



Williamstown  
Community  
and Education  
Centre Inc

# Newsletter November 2017

**Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community House**

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

Find us on 



*Children's Week 2017.*



*Great display set up by  
Cathy.*

*BBQ and fruit kebabs a  
huge success.*

*Staff, volunteers,  
students children and  
parents all attended.*

## Upcoming Birthdays

Lynne, Education Coordinator on 9 November / Heather, Childcare Group Leader on 12 November / Toni, Volunteer on 13 December

## Coming Up

- **Melbourne Cup Day** public holiday. Centre will be closed on 6 and 7 November
- **Free Healthy Lunch** during Nutrition Week on 13 November 12.00. All invited!
- **Clothes Swap** during National Recycling Week 13 to 17 November. See below
- **Centre End of Year Break up Celebration** Friday 15 December 12.00 at Joan Kirner House. Bring a plate. All Welcome!



## FREE Computer and English Language Classes

We are currently offering **FREE** places at the moment, until the end of the year, for anyone wanting to join -

- Computer classes for beginners and / or
  - English Language classes - all levels
- At
- Joan Kirner House Williamstown
  - Spotswood Community Centre
  - Dulcie Shaw House Altona North
  - Altona North Library



Classes run Monday to Friday.

If interested call Lynne on 9397 6168.

## Childcare



Cathy our Childcare Coordinator with Lara and Andrea ran an Induction Session on Tuesday 25 October for the new parents of the 2018 Three Year Old Pelicans Program.

We still have some places available for both groups.

Call 9397 6168 for details.



**Advocates for the Environment - Clothes Swap**



National Recycle Week runs from Monday 13 November to Friday 17 November.

Like last year, we will do another Clothes Swap Week.

Bring in pre loved, good quality, clean clothes to swap.

Clothes can be left with Penny at Joan Kirner House Reception.

Whatever is not swapped and left over after the week will be donated to the St Andrews Williamstown Opportunity Shop.



**Willy Walking Group**

*The Wednesday Walking Group's promenading took us to Williamstown Botanical Gardens. It was hosting a nature display, and storytelling for Children's Week.*

*Curator Shelly Wood snapped us ... must've looked young at heart.*

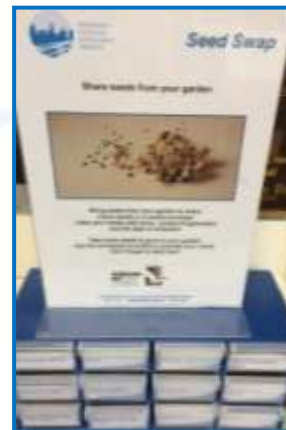


Peter Dewar  
Project Officer

## Reminder

We provide many free services to our community ...

- FREE Willy Walking Group. Every Wednesday. Meet at Joan Kirner House at 10.15am for 45 minute walk (During term dates)
- FREE Morning Tea every Wednesday at 11.00am (During term dates)
- FREE monthly Community BBQ / lunch - watch this Newsletter for dates
- Recharge Point
- Recharge Bar for mobile devices
- Produce Swap
- Seed Swap
- DVD / CD / Games Swap
- Book Exchange
- Printer Cartridge Recycling
- Mobile Phone Recycling
- TerraCycle Oral Care Recycling
- Free coffee and tea anytime
- Copies of Herald Sun, Star Weekly, Williamstown Advertiser, Westsider, Hobsons Bay News, Melbourne's Child Magazine and Mama Mag
- FREE Computer use to access the internet or your email
- FREE WiFi
- Fliers, brochures and information on Council initiatives, local services, programs, courses, training and upcoming events
- On site Automated External Defibrillator



## Welcome to Australia Program

This Slater and Gordon sponsored Program aims to provide English language education to asylum seekers, refugees and others ineligible for Government subsidised training.



Currently we have eight participants at Joan Kirner House and four at Spotswood Community House. If you have any referrals for this Program please contact Lynne our Education Coordinator on 9397 6168.

## Reaching Across the Ages

This Hobsons Bay Community Fund (HBCF) sponsored initiative is a program where mature aged volunteers, including students, will meet and read stories with children in our Child Care.



