

John Pierce Centre

Spirit of the Deaf Community

Newsletter: December 2013

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year from John Pierce Centre Board and Staff

From the Executive Manager's Desk, by Rachel Miers

Hello,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our JPC Community Survey, and congratulations to Monica Stevenson for winning the first voucher \$100.00 of her shopping choice. Five other vouchers (\$20 each) were awarded to Diane Backholer, Ann Darwin, Lorna Easterbrook, Janet McDonald and Annette Fogarty. While I still have a lot of information to go through the survey report, I wanted to share with you a few tidbits:-

- 53% Female and 47% Male participated in this survey
- One question asked what do you like about JPC and this person responded "welcoming staff and community"
- One other person wrote down JPC is a lovely place for deaf community to meet and catch up and lovely staff.
- JPC newsletters rated important, along with workshops, pastoral care, religion and community activities for example Pankina, Women's Outings, Deaf Men's Club, Deaf Art, Signee Tots, CODA Activities, and Wombat.

Not long ago, I bumped into an old friend of mine who I haven't seen for a couple of years in Canberra. We caught up on family news especially with our children growing up. This friend mentioned to me that he & his wife enjoy reading JPC newsletters and catching up with the news of JPC. It is nice to know that JPC news travels far and wide, through newsletters.

It is easy to say that I have been busy lately with work, driving my children to their sports activities and catching up with friends. Yet Christmas is only a couple of weeks away. I took time out to reflect on the meaning of Christmas while typing my report for the newsletter and what it means to me. I believe it is a special time, to spend time with my family and friends, giving each other presents and heading to the beach.

I asked myself, "Is this a true meaning of Christmas" then I thought of Jesus being born on Christmas day. It is also a time when we need to remind ourselves on the true meaning of Christmas. It is also time for giving to those who are going through hard times. JPC Community recently donated nearly \$300 to Philippines. Thank you to the people who have donated money to this worthy cause.

On behalf of JPC Board and Staff, I wish for you, your families and friends a lovely Christmas and a relaxing new year.

Rachel

JPC Christmas Rally

Date: 8th December

Mass: 11.00am

Lunch: 12.30pm –Spit Roast

Santa: 2.30pm

Cost:

\$20 per person, \$45 per family with children under 15.

Where: JPC Hall, 25-35 High St, Prahran,

Children's Activities throughout the day.

Parents: Please remember to bring a present, with your child's name for when Santa comes!

Q & A from the Chaplain's Desk, by Fr John Hill CSSR

The Waiting Woman

In the city of Geraldton, about 450 km north of Perth, there is an unusual but beautiful memorial to the warship HMAS Sydney. As you know, the Sydney was a World War Two Australian warship that was sunk off the coast of Western Australia. None of its crew of 645 survived, and no one knew exactly how it was sunk. Its wreck was found only recently, about 180 km west of Shark Bay.

One of the most striking things about the Sydney memorial is the sculpture of a waiting woman (see picture above & right). She stands, holding onto her hat as the wind blows on her face. She has a wedding ring on her left hand, and stands waiting for her husband or son to return.

When the memorial was built in 2001, the wreck of the Sydney had not been found. The woman was placed in the memorial as a figure of hope. After all the years, she still stands there, hoping against hope that her loved one might somehow have survived. Now that the wreck has been discovered, she still stands there as a figure of hope. She knows that her loved one won't be coming back from the sea. Her hope is different now. It is about something deeper. She is a sign of a hope that looks beyond death. She makes me think of a hope that one day, there will be no death, war or destruction. When that day comes, she will be reunited with her loved one, even though they have died. We call it the second coming of Jesus. As his followers, we have that kind of hope. Advent, the time before Christmas, is a time of hope. We not only think about the first coming of Jesus, when he was born in Bethlehem. We also think about his second coming, when we will have a full experience of God's love, and be reunited with all our loved ones.

Two photos of a statue woman looking out to the sea

Interested in joining JPC Board?

We have now three people who joined JPC Board. We are asking if you know of someone or two who is interested in joining JPC Board and please pass on the information to them.

We are looking for people who are thinking of joining JPC Board, who may have an expertise in deaf community or finance. JPC Board attends bi monthly Board Meetings at JPC Community Centre from 5.30pm on Wednesday evenings. It's only six times a year.

