

JPC DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

TEXT ONLY

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Office Hours

MON - WED

9.30am to 3.30pm

THURS - FRI

By Appointment Only

Staff

Christine Elder

Gail Finn

Fr. Wayne Edwards

Katrina Mynard

Melissa Smith

Melissa Thompson

Executive Manager

Deb Wadsworth

Chairperson JPC Board

Theresa Mills

Board Members

Kathleen Carroll

Evelyne Albrecht

Damien Backholer

Sonya Tissera-Isaacs

Brian Tooth

Br Shane Wood (minutes)

Next Newsletter Deadline

February 2020

FROM MANAGER:

Enjoy all that Mother Nature has to offer as we welcome the warmer weather to Melbourne.

JPC has enjoyed some special occasions this year, once again showing us the gifts of care and support that only human hearts can give.

We enjoyed a lovely visit from Archbishop Peter Comensoli in October and it was a great chance for the new Archbishop to visit the John Pierce Centre and meet the JPC Team. We were able to show Archbishop Peter our beautiful Centre and share our history with him on the day. A very caring man who gratefully offered us his support into the future.

We have many end of year and special Christmas functions coming up for our Community Groups, so don't forget to write them in your diary and come along

and enjoy all the festivities.

We look forward to seeing your smiling faces and sharing in the spirit of the season with you, as we reflect back on 2019 and the good times it has brought us. Always mindful also that our hearts and wishes are with those of our Community who may have experienced any sadness throughout the year.

My sincerest best wishes to all of you!

Thanks for making my 2019 so special by being a magical part of my life.

Yours at JPC, Deb Wadsworth

FROM CHAPLAIN:

To my friends at JPC Deaf Community.

I want to thank you all for the welcome and hospitality you have shown and continue to show me. When I was first asked to be part-time Chaplain to the Catholic Deaf Community I was filled with some trepidation. I wasn't sure that I had the skills to provide adequately what members of the community needed and what you deserved. From the first moment I stepped inside the Centre and met many of you I felt welcomed, you alleviated my fears and I felt that we could have a mutual and productive future together. Why I felt that way was because of all of you. It is always hard to take over from someone else and Father John Hill is a hard act to follow. You will miss him but I feel you are open, to me a newcomer by wanting and supporting me. We all have to start somewhere and I hope that you know I will do my best. I have started learning Auslan Sign Language and the more I learn and practise the better I will be able to communicate with you.

I have learned in my short time with you that It is not just about signing, but engaging with all of you through body language and facial expression. Of course you have taught me something that is the most valuable thing of all and that is to communicate heart to heart. I have been at my present Parish - St Pius X Heidelberg West - for twelve years and there are times when my parishioners and I have taken each other for granted.

Relationships must be renewed and often and that each party must respect the

other. One must be grateful for their talents but appreciate others' talents also. I feel you have accepted, taken me in and for that I am most grateful. God has given us many wonderful gifts - of life and one another, to name just two - and we must never forget.

The year is almost ended and as we approach the season of Advent and the Birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ we reflect on what we have achieved and what is yet to come. To you all at JPC and your family and friends , I pray you have a Happy and Holy Christmas. With every blessing.

Fr. Wayne Edwards

SIGNEE TOTS – 20 YR ANNIVERSARY

By Melissa Thompson, Signee Tots Coordinator

I joined Signee Tots with my own son towards the end of 2009, and must have just missed the 10th anniversary party by a few months! I cannot believe that ten years have now passed. This year we used the picture book 'All The Ways to be Smart' as our theme. Each page showed different children demonstrating their different skills and talents, from bubble-blowing to drawing, counting to jumping. The book was also the theme for our 20th anniversary party. We had a photo booth where families could dress up as different characters and have their photo taken in front of a giant book backdrop. Each family also took home a copy of the book.

It was so lovely to see families who have been a part of Signee Tots over the last twenty years. The founding 'children' are now all grown up! It was particularly special to have Karen Clare and Erin Gook at the event -two of the three women who set up Signee Tots 20 years ago.

The event was held at Crocs Indoor Playcentre in Moorabin. The adults sat down to share dinner and conversation, while the children tore around the play centre!

