

THE FAWKNER TIMES

Volume Two

Local artwork inside!

Spring/Summer Edition



Pictured: Community members enjoying last year's Fawkner Festa celebration

Friends of Fawkner

From Olympians to passionate cooks, Fawkner is home to many incredible people. Read more on page 4.



See, eat, go, do!

Voted one of the most popular cafés in Fawkner, The Fork Shop is a local go-to, serving up premium coffee and delicious, hearty Italian meals in relaxed surrounds.



Learning in Fawkner

At Fawkner Community House, there are four levels of English classes to cover various levels of confidence with the language.



Fawkner events wrap

Harmony Day is held in March every year and is a day to celebrate cultural diversity in Fawkner.



Photo Credit: Theresa Harrison Photography

What's on in Fawkner

The Fawkner Festa is back! Following the success of the 2018 festival, the Festa has returned to bring together the community to celebrate all that is Fawkner.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the second edition of The Fawkner Times! We are excited to once again bring you stories that celebrate Fawkner, its cultural diversity, and amazing residents.

Our motivation for writing The Fawkner Times is simple: community.

We want to bring the community of Fawkner even closer together and celebrate the people that make it special.

The Fawkner Times is currently produced by the Hello, Fawkner! team at Merri Health. In order for it to

continue into the future, The Fawkner Times will need more community members involved in its production. If you are passionate about local news and would like to keep The Fawkner Times going, feel free to get in touch. You might even be studying media or journalism!

In the meantime, if you've got a story for the people of Fawkner, if you've lived here for a long time and have seen the area change, if you've just moved here and would like to share your experience, or even if you've just got a favourite place you think deserves some coverage all you have to do is reach out and tell us about it and we can think about an article for the next edition.

In this issue we've talked to teachers, community leaders, people running their own local projects, business owners, event organisers and more, and we're excited to share their stories with you.

Get in touch! Send us an email at hellofawkner@merrihealth.org.au or call 1300 637 744 to tell us what you think about The Fawkner Times and we'll send you a Hello, Fawkner! badge to wear around town. You can choose from seven languages: English, Italian, Turkish, Urdu, Bengali, Arabic, and Greek!

- From the Hello, Fawkner! Project Team

Lettera dell'Editore

Benvenuti alla seconda edizione di The Fawkner Times! Siamo lieti di portarvi nuovamente storie che celebrano Fawkner, la sua diversità culturale, i suoi formidabili residenti.

La nostra motivazione per scrivere The Fawkner Times è semplice: la comunità.

Vogliamo avvicinare ancor più la comunità di Fawkner e elebrare la gente che la rende speciale.

The Fawkner Times attualmente è prodotto dal team

Hello, Fawkner! a Merri Health. Affinché continui nel futuro, The Fawkner Times avrà bisogno di più membri della comunità coinvolti nella sua produzione. Se sei appassionato delle notizie locali e ti piacerebbe aiutare The Fawkner Times andare avanti, non esitare a metterti in contatto con noi. Potresti anche studiare media o giornalismo!

Nel frattempo, se hai una storia per la gente di Fawkner, se abiti qui da lungo tempo e hai visto la trasformazione dell'area, se ti sei appena traslocato e desideri condividere le tue esperienze, o se hai un luogo preferito che ritiene che si merita di essere conosciuto

tutto quello che devi fare è raccontarcelo e noi potremo pensare a scrivere un articolo per la prossima edizione.

In questo numero abbiamo parlato con gli insegnanti, i leader della comunità, le persone che eseguono i propri progetti locali, i commercianti, gli organizzatori di eventi ed altra gente, e siamo entusiasti di condividere le loro storie con te.

Contattaci! Inviaci una e.mail a hellofawkner@merrihealth.org.au oppure telefonaci al numero 1300 637 744 e raccontaci cosa ne pensi di The Fawkner Times e ti invieremo il distintivo di Hello, Fawkner!

