



Sussex News

Winter 2011

Share, Learn, Enjoy and Grow

SUSSEX CELEBRATES **20** YEARS

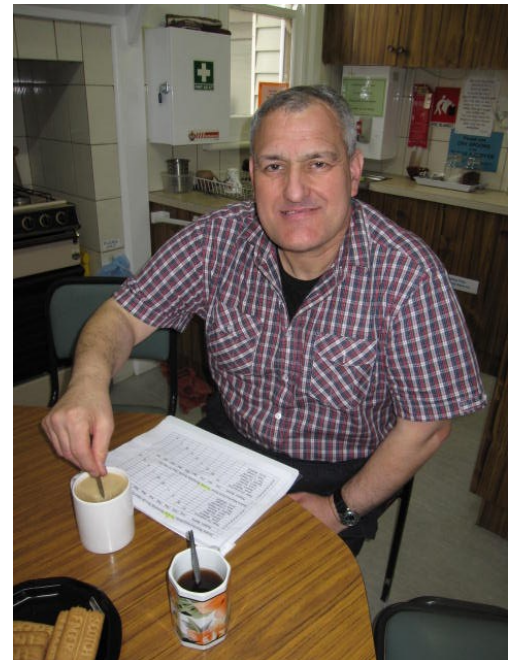
This issue of Sussex News looks at the kindness of others and celebrates the good work of all our staff and volunteers. We said goodbye to a treasured worker and friend, hello to a new one. Our trivia night sponsors showed amazing generosity and we look forward to you, our readers supporting them also. This August we are celebrating our 20th Birthday. Look out for all the fun opportunities to celebrate with us! Of course there is also business as usual, with courses and activities for term 3 underway. Check the website for program details .

Happy Birthday—Thank You Project

On Tuesday 9th August Sussex Neighbourhood House will celebrate our 20th Birthday. There have been so many marvellous people who have contributed to the life of our community since 1991.

As part of the Birthday celebrations there will be a series of Thank You posters and a Thank You box on display throughout the week. The posters include pictures of special people who have helped form the Neighbourhood House community over the years—not only the high flyers who have taken major responsibilities and won awards, but also the little people and the quiet achievers. Everyone will have a chance to participate by adding to the Thank You posters or posting a note, card or photo in the Thank You box. It's a chance for us to think about the past and look forward to the future.

Paul Codognotto, pictured right, has been a volunteer and regular participant for many years. He contributes to the wellbeing of others by preparing afternoon tea for his classmates and organising a roster, keeping track of the footy tipping and assisting with hospitality at House events



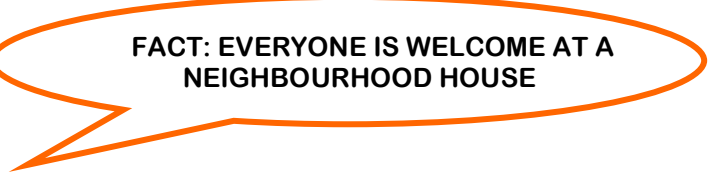
Party Time

Tuesday 9th August at 11.30 am is Party time! There will be cake and light refreshments. Please bring a plate of food to share.



.....

Neighbourhood Houses are independent, community owned, not-for-profit local organisations. They offer a range of social, educational and recreational activities for their communities, in a welcoming, supportive environment. They are managed by volunteer committees and paid staff, and operate with the assistance of volunteers across all areas.



.....



Chairperson's Update...

What a real winter this has been! It's been lovely to see the rain back and giving the gardens and plants a good drink at last. However this time of year also brings sniffles and colds so we hope you are keeping healthy and well. Our Trivia Night was again a great success and Ruth Robles and her handy band of helpers deserve a massive "thank you" for organizing such a great event with such a great outcome. We also thank the local companies and individuals who supported us with donations and gifts and all who came along to support us – including the Mayor, Cr Oscar Yildiz who helped draw the winners for some of the brilliant prizes. Also exciting was the meeting with City of Moreland officers, attended by some of our teaching and child care staff, volunteers and members. A big "thank-you" goes to all who attended, Barry Hahn and Michael Passmore, and for a great discussion about the concept drawings for our new facility down at the Pascoe Vale pool site. We can't wait to see the next set of drawings and share them with you in a few months. The Men's Shed is also doing really well with 12 men at our last breakfast. Peter Brown, CEO of Moreland CC, also attended and has committed to helping us find a "shed for our Shed" until we can get our own building. Don't forget, the Shed is not just about tools and building things - it is about the wellbeing of our community and can take many forms - outings, working parties, computer classes, mentoring, and anything else you can think of. This time of year also brings the end of the 2011 financial year and although we don't have the \$20,000 surplus I personally said I'd love to see at last year's Annual General Meeting (AGM), Sue has done a fantastic job of turning around our accounts and taking us away from the deficits of the past 2 years. We have changed a few things about the way we work and we are developing a plan for a more achievable surplus this year. We will be presenting the annual report at the AGM on Wed 21 September – and if you are interested in having a say about what the House needs to do in the next few years, please contact the office or myself for a chat. There are many things you can do to help and it doesn't have to mean joining a committee or sub-committee! And finally, how could I write this update without mentioning our 20th birthday? The House has been a fantastic part of the North Coburg and Pascoe Vale community since Sue and many supporters set it up and as it has evolved over time. I invite you to join us on Tuesday 9 August for some birthday cake and to see the great "Thank You" display pulled together under Chiara Zeta's leadership. In all of this, your support, participation, ideas involvement and enthusiasm have been pivotal and continue to be a source of inspiration and focus for myself, the Committee of Management and the staff. Thank you!

