



Healesville Living and Learning Centre Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

- » Tuesday 6th December, 2011 - Volunteers' Christmas lunch
- » Friday 9th December, 2011 - Term 4 completion date
- » Monday 12th December, 2011 - Staff Christmas lunch. Centre will be closed from 12 noon
- » Friday 16th December, 2011 - Centre closes for summer break.
- » Monday 16th January 2012 - Enrolments for 2012 can be taken up until this date.
- » Monday 16th January 2012 - Centre re-opens

From the C.E.O.'s Desk

You may have noticed on the last couple of newsletters that we have added a Facebook and Twitter address to accompany our website address.

We have been dabbling in what is called 'social media' marketing as a way to promote the Centre, and to let everyone know what's happening from day to day. As part of our use of this new communication tool we will be letting you know about special events, new activities, community news and other items of interest. Our website also has a new page where newsletters from other local groups such as HEWI (Healesville Environment Watch) can be viewed.

This new technology seems daunting but it's fairly simple and fun to use. It has made us look at the content of our quarterly newsletter and make some changes which I hope you will like.

For all our members who are not following us through digital media we are going to include the best bits in our paper based newsletter.

We have also decided that as it is the member's newsletter we should include articles from you in each edition.

In this edition you will find articles from students, project workers, staff and committee who all wish to share news about what's happening around the Centre with you.

I would like to invite all our readers to share their news about their Centre activities with each other by emailing them to admin@healesvillelearningcentre.org

Don't wait for the end of each term because we are happy to share them with everyone on the Net as they happen. Pictures are also welcome.

Thanks to all those who provided articles of interest to share in this newsletter. And now we have arrived at the end of another busy, but productive, year and I would like to wish all of you a very happy Christmas/holiday season and look forward to seeing you all back here next year.

Best Wishes

Karen Kisala
C.E.O.

Committee News

President of the Committee of Management Janet Goodwin has announced her retirement, effective from the end of this year. The Centre's Vice President Jane Jones has agreed to step into the position until the next AGM.

We wish to thank Janet for her many years of service to the Centre and wish her well in her retirement.

This means that we still have two vacancies on the committee and would welcome any member's enquiry into filling them.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our wonderful volunteers

Op Shop News

Every cent we raise at the Op Shop is returned to your community through the Centre's activities. The Op Shop will close for the Christmas break on December 21st, and re-open for the new year on January 16th.

Half price Sale from December 14th - 21st. Come in and grab yourself a bargain.

The staff, Committee and volunteers of HLLC would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New year



A Call For Volunteers

Due to the retirement of a few of our long-serving Op Shop volunteers, our East End Op Shop currently has positions available. We are looking for friendly, reliable people with the ability to work as part of a team. Duties include but are not limited to: customer service, sorting, washing and ironing of donated goods, and general housekeeping duties. If you are interested in joining our energetic volunteers in the Op Shop, please contact Karen Kisala on 5962 5982 to arrange an interview.



The Healesville Living and Learning Centre has joined the Twittersverse!

Keep abreast of what's going on as it happens, and send us your feedback by following us today.

www.twitter.com/HealesvilleLLC

Contact Us

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[@HealesvilleLLC](https://twitter.com/HealesvilleLLC)

Manager - Education and Training

Darren Grainger

As the year comes to a close it is a time to reflect on the highlights of 2011. The fashion parade held at the Royal Melbourne Show was a huge hit and organizers would like to see it become a regular part of the scheduled events each year. If you missed it at the Show, you can find more information on page 4.

Our Hair and Beauty school has increased services to the community this term, providing a crucial learning experience for our students. Here are a couple of comments from clients about our service:

- "Congratulations for providing such a service and training for local youth."
- "Excellent facility, will return."
- "Today is the second time I have been here and I will definitely be back."
- "Other people have commented on my hair and I have referred them."

The addition of our new Student Support Officer, Toni Hopkins, has been of great benefit to our students. Toni organises work placement, which has resulted in paid employment for some of our students. This has even occurred before the completion of their training with us, demonstrating how much support into employment we provide to our students, and how important it is.

This year we have also begun successful delivery of accredited training at other locations, including Arrabri Community House in Bayswater North. There are plans to further expand external delivery in 2012 to locations including Montrose and Croydon. In this way, we hope to bring our training programs to areas where there is substantial community need.

It has been an exciting year for education and training; one which has reinforced for me the transformational power of education. Learning new skills has the potential to change someone's life, providing pathways to sustainable employment and resulting in financial security. When I hear these stories of success, it makes my work here so much more rewarding.

Until next year.

Darren Grainger

Manager - Education and Training

Community Programs Coordinator

Janet Hayes

We recently conducted a survey in which we asked the community about courses and workshops they would be interested in participating in at the Centre. We set up in the foyer of Coles in Healesville for the morning, and we also surveyed our current students. Our survey Tupperware prize was won by Mary Von Struppi. It was a pleasure to hand over her prize at the Living and Learning Centre, and she said winning the prize had made her day.