اس معاملہ میں ہم نے اساتذہ، کمیونٹی لیڈران، اپنے مقامی پروجیکٹس چلانے والے لوگوں، کاروباری مالکان، ایونٹ منتظمین وغیرہ سے بات کی ہے اور ہمیں ان کی کہانیوں کا آپ کے ساتھ اشتراک کرنے پر خوشی ہے۔

رابطے میں رہیں! ہمیں hellofawkner@merrihealth.org.au پر ایک ای میل بھیجیں یا 1300 637 744 پر فون کریں اور ہمیں بتائیں کہ آپ The Fawkner Times کے بارے میں کیا سوچتے ہیں اور ہم آپ کو Hello, Fawkner! بھیجیں گے۔ شہر میں گھومنے کے لیے بیج۔ آپ سات زبانوں میں سے انتخاب کر سکتے ہیں: انگریزی، اطالوی، ترکی، اردو، بنگالی، عربی اور یونانی!

- Hello, Fawkner! کی جانب سے پروجیکٹ کی ٹیم

لیے، The Fawkner Times کو اپنی پیداوار میں مزید کمیونٹی ممبران کی شمولیت درکار ہو گی۔ اگر آپ مقامی خبروں کے بارے میں پرجوش ہیں اور The Fawkner Times کو جاری رکھنا چاہتے ہیں تو بلا جھجک رابطہ کریں۔ ہو سکتا ہے آپ میڈیا یا صحافت پڑھ رہے ہوں!

اسی اثناء میں، اگر آپ کے پاس Fawkner کے لوگوں کے لیے کوئی کہانی ہے، اگر آپ یہاں کافی عرصے سے مقیم ہیں اور علاقے کو بدلتے دیکھا ہے، اگر آپ یہاں ابھی منتقل ہوئے ہیں اور اپنے تجربے کا اشتراک کرنا چاہتے ہیں، یا حتیٰ کہ آپ کی کوئی پسندیدہ جگہ ہے جس کو آپ کے خیال میں زیادہ اہمیت ملنی چاہیے، تو آپ کو بس یہ کرنا ہے کہ ہم سے رابطہ کریں اور اس کے بارے میں ہمیں بتائیں، اور ہم اگلے ایڈیشن کے لیے ایک آرٹیکل کے بارے میں سوچ سکتے ہیں۔

ایڈیٹر کی جانب سے خط

The Fawkner Times کے دوسرے ایڈیشن میں خوش آمدید! ہم ایک بار پھر آپ کے پاس ایسی کہانیاں لانے میں پرجوش ہیں جو Fawkner، اس کے ثقافتی تنوع اور حیرت انگیز رہائشیوں کی خوشی مناتے ہیں۔

The Fawkner Times کے لیے لکھنے کا ہمارا محرک سادہ ہے: کمیونٹی۔

ہم Fawkner کی کمیونٹی کو مزید قریب لانا چاہتے ہیں اور لوگوں کی خوشی منانا چاہتے ہیں جو اسے خاص بناتے ہیں۔

ابھی The Fawkner Times کو Hello, Fawkner! کی جانب سے تیار کیا جاتا ہے! Merri Health کی ٹیم مستقبل میں اس کے جاری رکھنے کے

Hello, Fawkner!

Ciao, Fawkner!

Merhaba Fawkner!

शालो, फकनर!

ہیلو, فوکنر!

مرحبًا يا فوکنر!

Γειά σας, Fawkner!

See / Eat / Go / Do



For over 100 years, Fawkner Memorial Park has been serving the people of Victoria. The cemetery opened in 1906, with the first burial taking place on 10 December 1906. Covering 113 hectares, it is one of Australia's largest cemeteries.

Fawkner Memorial Park has a history of leadership in the Victorian cemetery industry, including the introduction of Victoria's first modern crematorium in 1926, which has since been taken down, and the

introduction of public and private mausoleums into Australia.

The tearooms at the memorial park have a calm and warm environment for loved ones to reflect, while flowers sold at the tearoom provide the perfect way to honour those you have lost.

Fawkner Memorial Park was originally built as a "modern railway cemetery" with funeral parties

SEE: Fawkner Memorial Park

Address: 1187 Sydney Rd, Fawkner

Website: <https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/13043>

Contact number: 1300 022 298

accessing it on specially designed mortuary trains from Flinders Street to Fawkner stations.

The memorial park is home to a memorial for Melbourne's founder John Batman, as well as other well-known early settlers such as George Cole, Edmund Hobson, James Jackson, Charles Dight, and other pioneer memorials dating back to the 1840s.

More information for the history of the memorial park can be found on the website.

Ciao, Fawkner!



