



Williamstown
Community
and Education
Centre Inc

Newsletter December 2022

Joan Kirner House Williamstown, Spotswood Community House, and Altona North Community House. With programs running at Altona Library, and Altona North Library.

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

Coming Up...

- Wednesday December 7 and 14. **FREE Willy Walking Group.** From 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House. Thanks to Hobsons Bay Community Fund for sponsorship.
- Wednesday December 7 and 14. **FREE Community Morning Tea** at Joan Kirner House at 11.00 am. Sponsored by West Gate Neighbourhood Fund. All welcome.
- Wednesday December 14. **Christmas Centre Lunch.** Midday at Joan Kirner House. All welcome! See details below.
- Friday December 16. **Last day of term four.**
- December 19, 2022, to January 29, 2023. **Term break.** Venues will be closed over the break, with skeleton staff for emergencies only.
- Monday January 30. Centre re opens for **start of Term One.**
- In the media. '**Lessons in supporting non-profit organisations in need**', in the Star Weekly. [HERE](#).





Williamstown
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Christmas Function



JOIN US

In celebrating another wonderful year over a Christmas lunch!

**Wednesday 14th December
Joan Kirner House
14 Thompson Street, Williamstown
12.00pm**

ALL WELCOME



- ❁ **Bring a small plate to share**
- ❁ **Refreshments**
- ❁ **Prizes and Giveaways**
- ❁ **Plus a visit from Santa!**

Joan Kirner House, Spotswood Community House, and Altona North Community House
9397 6168 admin@wcec.com.au ABN: 67 864 341 860 Inc. Ass. Reg. No: A0014000T TOID: 40

What's been happening?

Winning Services have teamed up with Williamstown Community and Education Centre to deliver 'in house' *Communications Support Classes*.



Watch the brief promo of this initiative [HERE](#)

Our Tahlia Kotiau Reception Administration Officer, and student Gosia Blaszczyk have both received a **Melbourne Eastern Group Training (MEGT) Foundation Scholarship** for further education and studies.