New Tutors

I'd like to welcome new tutors who will be working with us in 2012:

Contemporary Watercolour and Mixed Media tutor Wendy Jane Sheppard has a wonderful enthusiasm for her art and teaching. Her workshop will inspire new and innovative water colour paintings.

Felting tutor Gayle Burgess has extensive knowledge and experience in felting, innovative textiles and painting. She will share her love of colour and texture.

Recycled Fashions tutor Gayle De Angelis is known for her intricate, hand stitched recycled men's tie dresses. She has a background in fashion and tutoring and is keen to inspire recycling and reusing to make a new garment or wearable art.

Nectar of Life Yoga trainer Melissa Shemanna has recently qualified as a yoga teacher, and is up to date with the latest trends in Yoga. Her sunny, understanding nature will guide her students through becoming more supple, flexible and energized.

Introduction to Organic Gardening tutor Travis Heenan is a young man with extensive knowledge and hands on experience in organic gardening and permaculture. He will be conducting his workshops at the Healesville Community Garden.

World Music Drumming tutor Craig Swindells is a young man with a background in art and music. He has studied drumming techniques in India and North Africa and is sure to present an inspiring and exciting series of hands on workshops.

Janet Hayes

Community Programs Coordinator

News from the Beauty School

Worawa Secondary College Debutante Ball

We had a great day with our students at Healesville, assisting the girls from Worawa Secondary College by creating beautiful hair, nails and makeup for their Debutante Ball. The girls looked absolutely beautiful and had a magical night.

Colour, Colour, Colour!

All hairdressing students are fortunate to have the expertise of our new colour technician Kobe, who will be presenting a talk and giving a demonstration on the new hair colour range. Kobe is from the Hairdressing Group ISSUE.

We are excited to be learning about and using their creative, vibrant range of hair colour. High fashion colour service is a unique and creative skill to have within the hairdressing industry. All our students will greatly benefit from this experience.



Men's Shed News

Our membership continues to grow and broaden, bringing a wider experience to all participants at the shed. This is evident during meal times, when the round table discussions vary from the meaningful to the absurd, with everyone contributing and enjoying the banter.

During term four we have repaired a letter box, made a gate and repaired a much loved wicker basket.

This winter we grew a green fertilizer crop and some broad beans in our garden. The spring/summer planting is just about finished, and if we can beat the snails, we are looking forward to bumper crops of tomatoes, lettuces, beetroot, silver beet, beans and peas.

Our members have been overjoyed with their own projects which have included a rocking horse, a bar stool and children's easels.

Until next term,

Alan Jones

Men's Shed Supervisor

Reading and Writing

Certificate II in General Education for Adults Student - Mitch Hannaford

This course has helped me in so many ways. Before I started I was under the impression that my life was going to go nowhere. I had no direction and I had forgotten all the things my brain can do. It had been about two years since I had dropped out of high school and I thought there was nowhere I could go from there.

I have been doing this course for almost six months now and it has been very refreshing. It has reminded me that I have a brain and has brought me back on track in using said brain. It feels great to be writing again. I never really thought much of writing in high school.

I have now learnt about how writing something down is such a good outlet. It has also helped me come up with a plan for when I finished the course and has helped me set myself some goals.

I now feel a lot better about myself. I feel more confident in myself. I figured out that a lot of the things I used to worry about are not worth it. I have so many better things to do in my life.

Certificate II and Certificate III in General Education for Adults (CGEA) are designed to address the education and training needs of adults who left school early and need to improve their literacy, basic mathematics and general education skills.

Beginning term 1, 2012, the Centre will be offering the following courses, delivered under the CGEA:

- Arts in Australia
- Art Works
- Breaking the Code - Numeracy and Mathematics
- Community e-Newsletter
- Improve Your Reading and Writing

If you are interested in studying any of these courses in 2012, contact Darren Grainger at the Centre for more information, or to arrange a pre-enrolment interview.

Conversations with Meaning

Workshops developed and run by Kate Wilson

Earlier this year I received a community grant from the Yarra Ranges Council to run workshops in our local schools. These sessions incorporate my personal experiences of Black Saturday and beyond through my children's picture books.

I put a lot of emphasis on the big things in our lives, no matter what they are, and how talking them through can make them more manageable. The children are given an opportunity to express their own experiences of this time through stories and or pictures.

All the completed work is being displayed on a wikispace that the Healesville Living and Learning team help me put together. After running more than 10 sessions I have been amazed at the responses from the students. The written/art work is great but the discussions have been just as important.

These children need a forum to voice their worries and concerns. Watching others suffer around them has had a profound effect on many. These workshops allow them to voice their concerns and through discussion put it all in perspective ie: the realities of where they live and how to cope with that.

Many of the pictures and stories have already been put in the kid's galleries on the conversations with meaning wikispace. See link below.

<http://conversationswithmeaning.healesvillelearning.wikispaces.net/>

Submit an article

Are you a student of the Healesville Living and Learning Centre with something to share? We would love to publish your stories and articles in our newsletter.

