Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre Inc

## NEWSLETTER

Term 4 2021



#### From the Centre:

There is a fantastic community around Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre (WMNC) and Community Garden. I have certainly learned and enjoyed getting to know that in my short time here. What a year! A constant for 2021 has certainly been change which has also been the case here at the Centre and garden.

While change can be a bit disruptive to our everyday lives and create some real challenges, it is often a good time to explore new opportunities and ways of doing things. I believe this is true for us here at the centre and garden. While celebrating all that we already do here at Warrane, we have and will grow to find new ways of doing things and brand-new activities driven by and for our community. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us and join in as we go along.

There have of course been significant changes as we have adapted to life with new restrictions and ways of doing things to focus even more closely on the safety and well-being of our community. This has taken some adjustment for all of us, adapting to new ways of doing things. Together we are well positioned to manage our way through the rest of this year and move into 2022 in a positive way.

Being new Manager at the Centre and garden is an exciting venture for me and a return to grass roots where I enjoy connecting directly with community, meeting and spending time with people. Stepping into the role, I am benefiting from the experience and support of the existing team of Kerryn, Katie and Doreen and long dedication of recently retired Leanne Doherty, a highly valued member of this team, the community, and Neighbourhood Houses more broadly. I have been fortunate to connect with Leanne who will doubt remain in contact with the Centre which is great. Further to this, the wealth of knowledge and contribution from our volunteers has been invaluable as I have found my feet. As we wrap up for 2021 in a few weeks, our activities are enjoying strong participation and a good community culture with participants, stakeholders, staff and volunteers having a positive experience. Positive feedback from our community has been very well received by the whole team and we appreciate it.

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#### Acknowledgment of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

#### **OPENING HOURS**

Mon 8:30am - 4:00pm, Tues 8:30am - 3:30pm, Wed 8:30am - 3:30pm, Thurs 8:30am - 4:00pm, Fri 9am - 3pm

Activities such as our community lunches are enjoying increasing participation, exercise and yoga sessions have a lovely group of people involved and have returned to pre covid numbers. The centre continues to provide essential food assistance and increasing numbers of people are seeking and benefiting from this. Community groups accessing the Centre continue to increase and regular activities are thriving. The Community Garden goes from strength to strength and our Coordinator Katie leads activity with a heap of great energy. The volunteers do a power of work to support that, and we want MORE community to come and enjoy both spaces.

Connecting with other organisations and departments such as Communities Tasmania, Clarence Council, Mission Australia, Anglicare for several activities has been a pleasure and the relationships will no doubt only grow. Various organisations have made use of our hire spaces and bring new people to the centre as we focus on collaborating and connecting with local agencies to pursue a collective approach to best serve the community.

Importantly, as we step into the re-opening of Tasmania and all that comes with that, it is essential that we continue to care for the health and well-being of one another and treat each other with consideration and kindness. This will not be an easy transition for many and remaining conscious of the different ways in which we all respond to a difficult time is very important.

We are very fortunate to have an impressive and generous team of volunteers, without whom we could not achieve all that we do. A huge thank you must go to all of them, old and new for the incredible contribution they make.

Looking ahead to 2022, we will be looking to grow current activities, expand into new areas and connect and engage with the community more strongly than ever. A collaborative approach is essential to ensure we are responding to what our community wants and needs and working together will only strengthen us all. In wrapping up the year, we thank everyone who has contributed to 'our community' here and welcome you to the garden and centre to visit, participate or even just call and say hello and share your ideas. If you are interested in volunteering in either the Centre or the Garden, please don't hesitate as we would love to work with you to find something that you will enjoy. Have a safe and merry holiday period, care for yourselves and others and be kind. We look forward to seeing you throughout the rest of 2021 and into next year.

Ben Cooper - Manager



Pictured: Manager, Ben Cooper

#### Meet the team!

Many staffing changes have taken place at the Centre over the past few months, so it's the perfect opportunity to reintroduce the team to you!

From left to right:

Ben - Manager, available Mon-Fri Doreen - Office Administration, available Mon-Thurs Kerryn - Assistant Manager, available Wed-Fri Katie - Garden Coordinator, available Tues & Thurs





#### Garden Gathering

Thank you to everyone who helped make our rescheduled Garden Gathering such an enjoyable day. We hope you had a lovely time and discovered some great finds.

