



Newsletter December 2024

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

What's Coming Up?

- Wednesday December 4, 11 and 18. **FREE Willy Walking Group.** From 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House. Sponsored by Mobil.
- Wednesday December 4 and 11. **FREE Community Morning Tea** at Joan Kirner House, sponsored by Mobil, at 11.00 am.
- Wednesday December 18. **FREE End of Year Lunch Celebration.** 12.00 noon. Foyer of Joan Kirner House. Details below.
- Friday December 20. **Last day of term, semester, year.**
- Saturday 21 December to Monday 27 January 2025, **All Houses closed.**
- Tuesday January 28. **Term One 2025 starts.**



FREE!

At Joan Kirner House.



Please join us for our annual
CHRISTMAS PARTY
DOOR PRIZES, SANTA VISIT, AND MORE!

WEDNESDAY **18** DECEMBER

Starting at 12.00pm
Joan Kirner House
14 Thompson Street
Williamstown
No RSVP required

SEE YOU THERE!

Altona North Disability Support Group

Disability support group for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals with a disability

Join our free support group in **Altona North**:

- Meet people in a safe and welcoming space and enjoy fun activities
- Learn about your rights
- Learn about self-advocacy
- Talk about issues that are important to you

For more information and to register, please scan the QR code or send an email to



sorgul@valid.org.au

[Link to form](#)

This project is funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and delivered in collaboration with

**NEW Program!****FREE!**

At Altona North Community House.

Starts this December.



To mark 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

The ZONTA Club of Melbourne's West is inviting you to a FREE community information session on identifying Coercive Control and Family Violence

Come along to learn about:

- what it looks like
- the scale of the problem in Australia
- what you can do
- and where you can find help and information

Register via QR code here:

**Afternoon tea provided****WHEN:****Saturday, December 7 from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM****WHERE:****The Altona Library, Meeting Room
123 Queen Street, Altona**

presented by

**FREE!**

Zonta also meets every second Tuesday of the month at Joan Kirner House.

Contact Faye on 0411 607 995 for more details.

PELICANS BABY PLAYGROUND

Friday mornings
9.30am - 11.00am
Bring a blanket!

Joan Kirner House
14 Thompson Street Williamstown
Enquiries: Sue 0409 301 257

\$5
PER SESSION

NEW Program!

At Joan Kirner House.



Hmmmm... "Learning Circles".

Where have I heard that before?



GET READY FOR SCHOOL

A LEARNING CIRCLE FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Get Ready for School is a program where parents of kinder children with additional needs prepare for transition to school. The program uses a Learning Circle approach. This allows the participants to decide the topics and skills that are most important to them.

They may include:

- Strategies to support your child in school
- Disability support systems in Victorian schools
- Special schools and mainstream schools
- Advocating for your child in a school setting
- Parent and carer networks and support services
- Parental wellbeing and looking after yourself

Who Should Attend ?

Parents and carers of kindergarten children with additional needs who will be transitioning to school in 2026.

...whatever is most important for you and your learning circle colleagues.

Laverton Community Children's Centre, 15 Crown St Laverton 3028

LEARN **PLAY** **ENGAGE**

The workshops will be facilitated by **Dr Jane Hickey** from **Victoria University**, an expert in disability access and inclusion. Jane will also bring in a range of other external experts on the topics that are important to you.

Scan here to see a TEDx Talk by Jane

ASSIST AUSTRALIA **Laverton Community Education Centre** **LCCC** **Learn Local**

How To Register

- bill.daly@lcec.vic.edu.au
- SMS "GRFS 2025" with your name & contact details to 0431075534

Get Ready for School is a Family Learning Partnership program funded by the Victorian Adult Community and Further Education Board.

IPC Health Care Finder Service

IPC Health's Care Finder Service helps older people without close support find the right aged care services.

