

# NEWS4ME

OUT & ABOUT with the CENTRE for PARTICIPATION

Dec  
2020

Centre for Participation | 39 Urquhart Street Horsham | 03 5382 5607 | [centreforparticipation.org.au](http://centreforparticipation.org.au)



Photo: Be part of building your community!

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE – WE NEED YOU!

We're looking for your support to help fund an exciting new building project planned to meet the growing demand for our services, so the Centre for Participation can continue to shape a strong community – now and into the future.

Since June 2019, our services have increased by 44%. Our facilities no longer have the capacity to accommodate this growth, which is why we're looking to refit a local warehouse with fit-for-purpose facilities. By taking this step, we'll be better placed to keep meeting the needs of our community with a customised space where people can grow social connections, learn new skills, and take up opportunities to participate.

The refit of the warehouse will transform an under-utilised area into a multi-purpose liveable space for learning, creativity and bringing the community together. Just some of the benefits offered by the new space include:

- > opening up opportunities for greater diversity of projects and programs, to better fit with what our community wants and needs
- > growing social cohesion across a variety of sectors, including education institutions, sports groups and volunteering

- > increasing the number of youth and parents participating in our citizenship learning and testing programs
- > broadening our reach for greater community impact.

Through the support of the Victorian Government, we have raised \$85,000. However, to complete the build we require an additional \$36,000. **Please consider supporting our call to get involved and help raise the additional funds.** You can find a quick and simple donation form on the last page of this newsletter, or make your donation online at [centreforparticipation.org.au/donate](http://centreforparticipation.org.au/donate).

This is your opportunity to help shape your community, and all contributions – big or small – are appreciated. We thank you for considering how you can join us in creating a strong, thriving and connected community.

*Ray Kingston, Chair, Centre for Participation*

### THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN 2020!

Centre for Participation would like to offer our sincere thanks to our team and community for all their efforts throughout 2020. We wish everyone a happy holiday and a safe new year.

We will be closed from **3.00pm, Wednesday 23 December 2020** and will reopen at **9.00am, Monday 4 January 2021**.

# SERVING MEALS, SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

The beginning of 2021 will see the Centre for Participation taking on management of volunteers for the local Meals on Wheels program.

Currently delivered by Horsham Rural City Council, the program will be moving to Grampians Community Health, who have partnered with the Centre for Participation to manage volunteers for meal delivery.

The new arrangement is a perfect fit for the Centre for Participation's focus on strengthening communities by harnessing the power of volunteering. With volunteers crucial to the delivery of Meals on Wheels, every act of volunteering through the program contributes to a healthier, happier community. People who give their time to Meals on Wheels also say that volunteering adds a new dimension to their lives – with the satisfaction of doing something practical to help others a reward in itself.

Our Laneway – Cafe without Borders will also continue to offer home-delivered meals to our community, with



Photo: Supporting local people with Meals on Wheels

opportunities for volunteers to get involved and complement the Meals on Wheels program.

If you or are your organisation are interested in volunteering for Meals on Wheels, please contact Marieke on **5382 5607** or at [marieke@centreforparticipation.org.au](mailto:marieke@centreforparticipation.org.au). We would love to have you on board!

# CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERING

## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Bushfires, droughts and a global pandemic this year have highlighted the importance of volunteering, and what it can achieve.

To recognise the incredible efforts and contribution of volunteers, in early December we celebrated International Volunteer Day. This year's theme was 'Together we can through volunteering' – a well-chosen theme reflecting that all sorts of things can be made possible thanks to the work of volunteers.

The day was an opportunity to honour our volunteers who put themselves out there to support critical services throughout the year, including meal delivery and non-medical transport. These essential services could not have happened without amazing volunteers and the community organisations that support them. We are particularly grateful for our volunteers' contribution and willingness to assist even throughout the uncertain and sometimes frightening events that transpired through the year. Importantly, this support has helped showcase our community's resilience in tough times, and our ability to lend a helping hand to those who need it most.

Our celebrations included a blueberry pancake morning tea at the Horsham Botanical Gardens, to thank our volunteers who continue to make our community a better place to live.

Volunteers truly are the backbone and fabric of our community and contribute so much that at times, we can take it for granted.