Please contact Rachel Miers, Executive Manager via email manager@jpc.org.au to discuss of your interest or speak to a Board Member

Trash n Treasure Market, by Katrina Mynard

This was the day, 21st September 2013 when JPC organised a Trash and Treasure Market Day. The market itself was 3 long tables full of preloved items. Then there were about 10 small stalls organised by the people who wants to sell their own things. It items were mainly home made by themselves.

To be honest I found the market day was good for many deaf people who caught up with their old friends. We also made some new friends. It was like a true centre of the earth meaning to be just deaf with all these people around us. It was a success day and it wouldn't happen without a great team of JPC Staff. We all put in any which way we can.

Even though we raised about \$500, the funds will not be enough to cover the whole year of our Community Activities but as we all can say, receiving something is better than nothing at all.

Six photos

Staff Profile on Katrina Mynard

What is your favourite colour? Pink and Blue

Which AFL team do you barrack for? Collingwood

Your perfect holiday place? Anywhere by the beach

Your ideal dinner guests? People who don't lie, but I would like to have dinner with George Clooney, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Chris Hemsworth, Simon Baker and Peter Phelps.

Your favourite food? Chocolate

Funniest deaf joke? I can turn my hearing aids off whenever I want to.

What's your favourite TV Show? The Amazing Race and anything that has captions.

Photo of Katrina

Rural Outreach by Gabe Noonan

Hello again from my corner of the JPC office!

I know I am repeating myself when I say that this year has just flown. Maybe I could just copy my story from last year's newsletter, as I continue to do the same things, though with an extra twist this year. We have been a bit busier in the Pastoral Office as we take on extra clients for staff who have been away.

I have been out and about making regular visits to isolated people in their homes, as well as visiting people in Nursing homes. Sometimes on these visits, I will take people out to shop or go for lunch at a café. Other times I will share some time with them in their homes. I am always inspired when I realise what a difference some "shared time" makes for people who are lonely.

When I look back, the type of work that I have been involved in is so varied! From Kindergarten enquiries, clothes shopping, funeral arrangements, baby advice, banking support, housing support & transport and interpreting support at appointments. Wow, so many different areas, it is never boring!!

Over the last few months, Fr John, Rachel & I have been organising meetings with some of the Deaf and sharing their religious signs. There are many different "flavours" of religious signs, and we hope to record these signs and prayers on film to keep as a record.

Unfortunately, I haven't been "on the country road" as much as I would have liked, but I plan to travel to Gippsland before Christmas. These last weeks get very busy for everyone, with pre-Christmas plans. The office here, is again busy planning the JPC Christmas rally, as well Christmas Hampers.

I will be once again be doing the Mass For You at Home roster, to be filmed in January 2014. So again, a big thank-you to Channel 10, who provide the studio space and expertise for this programme to run.

As we wind down for the year, I would like to wish you all a safe summer, some rest time for your bones and your brain, and an opportunity to spend some "shared time" with someone who is in need.

Gabe

Thankful Thought

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... It's about learning to dance in the rain."

Quote by Vivian Greene

JPC Office Christmas Break

Please note that the John Pierce Centre offices will be closed for the Christmas break from Friday 20th December 2013 and will re-open on Wednesday 15th January 2014. On behalf of all of us here at JPC, we would like to wish you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY & SAFE NEW YEAR. We look forward to seeing you all in 2014.

Note that the Pastoral Worker will not be available in January 2014. If you wish to contact JPC staff during January 2014

Katrina Mynard sms 0400 660 601 (Deaf)

Gabe Noonan sms 0418 394 600 (Hearing)

Fr John Hill sms 0404 145 061 (Hearing)

World Federation of the Deaf - Sydney Conference
16th to 20th October 2013.

Rachel Miers & Katrina Mynard recently travelled to Sydney for World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Conference and were overwhelmed by the experience of meeting new and old friends. Six hundred and forty four (644) people from sixty-seven (67) countries came to the Conference. That is a lot of people to meet!

It was the first time that the conference was held in Sydney, Australia. The last WFD Congress was in Brisbane in 1999. The theme was "Equality for Deaf People" and also highlighted of the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

There were many highlights to choose from:-

Welcome Reception held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, with beautiful views of the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. The Welcome Reception provided an opportunity for us to meet new friends and catch up with old friends.

