



Williamstown
Community
and Education
Centre Inc

Newsletter March 2025

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

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

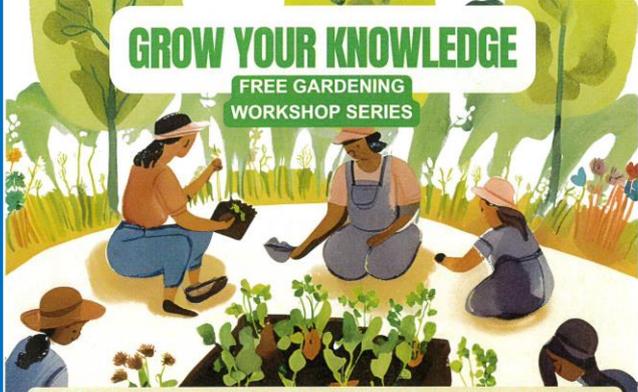
What's Coming Up?

- Monday March 10. **Labour Day public holiday.**
- Wednesday March 5, 12, 19, and 26. **FREE Willy Walking Group.** From 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House.
- Wednesday March 5, 12, 19, and 26. **FREE Community Morning Tea.** Joan Kirner House at 11.00 am. Sponsored by Mobil. All welcome!
- Tuesday March 11. **FREE Composting Made Simple Workshop.** Spotswood Community House. 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm. Sponsored by Melbourne Airport. Details below.
- **NEW!** Tuesdays 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm. **Foundational Drawing and Painting with a Cuppa!** 4-part workshop at Joan Kirner House. Details below.
- Wednesdays 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm. **Artful Warrior's Art Group.** Spotswood Community House. Details below.
- Saturdays 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm at Joan Kirner House. Monthly. **Wu Tao.** Call Jo for more details. 0438 414 331.
- Tuesday evenings at Joan Kirner House. **Zonta Club.** Once a month. Call Faye on 0411 607 995 for more details.
- Thursday afternoons 5.00 pm at Joan Kirner House. **Adam Turnbull Acting.** Call Adam on 0419 593 257 for more details.
- Thursdays 7.00 am at Joan Kirner House. **Sunrise Yoga and Meditation.** Call Ron on 0411 723 669 for more details.
- Tuesdays 7.00 pm. Joan Kirner House. Monthly. **Book Sisters Reading Group.** Call Chris on 0436 010 575. Details below.



GROW YOUR KNOWLEDGE

FREE GARDENING WORKSHOP SERIES



Join Cultivating Community for a hands-on gardening journey led by our Horticulturist Specialist! Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, these workshops are perfect for learning new skills and connecting with your community.

WORKSHOP 1: PLANTING WITH A PURPOSE
25 FEBRUARY
1 - 2PM
 Learn how to set up a Food Cube and plant seedlings that will flourish for everyone in the community to enjoy.

WORKSHOP 2: COMPOSTING MADE SIMPLE
11 MARCH
1 - 2PM
 Discover how to set up a tumbler compost system and explore creative ways to compost at home. Transform waste into valuable garden gold!

WORKSHOP 3: SEASONAL PLANTING
25 MARCH
1 - 2PM
 Improved food literacy and practical gardening skills, taking into account seasonality focusing on Australian seasons.

AT SPOTSWOOD COMMUNITY HOUSE
598 MELBOURNE RD.
SPOTSWOOD

WCEC WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE

FREE & ANYONE WELCOME!