**Hobsons Bay Community Fund**  
A Sub-Fund of the Australian Communities Foundation

Sort of good / bad news, one of our new 'Readers' Joy, who was in an English language class for unemployed, but got a job and has left us!

But we still we have others in the pipeline including Shukran who started with the Yellow Pelicans.

The children were very impressed that Shukran knows more than one language!

Cathy and Lynne also attended the HBCF *Community Grant Recipient Showcase* on Wednesday 25 October.

A great picture of them at the event can be found [HERE](#).



## Community of Practice



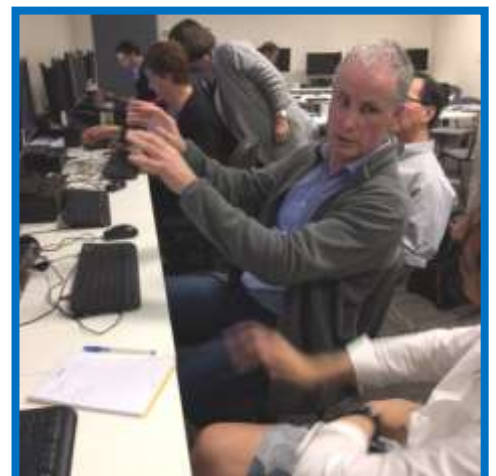
**Adult, Community and  
Further Education**

This Adult Community and Further Education Board sponsored program is already delivering.

The Community of Practice (CoP) of nine Learn Local RTOs have met and worked together several times already.

They had a joint professional development day on 27 October with 12 staff across most centres. Calling it 'Digital Literacy Day' the CoP developed several teaching resources around the themes of Settlement, Community and Health.

To learn more about this initiative contact Lynne on 9397 6168.



## **Grow, Cook, Create and Tell Project**



Anne Douglas our Project Officer for this initiative has had a busy month designing and delivering sessions to our English Language students.

She has run interactive sessions in crafts such as beading, fabric folding, working with cardboard and decorating, in IT with how to set up and use Powerpoint as well as growing seedlings and even cooking brownies.



## **Don't Panic – Relax!**

*A FREE supportive and educational group with innovative ideas to manage stress, anxiety and depression.*

- 6 Weeks
- Venue: IPC Health 330 Queen St, Altona Meadows
- Dates: Starts Friday 10 November 2017. Ends Friday 15 December 2017
- Time: 11.00a.m to 12.30 p.m
- To register attendance and find out more about the group contact Helen (Psychologist) on 8368 3000



## **Local Leadership Program**

*Develop, grow, inspire and connect.*

*Make a positive difference locally, with the tools to succeed together.*

- FREE 12 week course
- Walker Close Community Centre from 12 February 2018 to 28 May 2018
- Accreditation – part completion of Cert III Community Services (Victoria University Polytechnic)
- For women, aged 15 and above connected, in any way, to Altona North and Brooklyn, inclusive of trans and gender diverse women.
- Places strictly limited



- Contact Amber Cassidy, Community Development Officer on 9932 1000 or email [commdev@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au](mailto:commdev@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au)
- Application forms are also at Walker Close Community Centre and Altona North Community Library
- Applications close soon

More details [HERE](#)

### **Hobsons Bay Refugee Network Fundraiser**

*'Murder on the Orient Express'.*

*A new adaptation to be released on 10 November.*

*Hobsons Bay Refugee Network (HBRN) invites our friends and supporters to join us on a luxurious journey aboard the Orient Express, the legendary passenger train that ran between Istanbul and Paris.*



*Set in the 1930s, this new version of the classic Agatha Christie murder mystery has a stellar cast including Kenneth Branagh as Poirot with Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi, Michelle Pfeiffer, Willem Dafoe and Penelope Cruz as some of the 14 passengers.*

*When the train is stranded after an avalanche and a passenger is murdered everyone becomes a suspect.*

*This will be another fun evening at the beautiful Sun Theatre in Yarraville and HBRN's last film fundraiser for the year.*

*Feel free to dress in period costume to enhance the mood of the evening.*

*2017 has been a difficult year for asylum seekers in Australia and those detained offshore in Manus and Nauru.*

*All profits from the evening will go towards supporting them and half of all proceeds will be donated to West Welcome Wagon to help continue their community work.*

