



Bass Coast
Adult Learning

Your



Newsletter



Term 4, 2021

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Message from the Manager

Mainstream is so overrated! At BCAL we're proudly supporting all people who want to build themselves a better life, including those who live on the edges of mainstream, either by choice or by lack of choice.

Along with our regular classes we run specialist sessions to support people ...

English is taught to people who have not long lived in Australia as well as to people who've lived here all their lives but have slipped through the cracks at school and have never learnt the language. Most of these people are very capable and smart...with just this limitation in their lives.

Most of us use maths every day. So much so that we no longer think of it as maths because it's just become part of life. But some people struggle with numbers and for them maths is very difficult. We run a course to help these people become more fluent in the language of maths and be more confident with numbers in their own lives.

As well as these two areas we offer a range of sessions for people living with a disability. These sessions help participants to experience new activities as well as to socialise with interesting people.

Term 4 has just started and we have much to offer those who are choosing a better life...our brochure will be in your letter box soon.

DID YOU KNOW



THE DISABILITY FLAG?



We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Bunurong / Boonwurrung people and pay respects to their elders past, present and emerging and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in our community today.

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first Australians and recognise that they have a unique relationship with the land and water.

The two Kates: With a story each



Kate Harmon, Student

"So this is my story about how diagnosis and knowledge have changed and improved my life as an adult living with autism. I've recently taken a shine to photography and have joined the photography and friendship group 'Thru the Lens' at Bass Coast Adult Learning. I must admit I'm starting to make a name for myself with paid assignments and entering an exhibition at the Goods Shed. This has been quite a surprise. I absolutely enjoy going to this group.

The other thing that's helping me become an active member of society is music, which soothes my soul. These days I concentrate on the alto saxophone and clarinet but at one stage I was playing six instruments: violin, flute, baritone horn, cornet, alto saxophone and clarinet."

Read Kate's full article at <https://www.basscoastpost.com/point-of-view/life-after-diagnosis>



Kate McNish, Teacher

We, at BCAL, are now delivering a "Life Skills for Job Readiness" class. I am enjoying the change but at times my hands do feel a little idle. After running for four weeks I am feeling the energy from our students and where we can assist them towards their chosen careers. I ask a lot of questions, so beware!

We have covered Resumes' and improved what the students already have, worked on budgets, focusing on key words when reading a job application, completing both, "My Careers Match" & Myer Briggs Personality Quizzes.

Both quizzes gave the students information to research and comprehend to help develop them to another level of maturity and thinking about their future in a real way.

As this has been delivered via Zoom I have no class room photos but do have one of Hairdressing, my other passion. Looking forward to term four with representatives from our community coming in and discussing Job prospects, Rentals and buying, How the Job agencies can help to get started and left of field, car maintenance.

A New Career for Fah!

Save the date: 6th December 2021, 11am
for the launch of our online edition of
Coastal Connections - Work Ties.

The Coastal Connections - Work Ties program recently assisted Fah to transition from the Adult Migrant English Program into a Certificate III in Individual Support at TAFE. Her BCAL mentors also assisted her with job preparation skills which she used to secure a position at a local aged care facility.

"Now I would like to volunteer in the class to help others to study and get a job. The BCAL team support and volunteer tutor helped me a lot. It can bring more people together in our community."



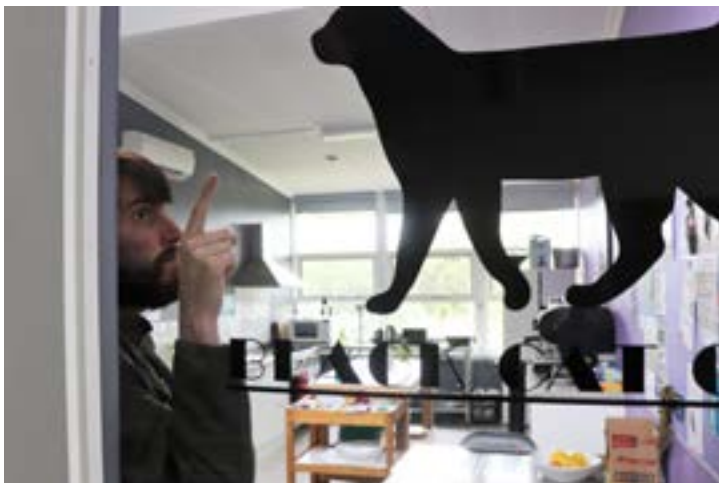
Fah with her Certificate III
in Individual Support



