

Watsonia Neighbourhood House Newsletter

Term 3 2016

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House News

We would like to welcome new participants to our classes and social groups as well as our new volunteers Julie (office admin) and Roland (garden maintenance).

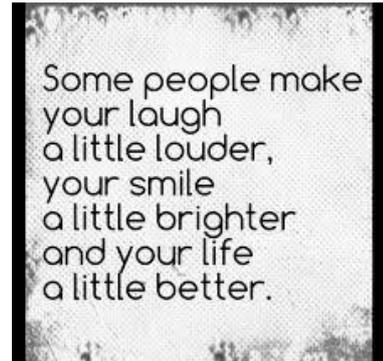
We are pleased to be awarded a Banyule Equipment Grant from Banyule City Council to purchase some new chairs. As you have probably noticed, some of our old chairs are looking a bit tired and tatty so we have replaced them with some new comfy chairs. We have also replaced some broken trestle tables.

Bunnings Thomastown and Eltham have agreed to assist us with some renovations to our outdoor seating area and garden beds. They have also donated a new BBQ which we will install after the renovation work. We are hoping to get some new raised vegie beds, in built compost bays and a new native garden in the far corner. This will make the community garden an even better place to sit and relax.

In addition to our term program of classes and social groups, we have been working cooperatively with other community based groups, networks and service providers with whom we share common purpose and values. So far this term we have worked with NEAMI, Mind Australia (providing mental health services), Berry Street (providing family support services), and Mindful Mums (providing mindfulness workshops). This results in the House supporting the needs of more diverse people in our community.

A big thanks to everyone who supports the House and our wonderful vibrant community.

Lucie Holden, *Coordinator*



Membership renewals due NOW!

A reminder that Membership renewals for the new financial year are due from 1 July 2016. By choosing to be a Member, you are helping us to support the needs of people in our community.

If you have not been a member before, please consider joining. It only costs \$10 per year.

You can find more information on our website www.watsonianh.org.au, or come by the office for a Membership application form.

About us ... did you know?

Most people who visit the House know that we run classes and social groups, but did you know we also provide services to people in our community who experience;

- social isolation
- long term unemployment
- domestic violence
- food and housing insecurity
- very low income
- chronic or severe physical ill health
- mental illness
- physical or intellectual disability

By supporting us you are helping us to engage and provide services to vulnerable and disadvantaged community members.

Watsonia Neighbourhood House acknowledges and values the Wurundjeri Wandoon people of the greater Kulin Nation as the first people of this land.

August 9 is census night

Most house holders now would have received their letter providing a unique 12 digit Census Login and instructions on how to complete the Census online. You can still request a paper form, however you will need your Census Login when you call to order one. Paper forms must be returned in the Reply Paid envelope provided, do not wait for a Field Officer to collect it.

It is important that everyone in our community is counted, since the information collected is used to distribute government funds and plan the services in our community - housing, transport, education, hospitals and the environment. Census data is also used to make decisions on policy and planning issues that impact on all of us.

We are offering assistance to anyone who needs help completing their Census online or requesting a paper form. We have computers available for community members to complete their Census, and our staff will be available to provide assistance. You must bring your 12 digit Census Login with you, otherwise we can't help.

Of course, we can't complete your information for you and we respect your privacy. If you would like assistance please call us on 03 9434 6717 for bookings.

Key dates

- 1 August - Delivery of instruction letters
- 9 August - Census Night
- 26 August - Census Field Officers begin visits



Save the Date!

Come along to our Annual General Meeting on Wed 26 October at 7pm to celebrate your House's achievements over the past year and have your say on future plans.



Like our page for news, updates and daily goings on!



Help is available for low income earners needing assistance filling out and lodging returns online using myTax. Booking essential.

From your Committee of Management

The Committee of Management is making progress in the improvement of governance procedures and planning. A new Strategic Plan is close to being approved as is the Budget for 2016 - 2017. The Committee will soon be turning its attention to the Annual General Meeting on 26 October.

One of the higher priority items to come out of the Strategic Plan is the need for the development of a risk management plan. In particular, the Committee will need to prepare for a scenario where the council rate cap currently in place results in less funding for us. We will need to look at ways to reduce our reliance on government funding through other income streams and/or a new fee for service model.

For the present at least, the financial position of the House is good. Greater income from room hire has reduced our reliance on class fees and allowed the House to involve itself more with community partnerships and activities.

Phil Strobe,
Secretary