



Alumni e-Newsletter



Wyndham News:

Check out the street art collaboration between Wyndham City Council and Blender Studios, on Station Street, Werribee:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-06/werribee-brings-cbd-style-street-art-laneway-to-melbourne-suburb/6916664>

The Volunteer Outreach Program Launch on the 13th of November 2015 was a great success, with two volunteer information officers to be present at Point Cook Community Learning Centre every Friday from 9am – 4pm to assist residents who are interested in volunteering.

Wyndham is set to benefit from \$50 million funding allocation for local infrastructure projects:

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/50-million-outer-suburban-growth-fund-open-for-business>

What's on in Wyndham?

Christmas Carols on the Lawn: Saturday 19th

December 2015

5pm – 9pm, 200 Tarneit Road, Werribee

http://www.experiencewyndham.com.au/whatson/christmas_carols

'West of Eden' Art Exhibition: Ending Sunday 10th

January 2016, Wyndham Art Gallery – 177 Watton St, Werribee

A series of digitally constructed landscapes that highlight the beauty of the Melbourne Water Western Treatment Plant, as well as a video work inspired by Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

<http://www.experiencewyndham.com.au/whatson/westofeden>

Volunteer Opportunities:

Wyndham City Council's Planned Activity Group based at Penrose Promenade Community Centre are currently looking for volunteers for their frail aged program on Tuesday to Fridays. Click the link below for more information and to apply.

http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/residents/community/volunteeringinwyndham/council/vacancies/planned_activity_group_frail_aged_group

Do you have a limited amount of free time, but still want to volunteer? Wyndham City Council is seeking survey assistants to conduct a study on climate change during a weekend in February. Click the link below for more information and to apply.

http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/residents/community/volunteeringinwyndham/council/vacancies/survey_assistant_climate_change

Find more opportunities at <http://govolunteer.com.au/>

Job Opportunities:

Looking to join a board? Find paid and unpaid positions in the link below.

<https://boarddirection.com.au/board-vacancies/>

Useful Links

What's on in Wyndham

<http://www.experiencewyndham.com.au/whatson>

Victoria University Certificate and Diploma courses

<http://www.vu.edu.au/courses/browse-for-courses/by-course-level/certificates-diplomas>

Important Dates:

Program Catch-Ups – Monday 8th February @ 6pm: for the Get Wyndham Moving Active Travel & Environment & Sustainability refocus/discussion and reconnection meeting + Graduation information session – What to expect?

Where: Wyndham City Council Civic Centre, Functions Area
45 Princes Highway, Werribee

Wyndham's Building Blocks Graduation Ceremony - Thurs 18th February 2015:

Who: Graduation of the Get Wyndham Moving Active Travel & Environmental and Sustainability students (previous Graduates are also welcome to attend)

Where: Wyndham City Council Civic Centre, Functions Area
45 Princes Highway, Werribee

*Please note that Sharon and Helen will reconnect with Graduands regarding graduation via email in late January 2016

Facts:

9 Building Blocks courses have been completed so far, developing 58 projects with more in the pipeline. So far, 136 students across 46 different cultural groups have graduated from the Building Blocks Program, with 46 more to graduate in February 2016 = 182 BB's



Students at Graduation in June 2015



Building Blocker Profile: *Abul, Jasmine, Mallika, Reeta (You Are Not Alone project)*

Project: 'You are not alone' – A program that encourages women from diverse backgrounds to come together to celebrate being women and provide support and strength to tackle issues around social connectedness, relationships and family violence. We had a chat with Reeta Verma, one of the project members, to find out some more about the project.

What kind of activities did you undertake with the people who participated in your project? 'We divided the group's activities into four broad themes: Women and Business, Women and the Law, Women and Music, and Celebrate Being a Woman. Together, they learnt to make candles and soaps. They heard from the professional lawyers about their work rights and how to seek help in family violence and also how to engage the community in the prevention of family violence. They learnt from Business Women how to run a successful business and how to make business plans. They danced on the tunes of Bollywood, Chinese, Samoan and Chin music. They shared multicultural food, exchanged recipes, learnt to do yoga and meditation.'

What was the most successful aspect of your project? 'Women from all walks of life joined in the events and activities and enjoyed being in the company of each other. Despite age, ethic, language and cultural differences, they enjoyed the project's activities.'

Did you come across any issues whilst completing your project? 'Though we successfully managed to get approximately 40-50 enthusiastic women in our sessions and engaged them fully in the group activities, our biggest barrier was how to bring women to the venue. Young mothers from the Somalian and South-Sudanese backgrounds could not be fully engaged due to their family commitments and perhaps language difficulties.'

What new skills did you learn whilst completing your project? Working with people from diverse backgrounds, different personality types and varied work ethics can be very challenging. We learnt that being patient, remaining positive despite differences and open ourselves to critique and suggestions is the key to develop and deliver a successful project/program. The Building Blocks training taught us the communication skills and listening skills, project management, grant writing skills, and skills working with group dynamics - these skills were put into practice when we delivered the project.'



'You are not alone' participants



If you'd like us to feature your Building Blocks project in an upcoming newsletter, please email your answers to the questions noted in the Building Blocks profile, as well as a few photos to our BB Volunteer Ellen at ellen.cooke@wyndham.vic.gov.au ☺