Black Cat Cafe Re-ignited

The kitchen was previously named the Black Cat Café and classes sold coffee from there. This was abandoned a while ago but upon finding an old menu I decided to re-ignite the concept. The idea is that branding the kitchen brings a professional feeling to the space and the sessions held in it. Students are working from the Black Cat Café instead of the kitchen in the school building. I will be having a stamp made to brand things like coffee cups and napkins, so that when we (finally) have functions like our International Day of People with Disability party/open day and our participants can feel some ownership of the brand/space and move to feeling like the space is their classroom/café and not everyone else's tea room. It is about pride, empowerment and ownership. It is a work in progress but when the tea room is moved to the hallway we can take further steps in turning the space into a functional, professional classroom/kitchen. Terry from TNT Explosive Prints made and installed the decal.

left top: Black Cat Cafe logo



AJ'S HORTICULTURE

Horticulture Musings 'Spring has Sprung'

By Adrian James

I always look forwards to teaching in term 4 when the senses come alive to the smells and sights of the spring and you can almost feel the sap rising as the days lengthen and warm; inviting you to leap into garden and to plunge your hands into the soil and start growing.

I think many of us are drawn to the Siren Song of the garden at this time of year and I find it exciting to step out into the 'classroom' that is always full of limitless possibilities for learning and observing nature as it unfolds before our eyes.



This term I'll be continuing to deliver the new Certificate III Horticulture program and I will be introducing a pre-accredited Horticulture ACFEE program as an opportunity for participants to get a feel for the joys of gardening at an introductory level. Spring visits the Phillip Island Community Orchard a Horticulture Training Site.

Strengthening Community Connections



Ramazan at work as a mechanic



Kaniz on a class excursion in early 2020



Zamin giving a class presentation about Afghan culture

The Coastal Connections – Work Ties program also assisted four students from Afghanistan this term. They have been studying at BCAL for three years now and have enjoyed excursions in the Bass Coast area as well as getting to know local community members and services. The last two years have been challenging with lockdowns and very recently the situation in Afghanistan. However, the four students have been continuing their study and employment pathways via Zoom classes with BCAL. Two of the students currently work in Melbourne and would love to find full time employment in Bass Coast. They love the friendly country atmosphere and feel very well connected to the English program at BCAL.

This term they developed a wonderful connection with the following two Wonthaggi community groups, South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees, sgrar07@gmail.com and Bass Coast Refugee Sponsorship Group, bcrsg2021@gmail.com

If you would like more information about assisting people from Afghanistan, please email the above groups. For more information about the Coastal Connections Work Ties program, please email Olivia. oliviahurrell@bcal.vic.edu.au



LIZZ MELDRUM – EXPLORING ART



BCAL congratulates Liz Meldrum for her highly commended entry in the WWDA (Women with Disabilities Australia) art prize.

Her stunning artwork entitled "The Ballerina" is made from air-dry clay, animal jawbones and recycled wood and wire. Liz is a participant of Bass Coast Adult Learning's capacity building "Exploring Art" group.

When asked about her latest work Liz commented "I love making things with clay as it helps quiet my mind. I also collect animal bones and add them to my clay work. I like to see the absolute beauty in the things that some would see as repulsive or not quite right. Because it is beautiful. There is beauty in everything if we could really see and not just look. The Ballarina - to me - is a woman odd shape, unusual

shaped legs but she is beautiful and will not let the oddness stop her from living her life instead of just existing because society won't see her as the 'typical' ballerina".

Read more about Liz and her artwork here: [Liz's artwork](#)

ARTSPACE



BCAL'S Photography and Art groups combined for a visit to ArtSpace, Wonthaggi to view Paul Dunn's exhibition of portraits of people who had previously been homeless or living with people they didnt like and have now found a comfortable place to call home.



Human Rights Bingo



Bingo – Everyone has the same rights.

Ben Corcoran is a support project worker for a self-advocacy group New Wave Gippsland, which is run by, and for, people living with intellectual disability and acquired brain injury across Gippsland.

Last term Ben hosted an introductory session at Bass Coast Adult Learning (BCAL). "Everyone has the same rights. They are universal" Ben said as he spoke to a (COVID19 capacity) full house about the difference between equality and equity and the need to empower people facing barriers.

After his presentation about New Wave, Ben called upon Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, to conduct a game of 'Human Rights Bingo'

which is a fun way to share information and dispel myths.

This started a wide ranging conversation about the practical application of people's rights, such as the right to privacy and the right to choose who you live with.

Last week's event was so successful that Ben and BCAL will run another session next month. BCAL runs many programs for people receiving support through the NDIS. Contact 03 5672 3115 for more details.