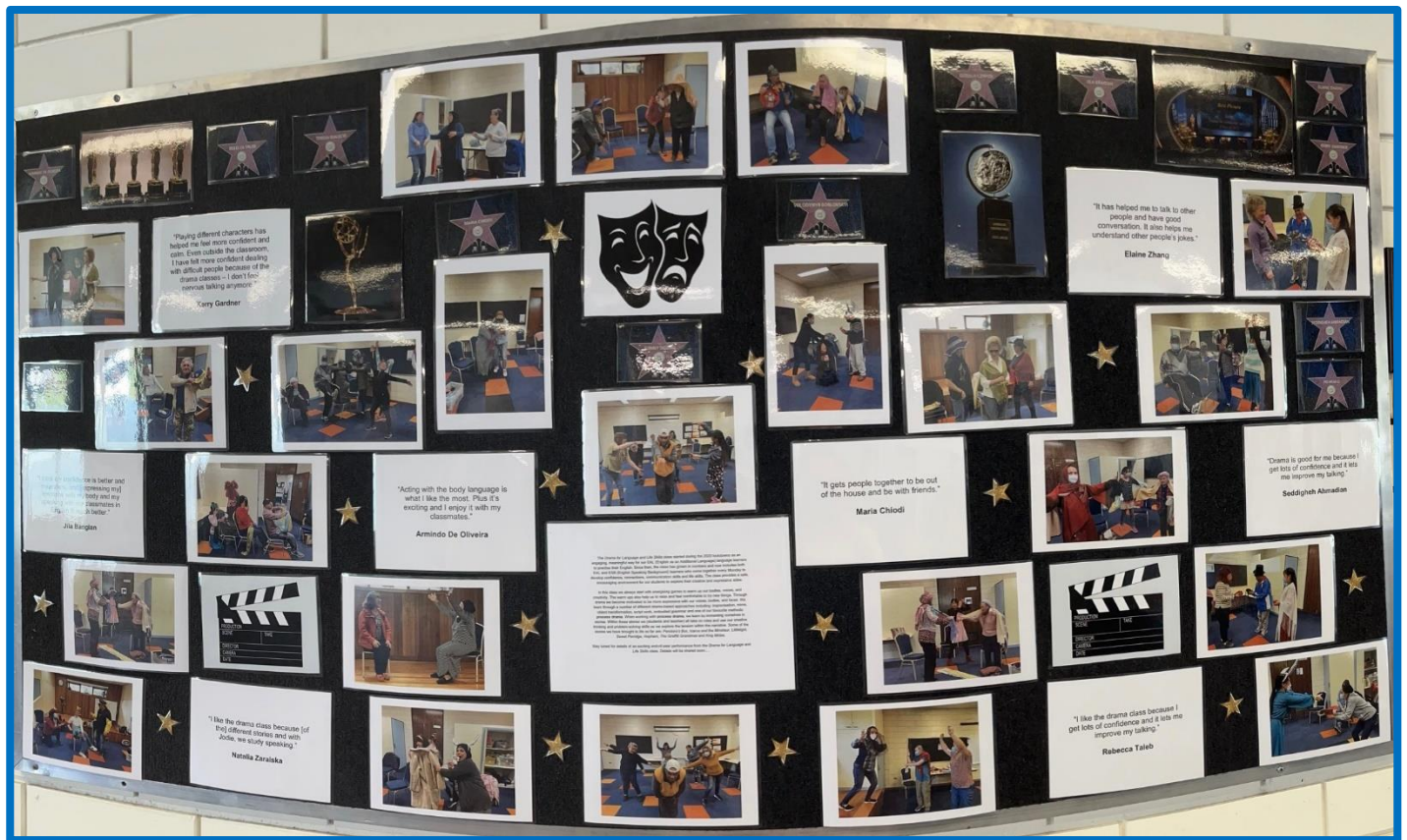


The establishment of the Scholarship is to realise the MEGT vision to create opportunities for women to fulfill their career aspirations through further studies

Tahlia will be undertaking a Diploma of Community Services at Victoria University, and Gosia is undertaking a Diploma of Art Therapy at Ikon Institute.



'Drama for Language and Life' Photo Exhibition in Joan Kirner House foyer. By Jodie's Monday afternoon Drama Class



The *Drama for Language and Life Skills* class started during the 2020 lockdowns as an engaging, meaningful way for our EAL (English as an Additional Language) language learners to practise their English. Since then, the class has grown in numbers and now includes both EAL and ESB (English Speaking Background) learners who come together every Monday to develop confidence, connections, communication skills and life skills. The class provides a safe, encouraging environment for our students to explore their creative and expressive sides.

In this class we always start with energising games to warm up our bodies, voices, and creativity. The warm ups also help us to relax and feel comfortable to try new things. Through drama we become motivated to be more expressive with our voices, bodies, and faces. We learn through a number of different drama-based approaches including: improvisation, mime, object transformation, script work, embodied grammar and one of our favourite methods: **process drama**. When working with **process drama**, we learn by immersing ourselves in stories. Within these stories we (students and teacher) all take on roles and use our creative thinking and problem-solving skills as we explore the tension within the narrative. Some of the stories we have brought to life so far are: *Pandora's Box*, *Icarus and the Minotaur*, *Littlelight*, *Sweet Porridge*, *Hopham*, *The Graffiti Grandmas* and *King Midas*.

Stay tuned for details of an exciting end-of-year performance from the *Drama for Language and Life Skills* class. Details will be shared soon....

November 7 to 18. Our National Recycling Week **Clothes Swap**.

Thanks to all those who donated.



Lynne and Tahlia outreach visit to the residents of the **Nelson Heights public housing estate**, telling them of the courses, programs, projects, and initiatives that we provide.



On Monday November 14 **Bayside College**, year nine students came for a visit and donated a much-needed stock of goods for our Pantry Swap.



On behalf of our community a big 'Thank You!'.



Our Vice President and Treasurer Lucienne Galea attended the **Hobsons Bay Mayoral Election** on Friday November 11.

"It was packed!" said Lucienne. Congratulations to new Mayor Councillor Antoinette (Tony) Briffa, and Deputy Mayor Councillor Diana Grima.



On Wednesday November 30 Vice President Lucienne Galea, and Committee Member Linelle Gibson attended the **WCIG Board Achievement Awards** at the Royal Victorian Yacht Club in Williamstown.

As Linelle stated: *'It was a great celebration of student achievements with a number of them receiving scholarships to continue their study pathways.'*

A large number of staff members were acknowledged for three, five, ten and fifteen years of service to WCIG. All in all, a terrific way to end the year'.

And Lucienne: *'The event was an inspiring insight into the work of WCIG.'*

It was an event to not only celebrate the achievements of their students and longevity of their staff but highlighted a great organisation with a great culture making a real difference in people's working lives'.



