

EDITION 68, TERM 1 2021

FREE COPY

northerlyaspects

CELEBRATING GEELONG'S NORTHERN SUBURBS

CORIO | CLOVERDALE | NORLANE | NORTH SHORE | ROSEWALL



Proudly sponsored by


Avalon Airport
Flying made easy

VIVA
Energy Australia

MatchWorks

Baptcare

VICTORIA
State Government

atWork
AUSTRALIA

30 wdea works
SINCE 1999

Proudly supported by

 **norlane**
COMMUNITY CENTRE

 **CLOVERDALE**
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Our sponsors

The Northerly Aspects Editorial Committee is grateful to its valuable sponsors, who support this important community publication.

Our much-valued sponsors are:

- Viva Energy
- DHHS
- Baptcare
- Avalon Airport
- MatchWorks
- WDEA Works
- At Work Australia

Support is also provided by:

- Cloverdale Community Centre
- Norlane Community Centre

For more information about sponsorship, contact info@northerlyaspects.org.au or phone 5275-4415.



Important numbers

Emergency (police, fire, ambulance) 000

Police Assistance Line (for non-emergency) 131-444

Lifeline 131-114

Kids Helpline 1800-551-800

Victorian Poisons Information 131-126

Road Safety Hotline 5225-3297

Barwon Family Violence After Hours 1800-662-673

OUR COVER: Acting Sergeant Shaun Johnson, Laura, Elmin, Josh and Leading Senior Constable Alecia Spalding will participate together in the Blue Edge program at Northern Bay College. SEE Page 9.

Editor's note



Welcome to Northerly Aspects in 2021, a year that I hope will bring new opportunities for everyone.

Many people will think that anything will be better than last year. Many are still suffering from the impacts of COVID-19 on a personal, community, state and national level.

For some, the reflecting that often goes hand-in-hand with a new year might have a greater impact this year. Many of us start a new year with plans to be smarter, healthier, more committed to our family, work or community.

Perhaps this is the time for meaningful change. One thing we learnt last year is that it's often the small things that have the greatest impact.

Checking on our neighbours, a smile or kind word to strangers, showing patience, just slowing down the pace of life. These are things that usually require little effort, but can change someone's day.

Lately, I've read several columns by community leaders reflecting on 2020 and the challenges we faced. One of the common themes was pride in the way Geelong responded, at many levels.

I hope we can all carry pride and caring into 2021 and beyond. Pride in ourselves and our community; caring for ourselves and each other.

If you need extra support to be your best self, or if you're looking to make change for yourself or family, don't be afraid to ask for help.

There are three vibrant Neighbourhood Houses in Corio and Norlane – Cloverdale, Norlane and Rosewall. They are often a good starting point for social connection, education, exercise, new skills for work or life and referral to other services. All will welcome you.

Jeanette Anderson,
editor on behalf of the Editorial Committee

Northerly Aspects is published quarterly by a voluntary editorial committee comprising community workers and representatives from Cloverdale and Norlane neighbourhood houses, who employ a part-time editor. Each issue is dependent on income from advertising and sponsorship.

If you would like input into Northerly Aspects, call 5275-4415 or email info@northerlyaspects.org.au. Northerly Aspects also has a website – you'll find us at www.northerlyaspects.org.au.

Renee rewarded for kindness

Norlane West Scout Group member Renee Brown has been recognised for her compassion, integrity and kindness by winning the Fred Hollows Humanity Award.

The Humanity Award is a national initiative of The Fred Hollows Foundation that acknowledges Year Six students who follow in Fred's footsteps by demonstrating humanitarian values towards others. It includes a scholarship for secondary schooling in 2021.

Renee (pictured) was nominated by Scout Leader Kim Brian, for her enthusiasm for helping others and doing the right thing.

"Renee has volunteered countless hours of her time helping those less fortunate than herself - from cooking snacks and meals for the local food bank, to collecting toys and winter clothes for the homeless," Kim said. "She is one of our younger, quieter members but stands her ground for what she believes in."

Kim was delighted that the nomination was successful and that Renee's activities and experiences in Scouting helped her achieve it.

Since 2012, the Fred Hollows Humanity Award has recognised more than 1500 students who follow in Fred's footsteps by making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Founding Director of The Fred Hollows Foundation Gabi Hollows congratulated 254 students from across the nation, for their kindness, compassion and integrity.



"This year, more than ever, it's important to recognise these values," Gabi Hollows said.

"So it thrills me to know that amidst everything going on in the world, The Foundation was able to celebrate these fine young leaders and highlight the differences

they are making in their communities.

"Fred would have been incredibly proud of the contribution these students are making to society, no matter how big or small their actions."


PIXELD

Websites & Digital Marketing

Proven success with websites that generate great results.

www.pixeld.com.au
1300 853 983
Level 1, 90 Ryrie Street Geelong

Connecting with community

Friends of Cowies Creek (FoCC) is a community group in Norlane whose members foster care for Cowies Creek by connecting with the local community to protect and regenerate the creek and its native biodiversity. The group holds public clean-ups and indigenous planting days.

Spokesman Lachie Chomley said members acknowledge that their activities take place on the stolen land of the Wadawurrung people and that the creek was traditionally used by the Wadawurrung people as a source of fresh water, food and medicine.

"The creek starts in the Moorabool hills and flows through Bell Post Hill and Norlane, out into Corio Bay at Corio Quay," Lachie said. "It is home to lots of amazing wildlife including loads of birds, reptiles, fish, insects and frogs."

"The endangered growling grass frog (featured in our logo) makes a home along the creek. You might hear them if you stay quiet; their growling sounds more like snoring."

"Near any larger body of water, you might also find our native otter, the Rakali. Look out for the white tip of its tail as it dips down underwater in search of food."

Lachie said FoCC members believe it's important and exciting for locals to get connected with and help protect all of the precious life along Cowies Creek, particularly as in-fill development impacts the catchment.

"Lots of people we talk to don't even know the creek exists," he said. "We encourage everyone to respectfully spend time by the creek and see what you discover."

For people who want to get more involved, FoCC organises regular events for local community to get involved. A public rubbish clean-up will be held at the Fountain of Friendship Park on Sunday, February 14 from 10am-1pm.

To stay in touch with other future events and 'creekly' happenings you can find the group on Facebook or email friendsofcowiescreek@gmail.com.



FoCC logo illustration by Quinn Earthchild
[@quinnearthchild](https://twitter.com/quinnearthchild).



A Brown Falcon inspects the creek bank for a rodent or frog.



Improved and back in the air

Flights have resumed at Avalon Airport with updated facilities for passengers.

CEO Avalon Airport Justin Giddings said although there were no passenger flights from March 2020 due to state border restrictions during the COVID-19 lockdowns, Avalon was busy refurbishing and installing new technology to make passengers' lives easier once they returned.