New Wave meets at Mitchell House every second Thursday morning and more information is available from Ben Corcoran via nwprojectworkerleo@hotmail.com



The Woodies

By Geoff Ellis



THE Wonthaggi Woodies are turning timber into pens.

The Woodies have been entrusted with a load of timber that has great historical significance. The tree it came from is directly descended from the original Gallipoli Lone Pine which grew from a seedling planted at Inverloch Cemetery some decades ago.

'Pens for The Troops' is a nationwide community-based project that lets Australian military

personnel serving overseas know that folks back home are thinking of them. The hand-made pens are presented on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day to everyone from commanders to those down the line as a morale booster for people who are far from home.

Over 3000 pens have now been made by clubs and individuals across Australia using a variety of Australian woods. The local lone pine appears to be the only such tree used in the project and will have added significance to the recipients as tangible links to the original Anzacs as well as to home.

Two years ago The Woodies set up a production line for the preparation, finishing and packaging of pens. Eleven members conducted a working bee and produced 112 pens in one day to add to other pens made previously by individual members. 152 pens were sent away. They anticipated having another working bee last year but lockdowns put paid to that.



The Woodies are now cutting their Lone Pine into strips to speed up the drying process, then they will be turned into pens that are individually packaged with a personal message and sent to nominated, deployed personnel who will distribute them.

They are hoping to complete this batch as soon as it is viable and will make other items from the timber to donate to RSLs.

The Woodies have received many heartfelt letters of thanks from service people 'over there' to mark the special importance of their work.

They would like to acknowledge the Wonthaggi and Inverloch branches of the RSL who have supported the project and provided funds to buy hardware kits and associated materials for the pen production.





MINDFUL RESILIENCE

Take some time out once a week to step into your more resilient self. Guided by Anny you will learn tools and techniques of mindfulness and meditation as a pathway to greater resilience. The classes are engaging and filled with evidence based practices that are both practical as well as informative. The course is gentle and relaxed and delivered via zoom (tech support available) so you are able to really step into your most comfortable self. No prior knowledge required.

Please don't hesitate to call and ask questions .. always happy to answer and help.

Investment in your health is \$90 conc \$75

Duration 9 weeks

Delivered via zoom Tuesday evening 7-8.30

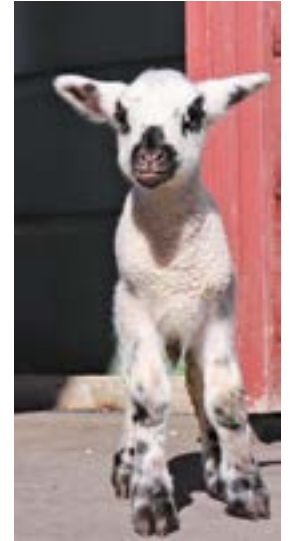
Contact: Anny 0412018478

Bass Coast Adult Learning (03) 5672 3115

Email: info@bcal.vic.edu.au



“Thru the lens” starts to assemble



BAAAAAA!
We had a visitor at
BCAL
BAAABRA

Kate talks about a camera that she has inherited,

A woman in the art class is bottle feeding underweight lambs.

Josh talks about the Newsletter with particular focus on the images provided by Thru the Lens and the work he has put into layout and content.



On your Bike!

Term 4
Back to



People are so generous. During the break the BCAL Bike group received seven donated bikes so we could be ready to roll on Day One. With so many bikes we set ourselves a challenge: pull one apart only using a tool kit bought from Aldi. We nearly got there but we ran out of time. We also popped into Wheel-Heat, our local bike shop, to check out the newest bikes and talk about tools and gadgets. Can't wait till next Monday morning.
Attachments area

NEW CLASSES

BCAL's Migrant English class used a digital tool, remarkable 2, to brainstorm ideas for learning. Our theme for this term is Current Issues. We had a lot to talk about and it looks like we will have another busy term!
Attachments area



BILL'S 50TH BIRTHDAY



BCAL's tech guru, Bill Street, recently celebrated his 50th birthday. The cake that was baked for for the celebration was so impressive that Bill had to to delegate the task of cutting the cake to Melissa, who had baked it. Very nice!



Dina came to work with BCAL as part of Working for Victoria at about this time last year – and we are very grateful to Bass Coast Shire Council for the privilege. Dina proved to be the consummate professional when working with clients – and showed a cheeky sense of humour behind the scenes!

Dina became part of our compliance team – an onerous task for any registered training organisation – with Daryl and Mon. She also was part of the admin team working to make sure the first impressions of BCAL were always positive and professional.

