



# Neighbourhood Natter

ISSUE # 17

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## COMPILERS:

JOSÉ MEYER

AND

NICOLE

KENNEDY

## Meet our new coordinator!

My name is Meaghan Elkins and I am the new coordinator at the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre.

I am married to Colin and we have two children, Jack (12) and Georgia (10).

Prior to starting here I was a police officer for 17 years, being based at St.Kilda, Mildura and Moorabbin. The last 6 years being community focused and based at Moorabbin, specialising in adolescent and family issues.

My interests include playing netball, gardening and going away for the weekends in our off road camper trailer. Much of my spare time is spent being involved in Jack and Georgia's sports and activities, which I absolutely love. In 2009 we spent 4 months travelling around this amazing country of ours and it

was an incredible experience to share as a family.

I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of this vibrant neighbourhood centre. It is such an exciting and a wonderful change to be in a positive environment.

I look forward to meeting each and everyone one of you please pop in and say hi!



Meaghan Elkins



This issue of the Neighbourhood Natter is sponsored by Tammy Lobato, Member for Gembrook.

### CENTRE CONTACT DETAILS:

**Office Hours:** 9am-3pm Mon-Thur, 9am-1pm Fri during school terms

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# New courses for 2011

We are pleased to announce some new courses beginning of Term 1.

Due to popular demand, there will be Mosaics for beginners, along with Patchwork class for beginners and even the Pergamano class is starting up a beginners group. If you have always wanted to try one of these sessions, but thought you wouldn't be able to, here is your chance to give it a go. Beginner's classes are great to get to learn those newer experiences in life.



New evening class for Yoga will begin on Monday nights with the lovely Karen. 8pm – 9:15pm.

Looking forward to welcoming back our children's dance classes in term 1. All the children are eager to participate in this very popular class.

## *Colleen's Toy Catalogue Sale*

Thank you to everyone who purchased educational toys recently. It sure was a great success. Colleen is absolutely thrilled with the response from parents and friends. The Centre has received a credit of \$400 to now go back into purchasing items for the children's room.

## **Singing Group**

Margaret Orr will continue with the singing group, as this has become very popular. If you enjoy singing, then here is your opportunity to enjoy this wonderful group.



## **Zumba**

A new Zumba class is also being added for term 1. This one will be held on Thursdays at 12:30pm till 1:15pm. Suitable for all ages, 13 years and above. So come and join this exciting new craze. The music is great and the exercise will be even better.



## **Playgroup**

Colleen, our playgroup leader, has added a new session to her weekly activities. This one is for the toddlers. Because the first toddler's playgroup is full, it will be great to have the second group of toddlers up and running before long. A fun session for everyone.

For times on these and other classes, please check your Term 1 Program Booklet, which will be in your letterboxes early in the New Year.



## Farewell from Mim

With regret I am leaving Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre after completing six happy years as Coordinator. During my time here I have met many wonderful people, and found my work to be always interesting. I was employed to be the coordinator at Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre shortly before we moved to our new O'Neil Road venue and my main early goal was to relocate all our services successfully.

The move was very challenging. In order to suit Council timelines we had moved in before everything was quite finished, and during the first eighteen months there were almost weekly items, mostly small, that had to be dealt with in liaison with the Council. We moved before the building had been approved as a child care centre, so for one term we had to run our Occasional Care from the old building in Railway Avenue while the rest of the programs moved!

The building was so much larger than our original that I wondered how we would ever fill it, but our programs quickly grew with the available space. Our staff grew to meet the demand, and today we have a large general program and a childcare program that almost constantly has waiting lists. The rooms in the building are also increasingly used by local professionals and teachers who want to provide local services and classes when they are not in use for our own programs. For the last three years we have also managed the weekend hall hire for Council.

Throughout my time as Coordinator the staff and I have been supported by excellent Committees of Management. The people on the Committee may have changed during the six years, but the commitment has always been there to see the Centre achieve the best it can for the local community.

I would like to thank all the members who have supported the Centre, the staff, and the Committee of Management for making my time here so enjoyable. I hope you can continue to make the most of the wonderful Centre you have.

Mim Gillespie





# Christmas message



**May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

This year has been a year of many challenges, but we learn from our experiences and make us all better for it.

The year 2011 will be an exciting one, and may we all settle down and enjoy what life has to offer and with that, meet new people and do new things.

Thank you to all our members for supporting BNC this year. Next year, it will be even better!!

## Meet the new Committee of Management for 2011

<b>President:</b>	John Meyer
<b>Vice President:</b>	David Lee
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Rob Sinclair
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nicole Kennedy

### **General Committee Members:**

Margaret Boon, Gwen Neve, Shaunagh Stevens, Valerie Boumann and José Meyer.

Congratulations to all the Committee members. We also have a wonderful group of members involved within the Sub-Committees too. We thank you all for your efforts and look forward to a great year ahead.

## A personal message...

May I take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has been so supportive during my recent health issues.

It turned out that after the heart scare, other things have come to the surface. But, I am in good hands, with doctors and specialists, family and friends. It will all be a good outcome in the end. I appreciate you all, knowing that so many of you care, It's just amazing! Keep up with the positive thinking.

José