On Tuesday November 29 Tahlia and I attended the **Hobsons Bay Inter-Agency End of Year Celebration Event**.

Pictured here with Janet Dawes, Manager Arts, Culture and Community, Hobsons Bay Council, and Faye Juetz from the Zonta Club of Melbourne's West.



On Wednesday November 23 our Vice President Lucienne Galea attended the **Hobsons Bay Community Fund Thank You Event** at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre.



Our Lynne Hewet, Education Coordinator was the guest speaker at the event.

To quote Lucienne: *“Lynne’s speech was great, very natural and she gave a nice summary of the Centre, the areas that we service and the programs we offer. She gave some good anecdotes of the types of students that come through the centre and how the funds received will be utilised.”*

Lynne giving her presentation below, and a picture of her with Goya Dmytryshchak, Committee Member of Hobsons Bay Community Fund.



On Tuesday 22 November I was invited to **Bayside College** in Williamstown for a special announcement by the Year nine students who took part in the **Schools in Philanthropy Program**.

In this initiative students researched, compared, and debated the community development merits of **five** different local not-for-profit organisations and their programs.

At the Announcement, they ran through the detailed process they used, and announced us, Williamstown Community and Education Centre, as the **winner!**



Grant Applications:

The winner!

The Williamstown Community and Education Centre for aiding in immigrants and asylum seekers who cannot afford/have no access to a government funded english language education.

Brainworks

Williamstown & Altona North Tutoring

that develops your child's skills and confidence



Maths and English Tutoring for Year 1- 10

The curriculum is individual for each student and includes number skills, maths concepts, essay writing and development, reading comprehension and language skills.

Selective Entry & Scholarship Exam Program

Selective school entry & scholarship exam preparation will help your child develop exam confidence and exam question familiarity.



**Term 1 Tutoring Special!
Book in and your child
will receive a FREE
assessment and report in
their first session
followed by a FREE
second session of
tutoring.**

Tutoring Sessions

Williamstown - Monday & Thursday 4.30 PM to 6.30 PM
Saturday 9 AM to 12 PM

Joan Kirner House

14 Thompson Street, Williamstown

Altona North - Monday & Thursday 4.30 PM to 6.30 PM
Saturday and Sunday 9 AM to 12 PM

Altona North Community House

7 Plover Street, Altona North



Williamstown
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For more information and bookings call Kumar or Ashok

0434 518 247

footscray@brainworks.com.au

www.brainworks.com.au



Williamstown
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Centre Inc

WESTSIDE ARTS STUDIO

SCHOOL HOLIDAY- ART WORKSHOPS



JAN 17-20TH.
10:00-NOON.

Ages 5-12.



Joan Kirner House
14 Thompson
Street,
Williamstown.

Tues., Jan 17th: Drawing Dinosaurs

Wed., Jan. 18th: Craft a Picture Book

Thurs., Jan. 19th: Jungle Animals Paint



Register:
www.trybooking.com/BXLRZ

[facebook.com/
WestsideArtsStudio](https://facebook.com/WestsideArtsStudio)



Williamstown
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facebook.com/
WestsideArtsStudio

Storytime Art

Fridays, 10:00–11:00am
Stories & Art for Kinder Age:
3–5yo with a caregiver.

Register:



www.trybooking.com/BXLRZ



Asthma and breathing difficulties in children



Survey and workshop invitation

We are talking to parents and carers of children with asthma in **Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay** about asthma care.

This will help us design new and improved asthma care.

Workshop

Have your say to design asthma support. Workshops will be held in early December. Participants will receive a **\$40 voucher**.

Register your interest with:
Clara.Adams@cohealth.org.au

Survey

Scan the QR code or use [this link](#).

You can go in the draw to receive 1 of 5 \$100 vouchers.



Free interpreter service available or call 131 450

cohealth.org.au

cohealth
care for all



Walker Close
Community Centre



Granny Square Christmas Tree Launch

Your are invited to come to the launch of the big Granny Square Christmas Tree

The launch will be followed by a Vintage Morning Tea

All welcome !

A pop up wool shop will delight all crafty people. Great specials.

Venue: 193 Nelson Place, Williamstown
(The la Porchetta building)

Date: Saturday, 10th December 2022

Time: 10:am

RSVP: 22nd November 2022

**We would like to thank the following for
supporting this Project**

- Melissa Horne MLA
- Walker Close CC
- HBCC Smarty Grants
- Pick up stiches
- Men's Shed Altona
- Medway Engineering

Thanks to all craft groups, community organisations and individuals in Hobsons Bay who have worked so hard on the Granny Square Project.



