



NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2022

JOHN PIERCE CENTRE  
*Spirit of the Deaf Community*

Merry Christmas



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[JohnPierceCentre](https://www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre)



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**Office Hours**

MON - WED

9.30am to 3.30pm

THURS - FRI

By Appointment Only

**Staff**

Fr Wayne Edwards

Gail Finn

Sophie Duncan

Katrina Mynard

Teresa Paulet

Diane Backholer

Sr Janette Murphy soj

Margherita Riccioni

Catherine Miller

**Executive Manager**

Carmel Phillips

**Chairperson JPC Board**

Trevor Hughes

**Board Members**

Dean Sinclair

Br Shane Wood (Minutes)

Sonya Tissera-Isaacs

Evelyne Albrecht

Lucille Bennetto

**Next Newsletter Deadline**

MARCH 2023

JPC would like to thank the community members for allowing us to use their photos in this publication and we acknowledge the images in this newsletter from StockUnlimited, Etsy, Freepik and Adobe Stock.

## December Newsletter

Hello friends

The year is coming to a close. It has been a challenging year after two years of covid lockdowns, and it was reassuring to see many happy faces at our Centre once again.

Now with Christmas fast approaching, I am taking the time to reflect on what we have achieved this year;

Pankina Group has resumed with the regular Bingo day being highly favoured!

Ladies Get Together has become quite popular with alternative outings and activities held at our Centre.

Deaf Art and Craft Group are also popular, creating and innovating different art works.

Signee Tots playgroup numbers has somewhat reduced this year; we are now looking for new ideas on how to increase the number of attendees again.

Deaf Men's Group is on 'hold' for the time being, we are hoping that it will resume in the new year.

It is the social connections that are important to the Community and it has been wonderful that they could come together again in 2022.

This year we have partnered with VCD (Victorian College of the Deaf) for the Intergenerational Program. The last session was in August for 'Book Week'. A story was read and acted out in a performance. Such a fun morning. We have invited the group from VCD to join with Pankina's last event for the year and to help with drawing of the raffle prizes. I hope this program will continue in the New Year, with a shift towards supporting teenagers.

Third Sunday Masses have been held throughout the year and I give thanks to the wonderful staff for participating and ensuring the mass can be livestreamed. St Patrick's Mass were provided in the first half of the year and are now resuming once a month on the first Sunday of each month on Channel 31 (44).

We are now on the lookout for a new Board Director to join the JPC Board. We meet six times per year and we would like a Deaf person to take on this role. There is no specific experience required. Please email to the manager if you are interested or know someone who is.

The Archives team have been collating the files into boxes. It is an important job to preserve the history of the JPC. The work will be ongoing into the new year.

In closing and on behalf of all the JPC Staff and Board Directors, we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope the New Year will bring you lots of happiness and good health.

Thanks for your support throughout the year, it is truly appreciated.

See you all in the New Year. Take care and stay safe.

Carmel



To My Dear Friends at JPC including their extended Families and Friends,

### Christmas 2022.

Another year has come and gone. As we prepare for the coming of the Baby Jesus at Christmas we do well to reflect on the last twelve months and even the last two – three years. For many of us it has been an unprecedented time in world history and for many a troubling and unsettling time given the Covid Pandemic. For us as a people of faith and getting ready for Jesus' arrival the reality of the event this Christmas is a reminder of Jesus' birth two thousand years ago. Jesus' birth and remembrance of it gives us a constant in a world that is changing all the time. We need stability and constancy and to engage in the true meaning of Christmas. I visited patients in hospital many times over the past year and the thing that gave the sick encouragement was their faith and family and friends. More than ever we need the message of Christmas to lighten a darkened world and many people including some of you who suffered loss of loved ones and your own health issues. There is something about the birth of a new born baby that brings a smile, happiness to even the most tired and cynical of us. Christmas is something you and I need and indeed the whole world, bringing peace and love. Thank you once again for your support and prayers and if there is anything I am able to help you with please just ask. Please be assured of my prayers and support for you. With every blessing and good wish be yours and family and friends this Christmas - of hope, peace, joy and love - and a happy New Year.



With my Prayers and Love

Yours in Christ

**Fr Wayne Edwards**

**Chaplain to the Deaf**



The John Pierce Centre support the spiritual wellbeing of Deaf and hard of hearing people all around Victoria. Donating to our work can be done simply and easily by using this QR code. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible!

### Want to give back to the Community?

The John Pierce Centre is overseen by a committed Board of Representatives and Subcommittees who support the overarching operations of the JPC. We are seeking expressions of interest from Deaf individuals to join our Board of Directors or one of our Board Subcommittees: Finance Subcommittee or Management Subcommittee.

You do not require past Board committee experience, just a keen interest in supporting the work of the JPC. Help shape the future of JPC and learn some new skills.

JPC is also seeking expressions of interest from Deaf or hearing individuals as a Minute Taker for meetings of the Board Sub Committees. Experience in taking meeting minutes is preferable.

