</sup> (Laverton, Altona and Point Cook branches) have also contributed some support to this initiative.



We expect to start with over 20 participants, and within the 12 months perhaps dozens more.

Our experience with these types of programs has demonstrated that getting these people out of a socially isolated environment into an informal Community Centre surroundings can have immediate and profound results. For example, passing Citizenship tests, getting their Drivers Licence, finding part time work, joining community and social groups, as well as developing friendships, finding out about resources, Australian culture and generally networking, integrating and contributing to our community.

Migrants, or anyone who knows someone who would benefit from the Program, can contact our Education Coordinator, Lynne on 9397 6168 or [education@wcec.com.au](mailto:education@wcec.com.au).

## **Innovations and Orientation Tours**

The Network West Innovation and Orientation Tour is for the Committee and staff of our Centre.

The purpose of the Tours are:

- To provide an introduction to the sector for new staff and committee members
- To offer professional development to staff who may have been in the sector for a while and are looking for new ideas and inspiration
- To provide networking opportunities

- For Neighbourhood Houses to share their good practice and showcase the work they are doing across the western metro region

The next tour will take place on Wednesday 16 August 2017.

The Tour will run from approx 9.30am until 3.00pm and visit a diverse range of Houses across municipalities.

Tours are FREE and include lunch and afternoon tea.

If interested, please see me.



### **Advocates for the Environment**

With this Hobsons Bay City Council sponsored initiative we are rolling out a new environmental initiative every month this year.



This Month, **Reusable, Plastic Free Food Covers.**

*We all want to reduce our use of plastics. One easy way that will have a big impact is to reduce your use of plastic food wraps. You can buy beeswax reusable food covers but they are very simple to make.*

*Tips for using reusable bees wax food covers:*

- *To use, just place over a bowl or container or wrap around food like cheese. The warmth from your hands will shape the wrap into the desired shape*
- *The covers can be washed with cold water and a mild soap*
- *They are not recommended for meat as they cannot be washed in hot water*
- *They can be used to wrap items like vegetables, fruits, nuts, bread, sandwiches, etc.*
- *Depending on how frequently they are used they can last for up to a year. After that all you need to do is re-wax them in order to keep using them*

*Bees Wax Food Covers*

*You will need:*

- *Beeswax*
- *100% cotton fabric*
- *Pinking shears scissors*
- *Cheese grater*
- *Baking tray*
- *Aluminium foil*



*Instructions*

- *Cover your baking sheet in foil and pre heat oven to 85 degrees C*
- *Cut fabric to your preferred size*
- *Grate beeswax*
- *Lay fabric on baking sheet*
- *Sprinkle beeswax over the sheet evenly, but lightly, you can always add more*
- *Place in oven for 10-15 mins, or until all the wax has melted*
- *Remove from oven, if there are some gaps where no beeswax has melted simply sprinkle some more on and return to oven*
- *Once you're happy with the coverage hang on clothesline until dry*
- *To wash grater, simply pour boiling water over it and the wax will melt off*

Anne Douglas  
Project Officer

## **Bird Life Australia**

Caroline and Janelle from Bird Life Australia took our Skills for Education and Employment students and staff on an informative bird watching tour of Jawbone Reserve in Williamstown.

Here we see our students searching for birds and our Education Coordinator Lynne running into Hobsons Bay Mayor, Councillor Sandra Wilson.



## **Jodie's Day at the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council (VALBEC) Conference**

*On Friday, 19 May, I attended the VALBEC Conference at The William Angliss Centre in Melbourne.*



*It was a really interesting and inspiring day, and I came away with a lot of fresh ideas.*

*The Keynote speaker, Dr John Benseman focused on the importance of using research to inform our teaching, as well as the need for Language, Literacy and Numeracy teachers to reduce the amount of time they talk during lessons.*

*I attended a terrific session about engaging learners, teachers and the wider community.*

*One of the highlights for me was a session on an effective method of teaching spelling to English as an Additional Language (EAL) students.*

*I will present some of the ideas from the Conference to the teachers at our next Teachers' Meeting.*

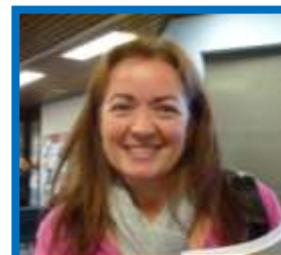
Jodie Whitehurst  
EAL Teacher

## **This Month's Profiled People**

**Jacqueline (Jackie) Green** is the Principal at Spotswood Primary School, where our Spotswood Community House is located.

Jackie is heavily involved in Hobsons Bay community and events, including the Williamstown Festival, Relay for Life and the Newport Lakes Reserve Project.

As a school Principal, Jackie has a strong commitment to promoting life-long learning.



**Claire Hynes** is our Monday Mild Intellectual Disability group teacher as well as English as an Additional Language and Introduction to Computers teacher. Claire, who was initially a volunteer started at our Centre in 2011.

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.



**Lucy Docherty** is our very popular Skills for Education and Employment, English as an Additional Language (EAL) teacher.

She has worked at our Centre since 2003, and along with the EAL delivery, she conducts detailed training and learning assessments with students.

Lucy has also worked in the TAFE sector. She has a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Postgraduate Diploma of TESOL and Literacy, Secondary Teachers Certificate and a Bachelor of Arts.



