



Newsletter

December 2025

Joan Kirner House, Williamstown
Spotswood Community House
Altona North Community House

What's Coming Up?

- **\$100 Power Saving Bonus** for concession card holders. Details below.
- Wednesday December 3 and 10. **FREE! Willy Walking Group.** Sponsored by the Hobsons Bay Community Fund. From 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House.
- Wednesday December 3. **FREE! Community Morning Tea.** Joan Kirner House at 11.00 am. All welcome!
- Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. **Kids and Teens Art Classes.** Joan Kirner House. Westside Art Studio. Details below.
- Saturday December 6. **Paint and Sip Holiday Cards.** Joan Kirner House. Westside Art Studio. Details below.
- Wednesday December 10. **FREE End of Year Lunch Celebration.** 12.00 noon. Foyer of Joan Kirner House. Fully catered for. All welcome! Details below.
- Friday December 12. **Last day of term, semester, year.**
- Saturday 13 December to Monday 26 January 2026. **All venues closed** to public.
- Tuesday January 27, 2026. **Term One 2026 starts.**



Xmas 2024 📅





Please join us for our annual

CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY
10
DECEMBER, 2025

Let's come together to celebrate another great year with a shared lunch, door prizes, and a visit from **Santa!**

Starting at 12.00pm

**Joan Kirner House
14 Thompson Street
Williamstown**

No RSVP Required

ATA

ACTING STUDIO

Acting Classes & Private Tuition for Teens & Adults

Scene Study
Acting Technique
Creating a Character
Audition Preparation

Acting for Stage & Screen
Improvisation Intensive
Screen Workshops
Confidence Building



Locations Include:

Ballarat
Buninyong
Lucas
Melbourne
Williamstown

Classes place emphasis on
self-development whilst
building professional skills

For bookings & enquiries
0419 593 257
www.ataactingstudio.com



FREE TRIAL CLASS

Thursday nights at **Joan Kirner House.**



Running throughout December at **Joan Kirner House.**



Williamstown
Community
and Education
Centre Inc.

Kids-Teens' Studio Art Classes



Studio Art: 5-10yo
High-Focus Art: 10-13yo
Teen Art: 13-15yo

Wed & Th: 3:45pm - Studio Art
Wed: 5:15pm - High Focus Art
Th: 5:15pm - Teen Art

Register:

www.westsidearts.com.au
facebook.com/WestsideArtsStudio

**Venue: Joan Kirner House-
14 Thompson Street.**





**PAINT
& SIP**
Holiday cards!

Dec. 6th
4:00 - 6:30 PM
Joan Kirner House -
14 Thompson Street.

- Guided painting instruction
- Design & Paint your own Cards!
- All painting supplies included
- Complimentary biscuits & tea
- BYO wine