EAT: The Fork Shop

Address: 52 Bonwick Street, Fawkner

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Fork-Shop-by-Eatalian-Made-1585857521683626/>

Contact number: (03) 9359 4548

Voted one of the most popular cafés in Fawkner, The Fork Shop is a local go-to, serving up premium coffee and delicious, hearty Italian meals in relaxed surrounds.

The café was established by Marina Serra and Massimo Falcone, the team behind local catering business Eatalian Made. Inspired by their Italian hometown, Bologna, Massimo and Marina deliver fresh, seasonal Italian dishes with a twist.

Marina has lived in Fawkner her whole life.

"I was brought up here, we had a business in the city but we still lived in Fawkner and it frustrated us that we didn't have a nice local place to sit down and have a coffee, so we decided to open one ourselves.

"We know all our customers so well, I can remember some of our customers from when I was young and I was growing up in the area, it's so nice to be able to chat to them, I feel like I've known them my whole life.

"I particularly love serving our older customers, they come down to Bonwick Street and run their errands then they stop in for a coffee and have a chat to us, sometimes they bring their kids as well and it makes us so happy to see them so happy.

"We make traditional dishes at an affordable price, so everyone can come in and enjoy our food, we serve people on their way to work, mothers with their children, and people who want to stop in for somewhere affordable to eat lunch," Marina said.

With pasta dishes, home-made soups, delicious meatballs and gourmet salads, plus a dedicated kid's menu, the Fork Shop has something to cater to all ages and appetites.

The Fork Shop has also recently started running dinner services on occasions, with the goal of opening on more nights of the week.

"We just do what we do best – we offer affordable food that's made with love, and people really enjoy it, every time we run a night it gets booked out.

"We're just waiting for a pizza oven to arrive, then we need to do a bit of work around the shop and hopefully we'll be able to open at night with a pizza offering as well!" Marina said.

Located at 52 Bonwick Street, Fawkner, be sure to stop by and experience Marina and Massimo's outstanding hospitality for yourself.



Photo Credit: Theresa Harrison Photography

GO: Fawkner Festa

Address: CB Smith Reserve, Jukes Road, Fawkner

Website: <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/events-recreation/festivals-and-major-events/fawkner-festa/>

Contact number: (03) 9240 1111

One of the biggest events on the Fawkner calendar, the Fawkner Festa, returns on Sunday, 10 November 2019. Fawkner will be proudly on display across activities, art, workshops, demonstrations, local food, and much, much more at this unmissable event.

Moreland City Council aims to focus the event on the Fawkner community, celebrating the local people and the things that matter most to them.

The 2019 program celebrates local artists and community groups, with a range of projects and performances for the whole family to enjoy.

Music and performances by Outer Urban Projects, Lullaby Choir, Gruppo Culturale Italiano and many more

will give the day a memorable soundtrack!

Kids and families will enjoy a wide range of activities, including Bunk Puppets and a specially commissioned art project featuring the opportunity to help create a brand new mural.

And with more activities, community stalls and markets and local food offerings, there's something for everyone at this year's Fawkner Festa!

Fawkner Festa is proudly presented by Festivals Moreland and Moreland City Council.



DO: Charles Mutton Reserve

Address: Creedon Street, Fawkner

More information can be found at <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/events-recreation/parks-and-trails/find-a-park/charles-mutton-reserve/>

Go to Charles Mutton Reserve this spring and enjoy one of Fawkner's best recreational facilities.

There are designated walking tracks, tennis courts, lawn bowl greens, a basketball court, and eight recently upgraded netball courts on offer for visitors to use.

Charles Mutton Reserve is home to many sporting clubs, including the Fawkner Tennis Club, Northern Saints Football Club, Fawkner Bowling Club, Haig Fawkner Cricket Club and the Fawkner Netball Club.

Fawkner Netball Club President Grace O'Brien says the park is the perfect place for the community to come together.

"We love training on the new netball courts, all the girls enjoy the space so much and it really boosts our team spirit having such modern facilities," she said.

There is also a state-of-the-art community raingarden, which provides much-needed stormwater irrigation to the sports grounds.

Located at Creedon Street, and well-connected to the surrounding local streets, Charles Mutton Reserve has something for everyone this spring/summer!

FRIENDS OF FAWKNER

Meet the people in the community that are breaking boundaries and forging stronger bonds.



AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC RACE WALKER

RHYDIAN COWLEY

Australian Olympic race walker Rhydian Cowley fell in love with Fawkner when he moved in three years ago with his partner.

