



# C.J NEWS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

'Strong Community Connections'

Colyton, Erskine Park, North St Marys, St Clair, Werrington  
and surrounding areas



2021



From our family to yours, we hope you all have a wonderful and joyous Christmas and a safe and happy 2022.

### RETURN TO ARTHUR NEAVE

Community Junction - Werrington will be saying good bye to our home of 2021, Werrington Youth Centre, and returning back to Arthur Neave Memorial Hall in February 2022! We look forward to welcoming the Werrington community and our existing groups back into a new, fresh and vibrant space for a great year ahead.

### CHILDREN'S OUTREACH SERVICES

Outreach groups will be returning in 2022, and our team can't wait to get back to providing care to children at groups. If you are a service and would like more details or to book our educators for mobile childcare sessions please contact [outreach@communityjunction.org.au](mailto:outreach@communityjunction.org.au)



### YOUTH SERVICES RECONNECT PROGRAM

Our youth team are very excited about our December 'Reconnect Sessions' that they will be hosting at various locations throughout the final week of the school term.

- 13th December free BBQ @ Werrington Lakes 3pm - 5pm,
- 14th December free BBQ @ Robin Wiles Park Nth St Marys 3pm - 5pm
- 15th December Drop in Parties @ Nth St Marys Youth Space 3pm - 5pm, and at Werrington and St Clair Youth Spaces 3-6pm
- 16th December Pizza in the Park @ Erskine Park 3 - 5pm
- 17th December Ripples St Marys 3.30—7pm. Cost \$5.00 or \$6.50 for an adult.



We would love for young people to come by and say hi, enjoy some fun and games, have a bite to eat and reconnect with us, face to face. For more information contact Monique

on 0405 824 779 or email

What a year 2021 has been. For many of us this has included loneliness, isolation, working from home, home schooling, being separated from family and friends, and learning how to use technology, such as Zoom to stay in touch or to shop. Community Junction have worked hard to try and stay connected to our community with a number of our programs running online, a shorten version of the newsletter, phone conversations, social media posts and an array of cooking, craft and activity videos. We would like to thank our partners and most importantly our community members for their continued support. With all going well, we hope to return to 'normal' next year. Keep your eyes open for information on new programs and activities as well as regular program return dates.



### SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

The impact of Covid-19 and lockdown has affected families in many different ways. We were fortunate to be able to provide support and assistance with 2 amazing programs to assist vulnerable families and residents.

**Food Hampers are still available until Monday 13th December. Bookings are essential. Call Kim on 0406 528 331.**

**If you're experiencing direct vulnerability due to the Covid-19 pandemic please contact Terina on 0415 655 586 before the 22nd December 2021 to determine if we can help.**

#### FREE FOOD HAMPERS

At North St Marys Neighbourhood Centre a Hamper Hub was established to provide free food hampers to local families. Over 200 hampers were either collected or delivered to local residents, who sent grateful messages of thanks to the team at Community Junction. Thank you, Penrith City Council, Food bank, West Care, Turbans 4 Australia and staff from Ripples Leisure Centre for coming together to make this happen.



#### COVID-19 PARTNERSHIPS

Since October 2021 Community Junction Inc has had the opportunity to support over 100+ families who contracted, were isolating or experiencing vulnerability due to the Covid-19 pandemic through the Department of Communities and Justice - Covid-19 Partnerships Funding. With this funding, Community Junction have provided information, referral, food relief, bill support, connectivity, transport, clothing and essential needs during this time. We'd like to graciously thank the Department of Communities and Justice for this funding and our amazing partners for making this happen.

# CONNECTING DURING LOCKDOWN

## ESL TUTORING ONLINE

During lockdown ESL has continued to run online every week. We have met some new people through this online space and welcomed some of our existing clients back. We have had a very successful few months and look forward to returning in the new year. Community Junction would like to thank our volunteer Rita for all her dedication and hard work during this time.

## VIDEOS FROM CHILDREN'S OUTREACH TEAM

During restrictions our usual Outreach Services were unable to operate, however our team took turns creating videos with easy craft and play activities that children could do at home. These could be viewed on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/communityjunction.org.au/](http://www.facebook.com/communityjunction.org.au/) and the feedback we received from parents / carers was very positive. The team are looking forward to returning to 'normality' next year.



## LEARN PLAY GROW

Families that would normally attend our Learn Play Grow sessions had the opportunity to meet online to sing, interact, read stories, and learn new craft activities that could be made during lockdown. There were themed days where we dressed up as pirates, princesses and superheroes. We had crazy hair day, stayed warm in our pyjamas on Pyjama Day and celebrated Children's Week and Book Week, dressing up as our favourite book characters. We were honoured to have local author Nicky Mee reading her book Hooroo, Ta-Ta, Bye-Bye, during Book Week. We had a lot of fun and it was great to see families being able to connect with us and each other.



## YOUTH PROGRAMS ONLINE

The end of an era, lockdown 2.0. Our Youth Team will conclude our online Youth Spaces on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, after 5 long months of running programs and activities with our young people on Zoom. We have had so much fun and definitely made the best out of the situation. We enjoyed movie nights, cooking, creative challenges and games, art activities and so much more. A highlight has been our very consistent online DnD group which young people have been loving. We are really looking forward to reconnecting with our young people in December, don't forget to check out our Reconnect activities.

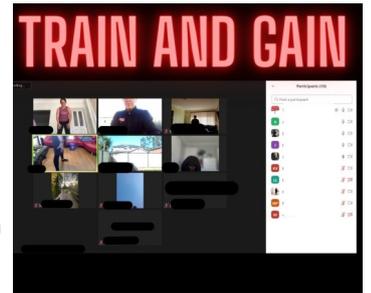


## LEARNING LOUNGE ONLINE - HOMEWORK HELP

Learning Lounge successfully moved to an online platform this lockdown and found a new way of working to suit the needs of our young people. We have met many goals and strived to help where needed. Jack our volunteer has put in a lot of hard work during this time and Community Junction would like to thank him for his continuing support. Learning lounge will return in the new year and we are very excited to see everyone again!

## TRAIN AND GAIN

Our community did their best to keep fit during Covid lockdown with exercise sessions run over ZOOM in partnership with ThinkFit personal trainer Jamal each Wednesday morning. Jamal made an effort to ensure participants were aware of which exercises benefited which parts of the body in a safe space in the comfort of everyone's home. Thank you to everyone that participated and ThinkFit for helping us facilitate this program.

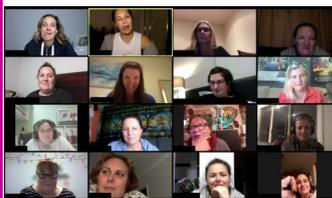


Gulyangarri at Shalvey and Willmot have been having fun on zoom catch ups and on their Class Dojo app,. Thank you to all families who continue to join us and are excited to see you back in 2022.



## CARERS WEEK AND COMMUNITY TRIVIA NIGHT

Community Junction Inc held two vents over Zoom during restrictions. A community Trivia Night was held on a Friday evening with a lot of laughter and prizes. We celebrated Carers Week in partnership with Thrive Tribe & Co, with an online workshop, "How to cultivate Happiness", followed by Trivia and learnt how to make a Coffee and Coconut scrub. A Carers Pack was also sent out to the participants. The night was packed with laughter, singing, connecting and sharing stories, and during the night, faces were beaming. Thank you, Thrive Tribe & Co, Sandy Golder and Stephanie Wicks, for collaborating with us to put on this fantastic event, and thank you, Shonnie Jarvis, for hosting the trivia section.



**This year may have thrown more at us than expected, but we still made it through!**