



JOHN PIERCE CENTRE
Spirit of the Deaf Community

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2022

LENT

“During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith, and receive with open hearts the love of God.”

Pope Francis



www.jpc.org.au



admin@jpc.org.au



[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

Sophie Duncan

Gail Finn

Fr Wayne Edwards

Katrina Mynard

Teresa Paulet

Diane Backholer

Sr Janette Murphy rsj

Margherita Riccioni

Executive Manager

Carmel Phillips

Chairperson JPC Board

Trevor Hughes

Board Members

Dean Sinclair (Treasurer)

Br Shane Wood (Minutes)

Damien Backholer

Sonya Tissera-Isaacs

Evelyne Albrecht

Lucille Bennetto

Next Newsletter Deadline

JUNE 2022

JPC would like to thank the community members for allowing us to use their photos in this publication and we also acknowledge the use of information and images from www.stockunlimited.com and www.pinterest.com

From JPC Executive Manager:

Hello Friends



Another year has come, and it is already April!

Hope this newsletter finds you all keeping well and staying safe as well enjoying the 'freedoms' of being with our loved ones and friends again.

I believe that this year will not be like the last two years and all that we have experienced but it continues to be challenging with the continuing COVID situation. I know we are all feeling apprehensive in re-connecting with families and friends so I hope that it will be a good year.

It has also been a challenging time with the vaccination process. The staff have been acting 'covid marshalls' since returning to the centre this year to ensure the safety of the community and only allowing double vaccinated community members to attend. I thank you for your patience and respect for the staff during the past few months as it has been a big process.

Now for the news for JPC; it is fabulous to see the reconnection of Community groups in the centre. It is so positive to see you all back with your happy smiles and excitement to be with each other again. Pankina has resume their gatherings and the numbers have been high. Deaf Men's Group are on hold due to decline in numbers but we are looking to address this and have the group running again in the near future.

Signee Tots continues each fortnight, though sadly Melissa Thompson has left JPC after an amazing service with JPC for almost seven years. We are in process of looking for a replacement.

Ladies get Together and Deaf Art are ongoing which has been very popular again this year.

People are attending our third Sunday Masses, and we are still livestreaming the mass which is a great opportunity for those who are unable to attend in person. Thanks to the staff here for making it all happen.

Lastly, our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine and the war – it is unbelievable seeing all the stories in the media. It makes your heart sad and wish that you could help them; seeing families that are forced to separate is terrible. Let us hope that it will not go on for too long.

And more disastrous news with the flooding in Queensland and NSW. It is so sad for all those who have lost their belongings and homes. Lismore's Deaf Club is gone which is devastating. I hope that the deaf community can find a place to be together and that they have the support they need at this time.

Our prayers are with all those that are suffering because of these awful events.

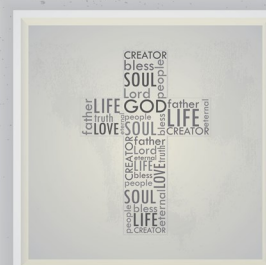
In closing, we are now on the lookout for volunteers who can assist us, the staff or Community groups – please email manager@jpc.org.au if any of you are interested or .

Till next newsletter.

Take care and stay safe

Carmel Phillips

JPC Executive Manager



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

Happy Easter!

Easter time is the greatest time in the Church's Calendar. Jesus has risen from the dead. He has overcome death not only for Himself but for all of us. The joy of Easter fills all the earth, the joy that death has been conquered. It is one of the lovely compensations of Life that we cannot raise another without raising ourselves also. Let us open our hearts to receive this great joy.

On Easter day we still feel pain, our own pain and the pain of others. But a new element has been introduced. It doesn't remove the pain, but gives it a meaning, and lights it up with hope. All is different because Jesus is alive and speaks his words of peace to us. Therefore, there is a quiet joy among us, and a deep sense of peace. Jesus has broken the power of death, and given us the hope of eternal life. Lord, guard this hope with your grace, and bring it to fulfilment in the kingdom of heaven.



To all at JPC and the wider Catholic Deaf Community including your family and friends may the joy of Easter be with you now and forever.

With my Prayers and Love

Yours in Christ

Fr Wayne Edwards

Chaplain to the Deaf

Archiving work at JPC

A huge thanks to the volunteer Archiving Team at JPC that have been working hard over recent months to sort out old photos, documents and paperwork from the over 40 years of service of the John Pierce Centre. Kathleen Carrol has taken on the position of Volunteer Archivist and is being trained and supported by Sr Bernadette Wallis and Mike Wilson, who have spent many months on the archiving work.



Position Available

Signee Tots Coordinator

JPC has a permanent part-time role available for a Signee Tots Co-Ordinator/ Administration duties to work 10 hours/week. 1 day at JPC (suits school hours) plus remaining work completed at home.