There were many presentations at the Conference and all were interesting. We liked a couple of presentations:-

- Deaf Deaf Same presented by Annelies Kusters from Germany
- Deaf Children without a language by Sarah Klenbort (Australia)
- Impact of Christchurch Earthquakes and Deaf Community and Accessibility by David McKee and Mark Berry (both from New Zealand)
- Losing my train by Paal Peterson (Norway)
- Frontrunners by Drisana Levitzke-Gray (Australia) and Luba Douziech (Canada).
- Hear for You a mentoring program for deaf and hard of hearing teenagers presented by Meg Aumann and Sophie Li (Australia)
- Advocating through Equal Representation in Politics with three presenters, Dr Adam Kosa from Hungary, The Hon Mojo Mathers MP from New Zealand and The Hon Wilma Newhoudt-Druchen MP from South Africa

Rachel and Katrina couldn't remember how many interpreters altogether – There were International Sign Interpreters on the left side of the stage and Auslan interpreters on the right. Other countries i.e. Finland, Denmark, America, were placed at the bottom of the stage.

There were a couple of social events including Conference Dinner at a beautiful venue called the IVY, and International Deaf Festival, to mark the celebration of the Deaf week. Katrina said it was like a reunion party. There was a "hot fingers" competition in seeing who could sign the fastest in A-Z alphabet.

Lastly the International Deaf Film Festival where they showcased a couple of films made by deaf filmmakers.

Katrina and Rachel had an enjoyable & a worthwhile experience and they encourage everyone to go to the next WFD Congress in Istanbul, Turkey 2015.

Five photos

Community Activities, by Katrina Mynard

Deaf Art

Deaf Art on Fridays during school term, is attracting new people. To tell you the truth, they all just came to chat and not often don't do much work on their projects. However, they are all determined enough and always finish their work. This group attracts all ages, mainly from late 20's to 70's. And they all have mixture of communication, some of them signs, or learning to sign and others just oral. The teacher, Magdalena is enjoying her role there, giving them her experience and her knowledge is very much shared.

Dates for 2014:

TERM 1:

February: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

March: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

April: 4th

Ladies Day Out

The Ladies is becoming bigger and bigger group. In August, some of us enjoyed a day at the Peninsula Spa and overnight stay at Rye. In October, many of them went to Brunetti Café in Lygon Street. In November, we went to Caulfield Races, all had fun and lots of laughter.

Dates for 2014:

19th February: Day Out in the City

19th March: High Tea at Ripponlea

16th April: Easter Bunny Lunch

21st May: Puffing Billy Train Trip

Photo of Ladies enjoying their day out at the Caulfield Races

Wombat Craft Group

This is a group of 4 or more ladies coming together to share their things, what they've made and what they've learnt through the group. In August, they made lots of hats and scarfs and donated to JPC families. I was able to give them all out on the weekend of KODA Camp and came home with empty bag. The families appreciated those warm things that they could take home.

Deaf Men's Group

This is becoming popular with the men. They regularly go to JPC on Mondays fortnightly. These men love to bring cakes/biscuits to share with the group. Every time I see those sweet things, I thought oh my goodness, its not mine to eat. And by the end of the day its gone, so that means the men enjoyed them so much. As usual, they all come together first thing in the morning to chat then spread out to play all different games, like playing cards, Rummikum etc. They have plans to go out on excursion in the coming weeks. They are very self organised group but the best thing to see is to watch them enjoying having a sign language conversation. They are all best friends when together. In the past they've watched a few DVDs of action movies.

Dates for 2014:

January: 13th (Monday) and 28th (Tuesday)

February: 10th and 24th.

March: 10th and 24th

April: 7th (Monday) and 22nd (Tuesday)

May: 5th and 19th

Photo of all the Men watching movie on the big projector screen!

Porepunkah Reunion by Katrina Mynard

Fr Peter Robinson would like to invite anyone who has been to Porepunkah Camp many years ago. This is for all ages who want to gather and meet all your old friends.

Date: Sunday 12th January 2014

Time: 12.00pm (Mass will start)

Where: Mingarra Retirement Village

77-115 Mt Dandenong Rd, Croydon (Entrance at Wicklow Avenue)

Cost: \$20.00 per family– BBQ and Salads included.