"We have newly-installed check in kiosks and auto bag drops that are touchless," he said. "They are easy to use as they follow your head movements, ensuring passengers don't need to touch the screens. If passengers prefer to use them traditionally through touch they can, and the airport is ensuring that screens are wiped down and kept clean."

There is now more space in the check-in area, making it easier for everyone to keep



their distance. And new baggage re-pack and scales mean people can work out the delicate balance of baggage weight easily and don't need to repack on the floor.

"We also have a new CT Scanner, meaning you can leave your laptop in your bag as you pass through security," Mr Giddings said. "So again, we're always working towards a more

seamless as well as contactless experience for our passengers."

To celebrate the resumption of flights, Avalon Airport has a parking flat rate of \$5 per day until February 28 and also has some amazing deals on flights. For information, terms and conditions go to the Avalon Airport website, www.avalonairport.com.au.

Fly for less from Avalon



Spend less on the travel & more on your trip.

Flying from Avalon is a simple task. Easy drive, easy parking and a seamless process through to the departure lounge. It also saves you money. Low cost flights and cheaper parking - which until 28 February is only \$5/day - means that you get more to spend at your destination.

avalonairport.com.au



Avalon Airport
Flying made easy

WDEA Works is one of Victoria's leading providers of Disability Employment Services.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE

This means we are among the best in the region at helping people find meaningful and sustainable employment.

In the past 12 months we helped over
3,800
people into open employment

Not-for-profit organisation
SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY
for over 30 years



wdea works



WDEA Works Corio | (03) 5292 1640 | wdeaworks.org.au
Level 1 (above the food court) Corio Village Shopping Centre

Are you interested in being one of the many people we support into employment each year?

If so, we'd love to hear from you!

**We're a not for profit organisation dedicated to working
with individuals to prepare for work.**

Through our training courses and mentoring we support people into employment
with local businesses.

There is no charge for this service and no previous experience or qualification is
required, just a genuine desire to work towards your goal of securing employment.

If you would like to know more about our service please email or
visit us www.northernfuturesgeelong.com

email: info@northernfuturesgeelong.com

Northern Futures Ltd

growing stronger together



Department name change

In this edition, we welcome the Department of Health and Human Services as a sponsor of Northerly Aspects.

On February 1, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services will become two departments – Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and Department of Health.

The changes will help reshape the way the State Government meets the ongoing challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, Victoria's recovery and the broader operation of our health and social services.

It is anticipated that the services and supports that you currently receive will not change. You will still have your key worker/case manager and you can continue to contact them as you usually would.



Volunteering is good for you

Has the pandemic increased your desire to help in your local community?

Are you wanting to reconnect, meet new people or increase your skills and experience?

Have you ever thought of volunteering?

There are many ways you can get involved in volunteering – on an ongoing basis, a one-off event or be a part of an emergency response. Volunteering not only strengthens our communities, it's great for your health too.

To find out about volunteering opportunities near you, go to volunteeringgeelong.org.au. Neighbourhood Houses are a great place to volunteer – head to Neighbourhood Houses Barwon to find out where your nearest House is – bnnc.net.au.



Volunteering is a great way to connect with your community. Photos provided by Neighbourhood Houses Barwon.

Being active has benefits

Regular physical activity has major benefits for health and wellbeing. It reduces people's risk of conditions like heart disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer. It also helps reduce social isolation, strengthens social connection and improves mental wellbeing.



Better Health
Channel

There are lots of things you can do to increase your physical activity:

- Get off the bus one stop before yours and walk the extra distance, or park at the far end of the carpark and walk briskly to the shops.
- Take the stairs instead of the lift or escalator.
- While talking on the phone, stand up and do a few leg raises or stand up and down on your tip toes.
- While waiting in line at the supermarket, balance on one foot for a few seconds, and then the other. Gradually build up the length of time you can balance.
- When you get back to the office, instead of calling or emailing a colleague, walk to their workstation; and have standing or walking meetings instead of sitting down.

For more ways to fit activity into your life, healthy living and other services and supports, head to the Better Health Channel website betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Northern Bay College 1300 348 535

To all students, families and community

Best Wishes for 2021

Scott Diamond, Principal

Looking forward to a great year

Northern Bay College 1300 348 535

Fitness, fun and connection



Northern Bay College's Director of Sport Steven Lewry, Laura, Leading Senior Constable Alecia Spalding, Elmin, Josh and Acting Sergeant Shaun Johnson.

A group of Northern Bay College's Year 9 students will this year be the first in Geelong to participate in Blue Edge, the flagship program of Blue Light Victoria.

Blue Edge is based on the concept of local police members engaging with youth in positive ways. It uses a physical activity program to bring local police and students together twice-weekly.

State program co-ordinator Cathy Williams said the program includes 45-minute fitness sessions before school, where the police members are out of uniform and getting sweaty alongside the students. The fitness sessions also include team-building activities.

Following the session, the group has breakfast together where there are opportunities for the students to be mentored, learn life skills, goal setting, leadership and opportunities for them after the program – in work, social and sport settings.

Ms Williams said the program aligns well with the school's SEED (Sports, Empowerment, Education and Development) program. She said Director of Sport Steven 'Stoofa' Lewry had played a key part in bringing Blue Edge to Geelong.

Acting Sergeant Shaun Johnson and Leading Senior Constable Alecia Spalding, from Corio Police, will be involved in the pilot. Acting Sergeant Johnson, who is the co-

ordinator, said he and the other officers who will be regulars are excited to be involved in the program, the first of its kind in Geelong.

"This is a way we can give back to the school," he said. "It's good for us to work with the kids and important for us to know the up-and-coming youth in the northern suburbs. They are the next generation of community leaders. They will be changing the face of the northern suburbs."

Students Laura, Elmin and Josh were successful applicants and are looking forward to participating. All three are keen to develop their fitness and skills, have some fun and get to know their local police.

A time to gather and celebrate

Norlane Community Centre hosted a Community Summer Solstice Celebration to mark the end of 2020. The event also celebrated an opportunity for the community to gather at the centre again.

The event was funded by the City of Greater Geelong, with the Centre's staff, volunteers, members, community organisers and contributors supporting the event.



Beautiful Facility
Daily Groups and Drop In
Young Parent Education & Access
Support Services

Ph: 5224 9791

Northern Bay College
Family Learning Centre
See you in 2021!

Goldsworthy Road Campus - Gate 6



Long Day Care and Kinder Groups 2020
Quality programs on Beautiful Grounds

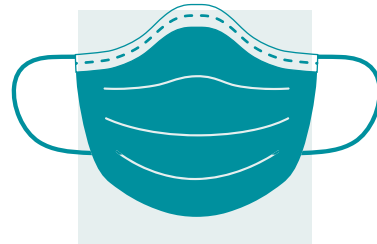
Ph: 5224 9784

NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE

To continue to keep our state safe, new restrictions are in place.

