



## FRIENDSHIP

Do you know someone who is lonely, needs a friend, or simply wants to socialise with other members of the community. Open House has programs for everyone - boys, girls, youth, teens, parents, caregivers and older folks. Just give us a call on 9450 7600, or drop in any time.

## VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to join us as a volunteer please contact Anne, you would be most welcome.



## BEQUESTS

We are grateful to those donors who have in the past remembered Open House in their estate planning. Bequests to Open House contribute significantly to our long term financial well-being and help us ensure the ongoing success of our many programs.

Naming Open House in your will is not difficult and you can designate any amount that you wish. As you make plans for your estate we hope that you will remember a bequest to us.

*for more information* on bequests and other gifts to Open House please contact us on 9450 7600.



## A PLACE *to belong*

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

## A NEW SEASON WITH *new opportunities*

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Newsletter. It's Spring already! The cold of the winter is nearly behind us and the days are getting longer. Spring is definitely in the air! This is the time of year when everything is growing and bursting into life. It's the same here at Open House. We have several new things to celebrate:

- The appointment of a Pastoral Support Worker

- A play group starting
  - Extended hours for teens
  - New buses thanks to Bendigo Bank's generous support
  - A "Green Team" from CityLife Church Manningham - offering to give the grounds a new lease of life
- Now that the warmer weather is coming we can get back to working on the garden, bringing the plans to life and making the place look more welcoming.

## FLY *high!*

Boys attending the YWMP went flying as part of a three week aviation program. Thanks goes out to our resident pilot Paul M Southwick who organised this program.



## OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFE TIME - TO FLY HIGH

Brett Ross, who leads the Youth Program, says "This was one of the most popular programs we have ever run – word spread fast and we started getting calls asking if it was really true. The smiles

on the participants' faces were matched only by the views of the Mornington Peninsula beaches from the air."

This is a key aspect of the Open House friendship model to give participants different life experiences and opportunities.



## OPEN HOUSE CHRISTIAN INVOLVEMENT CENTRES

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## BENDIGO BANK SUPPORT

Long-time friend and supporter of Open House, Bendigo Bank has announced a substantial sponsorship to allow us to purchase a second new bus. "Moving around participants, who are not always mobile on their own, whether drop-offs to or from Open House, or attending external events is critical for us so we are most grateful for Bendigo Bank's ongoing support," commented Finance Manager, Paul Southwick.



## EXTENDED HOURS FOR FRIDAY NIGHT DROP IN

*for teens*

The Welcome Centre now opens at the earlier time of 6.30pm on Fridays for teens who wish to pop in for a chat, something to eat, and to socialise with friends. Youth Worker Tim Womersley observed that "This is a popular and safe alternative for teens." Give Tim or Bec a call on 9450 7600 for more info.

## NEW APPOINTMENT - PASTORAL SUPPORT WORKER



Ann-Marie Fife has accepted the position of Pastoral Support Worker at Open House she is transitioning from a board member and will commence duties in October. It will be easy for Ann-Marie to find Open House as she currently works just across the road at Macleod College in a similar role. Participants, staff, and community groups are all looking forward to the care and special character Ann-Marie will bring to Open House.

## PLAYGROUP STARTING *in October*

Open house will be offering a Playgroup for babies and young children, with parents, grandparents, and other caregivers based out of our Strathallan Road premises, every Thursday, from 10am to noon, starting on Thursday, 13 October 2016.

"This is a great opportunity to get together in a friendly, relaxed environment. There is no charge for the playgroup, just a gold coin donation to cover tea or coffee costs. We are delighted to be offering this new program." Bring your friends, and come in groups. If you want to know more please call our Youth Worker, Bec Cole, who will be running the program on 9450 7600.



Participants at the Wednesday Club in July enjoyed a demonstration of how to make hand-made cards by Katie, from Paradise Invitations.

"There were ribbons, pearls, string and special coloured papers everywhere, and participants made some really beautiful cards with tender messages for loved ones," says Clubwork Manager, Wendy Farrington. "The session was so popular participants have invited Katie back for a Christmas card making workshop in late November."

## APPRENTICESHIPS SECURED

The Open House team were delighted in August when two of the youths attending the Youth Mentoring Program secured apprenticeships. This is what it is all about for us. We offer friendship and training, giving participants the opportunity to contribute to society.

## VOLUNTEERS AND PLACEMENT STUDENTS

Open House continues to be blessed with a large number of volunteers and placement students who assist with the programs that we run. It really is a triple win situation. The volunteers and placement students get great work experience, our participants love having the companionship and friendship, and with these extra resources Open House is able to give a personal experience for participants.

## NEW FACILITIES *and systems*

- In late June Open House took delivery of a new 12-seat, air conditioned, automatic transmission, automatic door, modern, Renault bus, which is proving popular with staff and participants.
- The team is currently working on a new website which will include the ability for sponsors to make donations online. A new database, to be used as a customer relations management system, is also being developed. Both these systems will be in place before Christmas.
- Extensive flood and bollard lighting have been installed outside the Welcome Centre to brighten things up at night, and make parking easier.