

Ali's update:

After a fairly calm start to the year, things have certainly started to heat up! It's been great to meet and chat with so many new faces and organisations to find out what's been happening for them and see how we might be able to do things together. Most of our programs are now running full steam, new projects are being developed and we are about to launch into taking enrolments for our Term 2 adult education short courses - info on page 7. We've had a fabulous response to our call out for volunteers and have now recruited seven amazing people to work alongside us, sharing their skills and learning some new ones. We are excited to be able to introduce them to you when you next drop in to say hello.



WORD OF THE SEASON

Petrichor (peh-truh-kaw)

Definition: The pleasant, earthy scent produced when rain falls on dry soil, often associated with the first rains of autumn.

COMING UP...

28 March BBQ and Feedback ("Youth Park" Plans)
3:00pm - 5:00pm @ the Pines Pool

2 April Community Lunch @ FNCC Training Café

10 & 15 April Diabetes Education Workshops
Contact: 1800 637 700

16 April Pop-up Supported Playgroup
Contact: 9293 7156

Term 2 Various Adult Education Courses (see page 7)

Chat to us for further information.

DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

3 March	CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
8 March	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
10 March	LABOUR DAY public holiday*
17 March	CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK
21 March	HARMONY DAY
30 March	NEIGHBOUR DAY
31 March	TRANSGENDER DAY
2 April	AUTISM AWARENESS DAY
7 April	WORLD HEALTH DAY
18 April	GOOD FRIDAY public holiday*
21 April	EASTER MONDAY public holiday*
25 April	ANZAC DAY public holiday*
13 - 19 May	NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WEEK
17 May	IDAHOBIT
19 - 25 May	VOLUNTEER WEEK
26 May	NATIONAL SORRY DAY
27 May - 3 June	RECONCILIATION WEEK

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT FNCC

We've started this year off busy and full of 'new'!

The team spent a massive week in January planning for the year. Using feedback collected during conversations we've had with people about goals and priorities, we've filled in our calendars with a range of programs and initiatives to explore. We also spent some time reviewing how we do things behind the scenes so that we can improve everyone's experience while at FNCC. Lots of work was done, and coffees were had - so by the end of the week we were exhausted - but very excited to bring you a Centre of fun and maybe some good fortune in 2025.

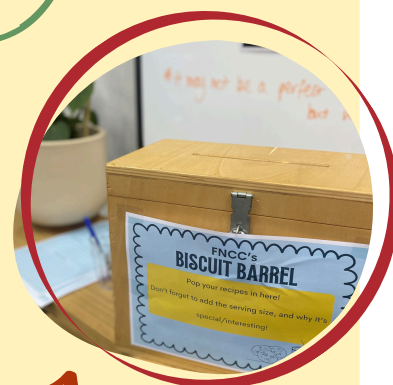
We hosted the very exciting **Melbourne Museum** visit for little ones to explore dinosaur land in January. We ourselves have some big events coming up too - check out page 3 for more information on **Neighbourhood House and Volunteer Week** - and stay tuned for what we're cooking up in September for **Adult Learners Week**!

In the meantime, we've jumpstarted our usual favourites - **Craft, Bowls, Cards & Games, Garden Club, Exercise Sessions, Chatty Cafe** and **Wellness**. We're also back on with Lunch Service with some brand-new training volunteers ready to learn and welcoming back the incredible Lisa who helps make magic in the kitchen on Mondays and Wednesdays (AND help Zoe whip up the recipes you've been dropping off in our Biscuit Barrel!).

We've also been working with Libraries, Arts and Culture, Maternal and Child Health, Youth Services and many more teams across Council to map out new programs for the year - which means listening to colleagues of all ages - bubs strapped to backs!

Most importantly - we're moving forward into this new year to make the Centre as warm, safe and welcoming as possible with this new motto:

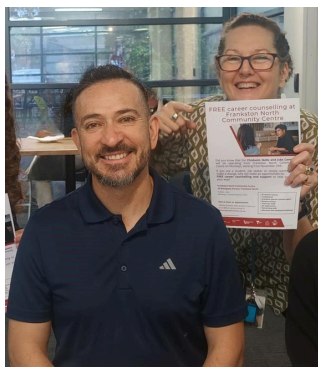
“Why not allow yourself to come and have some fun”.



