

WCC E-NEWS!

Volume 3, Issue 6
8th December, 2006

E-NEWS 17th Edition!

E-NEWS is designed to provide the opportunity for local agencies, services and professionals to network, advertise their programs, thus improving the quality and reach of their services.

Overall we aim to improve the connect- edness of the community and human service sector, by keeping abreast of the rapid changes that are happening in our local, developing municipality.

This is an opportunity for you to disseminate information about events that are coming up, training sessions being held or raise particular issues you want to share and discuss with others.

The deadline for submitting articles for the 2007 editions is 5.00pm on the dates listed in the box opposite. E-NEWS will then be distributed in the fortnight following the deadline.

Contact details for E-News are:

By mail:

E-News - Whittlesea
Community Connections
Shop 111, Epping Plaza
High Street, Epping 3076

Email: [enews@](mailto:enews@whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au)

whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au

Fax: 9401 6677

Phone: Jill on 9401 6666

**2007 deadlines
for articles to
include in E-News**

Fri 9th February

Fri 6th April

Fri 1st June

Fri 3rd August

Fri 5th October

Fri 7th December

International Volunteer Day Picnic

On December 5th communities around the world celebrated and thanked volunteers for their invaluable support and involvement as part of annual International Volunteer Day celebrations.

As part of these celebrations, The Whittlesea Volunteer Resource Centre once again coordinated the annual Whittlesea International Volunteers Day Picnic, this time held on Sunday December 3rd at Hawkstowe Park in South Morang.

Around 120 volunteers and their families came together from across the municipality to enjoy a BBQ, activities and recognition for all the hard work that volunteers in Whittlesea contribute.



Whittlesea International Women's Day Awards

Nominations for the sixth Whittlesea International Women's Day Awards are now open!

These Awards recognise the voluntary contributions that Women make to their local (City of Whittlesea) community, and are a great chance for you to nominate someone who you think deserves recognition for the voluntary work that they tirelessly contribute.

There are five Award categories:

1. **Whittlesea International Women's Day Award** - for a woman who has made an extraordinary voluntary contribution to the local community's services and/or residents
2. **Young Achiever Award** - for a young woman up to 25 years of age who has achieved excellence through participating in extracurricular voluntary activities, community services and/or has made a significant voluntary contribution to the local community in her early stage of life
3. **Rural Women's Award** - for a woman who has made a voluntary contribution within rural communities of the City of Whittlesea
4. **Senior Citizen Award** - will recognise a Whittlesea woman aged 60 or over who continues to achieve and voluntarily contributes to her local community
5. **Personal Achievement Award** - will recognise a woman who has achieved something positive for herself (overcome a difficult situation/s, sporting achievement etc) which might not normally be recognised.

A nomination and information kit is available from Jill at Whittlesea Community Connections - 9401 6666.

It will also shortly be available for download from the Whittlesea Community Connections website:

<http://www.whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au>

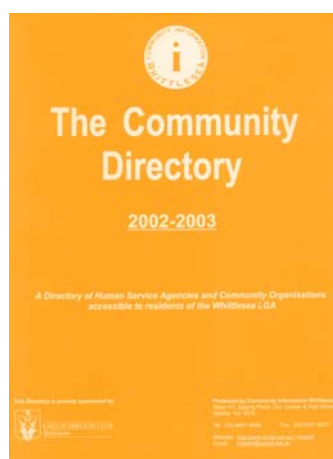
and from the City of Whittlesea website: <http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au>

Latest Edition of the Community Directory

The latest 2006-2007 edition of the The Community Directory is still available for sale The Community Directory lists information about more than 180 Community Organisations, Groups and Services available to residents of the City of Whittlesea.

Since 1996 it has been a valuable resource for service providers in the North-Eastern Region, in assisting workers with their referral processes.

**Discounts available
for the purchase of
bulk copies!**



The NEW edition is now available!

Each entry describes the services available, contact details, opening hours, languages available and how services can be accessed.

It includes information about health, welfare, and community support agencies who provide a variety of services accessible by residents of the City of Whittlesea.