If you like working in the NFP sector, have experience working with children and a passion for working with the Deaf Community of Victoria, now is your chance to be an important part of the JPC team!

Send you letter of interest and/or resume via email to: manager@jpc.org.au

Job description, employment conditions/ remuneration and further information will be provided upon your request.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Join the Board

No Experience

Needed



Interested in joining the JPC Board or Board subcommittee to support the work of the John Pierce Centre?

Contact us today! No experience is necessary, just a passion for supporting the Deaf Community and the work of JPC.

Meetings are every two months so just 6 meetings a year.

Contact JPC for more information
manager@jpc.org.au

Navigating Aged Care

On Monday 28th March JPC held a session for Pankina and the wider community about understanding and navigating the aged care system. An overview of what you need to know during the journey, what types of services are available, how to be prepared for assessment and financial considerations.

Deaf Community who need one on one support or advice about their personal information can book a time with the COTA (Council on the Aging) presenter who will be back at JPC to meet with people on the 11th April. If you are interested please let the staff know so that you can be allocated a time. The one on one session is a chance to talk about your personal situation and ask any questions to ensure you get the best service and know how to access the aged care system when you need it.

Thank you to the Victorian Law Foundation for their financial support in offering this opportunity to the Deaf Community at JPC.



Farewell from Melissa Thompson

For my last contribution to the newsletter, I have been asked to write a little about my time at JPC. To do this I have thought a lot about my wonderful years as a member of the JPC community, volunteer, and staff member.

Long before I knew about JPC, I began learning Auslan in a nursing degree, and in my classes I learned about the strong bonds of the Deaf Community. When my son Selby, was born in 2009, I really wanted him to be raised within this community, so we started coming to the Signee Tots Playgroup. When I first walked in the JPC doors, carrying my tiny baby, we both had so much learning and growth to do! At first I relied heavily on the Signee Tots facilitators, first Wendy Devlin, and later Josephine Hynes, to help me communicate with the other families. Slowly over time and with the generous help of my new friends, my language improved and I began to feel at home at JPC.

As Selby got older, I began volunteering, helping with fundraising and the Signee Tots playgroup. Then in 2016 I took on the role of the Signee Tots Coordinator, the best job in the world! It has been my absolute pleasure and privilege to watch the Signee Tots group grow, to watch the adults grow in confidence in their parenting roles, to watch the children grow and develop, and to watch the bonds of friendship between the members grow also. While this was happening, you the community, were also helping me to grow, not only in my language, but also as a person, and I am so grateful for everything you have taught me.

The two big JPC events that stand out most in my memory are the Deaf Catholic Conference which JPC hosted in 2017, and the Signee Tots 20th Anniversary Celebrations in 2019. I also feel lucky that I had the job of reading through the old JPC newsletters, looking through all the photos, and putting together the JPC 40th Anniversary History Book. Doing that helped me to learn more about the people who have built JPC. It is not the big events and projects that I remember best though, it is the day to day interactions that I will always treasure, in particular the laughter and friendship. JPC and the community it serves will always hold a very special place in my heart.

John Pierce Centre—Community Survey 2021 Communication of results to the Deaf Community

A huge thank you to those that took the time to share their thoughts with us through the JPC 2021 Deaf Community Survey that took place in October and November last year.

Compared to our 2016 Community Survey, this time we received a small number of responses. There were 39 responses to our 2021 Survey. We realise that this represents only a very small number of our community members (less than 10%). We think that this could be because of COVID19 lockdowns and our inability to run activities at JPC during most of 2021.

Of those that did respond to our survey, the majority were female (85%) and aged over 55 years (66%) and lived in metropolitan Melbourne (77%).

Interestingly, approximately 40% of those that responded to the survey have been coming to JPC for over 20 years. It was encouraging to see that approximately 30% of people have been coming to JPC for less than 5 years. We hope that they continue to stay connected with JPC long into the future.

Most people responding to the survey (51%) come to JPC at least monthly (if not more frequently) and the main reasons people gave for coming to JPC was to attend a Group or take part in community events or activities.

We were very pleased to see that the average rating of people's satisfaction with JPC was 8 out of 10.

Those that responded to the survey thought JPC was unique to other Deaf organisations in that it is more community focused, provides a safe and comfortable environment, provides pastoral care, is friendly and personal and faith based.

Through the survey we received many suggestions (too many to list here) on what we can do to improve JPC for the community. These ideas, together with ideas about how we can attract more members and ensure we are still around for many years into the future will be considered as part of the development of the JPC Strategic Plan for the next 2-3 years.

Thank you again for taking part in the 2021 JPC Survey and for being part of our important community.

