



Healesville Living and Learning Centre

term
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2008



From the Manager's Desk

Before Sue left us last year, we arranged with her for some correspondence from the United Kingdom. On arriving in her homeland, Sue has taken on house sitting and animal minding jobs to support herself and her love of travel. I thought you might be interested in a few excerpts from her latest letter. Sue has been away from "home" since 1970.

From Sue

Of course one of the biggest changes I have noticed is the massive increase in traffic on the roads and particularly in the built up areas. In the smaller country towns and villages life is still just about as sleepy as it always was but once you drive into a bigger city or on to the motorways, life becomes incredibly frenetic.

Having said that many people I have spoken to either have only one car between two adults in a family or no car at all, relying on public transport. Admittedly the public transport is better in England than it is in Melbourne but it still takes a very long time to get from A to B using buses and trains.

During the first few days that I was here I lived in Suffolk. During that time I was looking after two beautiful cats . Oscar and Poppy are both RSPCA cats and can be a bit skittish, particularly Oscar. Poppy was much more sociable and thoroughly enjoyed spending time on my lap in the evenings. Oscar was happy to share the room, and sometimes even the sofa, but he drew the line at climbing on to my lap.

A couple of weeks later, when my housesit in Suffolk ended, I needed to drive across to the other side of the country, to Macclesfield near Manchester. I left at around eleven in the morning, knowing that I had a drive of around five hours to do.

It was glorious weather (the sun does shine reasonably frequently, even in January) and I felt great. The drive was easy and took me through beautiful Suffolk countryside, through Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, turning right at Birmingham to pick up the M6 motorway to Manchester.

I had quite a lengthy drive ahead of me on the M6 but there wasn't too much traffic around. The further north I went, the darker the sky became and about thirty miles (they're still not metric in this country) short of Manchester I drove into a heavy snowstorm. That was quite an experience and I had forgotten how hard it is to operate a car in driving wind and snow! Fortunately it didn't last too long; the snow turned to a misty rain and the wind dropped.

I arrived safely in Macclesfield and found my next housesit with no further problems. That evening and night

it snowed again and the following morning everything was covered with a cloak of white - gorgeous! It didn't last long though and there hasn't been any more since.

Catching up with my older sister again after more than four years was fantastic. Just in case any of you want to have a look, her website is www.elderwoman.org and there is a load of interesting information on there.

Continued on page three ..

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A word from the Program Coordinator

It is difficult to believe that the Easter holidays are here already. The year has begun on a positive note with many programs commencing in February. I have had to cancel very few programs this term, which is a good measure of increased enrolment for 2008. Our courses continue to expand and evolve, so grab one of our term two brochures today.

We have seen increased enrolments for our VCE/VET programs this year, with twenty-seven students attending Certificate II in Hairdressing, and twenty students attending Certificate III in Concept Development for Clothing Products. The groups have settled into their courses and are learning just what is required to work in those industries.

As part of their VCAL program, three students from Alexandra Secondary College will be attending Basic Hairdressing. As our courses become known to the wider school community, we anticipate further enrolments from students wishing to explore our curriculum alternatives.

We have also developed a partnership with Healesville High School to enrol one of their students, one day a week, into our literacy program in order to enhance their literacy skills in an environment that is conducive to that student's needs. I believe that these partnerships with the school

communities provide opportunities to work together to engage young people in life long learning.

In term two, the Centre will be offering Certificate III in Hairdressing. A combination of face to face delivery, self-paced learning and at least 120 hours of placement in a salon, the course will be delivered over a two year period. Our Hairdressing program will now run for a total of three years, which includes Certificate II in Hairdressing as a prerequisite.

This is just the start for our expansion of Hair and Beauty training at HLLC. I plan to introduce beauty courses down the track. I would like the Centre to become a hub for hair and beauty training, allowing people to study locally at an affordable cost.

Under the accreditation of Coonara Community House, we will begin delivery of Certificate III in Home and Community Care. This demonstrates another partnership being utilised by the Centre to bring further programs to the local community.

We have begun enrolling students into our General Education Program, which incorporates both core and elective units from courses that we currently deliver. This program is open to those aged sixteen and over, with intakes accepted throughout the year. It is also appropriate for people who want to brush up on their literacy and numeracy skills while acquiring further employment related training

In a bid to attract future students and raise the profile of the organisation in the wider community, the Centre will trial some new promotional ideas in 2008. We have organised advertising spots with Yarra Valley FM, that will

highlight the work we do at the Centre. The radio spots commenced on 18th February and will run for the next three months, so stay tuned.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trainers and tutors who have engaged participants in learning during 2007. It is your skills and talents that will leave a lasting impression on your students.

Until next term,
Darren Grainger
Program
Coordinator.



Tutor's Twilight BBQ

On December 12th 2007, our tutors were invited to a BBQ in appreciation of their contribution to the Centre during the year.

The talents and skills of our dynamic tutors have the power to change someone's life, and that is why I believe it is such an important part of my job to find and support quality tutors.

This evening was to say thank you to our tutors, and to give them the chance to mix with one another, as well as office staff and members of the Committee. It was an evening of conversation and merriment among the beautiful grounds of the Centre, designed to bring a sense of belonging and connectedness to everyone.