If you would like an order form emailed, faxed or mailed to you, please contact Jill at Community Information Whittlesea on 9401 6666 or via email [jcooper@](mailto:jcooper@whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au)

[whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au](http://www.whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au)

**A must for all community and
human service workers!**

Local Agency Information

Whittlesea Township Outreach Commences

Whittlesea Community Connections have commenced a weekly outreach service at Plenty Valley Community Health in Walnut Street Whittlesea. The service is currently each Wednesday morning, and presently involves delivering an Emergency Relief service as well as providing some information and referral to local community members that make up the Whittlesea Township and surrounding rural townships.

Early in 2007 the Whittlesea Community Legal Service will also be offering legal advice appointments as part of this outreach.

To access the Emergency Relief service, clients need to phone the Epping Office on 9401 6666 at 9.00am on Monday morning to make an appointment, but can ask to be seen in Whittlesea rather than in Epping. Clients need to fulfill the normal requirements of WCC's Emergency Relief Program - providing some evidence that they are in a crisis situation, and having some form of ID to indicate that they live within the City of Whittlesea. Workers are able to make appointments on client's behalf if they are unable to do so, but clients will need to present for the assessment interview.

If you would like further information on this program, or any of the Emergency Relief Programs that currently run within the City of Whittlesea, please contact Jill at Whittlesea Community Connections on 9401 6666.

Christmas Gift Appeal

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of community members who donate gifts in Target stores to UnitingCare's SHARE Christmas Gift Appeal, Kildonan is once again distributing gifts to families.

Who is eligible?

- * Any Kildonan client - regardless of where they live
- * Anyone who has a pension or health care card and lives in the City of Whittlesea or City of Darebin

Most presents are suitable for children from 0 - 12 years of age. If gifts are received for older children up to 16 years, these will also be distributed.

How can you register to receive a gift?

Simply phone Kildonan anytime over the next few weeks to register children or grandchildren. You can make an appointment to collect your gift/s from Kildonan's Epping office, 188 McDonalds Road, Epping between 8th - 22nd December by phoning 8401 0100. Alternatively phone 9471 0108 to make an appointment to collect your gift between 12th—22nd December from Kildonan's Reservoir office (formerly known as the Preston Creative Living Centre) if you live in the City of Darebin. Kildonan's Reservoir office is situated at 648 High Street, Reservoir

When you collect your gift/s

Volunteers will help clients to choose a gift for each child or grandchild. Clients must remember to bring their pension or health care card and some bags to carry the children's gifts.

Donating Gifts

If you would like to donate a gift, leave it under the Christmas tree at any Target store, or deliver it direct to Kildonan.

Local Information con't

An Exciting New Community Mentoring Program

Whittlesea Community Connections has launched an exciting new mentoring program that involves local community members supporting newly-arrived migrants and refugees with the settlement process.

We have successfully recruited and trained seven mentors from the local community to work with newly-arrived migrants and refugees in supporting them to access services and understand how services in Australia work. Mentors will assist newly-arrived migrants and refugees to develop the knowledge and confidence to be able to access and utilise services on their own. Mentors will not be required to represent or advocate on behalf of clients.

This is a new and exciting opportunity for local community members to become involved in services delivery and make a worthwhile contribution to the local community. Mentoring offers many benefits to the mentor and much-needed support to assist migrants and refugees with settling in their new home.

In the coming weeks mentors will be matched with a newly arrived migrant/refugee and begin to visit local agencies and service providers in the Whittlesea Municipality to access services. We are positive that all sections of the community will embrace this program and contribute to its success.

We kindly invite all Whittlesea service providers to provide a welcoming and friendly service to mentors and clients when they visit your organisation to access services.

If you would like to find out more or discuss how to become involved in this program please contact Ali Kassem on 9401 6666.

Mill Park Library Celebrates Christmas

Mill Park Library is running some special events in December!

Christmas Time Online will be on Monday 11th December from 6.00pm—7.00pm. Come along to our information session, visit some great websites and see what's happening during the festive season in and around the City and your local area. Entertainment, shopping, dining and more! All welcome - bookings required.

Christmas at Mill Park Library - Thursday 21st December from 1.30pm - 4.30pm. Come along and join in on the Christmas fun:

- Booksale: 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- Face-painting: 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- Christmas storytime: 2.30pm
- Santa visit: 3.00pm
- Christmas hamper raffle: 4.00pm
- Free balloons

Phone the Library on 9437 8189 for more information or bookings.

