



Leongatha Community House

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It's spring!



by [Eunice](#) on November 3

What a beautiful time of year! As a newcomer to South Gippsland, I'm delighted by the spring displays everywhere. Flowers blooming, trees bursting with new leaves, gorgeous blue skies - except for those days when it seems winter doesn't want to let go!

And spring has brought changes to Leongatha Community House too. I'm very pleased to advise that I'm now employed as the House Coordinator on a permanent basis. And the AGM has introduced a number of new Committee of Management members. Our membership base continues to grow, and we have a number of new programs in planning.

As always, if you have any ideas, thoughts, suggestions, criticisms, comments - please share them with me. This is YOUR Community House; it can only be as great as we make it!

Grab a cup of your favourite tippie, bask in the glorious spring weather, and enjoy our latest newsletter.

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Mosaics for Beginners

The fun and talented Susanne Naudi is back with an introductory class for those who want to experience the joy of mosaics.

Susanne is providing all the materials and equipment you'll need to get started, and you'll go home at the end of the course with a completed trivet or pot.

The 4-week class begins on Monday 7th November, at 9.30am, and will cost you \$60.



There are only 2 places still available, so to make sure you don't miss out, please contact the House as soon as possible.

What IS a computer, anyway?!



Stop Press:

We've had so many registrations for this course, that we've scheduled a second offering. See below for full details.

For those who think “computer-speak” is a strange new language, or who are overwhelmed with the whole concept of using a computer, our wonderful tutor - Alan Forbes - has designed this special course.

The course will help you understand, in plain language, what a computer does and how it works. You will learn about the different types of computers available, the difference between “hardware” and “software”, and how to set up your own computer. Find out more about Windows 10, apps, the cloud, and a whole lot more!

Course 1: Tuesday 15th November (for 4 weeks), 9.30am-12.30pm

Course 2: Tuesday 15th November (for 4 weeks), 1.00pm-4.00pm

Cost: \$60

Diabetes Information Session



According to Diabetes Australia, diabetes is the epidemic of the 21st century and the biggest challenge confronting Australia's health system. It's estimated that around 1.7 million Australians have diabetes.

Andrea Curtis, Diabetes Educator with Gippsland Southern Health Service, will host an information session at the House for those who have been diagnosed with diabetes, those who are at risk of diabetes, and their families and carers.

Learn about the risk factors for diabetes and some early prevention steps you can take, and enjoy a diabetes-friendly morning tea. The session will also gauge interest in establishing an ongoing support group that would meet at the House.

Date: Wednesday 16th November 2016
Time: 9.30am - 10.30am
Cost: Gold coin donation

Please RSVP for catering purposes :-)

Call for Volunteers

Do you have some free time? Are you interested in sharing your skills and knowledge? Willing to support YOUR Community House?

Please consider volunteering for us!

We have a number of volunteering options available for those who prefer regular scheduled activities AND for those who prefer occasional "one-off" or project involvement.

Specifically, these are the activities where we need help:

- Arts & crafts after-school sessions - weekly with primary-school-age children
- Gardening - weeding, pruning, clearing and replanting of an overgrown bed
- Graphic design - preparation of flyers, posters, report layouts, and other promotional material
- Administration - phone calls, filing, photocopying, etc.

If you're interested in any of these volunteering opportunities, please phone Eunice at the House on 5662 3962.

Child Safe Standards Working Group

The Victorian Government requires all organisations that provide activities or services for children to comply with new [Child Safe Standards](#).

Here at the House, we've set up a Working Group to oversee the process of becoming compliant with the new Standards.



The role of the Working Group is to oversee the process of implementing the Standards. The work of writing policies, preparing documents, etc. will be done by the House Coordinator. We do envisage that the Working Group will exist for 12 months, and will probably meet on a monthly basis.

Confirmed Working Group members are Laurie Bier and Sharon Nicita, who are both members of LCH.