We are particularly interested in stories about how the Living and Learning Centre has positively affected your learning and your life. If you would like to submit an article, please speak with your trainer, or send your submission directly to me at jennyp@healesvillelearningcentre.org.

My Journey to a Novel

Creative Pens Writing Program Student - Zoë Wilson

I had had the bare bones of a novel about bird conservation simmering in my mind for several years, but full-time work and other commitments meant that I had only written the first half and had no confidence in my ability to finish it.

I enrolled for "Creative Pens" because after years of writing science and dull reports I wanted an opportunity to bring out my creative side (and because I have no other artistic talents!).

I was very nervous at first, but I found the atmosphere of the classes informal and friendly, and with the encouragement of several excellent writers already in the group, I gradually gained confidence and eventually decided to tackle my novel again.

The school holidays gave me a clear stretch of time with no other "homework", so I plunged in and to my great satisfaction managed to complete a 78,000 word "first draft". Several people helped me by reading it and providing friendly criticism. I have now set out to rewrite the parts where I feel the plot is a little weak and am trying to conquer the most difficult task – writing the synopsis.

I would never have got this far without the support of "Creative Pens". Deborah is a gentle teacher who leads us down a variety of writing paths that we might never have explored for ourselves and provides us with the working tools we need.

There is no certainty that my novel will ever be published, but the journey has been very satisfying. Thank you, Healesville Living and Learning Centre.

Pastel Class Exhibition

[Poppys Thai Restaurant](#)

The Healesville Pastel Group, formed through the Centre's pastel class, is having an exhibition at Poppys Thai Restaurant, featuring artworks from this year's Pastel Studies Calendar. The calendar is available from the Centre for \$25. Poppys Thai is located at Maroondah Highway, Healesville, open daily for dinner and Sunday lunch.

A House Around The Corner

This new television series showcases the incredible range of educational programs and community activities available through more than 350 Learn Local organisations and neighbourhood houses around Victoria. "A House Around The Corner" is a 13 week series that premiered on Channel 31/Digital 44 on Wednesday, September 7th at 4.00pm.

On November 23rd, our fashion design students were featured in a two-part episode which included interviews with our trainer, Kelly Tosh and several students, and culminated in coverage of the Royal Melbourne Show fashion parade.

If you would like to see what all the fuss is about, visit A House Around The Corner and watch our students strut their stuff at <http://ahousearoundthecorner.org/Episode+12>

The show is supported and funded by the Adult Community and Further Education Board, auspiced by Eastern Regional Access TV and created by the Coonara Community House in Upper Ferntree Gully and TMZ TV.

Stitch and Chat Exhibition

Healesville Library

Interested in needlework, patchwork and quilting, craftwork? Pop into the Healesville Library to view our latest exhibition of Christmas Needlework.

Like to join a group in the New Year? Sign up for one of our Hobby and Leisure courses offered in 2012. Brochures available at Centre and the Library.



Building the IT Bridge Project

Early this year our committee along with four other learning centres from the eastern suburbs joined with five centres from the Wimmera/Grampians network to participate in this project.

The benefit of taking part gives committee members the opportunity to further develop their Technology and Governance skills.

We began in June 2011 travelling to Horsham for a one day workshop where we were introduced to the project, discussed our experiences as committee members and set up a wikispace.

Home again, our training has taken place on a "Virtual Classroom" called The Illuminate Classroom.

We have completed surveys exploring our knowledge and skills levels on Governance, and a Technology Audit. The process of the Illuminate Classroom is fascinating and a little daunting at times, however it means that participants can attend training in the comfort of their own homes using their computer on the wikispace. Back up and help is always available from our trainers.

We are learning about some useful technology that could assist us in our role as committee members, for example, Computerised Whiteboards, Smart Pens for taking notes in a meeting, and Illuminate Classrooms, allowing participants to meet and discuss issues without having to move from their home and computer.

We are halfway through our training and look forward to completing the project in March 2012. Quite mind blowing for a technophobe like me but exciting as well.

Denise Casey - Committee Member

Community Link

The Community Link Referral Directory is a comprehensive database of services and resources which are available to the public. We can provide customized and confidential reports suited to your individual needs.

Contact us to find out more 5962 5982.

Royal Melbourne Show and Fashion Design

On Monday 3rd October, President Janet Goodwin and Committee Member Denise Casey attended a showing of five of our second year Fashion Design students. Each student presented and explained their garments and their aspirations to the audience. The garments were modelled by professional models and looked terrific! Our Manager of Education and Training, Darren Grainger, gave an overview of the Fashion Design course offered at the Centre.

We are very proud of our students, Melanie Cassai, Adriana Anastasio, Ashley Lucas, Nyomi Nobes and Emma Hayden, we wish them all the best in their future studies. We look forward to supporting the next group of Fashion Design students in 2012.

The major sponsors of this event was Brian and Bev Thomas of "AISIN - Toyota Sewing Machines".



Denise Casey, JP will be available every Tuesday from 12:00 until 1:30 pm to sign Statutory Declarations.

Please phone for an appointment.