Rhydian keeps fit with the much-loved Merri Creek Trail.

"We live just near the trail and it's so convenient, I can just head down there and go for a walk and take in the sights. There's so much to enjoy along the path and you see many different types of wildlife as well which I like," he said.

The trail's many functions appeal to Rhydian.

"If you follow Merri Creek south you'll get to the Yarra Trail and you can go all the way into the city, and if you

head north you can go up past Craigieburn – I love the sense of adventure that I feel whenever I head down to the trail," he said.

Rhydian is an advocate for a healthy and fit lifestyle. He believes that getting active doesn't necessarily mean making big changes.

"There's so many ways to stay active and fit. The City of Moreland has a lot of different programs out there and there are a number of community activities that they support, so there is something for everyone.

"Whether you're into cycling, running or swimming it doesn't matter – you'll find something you love.

"There are new netball courts, tennis courts and basketball courts in Fawkner, so if you'd rather get moving with friends there are plenty of options for that as well," he said.

These days Rhydian can be found relaxing by the creek, walking along the trail, or enjoying a bite to eat at his favourite Bonwick Street café, The Fork Shop. He also loves spending his weekends at the Fawkner Food Bowls with his friends and community.

FAWKNER NETBALL CLUB

GRACE O'BRIEN

Grace O'Brien has worked hard to encourage her community to join the Fawkner Netball Club, which has grown in recent times.

Starting with just 14 registrations of interest, the netball club wanted to create two teams - an under-11s and an under-13s - with players doubling up to make up numbers where needed.

"When we first started we had a bit of interest, mainly from the local footy club and the cricket club, we probably had enough for two teams.

"We had a diverse mix of girls and we needed some of the younger ones to play above their age to fill the teams," Grace said.

Before Grace knew it, the club had grown to 30 people – enough for four teams.

"We started doing juniors, 11s, 13s and 15s, it was a big jump!"

"The club just grew so quickly, it was great to see," she said.

Now in its second season, the Fawkner Netball Club has 80 players – enough for nine teams, including two female teams and three mixed teams, as well as the underage players.

The courts the club uses, located at Charles Mutton Reserve, were built in 2017 as part of a push by the Victorian Government and Netball Victoria to get more players into the game.

"The results have been overwhelming, there are so many new faces at the club now and we have a really close bunch of people playing and enjoying netball together.

"Netball has always been really big in the country and the push to strengthen it in the inner-city is definitely paying off," Grace said.

The Fawkner Netball Club recently enjoyed its season launch and in August it held its first presentation night, with awards handed out to Fawkner's best netballers.

Another recent success was an excursion to a Melbourne Vixens netball game that the club ran.

"We organised it and put a call out to see who would be interested, and the results were incredible – we had over 40 people sign up," Grace said.

The club continues to strengthen and benefit from the brand-new courts at Charles Mutton Reserve.

If staying fit in a relaxed and social setting is appealing to you, you can follow the Fawkner Netball Club on Facebook or head to <http://fawkner.vic.netball.com.au/> to sign up and get involved.



ITALIAN SENIORS GROUP

CIRCOLO ITALIANI PENSIONATI DI FAWKNER

10 years ago, Tony Stante, Vince Bono and Salvatore Pizzo started the Italian Seniors Group in Fawkner with only three members, now there are over 180 members that love getting together to share meals, play cards, and go on excursions.

The group has 16 committee members who work hard to provide activities for older people in Fawkner.

Following the retirement of the group's previous president, Salvatore, who had been at the helm for nine years, Vanda Ancenzo is now the president and as part of her responsibilities she also helps to prepare a monthly meal for her group.

"We meet once a month for a dinner dance and to share a meal that we prepare ourselves, we've been doing it for a long time and we love it," Vanda said.

"It's a great way for us to all keep in touch and spend some time together on a regular basis.

"Everyone is always so happy at our monthly meals – we all get along so well," she said.

The group's founder, Tony Stante, meets with his friends three times a week to play cards.

"We love getting together, we are all very close.

"The group has grown so much in a short time, we have so

many members and we get along very well," Tony said.

In addition to the meal sharing, the Italian Seniors Group goes on excursions to some of the most beautiful parts of Victoria.

"We do bus tours once or twice a year, we've been all over the state – we've done an orange farm in Cobram, lunch in Portarlington, and a cherry farm as well.