Hailing from East Timor where Dina was actually a politician but completing her business degree in

Toowoomba she certainly has some stories to tell – so if you see this smiling face in the street say hello!

We will sorely miss her around here and wish her all the best in her new job.



Fairwell to Dina



The Wonthaggi Pathways Festival has been cancelled to due to consideration of predicted transmission levels as the COVID19 pandemic runs it's course. The Diverseability breakfast has been postponed until Friday the 25th of February. The wellbeing of our people needs to be the over riding factor in all our decision making.

Our Centre

239 White Road
Wonthaggi, VIC 3995

Website

www.bcal.vic.edu.au

Open Hours

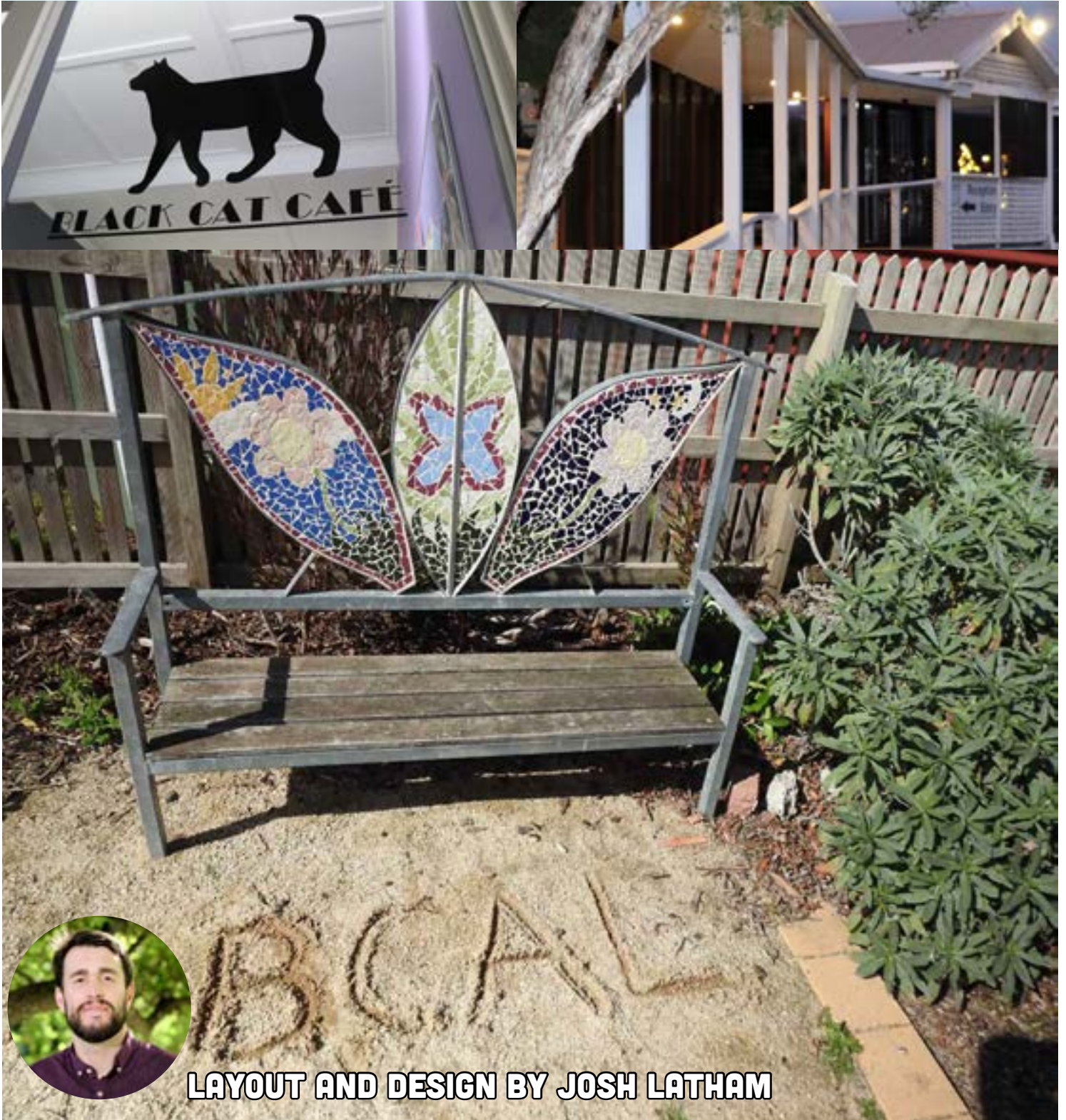
Monday - Thursday
9am - 5pm
Friday 9am - 4pm

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LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY JOSH LATHAM