



CONTACT Bundoora Community Centre Inc

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Welcome back. It is great to see the hall buzzing again. We hope 2026 is a year filled with new experiences and creative learning for all.

What a fantastic end to 2025. Thanks firstly to Rhonda who put together the eye-catching entrance display for our end of year breakup. It immediately set the festive tone as you entered the hall.

Two members of our Men's OMNI Group generously volunteered to provide the entertainment. Performing as *Boo Boo and the Bear*, the duo created a lively, enjoyable atmosphere that contributed greatly to the success of the day.

It was wonderful to see the hall full, with members clearly engaged and having fun. The music featured familiar songs, helping to create a relaxed and happy environment. Many members took to the dance floor, hopefully without too many sore muscles in the days that followed!

Feedback on the entertainment was overwhelmingly positive. Overall, the celebration achieved its aim of bringing members together in a festive, inclusive, and joyful setting. We thank Boo Boo & the Bear for helping to make it such a great day. As the men volunteered their time for the breakup it was decided to donate the money made from the raffle to a charity of their choice. The money has been donated to Prostate Cancer.



To Book: <https://www.entertainoz.com.au/bands-musicians/60-s-90-s/booboo-the-bear/>

Special thanks to Banyule City Council for the \$300 grant we received to go towards our end of year breakup. This was put towards the food for our volunteers and decorations.

Thank you to the teachers and members who donated prizes for the end of year raffle. It was decided to reduce the number of prizes and increase the content. It worked well and gave everyone more time to enjoy the atmosphere.

Contact: Fire, Flood and Drought Relief Project



Sausage Sizzle

Tuesday March 3rd
Wednesday March 4th



Donations of sausages (including vegan, vegetarian, etc.), onions, bread, and sauces would be gratefully received. Please add your offer of donations to the list at the front desk. All money raised will be donated to Blazeaid and the Buy a Bale projects. Please help us support the farmers during this difficult time. Sausages \$3.00 each.

We may have forgotten the generosity of our members at the last meeting when we decided to match donations \$ for \$. Unfortunately we will need to put a limit of \$1,000 on Contact's donation.



Easter Sales

The Easter sales will commence on March 17th. A variety of eggs will be available for purchase from the front desk.

My New Year's resolution is to finish the quilt projects in 2025 that I should have finished in 2024, having started them in 2023 after buying supplies in 2022 for the patterns I collected in 2021 to go with the fabric on my shelves in 2020.

Contact 'Library' There has been an explosion of online reading and audio books in recent years. It is convenient and generally cheaper than 'real' books. Diehard bookworms will continue to maintain that 'you can't beat turning the pages of a book,' because they love the smell and feel of a 'real' book. There are so many benefits to reading that it really doesn't matter which you prefer.

At Contact we are fortunate to have a huge variety of 'real' donated books available for members to take home and read at their leisure. These books are kept in the cupboard at the entrance to the kitchen. Please feel free to browse through them and take what you would like to read.

Mark is 90 years old, he's played golf every day since his retirement 35 years ago, one day he arrives home looking downcast.

"That's it," he tells his wife. "I'm giving up golf; my eyesight has become so bad that once I hit the ball I can't see where it went."

His wife sympathises and makes him a cup of tea, as they sit down she says, "Why don't you take your old mate Kevin, and give it one more try."

"That's no good" sighs Mark, "Kevin's a hundred and three. He can't help."

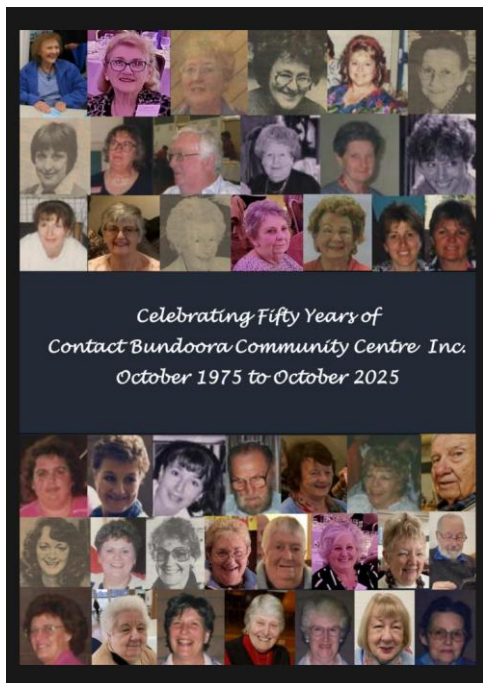
"He may be a hundred and three", says Mark's wife, "but his eyesight is perfect."

So the next day Mark heads off to the golf course with Kevin, he tees up, takes a mighty swing and squints down the fairway, he turns to Kevin and says, "Did you see the ball?"

"Of course I did!" replied Kevin. "I have perfect eyesight".

"Where did it go?" says Mark.

"I don't remember."