**HOBSONS BAY
MEN'S SHED**
NETWORK INCORPORATED
P.O. NO 40525390. ABN 49 347 052 360

Lety's Mexican Gift Shop and Cooking classes by Jodie Whitehurst (EAL Teacher).

'Former WCEC student, Leticia (Lety) Palmero arrived in Australia from Mexico at the beginning of the pandemic, so her early days in Melbourne were unfortunately spent in lockdown.

Once things started to open up, Lety joined our English classes at Joan Kirner House and Spotswood to build up her English-speaking confidence.

During lockdowns, she also attended online classes and was always a friendly and collaborative class member.

At the end of 2021, once her English confidence had increased, Lety opened her own Mexican gift shop, Magenta Market, in Williamstown, selling an array of colourful homewares, clothing, jewellery and other gifts.

With a background in finance, team building and health coaching, Lety had a wealth of skills and knowledge to bring to her shop.

However, her passion was gastronomy and a desire to share her knowledge of authentic Mexican food.

As a result, Lety has now launched Mexican cooking classes, which are run in a kitchen at the back of her shop.

I recently had the pleasure of attending one of these classes and highly recommend them:

Lety creates a fun-filled, friendly environment in which to learn about authentic Mexican cuisine.

She's a fabulous teacher!

Everyone was so friendly, and the food was superb.

If you are looking for great Christmas ideas, consider supporting a local business and our former student Lety and check out the gifts and cooking classes at Magenta Market at Shop 4 Unit 15 / 11-19 Ferguson St, Williamstown.

Jodie.'



Reception Perception by Tahlia Kotiau

Thank you everyone for another sensational month!

This month, I was very grateful to have had my desk adorned with the most alluring and enchanting flower arrangements.

Although it is not expected, I am very grateful to Thondgy, Wei, Anna, Shau-Juan, and a special thanks to Zora Trajkovska for filling my heart with your kind gestures and authentic essence of community.

Citizen of the Year Awards

Before the year is over, I want to extend my gratitude for the opportunities that have opened for me after winning the Hobsons Bay 'Young Citizen of the Year' award in January.



This year, I was invited to deliver speeches at the International Women's Day events for both Hobsons Bay City Council and Mount Saint Joseph Girls College and speaking recently to the next generation of leaders at the Youth Change Makers Challenge Forum at the Civic Centre.

Having zero athletic ability, I was delightfully surprised but grateful to have thrown the First Pitch at the Newport Rams Heritage Day Celebration alongside Tim Watts, Federal Minister for Gellibrand.

Many impactful and memorable moments this year, including media appearances and receiving a major academic scholarship, would not have been possible without the recognition and platform provided to me after receiving this Award.

A big thank you to Hobsons Bay City Council for believing in me and thank you to Dr Mark Brophy, Lynne Hewet, Lara Janka, and my wonderful colleagues, for your impact and guidance.

If you know someone who has gone above and beyond in the community, I encourage you to nominate them for the 2023 Citizens of the year awards. Applications close 11 December, and you can nominate an incredible person at the link [HERE](#).

Thank you to all our staff, students and Centre users for the riveting and amazing year, and here's wishing you a safe and enjoyable holiday season ahead.

Tahlia

Key dates for 2023



Williamstown
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2023 WCEC Term Dates and Public Holidays

Term Dates

Term 1:	Monday 30 January to	Thursday 6 April	(10 Weeks)
Term 2:	Monday 24 April to	Friday 23 June	(9 Weeks)
Term 3:	Monday 10 July to	Friday 15 September	(10 Weeks)
Term 4:	Monday 2 October to	Friday 15 December	(11 Weeks)

Public Holidays and School Term Breaks

Break	New Year's Day	Sunday 1 January
	New Year's Day (in lieu)	Monday 2 January
	Australia Day	Thursday 26 January
Term 1	Labour Day	Monday 13 March
Term 1 Break	Term 1 School Holidays	Monday 10 April to Friday 21 April
	Good Friday	Friday 7 April
	Sat before Easter Sun	Saturday 8 April
	Easter Sunday	Sunday 9 April
	Easter Monday	Monday 10 April
Term 2	ANZAC Day	Tuesday 25 April
	King's Birthday	Monday 12 June
Term 2 Break	Term 2 School Holidays	Mon 26 June to Fri 7 July
Term 3 Break	Term 3 School Holidays	Mon 18 September to Fri 29 September
	AFL Grand Final Holiday	Friday 29 September
Term 4	Melbourne Cup	Tuesday 7 November
Term 4 Break	Term 4 School Holidays	Mon 18 December to Fri 26 January
	Christmas Day	Monday 25 December
	Boxing Day	Tuesday 26 December
	Christmas Day (in lieu)	Tuesday 27 December

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Manager's Musings

It's been yet another busy month for us.