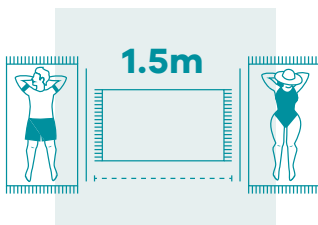


Visitor numbers to your home are reduced to 15*.



Fitted face masks must be worn indoors and on public transport.

And please practise COVIDSafe behaviours to keep us safe this summer.



Keep 1.5 metres apart from those you don't live with.



Keep your hands and surfaces clean.



Stay home if you feel unwell, and get tested.



Check listed exposure sites and follow the health advice provided.

STAY SAFE
STAY OPEN

Stay up to date on exposure sites and restrictions by visiting [CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

For translated information about coronavirus visit [CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au/translations](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translations)

*Babies under the age of 12 months are not included in this daily limit number.
Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne



Funding for our schools

In 2020, families right across my electorate of Lara did an incredible job in supporting students to learn from home.

That's why I was so thrilled to be able to recently announce, along with the Minister for Education, that Northern Bay P-12 College will receive a \$15.31 million and Nelson Park School will receive \$10million as part of the Victorian Budget 2020-2021.

Not only will this make sure our kids are getting a great education – it will create new local jobs.

Following the \$690,000 announced through the Infrastructure Planning and Acceleration Fund, the Victorian Government is providing a further \$15.31 million to Northern Bay P-12 College to deliver the next stage of the school's master plan at Goldsworthy Road 9-12 Campus.

This funding follows a previous \$26.39 million which was spent revitalising the Northern Bay campuses. On top of this, across the Lara electorate, we have spent

more than \$58.7million across education and early education since 2014.

Nelson Park School will receive to deliver the next stage of the school's master plan.

This is following previous funding of \$2.8 million, which saw the refurbishment of their school buildings.

These investments build on the \$1.18 billion as part of the Building Works Package announced earlier this year, which is creating space for more than 21,000 extra students in Victoria's education system and creating around 1600 local construction jobs.

Across Victoria, the Andrews Government is delivering 1460 school upgrades – investing in new classrooms, fixing old buildings and delivering the learning spaces our kids deserve.

Our Government's unprecedented \$7.2 billion investment in Victorian school infrastructure is not only creating 7500 jobs – it is ensuring that ensuring every

child has a great local school where they can achieve their best.

I'm so proud to see this Andrews Government's funding for the Northern Bay P-12 College and Nelson Park School. I've been extremely pleased as the local member to have worked alongside the school communities every step of the way through this process.



Hon. John Eren MP

State Member for Lara

Level 1, Corio Shopping Centre, Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio 3214.
Phone: 5275-3898.

Kids program leading change

A community program involving Northern Bay College students has won a national award.

Philanthropy Australia awarded the inaugural Community Philanthropy Award to Kids Thrive for the Geelong model of its ground-breaking child-led social change program Kids as Catalysts.

Kids as Catalysts is a child-led social change, schools and community-based program that equips children aged 8-12 with real world experience in leading positive community change. It gives students the skills to identify and solve real problems facing



their community, through creative and collaborative projects.

Creative Director Dr Andrea Lemon said: "Over the last two years, more than 600 students at Geelong's Northern Bay College have forged partnerships with over 50 local community groups, and secured over

\$16,000 in funding to co-design and deliver more than 80 community change projects directly benefiting thousands of people in Geelong."

Kids as Catalysts empowers children to recognise issues in their community, forge partnerships with local leaders and community groups, co-design and lead action-based projects to help drive local change.

The program's Geelong-based community philanthropy partners are Geelong Community Foundation and Give Where You Live Foundation.

STATE BUDGET UPDATE



**\$15.3 MILLION TO UPGRADE
NORTHERN BAY COLLEGE**

**\$10 MILLION TO UPGRADE
NELSON PARK SCHOOL**

**\$1.6 BILLION IN EXTRA SUPPORT
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY**

**\$2 BILLION FOR GEELONG
TO MELBOURNE FAST RAIL**



**\$5.3 BILLION FOR NEW SOCIAL
HOUSING - INCLUDING IN GEELONG**

**NEW DRUG
AND ALCOHOL
REHABILITATION
BEDS FOR CORIO**

**FREE KINDER
IN 2021**



JOHN EREN MP
STATE MEMBER FOR LARA

E: john.eren@parliament.vic.gov.au

P: 5275 3898 @johnerenmp

FUNDED FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET

Volunteer program a winner

Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre is celebrating the work of its volunteers after winning the 2020 Learn Local Volunteer Team Award.

The Learn Local Awards are held annually to recognise outstanding achievement in a range of categories. The Volunteer Team Award is for a group of up to 10 people who have worked together on a common project and demonstrated that effective or shared effort can achieve greater outcomes.

The award nomination said: "The dynamic Rosewall Learning and Creative Team from Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre, are sowing the seeds for a successful life in their English Conversation and Sewing Group.

"This humble activity is paying big dividends for new arrivals from across the globe.

The six volunteers warmly receive women from places such as Afghanistan, Iran, Cambodia, Africa, Israel and Pakistan. Many of them have been victims of persecution in their home country and are faced with marginalisation in Australia.

"As they're taught to sew, they develop their spoken English, literacy and problem-solving skills. Financial literacy comes from exploring moneymaking ventures and developing their long-term career aspirations.

"Some of the sewn items are sold through Rosewall's small sales table and Torquay Community House. Funds raised are used to buy haberdashery and food vouchers for needy participants.

"Importantly, friendships develop as participants work as a team and connect

with community. Rosewall volunteers have a diverse range of complementary skills from sewing machine mechanics, to sewing, crafting, and delivering ESL courses.

"With personal attention and care, they've created a robust, enduring program that boosts the confidence, morale and employability of women who might otherwise be disengaged and isolated."

Cloverdale Community Centre also won a Learn Local Award in 2020, for its Collaboration with The Gordon TAFE. Cloverdale created and delivered education programs to help local learners pathway to TAFE and supported TAFE students who needed extra help with language and literacy.



Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre staff and volunteers celebrate their Learn Local Award.

MatchWorks
**TO FIND
GREAT
STAFF AT
NO COST**

Call Matchworks Corio today!

5275 8212
or visit matchworks.com.au


MatchWorks
Connecting people to jobs

Karingal Inc. (Vic) Limited Liability Reg. Assoc. A0038261E ARBN 158 375 903 | ABN 97 468 305 401

Support at school

Volunteers at Corio and Norlane schools are featured in a video created for EdConnect Australia.

The video, *The Difference One Hour Can Make*, was created with assistance of City of Greater Geelong. It features EdConnect volunteers who support children as mentors, classroom helpers and breakfast club helpers.

EdConnect Australia works with students (primary and secondary) to support their academic potential and emotional well-being in school and in life.

At the centre of EdConnect Australia is a belief in the power of relationships. For children to thrive, they need to be connected to and supported by an extended network of caring people with the time to listen and



provide guidance. EdConnect is a school-based program with volunteers dedicating their time during school hours, on school grounds.