RSVP BY EMAIL OR VIA QR CODE
ALMARI@CULTIVATINGCOMMUNITY.ORG.AU

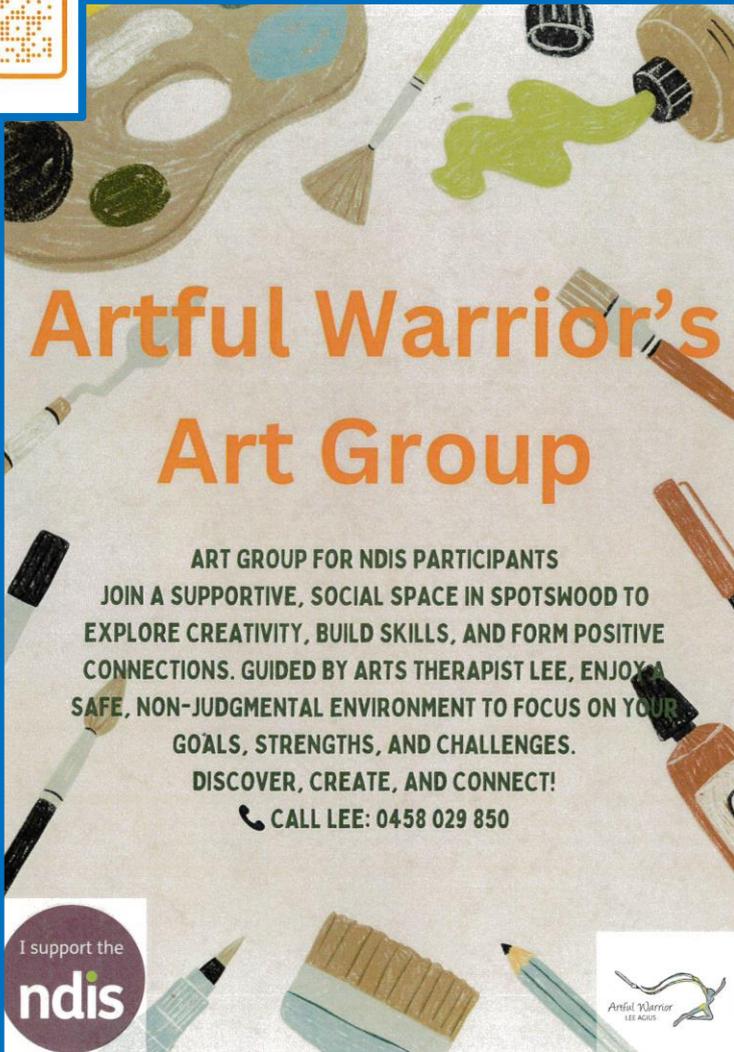
FREE!
 Tuesday 11 March.
Composting Made Simple Workshop.
 At Spotswood Community House.



At Spotswood Community House.
 Wednesdays 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm.



Artful Warrior's Art Group



ART GROUP FOR NDIS PARTICIPANTS
 JOIN A SUPPORTIVE, SOCIAL SPACE IN SPOTSWOOD TO EXPLORE CREATIVITY, BUILD SKILLS, AND FORM POSITIVE CONNECTIONS. GUIDED BY ARTS THERAPIST LEE, ENJOY A SAFE, NON-JUDGMENTAL ENVIRONMENT TO FOCUS ON YOUR GOALS, STRENGTHS, AND CHALLENGES.
 DISCOVER, CREATE, AND CONNECT!
 CALL LEE: 0458 029 850




At Joan Kirner House.

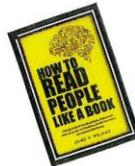


Would **you** like to join the Book Sisters Reading group?

We meet 7.00pm, 3rd Tuesday of the month @ **Joan Kirner House**, 14 Thompson Street Williamstown



For further information contact Chris (0436 010 575)



Studio Art Workshops - Adults.



Foundational Drawing & Painting with a cuppa!

In this 4-part workshop, explore the foundations of drawing and painting.
All levels welcome.

Register:

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

*Tuesdays: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Joan Kirner House:
14 Thompson Street- Williamstown.



NEW!
At Joan Kirner House.





Williamstown
Community
and Education
Centre Inc

Be Connected digital workshops and one-to-one sessions

**Having a tough time with technology?
Need some help?**

**Scams, Updates, Emails, Managing passwords,
Online banking, you name it!**

Come and enquire, to stay connected.



To find out more, or to book a session, contact Lucila, our
Project officer at
projectofficer1@wcec.com.au

Or call 03 9397 6168.
(Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday).

Be Connected is an Australian government initiative
committed to building the confidence, digital skills
and online safety of older Australians



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

FREE!

At Joan Kirner House.



Celebrate **International Women's Day.**

2025

Maribyrnong City Council and Hobsons Bay
City Council are presenting a collaborative
event in honour of International Women's
Day,

This year's theme encourages us to come
together, champion equity, and celebrate
progress. The event will feature keynote
speaker Courtney Ray, CEO and founder of
Daily Blooms.

For bookings and tickets, see [HERE](#).

IWD EVENT 2025

THURSDAY 6 MARCH
6PM - 9PM
CIVIC PRECINCT & COMMUNITY HUB, FOOTSCRAY

Presented in partnership with

Proudly sponsored by

Join us in recognition of International Women's Day to celebrate local efforts to #AccelerateAction for gender equality

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

#AccelerateAction



WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH
1pm to 2.30pm

Hobsons Bay Civic Centre,
115 Civic Pde, Altona

Come and hear from inspiring local voices at a 'world café' style event, followed by afternoon tea.