Feel free to ask any questions or request further information:

JPC Executive Manager  
[manager@jpc.org.au](mailto:manager@jpc.org.au)

*John Pierce Centre*  
**Christmas Rally**

It was fabulous to be back having our Christmas Rally event this year. We have missed it for the last two years. It really is a favourite event in the calendar for the community. A lovely Mass for the advent season, to reflect on the coming Christmas. As well as a delicious roast lunch and scrumptious dessert. Followed by the most popular raffle with several lucky winners!

Thank you to everyone that attended. We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did.



John Florio



...a Santa or TWO may have dropped by for the big event!...oh wait, that's just a couple of Hynes brothers with beards!



### Are you a Deaf business owner?

We often have people asking whether we know any Deaf plumbers or landscapers, builders or graphic designers...Wouldn't it be great if there was a place where Deaf business owners can advertise their businesses so that others can find them?

Well JPC want to support the economic growth of Deaf owned businesses or those connected to the Deaf community. Whether you're Deaf or a CODA, an interpreter with a side business. Our newsletter goes to hundreds of people so let us advertise your business. Email [admin@jpc.org.au](mailto:admin@jpc.org.au)

One year of advertising in our newsletter is only \$50!



## Living Longer, Living Stronger-all abilities

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria received a state government grant to work with Latrobe University to develop a training program for fitness instructors to help them make their programs accessible for people living with a disability. COTA approached the John Pierce Centre to work with the Deaf community. Focus groups with the Deaf community were run over 4 weeks at the Centre during the month of November to help inform the development of the training module for Fitness Instructors.

Eight Deaf community members participated in this important process which included a weekly 45-minute exercise session and then providing their feedback on how the instructor can better work with Deaf people to accommodate their needs in maintaining their strength and balance as they age.

Lots of fun was had by all and important insights were collected.

We are hoping to secure funding to run a regular Auslan friendly exercise session at the JPC in the near future... but more about this next year.



### *Christmas Closure Dates:*

**JPC will be closed from Monday 19th December and will re-open on Monday 30th January.**

Staff will be on leave during this time but if you have urgent need of support please contact the Manager—Carmel Phillips 0414 427 386 (SMS only)

We are still available to support your needs and refer you to appropriate services if you need anything urgently.

*We take this time to rest and rejuvenate,  
we will see you in 2023.*

*We remember always, those that have been a part of our lives, as their spirits are weaved through the story that is our Deaf community.*

### **Rest in Peace**

**Chris Haigh** – August 2022

**Lenny Cavone** – 6th Sept (nephew of Fern Saulle)

**Jack Beaton** – 22nd Sept (husband of Mary and brother-in-law of Cheryl Clarke)

**Yvonne Gouldthorpe** – 28th Sept

**Brian Reynolds** – 28th Sept (former Principal of VCD)

**Bob Willis** – 28th Sept (former owner of Word of Mouth Technologies)

#### **Office Hours-**

**MON - Wed: 9:30am-3:30pm**

**Thurs-Fri: by appointment only**

**Please make contact via email at [admin@jpc.org.au](mailto:admin@jpc.org.au)**

#### **Your contribution:**

**Help us to support Deaf people and their families throughout VIC by making a tax deductible donation today.**



[www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations](http://www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations)

### **Leave a bequest**

By leaving a gift to John Pierce Centre in your Will, you will have a lasting impact, supporting our Centre for years to come. It is a powerful reflection of the values and principles you treasure. It enables you to create a legacy of love and care for those in need.

For more information, please contact our office on 03 9525 1158 or email [admin@jpc.org.au](mailto:admin@jpc.org.au)

*Thank you.*

## Memorial Mass

A lovely Memorial Mass was held at JPC on Sunday 20th November to remember all those that we have lost in the last 12 months. We also had two plaques placed on the memorial stone in the garden.

Remembering Robert McDonald (wife of Janet McDonald) and Peter Ryan.



*Almighty God, we rejoice in your promise of love, joy and peace. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven; through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who died, rose again and lives for evermore. Amen.*

## Thank you Party

An opportunity to thank all of those who support the John Pierce Centre. Support comes in many forms, whether that be financial, volunteering or donating, and we are truly grateful to all those that give so that we may continue our work to support the Deaf community.

Each year we hold a thank you party to acknowledge our supporters and share in the good work that we are able to achieve together!



## Community Activities Update!

Community groups are now on break for the Christmas and summer break. We will see you all back again in February 2023!

# Signee Tots

Signee Tots 2022 has been a rollercoaster of a year. We have the excitement of meeting new families, trying out new ways to get together and the dreaded winter illnesses spreading. After two years of COVID19 it is to be expected that there would be bumps along the ride and I thank the families and friends and children who've stuck it out with me.