We had cakes made and donated by the talented and generous Chrissy Camello. Funding for the night was provided by the Windsor Branch of Bendigo Bank through their Community Funding Grants program. Thank you to the bank, to Chrissy, to the JPC staff for all their assistance, and to the families who attended. It was a truly heart-warming event and I look forward to attending another one for the 30th anniversary!!

Archbishop Peter Comensoli Visit to JPC

We were extremely honoured to have Archbishop Peter Comensoli visit our centre recently.

JPC staff and community chatted with him and explained the history of our centre and of the importance of our deaf catholic community.

We appreciate that he took the time to visit and learn more about us.

We received a special blessing for guidance and we pray that we can continue to grow with the support of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne for many years to come!

SIGNEE TOTS -

A TIME OF THANKSGIVING, by Melissa Thompson, Signee Tots Coordinator

Here in Australia we do not share the American tradition of Thanksgiving. As the year comes to an end though, I do like the idea of reflecting on all that we have to be grateful for. One of our last Signee Tots sessions for 2019 was spent 'looking forward and looking back'. We made two different types of decorations for our Christmas Tree. We made leaves on which we wrote things that we were grateful for. We also made an advent calendar that will count down to Christmas.

I could fill a whole tree with leaves writing the things that I am thankful for, so will just put a few here.

I am grateful to JPC for having the vision to set up and sustain Signee Tots over 20 years.

I am grateful to the families that come weekly and support one another. I am grateful to the organisations and individuals who support Signee Tots and JPC. This year Signee Tots has had volunteers assisting – Tanya Mifsud, Lucy Gransbury, and Angela Kadillak. We have received funding, donations or support from Bendigo Bank – Windsor Branch, Jamie Amor and Cosmic Kids Yoga, Karli Dettman, Juliet M. Sampson, Fernacres Nursery, Botanical Styling by Liz, The Little Bookroom, Banyule Toy Library, Playgroup Victoria, and Emma Watkins.

I also want to publicly say how grateful I am to my two colleagues, both with names that start with 'M' – Melissa Lawlor Smith and Mariana Voggenreiter. Both have been kind and generous supports to me professionally and personally. I will miss them terribly, but know that they will go on to achieve amazing things and will remain part of the JPC family.

Tuesday—fortnight:

11am- 1pm

3rd December—End Of Year celebration

2020- Tuesday—fortnight:

11am- 1pm

18th Feb

3rd Mar

17th Mar

School holidays - TBC

For more information please contact:

Melissa Thompson

E: m.thompson@jpc.org.au

DEAF ARTS

We have had a wonderful time with many different arts and crafts this year and we would like to thank all the people—especially the volunteers—who have made this program fun!

We are looking forward to the new year and learning some new skills.

Got any suggestions for classes?

Tell us what you would like and we can try and add to the 2020 program.

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

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

Fridays (during school term)

10am- 2pm

Friday 6th December (End Of Year Outing)

2020 Fridays (during school term)

10am- 2pm

FEB —7, 14, 21, 28

MARCH —6, 13, 20, 27

APRIL —17th and 24th

LADIES DAY:

We had a trip to Williamstown recently, and it was a gorgeous day!

We look forward to the Christmas Lunch on 4th DEC

Thank you to all friends—new and old—who have joined in our gatherings this year.

In 2020, we will also like to have FORTNIGHTLY catch ups... so we will share more news about the program in the new year.

Ladies Outings—Fortnight:

2019—Last outing is WED 4 DECEMBER

2020—

WED 12th FEB—JPC chats

WED 26th FEB—outing

WED 11 MAR– JPC chats

WED 25th MAR– outing

PANKINA

Our group went on an outing on Saturday 2nd November by ferry from Stony Point to Cowes. Everyone enjoyed the day even though it was rainy - that doesn't bother us! It's quite worth the day at cafe first for morning tea with yummy cakes (especially Vanilla slices... the best ever). Then walk around to market and shops and stopped for lunch. It didn't cost us anything only our food and shopping and it was worth it!

Poor Monica as she was so cold as didn't bring coat, so went shopping and found a lovely pink jacket then other ladies saw how lovely the pink jacket was and went ahead to buy them too! Aren't they beautiful in pink jackets?

At the end of the day, we caught the ferry back to Stony Point ... It was really a wonderful time enjoyed by all.

