

CONNECTIONS



WNC MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

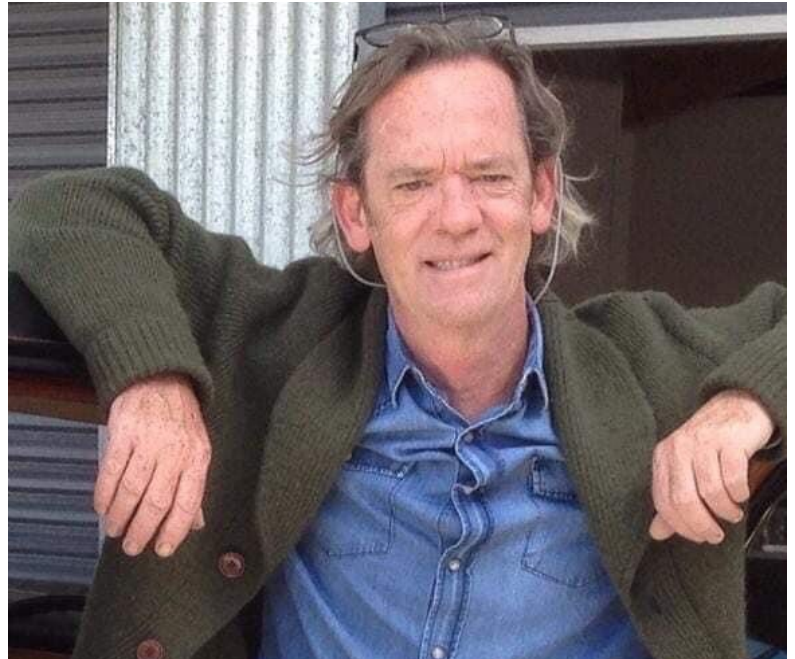
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Noting your weekly grocery bill spiralling? You might like to consider participating in the Wonthaggi Food Collective. This is a new initiative aimed at helping participants reduce their cost of living expenses. The hope is that a significant collective of interested people will enable food to be bought at cheaper prices in bulk quantity. Food items purchased in this way will then be available to members at a low mark up price. The scheme is community focused and not for profit. Any surplus will be returned. The objective is to make basic foods available to members at a reduced cost. An added bonus is that packaging is reduced resulting in less waste. When organic alternatives are available at a competitive price these will be preferred offering members a healthier option.

It is planned to distribute grocery items from the Harvest Centre on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

If you are interested and would like to participate in this cost saving venture a stocklist and other information can be obtained from:

Michael Nugent.
Email: WonthaggiCoop@gmail.com
Ph. 0416039933

The untimely passing of WNC's beloved Manager Iain Ritchie recently, sent waves of shock and sadness through the entire WNC community. Under his calm, patient and incredibly competent leadership the Centre flourished. His inclusive, open minded approach and willingness to listen to others, contributed to an atmosphere of respect and consideration that was clearly felt and appreciated. His commitment to the WNC community was never in doubt and frequently evident through his tireless efforts to improve service delivery and encourage positive relationships. Iain's friendly demeanour, his willingness to patiently assist wherever possible, his wicked sense of humour and his devotion to the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre and Harvest Centre will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him and working with him.

A gathering at Mitchell House on 15th August provided opportunity for members able to be present to remember Iain and acknowledge his wonderful contribution. Vice President of the Management Committee, Jill McAdam paid tribute on behalf of the Committee and revealed a plan that had gained Iain's enthusiastic support - to transform the front meeting room into a lounge. The proposal to formally apply the plaque pictured below was met with unanimous approval!

A rectangular plaque with a light-colored background and dark text. The text reads 'IAIN'S QUIET ROOM' in a serif font, with 'IAIN'S' on the top line and 'QUIET ROOM' on the bottom line.

