



# Healesville Living & Learning Centre NEWSLETTER

## A WORD FROM OUR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Hi, my name is **Darren Grainger**. I commenced work at the Healesville Living and Learning Centre at the beginning of May in the position of Program Co-ordinator. I have been warmly welcomed by staff, volunteers, tutors and students which has made me feel at home. I have also had the great pleasure of meeting lots of students and tutors during the last five weeks and look forward to meeting many more.

I have been involved in Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres for the past 8 years. I began working at the North Shepparton Community & Learning Centre in 1999 as a Adult Education teacher. My role in the organisation expanded to include such duties as Vacation Care Program Co-ordinator, Acting House Manager, Community Development Worker and facilitator of various projects.

In January 2005, I moved to Melbourne to take up a position with PRACE (Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education) as Youth Programs Co-ordinator.

I have always been an enthusiastic advocate of the importance and value that neighborhood houses and learning centres provide to a community, and I believe they are services that are unique and ever-changing to accommodate the needs of residents.

My first five weeks at the HLLC has been a hectic time, especially with the new course brochure to be completed. It has been time consuming but also very satisfying to be able to provide a term program that is always expanding and evolving by incorporating the returning programs with several new courses being offered. We are also looking at ways to provide activities on the weekend starting this term with a Cooking Workshop, Limestone Sculpting and Life Drawing.

I would value any input or feedback from students, tutors or members. And, if you have a hobby, talent or passion, why not share it with others by running classes with us? Please feel free to stop by for a cuppa and a chat. I would be only too happy to meet you.

All the best for term 3,

**Darren Grainger**

## ABOUT US...

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## From The Manager's Desk

It is with much relief that I am able to at last, hand over the programming duties to our new Program Co-ordinator, Darren Grainger.

Darren brings with him a very experienced background in ACE provision. (See article this page.)

We've followed up on the success of the Women's Dinner in Term 1, with the Twilight Market in Term 2. What a terrific event to celebrate Neighbourhood House Week!

Thanks go to Sue Worley, who co-ordinated the event, and her great team of volunteers. And let's not forget our Volunteers Afternoon Tea where the conversation flowed over cuppas and goodies.

I have been kept busy managing several new grant projects including the Healesville Common Water Conservation and Education Project, which we will commence work on during the last 2 weeks of June (in the school holiday break).

This project has been funded by the Australian Government Water Fund - Community Water Grants. The first stage will involve the installation of 2 water tanks, new guttering, PVC pipes and downpipes and pump system.

... Continued Page 4



# Twilight Market

On THURSDAY 11th MAY, the Healesville Living & Learning Centre hosted its first TWILIGHT MARKET -- the first of many to come, we hope.

A few days prior to Mother's Day, the market provided an excellent outlet for many of our talented local people to display and sell their wares.

Organised by our receptionist, Sue Worley, and some wonderful volunteers, the Market generated substantial interest from the 50 stallholders, to the hordes of people who wandered through between 3 and 8pm on the day.

The stalls held were many and varied and sold a wide variety of quality crafts and hand-made items.

Also, some of the students from the Centre's classes displayed or sold their products -- our Quilting group was well represented along with the Stitch and Chat ladies. And our oil and pastel painting students held a wonderful display of their work in the art room -- all items were for sale.

Our classrooms were filled with stall-holders, as was the carpark -- selling books, cards, clothing, candles, felted scarves, jewellery, children's ware, leadlighting, gemstones, etc.

Tarot reading and reiki were held in another room, and Bellydancing displays were held in the car park.



Food was supplied by some of the Centre's volunteers, who utilized our outdoor BBQ and cooked up hundreds of sausages and burgers, and served tea and coffee, as well as soft drinks. Our Devonshire Teas were also extremely popular. Soup was served by Rivendell until it ran out.

One of the Centre's tutors, Terri Mercieca, cooked tantalizing pizzas in our kitchen for the duration of the market, and had people lined up for her deliciously different pizzas. In Term 3 Terry will be teaching Funky Vegan Cookery, Pizza Making, Spunky Spring Salads, Hearty Winter Soups and Saturday Arvo Bakeoff.

Wine Justice supplied a variety of wines for tasting and purchase, and Chocolate Junction offered an amazing array of yummy chocolates.

We would like to express our thanks to all the people who volunteered their time to help us set up this market, and to all those who gave so generously of their time both before and during the event.

# Twilight Market

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The Centre would like to sincerely thank the following people and businesses who made a significant contribution to the success of our first Twilight Market on Thursday 11th May.

- Len at Terry's Meats
- Frances Toscano's Fruit and Vegetables
- Stockdale and Leggo Real Estate
- Barry Plant Real Estate
- Bakers' Delight
- Foodworks
- The State Emergency Service
- Mountain Views and Upper Yarra Mail

**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR OUR NEXT TWILIGHT MARKET IN NOVEMBER**

## WARBY HIGHWAY DIRECTORY YOUTH SPONSORSHIP

The Healesville Living & Learning Centre recently was privileged to sponsor the Cover Design Competition for

### The First Warby Highway Directory

Initiated by Robbie Schuurman, who is also the Centre's finance assistant, and the coordinator of the Healesville/Yarra Glen Community Service Directory, this new Directory will serve the communities along the Warby Highway - i.e. the townships from Wandin to East Warburton, plus the villages off to the side of the Highway, namely Don Valley, Yellingbo, Powelltown etc.

The winner of the Cover Design Competition was **Alex Cuming**, a year 10 student at the Little Yarra Steiner School, whose original lino-cut depicted bunches of grapes, with wavy lines representing the hills and the Yarra River. Alex was thrilled with the \$250 prize.