Chisholm Skills and Jobs Centre is now at FNCC

Did you know that the Chisholm Skills and Jobs Centre now works from Frankston North Community Centre every Monday?

If you are a student, job seeker or simply wanting to make a change, why not make an appointment for FREE career counselling and support with the amazing Paolo to help you on your way?



- 45 minute session
- Confidential
- Individual specific/tailored support
- Resume writing.
- Interview skills.
- Job applications
- Networking skills
- Education and employment pathways

How to book an appointment:

Call the Chisholm Skills and Jobs Centre on 9212 4909 or send an email to skillsandjobs@chisholm.edu.au

FNCC SPOTLIGHT

Get to know the people who make this place special



Bree (Monday morning tea volunteer) and Lisa (mentor kitchen volunteer)



Zoe (Monday morning tea and playgroup volunteer) and Shannen (playgroup volunteer)



Michael (Community Garden volunteer)



Chantel (Chatty Cafe barista volunteer)

Thank you to our 2024 volunteers!

As last year now becomes a distant memory - we want to thank the team of community members who volunteered their time to make Frankston North Community Centre as welcoming and vibrant as it is and get ready to welcome some new faces. Our work is built on the community - and these amazing community members bring the heart and soul of Frankston North to their tireless work.

Bree and Zoe bring laughter and fun to their Monday cafe shifts, and all the little ones can't wait to see Zoe at Thursday playgroup - and also can't wait to see what creative idea **Shannen** has designed for them to play around with earlier in the week! **Lynn and Zandra** have given their time for years to make Wellness, Tai Chi, Cards and Games and Mahogany Bowls fun, engaging and special programs make the Centre thrive - and **Michael and Helen** bring their green thumb expertise to make our community garden such a treat for everyone who visits. **Michelle** gave up her time to make the Chatty Cafe experience a joy for all visitors, while **Chantel** works hard on the coffee machine to serve up some of the best coffees Frankston North has seen - all with a smile. And **Prisha, Alexa and Maree** took the step to learn the ins and outs of a commercial kitchen to take into the workforce - all with the help of **Lisa, Sue and Mel**, who give up their time and skills to pass on.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers - another incredible year of all the things you bring to this space.

Michelle (Chatty Cafe volunteer)



Prisha, Alexa and Maree (kitchen trainee volunteers) and Mel and Sue (mentor kitchen volunteers)



Lynn (Senior Cards and Games and Mahogany Bowls volunteer)



Zandra (Wellness volunteer) and Helen (Community Garden and wool-spinning wizard volunteer)



Community Engagement at FNCC (or: why we keep asking you so many questions!)

We thank our community a lot for providing us with feedback - but now we'd like to explain **why** we ask all the questions we do, and **what** will it actually lead to.

Why does your feedback matter so much to us? Because if we don't understand our community, it makes operating a thriving and active place hard work - that's why! Coordinating programs, courses, events and volunteering opportunities which are of interest is important, and so is developing ways our community and partner organisations can be involved at FNCC.

Apart from making things a whole lot easier, it also means having much more fun!

Did you know we have a Community Engagement Framework to work to? This guides us to ensure we actually provide opportunities for everyone to provide feedback and that we tell you how it will be used. In our case, your feedback will assist us to deliver on our purpose - to strengthen, engage and empower our community.

So, we've spent a while having meaningful conversations with visitors, participants and community members that hadn't known about us - and asked lots of questions.

So...how did we do this?