BYO: Drinks

It will be great to see old faces and to catch up!

Contact Details:

Katrina Mynard (Deaf) through Facebook (JPC), Email k.mynard@jpc.org.au, Mobile SMS 0400 660 601

Maria Patterson (formerly McLoughlin) (Hearing) Phone: 03 9560 7853, Mobile 0419 338 274, Email mariap@donegans.com.au

Brief History of Porepunkah Camp:

Fr. Robinson was involved in parishes in the Clayton/Oakleigh area. He decided that he wanted to combine Deaf and hearing communities together and was also a priest for the Deaf. The camp was always in January for 2 weeks (1 week for the girls and 1 week for the boys).

The Mynard family were lucky enough to get to stay they whole 2 weeks which was great! The Porepunkah Reunion will be a great day to catch up on fun memories that were had on the camp.

Recipe- Licorice Slice or Lolly Slice by Katrina Mynard

Ingredients:

400g chopped licorice allsorts
125g butter
200g condensed milk
250g crushed biscuits
1/2 cup ground hazelnuts
30g copha
180g white chocolate

Method:

- Grease and line a 19x19cm pan with baking paper, put butter and condensed milk in a pan or microwave to melt then let cool.
- Add crushed biscuits, ground hazelnuts and licorice to the butter mix, stir to combine. Press into prepared tin and smooth the surface.
- Melt white chocolate and copha together in a pan or microwave and pour over the slice as icing.
- Cut with a warm knife when set and enjoy!

If you would like to make this into a lolly slice, all you need to do is replace the licorice allsorts with your favourite lollies (teeth, raspberries etc...)

Signee Tots ,by Josephine Hynes

Wow, another year has gone by and Christmas is fast approaching! Signee Tots has been very busy the last few months with many new families attending, it has been great to meet some new faces.

2014

Looking ahead at 2014, we are now going to running Signee Tots through the school holidays, upon feedback from families, they would like to have Signee Tots continue on through the holidays so we will be trying this out for 2014. If anyone has any ideas/themes/activities they would like to see happen at Signee Tots, please do not hesitate to contact me with feedback, it is always great to expand and welcome new ideas.

Dates for Signee Tots in 2014:

February: 4th and 18th
March: 4th and 18th
April: 1st and 15th
May: 6th and 20th

Three photos

Workshops 2014

We will be running some workshops in March next year for families. The topics include developing relationships with your child and also an workshop focusing on couples. The dates will be:

Tuesday 4th March: 12pm to 1.30pm.

This will be a workshop on families and their relationships, bonding with your child.

Tuesday 11th March: 5pm to 7.30pm.

This workshop is open to couples and will allow for reflection and ways to focus on a couples relationship and a families relationship.

CODA Activities, by Josephine Hynes

Guess what!?

Bounce is back for 2014! Please keep the 24th April free for another great day out at Bounce with CODA friends.

If families have any ideas or places they would like to go for CODA Activities, please feel free to contact me on j.hynes@jpc.org.au

3D Christmas Snowflake

The children last year made these decorations and are really easy to make and look great when hanging on the Christmas tree or around the house.

Materials to make one snowflake:

6 pieces of pieces of paper

Scissors

Clear tape

Stapler

Steps:

1: Fold each of the 6 pieces of paper in half, diagonally. If the paper you are using does not make a perfect triangle, cut off the rectangular edge that sticks out and make it align perfectly. You should end with a square folded into a triangle.

2: Cut 3 lines in the triangle. Position the scissors along the bottom fold, and parallel to one of the edges going up to the top (your cuts should be diagonal). Cut most the way up to one of the side edges, but not quite. Keep about the same distance between each cut.

3:Unfold the triangle again. Turn it so one of the points of the square faces you. It should look like the picture to the right.

4: Keeping your paper diamond side-up, roll the first two innermost paper points together to form a tube. Tape these two pieces together. You should see triangle shapes on each side of the roll.

5:Flip the diamond over to the other side. Take the next two paper points and pull them together on the opposite side of the tube and tape together as before.

6:Keep flipping the paper and joining the paper points together on opposite sides in the same fashion until all paper points have been joined.

7: Repeat Steps 3 - 7 with the remaining 5 pieces of paper.

