



Mosaic

Building A Bigger Picture

WATSONIA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

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TERM 1, 2012

CONTENTS

PAGE 1.

Presidents Report,
Members Draw,
Monthly Raffle
Draw.

PAGE 2.

Presidents
Report(cont) Co-
ordinators Report,

PAGE 3.

Co-ordinators
Report(cont)
Bookings
Reminder,
Fundraiser report,
Market Report

PAGE 4.

Bez's Babble,
Recipe



VALE TREVETTE

As most of you are aware Trevette, who was one of our most popular and selfless volunteers, passed away suddenly in October. Trevette did a wonderful job of getting out this newsletter every term to you all. Her bubbly and happy personality will be sadly missed by all. RIP

PRESIDENTS REPORT

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it is often easy for us to forget the many ways life manifests itself in our little community. Babies are born, people get sick, friends pass away, and amidst all the chaos, life goes on.

The passing of our dear volunteer Trevette left a hole in our hearts and the shockwave has rippled through our community in the weeks since. Trevette's contribution to Watsonia Neighbourhood House as editor of this newsletter was enormous and her absence will be greatly missed.

We place a high value on the contributions made by all of our volunteers: in the garden, as fundraisers, in the office, producing the newsletter and programs and overseeing the running of the House. Every person who donates a portion of their time to the House as a volunteer makes an invaluable contribution to the success of our House and I would like to thank you all for your efforts throughout 2011.

(continued Page 2)

MEMBERS DRAW

Congratulations to Jeanette Yates who is our members draw winner for term 1. This prize entitles Jeanette to a class or course of her choice at a 50% reduction. The cost of membership is only \$10 for the year, so why not show your support for the house and join!

MONTHLY RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to Lauren J for winning our October raffle. The Fathers Day raffle was won by Marion Pestamalijan and the November raffle was one by Noelle. These 3 ladies are all Market stallholders. We hope you enjoy your prizes! The raffle is drawn at our monthly market held on the first Saturday of the month, so come along and you might go home with a few more things than you expected!

THANK YOU

Colin Brooks MP. State Member for Bundoora, and his staff for the help, assistance and support with the printing of our newsletter.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (cont)

I would also urge everyone to get involved as a volunteer: we can always use an extra set of hands sending out newsletters, cooking sausages at Bunnings, weeding the garden, on the Committee of Management etc. If you have a couple of hours to spare each week or each month, we would certainly love to have you help us out as many hands make light work. And it makes Watsonia Neighbourhood House the wonderful and thriving community that it is.

That sense of community was never more evident than at the Birthday Party held in early November to celebrate twenty years of being part of the Watsonia community. A wonderful time was had by all and we particularly thank Colin Brooks MP and Sheryl Garbutt (patron of Watsonia Neighbourhood House) for joining the celebrations.

Members of the Committee of Management have recently been given the opportunity to review the first preliminary drawings for the proposed Watsonia Community Hub. Our comments have been sent back to Banyule Council and we look forward to the next stage in the planning.

And so life goes on and a new year is underway. Why not make 2012 the year that you learn a new skill, volunteer some of your time, or just vow to be more actively involved in Watsonia Neighbourhood House? We would love to see you!

Wishing you all a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!

Lesley Sanders
President

CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

What a year of turmoil we had, I am pleased 2011 has passed. We now look forward to a prosperous 2012.

Over the past couple of years our participation numbers for classes have fallen whilst at the same time our social activity participation numbers have been on the rise. We feel that this is due to the economy as our community struggles with day to day expenses. That being said: whilst our income at the house has fallen, like yours our expenses have been on the rise. Therefore we have found it necessary to increase the costs of classes and respectfully hope that this does not cause any inconvenience to our community.

In addition, due to our ageing community some of our regular funding has also dropped. This is due to the fact that we rely heavily on Adult Education Funding which is now driven toward employment pathways for those who are looking for work, as well as for those with disabilities trying to enter the workforce. Funding is also focused on disadvantaged areas such as high rise housing units i.e. Richmond – Collingwood, and the new growth areas being Whittlesea, South Morang and Laurimar etc.