*Child friendly activities available

For more information visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/iwd
Image credit - artist *Adrienne Walujo*

HOBSONS BAY
LANGUAGE LINE
09 932 1212

FREE!



Booking not required.

Includes child-friendly activities.

FREE!

Sponsored by Hobsons Bay City Council



SATURDAY
1 March 2025
12-3pm



PRIDE PICNIC



Scan Here
for more details

A picnic with a difference!
Join us for a relaxing
celebration of **LGBTIQA+**
communities in Hobsons Bay

Paine Reserve,
Newport
**BYO food
& drinks***

Featuring **LIVE MUSIC, FAMILY
FUN ACTIVITIES, PRIZE FOR
BEST-DRESSED DOG** and more!

*Paine Reserve is an alcohol free zone

Fridays by the Bay.
Next sessions, March 7 and 21.



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.

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

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

Light lunch included
\$6.50

 **LOUIS JOEL ARTS & COMMUNITY**



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



SONS OF THE WEST
WESTERN BULLDOGS TACKLING MEN'S HEALTH

Community FOUNDATION
Work Safe MAJOR PARTNER

Do you want to...

- Improve your health
- Get active with experts
- Connect with your community

Join this **FREE** 10 week program run by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation
To find out more scan the QR code OR visit westernbulldogs.com.au/sons

Monday afternoons from 18th March in Brooklyn
Wednesday evenings from 20th March in Laverton



18+ Open to all men OVER 18

LEARN Talk and LEARN about health issues

ACTIVE Get ACTIVE with experts

CONNECT CONNECT with your community

10 WEEKS FREE health and wellbeing program

IMPACT THAT *inspires*

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL | VICTORIA | cohealth

FREE!

At Brooklyn Community Hall on Tuesday evenings **beginning 18 March 2025.**



At Laverton Community Hub on Thursday evenings **beginning 20 March 2025.**

[Click here to register.](#)

FREE!



NEWPORT LAKES
Bush Dance
Sunday 16 March 3-6pm

Bring a picnic and your dancing shoes.
We will teach you the dance steps!

A free community event

WHERE?
Follow the signs from the main car park in Lakes Drive

A NEWPORT FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB EVENT
This event is supported by Hobsons Bay City Council through its Make it Happen Grants Program

NEWPORT FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB
www.nffc.org.au

Make it Happen GRANTS

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL



IPC Health Care Finder Service

Confused or unsure about accessing aged care services like My Aged Care? Come and talk to a care finder to learn more!

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.

Come to our free information sessions - morning tea provided!

Wednesday 26 February 2025
10.30 - 11.30am
Laverton Community Hub
95-105 Railway Avenue, Laverton 3028

Monday 3 March 2025
1 - 2pm
Newport Community Hub
13-15 Mason Street, Newport 3015

Tuesday 4 March 2025
10 - 11am
Altona Library
123 Queen Street, Altona 3018

Phone: 1300 895 589
Email: carefinders@ipchealth.com.au



FREE!

Find Health Care



March 3. Newport

March 4. Altona

What's been happening?

Star Weekly, January 29. Page 7.



Williamstown Community and Education Centre chief executive Dr Mark Brophy (left) with Dr Gerard Zammit from the Healthcare Foundation who donated toiletries to be distributed to disadvantaged people throughout Hobsons Bay. (supplied)

Offering a helping hand

The Williamstown Community and Education Centre (WCEC) has been given a helping hand to continue its work supporting the disadvantaged in Hobsons Bay.

The WCEC received a donation of toiletries and essential items to be distributed to those in need throughout the Hobsons Bay community.

The donation came courtesy of the Healthcare Foundation, another local organisation which helps the less fortunate in the inner-west.

The Healthcare Foundation was established five years ago by podiatrist Dr Gerard Zammit who operates a chain of foot care clinics across the western suburbs, including in Altona and Altona North.

Dr Zammit's foundation has regularly donated food to the WCEC which it then distributes via its Food Relief and Pantry Swap initiatives, but the donation on Monday, January 20, was the first to contain toiletries

and sanitary products.

WCEC chief executive Dr Mark Brophy said he was extremely appreciative of the Healthcare Foundation's generosity.

"These donations help our local disadvantaged tremendously, in not only helping them financially, but bringing dignity into their lives," said Dr Brophy, who pointed out that Hobsons Bay was home to much more disadvantage than many people realised.

"Many locals are unaware of the significant amounts of people doing it tough in local public housing including the high rise Flóyd Lodge and Nelson Heights."