Robbie Schuurman sponsored the Runner-Up, who was **Rowan Walker**, a year 10 student at Upper Yarra Secondary College. Rowan used photographs of the hills, ferns and river for his design.

Part of Alex's prize is a session with Jed Mahoney, a graphic designer in Warburton, who will guide Alex in adapting his artwork to produce the final cover design.

Centre Manager, Karen Kisala, felt that the centre is not just about Adult Education, but that being involved in a youth project also fits in with the Centre's philosophy of Life Long Learning.



L-R:

Alex Cuming with his winning design and Rowan Walker

## BIKE RIDE TO ADELAIDE

The Centre's president, Janet Goodwin, recently returned from an inspiring bike ride to Adelaide.

The annual ride is conducted by the Rotary Clubs of District 9810, who use the ride to fundraise for the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund. This year's ride raised in the vicinity of \$53,000 which will all go into the fund, from which the interest will be drawn to donate to Mental Health Research.

Janet's experience began on Saturday 1st April where the 4 groups of riders departed from the steps of Parliament House. The teams each rode different distances, depending on their skills and experience and Janet's group averaged 80km per day on the 6 day ride.

The entire entourage - approximately 70 riders and support drivers - stopped together for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, and were fed and hosted by a variety of Community Groups, including CWA's, Hospital Auxiliaries, Lions Clubs and even a footy club.

The evening meals were held at Rotary Clubs en route where fellowship was the main aim, as well as fundraising for the ARHRF. Stops were made this year at Ballarat, Warrnambool, Mt Gambier, Bordertown, Murray Bridge, and finally in Adelaide.

Janet said that the most amazing thing about the ride was the total lack of personal encumbrances - i.e. all she had to deal with each day was herself, her bike, her water bottle, and the rest of the team.

She also said that it was a huge personal challenge, and that she thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful community spirit along the way.

One of the notable parts of the bike ride is the inclusion of the Rotary District's Youth Exchange Students - a group of approximately 12 students, aged from 16 to 18 years from all over the world, who ride to the annual Rotary Conference. Some of these kids had never ridden a bike except to school and back.

And lastly, the most inspiring person on the ride was a wonderful lady - Joan Whittaker - who celebrated her 75th birthday on a BIKE!



**Have you taken part in a Community or Fundraising Event like Janet that you would like to tell other people about? Phone 5962 5982 if you'd like to share your adventure.**

The year it was 2004  
The month -- it was November  
An L.& L. course for volunteers  
As best I can remember.

Next, on line, takes 20 mins,  
Well maybe so for some.  
To me, hours later, resulted in  
"Congrat's, your application's  
done!"

Next were interviews by phone  
Then to the City trundled.  
The World Trade Centre, where is that  
The thousands of us wondered.

Waiting, waiting, is it done?  
The applications sorting  
A package arrived, April 2005  
Said, "soon you'll be reporting."

To Telstra Dome and Holmsglen  
TAFE  
And best of all, the Gun Club  
Lilydale was close to home  
With lots of fun and hub-bub.

Clay shooting practice day dawned  
bright  
I hadn't shot a gun  
But Vella, Marks and Diamond too  
They showed how it was done.

Access, security and ticket checks,  
Front of house and grandstand  
seating  
Prince Edward, Justin Madden too  
Were a few people we were  
meeting.



Di Anderson with Justin Madden

Greeting athletes from afar  
Swapped pins, skills, stories too.  
Held Russell's gold for just a sec  
Most asked question was, "Where's  
the Loo?"

- o 6000 Athletes & Officials
- o 71 countries
- o 52,000 Team 2006 Members  
including 15,000 Volunteers



Russell Marks with his gold medal

I dips me lid, that bright blue hat  
To the "smurfs", who, all and  
sundry,  
Worked so hard from morn till night  
And even on a Monday.

Some say, so why'd you do it Di?  
We hear it was for "nix".  
'Cause just for a moment we were one  
as part of Team 2006'.



Poem by Di Anderson, one of the  
Centre's wonderful volunteers

## FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

*Continued from Page 1*



Once all the major works are completed we will commence with Stage 2 which is the installation of an automated watering system and new native gardens. We have 15 months to complete all the work - but hope to have it finished by December.

Please bear with us during this time. We have endeavoured to plan this work so as to cause as little interruption to the Centre's activities as possible.

**Karen Kisala**

## VOLUNTEER AFTERNOON TEA

An afternoon tea was held on Thursday 18th May, to thank our wonderful volunteers for the work they do around the Centre.

Several of our gardening crew attended, and our office volunteers, as did many of the volunteers who so capably help in the East End Op Shop. Also, several of our office volunteers were there.

President Janet Goodwin and Centre Manager, Karen Kisala, took the opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts on behalf of the Centre.

We'd also like to thank our 'Work for the Dole' people, who put in an enormous effort around the Centre, and whose help we thoroughly appreciate.

## TAX HELP

Once again the Centre will be offering FREE Tax Help to people in need during July, August and September. The service will be conducted on a fortnightly basis.

Please phone Sue at the Centre on 5962 5982 to book your time slot.

## PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM

Please avail yourself of this service if you are without internet access at home. 'Membership Plus' members can have unlimited FREE access any weekday between 9 am-4pm.

Bookings are essential. Cost is:

- \$2.00 per hour for students and volunteers,
- \$3.00 per hour for the public, or
- FREE for Membership Plus Members.

## DUMMY FOUND

Our quest for a dressmaker's Dummy for the 2 Fashion Design classes has come to a successful conclusion. Thanks go to Christine Rhodes who just happened to have one lying around the house and was happy to donate it to the Centre.