Services are designed to improve student's literacy, life skills, self-esteem and self-confidence which contribute to improving learning outcomes and improved student achievements. Without support of this nature many students can become disengaged from school, usually resulting from behavioural and social skills problems or barriers they have developed towards learning.

EdConnect matches volunteers with young people in schools who need additional support – either through one-on-one mentoring or various classroom learning support roles. The volunteer's interests are matched with a school that has compatible needs and comprehensive training is provided for the volunteers by an EdConnect Liaison Officer.

You can watch the video <https://youtu.be/d7xc6PyTOGM> to learn more about the difference one hour of your time can make to both you and a student's life. If you'd like to help young people and can give an hour of your time weekly, apply online at <http://www.edconnectaustralia.org.au> or phone 1800-668-550 to find out more.

Victoria in Bloom

Every year the Department of Health and Human Services celebrates the gardens of people living in public and social housing. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Victoria in Bloom gardening competition has been cancelled this year.

DHHS Barwon still wants to acknowledge the work that some of its tenants put in to beautifying their gardens and brightening our neighbourhoods. It will showcase local gardens and share some gardening tips. in the Term 2 edition of *Northerly Aspects*.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Victoria in Bloom gardening competition, email geelong.housing@dhhs.vic.gov.au.



3214



For more information please see :

Pg 23-25

Pg 27-29



Learns

Cloverdale

Norlane

Rosewall

Barista Skills	●		●
Become Job Ready	●		●
Beginner Computers	●	●	●
Café Skills/Kitchen Operations	●		●
Conversational English	●		●
Creative Arts - visual & performing	●	●	
First Aid			●
Intermediate Computers	●		
Introduction to Community Services	●		
Introduction to Hair and Beauty			●
Responsible Service of Alcohol			●
Safe Food Handlers			●
Tell My Story	●		



Creates

Art	●	●	●
Craft/knitting/Sewing	●	●	●
Creative Workshops	●	●	●
Instrumental music lessons	●		
Mosaics			●
North Geelong Community Big Band	●		
Portfolio Development	●		●
Pottery			●
Singing & Songwriting	●		
Ukulele	●		



All programs are subject to COVID-19 protocols

Meets

	Cloverdale	Norlane	Rosewall
Coffee and chat	●	●	●
Community Drop-in	●	●	
Over 50s social group			●
T.O.W.N. (Take Off Weight Naturally)	●		●

Plays

Playgroup			●
Under 12s		●	
Youth Group 12 -18years			●

Moves

Strength and Training	●		●
Tai Chi	●	●	
Walking Groups	●	●	
Yoga	●		

Grows

Community Gardening	●	●	●
Food Swap	●	●	●

Eats

Community Kitchen	●	●	●
Learn to cook	●		●

Connects

Public Access Internet	●	●	●
Public Use Computers	●	●	●



The Neighbourhood Houses of 3214 acknowledge the support of the Victorian Government.

Happy snappers

Do you have photos of people getting out and about in the Corio Norlane area? Northerly Aspects wants to promote the many positive activities of residents in the area. If you have a photo you'd like considered for the next edition, email it to info@northerlyaspects.org.au. Don't forget to include information about when and where it was taken, and who took it.



Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre won the 2020 Learn Local Volunteer Team Award for the activities of its English Conversation and Sewing Group. Volunteers welcome women from a range of countries and use sewing to help develop their spoken English, literacy and problem-solving skills.

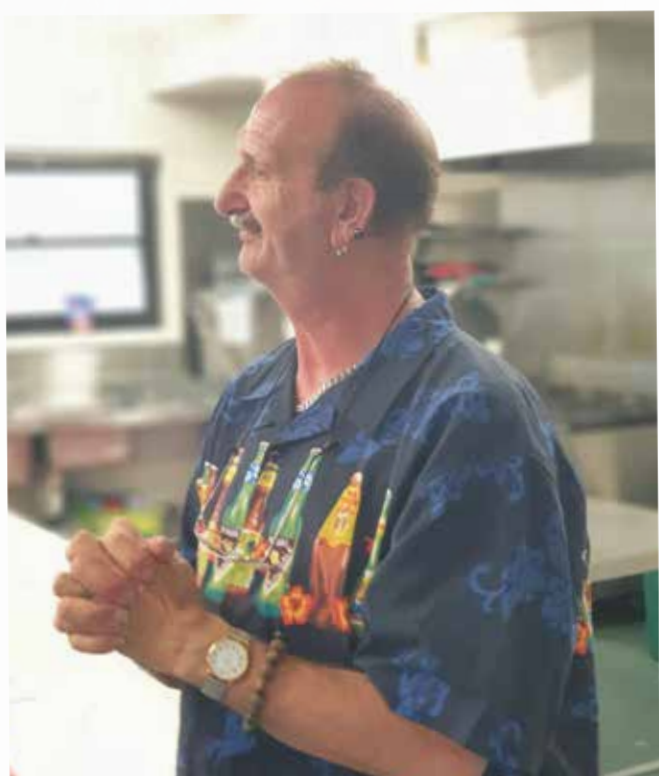


Volunteering is a great way to get involved in your local community. To find out about volunteering opportunities near you, go to volunteeringgeelong.org.au or contact your nearest Neighbourhood House to see if you can get involved there. Photo provided by Neighbourhood Houses Barwon.



The volunteer group Friends of Cowies Creek invites the public to join its clean-up day at Fountain of Friendship Park on Sunday, February 14 from 10am-1pm. You can find the group on Facebook or for more information, email friendsofcowiescreek@gmail.com.

Northern Bay College kindergarten student Sunni celebrated winning a 'name the crane' competition on the new GMHBA headquarters site. Sunni's entry, Boomka, was selected as the winner of the competition by project partners Quintessential Equity, anchor tenant GMHBA and builder Kane Constructions. The companies also combined to donate \$10,000 to the Northern Bay College Early Learning Centre.



Norlane Community Centre celebrated the end of 2020 with a shared meal at the centre. The board, staff and volunteers are working on plans for the future. Surveys can be filled out at the centre or online. Look for links on the centre's Facebook page or website.



BUY AND SUPPORT LOCAL

The City of Greater Geelong is urging the community to continue to 'think local first'. The City's 'It's our Backyard' campaign showcases local business operators and encourages residents to support local when seeking goods and services.

Fifty individualised banners are flying at locations around Greater Geelong, each featuring the face of a different business owner aiming to recover from the most difficult year in memory.

It is the first time the City has launched a banner campaign where every banner is unique. Motorists on the Princes Freeway are also being greeted with the 'It's our Backyard' message on the large Hovells Creek billboard at Lara.

Deputy Mayor Trent Sullivan said while the outlook had been more positive, local businesses still needed the community's help to recover.

"It's a wonderful chance for us all to show our care for our fellow community members by supporting local."