The BBQ was a success. and many commented on what a great night it was. I hope there will be many more evenings like this for the Centre.

I would like to thank our volunteer cook for the evening, Ed, who looked after us very well on the night.



Tutors gathering to know each other at the Tutor BBQ



Community 3777



Certificate of Recognition

Voluntary group, Community 3777, celebrated Australia Day with a Local Government Certificate for Recognition 2008 Award, presented by Cr. Jeanette McRae at a ceremony in Lilydale on 26th January.

Present to accept the award were Chairperson, Karen Kisala (HLLC), Secretary Maria Romanin (Swinburne TAFE) and Kath Holton (Senior Years SPG Convenor), with Cr. Tim Heenan, Mayor.

The inscription accompanying the award reads:

Certificate of Recognition Community 3777

Community 3777 is a voluntary group in the Healesville area that provides an effective conduit to the many varied groups and organisations throughout Healesville.

They have promoted a co-operative and cohesive approach to community projects and issues that impact the residents of this area.

*“Blessed are the cracked
because they let in
the light.”*

From Sue (continued from page one)

She and her partner, Sky, live a very simple life - no car, no washing machine, no television - in a beautiful little “2-up, 2-down” 17th century cob cottage.

The photos are (1) of my sister’s kitchen, complete with ancient Rayburn stove that she still uses - I know that this type of stove is quite fashionable now but not when it dates from around 1900 or before, as this one does; and (2) her front door.

In the last week in February I needed to head off to Kent. For the first two or three days I had arranged to stay with a friend in Kent so that I could trip down to the Ardingly Antique Fair, just fifteen or so miles away.

A Letter From Kate

Hi everyone my name is Kate Wilson. I have been a student here at the Living and Learning Centre for the past three years. I started with writing for children when my youngest child started school.

After a great year with Jenni and lots of rejection letters from publishers, I went onto bookkeeping and several computer courses. I enjoyed all of these but couldn’t shake the writing bug so went back to it last year. The great news is that now I have a publishing deal and am looking forward to my first children’s book coming out later this year.

I suppose the one thing I figured out during this time is you have to go with what you love. All of the computer courses etc have dragged me back into the technological world I left behind while having three babies. All of these skills have proved invaluable

That was a fascinating experience as there were around 1700 stalls all displaying a wide variety of antiques for sale. Fortunately it was on for two days and the ticket covered entry on both days.

As it was I probably missed quite a bit although I think I would have walked at least five miles over the two days. I know that I was absolutely shattered by the end of it but I certainly did enjoy it.



now with writing, emailing publishers and surfing the net for research and business contacts.

So I would like to thank all the staff and instructors who make the Living and Learning Centre happen. It has opened up whole new worlds to me.

I would say to anyone who has ever thought of doing a course, but hasn’t gotten round to it, please have a go. You don’t have to be the best or brightest, we all have to start somewhere. You never know you might surprise yourself and discover an amazing talent hidden beneath the surface. If nothing else you will sweep away some cobwebs from between your ears and quite possibly make some new friends.

Hope to see you all at the book launch, I’ll keep you posted.

Kate Wilson.



HEWI Cleans Up



Volunteers from HEWI (Healesville Environment Watch), Mt Toolebewong Landcare and the Healesville Junior Football Club cleaned up Queens Park Sunday 2nd March.

HLLC A.G.M.

We would like to invite you to join us at the Healesville Living and Learning Centre on Wednesday 14th May at 7:30 p.m. for our Annual General Meeting.

Farewell and Thanks

Hazel Hills, who has dedicated five years of service as a volunteer in the Op Shop, is retiring. We would all like to wish her good health and a happy retirement.

Models Wanted

Our Garment Design students in the VCE/VET program are looking for models over the age of 15 for their Fashion Show in October, 2008. For further information or to register your interest, contact the Program Coordinator - 5962 5982.

Weedy Woes

Who will take pity on our garden?

Is there a kind person out there who would like to give a couple of hours a week to look after our garden?

We are without a garden volunteer and the weeds have decided to grab their only opportunity to flourish. If you would like to join us in the battle to deliver the Centre from weeds, please talk to Karen about becoming a volunteer. We, and the plants, would be very grateful.

Productivity Placement Program

Productivity Placement Program will begin in April 2008 and will replace the Work Skills Voucher program. If you would like further information please contact the Centre.

Poetic Prize

HLLC's cleaner extraordinaire, Meryle Maxwell, has written another award winning poem.

Originally written during a creative writing class at the HLLC, "The Lovers" was awarded third place in a poetry competition at poetry.com, and will be published in an upcoming book entitled "Inspirations".

Congratulations, Meryle.

The Lovers

Meryle Maxwell

Hands touching, eyes, souls and hearts locked.

A beautiful debutante and her lover dancing.

The swirl of her lovely white gown.

Swaying to the rhythm of enchanting music.

They will always be like this.

Loving, and in love.

Nothing will ever come between them...ever.

A misunderstanding, a shouted word.

Tears on a pretty face.

Hands shoved deep into pockets.

Too late it is gone.

Vanished along with the night never to return.

Women's Evening

Held on Friday 14th March, the Annual Women's Evening was a great opportunity for women to celebrate. Stay tuned for a full run down of the evening's events in next term's newsletter.