Check In and Tune Up Consultation

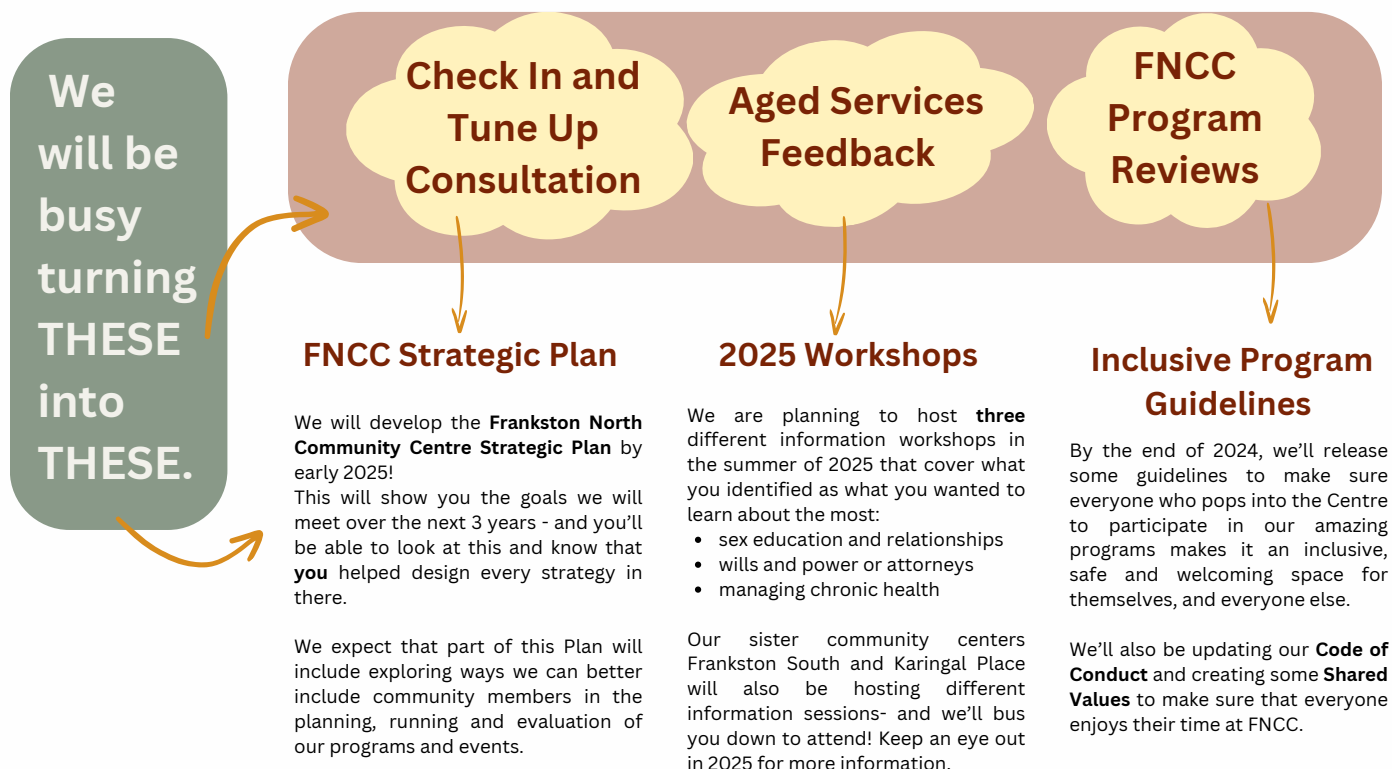
- explored what improved health might look like: physical, intellectual, spiritual, mental and social
- held drop-in sessions & events to chat about what's important to you and what skills you already have
- asked you complete a survey on how the Centre might play a role in getting you where you want to go



- chatted over a cup of coffee about what older people in our community need, and want to learn more about
- held a free-for-all post-it note session to discover exactly what knowledge is missing around aged services
- a few years of casual chats with our participants on how our programs can operate
- a survey given to our participants on all things FNCC programs - why you joined, what you love and how it could be improved



Now, we're at the part where we are working through all this information (the paperwork part) and will soon let you know what we've found out. We will use what you've told us to help shape the way we operate.



Frankston North News

Pines Forest Aquatic Centre

Your local spot for swimming, sunshine and socialising - at least until the season ends on March 31st, so make sure you pop in for a visit soon!

You can visit Monday to Friday from 6pm until 7pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8am until 6pm, with the fabulous **Free Family Friday**'s final session on 28th March including a BBQ and asking for community feedback on plans for the new "Youth Park" at Monterey Reserve - including a Skate Park, Basketball Court and Playground plans as part of the planned redevelopment.

For more information visit pines@peninsulaleisure.com.au

Contact PINES



(03) 9786 4568



info@pinesfrankston.com.au



Forest Dr, Frankston North VIC 3199



Can Swim Free Family Water Safety and Swimming Program

Gather the family and head to PINES to learn basic swimming survival techniques, practise water safety and participate in a variety of rescue scenarios for various inland and open water environments.

