

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre is governed by a Committee of Management comprising volunteers from the community with a desire to lend their expertise and time in support of the continued successful operation of the Centre. There are current vacancies on the Committee of Management providing opportunity for members to offer themselves for available positions and contribute in a significant way to the ongoing work of the Neighborhood Centre. There is a particular need for a treasurer and spaces for ordinary Committee members.

If you have had a connection with Mitchell House over the years and a desire to contribute to the future wonderful work of the Centre within the surrounding community, please consider joining the Management team. Approach a current member of the Committee or the Centre Manager for more information. Nominations will be accepted for the AGM on 28 September.

"WNC is on the land of the Bunurong Boonwurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional owners of this land where we gather to learn, work and play. We thank the elders past, present and emerging for their custodianship and their continuing connections to the land, sea and community."

WNC TURNING 40!

The Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre was officially opened back in January 1984. The establishment of the Centre was the culmination of much hard work by a committed and determined group of locals led by Lorraine and Ross Mitchell. With the assistance of a number of existing community based groups including the Apex Club, the Cape Paterson Progress Association and Life Saving club, and the support of the Borough of Wonthaggi Council, the vision began to take shape. The former station master's house was leased to become the hub of the Centre's Operations. The house was named in honour of Lorraine and Ross Mitchell, who both tragically died in a car accident in late 1982. The loss of the Mitchell's was a significant setback for the group but they remained determined to realise the dream and ensure the Mitchell's legacy. Their collective efforts were realized when Mitchell House officially opened its doors as the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre in January of 1984.



Since its opening the Centre has been and continues to be, a warm and welcoming place for a wide range of individuals, local groups and organisations. The Centre offers a broad range of activities including: lifelong learning, art and craft groups, health and well-being, family support, play groups, community advocacy, community event management and project development and the provision of a supportive and welcoming place for individuals and groups to meet.

Responding to local needs and issues, promoting community harmony principles and developing community strengthening practice has always been at the core of the Centre's purpose.

To mark the significant achievement of 40 years service the Neighbourhood Centre will be inviting members of the community to join in a birthday celebration to be held in Apex Park adjacent to Mitchell House in February next year. There will be music, kids entertainment and a free BBQ! Stay tuned for further information as the date draws nearer!

APPLICATIONS FOR THE CURRENT \$250 POWER SAVINGS BONUS WILL CLOSE AT 11:59PM ON AUG 31. Staff at WNC can assist you with application, if you have not already applied for the payment in this round feel free to call or drop in to Mitchell House for assistance.

FROM THE MANAGER...

WOW! Turning the big four-oh! For some of us that milestone was a mere blip in our busy, busy lives. For others - a source of worry, feeling like time was getting away and for others still - a time to reflect on where we'd been and where we were heading; what we wanted our future to look like. I think Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre @ Mitchell House is in that last group.

I was lucky enough to be a part of the life of Mitchell House at our 30th birthday. I remember those celebrations being a way to remember and honour our roots; where we'd come from. It was a day of gathering together to share our experiences of Mitchell House, our joy at where we were and our delight to be even a small part of stewarding the house into its next phase. I still feel lucky - because this time I am sitting in the chair so ably filled by my talented predecessors. And all of us, of course, guided and supported by the many, many passionate members of our various Committees of Management and committed volunteers.

'As WNC looks forward to the next 40 years (at least!), we are celebrating the rich tapestry of people, communities and place that has led us to today. And we'll build on the legacies and achievements of those who came before to walk with our communities as we all strive to meet the challenges of life in 2023 and beyond.

We are in the throes of planning a Fun Day celebration and all of our community is invited to join in the fun - as the details settle we'll keep you posted but don't forget to save the date 17 February 2024.'

Leslie Adams

Manager.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING...

SEPTEMBER 28 from 2:00PM

MITCHELL HOUSE

6 MURRAY STREET, WONTHAGGI



All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Meeting will include reports from the current President and Manager, a presentation of recent community survey results and election of office bearers for the next year.

The Wonthaggi Food Collective has been operating since its launch in December 2018. Those who have connected with the service through their membership of the Collective are benefitting from the savings made through this group approach to buying grocery items in bulk. The Collective purchases dry food items in bulk quantities and then distributes this to members at a small mark-up (no more than 25%) to cover the costs including for transportation of the ordered goods from the supplier in Lilydale to the Baw Baw Food Hub in Warragul where monthly pick ups take place.

The Collective is volunteer based and membership is steadily growing. Currently 28 members take advantage of the lower costs achieved through the process. Although there are some limits imposed by the number of volunteers and available storage space, the Collective is certainly open to hearing from others who might be interested to learn more and potentially consider membership in the future.