*Details:*

- The Sun Theatre, Ballarat Street, Yarraville
- Friday 10 November
- 6.15pm arrival for 6.45pm screening
- Tickets are \$25 via [www.trybooking.com/323738](http://www.trybooking.com/323738)

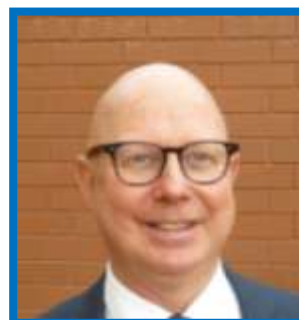
*Drinks at bar prices and great raffle prizes to be won.*

## This Month's Profiled People

**Peter Dewar** has been with our Centre since 2015. For a time Peter was a Committee Member, then became a Project Officer for a Financial Literacy Project and now leads our regular Wednesday Walking Group.

Peter has a management background and is now semi retired. He studied Professional Writing at Victoria University 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. He is also registered Certified Practising Accountant.



**Heather Crossley** has worked in Childcare at our Centre for 14 years. She is a popular Leader of Occasional Care at Joan Kirner House.

Heather enjoys working with children of all ages. She is very professional, is exacting in her administration and always has a wonderful smile to share with others.

Heather holds a Diploma of Community Services, Childcare Services.



**Sonja Ilievska** is our Vice President on our Committee of Management.

Her particular expertise is in risk management consulting and auditing. She holds qualifications in Economics, Internal Quality Auditing, and is a Department of Health accredited Cooling Tower auditor.

Sonja is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Associate Member of the Institute of Community Directors Australia.

Sonja has lived in Williamstown for the past 13 years and has two children.



## FAQs

We get a lot of questions about our Centre so I thought I'd try this new section in our Newsletter, let's see how we go.

*What are your links to Council? Are you Council run?*

The simple answer to this is 'No'. We are an independent Incorporated Association with a Committee of Management.

However we are closely connected and work with Council, for example Hobsons Bay City Council owns Joan Kirner House and we are the tenants on a Lease. The rent is negligible. This is a great situation for us as repairs and maintenance is carried out by Council or their contractors such as UMS (You've probably seen their vans about). This means we can use resources on programs and services, not repairs.





We also have a Service Agreement with Council and we receive funds in exchange for regular reporting (Policies, Business Plan, Audited Financial Statement, Budget, Annual Report, etc) and delivering on many annual Objectives, Key Performance Indicators and Measures.



These Objectives are based around four key areas of Council priorities -

**1. Community Wellbeing**

**Objective** – *To facilitate programs and activities that engage with local communities and stakeholders to plan for, and provide access to services, cultural and recreational experiences, and economic opportunities that enhance health and wellbeing.*

**2. Economic Sustainability**

**Objective** – *To strengthen leadership and good governance to ensure that the organisation is an effective, financially strong and capable organisation best positioned to promote the wellbeing of people who live, work in and visit Hobsons Bay.*

**3. Environmental Sustainability**

**Objective** - *To foster safe, attractive and connected neighbourhoods that provide social and economic opportunities for all and are resilient to climate change; while caring for our precious heritage, coast and natural resources for future generations.*

**4. A Livable City - Supporting Local Priorities**

**Objective** - *To promote a range of accessible, high quality services and social supports that foster inclusive, resilient and healthy communities.*

We also work with Council on their key annual events such as Cultural Diversity Week and the Spring into Life campaign.

The above KPIs demonstrate and help explain why we do the things we do, like the programs, services, initiatives, events and projects, etc.

**Managers Musings**

Several staff and Committee members attended the Gala Dinner at Williamstown Town Hall for the **Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards** on Friday 20 October.

Although we were Finalists with four others in the category of 'Not-for-Profits', once again as in 2015, we missed out on winning.

Congratulations to the winner, the Altona Traders Association. Well done.

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We picked up a bit of local history recently when the **Williamstown RSL** donated their lectern to us.

Thanks Geoff Hughes!

It now lives in Room One at Joan Kirner House.



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We have installed a **new audio / visual** set up in Room Three and Four at Joan Kirner House.

TV connected to Laptop. Laptop connected to WiFi.