Finding services that help you live independently can be confusing, especially if you don't have anyone to help you. Our care finders will talk to you about your needs and support you throughout the whole process of accessing aged care services, including My Aged Care.

We can help you find services like:

- Personal care
- Meal preparation
- Shopping
- Gardening and home maintenance
- Transport
- In home nursing or health care
- Allied health
- Community or social activities

Want to learn more? Come and meet our care finders!

Our care finders will be at:

Joan Kirner House
14 Thompson Street, Williamstown 3016

From 11am-12.30pm on:

- 21 August 2024
- 16 October 2024
- 18 December 2024

You can also contact the IPC Health Care Finder Service on 1300 895 589 or at carefinders@ipchealth.com.au



Last session for 2024.

At Joan Kirner House on December 18



HAS YOUR FAMILY MEMBER RECENTLY MOVED INTO A RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITY?

WILL THEY MAKE THIS MOVE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?



Family members of new aged care residents needed for interviews.

Moving from home into residential aged care is a vulnerable time for older people. Researchers at Better Place Australia are conducting interviews with family members of older people who made the move in the past 2-6 months.

The interview will take approximately 45-minutes and will be informal. The interview will be held online or over the phone.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating now or in the next few months, please scan the QR code to register your interest or contact Dr Sarah Marko on 9556 5394 or research@betterplace.com.au



*This study received ethics approval from the Anglicare Victorian Research Committee.

Social Activity Group

FRIDAYS BY THE BAY

10am-1pm • Fortnightly

2024 dates

18 October
1 + 15 + 29 November
13 + 20 December

2025 dates

10 + 24 January
7 + 21 February
7 + 21 March
4 + 11 April
2 + 16 + 30 May
13 + 27 June

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

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

Light lunch included
\$6.50

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



LOUIS JOEL ARTS & COMMUNITY



Program extended into 2025.



Help bring a little cheer to local families by donating a selection of goodies this festive season

2024

Hamper Appeal



scan here for collection points and a list of preferred goodies

*Please ensure all donations are within date, unopened and undamaged

For more information and donation points scan the QR code or visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hampers



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Tuesday
10 December
10am

Laverton
Community Hub



Join us for a community morning tea and lived experience talk by author Sunenna Bolla Sharma

For more information visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/16days



Safe Steps 1800 015 188 | 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732 | Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491
If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 000 and ask for the police.



Rotary
Club of Point Gellibrand

Dog Day in Dog Town

1st December from 10am - 2.00pm 2024
Commonwealth Reserve - Nelson Place - Williamstown

*Starting with a dog parade to Pier Farm and return

COMPETITION :

Most Obedient
Most look-alike-owner
Cutest, Smallest, Biggest
Movie look-a-like (character)
Best Fairy
Best Dressed (Owner & Dog)
Best Tricks - and more

REGISTRATION :

Try Booking : <https://www.trybooking.com>
Facebook :
Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand
Email : rotarypointgellibrand@gmail.com

Entry Fee : \$20.00

stalls & give aways



Life is
BETTER
with a
DOG

Life is
BETTER
with
PETS



We love art for all ages!

Westside Arts Studio, run by children's author and illustrator [Shelley](#), is a boutique arts studio in Williamstown specialising in foundational drawing and painting for all ages (she also does adult classes too!).



There are Studio Art classes for ages: 5-12, an intermediate High-Focus class for ages 10-13, and a Teens Class.

The art classes cover a variety of styles and mediums and even include some fun art history.

They also have an annual library student showcase!

Their aim to give aspiring artists the tools to further develop their style and technique as budding artists.

For more details, see Shelley's website [HERE](#).




Artful Minds. A participant's perspective.

My name is Martin, and I find the art class exhilarating as art is a passion in my life.

I find it opens my mind to learn about texture, colour and the application of art in the real world.

My art has allowed me to explore different art methods which I enjoy.

It is a great group.