We had an event on Monday 18th November (we have had a break as there were major road works in High St at JPC and then there was Melbourne Cup Eve and

the JPC office was closed). We returned with BINGO time! Then we also had a Special General Meeting regarding the changes in Constitution Rules. Thank you to all who attended the meeting.

Monday 2nd December (will be last day of Pankina before Christmas break). We are having Christmas lunch there will be Raffle drawing with massive and great prizes!

Monday 9th December will be our 'End of the year Christmas lunch' at Watergardens Hotel.

Buffet lunch = Members \$25 per head

Non-members = \$50 per head

If you would like to come please contact Pam Mayes or the committee

Pam Mayes,
Pankina Group Secretary.

Pankina—Mondays:

MON 2 DEC—Christmas Lunch

MON 9 DEC—Christmas Outing

Pankina—2020:

Pankina will return on 20th January 2020 as Welcome Back, free admission.

New programs will be given out soon.

On behalf of the committee, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020! Be Safe and enjoy with families.

MENS GROUP:

Men's Group meet fortnightly on Mondays (from 10am-2pm). Meetings are held in the JPC Hall and we play cards, talk, share news.

Come and join the men's group whenever you like — It's an open house!

Coffee/ Tea are provided, but please BYO lunch.

Men's Time Out:

MON 9th DEC, 2019

2020—Mondays:

TUES 28 JAN

MON 10 FEB

MON 24 FEB

TUES 10 MAR

MON 23 MAR

MON 6 APRIL

MON 20 APRIL

Contact Katrina on email or through Facebook if you have any questions about community activities:

SMS : 0400660601

k.mynard@jpc.org.au

CALENDAR FOR MASSES:

Sunday 8th December - CHRISTMAS MASS and LUNCH	JPC , Prahran 11:00am
Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve Mass	JPC , Prahran— TIME WILL BE ADVISED ASAP (see staff and our FACE BOOK page for details), JPC 11.00am
Sunday 19th January – 3rd Sunday Mass	JPC , Prahran 11:00am
Sunday 16th February – 3rd Sunday Mass	JPC , Prahran 11:00am
Ash Wednesday Mass	JPC , Prahran (TBC), JPC 11.00am
Sunday 15th March – 3rd Sunday Mass	JPC , Prahran 11:00am , JPC 11.00am

Third Sunday Mass: (with Auslan Interpreter)

- Every month at John Pierce Centre at 11AM
- Second Sunday Mass at ST FRANCIS in Melbourne—TBA

BEQUESTS:

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.*

REST IN PEACE:

- * Chris Shannon— 18th July, 2019, (father of Teresa Tasic)
- * Donna-Maree Jackson – 28th July, 2019 (partner Deborah Duncan)
- * John Young—31st July, 2019 (Uncle of Andrew and Anthony Young)
- * Trevor Porter— 26th October, 2019 (husband of Julie -deceased— and father of Vanessa and Matthew)

***CHRISTMAS MASS
& RALLY***

TICKETS:

\$25.00 - per person

\$10—per child (under 15yrs)

\$40—family (2 adult 2 children)

INCLUDES: Lunch, dessert & drinks

PLEASE RSVP and PAY BEFORE THE DAY:

RSVP: Monday 2nd December to

ANY JPC STAFF MEMBER

OR: admin@jpc.org.au

(Can Pay by Cash or Direct Debit)

RAFFLE:

\$2.00

each ticket

You could win a HUGE Christmas Hamper, a home made quilt or other prizes for all ages.

(See JPC Staff to buy)

FAREWELL TO TEAM MEMBERS:

My 5 years at JPC has been a wonderful journey.

Firstly, I would like to thank you Rachel Miers for giving me this role at JPC. Thank you to the JPC staff, clients, the Ephpheta centre and to the stakeholders for the wonderful memories.

My favourite memories at JPC is the staff retreat with the Ephpheta centre at Galong. It was a unique experience that I will never forget. Other favourite memories include the Catholic Youth Festival in Canberra and the Disability conference in Melbourne. Such great opportunities which could not have happened without Trish Mowbray's support. I have not only received such great experiences and opportunities from Trish but I have also formed such wonderful friendships (thank you Trish and Anna).

Lastly, our Deaf catholic conference, our team was magnificent.

Farewell JPC, it's been a pleasure!

Mariana Voggenreiter (community worker)

I remember the first day I walked into JPC—it immediately felt like home (and that was very important to me as I had just moved to Melbourne from Sydney and was feeling home-sick. In fact, I have to thank my parents for encouraging me to visit JPC in the first place!)