City of Whittlesea

The City of Whittlesea invites young women interested in sports and/or development to join a group to be involved in the planning of an Islamic Sports Development Program for young women.

It will be a 12-week program commencing on Wednesday 13th December and continuing on succeeding Wednesdays from 4pm—6pm.

The group will work with local sports venues and the community to: research sporting opportunities; negotiate with sport providers; plan a sports program; promoting & delivering the program.

For more info contact Tanya on 9401 6622.

Northern Migrant Resource Centre

The Northern Migrant Resource Centre invites you to the 22nd Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 13th December, 2006 from 4.30pm to 6.00pm.

For more information and/or to RSVP please contact Dianna at the NMRC on 9496 0200.

Local Information con't

December 2006 & January 2007 Closure Periods

As is expected at this time of year, several local community organisations will be closing across the December/January period. Whittlesea Community Connections has developed a Holiday Opening/Closure Times calendar which contains details of quite a few of the services - in particular the Emergency Relief services, which is available by phoning Jill on 9401 6666.

A few of the major organisations are listed here:

Kildonan Child & Family Services will close at 5.00pm on Friday 22nd December and re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday 2nd January, 2007.

Whittlesea Community Connections will close at 5.00pm on Friday 22nd December and re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday 2nd January, 2007.

Anglicare Plenty Valley will close at 5.00pm on Friday 22nd December and re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday 2nd January, 2007.

Plenty Valley Community Health will close at 5.00pm on Friday 22nd December, and will be closed only on the Public Holidays - Monday 25th December, Tuesday 26th December, and Monday 1st January, 2007. They will be open on all other days.

City of Whittlesea Council Offices will close at 12.30pm on Friday 22nd December, and will be closed only on the Public Holidays - Monday 25th December, Tuesday 26th December, and Monday 1st January, 2007. They will be open on all other days.

Centrelink Epping will close at 5.00pm on Friday 22nd December, and will be closed only on the Public Holidays - Monday 25th December, Tuesday 26th December, and Monday 1st January, 2007. They will be open on all other days.

Café W.O.W.

Café W.O.W. is temporarily closed and not able to take any agency referrals.

They hope to be able to "re-invent" themselves in 2007 and once again be in a position to be able to work with women and children who have been victims of family violence.

Grab Bags

City of Whittlesea once again have grab bags for the school holidays for 12-17 year olds! Bags contain vouchers, tickets and passes to activities and venues during the school holidays.

To be eligible, clients must have children between the ages of 12-17, at school, and live in the City of Whittlesea. Bags are \$15 each and will be on sale Friday 15th & Monday 18th December, 3.00pm-4.30pm or until sold out. Pensioner discounts apply also.

For more information please call
City of Whittlesea Youth Services on 9401 6614

Centacare Catholic Family Services

Centacare now has a Family & Relationship Counsellor based in the City of Whittlesea, and clients can make appointments to be seen at Epping Plaza, Bundoora or South Morang.

To make appointments or for more information, please contact the Northern Region Office of Centacare on 9873 4344.

Apprenticeships Plus

As of 20th November 2006 **Apprenticeships Plus** will be relocating their Coburg Office to:

Level 1 / 192 High Street, Northcote 3070. Their phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

The Epping Office will also remain the same.

WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS INC.

Shop 111, Epping Plaza
Cnr. High & Cooper Streets
Epping Vic 3076

Phone: (03) 9401 6666
Fax: (03) 9401 6677
Email: admin@whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au



WCC's VISION:

Whittlesea Community Connections Inc. is a not for profit incorporated association established to provide services for the relief of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, disability, destitution or helplessness within the City of Whittlesea. Whittlesea Community Connections Inc. promotes the principles of equity, access and community participation through direct support and assistance, information and referral, the delivery of targeted programs and advocating for social change in the area.

TO SUBSCRIBE TO E-NEWS

E-NEWS is a bi-monthly production of Whittlesea Community Connections. To register your interest to continue to receive E-NEWS, please fill in the sheet below and email/fax back to Whittlesea Community Connections:

YES I would like to receive a bi-monthly edition of E-NEWS

NO I would prefer not to receive the bi-monthly edition of E-NEWS

Name: _____ **Position:** _____

Agency: _____

Email Address: _____