Register at:
www.westsidearts.com.au

Westside Arts Studio
GET CREATIVE!
westsidearts.com.au
Williamstown

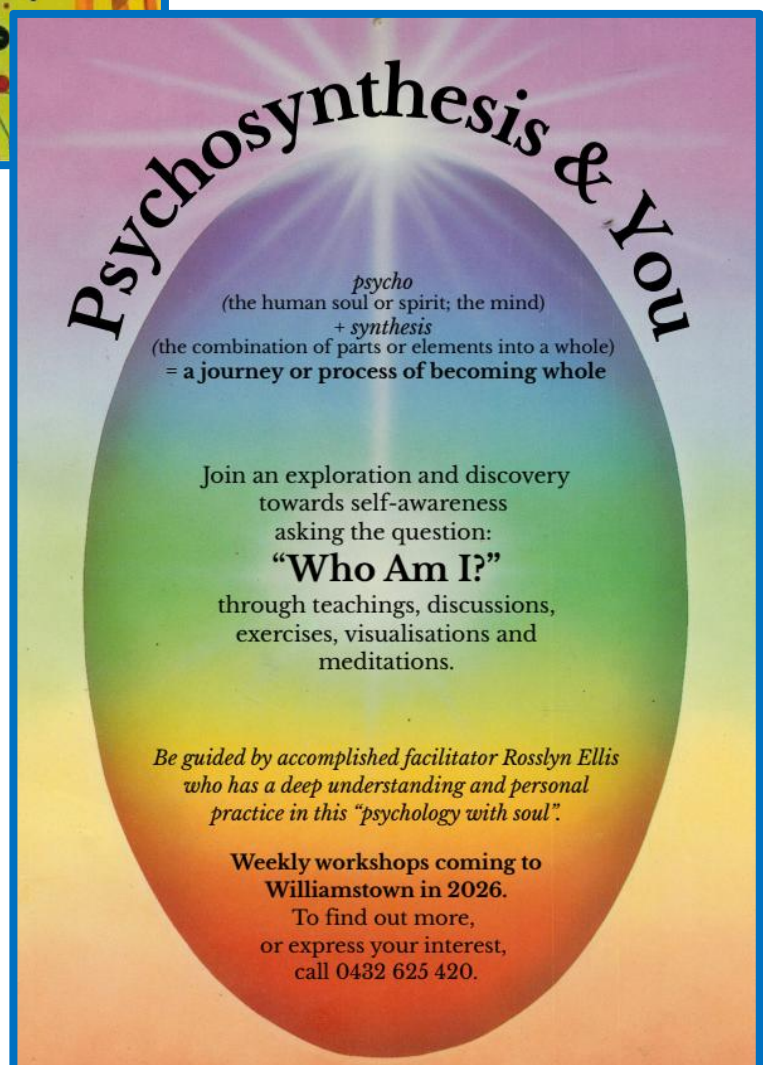
Tickets
\$70
per person

Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc.

6 December at **Joan Kirner House.**



NEW!
At Joan Kirner House

Psychosynthesis & You

psycho
(the human soul or spirit; the mind)
+ *synthesis*
(the combination of parts or elements into a whole)
= a journey or process of becoming whole

Join an exploration and discovery
towards self-awareness
asking the question:
"Who Am I?"
through teachings, discussions,
exercises, visualisations and
meditations.

*Be guided by accomplished facilitator Rosslyn Ellis
who has a deep understanding and personal
practice in this "psychology with soul".*

**Weekly workshops coming to
Williamstown in 2026.**
To find out more,
or express your interest,
call 0432 625 420.

Fill in a postcard at **Joan Kirner House**.



KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN



PICK UP A POSTCARD AT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE ASKING FOR THE MINISTER'S SUPPORT

Every week, 185,000 people access Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria. Around half of all Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria are running at a loss. **This cannot continue.** We are asking the Victorian Government to urgently restore funding for Neighbourhood Houses with a 25% increase.

LEARN MORE:  nhvic.org.au/2026-campaign

STRONG COMMUNITIES START HERE



\$100 POWER SAVING BONUS

FOR ELIGIBLE CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS

VISIT YOUR LOCAL PARTICIPATING NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE FOR ASSISTANCE



FIND OUT MORE:
[NHVIC.ORG.AU/PSB](https://nhvic.org.au/psb)



\$100 Power Saving Bonus for Victorian concession card holders.



To apply applicants will need to hold an eligible concession card.

Call Tahlia on 03 9397 6168 to make an appointment at Joan Kirner House.

THE ART & CRAFT CORNER



Join us for a relaxed and inspiring weekly program
A space to connect, create, and express yourself through art and craft

Every Thursday, from 13th Nov 2025

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Fee: \$3 per session

Address: Walker Close Community Center
180 Millers Road, Altona North, Vic 3025

REGISTER: (03) 9318 0521

OR: Office@walkerbrooklyn.com.au

WHAT'S ON

- Learn and explore different techniques — acrylic painting, watercolour, sketching, embroidery and more
- Bring your own supplies (canvas, paints, brushes, paper, etc)
- Build confidence and discover new skills
- Enjoy creative time with friendly faces in a supportive community setting

All welcome - No experience needed !