As well as all the activities mentioned above, we have signed a ten-year lease for Spotswood Community House, met our *Be Connected* contract aims, achieved our ACFE training delivery targets, and are well ahead with planning for next year.

Big congratulations to Tahlia and Gosia for their successful scholarship, and those staff who helped them in the process.

This is an amazing achievement, and it will be wonderful to witness their progress next year.

The Altona North Community Centre computer classroom is coming together as well.

Sponsored by the *West Gate Neighbourhood Fund*, the tables and chairs have arrived, and the PC fit out is also booked for early December.

We have a Computer Class ready to go in 2023.

Looking back on the year so far, I am so proud of our Centre, Committee, staff, volunteers, and all others on our achievements coming out of the pandemic and lockdowns.

I feel morale is the highest it's ever been.

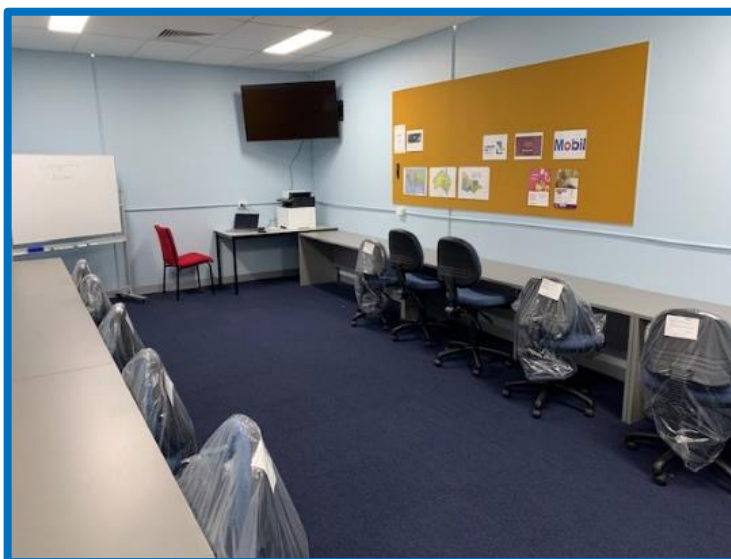
On a side note (and researching my responsibilities as new Network West Committee Member!), I was recently looking through the Victorian Neighbourhood House Community Development Model -

"The Neighbourhood House Community Development model involves a style of practice that is facilitative, developmental and relies on strong and inclusive relationships within the house and with the wider community.

It involves local people, community organisations, government, business, and philanthropic organisations working together to achieve agreed social, economic and environmental objectives.

As a result of this practice, the activities associated with neighbourhood houses are very dynamic, leading to a diverse and evolving range of community-strengthening outcomes."

(Source - Neighbourhood Houses Victoria. Community Development Practice. Link - <https://www.nhvic.org.au/community-development-practice>)



Upon reflection, it's a credit, to everyone, that we adhere so faithfully to this Community Development Model.

For example, our relationships and involvement with the wider community over the past year has been diverse.

Mobil, Bendigo Bank, Altona Lions Club, Victoria Police, Member of Hobsons Bay Community Fund Philanthropic Club, Member of Network West Committee, engaged with local primary and secondary schools, delivering 'on site' communications classes to the private sector.



Member of Interagency Network, engaging with residents of public housing, working in close partnerships with other neighbourhood houses, Good Things Foundation, Australia Post, Western Health, Fire Services, SES, Speakers Bank, Loom Room; relationships with Hobsons Bay, Victorian, and Federal governments, and the list goes on.

We are also very dynamic, constantly evolving to meet community needs.

For example, this year has seen the significant growth in our emergency relief efforts, our recycling initiatives, outreach, links with local industry, and supporting English conversation classes at Altona Library.

This effort does not go unrecognised, evidenced from the many Centre awards we have received over the past few years, to the myriad of individual staff and student awards, recognitions, achievements, and scholarships.

Well done team!

Wishing everyone a safe, enjoyable, and well deserved festive season break.

Best regards,

Mark.

Dr Mark Brophy PhD
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