

THE Q QUARTERLY ROUNDUP

July - September 2021

Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre



MANAGERS BREIF

Welcome! I hope this newsletter finds you well and gives you some inspiration to learn a new skill, take part in a new social activity or simply gets you out to connect locally.

With so much on offer at KNLC we have not let the current situation stop us from delivering an array of programs and activities that inspire or just make you feel good. While we continue to hope to see you face to face some at some point in term 4, we are happy to welcome you online until then.

We have made some difficult decisions regarding our much loved Open House, however are in the process of planning lot's of new and exciting alternatives to continue to connect with our amazing community!

We look forward to welcoming you all back in the (hopefully) not too distant future!

Barbara

WHAT'S ON AT KEW

Open House 2021

After much consideration and with a heavy heart we have made the decision to cancel our much loved annual KNLC Open House. Due to Covid-19 density restrictions we believe that the event will not be able to run as we envisioned. We will be making some announcements about smaller events and workshops we hope to run in term 4 in the coming weeks - keep an eye out on our socials and website. We are currently in discussions about the viability of holding the Open House in March 2022 - fingers and toes crossed!

International Day of Disability Friday 3 December

Our Digital Futures students are producing a short film for the International Day of Disability. Their film will be screened before the feature film, Vision Portraits by international film maker Rodney Evans. This is an exciting opportunity for the KewNLC media students. For further information for screening times please contact our Centre. If lockdown is extended the screening will be available online

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Writing For Pleasure & Publication

Our Writing for Pleasure class meet every Tuesday between 1PM -3PM, with a mixture of both aspiring and experienced writers, together creating some beautiful pieces of writing. They swiftly and effortlessly transitioned to online learning allowing them to continue to inspire one another and keep their creative minds active. In the words of one of our students "lockdown has not dampened our enthusiasm" Here are just a couple of pieces written by some of our participants.

"Tuesday's With Morrie" - a book by Mitch Albom, always comes to mind as I grab my note book and pen each Tuesday to attend the "Creative Writing Course", at KNLC, except our merry band of "Scribes" have had their Tuesday's with, Jill, then Sean, and now Susan. Each Tuesday we have been challenged to delve into the depths of our brains to write something to share with the rest of the team. Unfortunately, with COVID19, Tuesday's have gone from face-to-face to ZOOM. We have been very lucky that lockdown hasn't dampened our enthusiasm and kept our "grey cells" active, thanks to all our wonderful facilitators - **Prue Webster**

We are the Scribes

It is writing we love to imbibe
We meet every Tuesday
Our skills to display
We write short stories
In all their glory
A poem or two
Now let me think this through
We try to be creative
But sometimes we just lose the plot
It would be fun for you to join us
We're a friendly group of characters
Who love to play with words
And this is simply our blurb -**Phillip Elliot**



Whether online or
face-to-face those
smiles say it all! Why
not join this creative
bunch of scribes -
ENROL TODAY

Inclusive Communities Program (ICP)

Term 3 has been a busy term for the ICP group, with all programs successfully transitioning to the online space. Participants have been incredibly patient and have done a great job honing their skills with online learning. The participants have all shown great resilience in adapting to the current situation, and it is great to see all of their smiling faces through our computer screens each week.

Some of our ICP artists have been very busy this term finalising pieces for the exhibition: "Working Under the Shadow of Happiness", which is to be held at the Town Hall Gallery from October to December. Head to the Boroondara arts website from October to view this exhibition online

To enrol in any of the ICP programs please contact either Hannah or Rory on 9853 2126 or icp@kewnlc.org.au

Threads of Kindness

Starting a new project is always a challenge, starting a new project during lockdown...well let's just say it takes challenge to a whole new level! But we did it!