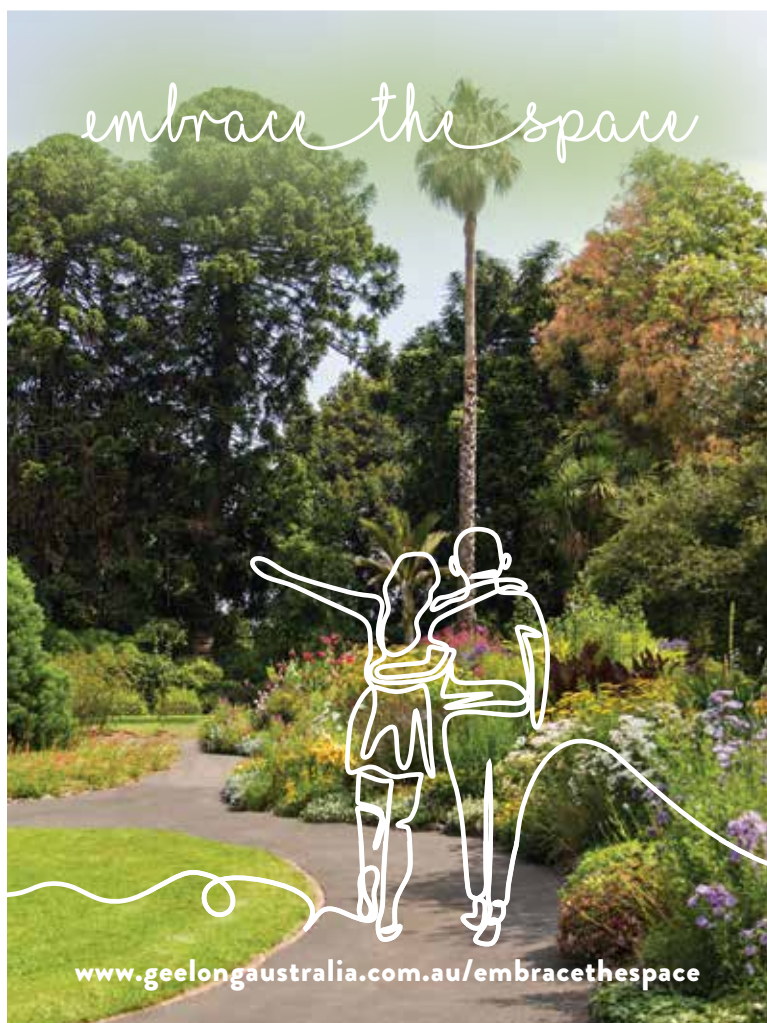
Every purchase - big or small - made locally makes a difference to our community. Let's all think, shop and support local first.

For more information visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/itsourbackyard

IT'S Our BACKYARD
SUPPORTING Local MATTERS!

Let's show support for local businesses that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. It's Our Backyard is all about backing Geelong and thinking local first.

Visit www.itsourbackyardgeelong.com.au Follow [#itsourbackyardgeelong](https://www.instagram.com/itsourbackyardgeelong)



www.geelongaustralia.com.au/embracethespace

EMBRACE THE SPACE

With 133 kilometres of coastline and 90 square kilometres of open space, including protected natural habitat, wetlands and 334 parks, there is plenty to see and do in Greater Geelong.

Why not pack a picnic, visit a quiet beach or set out on a bush walk?

It will do wonders for your physical and mental wellbeing. Perhaps you can challenge yourself to discover the hidden gems in our region.

Remember to embrace the space and maintain your distance while catching up with family and friends or enjoying some quiet time unplugging from the digital world.

We've collated some information that can help you find the perfect spot for your next picnic, walk, bike ride, swim or rock-pool ramble.

You can find it at:
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/embracethespace

Embracing the space available throughout the region will help you to stay COVID-Safe.



PARK BENEFITS FROM PLANTING PROGRAM

The City has partnered with GeelongPort to carry out the first stage of a large revegetation project in Moorpanyal Park.

More than 1600 local indigenous species have been planted in the grounds of the North Shore reserve.

The plants will help to beautify the popular area along The Esplanade and provide valuable habitat for a variety of wildlife.

GeelongPort provided funding to purchase the plants, stakes and guards and the City carried out the preparation, planting and maintenance.

Initial plans for a community planting effort had to be shelved due to the COVID-19 gathering limits.

The City hopes to be able involve local residents and GeelongPort employees in the second stage of the project this year, when a further 1400 plants are added.

Moorpanyal Park is a former industrial site that had once hosted part of the Port of Geelong.

"The green revival of Moorpanyal Park is one of Geelong's environmental success stories," Windermere Ward Councillor Kylie Grzybek said.

"The ongoing restoration of one of Corio Bay's hidden gems highlights the benefits that can be delivered when



Windermere councillors Kylie Grzybek(left) and Anthony Aitken (right) joined GeelongPort Environment Manager Lisa Mills (centre) to check out the new plantings at Moorpanyal Park

the Council, industry and community work together."

The area has been transformed into a thriving coastal reserve over the past 16 years through extensive rehabilitation and revegetation works.

During this time with the committed support of the North Shore Residents Group, more than 70,000 indigenous grasses, groundcovers, trees and cliff top.

"This project takes us a little bit closer

to our goal of greening Geelong and planting one million trees by 2030," Windermere Ward Councillor Anthony Aitken said.

"Thanks to GeelongPort for partnering with us, and to the North Shore Residents Group for the great care they've shown to Moorpanyal Park for many decades."

HIDDEN GEMS OF THE NORTH

If you're looking for a beautiful spot to take the kids, St Helens beach and park could be your answer.

The kids will love running around the grassed open space and playing in the fenced playground, while the adults can sit back and take in the bay views while enjoying a barbeque or picnic.

Keen anglers could even head down to the rocky shoreline to throw a line in for some snapper, whiting or mullet.

For those looking for more adventure and a chance to spot some native wildlife, pack a picnic and go for a stroll or bike ride along the Hovells Creek Trail.

Taking you from Limeburners Point in Corio through to the Lara township, the Hovells Creek Trail offers striking views and attractive natural scenery. Picnic points and rest spots provide the opportunity to stop and take in the natural sights along the way.

The Mangrove Boardwalk at Limeburners Bay is a particular highlight – a great spot for viewing a wide range of water and wading birds, as well as many native plants. Photo opportunities abound!

This trail is a beautiful reminder that life is about the journey, not the destination.

STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES. TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER.

Summer gardening ideas

Here we go with a brand-new year, which just has to be better than 2020. What better way to celebrate than to create a pretty, productive garden to keep our spirits up and lower our living costs with fresh, full of flavor, home grown vegetables, surrounded by colourful scented flowers.

Number one after the new year is to plant some new tomato seedlings to ensure you can harvest a second crop later in the autumn. Our summer season has been forecast to last longer than usual and nothing sets off a salad better than home-grown tomatoes. Any excess tomatoes can always be frozen for use in winter casseroles or to make your own tomato sauce.