The Weed ID stall was kept busy with questions, children enjoyed making seed bombs and our garden volunteers were delighted to wave off many carefully nurtured seedlings and plants to new homes. Sales and donations raised over \$300 which is great boost for the garden budget! This money supports inputs for growing food, seedlings and creating a more welcoming and educational space.

A big thank you to the wonderful volunteers who contributed to making this event possible. And special thanks to Rotary Club of Bellerive for their friendly assistance ensuring our Covid safety requirements were being followed. And to Glenn & Leanne Doherty for ensuring our garden was not an overgrown jungle for this event by shortening our grass and weedy spaces. It was great to see the garden buzzing across the morning.







Pictured above: stallholders at the October Garden Gathering

#### Upcycled Art on Display

Check it out! Warrane Community Garden has been gifted three new beautiful art pieces. Created especially for the garden by students from Eastside Lutheran College grade 4/5s, the pieces are cleverly constructed from old bottle-tops. And their garden theme included a bee, an apple, and flowers. Twenty eight students were welcomed into the garden for the official handover in which they explained the process involved in creating these cheerful works.

After the handover students had the opportunity to explore the garden beds and growing areas with volunteers Ailsa, Anna, and Marie. Katie, the garden coordinator, said "We are so thrilled to receive and display these colorful pieces of art in the garden and look forward to welcoming students back to visit us soon... Thank you to the ELC 4/5 students for the wonderful gift that all our volunteers and visitors to the garden will enjoy!"



Pictured: Eastside Lutheran students with their art work



Pictured: Old bottle tops art work displayed at the garden

Next Garden Working Bee: Sunday 12 December 9am - 12 noon

If you would like to get involved at the garden or learn more please visit: https://wmnc.org.au/community-garden

Katie - Garden Coordinator

# Cur Volunteers

#### Volunteering at the Neighbourhood Centre

Volunteers are the backbone of what we do here at Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre. They make up our Board of Governance committee as well as help facilitate and support the programs that we run. We have recently recruited some new volunteers to the Centre and would like to officially welcome Patrick, Bev, Karin and John to the team in their various roles. The needs of the community and the Centre are often changing, and therefore volunteering roles often become available. If you are keen to volunteer with us, please make contact with us on 6244 6346 or email info@wmnc.org.au to discuss further.

We are currently looking for volunteer Bus Drivers to assist with driving our 12 seater community bus. We are seeking both regular and as-needed drivers. If this is something that may interest you, please get in contact with us!

#### Meet Bev and Karin!

Bev and Karin are new to the Centre and are working in the positions of Kitchen Assistants. Here at the Centre we offer a weekly Community Lunch and as more people attend, we found ourselves in need of some helping hands to lighten the kitchen load! And how thankful we are for these two wonderful volunteers for joining the team!

When asked what they are enjoying about volunteering with us, Bev stated that she's enjoying "meeting new people and feeling part of the community". Karin commented that she found herself "doing something useful other than just being retired - I'm doing something like I used to do".

Volunteering is "very worthwhile" and "very rewarding, it gives you that feel good experience".

Be sure to say hello to both Bev and Karin when you come and join us at our next Community Lunch!







Pictured: Garden Volunteer, Marie

#### An Interview With Marie - Garden Volunteer

## What kinds of things do you do when you are volunteering at the garden?

We have a working bee on the second Sunday of each month where we have a list of jobs to complete: weeding, transplanting, applying fertilizers, thinning out anything, picking surplus produce to share with the community – all interesting!

I love the companionship over a cuppa at morning tea as well.

#### What do you enjoy about volunteering?

Even though I did a Horticulture course when I retired from Tafe, I enjoy that I am still learning from the other wonderful volunteers. One is never too old to learn and keep moving.

#### What is a favourite plant and why?

I love all plants. At the moment it would have to be the tomato, as our community garden is involved with the Botanical Gardens Citizens Science Project. We are to report back on these new Canadian varieties, comparing taste, size, colour and growing habits with Australian varieties.

## What would you say to someone who was thinking about volunteering?

Even if you don't know anything about gardening and would like to learn, have some company along the way, make mistakes by pulling out plants instead of weeds (all good, that's how you learn!), come and join us 2nd Sunday of the month and perhaps take something home with you!