Contacts for more information are:

Nicole Beasley (0438864719) or

Michael Nugent (0416039933)





The Community Lunch program is going from strength to strength and attracting more guests each week. With the cost of living becoming increasingly burdensome for many, the opportunity for a warm meal at no cost is most welcome. The hospitality shared over the meal with others in the friendly atmosphere of Mitchell House is an added bonus. The meals are expertly prepared each week in the Mitchell House kitchen by a small team of efficient and experienced cooks. The meals are vegen friendly and hot and wholesome! Left overs are divided into meal sized portions, frozen and made available on demand to take away at other times during the week. **Every Wednesday from 12:30!**



VOLUNTEER PROFILE...

ROS YOUNG moved from Tasmania to Wonthaggi earlier this year to be closer to family. Ros was keen to make connections in her new community and where better to start than the local Neighbourhood Centre? Here Ros found a warm welcome and the opportunities she was searching for to join with friendly locals enjoying yoga classes and craft groups. Like many others before her Ros discovered that the Neighbourhood Centre is the perfect place to build new friendships, interact with others in a safe environment and learn more about the local community. Ros was so impressed with the Neighbourhood Centre that she soon applied to become an active volunteer giving of her time to contribute to the Centre that had been so helpful for her. Managing the busy reception desk every Wednesday morning has become a highlight of Ros' week. She enjoys interacting with visitors to Mitchell House and playing her part to ensure the smooth operation of the Centre. Thank you Ros for your valuable contribution!



EVER CONSIDERED VOLUNTEERING FOR WNC?

Volunteering for the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre can be very rewarding knowing that in such a role there exists opportunity to help the Centre fulfil one of its most important goals, to assist in building community and to reach out to those most in need to make a difference. There is a significant need for more volunteers at this time. If you can spare a few hours each week for a shift on the reception desk or perhaps in another role, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Complete the online volunteer form available on the website, phone the office for a chat or better still, drop in for a face-to-face conversation.



DIANE SHINKFIELD

has been attending the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood House for over 14 years. Diane moved to Kilcunda 34 years ago and has lived in the area ever since, currently calling Inverloch home. Diane's love of craft and desire to connect with other like minded people led her to Mitchell House where she has become a regular at the Friday morning craft group. She looks forward each week to the friendly banter of the welcoming group of ladies who gather each week to build on their craft skills, work on a personal craft project and share together in warm, friendly conversation.



FRIDAY CRAFT GROUP CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCH

The ladies of the Friday craft group recently enjoyed their annual Christmas in July lunch at Mitchell House. The warm and friendly group has a great time each Friday morning between 10:00 and 12:00 often moving on to a shared lunch at a local cafe. However, it has become something of a tradition in recent years for the ladies to bring share plates to the House for a mid winter celebration. This group is full of fun and very welcoming, they are always open to newcomers wanting to build connections and work on their craft activities. If you are into craft of any kind, looking to meet others of like mind and enjoy a laugh and lively conversation in a safe place, drop into Mitchell House on a Friday morning!



The Housing Matters Bass Coast

Group auspiced by the Neighbourhood Centre have been busy in recent time raising awareness within the community of the need that exists within the for food relief, general support services rental advocacy, and especially more public housing. Local media including the Sentinal Times, The Waterline News, South Coast FM and WINTV, have all willingly responded to requests to report on the issues related to homelessness and include information presented by Housing Matters personnel. Such activity has served to emphasise the significant needs that exist locally, helped to raise the profile of the Housing Matters Group and most importantly, boosted awareness throughout the community. The Group has planned activities to mark Homelessness Awareness Week (Aug 7-13) and is currently working on a presentation to Bass Coast Shire focusing upon homelessness in the local area. Other activity includes the assessment of vacant land in the area for the potential placement of transitional/emergency housing units. Housing Matters Bass members are very willing to accept invitations to present on the issues and facilitate discussions from interested groups eg. Probus, Rotary, Churches, Ratepayer's Associations etc. Housing Matters Bass coast Group can be contacted by email: HousingMattersBC@gmail.com





TERM 3 WONTHAGGI AGED 2-8YR

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!!

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

DAY: WEDNESDAYS STARTING JULY 12

TIME: 1:00PM-1:45PM

**VENUE: WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
6 MURRAY ST, WONTHAGGI**

FULL TERM: \$80.00 HALF TERM: \$45.00 WEEKLY: \$10.00

TO REGISTER VISIT: WWW.KIDDOGIPPSLAND.COM.AU