Elizabeth Cleland

A good friend of mine has a lovely saying on her business card : **"happiness depends upon your kindness"**.

Based on that there were a lot of happy people on Saturday 18th June! The Trivia Night was a great success, lots of prizes were won and that was made possible due to the kindness of our local and not so local businesses and individuals. I urge you all to support and thank them in return and if you are visiting them, do mention that their contribution is greatly appreciated by all the friends of Sussex Neighbourhood House.

Ruth Robles

And of course a huge thank you to all who attended on the night. Your contribution is what helped us to raise a grand total of \$1890.



Hossack Ave, Coburg



MOONEE PONDS
MASSAGE CLINIC



Gaffney St, Coburg

106 Hair Design, Pascoe Vale
Beyond Fitness, Essendon
Chiara Zeta, Ztwist
Claire Martin
Crown Entertainment Complex
Diane, Fifth Avenue Jewellery
edc glass, Pascoe Vale
Exclusive Cakes, Coburg
Green Pepper Café, Merlynston
Jack & Daisy, Pascoe Vale
Magic Touch Beauty, Pascoe Vale South
Pili Sanz, Fifth Avenue Jewellery
RAKIS on Collins
Ruth Robles
The Red Bird
Trivia Buffs
Venita on Cumberland, Pascoe Vale



Bendigo Bank

Sydney Rd, Coburg



Gaffney St, Pascoe Vale



Gaffney St, Coburg



Kindness in our community

Like other Kiwis abroad it has been heartbreaking to see the continuing devastation in Christchurch, caused by mother nature. In February I made contact with the Melbourne/ Christchurch earthquake appeal. I was told that 'normal items' were needed, such as beanies - 'it was getting cold at nights' I was told. I passed this information onto Sussex Neighbourhood House, in case any of the knitting or craft groups wished to contribute to the appeal.

Claire, one of our wonderful Committee of Management members overheard and unbeknownst to me began knitting. With a bag of wool donated to the House she researched beanie patterns, so that no two were the same. I was very surprised when I received an email from the House to say that there were 15 wonderful beanies ready for me to collect. I asked Claire if it would be ok for the Creative Kids to create tags, cards, letters and drawings to accompany the beanies on their journey to NZ. She was delighted. So that is exactly what we did, our way of saying we care and we are thinking of you. The Creative Kids were fantastic and showed a great deal of kindness and care. Into a specially decorated box I sent them on to Christchurch. Our box arrived on the Tuesday after the last 'big shake'. On the box's arrival I received messages of overwhelm at our generosity and 'many thanks and much love from us all, in a very shaky Christchurch'. **Special thanks to Claire.** Her generosity and community spirit has touched me greatly. With the deepest gratitude Claire I thank you.

I feel very proud to belong to such a caring, kind community!



Amanda Woodford

Mixed Media & Creative Kids teacher.

An Extra Note

As happens in life, arrangements change. When I received word from the House that the beanies had been created, I contacted the official appeal, only to be told that it no longer operated. So I got on the phone to my Mum who contacted a close relative of ours living in Christchurch, who is connected to schools and church. She said she would be incredibly grateful to receive our offerings and hand out to those in need.



