

L2P PROVIDING IMPORTANT SERVICE

The local L2P program fulfils a valued role within our community. Funded by the Transport Accident Commission and administered by the Department of Transport, the program has been developed to assist eligible young Victorian learner drivers between the ages of 16 and 23 years. Young people who do not have ready access to a supervising driver or an appropriate vehicle are matched with a volunteer mentor who will work with them over a period of time as they gain skills and experience and complete the required number of practice hours before being eligible to take their probationary licence test through Vicroads.



The program is managed locally by Melanie Mumford pictured here with Zoe Keltie (on the left with Charlie) and Leone Thiele. Melanie has access to modern vehicles and has recruited a number of mentors over the years who have successfully supported many young people on the path towards gaining their driving licence. If you know of a young person who could benefit from this service or if you would like to consider volunteering as a mentor, Melanie would be keen to hear from you. Volunteer mentors are required to undergo a police check and complete a training session before taking up the role, Melanie is very willing to assist prospective mentors complete both these tasks. Mentors will attest that the rewards for working with a young person towards achieving their goal are significant! Melanie can be contacted in person at the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre Monday - Wednesday between the hours of 10:30am and 5:00pm or by phone during these same hours: 0467590679

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL!

Are you concerned about the housing crisis? Bass Coast Housing Matters, a group auspiced by WNC, is creating local solutions. We believe housing needs to be considered by governments and the community as a social asset rather than a financial asset.

Our mission is to advocate for adequate secure, affordable and environmentally sustainable housing for the diverse needs of all in our Bass Coast community. We meet monthly, and work with and lobby Council, state government and others for more and better public, social and other affordable housing. We also hold public meetings, have an outreach program, and are looking at more hands-on projects to directly help locals affected by the housing crisis.

If you would like to find out more, look us up on Facebook, go to www.housingmattersbasscoast.weebly.com or e-mail us at: HousingMattersBC@gmail.com.



COMING UP...

WNC has arranged for Shana Bremner, the Waste Education Officer with the Bass Coast Shire to present at an event to be held at Mitchell House on 18 February 2023. Time is yet to be determined but watch for final details in the near future.



The Craft Group was saddened recently to learn of the passing of **Dorothy Fitzgerald** following a short illness. Dorothy was a regular on Monday and Friday mornings and her presence will be sadly missed by her friends.



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.

The newsletter is published four times a year and distributed 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

CONNECTIONS



WNC MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

No. 2 November 2022

6 Murray St., Wonthaggi

Ph. 56723731

E: manager@wonthaggi neighbourhoodcentre.com

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Recycle your waste at WNC!

The Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre is on a recycling drive encouraging members of the community to consider a recycling option before simply discarding all waste products into the household rubbish bin. Receptacles have been provided at Mitchell House for community members to dispose of a variety of recyclable items including the following: Dental related (toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes), plastic pens, empty pill blister packs, plastic bread tags and razorblades. Simply drop in and place your items in the labelled containers and WNC staff will ensure that they end up recycled as intended. It might not seem like much but every little bit helps in the push to reduce the waste that ends up in landfill sites.

NEW MANAGER APPOINTED...

Leslie Adams has been appointed the new Manger of the Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre. Leslie lives locally and has worked extensively within the Wonthaggi community for many years. Leslie comes to the role with significant knowledge of the Centre having served as President of the Committee of Management (2012-15) and filled volunteering roles previously. This experience will no doubt assist her transition to the role and provide a foundation upon which she will be able to build further into the future. Leslie has considerable managerial acumen and has successfully filled varied roles in the past requiring a high degree of organisational skill, leadership qualities and initiative. The Committee of Management conducted an exhaustive search for a new Manager and were delighted when Leslie accepted their offer of the position. After a challenging few months the Committee is looking forward to working with and supporting Leslie as she takes up the role and proceeds to oversee the valued work of the centre.

Leslie began at Mitchell House on Monday 31st October and will be in the office on Monday to Thursday each week. We extend a warm welcome to Leslie and wish her well as she begins in her new position.



Meet Nikki Kelly - WNC's new Administration Officer...

Nikki comes to WNC with a diverse and colourful background in administration, online design, marketing, sound recording and editing. She lived, studied and worked in the UK for 13 years before returning to Australia. Since returning to her homeland Nikki has successfully published a number of children's story books and screenplays. She also conducts storytelling events in schools, bookstores, libraries, birthday parties and on community radio. She enjoys an active life on Phillip Island raising her two vivacious teenage children. When time allows she likes the beach, stand-up paddle boarding and spending time in her garden. She is excited about her appointment and keen to engage with the community and support further development of community through the Neighbourhood Centre.



Annual General Meeting 2022

The Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre and Harvest Centre AGM was conducted at Mitchell House on November 7th. Seventeen members attended including members of the current Executive and Committee of Management with the exception of President Sylvia Davey who sadly was unable to be present due to a recent family bereavement. The meeting was chaired by Vice President, Jill McAdam.