Most gardens have a shady area where you despair of ever growing something nice, but some plants prefer such a spot. A spectacular example is a Clivia, which comes in several shades from pale lemon to bright red and show to advantage against the bright green strappy leaves.

An added benefit is that they don't require much water and don't suffer much damage

from slugs, snails and other pests. Upkeep is easy as they clump and they can stay in the same place and keep flowering for many years and stay green all year round, definitely a win/win situation.

One tip to remember is very simple – if using pine bark or wood chips as mulch, mix in a nitrogen-rich fertilizer before applying to the garden beds. This replaces the nitrogen lost from the soil in the process of the mulch breaking down and your plants will thrive instead of being deprived of this essential element.

Another couple of tips to make your summer easier and to ensure your plants get the best care and yield good results. Always water early in the day if possible, which makes sure the plants get the moisture required during the heat of the day.

Watering at night encourages insect life, particularly mosquitoes, which are tipped to be very bad this year. If the soil is shrinking away from the sides of your pots, soak them in a large container full of water that comes over the top of the pot until all the bubbles

stop – these bubbles show that your pot has dried out. You can put a bit of liquid fertilizer in the water, which does two jobs in one.

St. Patrick's Day is traditionally the time to plant sweet peas for the winter colour burst. What is more cheerful on a cold winter's day than a vase of beautiful, sweet smelling sweet peas? Add some lime and well-rotted compost to the area where you want to plant the seeds.

Save money this year and plant seeds of winter vegies such as cabbages, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, silver beet and onions to name a few. These will then be ready to plant out at a later date, instead of buying seedlings, giving you a head start on the cooler weather and leaving more cash in your pocket. Other things to plant include broad beans, leeks, lettuce, radish, spring onions, parsnips and turnips.

Betty



2019 LEARN LOCAL LEGEND



Celebrating state education award

A Cloverdale Community Centre project that supports adult learners on their pathway to TAFE has won a Victorian education award.

The partnership between Cloverdale and The Gordon TAFE won the 2020 Learn Local Collaboration Award, announced by the Minister for Higher Education Gayle Tierney.

The award recognises the impact of Cloverdale as a pre-accredited training provider creating taster courses leading to TAFE.

Cloverdale also provided language and literacy support for students already in courses at The Gordon. Cloverdale is one of more than 250 Learn Local organisations in Victoria providing training programs that help people return to study, improve digital, reading, writing and maths skills or simply learn a new skill.

The focus of Learn Local is to create a positive education experience for learners. The Gordon is the Geelong region's provider of a broad range of options in vocational 'hands-on' training, with a comprehensive suite of nationally accredited qualifications across apprenticeships, traineeships, certificates, diplomas and advanced diplomas.

The two organisations were brought together through a Capacity and Innovation Fund project in 2019 which resulted in creation and delivery of taster courses in community services and horticulture. The short courses served as an introduction to the accredited TAFE programs.

Cloverdale also developed and delivered programs to support the language and literacy needs of automotive students at The Gordon and created new programs to support the students when their certificate

course ended.

Cloverdale Community Centre manager Liz Bonner said the award was the culmination of extensive work by teams from both organisations.

"We worked across several departments at The Gordon, including the Skills and Jobs Centre, and have developed relationships with teams and individuals," she said.

"We're determined that this is just the start of our relationship and the \$10,000 prize money will be reinvested into further collaboration."

The Gordon CEO Joe Ormeno and staff representatives were at Cloverdale for the announcement, made in a virtual awards ceremony.



Cloverdale and The Gordon staff and volunteers celebrate the Learn Local Award win.

MUSIC, ART AND CRAFT

Art@Cloverdale: Drop in and explore a range of media and techniques in a fun, relaxed and social environment with a professional artist. Wednesdays from January 27, 10am-noon. \$5 per session.

Cloverdale Singers: Weekly community singing that includes folk, gospel, rounds, ballads and part songs. Tuesdays from January 19, 10.30am-noon. \$3 per session.

Ukulele Players: A great musical gathering for those who have a grasp of the basics and want to refine their skills including performing, strumming and chord progressions. Thursdays from January 28, 10am-noon. \$3 per session. Beginner classes are available (bookings essential). \$3 per class.

Cloverdale Craft and Knitting Group:

Bring your craft or knitting project and join with Marguerite for a relaxed craft or knitting session. Fridays from January 22, noon-3.30pm. \$2 per session.

North Geelong Community Big Band:

Join in with musicians of varying abilities in a dynamic band experience under band-master Ian Burrowes; from brass to strings, vocals and more. Rehearsal is Thursdays from January 28, 6.30pm-9pm.

COOKING

Cooking for Blokes:

Facilitated by the Australian Red Cross, this is a socially inclusive space for men to meet, cook and socialise. Mondays from February 1, 11am.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Tai Chi: Learn Tai Chi to reduce stress and improve your balance, strength, flexibility and confidence. Mondays from February 1, 9.30-10.30am. \$5 per session.

Yoga: Invigorate your body and soul in our multi-level class and discover the benefits of yoga. Improve your strength, flexibility and health. Bring your own mat. Tuesdays at 4pm. \$50 for 5 weeks or \$12 per session.

Fit and Balanced with Dee Martin:

A gentle introduction to exercise to improve muscle strength, balance and increased mobility. Tuesdays from January 19, 10-11am. \$5 per session.

Cloverdale Walking Group:

Join with a motivated group of community members for a walk and a chat every Wednesday from January 20, 10am. FREE.

Line Dancing with Maree Gabriel:

A fun class for beginner's including seniors looking to gain some fitness; no previous dancing experience required. Mondays from February 1, 10.30am-noon. \$5 per session.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

Tuesday evening, Juniors 5.45-6.30pm, Open 6.30-8pm. Free. A community where 'anyone and everyone' can feel comfortable, connected, loved and supported while learning the transformational art of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

T.O.W.N Club (Take Off Weight Naturally)

For more information, contact the club secretary on 0428-517-364. Meets every Thursday, 9am-11am.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Salsa Dancing with Hector

Join with our resident Cuban for a fun dance experience for people of all ages and abilities. \$5 per session. Thursdays from January 28, 6.30-7.30pm.

Thai Language Lessons

Enjoy learning Thai language and culture with Issara in a fun and relaxed class. Suitable for adults of all abilities. Classes are available both online and at the centre. Mondays and Fridays from January 29, 12.30pm-2.30pm. \$5 per session.

Spanish Language Lessons

Did you know 22 countries speak Spanish? Enjoy learning with our resident Cuban, Hector. Suitable for teens and adults of all abilities. \$5 per session. Online or in class from Thursday January 28, 5.30-6.30pm.

HIRE OUR FACILITIES

Cloverdale has a new look and lots of new space available for hire. Rooms of various size are available for meetings, functions and events, as well as a registered kitchen. Note, we need at least seven days' notice for a booking and we do not hire for 18th and 21st birthday parties. For more information and fees, call the centre on 5275-4415. COVID Safe procedures apply.