Photo: Long-time volunteer, Bert Van Elsen, is thanked by CEO Robbie Millar at morning tea

So if you volunteer, we say thank you. The Centre for Participation and many other organisations and community groups like ours could not operate without you. Every act of volunteering is making a better community not only for us, but for future generations.



Photo: Volunteer managers and coordinators building their networks

## VOLUNTEER MANAGERS AND COORDINATORS

Volunteer managers and coordinators play a crucial role in making volunteering happen across our region.

That's why we've continued to find new ways to train and support volunteer managers and coordinators in their work, particularly during the challenges created by the current pandemic.

We've partnered with our incredible local volunteer managers and coordinators as they've innovated to adapt their programs, approach, support and management of volunteers – both to keep programs going where possible, and to help valuable volunteers stay engaged. Due to the pandemic, we shifted our regular volunteer managers and coordinators

meetings online, and also held an online celebration to thank volunteer managers and coordinators as part of International Volunteer Managers Day. Other initiatives to mark the occasion included celebratory posts on Facebook and an article in the *Weekly Advertiser*.

Another recent highlight was a volunteer managers' workshop, where we organised international volunteer management guru, Rob Jackson, to discuss volunteer management and restarting volunteer programs post-COVID. This training was delivered through a subsidised fee for volunteer managers, providing a great opportunity for managers to hear world-class, up-to-date insights regarding re-engaging volunteers after COVID, COVID-safety for volunteers, and reopening volunteer programs.

# CONGRATULATIONS, MICRO-BUSINESS GRADUATES!

In early December we were delighted to honour students from our micro-business course as they celebrated their graduation.

As part of the event, students also showcased products and services from businesses they had developed through the course, with six new businesses started as a result.

The course was made possible through support from the Department of Social Services and the Social Enterprise Network of Victoria (SENVIC), along with funding to deliver the course from the Adult, Community and Further Education Board (Department of Education and Training).



Photos: Micro-business course graduates celebrate their achievements

Students participated in 60 hours of online learning for 6 months, providing them with the fundamentals of developing a sound business plan and basic understanding of starting a business, including creating marketing and branding strategies, barista skills with basic food-handling tips, and customer service. The course also gave students an opportunity to do work experience at our Social Pantry – mobile cafe for purpose.

Several amazing mentors provided guidance and support to students throughout the course, helping fulfil the course's key goal to equip students with the foundation knowledge and skills for establishing a business. Many of these mentors are still engaged and providing ongoing support.

Students commented that the course had helped them develop the practical skills they need to start a business. 'The micro-business program was really good,' said one student. 'I met new people. I have learnt how to set up a business.'

'The first topic, which was the basic understanding of the micro-business... was very informative. I also enjoyed the hands-on computer activity in the marketing and branding class. This was our first face-to-face session after a few months of online training.'

Other students highlighted how the course had also helped them become part of the local community.

'I am very thankful that I found the Centre for Participation because here, I feel at home,' said student, Sokan. 'I met a lot of beautiful people and I learned a lot about Australia.'



Photos: Micro-business course graduates showcase their products and services

## STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS THROUGH LEARNING

**ELIZABETH'S STORY** — When Elizabeth arrived in Australia in November 2019, she could only speak basic English, felt lonely, and couldn't relate to locals.

Her partner brought her to the Centre for Participation to study and learn English. Elizabeth enrolled in the intermediate class, where she found the support she needed to increase her English skills alongside friendly and welcoming classmates.

'It has really helped me communicate much better,' said Elizabeth. 'I met people there and I don't feel alone – they help me to have confidence in myself and whenever I need help there is someone to help. The reality is that I feel protected when I am there.'

'The teachers have a good disposition and we always have a friendly atmosphere. I have made many friends there.'

'They make me believe in me and I really appreciate the work they do for the immigrant community in Horsham.'

**MIKI'S STORY** — Miki came to Australia in October 2017 and moved to Horsham in February 2020. Miki first learnt about the Centre for Participation through her partner, who had seen an advertisement.

Since getting involved at the Centre for Participation, Miki has taken part in English language classes and the micro-business course, as well as undertaking work experience at Laneway – Cafe without Borders.

Miki said that getting out and about in the community through the Centre for Participation has helped her learn skills and connect with others.

'I had job interview practice with Cecile [Migrant Liaison Worker and Trainer] that really helped me,' Miki said. 'I've also made friends and talk with different people.'