Jill provided a warm welcome to all present and warmly introduced the recently appointed Centre Manager, Leslie Adams and Administration Officer, Nikki Kelly. The appointments of Leslie and Nikki were acknowledged with applause and a sense of genuine gratitude. Jill acknowledged the challenging period of transition endured since the sad and unexpected passing of Iain Ritchie earlier in the year and thanked the Committee members and volunteers for their work to ensure that the Centre continued to serve the community while the search for new staff proceeded. Leslie and Nikki are settling into their respective roles and looking forward to continuing and building upon the reputation of the Centre within the Wonthaggi community.

Jill presented the President's report prepared by Sylvia that highlighted the extensive and varied work of the Centre during the year in support of community members. Also noted were the significant challenges experienced during the year in response to the presence of COVID and the restrictions that this imposed on the normal activity of the Centre. The COVID assistance grants received during this period provided a hint of silver lining in an otherwise frustrating period. Thankfully restrictions were ultimately lifted and operations returned to normal. The L2P program was noted and the fine work of Melanie Mumford rightly acknowledged. Committee of Management members and volunteers were recognized and thanked for their tireless efforts during the year. Finally acknowledged was the amazing contribution of Iain Ritchie and the depth of loss and sadness felt by all at his untimely passing. Concluding with a note of hope in her report, Sylvia encouraged members to celebrate achievements and to look forward with renewed optimism to a future where the Neighborhood and Harvest Centre's continue to fulfil an important service function within the Wonthaggi township and surrounding communities.

Outgoing Treasurer, Michael Nugent presented the financial statements reporting on a small deficit for the year that would have been significantly more were it not for the significant COVID related funding provided by the State Government during the year. The Centre has a very healthy ongoing balance that has allowed the Committee of Management to increase paid staff time and improve the physical amenities of Mitchell House while still ensuring that reserves remain at an appropriate level. Michael's hugely significant contribution as the WNC and Harvest Centre Treasurer over a number of years was gratefully acknowledged by Jill and the meeting generally.

Reports were also received from the following groups; Bass Coast L2P Program, Bass Coast Refugee Sponsorship Group, Circle Dancing, Fixit Café, Harvest Centre, Meditation Group, Multicultural Women's Group, Quilter's Group, Seated Yoga, Supported Playgroups, Weight Management Group, and the Wonthaggi Food Collective. A number of other activities were also listed all of which demonstrates the diversity of activity supported through the Centre.

To conclude the meeting elections for Committee of Management positions were conducted. This process resulted in the following composition of the Committee for the next year of operation:

President: Sylvia Davey	Committee members: Carolyn Knight
Vice President: Jill McAdam	Janice Connor
Secretary: Helen Searle	Aisha Bux
Treasurer: To be filled	Grant Watson

UKULELE GROUP HITS THE RIGHT NOTE!

The Ukulele is an instrument that has its origins in Portugal before becoming popularised in Hawaii. The name ukulele roughly translates as "jumping flea" perhaps in reference to the player's fingers across the strings. It became popular during the 1800s in Hawaii largely in response to the enthusiastic support for the instrument displayed by an Hawaiian king, Kalakaua. Since those times the instrument has become symbolic of Hawaiian music and culture.



Since the 1990s the ukulele has experienced a surge in popularity globally and this surge is also apparent locally. A group of local enthusiasts gather each week at the Neighbourhood Centre to hone their craft and enjoy a fun time together. The group enjoy playing and singing along to a broad variety of tunes. The laughter and fellowship enjoyed by the group is an added bonus as they share their mutual love for the instrument and music generally. The group occasionally perform for the residents of local nursing homes and will be bringing some very welcome Christmas themed cheer to residents in the weeks ahead.

9:30 - midday every Thursday at Mitchell House.



GROUP OF GREEN THUMBS ENJOY WEEKLY GATHERINGS

The Harvest Centre located behind the Mitchell House Neighbourhood Centre, hosts the weekly gathering of folk interested in all things gardening. The group carefully tends the extensive garden beds ensuring that the produce is making the anticipated progress towards a successful harvest. The gardening group has been growing together for over 17 years and their weekly gathering provides opportunity for sharing ideas and lively conversation, generally on a garden theme but there is no restriction on topics of banter over a welcome cuppa following a period of working in the garden.

Jessica Harrison is the co-founder and co-ordinator and new members are assured a warm welcome. No particular expertise is required, members learn from each other and simply enjoy the company and getting their hands dirty. Produce is shared amongst the gardeners and seasonal abundance is donated to the Free Food Pantry outside Mitchell House.

Every Wednesday
9:30 - Midday.
And the second Saturday of each month from 10:00am