# Centre Timetable

	Tue	Wed	Thu	fri
	6:10pm-6:30pm Loui's Van	8:30am onwards Food Assistance 9am Yoga 11:45am Community Lunch	9am-11am Chat & Play (2nd & 4th Thurs)	10:30am Wellness Workout
All Day NILS appointments Computer Use Printing Photocopying Book Swap \$2 Coffee				

#### 'Seriously Good' Coffee!

Are you a coffee lover? Ben, our Manager, has declared our coffee to be '**seriously good**' and would like to invite you to come

join us at the Centre and indulge in a coffee for only \$2. Not only will you get to meet us and learn about who we are and what we do, you will also be supporting the centre. Everybody welcome!

#### **Centre Facilities**

Do you need to access a computer? Need to print or scan something? We can help!

We have computers, a printer, scanner and laminators (A4 & A3) available for use.

Printing pricing: 20c for 10x A4 pages in B&W 50c per A4 page for Colour

Laminating costs: 50c per A4 sheet / \$1 per A3 sheet Bookings are preferred - call on 6244 6346

#### Community Lunch

Come join us for lunch! Each Wednesday a two course meal is offered here at the Centre and all community members are welcome and encouraged to join us. As numbers are limited bookings are required, so please call us on 6244 6346 to book in. We look forward to having you join us.

#### Room Hire

If you are seeking a room to meet a client, host a meeting/forum or a gathering, we may be able to assist you (restrictions do apply). The Centre has a large indoor space that can hold up to 60 people (COVID density restrictions apply), an outdoor space (including an undercover deck) and kitchen facilities. If you are looking for somewhere and think our centre might meet your needs, please give us a call on 6244 6346 to make further enquiries.



#### Food Assistance

Each week we receive a limited amount of food from providers which include items such as bread, milk, fruit and vegetables to distribute to those who need some assistance. These items are available for pickup from 8:30am each Wednesday and are offered on a first come first serve basis (no holds available).

The Centre also greatly appreciates food donations from the community to help support this program.

#### Computers for Beginners

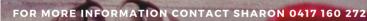
This class provides basic training in using computers and the internet. It is suitable for those who wish to further develop their knowledge and skills at a beginners level. Places are limited and bookings are essential. For enquiries, please call 6244 6346.



#### Yoga

There are currently three yoga sessions running each week, 2 on Monday mornings and another on Wednesday mornings. All classes are suitable for beginners and beyond. Please bring along your own mat and drink bottle. Cost is \$5 per class. For more information, please contact the instructor, Sharon, on 0417 160 272.









Families are invited to share in our chat and play sessions. A great way to meet people in your local area!

2nd & 4th Thursday of the month Drop into the Centre anytime between 9-11 am. Coffee and tea provided.

150a Bligh Street, Warrane For more info please call 62446346. In partnership with Families Tasmania.



#### Chat & Play

Are you looking to connect with other parents in your community in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere? You are invited to join us at our Chat & Play Session held here at the Centre every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. This session is run by a local volunteer and Families Tasmania and is a great opportunity for the kids to play while you enjoy a cuppa and a chat.



Pictured: little play mates at Chat & Play

#### Wellness Workout

Looking for an exercise class that focuses on strength, flexibility and balance in a fun and relaxed environment? Then this class is for you! Wellness Workout runs every Friday at 10:30am and costs \$5 per class. Please bring a water bottle and hand towel. If you are thinking of joining the class, please give us a call on 6244 6346.



#### No Interest Loan Scheme

The No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) is a service that supports people on low incomes to purchase essential household items and services. We can support you to make your loan application here at the Centre. Please call NILS directly on 1300 301 650 to begin your loan application prior to calling us to book in your appointment.

# Merry Christmas!

Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre will be closed from 3:30pm Wednesday 22nd December 2021 and will reopen 8:30am Monday 10th January 2022

We wish you and your loved ones a safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre Inc



### Your Community - Your Ideas

We are always looking for new activities, programs and training to be offered here at the Centre – and with 2022 fast approaching, now is the perfect time to share with us your ideas on what YOU would like to see offered in your community.

Please let us know your thoughts and ideas! You can call us on 6244 6346 or email us info@wmnc.org.au

# 🕀 JOIN US ONLINE 📑

Keep up to date with centre news and activities by checking out our website

#### www.wmnc.org.au

or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/warranemornington



- 12 December Garden Working Bee
- 22 December Centre's last day oper
- 23 December Centre closed until 10/1/22
- 25 December Christmas Day
- 26 December Boxing Day
- 1 January New Years Day
- 10 January Centre reopens