“New Direction—Lasting Impact”

When Joanne Guivarra first came to Sussex Neighbourhood House, more than twelve years ago, she was looking for a new direction in her life. Since then she has made an outstanding contribution to the community through her remarkable commitment in a variety of critical roles. A few years after arriving in North Coburg from a small community in Darwin, she enrolled in a *Creating New Directions* course designed to help people think through possibilities for the next step in their lives. Leigh Cook, Further Education Coordinator said “enrolling in the course was just the beginning, Joanne jumped straight in, volunteering as a receptionist and clerical assistant that year and she’s been with us ever since”. Joanne *created her new direction* by studying for her Diploma of Community Work as well as learning new computer skills, playing scrabble, joining the book club, learning to make a patchwork quilt, and becoming a skilled admin worker. Manager Sue Harris lovingly spoke at Joanne’s farewell lunch and there were few dry eyes in the House. It is hard to find the words that express what people like Joanne mean to non-profit community organisations; Joanne has been “the face of Sussex Neighbourhood House” at the reception desk for the past 13 years, and she features on the life-size mural painted on the Rising Street frontage of the Neighbourhood House since 2001. ‘Sussex Neighbourhood House Values Its Volunteers’ appears in the name of the mural and expresses the community’s gratitude for the thousands of valuable hours that volunteers offer to Sussex and similar organisations every year.



News from Joanne:

Joanne and Frank are settling nicely in Albury, and happily report that they have found good coffee, a local Farmers’ Market, and that their cat has settled very quickly. Joanne is going to visit her local neighbourhood house this week, to check out how it feels, and if they need a volunteer.



Leigh Cook

Men's Shed

The Men’s Shed project is up and running with breakfasts held on the fourth Friday monthly at Sussex Neighbourhood House. The 12 men at the July breakfast tossed around ideas to get us going. A shed to use is the first step—while our own shed is being built. Peter Brown, CEO of the City of Moreland undertook to investigate available Council owned facilities.



Next Men’s Breakfast

- Friday 26 August at 8.00 am.
- Cost is \$5 with plenty to eat and the chance to talk with like minded men. Bring a friend

Community Events Calendar



Semester 2, 2011

Adult Learners' Week	Sept 5-9
House Sustainability Market	Sun Sept 11, 11 am—3 pm
Annual General Meeting	Wed Sept 21, 11 am at the House
Coffee Morning	Tues Sept 27, 10.30 am
Bring and Share Community Lunch	Wed Oct 5, 12.00 pm
Art Exhibition Launch	Tues Nov 15, 6.30 pm



NOTICE BOARD

WANTED

An **Ebay** operator who would be willing to occasionally sell an item on Ebay for the Neighbourhood House.

LOST PROPERTY

Have you lost . . .

- Keys
- Glasses
- Various items of clothing
- An umbrella

These and various items have been handed in to the Office. If you lose an item at the Neighbourhood House please check the box in the Office and ask at the Front Desk. Valuables are kept in a safe place and everyday items are placed in the Lost Property Box.



What's Coming Up . . .

Yoga

Places are still available in both Beginners and Continuing Yoga classes on Wednesday evenings.

Pottery Taster

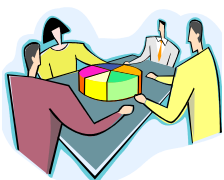
Basic Pottery techniques and creativity—Sept 19-Oct 3

Getting Started with Computers

Classes beginning August 17 at 1.00 pm (Wednesdays) and August 25 at 9.30 am (Thursdays)

Mobile Phones for Seniors

Classes beginning September 12 and October 17



SCALLYWAGS CORNER

Thank you to all who supported fundraising for Scallywags Children's Centre over the past year especially those who sold chocolates! We try to keep fees as affordable as possible, while doing our best to keep our Occasional Care Service in very tight times. We know that parents who use our Centre really value the flexibility, and the friendly nature of our community-based child care. Thank you for your loyalty, your fundraising support and especially for your children. Their smiles and laughter brighten our lives.

Threat to Victoria's Occasional Child Care Funding

The State government has decided not to contribute any Take-A-Break funds to Occasional Child Care from Jan 1, 2012. Some Centres have decided to close as a result. While the amount being lost is not large it will impact the fees for next year as we do not intend to close our doors. We are very disappointed and frustrated that these funds are being withdrawn and thank you for signing the petitions to try to get the decision reversed. Child Care should be accessible for all including those on low incomes. Google *Occasional Child Care Funding* if you want to follow the action and find more ways to support the campaign.

Who cares about Occasional Child Care?

We do!

Congratulations

To Amanda Woodford on achieving her Master of Arts by Supervision in Experiential and Creative Arts Therapy.

Amanda teaches Creative Kids and Mixed Media at Sussex Neighbourhood House.



Here she is with her Mother, Margaret, on the night of her graduation.



House Sustainability Market

September 11 from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

The House Market features the work of local artists associated with Sussex Neighbourhood House. Come along and meet the artists, find that special gift you've been looking for and enjoy the creativity of our local community. Sussex Street Doors will be open.