ART AS THERAPY PROGRAM
MONDAYS 1PM-4PM
WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Now available, for NDIS Participants.
For more information please
Contact:
Janine Hourigan
Registered Art Therapist.
Mobile: 0412 152 507
mandalamandala11@gmail.com

We support the
ndis

What's been happening?

From November 4 to 15, we had our **National Recycle Week Clothes Swap**.

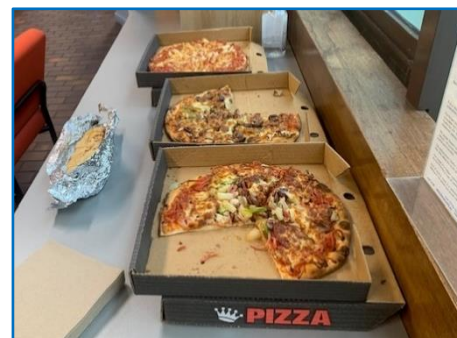
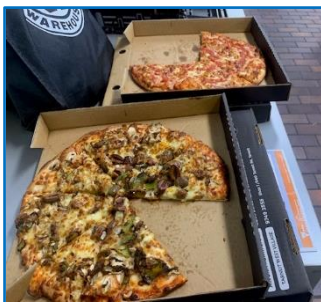


Wednesday November 13.

Through the **HealthCare Foundation**, **Dr Gerard Zammit**, founder and Director of Medical Footcare, sponsored our Community Pizza Lunch.



Our Centre users sincerely appreciate this support, as well as the Foundation's ongoing assistance in our Pantry Swap and Food Relief programs.



Tuesday November 19.

Portable Wicking Bed Workshop.

Under our Melbourne Airport Community Grant, in partnership with Cultivating Community there was another workshop at Spotswood Community House, where participants created their own mini garden beds to take home.

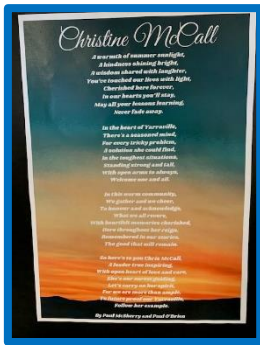
For those interested in becoming involved in these free activities, call Lynne on 03 9397 6168.



November 20.

I attended the farewell function of **Chris McCall, Manager of Yarraville Community Centre.**

Chris has led this Centre for over 30 years and has been a true asset to the community, and a great colleague and friend of mine.



On the same day, our Committee and I attended the **Hobsons Bay Community Fund 'Thank You' event** at the Williamstown Surf Lifesaving Club.



The Williamstown Community and Education Centre is a member of their Philanthropic Club.

Looking for Sponsorship.

For a while now I've been working with a passionate group of locals who have set up the 'Williamstown Community Gardens Inc.'

With a lot of high-density housing going up in Williamstown in recent years, they have established a need to find space to set up garden beds for growing vegetables, fruits, herbs, etc.

We have offered them the old childcare play area at Joan Kirner House, on the corner of Cecil St and Council Lane.

I've applied for a couple of grants to get them started. For raised garden beds, gardening tools, etc. But have had no success so far.

I'm looking for a local business, agency, philanthropic organisation, etc to help them get started. In return we can offer to brand and promote the sponsor.

In our brochures, signage all three venues, Facebook, and Newsletter (Circulation over 1,800 emails). Perhaps even get something in the local Star Weekly newspaper.

For businesses, we are a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status.

If you, or you know of anyone who might be interested, give me a call on 03 9397 6168 or email at manager@wcec.com.au



In the News

Recycling week gets off to early start. In the **Star Weekly**. November 6. Page 3.

Link to article [HERE](#).



WCEC admin co-ordinator Lara Janka with students Tabitha Cowan, Sarina Cidoni and Makesi Flu. (Damjan Janevski) 440920_01

Recycling week gets off to early start

National Recycling Week is taking place from November 11 to 17 this year, but Williamstown Community and Education Centre (WCEC) is getting in early. Its clothes swap event began seven days earlier on Monday, November 4.