Evelyne Albrecht

Strategic Planning Committee



Recent Visit by Katie Allen MP to JPC

Katie Allen MP—Federal Member of Higgins, recently attended the John Pierce Centre to see our wonderful community centre and learn more about what we do here. She also met with some of our wonderful volunteers that support the work of JPC.

The Department of Social Services recently provided us with a “Volunteer Grant” to assist with general recruitment and training of JPC volunteers.



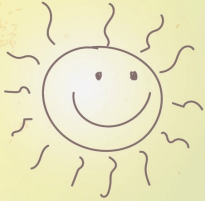
Thank you to the Public Records

Office of Victoria for providing a “Local History Grant” to support the archiving of the valuable resources at the John Pierce Centre. The grant has given us the opportunity to train a volunteer archivist and purchase equipment to assist with the sorting, recording and securely storing 40 years of JPC history. The grant will enable us to publicly display some of this history at the centre for the community and visitors to see.



We're Back!!

Group activities have returned to JPC and we are excited to have the Deaf Community back in the centre, re-connecting and getting back to normal life. Well COVID normal anyway! We appreciate everyone's support over the past few months with the challenges of using QR codes for check in, for providing evidence of vaccination and being patient and kind towards staff during this time. We look forward to the year ahead!



Signee Tots

Group meets fortnightly on Tuesdays through the School Term

It has been great to be able to have Signee Tots playgroup again in 2022 after such a challenging couple of years. And whilst the pandemic continues to be in the forefront of minds, we look for ways to be together and support each other. We know that families with young children cherish times of coming together at JPC to play and chat in Auslan, to share parenting support and connect with other families. We hope that people return to Signee Tots when they feel ready and that we can have a great year of gatherings.

If you have any questions about attending, please feel free to contact us any time via email: signeetots@jpc.org.au

The next Signee Tots sessions will be:

Tuesday 3rd May

Tuesday 31st May

Tuesday 17th May

Tuesday 14th June

These sessions will run 11am – 1pm. If you would like to join, you must contact the team via email:

signeetots@jpc.org.au

We have set up a Signee Tots Whatsapp group and mail mailing list. If you wish to join the contact list to receive up to date information about Signee Tots please contact us.



Deaf Art and Craft

Welcome to 2022! The Arts & Crafts group have been back in action, catching up each Friday and engaging in Arts and Crafts.

NOTE: The admission is \$5.00 per person, to cover the cost of tea, coffee and morning tea. BYO lunch and craft tools.

Additional materials/teachers cost may be required for each class activity. Get in touch to find out more!



Please note that you must register to attend due to limits on group numbers.

**Contact Diane Backholer for more information
d.backholer@jpc.org.au 0409 175 538**



Every Friday

During the school term only.

Term 2: 29th April-24th June

Term 3: 15th July-16th September

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

Ladies Get Together

The Ladies have been back together for 2022, catching up and going on outings. They attended the exhibition of the Sistine Chapel which was an amazing day out. They made pizza at JPC. They also went on an outing to Canterbury.

We hope you can join us for our upcoming outings and lunches. Please keep these dates in your diary and keep in touch to find out what is planned. Please contact Katrina or Diane for more information.



Ladies Get Together meets fortnightly on Wednesdays

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 27th April | 22nd June |
| 11th May | 13th July |
| 25th May | 27th July |
| 8th June | 10th August |



**Contact Diane Backholer for more information
d.backholer@jpc.org.au 0409 175 538**

Deaf Men's Group

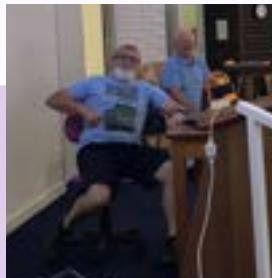
At this time Deaf Men's group is not running due to low numbers. However, we would like to hear from you any ideas for the Men's Group. If you would like to attend the Men's group please email admin@jpc.org.au so that we can make a list of people who would like to come to the group and ideas of what you would like to do.



PANKINA

The Pankina Group.

It has been a great start to the year with Pankina gathering on a fortnightly basis. It is great to see the Pankina members back in the centre playing bingo and cards and catching up with friends. It has been a long time since we have been able to do this in the centre and it feels good to be back!



Pankina will be held fortnightly on Mondays 10am-2pm

- Monday 11th April
- Monday 9th May
- Monday 23rd May
- Monday 6th June
- Monday 20th June
- Monday 4th July
- Monday 18th July
- Monday 1st August



SMS: 0400 660 601 / E: k.mynard@jpc.org.au

Rest in Peace

Graeme Grievie

20 December 2021

Barry Carzy
(father of Melissa Carzy)

7th Feb 2022

John Parsons
(husband of Janet)

27th Feb 2022

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

Thank you.