We are still seeking additional people, though. If you are interested in ensuring that LCH is a safe and welcoming place for children and young people, then please consider becoming involved in the Working Group; we'd love your input.

If you'd like to participate, please call Eunice at the House on 5662 3962.

Welcome the new Committee of Management

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 26th October was well-attended, marking the 36th anniversary of AGM's for the House.

The [Annual Report](#) includes the information presented at the meeting, including the President's Report and the financial reports for the 2015-16 financial year.

The newly-elected Committee of Management for the 2016-17 financial year is:

- President: Pat Dale
- Vice President: Marg Turra
- Secretary: (vacant)
- Treasurer: Pam Gaskell
- Ordinary members: Denise Sheen; Helen Vos; Daryl Hoarse; Prue Timpson; Zelda Petherick; Sarah Battersby

The Committee will meet in early November to appoint a Secretary from among the elected members.

World Toilet Day: Pay to Pee

It's no joke! that 2.3 billion people don't have a safe place to go to the toilet, so the United Nations' World Toilet Day on 19th November is a chance to make a difference.

"Pay to Pee" is a campaign run by WaterAid Australia to raise awareness and funds to build safe toilets - and Leongatha Community House is participating!

Each time you use the bathroom in the House between 14th and 19th November, we ask that you pay for the privilege :-). A donation box will be set up in each kitchen. Please donate generously; let's help save lives and give people everywhere the privilege of proper sanitation and clean water.

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Open House and Christmas Lunch

Christmas is coming. What better time to open the doors and invite our friends and neighbours in?

The wonderful women in our *Craft in Company* group are busy creating fabric bunting and other wonderful decorations for the House.

And our groups and House users are invited to set up a display and/or demonstration of their activities, and everyone is invited to stay for lunch. Bring a plate to share, see what goes on in the Community House, and enjoy a "pot-luck" meal with the team. You'll be very welcome :-)

Date: Friday 9th December 2016
Time: Open House 9.00am-3.00pm (lunch starts at 12.00noon)
Cost: Bring a plate to share

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In the pipeline: programs for 2017

A number of new programs are being developed for 2017. Our regular groups remain in place:

- Solo Card Group - Mondays and Fridays, 1.00pm-4.30pm
- 500 Card Group - Fridays, 10.00am-12.00noon
- Scrabble Group - Tuesdays, 10.30am-12.30pm
- Painting & Drawing Group - Tuesdays, 10.00am-12.00noon
- Walking Group - Wednesdays, 9.00am-10.00am
- Craft in Company - Thursdays, 10.00am-12.00noon
- Knitting & Crochet Group - first Sunday of every month, 10.00am-3.00pm

We are also negotiating some new courses/workshops/events for 2017, including:

- Photography for Beginners (Roy Fisher) - 6 weeks starting Tuesday 7th February, 7.00pm-9.00pm **CONFIRMED**
- Digging into your Family History: using online databases (South Gippsland Genealogical Society)
- Instagram for Beginners (Sarah Piening)
- Sustainability on a Shoestring: reduce, repair, recycle (Tammy Logan)
- Mosaics for intermediate level (Susanne Naudi)
- Basketry (Pat Dale)
- Scrapbooking (Jan Stirling)
- Naturally Healthy (Suzi Bath)
- Legal Matters (Adele Anthony)
- Afternoon Teal for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month - Wednesday, 22nd February, 2.00pm **CONFIRMED**
- Pain Support Group - every Wednesday starting 25th January, 10.00am-12.00noon **CONFIRMED**
- Survivors of Domestic Violence Support Group (with UnitingCare and Gippsland Southern Health Service)
- Diabetes Support Group (with Gippsland Southern Health Service)
- Puzzle Day - Tuesday 24th January 9.30am-12.30pm

Further details will be shared as they are finalised.

And, of course, our rooms remain available for hire. We hope that our regular hirers will continue to use the House for their meetings.

2017 is already shaping up to be busy and exciting. If you have something you'd like to teach, or learn, or get support for, please give me a call; I'd love to talk with you.

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