Every Thursday at **Walker Close Community Centre** in Altona North.



3 and 10 December.
Brooklyn Community Hall.



Council 

LIBRARIES



CONNECTED & CONFIDENT

Join us for a series of digital literacy classes for people who identify as women and non-binary to build confidence & independence when using technology.

Through three standalone evening sessions, participants will gain essential knowledge and skills to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

Session Topics:

- Meeting people online (26 Nov)
- Understanding your digital footprint (3 Dec)
- Troubleshooting your tech (10 Dec)

Each session includes a handout and Q&A time tailored to your specific questions. Light refreshments will be provided, and participants are welcome to bring their own meals if they prefer (whatever helps you feel comfortable and engaged for the session).

Whether you attend one or all three, each session offers valuable insights to support your online life.

Wednesday 26 November
Wednesday 3 December
Wednesday 10 December

6.30pm to 8pm
Brooklyn Community Hall

Bookings via the library website,
QR code or phone 1300 179 944.



Scan me
for more
information
or to book



Hobsons Bay
COUNCIL 

Hobsons Bay
LIBRARIES



12 and 19 December.
Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre in
 Altona.



Social Activity Group

**FRIDAYS
BY THE BAY**

10am-1pm • Fortnightly

For people 18 - 64,
 living in Hobsons Bay
 who are not
 eligible for other
 support programs.
 Transport can
 be provided.

2025 DATES

11 + 25 JULY
 8 + 22 AUGUST
 5 + 19 SEPTEMBER
 3 + 17 + 31 OCTOBER
 14 + 28 NOVEMBER
 12 + 19 DECEMBER

Every second
 Friday
 with Amanda
 Art + craft
 Wellbeing activities
 Outings
 Guest speakers

Light lunch
 included
 \$6.50

LOUIS JOEL
ARTS & COMMUNITY

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL

For more information
 5 Sargood Street
 Altona
 Phone 9398 2511
admin@ljac.com.au

**TWILIGHT
MARKET**

Wednesday
10 December
 4 - 8pm

A Fundraising Event

\$2 entry

ART / CRAFT STALLS
 Find some handcrafted or upcycled
 gifts made with love from local
 artist/creatives!
Image Credit: Jessica Jane Illustration

EATS
 Purchase from our festive food and
 beverage stalls selling cookies, jams,
 teas and enjoy a sausage sizzle or a
 baked potato for dinner!
Image credit: Tea Gourmand

Festive Fotos in our Christmas Cave + more!

10 December.
**Louis Joel Arts and Community
 Centre** in Altona.





6 December at **Altona Library**.

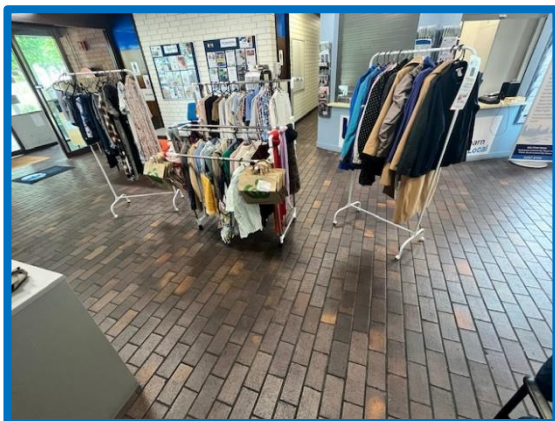


What's been happening?

Our **Clothes Swap** for Recycle Week was extremely popular.



Special thanks to the **Newmark Primary School Year Six Volunteers**, who helped Tahlia set up the displays.



Williamstown High School year tens are currently completing an *Adventure and Community* subject which exposes them to local community organisations.



As part of their studies, the students visited Joan Kirner House on October 31.

We had about 25 students visit to see what type of services we offer and ask questions useful for their community project assessment.