Travel and Transport



Painting



Mums and Bubs space

I have been in touch with other playgroup facilitators and they mention that weekend get-togethers seem to be more in keeping with what families and friends need. And so, for 2023 we will be trying out Signee Tots for the first Sunday of the month at JPC. I encourage all family members to come, because learning Auslan through play is not an opportunity that is widely available. For Signee Tots to continue we need your support and your attendance.

I hope that you all have a lovely, peaceful yet joyful, safe Christmas and New Year. I will be keeping in touch through Instagram and will update you all on what's happening out there, in the Deaf community and of course, Signee Tots.

### The dates for next year's Signee Tots sessions are:

- February 5<sup>th</sup>
- March 5<sup>th</sup>
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- May 7<sup>th</sup> (tbc)
- June 4<sup>th</sup>
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> (tbc)
- August 6<sup>th</sup>
- September 3<sup>rd</sup> (tbc)
- October 1<sup>st</sup> (tbc)
- November 5<sup>th</sup> (tbc)
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>



Co-Ordinator : Catherine Miller [signeetots@jpc.org.au](mailto:signeetots@jpc.org.au)

## Deaf Men's Group



Something exciting is coming in 2023 for the Deaf Men. We know that there are many gentlemen in the community that are keen to get together and we are building a new project in 2023 to bring everyone together.... We will be in touch in the new year to launch the exciting new group challenge so stay tuned!!

**Remember!! For information on any community activities, please contact Katrina:**



## Deaf Arts & Crafts

What a very busy and successful year with the **Deaf Arts and Craft Group**! The artwork was absolutely stunning and I'm so proud of this group. **First session back in 2023 will be**

**Friday 10th February!**

(runs every Friday through the term)

If you would like to join this group please contact JPC



## Ladies Get Together

Co-ordinated by *Diane Backholer*



A fabulous year of gathering at JPC and going on outings around Melbourne and beyond! What an enjoyable year for all of the Ladies.

**First event for 2023 will be Wednesday 8th February!**

(runs every second Wednesday through the term)



## Pankina

It's been a fabulous year again for Pankina with Bingo days and cards days. Numbers are always big and all are welcome to attend.

**First event for 2023 will be Monday 6th February!**



SMS: 0400 660 601 / [E: k.mynard@jpc.au](mailto:k.mynard@jpc.au)

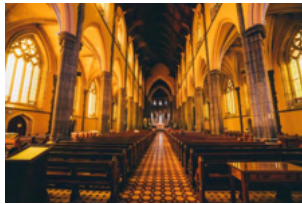
## JPC Third Sunday Mass

JPC continues to provide onsite and livestreamed mass on Facebook. We encourage you to come to mass on the third Sunday of each month when you can or if you can't you can watch it online at: [www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre](http://www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre)



## Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

Deaf Interpreters will return to St Patrick's Cathedral for the 11am mass on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in February 2023. We support the inclusion of interpreters on screen and are happy to be back in the New Year. We hope you are able to watch online or on Channel 31 (channel 44). Interpreters will also be provided for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass on Saturday 24th December from 11:30pm.



# Calendar For Masses:

Friday 24th December JPC Christmas Eve, online	3pm online only: watch at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/johnpiercecentre">www.facebook.com/johnpiercecentre</a>
Friday 24th December St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne	Midnight Mass at St Patrick's or watch on Channel 31 (channel 44 on your tv)
Sunday 15th January JPC, Prahran. Welcome back Mass 2023!	11am at JPC in Prahran or watch <a href="http://www.facebook.com/johnpiercecentre">www.facebook.com/johnpiercecentre</a>
Sunday 5th February St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne	11am at St Patrick's or on Channel 31 (44)
Sunday 19th February JPC, Prahran	11am at JPC in Prahran or watch online
Wednesday 22nd February JPC, Prahran. Ash Wednesday	11am at JPC in Prahran or watch online
Sunday 5th March St Patrick's Cathedral	11am at St Patrick's East Melbourne or watch on Channel 31
Sunday 19th March JPC, Prahran	11am at JPC or watch online

## Christmas Eve Masses

### Friday 24th December

**JPC Christmas Eve Mass will be pre-recorded and posted on Facebook. There will be NO onsite Mass provided**

**[Please watch at www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre](http://www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre)  
from 3pm**



*Lord God, as we traverse the sacred season of Advent, be with us, lead us and guide us as we do all we can to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Give us the courage, strength and patience to slow down, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*



*JPC would like to thank the following organisations for their support through grants and sponsorships...*

**Auslan Services**  
40th Anniversary GOLD Sponsor



AuslanServices

**Community Bank Windsor**  
Connectedness through Covid-19



**Expression Australia**  
40th Anniversary GOLD Sponsor



**Echo Interpreting**  
40th Anniversary SILVER Sponsor



**Ephpheta Foundation Grant**

**Gorman Foundation Grant**

Grant Supporters for the JPC 40 Year Anniversary Book



# Advent

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

**Office Closed:** JPC will be closed to the public and community over Christmas. If you have any urgent queries, please contact Carmel Phillips (sms only) 0414 427 386

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