Our Threads of Kindness community project, which launched during Term 3, is moving along full steam ahead! Capturing the true meaning of community spirit, with all fabric donated by local small business Highly Sprung, doonas being sewed together by some handy and talented people within our community and then being donated to victims of domestic violence. We have kits available for collection and you can choose to either join our Wednesday zoom catch up or sew in your own time. If you would like to be part of this feel-good project, please contact the centre for information on the kits and zoom link

SPARECHAIR NEWS

As the rollercoaster ride of 2021 continues, we once again pivot to takeaway coffee and take home meals due to the reintroduction of government restriction. . These uncertain and precarious times are proving to be both challenging and tiring for all, but our unwavering commitment to our locals is what keeps us focused. It warms our hearts that our community, who are the heartbeat of our cafe, continue to support us daily and we hope that we are (even in the smallest of ways) contributing in brightening their day! It has been an absolute pleasure interacting with both new and old locals - we look forward to serving you all in house very soon!



SHOESTRINGS OCCASIONAL CARE NEWS

We have been pleased to be able to run 2 sessions of Occasional Care a week during lockdown to accommodate the children who are eligible to attend. This has been a great help mentally to the staff and to the families involved and we are looking to continue throughout the school holidays if there is the need.

We have started an instagram account @shoestringkew which is gaining followers daily. Posts include short activity videos and promotion for our giveaway packs at Sparechair. The scavenger proved very popular while playgrounds were closed, and Father's Day cards 'sold out' in record time!

Newsletters, Emails and phone calls continue to keep us in touch with the lovely families we can't see in person
Term 4 activities will largely depend on the extent of freedoms granted, but we are looking at some ZOOM cooking sessions if face to face is still minimal



Occasional Care
now on Instagram!
@shoestringkew

COMMUNITY NEWS

Working Under the Shadow of Happiness Art Exhibition

Hawthorn Arts Centre 28 September - 7 November 2021 - NOW ONLINE

'Working Under the Shadow of Happiness' explores the notion of happiness within the lives of people with disability or mental health issues.

Tristana Fitzgerald, Lynne Kells and Owen Renfrey (Dec.), are artists from a community art group at Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre, who have worked in a variety of media including printmaking, painting, photography, drawing and prose.

The artists in this exhibition each offer a highly nuanced account of living as a person with a disability, presenting an alternative perspective to the pervasive view that the difficulties of disability must result in misery.

Concentrating on the fact disability and mental health issues are no barrier to achievement, satisfaction and contentment, the artists provide the opportunity for you to participate in an exploration of happiness.

This exhibition is supported by the City of Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants program and Rotary Club of Balwyn

Cinema session: Vision Portraits

Hawthorn Arts Centre Wed 1 December 2021 6:00pm - 8:30pm

'Vision Portraits' is the personal story of filmmaker Rodney Evans as he embarks on a scientific and artistic journey, questioning how his loss of vision might impact his creative future. In illuminating portraits of three artists - a photographer, a dancer and a writer - the film looks at the ways each artist was affected by the loss of their vision and other ways in which their creative process has changed or adapted.

This screening will be introduced by guest speaker Carly Findlay OAM.

This event has Auslan Interpretation, Closed Captioning (CC), and Audio Description (AD)

Cost \$10 - book at <https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/events/cinema-session-vision-portraits>

Make a Pompom. Make a wish. Make APOMAWISH!

Boroondara Arts are inviting all members of the community to contribute to a fun, bright, yarn-tastic installation at the Hawthorn Arts Centre, designed by artist and pompom queen Rachel Burke.

The activity is to create an APOMAWISH! All you have to do is make a simple pompom, and attach a wish on it for the future.

APOMAWISHES are to be delivered to the Hawthorn Arts Centre (360 Burwood Road) by Friday 24 September, with the aim is to have 1000s of pompoms and wishes on display from October 1.

This is a great lockdown activity, suitable for all ages and abilities, with a beautiful outcome for our community. If you would like downloadable instructions and a 'Make an APOMAWISH' tutorial video visit the City of Boroondara website www.boroondara.vic.gov.au and search APOMAWISH

Be Connected

An Australia wide initiative empowering all Australians to thrive in a digital world. We offer friendly face to face support for over 50's to increase their skills, confidence and online safety on digital devices. Contact centre to book a **free** session



Australian Government

Be Connected

Every Australian online.