Mass at JPC

For the coming months at JPC, the third Sunday Mass will be livestreamed to our Facebook page. This means if you are unable to attend at the centre or would prefer not to travel in, then you can still participate in the Mass from home.

If you need help to set up and watch JPC Mass from home, please contact us and we can assist you.

Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

St Patrick's Cathedral will continue to provide Auslan Interpreters for the Sunday Mass at 11am until Easter. It is aired on Channel 31 (sometimes Channel 44 on digital TVs), or you can watch it online on Youtube or the Archdiocese website www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass

John Pierce Centre is thankful for the wonderful partnership that has developed with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and their commitment to ensuring access to faith and church by providing Auslan Interpreters and Deaf Interpreters throughout the pandemic for their weekly Sunday Mass.



Calendar For Masses:

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Friday 15th April Good Friday Service | 3pm at JPC |
| Sunday 17th April Easter Sunday Mass | 11am at JPC |
| Sunday 15th May Third Sunday Mass/AGM | 11am at JPC |
| Sunday 19th June Third Sunday Mass | 11am at JPC |
| Sunday 17th July Third Sunday Mass | 11am at JPC |
| Sunday 21st August Third Sunday Mass | 11am at JPC |

Want to keep in touch with JPC?

You can always find more information about JPC on our Facebook page and on our Website. If there is something you would like to see more of...please tell us.

- our Facebook page



- our website:
www.jpc.org.au



Office Hours-

MON - WED: 9:30am-3:30pm

Other days by appointment. Please make contact via email at admin@jpc.org.au

Welcome

Easter Masses at JPC

Join us for our Easter Masses either in the centre or watch online at [www.Facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre](https://www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre)

Good Friday at 3pm

Easter Sunday at 11am

Stay after Easter Sunday Mass for lunch in the centre. BYO lunch



Annual General Meeting of the John Pierce Centre

The Board and Staff of JPC invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
To be held at the John Pierce Centre 25-35 High Street Prahran

On Sunday 15th May 2022 at 1:00pm

We will have special guest speaker, Philip Waters from Deaf Victoria.

Please send your RSVP via email to admin@jpc.org.au

If you are unable to attend but would like to watch the AGM online you can watch it on Facebook live.
www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre



Planting a Lenten Garden

Here's what you need to plant in your garden:

Three rows of Squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash criticism
3. Squash indifference

Seven rows of Peas:

1. Prayer
2. Penance
3. Perverserance
4. Politeness
5. Preparedness
6. Purity
7. Patience

Seven Heads of Lettuce:

1. Let us be unselfish and loyal
2. Let us be charitable
3. Let us search the scriptures
4. Let us not be weary in well doing
5. Let us be obedient
6. Let us be truthful
7. Let us love one another

No garden is complete without Turnips:

1. Turn up for dally Mass and weekly Eucharistic Adoration
2. Turn up for prayer and Bible study
3. Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult
4. Turn up with determination to do your best in God's service

Conclude with Thyme:

thyme with God. thyme for fun, thyme for rest,

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There will be much fruit in the garden because you reap what you sow!



Covid Safe

JPC understands that the community is excited to return to the centre for activity groups and church services. However, it is still important to remember, if you are feeling unwell, have a cough, sore throat, or any symptoms, then you MUST NOT attend the centre. If you are unwell, or others in your household are unwell, please stay home. We must be careful to ensure everyone is safe and healthy.



It is still a requirement that people attending the centre and group activities are double vaccinated and we encourage people to also get a booster (third dose) as well as the flu shot to boost their immune system as we get closer to the winter season.



#StaySafe #StayConnected

40 YEARS OF THE JOHN PIERCE CENTRE

Remembering 40 years at JPC in our history and reflections book! This book was launched at our 40 year anniversary luncheon.

If you would like a copy of the book, you can purchase a book from JPC for \$20.

Please ask at the office or email us for more information admin@jpc.org.au

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



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



LENT

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.
May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
even as we put our hope in you.

Psalm 33:20-22

Office Closed:

JPC is now open to the community again. If you have any urgent queries,
please contact Carmel Phillips: 0414 427 386 (sms only)

Please tick below:

**Email
Free**

NEWSLETTER—SEND TO MY EMAIL

Name:

Email:

Please print clearly

**Post
\$10.00
BY
APRIL**

NEWSLETTER—POST TO ME AT A COST OF \$10.00 (COVERS 3 NEWSLETTERS)

Name:

Address:

Suburb Postcode

SMS: Fax No:

\$10.00 fee paid, how? Cash.....Cheque.....Credit Card.....

Receipt Required? Yes.....No..... Can we email your receipt?

We will not be able to send you a hard copy if we have not received \$10.00. Thank you for your understanding



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