8:Join the tops of three of the completed rolled pieces together at one end and staple together using the other hand. Join the other three pieces the same way. Now you will have two joined pieces consisting of three strands or "arms" each.

9:Staple the two new joined pieces point to point.

10: Staple the middle of the outer rolls where each of the six arms meet. This ensures the snowflake shape is pulled into place.

Sourced from WikiHow: <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-3D-Paper-Snowflake>

Summer Ideas

Check out the Victorian Government's website (below), it has a list of free and paid activities that families can attend. Activities includes wildlife and national parks, cooking, arts and crafts and sporting activities. Also it shows more information, prices and dates.

<http://www.vic.gov.au/about-victoria-tourism/holidays-daylight-saving/school-holidays/school-holiday-activities.html>

Pankina ,by Cheryl Clarke - Secretary

PROGRAMMES FOR 2014.

Jan 20th- Welcome.

Feb 3rd- Bingo.

Feb 17th- Crazy Whist.

Mar 3rd- 777s.

Mar 17th - Bingo St Patrick's (Green Day)

Mar 31st - Outing (will inform later.)

Apr 14th - Bingo & Easter Raffles.

Apr 28th - Crazy Whist.

May 12th -777s.

May 26th -Pankina's AGM.

Emmaus Group, by Gail Finn

We are pleased to announce that we will continue with the first Sunday Mass every month starting 2nd March, 2014. Emmaus group will meet after the first Sunday Mass.

Also we will have a retreat day for Lent on Saturday 5th April, 2014 starting at 10.00am ending 4.00pm at John Pierce Centre. All are welcome.

Calendar for Signed Masses

2013

8th December, 2013 - Prahran, JPC 11.00am (Christmas Rally)

24th December, 2013 - Prahran, JPC 3.00pm (Christmas Eve)

2014

19th January, 2014 - Prahran, JPC 11.00am

9th February, 2014 - City, St. Francis 1.30pm

16th February, 2014 - Prahran, JPC 11.00am

2nd March, 2014 - Prahran, JPC 11.00am

9th March, 2014 - City, St. Francis 1.30pm

16th March, 2014 - Prahran, JPC 11.00am

6th April, 2014 - Prahran, JPC 11.00am

13th April, 2014 - City, St. Francis 1.30pm (Palm Sunday)

20th April, 2014 - Prahran, JPC 11.00am (Easter Sunday)

REST IN PEACE

Sr. Patricia Murphy OP – 24th July, 2013 (one of the first Dominican Sisters at Portsea)

Lindsay Ryan – 16th August, 2013 (father of Anne-Maree)

Tom Kinnersly – 29th August, 2013

Peter De Boe – September, 2013 (husband of Pearl)

Fr. Victor Crennan – 23rd September, 2013 (great uncle of Rachel Miers)

Howard Thomas – 28th September, 2013 (husband of Dot)

Brian Smith – 9th October, 2013

Margaret Riley-Williams – 16th October, 2013

Edward (Eddie) Mitchell – 17th October, 2013 (husband of Kerrie)

Carmen Platt – 18th October, 2013 (wife of Stuart)

Advertisement – Good Guys Partnership with JPC

The John Pierce Centre is fortunate to have been selected as a Community Partner with the Good Guys Store. The Good Guys Stores are a chain of Independent Electrical and White-goods stores spread throughout Australia that support local Communities by donating a portion of all sales to their Community Partners.

Mr Travice De Silva the proprietor of the store chose to support the Family Support Services provided by the Centre and especially to Deaf families in the wider Chadstone area.

If you visit the store which is located at the Chadstone Lifestyle Precinct at 675 - 685 Warrigal Road in Chadstone, keep an eye out for the JPC display on the community board and you can be sure that the staff of the Good Guys will give you special and attentive service.

We plan to have a couple of events at the Good Guys stores this year to publicize the work of the John Pierce Centre in the area of Family Support; you are welcome to be a part of these events

Newsletter Contribution \$10 per year for Postage

Or wish to receive free newsletters via email, please let Gail know – g.finn@jpc.org.au

Newsletter Deadline

Next Newsletter Deadline – 28th February 2014

Office Hours

Office Hours, Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.00pm Email admin@jpc.org.au Website www.jpc.org.au

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