In fact it seems every week is recycling week at WCEC, with a seed swap, pantry swap, produce swap, DVD swap and a book swap among their regular activities.

Boomerang bags, and the recycling made easy program where everything from ink cartridges, mobile phones, e-waste, glasses, light globes, X-rays and more can be recycled, are also run at the WCEC's base at Joan Kirner House.

But it's the clothes swap event that is being conducted as part of National Recycling Week, even if the dates don't match up.

WCEC manager Dr Mark Brophy said the event, where people bring clothes they no longer want or need and swap them for items they do want to wear, is one the local community looks forward to each year.

"Donations grow every year, and more and more people attend," Dr Brophy said.

"It also gives us a chance to showcase our large range of projects, initiatives, and classes we have to new visitors".

All clothes left over following clothes swap will be donated to the St Andrews Presbyterian Church Op Shop in Williamstown.

The 2024 clothes swap runs until November 15 in the foyer at Joan Kirner House, 14 Thompson Street, Williamstown.

Details: <https://www.williamstown-spotswoodcc.org.au/> For other National Recycling Week events in Hobsons Bay, visit: <https://www.hobsonsbayvic.gov.au/Libraries/Whats-On-News/NRW2024>

Tackling gendered violence. In the **Star Weekly**. November 20. Page 10.

Link to article is [HERE](#).

Zonta meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at Joan Kirner House.



Zonta Club of Melbourne's West members Wendy Forrest and Faye Juetz are preparing for two events the club is running during the upcoming 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. (Damjan Janevski) 443719_01

Tackling gendered violence

As an organisation that works to advance the status of women and advocate on their behalf, it's no surprise that Zonta Club of Melbourne's West (Inc.) is heavily involved in the upcoming 16 Days of Activism against gendered based violence.

The Hobsons Bay based club has two events planned for the 16 day campaign which begins with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Monday, March 25.

On Saturday, December 7, the club is hosting an information session on coercive control at Altona Library.

Zonta Club of Melbourne's West board member Faye Juetz said the session was about educating people about coercive control which she called a "silent issue".

"Domestic violence we usually regard as physical violence, whereas coercive control is just that," said Ms Juetz.

"It involves stalking, financial control, emotional abuse, distancing from friends and family. It's takes many forms that we can't readily see."

A specialist from family violence support service Gen-West will speak at the free event which runs from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

On Tuesday, December 10, the club and Hobsons Bay council will host a morning tea to raise awareness about the themes of family violence featuring lived experience speaker Sunenna Bella Sharma.

Ms Juetz said the morning tea event at the Laverton Community Hub will be especially valuable for migrant women and those from non-english speaking backgrounds.

"Students who are learning English in several local community centres are invited to come along and also the general public who might be interested" she said of the event which will run from 10am to 12pm.

For more information on the Zonta Club of Melbourne's West events, visit: <https://www.zontamelwest.org.au/>

Cade Lucas

Manager's Musings

Our Lost Property bin is overflowing! 🙌

If these items are not collected by December 6, we will give them away.



It's been another busy month.

A big thanks to all who helped out and completed the NHVic Neighbourhood House Participant Survey. Quite a big job.

Also, thanks to the HealthCare Foundation for supporting our Community Pizza Lunch.

Along with the HealthCare Foundation, we have many others helping out with our Pantry Swap and Food Relief, including Coles in Williamstown, Woolworths in Spotswood, the Williamstown Uniting Church, Share the Dignity, The Village in Williamstown, and Mobil.



What a fantastic and supportive community.

Thanks also to Bendigo Bank Community Bank of Altona and Laverton for their generous support in funding refugees who are ineligible for government subsidised training to become students in our English language classes.



We are now in full swing preparing for the end of the year, and our Festive Season Function on Wednesday December 18.

A celebration not to be missed!

Thanks.

Mark.

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