The toiletries and sanitary products will be distributed from the WCEC's base at Joan Kirner House where its sponsored programs, training courses, morning teas and other events and initiatives take place.

For more information, email: manager@wcec.com.au

Briefs

Altona
Firefight
bring a
in Alton
arrived
on Pur
Januar
a 2km
located
Watch
for resi
Meado
north t
and the
Station
After f
deploy
contro
23 hec
The fir
and ar

Marib
Detect
grass
Mariby
12am
told a
firewo
and th
were r
of gra
Anyon
conta
000 o

FOR B
Web: st
f Ma
@st
@st

Then another non-perishable food donation in early February.



We were recently chosen as the 'Conference Charity' by the **Country Women's Association of Victoria**.



The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

care empower contribute

We received a huge donation of toiletries to contribute to our Food Relief Program.

The donation is from 60 members of the nine branches that form the Mitchell Group - (Altona, Alphington, Collingwood, Essendon, Footscray, Niddrie, Pascoe Vale, Virtual, Williamstown), so a wide area of inner Melbourne is represented by the group.



From left to right. Lucila Frabotta and Lynne Hewet from Williamstown Community and Education Centre, along with Rhonda Taig, Sheryl Hanbling, and Gaynor Whitehead from the Victorian Country Women's Association.



Free Food Cube Workshop at Spotswood Community House.



Sponsored by Melbourne Airport and Cultivating Community



A Student's Journey

Nhu y La

By Lynne Hewet

Nhu y La was a popular student at Joan Kirner House, Williamstown Community and Education Centre, between 2014 and 2018 where she was enrolled in our English classes.

To improve her English, Nhu y attended as many classes as she could that were offered at our venues in Williamstown, Altona North and Spotswood. Initially she was in the lower-level beginners' classes but due to her commitment and dedication, moved through to more advanced classes.

In Vietnam she was a successful businesswoman and while living in Australia as a single mother she worked very hard in restaurants, usually in the evenings to support her family. Her English was not great when she started classes, and she was very quiet and shy. As she made new friends, became more confident and became more involved in her community Nhu y took on new challenges.

During the time she was at our Centre she managed to buy a unit in Williamstown which was close to the local primary school that her young son attended.

Nhu y's real passion was cooking, she loved preparing meals for her friends and family and was proud of her Vietnamese culture and food. Often inviting teachers and classmates around to her home for a meal.

In 2018 she bought the restaurant in Patterson Lakes that she had been working in. Unfortunately, in 2019 this restaurant burnt down. Having no close family and little support in Australia this was devastating for her.

In her usual determined way Nhu y did not let this disappointment deter her. In late 2024 Nhu y opened her own Vietnamese restaurant in Williamstown. Miss La's Kitchen is in the popular Nelson Place and is open seven days a week. Nhu y is the main cook. She makes regular early morning visits to the local markets to buy fresh ingredients. Nhu y always welcomes her customers with a smile and a friendly greeting and works very hard to build her business.

Many of her former classmates and teachers are regular customers. The food is delicious!

Nhu y says that being part of the community is so important to her. She loves where she lives and what she is now doing. Our Community Centre helped her become a part of this community. Attending English classes gave her the opportunity to improve her skills, grow in confidence and became a valuable community member.

Recently, she has encouraged her staff (one of the ladies who works in the kitchen) to attend English classes at our Centre.

Well done Nhu y!!



Manager's Musings

As mentioned previously, I've been working with a passionate group of locals who have set up the **Williamstown Community Gardens Inc.**

We have offered them the old childcare play area at Joan Kirner House, on the corner of Cecil St and Council Lane. Recently Bunnings Altona gave them a \$300 gift voucher to help them establish their garden.



Our Committee of Management recently reviewed and approved our new **Business Plan, Policies and Procedures**, which are available on our website [HERE](#).

Linelle Gibson has left our committee, due to other commitments, and we thank her immensely for her contribution to our Association, and wish her the best going forward.

I am proud of the amount of support our community has contributed to our **Food Relief program**. The list of contributors continues to grow.

Thanks to Coles Williamstown, Woolworths Spotswood, Uniting Church of Williamstown, Share the Dignity, HealthCare Foundation, The Village Williamstown, EMILY's List, Victorian Country Women's Association, and Mobil Altona.



Our **Annual General Meeting** will be on Tuesday May 6 at 4.00 pm in Room One, Joan Kirner House. 14 Thompson St. Williamstown. RSVP to me please.

Thanks.

Mark.

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