Who: Families / parents with children aged 5 years and over

Dates: Friday 21 March, 4:30 - 5:30pm

Where: PINES outdoor pool

Cost: Fully subsidised, thanks to the support of our partner Frankston City Council

To complete an Expression of Interest, visit our website.



Mahogany Avenue Shopping Strip Upgrade – Latest Update

Things are moving along with the Mahogany Avenue Shopping Strip Upgrade! Right now, we're in the concept design stage, where different teams—including City Futures, Maintenance, Traffic Engineers, and the Engineering Department—are reviewing the plans and giving their input to make sure we get it right.

Once that's locked in, we'll move to the detailed design phase, which should take about 4 to 6 weeks. After that, the project will go out to tender to find the right people for the job.

If everything goes to plan, work is expected to kick off in late 2025, with a dedicated project manager keeping things on track. We'll keep you posted with updates as things progress!

For more info, stay in touch with the Frankston North Community Centre.

TRIVIA

Where was the original Frankston North Community Centre located before moving to Mahogany Avenue?

- A) Frankston-Dandenong Road
- B) Candlebark Crescent
- C) Mahogany Avenue
- D) Ballarto Road

Know the answer?
Subscribe to our newsletter, tell us the answer - and win a free hot drink!

Adult Education - Short Courses starting in Term 2

Our short courses are starting soon. We have a range of options, so if you are looking to try something new, upskill or start again - have a look what's on offer and talk to us about how to enrol. It's a great, local and safe way to test out a new career, or study before making a commitment.

Digital Courses:

Microsoft Office - get up-to-speed with Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Outlook. Includes a take-home manual. 15 hour course. You choose - either 3 hour sessions over 5 x Mondays, or 5 hour sessions over 3 x Saturdays.

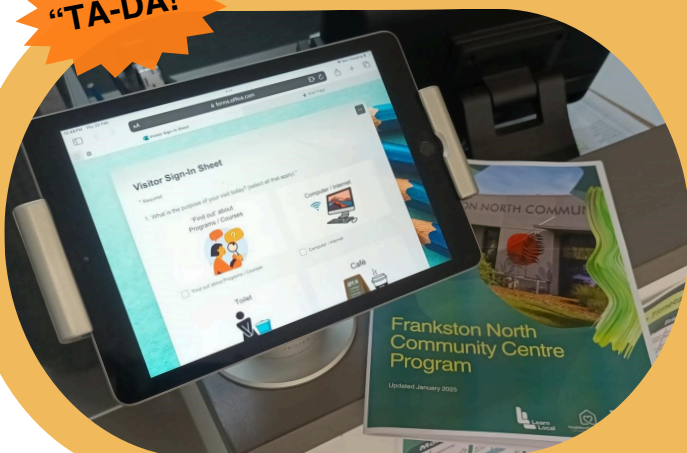
In the Cloud - What is "The Cloud"? How does it work and how do I use it? 15 hour course. You choose - either 3-hour sessions over 5 x Thursdays, or 5-hour sessions over 3 x Fridays.



Navigating Work Skills - Improve your hospitality skills and gain valuable work experience to support your pathway to employment. This course provides practical training in food preparation, coffee-making, and customer service. Participants will also develop essential workplace competencies, including confidence, time management, and an understanding of employee rights. Receive a Food Handlers certificate upon completion. 32-hour course delivered over 4 weeks on Tues and Thurs.

Intro to In Home Support - Ever thought about becoming a paid carer? This 10-week, 35-hour intro course provides an overview of the essential skills and knowledge required to support individuals in their own homes. Developed by experienced professionals in the community health sector, the program offers a blend of academic foundations and practical applications. Wednesdays in Term 2.

"TA-DA!"



Update from the front desk

Next time you visit you might notice a change at the front desk. Jamie's been busy developing a simple and quick way for visitors to sign in, and for us to be able to keep track of how many people drop in to the Centre.

We've done away with the pesky paper forms and now have a fab touch screen for you to use! If you need any assistance just let us know.

Do you want to continue getting our newsletter?

Or are you wondering who/what on earth Frankston North Community Centre is?

We'd love for you to subscribe so we can make sure you get our quarterly newsletters - as well as information on anything going on at the Centre you'd like to know about!

If you'd like to **subscribe**, email us at fncc@frankston.vic.gov.au with the below details.

Don't have an email? No worries - fill out the form below, rip out the page, come and visit and we'll do the rest for you.

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