I am extremely grateful for the opportunities to support the JPC community and for the chances to develop my career, but I am most grateful for the dear friends I have made.

To the families in the Signee Tots group....thank you for welcoming my two sons and I, back in 2014.

To the deaf community of Victoria...thank you for your friendship, your education and for helping me to grow.

To all the JPC staff...Thank you. I have learnt so much from each one of you. I will never forget your support, your encouragement and your love. I will cherish our time together.

JPC will always be a 'home-away-from-home' and I pray that this unique, fun-loving and faithful community continues to thrive and support the deaf people of Victoria and each other.

With love, Melissa Smith (communications

/marketing)

CHRISTMAS IDEA:

Share the joy this Christmas
with a
Reverse Advent Calendar!

Here's the idea....

Christmas can be difficult for many people, especially those who do not have a lot of money or who are facing hardship.

You could help to brighten someone's Christmas by donating some goodies to them! All you need to do is have a box at your door, and then every day, you put an item in that box. Then, on Christmas Eve—you can go and donate it to a charity or to someone in need!

Items to donate could include food (not perishable items), toiletries, Christmas decorations and craft items!

Charities you could donate to are: John Pierce Centre, St Vincent De Paul Society, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Smith Family, Bush Fire Appeals , Aussie Farmers in drought, Share the Dignity, Kmart Wishing Tree and Food Bank.

Many people could benefit from your generosity this Christmas!

Board Member Profile: Brian Tooth

Favorite Auslan Sign : 'THANK YOU'

Favorite Colour: Blue

AFL team? Sydney Swans

Favourite holiday place? Amalfi Coast , Italy

Ideal dinner guests? Adam Goodes and Shane Warne

Favourite meal? Veal Parmigiana

Favourite TV show? The Amazing Race

Favourite part about the JPC Community: I love to see the environment the community creates when they get together. It is nice to see the staff and the community are so supportive of each other. It is a happy place. Continue to be supportive , respectful, and welcoming of deaf and hearing people attending our activities and don't be afraid of change as we welcome more young people to the centre attempt to address their needs.

EASY REINDEER BISCUITS FOR CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS RECIPE:

INGREDIENTS

[OBJ]

20 mini star-shaped pretzels

10 red M&M's

20 candy eyes

10 Tim Tam biscuits (see note)

50g dark chocolate, melted, cooled

TIP : Tip: Place the Tim Tam biscuits in the fridge before decorating, this will help the chocolate set quicker.

SOURCE: <https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/easy-Christmas-biscuits-recipe>

Make Reindeer Biscuits: Using picture as a guide, attach pretzels, M&M's and candy eyes to Tim Tam **biscuits using melted chocolate. Refrigerate until set.**

JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Want to give back to the community? Want to share in discussion and ideas to support the John Pierce Centre ?

We are looking for a Deaf person to join the JPC Board Of Directors in a volunteer role. So, what is involved:

- * **Attend board meetings—only 6 times a year.**
- * **Attend some committee meetings—only 6 times a year**
- * **Share your ideas and experience with other board members and help to support the centre and the direction for the future.**

Please contact Deb Wadsworth for more information.

E:manager@jpc.org.au

JPC 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MASS & LUNCH

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2020

**Catholic Leadership Centre,
East Melbourne**

Did you know there are many

Auslan Interpreted Christmas Carols around Victoria this year!?

Why not go and enjoy a show with family and friends!

Choose from: Chelsea, Wheelers Hill, Brighton East, South Morang, Dandenong,

Doncaster, Pakenham , Ivanhoe , Werribee, Nunawading, South Yarra, Shepparton, Ballarat, and even Wodonga!

With thanks to Auslan Stage Left! See website/Facebook page for the list of events:

www.auslanstageleft.com.au

<https://www.facebook.com/auslanstageleft/>

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 to 3.30pm / THURS - FRI: Appointment Only***

Donate to JPC:

- **www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations**
- **Help us to support Deaf people and their families throughout VIC by making a tax deductible donation today.**

CLOSED:

JPC will be closed on Wednesday 18th December and re-opens on Monday 20th January 2020. If you have any urgent queries, please contact Christine Elder : 0407 774 935 (voice or sms)