Looking to learn new skills?

Cloverdale Community Centre has programs and courses to help you learn new or update existing skills. Many can be adapted to online delivery using Zoom.

Courses available at Cloverdale

Computers

Getting Started With Computers is the place to start your computer education. Our gentle introduction starts with knowing where to turn the computer on through using Microsoft Word, setting up and using email. Classes run over eight weeks each term. Developing Computers – the next step (1 and 2) follows our introductory course and covers Excel, PowerPoint, creating charts and tables, the internet and computer maintenance. Classes run over 10 weeks each term.

Maths for Real Life

Maths for Real Life is a fun class to help you learn or improve your mathematics skills for use in everyday life. Our friendly tutor will guide you through basic maths for budgeting, percentages, fractions, shopping, calculators, interest rates, tables, probability, odds, decimals and more. Classes run over 10 weeks.

Getting Ahead

Getting Ahead is an approved training program aimed at creating awareness about

Cloverdale is a Learn Local organisation, which means we offer pre-accredited training and programs across a range of interest areas.

making changes for a better life. Participants work with a facilitator to look at their own life, why others think and work the way they do, language, motivation and resources for building a better future. Classes are held two mornings a week to cover 3 modules over 15 weeks.

Tell My Story

Everyone has a story to tell, whether they've been on this earth for 18 years or 80. Tell My Story is an eight-week program where you will be guided through the process of writing the story of your life so far. You'll have weekly sessions with a trainer and then use your own time to write about your life. The result will be an edited, published version of your life.

Preparing to Perform

Preparing to Perform uses creativity to develop your employability skills. Learn about what makes you frightened or nervous before an interview and use creative arts and music to overcome your fears.

Introduction to Songwriting

A gentle re-introduction to the classroom for the creative. Introduction to Songwriting explore language and lyric in a fun setting from the comfort of your home. Work with

singer/songwriter Liz Bonner to create your own music. Thursdays, 6.30-8.30pm.

Introduction to Photography

Work with a professional photographer to understand the basics and develop new skills with the camera. Introduction to Photography is an eight-week program that will give you a taste of photography as a career or an opportunity to develop camera skills to help your business or small enterprise.

Pathways to work and further training

The following courses have been created to provide a 'taste' of accredited training programs. They are designed to help pathway our learners into TAFE and/or work.

- Introduction to Community Services
- Introduction to Horticulture
- Introduction to Kitchen Operations
- Introduction to Automotive

* Some classes are subject to minimum numbers.

For more information about any of our programs, phone 5275-4415 or email courses@cloverdalecommunitycentre.org.au.

Disability support information

Information about access to support services for people with permanent disabilities will be available at 'Diversability Day' at Cloverdale Community Centre on February 17.

The day will have three time slots for booking – 9.30am, 11.30am and 1.30pm. It being organised by Svenja Kuempel (pictured).

Participants will have the chance to gain information about access to support for people living with permanent impairment.

Those aged under 65 may be eligible for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding.

"During each session, people with permanent impairments will present their story and talk about the changes achieved in their life with the right support," Svenja said.

"Representatives of different professions will also talk about the way they can help people to gain access to NDIS funding and show different supports that can be provided once



funding has been received."

Bookings are essential. Phone Cloverdale Community Centre on 5275-4415 or email wellbeing@cloverdalecommunitycentre.org.au.

Community grants bring benefits



The following information has been provided by Windermere Ward councillors Kylie Grzybek and Anthony Aitken (pictured)

Community organisations such as sporting clubs, Men's Sheds, conservation groups and theatre troupes are generally run on very tight budgets and rely on the amazing dedication of volunteers.

Yet they make a priceless contribution to the overall health and wellbeing of local residents.

So one of the most rewarding things we get to do as councillors is award our annual Community Grants to a list of very worthy grassroots projects.

Late in 2020, we announced our first round of grants recipients for the 2020-21 financial year; a total of 120 grants adding up to \$567,000 in funding.

These were across four separate categories – for arts projects and festivals, community events, environmental sustainability projects

and equipment purchases.

We're rapt to say that Corio and Norlane-based groups were well represented, with some fantastic local projects awarded funding.

For example, the Norlane Community Centre received \$5000 for an arts project titled 'Creating Intimate Cultural Spaces around COVID'. This will see artists creating temporary performance sites to tell old and the new stories of Norlane and Corio.

The Norlane West Scout Group was awarded a \$4000 environmental sustainability grant to install solar power at its hall.

The Corio Norlane Lions Club will put its \$5000 grant towards obtaining, upgrading and donating computers and laptops to students and families in need.

And the Geelong Rugby Club, based at Hendy Street Reserve in Corio, has received \$3773 to establish a 'Touch 7s' centre and stage an inaugural Touch 7s tournament this summer.

We look forward to seeing the benefit all of these grants will bring to our clever and creative community in Geelong's north. And there will be more to come soon, with the announcement of our major Community Infrastructure grants of up to \$350,000 not far away.

As always, if there's any issue you'd like to discuss, please get in touch. Stay safe and all the best for a happy and healthy 2021.

To contact Cr Aitken, email AAitken@geelongcity.vic.gov.au or phone 0434-307-044.

To contact Cr Grzybek, email KGrzybek@geelongcity.vic.gov.au or phone 0434-307-043.

A new plan for Norlane

Like everyone in 2020, Norlane Community Centre has experienced challenges and undergone some changes.

Lockdown highlighted how important the strength of our neighbours and local neighbourhood is in getting through a crisis. We are proud of how locals responded to the challenges of lockdown and living with the new 'normal'. This has been illustrated in how everyone is co-operating with the new COVIDsafe plans.

We are grateful for everyone's help and it has allowed us to re-open our centre safely, which has meant that our community was able to catch up with friends before the end-of-year break.

We are looking to our community to help us make plans for the next few years. With our neighbourhood at the core of everything we do, the board and centre staff have been



seeking advice using surveys to help us understand what is important to our neighbours- our strengths and challenges and what they see our role as a community centre could and should be.