### **Mobil Support**

Thanks to **Mobil Refining Australia** and **Mobil Oil Australia** for their significant contribution to our Computer Room upgrade.

We have new carpet, notice board, desks, white board and more computers, so we can help and train more people in our community.

Special thanks need to go to both Nikki Calcraft, Community Relations Adviser and Riccardo Cavallo, the Manager of Mobil Altona Refinery for their kind assistance.



### **Managers Musings**

New Three Year Old **Pelicans** newsletters are on our website. [HERE](#) for Blue, and [HERE](#) for Yellow.

A reminder to all parents that we have free copies of **Mama Mag** and **Melbourne's Child** magazines at both Spotswood Community House and Joan Kirner House.

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Our **Annual General Meeting** was held on Tuesday May 16. The **Annual Report** is on our website [HERE](#).

Yet another outstanding year for our Centre. Thanks to everyone. Members, Committee, staff, volunteers, sponsors, partners and all Centre users.

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Council are currently installing **new air conditioners** at Joan Kirner House. New units will be placed in Childcare, and rooms Two, Three and Four.

Other upgrades at Joan Kirner House include a little ramp in the back hall to alleviate tripping hazard and a new white board will be installed in Room Three.

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We recently received our **Registered Training Organisation Performance (RTO) Indicator Report** from the Victorian Government. A copy is on our website [HERE](#).

A sample of some results are below -

	Our Centre	All Other RTOs
<i>Proportion of students reporting a positive perception of teaching</i>	93.8%	72.4%
<i>Proportion of students who are satisfied with training provided</i>	100%	75%
<i>Proportion of students satisfied with generic skills and learning experiences</i>	81.3%	51.3%
<i>Proportion of students going onto further study at a higher level than their completed training</i>	21.4%	19.5%
<i>Proportion of students who achieved their main reason for training</i>	80%	67.2%
<i>Proportion of students who recommend the RTO</i>	100%	65.2%

Staff, and especially our talented and dedicated teachers need to be congratulated on these results. A testament to their skills and ability, especially when considering that many of our students are disadvantaged.

We presented a session and had a static display at **the Neighbourhood House Victoria Conference** in May.



The presentation and display was in relation to the *Research Report* Helen Rodd, Centre managers of Hobsons Bay, and our Centre recently released.

There was significant interest at the Conference on what we achieved in this Research. The Report is [HERE](#).



Lara did a presentation with Claire's English Language class recently on our **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)**.

The group found it both informative and well worthwhile.

If any other groups want a quick rundown on how the AED works, please ask Lara.



We were successful in an Application to the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board that administers the Capacity and Innovation Fund.



The **'North West Melbourne Learn Local Education Coordinators Community of Practice'** (CoP) Project will focus on supporting the Education Coordinators of nine Learn Locals in Melbourne's North West, and the role they play in developing Pre-accredited training programs.

The CoP will include Wyndham Community and Education Centre, Yarraville Community Centre, Community Plus, Duke St Community House, Angliss Neighbourhood House, Farnham St Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Laverton Community Intergrated Services, Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services and ourselves.

It will aim to maximise learner participation, equity and access to high quality programs. The project will encourage coordinators to meet regularly; plan delivery across the region; support teachers and develop teaching materials; and coordinate pathway planning.

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The **Neighbourhood Houses Survey 2016** produced by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria was recently published and is available [HERE](#).

The Survey is of 382 Houses across Victoria. Key highlights include record numbers of people visiting community centres; significant support to community groups; for every \$1.00 funded by Government, houses provide \$5.47 worth of services to the community; and 5,200 staff are employed in the sector.

Of concern is the reduction in some services from 2012 to 2016. 3% less Learn Locals, 8% less are Licensed Childcare providers and 23% less are RTOs. These are all areas of high compliance, thin surplus margins and require exacting oversight.

It is a reminder to our Centre that to maintain our status, and therefore services, we need to be diligent in all areas, all the time.

In regard to our Centre in comparison to State-wide data, we are financially robust with a higher than average turnover, we have committee numbers that are average in comparison to the State and we sit in the 86% of Neighbourhood Houses that are Incorporated Associations

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Joan Kirner House has been selected as the Baton Bearer Collection Point and Crew Rest Stop for the **2018 Commonwealth Games** on Saturday February 10 in 2018.

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The recent removal of a large tree at Spotswood Community House has created a problem, with until now, unknown resident **possums** moving under the eaves of the house and creating a 'mess'.



We have installed a couple of possum boxes in the yard, including nice warm bedding materials and fruit to entice them into their new homes!

Fingers crossed, and thanks Jon for the install.



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**Reminder** that any teachers, Centre users, program coordinators, sponsors, etc who wish to let others know about your service or program at our Centre, please contact me if you want to put a story in this Newsletter.

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June 1 marked the **two year anniversary of Joan Kirner's passing and one year anniversary of the opening of Joan's Garden.**

An apt time to remember that Joan's efforts in securing Joan Kirner House as a community asset has directly affected the many thousands of people who have passed through the doors of our Centre.

To further recognise Joan's legacy, Joan's Garden will be featured in Councils **Art in Public Places** later this year in September.



Thanks,

Mark

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