'I'm glad my partner found the Centre for Participation... I have had lots of experiences. I've had a really good time at the Centre for Participation.'



Photo: Miki (right) has taken on many different learning opportunities. Elizabeth (left) has new skills and new friends through her studies

# PLANNING THE WAY FORWARD

The Board and management team at the Centre for Participation are currently developing our next strategic plan, to set out the roadmap for how we'll continue meeting the needs of our community.

Here's a look at our draft strategic themes and priorities to take us into 2021 and beyond:



**CORE THEME 1: ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR ANYBODY**

**PRIORITY: CREATE A VIBRANT, RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

**CORE THEME 2: WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

**PRIORITY: STRENGTHEN OUR REACH AND IMPACT THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES**

**CORE THEME 3: AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP**

**PRIORITY: LEAD THE WAY – INSIDE AND OUT**

**CORE THEME 4: GETTING ON WITH BUSINESS**

**PRIORITY: DIVERSIFY REVENUE STREAMS FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT INTO THE FUTURE**

## STAFF SNAPSHOT

### GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM!

#### STEPH

##### What do you do at the Centre for Participation?

Since arriving on Australian shores I have had a few roles at the Centre for Participation. This year I have a couple of roles that I really enjoy as they complement my interests. The first is supporting people to fulfil their interests or life choices through volunteering, and the second is payroll and database maintenance, which gives me the opportunity to problem-solve and use spreadsheets.

##### How have things changed since the pandemic?

For the Centre for Participation, the pandemic didn't stop volunteering – it changed the way we did it and opened up new opportunities. From 1 March, we have accepted 28 people into various volunteer programs.

##### What innovations/opportunities do you think have come out of the pandemic?

The most successful innovation for our volunteering was getting online applications up and running through the volunteering database 'Better Impact'. Though all of our existing volunteers are in the database and can make sure their information is correct and apply for roles when it suits them, new volunteers can now add themselves to the database. This is great news for volunteering in Horsham, as both Horsham Rural City Council and the Centre for Participation have this database, so people who volunteer in these organisations can access a one-stop shop to see the time they are contributing to their society.

##### What do you enjoy most about what you do?

People volunteer for any number of reasons but on the most part it's for altruistic (selfless) reasons. For me, how can it not be a joy to meet and help people who want to meet and help people, without money being the reason to do the right thing?



Steph from the Centre for Participation

# A 'SMACKEREL' OF WISDOM

With COVID restrictions putting a pause on many social events, this year we marked Senior's Week a little differently.

Our social support team celebrated the

occasion by mailing out teapot cards to our clients, complete with a tea bag attached, a special message, and a 'smackerel' of wisdom from Winnie the Pooh.



Contact us on **5382 5607**  
[info@centreforparticipation.org.au](mailto:info@centreforparticipation.org.au)  
[facebook@centreforparticipation](https://www.facebook.com/centreforparticipation)  
PO Box 267, Horsham, VIC 3402



CFP1936 12 2020



YES! I WISH TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE CENTRE FOR PARTICIPATION BECAUSE I KNOW **TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Please put my donation towards the **Building for the future appeal**, so we can create a fit-for-purpose facility to better serve the needs of our community.

You can make your donation online via <https://centreforparticipation.org.au/donate/>

OR

I will make through a donation now:

(Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss)

\_\_\_\_\_

First name

Surname:

\_\_\_\_\_

Position:

\_\_\_\_\_

Organisation:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

State:

Postcode:

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone:

Mobile:

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Email:

My cheque is enclosed (please make payable to: Centre for Participation Inc)

OR

Please debit my credit card  Visa  Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_

\$50  \$150  \$250  My choice \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Card no:

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date:

Security code:

Signature:

OR

I would like to make a monthly donation to the Centre for Participation

Please debit my bank account on \_\_\_\_\_ commencing the month of January 2021

Day of each month

My account details are: BSB number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Account number:

Account name:

Thank you.

Your gift is tax deductible and a receipt will be sent to you via email. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. ABN: 17857841823

Please send me information about naming the Centre for Participation in my Will

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Details you supply to us are entered into the Centre for Participation database. We adhere to the Privacy Act. We do not disclose your information to third parties.

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

Centre for Participation, PO Box 267 HORSHAM VIC 3402