The book ‘**Celebrating Fifty Years of Contact Bundoora Community Centre Inc.**’ applauds everyone who has contributed to Contact; as a committee member, class participant, teacher, volunteer or visitor. Even if you are not mentioned individually in the book your contribution to Contact’s rich and remarkable history is just as meaningful. To purchase a copy of this publication (\$25.00) please visit the Centre during operating hours or email info@contactbundooramcomcen.com.au for further information.

The following is an edited extract from the Book:

[The Accidental Birth of Contact Community Centre](#)

“In 1970 the Presbyterian/Methodist Church in Greenwood Drive (now Gresswell Uniting Church) began a monthly group for mothers and toddlers. Invited by a neighbour I joined in early 1971 while pregnant with our first child.

Once a month there would be an activity or speaker. Average attendance was around 12 mothers, although with a really good speaker or activity it could be up to 18. In 1975 I was President of the group which meant opening up, setting up, packing up and locking up. On the way home I called into the milk bar in Maple Grove. Another mother was also in the shop, and we didn’t speak to each other. I thought a lot about this later and wondered if perhaps we could meet weekly using three weeks to get to know each other and still have the monthly activity as usual.

Hurdle 1: The church was not available for weekly use due to another group activity. We arranged a meeting at Council and explained that we wanted to rent the hall on a Wednesday morning for a small group of mothers and toddlers, and we reached an agreement with the Council.

Hurdle 2: We now required rent, cups and supplies which until now had been provided by the church. We held a sausage sizzle and cake stall in front of the butcher’s shop in Watsonia and raised enough money to buy 48 mugs.

Hurdle 3: We realized we needed a better name and decided on Contact as it described what we wanted to achieve.

Hurdle 4: We saw how big the hall was and how lost a small group would be, so we decided a couple of activities might help. On opening day, I arrived wondering if anyone would turn up only to see a line of mothers, babies and prams encircling the hall

Hurdle 5: How could we organise 150 children? Week two was chaos.

Hurdle 6: Being a small committee we didn’t have enough free people to sit at the door and collect the money. I approached Wilma Stubbs and asked her if she would help out for a couple of weeks.

Hurdle 7: For the first month the numbers every Wednesday were overwhelming, so we approached the Council to extend to 3 mornings a week. We did not set out to establish a Community Centre. We only sought to get to know each other by meeting weekly, and the rest is history.

(Written by Jenny McGuirk (April 2025), inaugural president of Contact Community Centre.)

Today’s challenges are different to the first committee but they are just as real. Finding volunteers, whether to join the committee or help at the front desk, has become increasingly difficult, and too much of the workload is falling on too few people.

For some time now, the committee has discussed the need for extra support to help with the many tasks that our hardworking volunteers simply do not have the time to cover. We are pleased to share the news that we have employed Kylie to assist the Centre for five hours each week.

Kylie will commence on Thursday, February 19th, and will be working each Thursday. We will be taking her around to meet the various groups (she will come in to meet the Tuesday and Wednesday groups), and we ask everyone to please make her feel welcome.

A new power saving bonus has been announced which some of you may be eligible to take advantage of. Follow this link for more information. ***This closes on 31 March.***

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/real-power-bill-relief-victorians>

White Christmas Rocky Road (Nagi Maehashi, Recipe Tin Eats)

(While this is a suggested Christmas recipe it would be equally as good at Easter) This is simple to make, delicious, and a great gift.

Ingredients: 500g white chocolate melts
2 tablespoons grapeseed oil or other neutral flavoured oil
200g marshmallows
135g pistachios (unsalted, toasted)
190g glace cherries
40g desiccated coconut (Unsweetened)



Instructions: Lightly grease a 20cm square pan with butter then line with baking paper. Set aside 8 of the nicest glace cherries. Finely chop 1 tablespoon of the pistachios. Place chocolate and oil in a heatproof bowl. Microwave in 30 second increments, stirring in between until melted and smooth. Aside from the reserved glace cherries and chopped pistachios, stir in all other ingredients. Pour into pan spreading out evenly. Top with reserved cherries and sprinkle with chopped pistachios. Refrigerate three hours or until firm. Then cut into desired shape/length. Keep in a cool dry place or the refrigerator for at least a couple of weeks.

Dates to remember:

Thursday	February 19	Committee Meeting (all welcome)
Tues/Wed	March 3 & 4	Sausage Sizzle
Tuesday	March 17	Easter Raffle commences
Thursday	March 19	Committee Meeting (all welcome)
Thursday	April 2	Term 1 concludes
Tuesday	April 21	Term 2 commences
Tuesday/Wednesday	May 5 & 6	Mini Market
Wednesday	May 20	A.G.M
Thursday	June 25	Term 2 concludes
Tuesday	July 14	Term 3 commences
Tuesday/Wednesday	August 4 & 5	Donated Goods Stall
Thursday	September 17	Term 3 concludes
Tuesday	October 6	Term 4 commences
Tuesday	November 3	Closed (Melbourne Cup Day)
Tuesday/Wednesday	November 10 & 11	Mini Market
Tuesday	December 1	Term 4 concludes
Wednesday	December 2	Breakup

Thank you to Colin Brooks and his staff for the printing of this newsletter.