IAIN'S
QUIET ROOM



The weekly Craft and Cuppa Group has been gathering in Mitchell House now for almost 20 years. In pre covid days it was not uncommon for the group to comprise so many members that space in the kitchen in addition to the usual meeting room was required. More recently the group has settled on around



8 to 10 ladies who share a passion for craft and for sharing time with like minded others over a shared cuppa and morning tea. The group is friendly, warm and welcoming creating an atmosphere where conversation flows, craft ideas are shared, and wonderful creations emerge from talented hands. The group meets each Friday morning from 10:00 - 12:00 with some members moving on to a shared lunch at a local café. New members are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome.

FIXIT CAFE WONTHAGGI

Every third Sunday of the month volunteer fixers along with members of the Wonthaggi Men's Shed gather to welcome people who carry in all sorts of goods which need fixing. While at the Harvest Centre catching up with friends, or making new ones, customers can enjoy a tea or coffee and cake or biscuits. There is no charge, but donations (if possible) are appreciated to help with running costs. The two aims of the Fixit Café are to keep goods out of landfill, giving them a second life, and to create a friendly space to chill out on a Sunday which can be a very quiet day sometimes. We run from 11 to 1pm and appreciate bookings for half hour time slots which can be made by calling in to Mitchell House or by telephoning 5672 3731. Feel free to call for more information. Our regular fixers are quickly occupied and new volunteers willing to fix or help in other ways are always welcome. Pictured here is Anne with two cherished knives freshly sharpened by Vern of the Men's Shed.



The aim of Chatty Café Australia is to help connect communities and increase social interactions by getting people chatting – either in their favourite local neighbourhood social venues or while travelling through other Aussie communities to meet the local folk.

Everyone is welcome!

A Chatty Café group commenced at Mitchell House in May this year is beginning to grow.

Stay connected to your community by choosing to “have a chat” to others in a safe comfortable setting within Mitchell House.

First Tuesday in the month 10:30– 11:30am. Tea/Coffee cake provided!





The Community Lunch provided on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month brings people from the Harvest Centre and broader community together in an atmosphere of shared hospitality over a delicious homestyle meal. Emma and Claire, pictured here, are the current volunteers willingly sharing their



culinary skills preparing a chick pea and sweet potato curry, perfect for a cold winter's day in July. Fresh produce from the Harvest Centre features prominently in the internationally inspired vegetarian delights prepared in the Mitchell House kitchen and served in the large meeting room twice each month. A warm welcome and hearty meal is assured for all.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE—SHAYNE ENNOS

A required component of the Diploma of Community Services that Shayne is completing was a placement in a community focussed organisation. Fortunately the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre was her place of choice. Her bright personality, enthusiasm and most importantly, her desire to contribute to the development of local community, have combined to significantly enhance the work of the Neighbourhood Centre. Upon completion of her placement Shayne decided to continue her commitment to the Centre volunteering to staff the office four days each week. Shayne expresses a deeply held conviction to assist those who are disadvantaged, to build connections between community members, to identify and overcome obstacles to community and to encourage a neighbourhood centre known for its inclusive, welcoming and helpful approach that seeks to empower others to realise their potential.

Tribute to Iain - Jill McAdam (Vice President)

Iain joined the WNC Committee shortly after I joined the Committee. I always found him to be very approachable, taking everything in his stride. In my time as acting secretary it often felt like the minutes were like a "to do" list for Iain, but this never phased him. His sudden death was a shock to all of us. We miss him greatly. I still expect to see him when I walk through the door of Mitchell House. I am very thankful for Iain's four years of dedicated service to the WNC Community.



The Members' Newsletter is a new initiative designed to keep members informed and to provide a forum for the sharing of news and ideas related to the work of the Neighbourhood and Harvest centres. It is proposed to produce 3 or 4 issues per year and distribute copies to members via email. Hard copies will be available at Mitchell House. Please feel free to contribute to future editions and/or feedback your thoughts; manager@wonthaggi neighbourhoodcentre.com