Thanks to Lara for doing the presentation.



On Wednesday 12 November we hosted a **Hobsons Bay Community Foundation** meeting at Joan Kirner House.

The Hobsons Bay Community Fund is a perpetual philanthropic Fund established to support, strengthen and benefit the community of Hobsons Bay for present and future generations.



They have supported us with numerous projects over many years, including sponsoring our current Willi Walking Group.

We are also a member of their Philanthropic Club.

Details of the Fund can be found [HERE](#).

We are pleased to report that since the launch of our **Bridging the Digital Divide Program** in May we have been able to provide over 100 one-on-one assistance sessions.

We have assisted those with limited digital literacy in completing essential online administrative tasks.

Help has been given to complete citizenship and passport applications, Centrelink forms, resume writing, scholarship applications, utility bill issues, infringement notices, and email and mobile phone support.

We offer face-to-face sessions at Joan Kirner House Williamstown, on Monday and Friday mornings and at Altona North Community House on Thursday mornings.

If you would like to make an appointment, please call Lara on 03 9397 6168.

This initiative is made possible through the generous funding from the **Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association** and **Bendigo Community Bank, Altona and Laverton**.



Rebecca Harding, the Multicultural Liaison Officer from **Fire Rescue Victoria**, gave a session on 'fire safety at home' to our English class at Altona North Community House on 21 November.



Rebecca delivered a wonderful fire safety session for us today.

It was incredibly informative, engaging, and truly appreciated by everyone.

Fedra.
Teacher.



We are supporting the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence** with the **Zonta Club of Melbourne's West**, with a display of cutouts of orange ladies at Joan Kirner House.

The orange ladies will be appearing across Hobsons Bay to mark a global campaign aimed at ending violence against women and girls.



Zonta also made a huge donation to our Food Relief Program.



Our community thanks you.

Tahlia and Lucila attended the **Hobsons Bay Inter-Agency meeting** on Tuesday 25 of November where they set up an information stall for all attendees to learn about our services, programs, classes and projects.



A Christmas message from one of our students.

Dear teachers, classmates, and the entire Williamstown Community and Education Centre team, this Christmas, I want to send you a message filled with love, gratitude, and light.

This year has been one of the most difficult of my life because of the loss of my brothers and the emotional process I went through in Colombia.

But when I returned to class, I found more than an English course — I found a place where hearts are supported, and spirits are lifted.

Thank you for the emotional support, the patience, and the understanding you have given me every step of the way.

To Mark, our CEO, thank you for leading with kindness and for creating a space where every migrant feels welcome and valued.

To the ladies in the administration office Tahlia, Lara and Lucila, thank you for your smiles, patience, and the warm help you give us every day.

To my teachers Lynne, Fedra, Lucy, and Jim, thank you for your dedication, your encouragement, and for believing in me.

Your kindness, guidance, and patience have given me strength during moments when I needed it the most. You have been a true blessing.



Ruth and Lynne

And to my classmates, who come from so many different countries, cultures, and stories: thank you for walking this journey with me. Even though we speak different languages and come from different worlds, we share something beautiful: the desire to learn, the patience to listen, and the respect to grow together.

You have also been an important part of my healing and my progress.

During this special season, I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas filled with peace, unity, and hope.

May the New Year bring health, opportunities, joy, and blessings to you and your families.

Thank you for making this place a true refuge for everyone who arrive searching for a new beginning.

With all my love and gratitude,

Ruth.

One of our students Gina, has been attending English as an Additional Language and Computer classes at our Centre for more than 20 years.

On Wednesday 26 November she celebrated her 95th birthday with her teacher and classmates.

Happy Birthday Gina!



Looking forward to our end of year celebration on December 10.

Thanks to all staff and volunteers who have helped prepare for this event.

It will be very special.

Thanks.

Mark.

Dr Mark Brophy PhD
Manager / CEO
Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc.
manager@wcec.com.au
03 9397 6168.