This all means that during 2012 our concentration will focus on sourcing funding from other areas by way of grant applications. The Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres have been lobbying Federal Government to have Neighbourhood houses registered as a charity which will give us Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR) making it possible for us to apply to philanthropic trusts for the grants we need.

CO-ORDINATORS REPORT (cont)

When you put pen to paper it all sounds a bit depressing we know, but try to remember that we have a very pro-active Committee of Management, dedicated staff, and a wealth of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers.

The committee, staff and volunteers remain optimistic in continuing our community development work and planning for the future of Watsonia Neighbourhood House. After all that's what we do best.

Once again thank you all for your kind help and support during 2011. I look forward to spending 2012 with you.



BUNNINGS FUNDRAISERS

During 2011 we had three Sausage Sizzles at Bunning's Thomastown at which we raised almost \$2500.00 for the house. So a big Thank You to our wonderful group of volunteers who all enjoyed their time there. We could not do it without you.

We have 2 dates booked at Bunning's for 2012 so if you would like to join us and have some fun, and at the same time help your House, the dates are Saturday March 17th and Saturday October 11th.

We'd love to see you there so if you are interested please leave your name at the office.

MARKET REPORT

The market will be back by popular demand on the 4th February. Come and check out our range of goodies on offer. Any stall enquiries call Gwen McGregor or leave a message with our office on 9434 6717.

Bookings Reminder

Remember that bookings are essential for all courses. Please ring the office on 9434 6717 as soon as possible.



BEZ'S BABBLE

FUNDRAISING

Not much happened during the last few months as all the focus was on our 20th Birthday Party celebrations.

Our regular raffles were still run and the results are on page 1 of this newsletter.

Con't over

FUTURE FUND RAISING EVENTS FOR 2012

Travelers Club - Trip to Ballarat 15th and 16th February 2012.

March 17th 2p.m. Clean out your Cupboards

May 19th 2p.m. Volunteers Skill Auction

June 16th 2p.m. Trivia Afternoon

August 18th 1.30p.m. Culinary Cook-Off

Final details for all events are being organized and will be advertised on our notice board in the kitchen at the House. At the moment I just need expressions of interest. Please leave your details etc at the house on 9434 6717.

I haven't forgotten our Cookbook from our first cook-off. This will be compiled next year. I would like to thank all those members who donated goodies for our various raffles over 2011. Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year to all.

Beryl Rantall, Fundraising Coordinator

RECIPE

Jeanette's Savoury Croute Baskets

1 loaf fresh white or multigrain bread, crusts removed.

1 cup butter – melted.

2 x 12 hole muffin tins, lightly oiled.

Method.

Brush one side of bread with the butter using a pastry brush.

Place the buttered side up on top of muffin hole and press into the tin to form a basket. Repeat until all bread has been used.

Bake in a moderate oven for 12-15 minutes until golden brown (do not overcook) Place tins on a wire rack to cool. When cold, store in an airtight container till ready to use.

Filling.

60g butter (2ozs)

1 stick celery, finely diced

2-3 tablespoons flour

1 ½ cups milk

4 tablespoons cheese, grated.

1 medium carrot, finely diced

1 small onion, finely diced

Salt & pepper to taste

2 tablespoons parsley finely chopped

Method.

Melt butter in a saucepan, add vegetables and sauté till just soft.

Remove from heat and add flour and seasoning.

Return to the heat and cook on a low heat for one minute.

Add milk, stirring constantly until the sauce boils and thickens.

Add parsley and cheese.

Remove from heat and use for filling the croute baskets.

Note. This is a basic filling for the baskets. Other ingredients that can be used are drained tuna and corn niblets, Hard boiled eggs (finely chopped), finely diced ham and drained and chopped asparagus.