So teachers can use DVD, USB, WiFi, access internet, play movies etc without having to use portable Digital Projector / Laptop set up.

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**Reminder to teachers.** Your Trainer / Assessor Profile needs to be updated for 2018.

Remember to add all the professional development you've done over the year. This includes anything done at our Centre or at other work places.

PD also includes anything you've followed up online and if you've looked at any of our subscription publication in the Staff Room or in our Catalogue, i.e. Australian Journal of Adult Learning, Fine Print, Numeracy in Focus, etc.

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Some of you may have noticed that we are in the process of **cleaning up and re organising** storage around both venues. We have replaced old cutlery, glasses, crockery, cooking utensils, etc and re organised the kitchen at Joan Kirner House.

We have also reorganised the credenzas at Joan Kirner House and cupboards in Room Three are being cleaned out. Room One storage will also be sorted. Thanks Penny!

At **Spotswood**, after the new paint job and new veranda (Thanks Joncol Building!) we have given the kitchen a good clean out as well.

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Our **garden beds at Joan Kirner House** have come a long way since March 2016.



Thanks to the hard work of our Project Officer Anne Douglas, and all of our students who have contributed, we now have a constant supply of food and a great recycling system for food scraps.



Also thanks to those organisations who have sponsored both the construction, ongoing maintenance, improvements and associated projects with our garden -

- Petstra Gardens
- The R E Ross Trust
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Office of Multicultural Affairs

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In the week commencing Monday 23 October we undertook the **Neighbourhood House Participant Survey**. All participants who used the Centre in this week were included. Data from this survey will be available later this year.

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On Tuesday 24 October I presented to the Hobsons Bay City Council Interagency Meeting on our joint **Community Centre Research Project Report**.



Other Centre Managers were there to support.

Sandra Wilkinson from South Kingsville Community Centre, Marg Claringbold from Seabrook Community Centre, Kim Reilly from Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre and Michael Pernar from Laverton Community Integrated Services. Thanks!

The Report is available on our website [HERE](#).

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We have a **new sign at Spotswood Community House** as the old one was badly damaged through graffiti vandals.



A big thanks to Signway Australia Pty Ltd who sponsored the design, fabrication and installation.

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Looking back on **the history of this monthly Newsletter**, which started four and a half years ago, initially just to staff, it has now grown to a circulation base of over 1,100 people.

Readers now also include current and ex members, parents, staff, students, volunteers, Committee members and centre users; Commonwealth, Victorian and local government departmental personnel; funding bodies; other community centres; industry and business contacts; philanthropic supporters; peak bodies and other service providers; churches and schools; politicians and councillors; and a wide range of other key stakeholders.



I thank those who provide feedback (both positive and negative!) and suggestions. Their input has helped develop the content over time. Keep them coming!

Some feedback this year so far includes -

➤ *Hello Mark,*

*Thank you for forwarding the message and link to your newsletter.*

*We are always interested in what neighbourhood / community houses are doing as they provide a vital stepping stone into work and further study for many people in the community.*

*We like building bridges. Please do keep the information flowing.*

Regards  
Philip Adams  
Manager Industry and Community Partnerships  
Industry and Government Partnerships  
Melbourne Polytechnic (July 2017)

- Thanks Mark – great stuff happening, especially excited about the ‘Welcome to Australia Program’ you guys are running – great stuff!

Amber Cassidy  
Acting Multicultural Officer  
Learning Communities  
Hobsons Bay City Council (June 2017)

- Hi Mark,

I'm enjoying reading about the progress of the Financial Literacy for Positive Living program in your newsletters...

Cheers  
David Mattner  
Hobsons Bay Community Fund (March 2017)

- Great- thanks Mark,

Love the idea of the DVD - give / take stand in the foyer – great idea!  
Also love the Recipe Book.

Congrats,  
Marg Claringbold  
Co-ordinator Seabrook Community Centre  
Learning Communities (February 2017)

( PS - The Cookbook is [HERE](#) )

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For those who are running programs, courses or services in our Centre we welcome your stories in this Newsletter.

This helps provide everyone with a useful overall picture of what we offer to our community.

Please contact me if you are interested in having your story in this Newsletter.

Also, if you wish to subscribe to this Newsletter electronically please email me at 'manager@wcec.com.au'.

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