"We love the bus tours, it's a great way for us to get out and see places that are difficult to get to.

"They give us something unique to look forward to," she said.

The Italian Seniors Group meet at the Fawkner Senior Citizens Centre on Jukes Road. To get involved, join Tony and the group to play cards on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 2:00pm until 5:00pm at Fawkner Community Hall, opposite Merri Health.

If you have a story that you would like to contribute please contact us at: hellofawkner@merrihealth.org.au



OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Hello, Fawkner! recently launched its first ever 'Great Idea Program' which welcomed members of the Fawkner community to submit their ideas on how they could make Fawkner an even better place to live. With the help of a panel of community members, successful candidates were chosen, and have been receiving support and funding to bring their ideas to life.

Here are interviews with our three Great Idea teams!



Ben Webber and Domenica Grasso

Great Idea: 'of Fawkner'

Ben Webber and Domenica Grasso are founders of 'of Fawkner' a project exploring the people and cultures in Fawkner through storytelling, combining Ben's passion for photography with Domenica's talents in design.

'Hidden Recipes of Fawkner' is the first series in this project and celebrates the cultural diversity of Fawkner residents by sharing stories and recipes significant to people who live in Fawkner.

"These people, often women, have this incredible skill of preparing a dish in the kitchen that brings their family together.

"We want people to bring their recipes, stories, and traditions to their community and share them with each other," Ben said.

"We've had little ideas like this a few times and we're always talking about ways we can bring the community together," Domenica said.

Ben hopes that 'Hidden Recipes of Fawkner' will preserve cultural traditions while inspiring other people to bring them into their own homes and in turn, pass them onto future generations.

The suburb of Fawkner is extremely diverse, with 85% of Fawkner residents having at least one parent born overseas.

"There are so many cultures in Fawkner, and we want to bring them all together and celebrate our diversity in the one place, that's really what we're hoping to achieve," Domenica said.

The program is off to a great start with a wonderful team behind it and Ben and Domenica are confident that Fawkner will continue to grow and thrive.

Ben and Domenica will be launching 'of Fawkner' at the Fawkner Festa in November. If you have a recipe that you would love to share, or perhaps nominate a local cook, please visit offawkner.com.au for more information. The project will also be up on social media very soon, so keep your eyes peeled!

Katherine Marsh and Samantha Green

Great Idea: Fawkner Wholefoods Collective

Katherine Marsh and Samantha Green were introduced through a mutual connection at the Fawkner Food Bowls, where Katherine is a committee member. They worked together to come up with the idea of a community-driven food store as part of the Food Bowls, which would sell affordable, wholesome foods to the community of Fawkner.

When the store is complete, members will be able to buy top-quality, low-cost goods at the Fawkner Food Bowls. This will save the community from travelling to nearby suburbs to buy these items.

"We're trying to reduce those food miles and make it more affordable for people to eat healthy food, and we're trying to create a community where people can come together, meet, and become friends," Katherine said.

"We see the project as a bit of a catalyst for bringing people together and forming new friendships, as well as the other benefits," Samantha said.

A benefit to the project is waste reduction, driven largely by Samantha, a former environment officer at a local council.

"We work really well together because Katherine is really motivated by the health benefits of the project, and I'm passionate about the environment and reducing waste.

"The environment is a huge passion of mine, it's an area that I've always loved working in and I'm really motivated to encourage my community to feel the same way I do," Samantha said.

"There is minimal packaging – the idea is that you could come along with your own container to reduce waste and packaging," Katherine said.

The project is still in its early planning stages, but Katherine is looking forward to working with the community to make sure everyone's needs are met.

"We sent out a survey through Merri Health recently to see what community members would like to see. Different flours, nuts, and gluten-free foods were all popular choices," she said.

The Fawkner Wholefoods Collective will be run by volunteers, with an idea to provide discounted membership fees to those that can volunteer more of their time.

We are looking forward to seeing what the future holds for the Fawkner Wholefoods Collective.

The pair has just started a Facebook group, where you can keep up-to-date, head to: <https://www.facebook.com/fawknerwholefoodscollective/>



Zavi Fatima and Sana Imran Abdani

Great Idea: Cook, Dine & Shine

Zavi Fatima and Sana Imran Abdani have a passion for food, culture and traditions. The combination of these three things led to their submission to the Great Idea Program; Cook, Dine & Shine, a project for women of all ages that provides cooking lessons in an inclusive and social environment.