Please look out for these question sheets or fill one out online. Look for links on our Facebook page or website. Every response is a valuable help in shaping your community centre.



www.norlanecc.com.au

Changing faces of community team

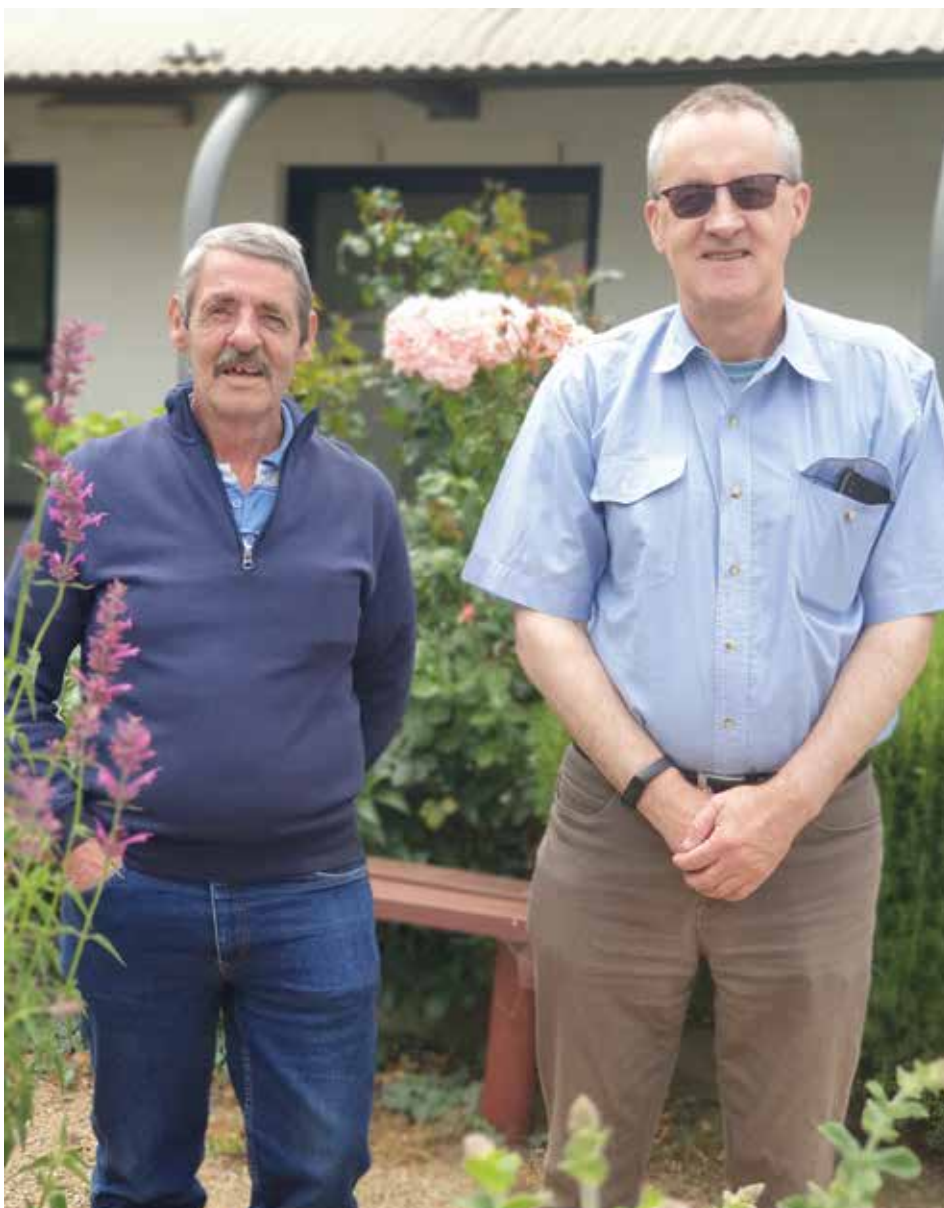
Among some of the changes are the retirement of our long-standing gardener, Bill.

Bill has been an integral part of the Norlane Community Centre team for many years and was involved with the design and building of our wonderful garden and raised beds.

Over the years, Bill has had a small team of helpers – another Bill and George – who would meet every Friday and do the maintenance jobs around yard. They could always be found terrorising our chocolate biscuit supply at morning tea time. We sure will miss their banter and wisdom.

Stefan has joined our team to work in the garden. He is assisted by students from our horticulture group and together they do a great job in maintaining the grounds of the centre.

Stefan is keen to share his knowledge of gardening with the local community, so we have introduced a gardening club, every Thursday from 10am until noon. People can share a cuppa, talk about their garden or learn how to create one.



Bill (left) has retired from his role of gardener at Norlane. Stefan (right) has joined the team and will lead a new weekly gardening group.



Help with digital devices



Audrey and Sue (pictured) have joined the Norlane Community Centre volunteer team to provide a digital drop-in experience for anyone who would like assistance with all-things computers.

Audrey has extensive knowledge of computers and online security systems and can even show people how to take a computer apart. Sue is great at sharing her knowledge of computers and software too.

So, if you want to learn anything at all - from how to turn on a computer and start using it, to putting together a resume or safely jumping online - Audrey and Sue are here to help. Join them on a Friday from 10am-12pm.

Food, share table and books

Another new addition to the centre is a community food and share table. The table will be topped up with food from Second Bite, but people can also leave what they have too much of (like garden produce,

preserves, cans etc.) and take what they need.

Don't forget we also have a share book library. You must sanitise your hands before

selecting your book and all books must be returned to reception so they can be processed in a COVID-safe way.

Students enjoy their return

Northern Bay College students were happy to be onsite at the school's five campuses in Term 4, engaging in many of their 'normal' activities.

For some, just having time for fun and fresh air in the playground made them happy. Swimming programs also gave students the chance to pick up new skills and enjoy some healthy exercise.

Years 7 and 8 students across Northern Bay campuses studied mediaeval cultures in Term 4 and displayed their work on expo days.





Geelong Refinery Energy Hub and Gas Terminal

Viva Energy has a vision to transform its Geelong Refinery into an Energy Hub to support the energy needs of Victoria and South East Australia. The Geelong Energy Hub could support the energy transformation currently underway while helping to underpin the future viability of our refinery.

A number of future energy projects are being assessed. These projects include a gas terminal, a solar energy farm and other alternative energies.

Key to our Energy Hub vision is the plan to develop a Gas Terminal which would include a Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) and pipeline. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carriers would berth alongside the FSRU and unload the LNG where it will be stored and regasified as required, before being transported via a new pipeline.

We will be completing a number of studies in relation to the project and update you as this work develops. Subject to relevant

approvals, we would look to construct the terminal in 2022/23, with the terminal being fully operational in 2024.

For more information and to provide feedback please visit: www.vivaenergy.com.au/energyhub or contact Viva Energy via: energyhub@vivaenergy.com.au or phone 1800-515-093.

Geelong Energy Hub Supporting Victoria's evolving energy needs



Federal Energy Minister visits Geelong Refinery

The Federal Energy Minister, Angus Taylor, visited the Geelong Refinery in December to announce details of the Government's Interim Refinery Production Payment.

Under this scheme, refineries will be paid at least one cent for every litre of gasoline, diesel or jet fuel refined on site. This payment, which started on January 1, will

support the refining industry until a broader, long-term Fuel Security Package is agreed, by July 2021.

Accompanying Minister Taylor was another staunch supporter of the refinery, Senator Sarah Henderson. The Minister spoke enthusiastically about the Geelong Refinery and the important role it plays in keeping

Victoria moving. He also said he recognised the critical position Viva Energy occupies as a major employer in Geelong.

The Minister's visit was a great recognition of the significance of the Viva Energy facility, and also a great opportunity for the Energy Minister to explore a working refinery and witness up close where the magic happens.

