

# WCC E-NEWS!

Volume 4, Issue 1  
23rd February, 2007

## E-NEWS 18th 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](http://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

## Whittlesea Community Festival

On Sunday 18th March the City of Whittlesea will be holding the 10th Annual Community Festival. The largest event of its type in the City of Whittlesea, the Festival caters for everyone and attracts around 18,000 local residents. The Festival can offer work experience in a number of challenging areas in 2007, including: site decoration and set-up; site assistants; event marshalls; festival evaluation and information officers.

Apart from fantastic work experience in the local community, as a **festival volunteer** people will receive: volunteer show bag full of goodies; a written reference for their involvement; free ride voucher for the day of the festival; free event t-shirt and hat and free lunch on the day of the festival.

To register interest and to learn more about the Festival, people can attend a Volunteers' Information at Training Session on **Tuesday 6th March** from 7.00pm—8.30pm at Whittlesea Community Connections, Shop 111, Epping Plaza. For more information contact Festival Management on 9217 2159 or Whittlesea Volunteer Resource Service on 9401 6666.



## Active Women's Week

The Active Women's Week program features a range of ways for all women to be active locally. An opportunity to try new activities for free or at discount rates, celebrate and share International Women's Day with other women and learn local services. Come along and experience the fun and laughter of getting together with other women and trying new things!

### Monday 5th March, 2007

#### Introduction to Volunteering Workshop

Contact: Sue Perkins on 9401 6607

### Tuesday 6th March, 2007

Pilates, Group Personal Training, free Blood Pressure checks & swimming at Thomastown Recreation Centre

Contact: Tanya Frost on 9465 4822

### Wednesday 7th March

#### Women in the Park (Cultural Harmony through Music)

At Le Page Homestead, Hawkestone Park, 40 Gordons Road, South Morang (Melways Ref 183 H8)

Contact: Suzi Duncan on 0427 859 272

### Friday 9th March

#### Women in Business Breakfast

8.00am—10.00am

Contact: Faye Aforozis on 9217 2360

#### Young Women's Self-Defence Workshop

Thomastown Library, 52 Main Street Thomastown

Contact: Tanya Nacarov on 9401 6622

### Saturday March 10th

#### Women Only Swimming Program from 6.15pm—9.30pm

Contact: Ifaket Sumertas on 9466 4891 or 0400 824 101

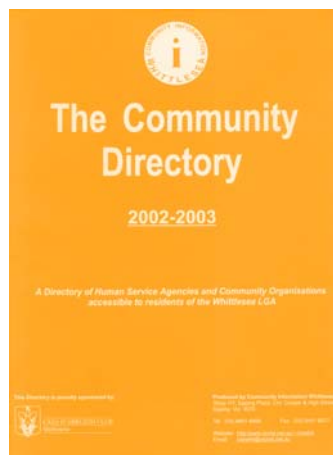
## Community Directory is selling fast!

The latest edition of the **The Community Directory** is still available for sale, but only a few copies are left for purchase!

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.

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



The 2006-2007 edition is now available!

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

This includes not only local agencies and services, but also some regional services who have the City of Whittlesea LGA as one of their client catchment areas.

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://whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au)

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

## Networks & Information Sessions

### Whittlesea Volunteering Forum:

The Whittlesea Volunteering Forum is a regular gathering of local City of Whittlesea-based workers/volunteers (or regional workers/volunteers that service the City of Whittlesea) who are responsible for supporting volunteers and volunteer programs in the municipality. Workers meet to discuss common strategies for raising the profile of volunteering, to promote best practice in volunteering and to raise issues and challenges for volunteering in the municipality. It is also a forum for gaining support, publicising volunteer-related programs and activities, exploring professional development opportunities, and for sharing information and developing partnerships. The next meeting will be held on 11th of April from 2pm-4pm at Epping Plaza. LINK Community Transport will be attending this meeting to speak about volunteer transport. For further information or to RSVP please contact Emma Sampson on 9401 6666.

### Whittlesea ER Network:

The Whittlesea ER Network is made up of local agencies and services to provide Emergency Relief services to clients of the City of Whittlesea. The Network also includes other agencies whose clients may be regular users of Emergency Relief, who are interested in feeding into the network in order to provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to ER across the municipality. If you are interested in attending the Network meetings, please speak with Jill on 9401 6666. The meetings are held bi-monthly, approximately six times per year.

## Tenants Union of Victoria—Housing Services Forum

This forum will provide workers in community & social service organisations with information about housing advice, advocacy & support services & housing-related complaints processes.

**Wednesday 28th March at the Melbourne Town Hall (Yarra Room).**

Registration 9.00am - Forum 9.30am - 4.30pm

### Guest Speakers include:

**Office of Housing.** Tony Newman, Director, Public Housing Client Services.

**Consumer Affairs Victoria.** Russell Barclay, Manager, Estate Agents Resolution Service.

**Consumer Affairs Victoria.** Keith Sykes, Manager, Residential Accommodation Team.

**Consumer Affairs Victoria.** Glenda Kueng, Community Education Officer.

**Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission.** Chris Gill, Senior Advisor, Training & Consultancy.

**Department of Human Services.** Kevin Thomas, Manager, Housing Appeals, Complaints Management & Home Finance Review Office.

**Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.** David Leonard, Policy & Project Officer.

**Tenants Union of Victoria.** Bill Darling, Senior Advocate.

**For further information please contact Melinda Tew on 9411 1412**

**or by email at [mtew@tuv.org.au](mailto:mtew@tuv.org.au)**

## **Local Information con't**

### **New CLE Worker for Whittlesea Community Legal Service**

I'm Robert Frajsman, the new Community Legal Education (CLE) worker for the Whittlesea Community Legal Service (WCLS) and would like to say hello to other local and regional workers. I started last month and am settling into my new role, thanks to the staff at Whittlesea Community Connections.

Our service was established in mid-2004 to assist people who live, work or study in the City of Whittlesea. We focus on assisting people who experience disadvantage and strive to address their legal needs. I'm keen to ensure that our service meets the needs of the community and we seek to forge closer links by conducting legal education forums that are of interest and value. In the past, we've held a number of sessions including family law, youth issues, employment rights and wills – just to name a few.

It promises to be a busy year, as I'll be running a number of sessions on broad areas of the law and I'd be happy to receive any advice and feedback that you'd like to provide.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me at the WCLS on 9401 6655 or email at [Robert\\_Frajsman@clc.net.au](mailto:Robert_Frajsman@clc.net.au)

I look forward to working with you.

### **Women Only Swimming**

Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre will have women-only swimming sessions every second Saturday evening from 6.15pm to 8.15pm commencing from 10th March, 2007.

Steam room, sauna and spa are included in the price for women over 16 years of age, and swimming lessons and water aerobics can be arranged for an additional charge.

Boys over 6 years are not permitted. Constant parental supervision of children is required at all times.

Cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.70 for children. No concessions available.

For more information please call TRAC on 9465 4822 4822.

### **Computer Help for Volunteers**

A new session for volunteers to learn more about computers within an informal, friendly learning environment is now available at WCC.

A volunteer helper is available for "getting-started" or "problem-solving", who can provide instructions in simple, friendly and appropriate manner.

Bookings for all information, training/workshops and, computer help sessions are advised, as the places are limited.

For further information and enquiries please contact Sarath Gamlath on 9401 6666.

### **Pacific Island Parenting Group (Playgroup Environment)**

Will be held each Monday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am at 62 Carrington Boulevard, Thomastown (Carrington Pre-School).

For more information please call Ivy Eramiha on 8401 0123 or Grace Gonzales on 8401 0100 (Kildonan Child & Family Services)

## Local Information con't

### New online tutor service at Yarra Plenty Regional Library

#### Now Children and Young Adults can get Free Homework and Exam Help from Qualified Tutors via the Internet at the Yarra Plenty Regional Library

Students, young adults and even adult learners in in the Councils of Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea from 13 February 2007 will never have to struggle with their homework, assignments or exam revision again! Students in years 4 through 12 can simply visit the Yarra Plenty Regional Library or log onto the library's Web site <http://www.yprl.vic.gov.au> to get immediate help from qualified tutors. The Yarra Plenty Regional Library now offers a unique and innovative Online Tutoring Service from Tutoring Australasia that connects students to expert tutors in mathematics, science, English, research-based subjects and study skills via the Internet.

For more information about this program contact:

#### Yarra Plenty Regional Library

Jane Grace

Manager Outreach

Bag 65 Bundoora Vic 3088

[jgrace@yprl.vic.gov.au](mailto:jgrace@yprl.vic.gov.au)

Phone: 9401 0718 or 0409 1206 72

### Whittlesea Ministries

Whittlesea Ministries are a group of people from the combined churches of Whittlesea who offer Emergency Relief to people in crisis situations.

They are no longer accepting self-referrals, but if you're an agency worker who has a client in the Whittlesea Township who needs assistance, please contact them on 0418 526 346 to see if they are able to assist.

### CEH Library News Flash

#### Become a member of the CEH Library

Your organisation can now borrow items from our unique collection on cultural diversity and health.

Just fill in an 'organisational membership application form' and return it to us. We will then send you a personal membership card which will allow you to borrow according to our user policy.

You can search our entire library catalogue via our website on:

<http://www.ceh.org.au/resources/libcatalogue.html>

If you need further information on how to search the catalogue we can arrange an induction session.

To make an appointment to visit our library, contact our Information Officer Sabina Tresise on 9342 9707.

### New Working with Children Checks

The Working with Children Check (WWC) check is a new initiative introduced in 2006 by the State Government of Victoria aimed at protecting children from physical and sexual harm. Some volunteers (and staff) who are working with children will be required to have a check in 2007.

An information session about the Working with Children Checks will be held on **Wednesday 17th March, from 10.00am-1.00pm** at Whittlesea Community Connections in Epping Plaza.

If you would like more information about how the WWC checks may affect you or your organisation's volunteers, please contact Emma Sampson from the Whittlesea Volunteer Resource Service on 9401 6666.

Working with  
Children Check



**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](mailto: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:** \_\_\_\_\_