Zavi heard about the program when she was at a community event in February.

"We met some people from Hello, Fawkner! and they told us about the Great Idea Program. We were told they would be choosing three ideas from members of the community and then supporting them to make their dreams come true.

"They encouraged me to get involved even though I hadn't done anything like this before, they were so supportive," Zavi said.

The goal, and motto, for Cook, Dine & Shine is simple: celebrating culture through food. To get involved, attendees bring their recipes and then teach the other participants about the culture and traditions associated with the dish.

"We want people to get involved who don't get out of the house that much, we want them to have a space where they can come and connect with other people and do something they're passionate about," Sana said.

"We want to learn about other cultures and we will discuss other topics over the table, that's the idea I had, then Sana and I discussed it and she thought it was a good idea as well so we went for it.

"We are encouraging women to come out and socialise and get to know their community members, we want them to have confidence when they go out," Zavi said.

The program is for women of all ages, and Sana believes that every age group brings something unique to the table.

"Teenagers like different types of food and they think differently about it as well. They also learn about things at school that can influence the way they feel," she said.

"We are empowering women, and their daughters in particular, to come forward with their best dish, their recipes, and their traditions to help boost their confidence," Zavi said.

Recently Zavi and Sana held a launch party of their event. Over 70 women attended, and cooked 52 dishes! The most popular dishes from the day will be demonstrated in future sessions so people of Fawkner can learn how to make them.

Keep your eyes peeled for future Cook, Dine & Shine events around Fawkner!



To get involved...

To stay up-to-date with these three Great Idea Program projects, or to get in touch with the organisers, email hellofawkner@merrihealth.org.au and we'll connect you.

The next round of the Great Idea Program will open in November. If you've got a Great Idea for Fawkner that you'd like help developing, make sure you keep an eye on Merri Health's Facebook page or email hellofawkner@merrihealth.org.au and we'll let you know when applications open.

LOCAL ART LIFT-OUT BY EDDIE BOTHA

The artwork lift-out in the middle of this issue of The Fawkner Times was prepared by Eddie Botha, who moved to Fawkner about two years ago.

"We chose Fawkner because of the cultural diversity, the beautiful Merri Creek that we live next to, and the close proximity to the city and train line. Being from South Africa, I understand the value of cultural unity, even though we are all different. This has been an important aspect of my artwork for as long as I can remember and

probably always will be. We can all break down these barriers and be friendly and treat our surroundings with pride," Eddie said.

Eddie has been a full-time artist for almost 10 years now and has exhibited his work in New York, South Korea, London, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Dhaka and South Africa. He loves using his art to make people think and he loves incorporating humour into his work.

You can display this local artwork in your home, or even use it as wrapping paper!

The original artwork will be on display at the Fawkner Library (77 Jukes Road) throughout November and December.

To see more of Eddie's work visit www.eddiebotha.com.





Artwork by Eddie Botha, read his story on page 7.

STROLLING DOWN BONWICK ST

HOW DO YOU HAVE YOUR COFFEE?



Geetam

"I drink a cappuccino or a latté from the Bonwick Street Bakery & Café, they make the best coffee I've ever had and they're next door to Fruits on Bonwick, which I own."



Manpreet

"I drink hot chocolates, I get them from Bonwick Street – they always taste great and the team make it how I like."



Rose (Rasiah)

"I drink a straight double shot, no sugar. I make it myself... I need it in the morning when I wake up."



BEST OF INSTAGRAM

We searched Instagram for some of the best photos taken around beautiful Fawkner, here are our favourites.



@ember_crisis_response



@morelandcouncil



@willran42

LEARNING IN FAWKNER



Asha with three of her students at the Fawkner Community House

Asha Prakash wasn't aware of some of the challenges she would face when migrating to Australia. But, like any other migrant, she was excited about the opportunities she would find, and she was extremely proud when she landed her first job within a month of arriving. However, her job involved a two-hour commute each way, and she barely had any time to spend with her young family. Missing her children and wanting a new path, Asha made some changes and found herself a career she loves in a community that adores her.

Asha became self-employed and began coordinating courses for registered training organisations (RTOs).

"It was my responsibility to get the teacher and students organised for each class, making sure there were enough people for the course and they were going to learn the right things," she said.

It was in this role that Asha was introduced to Fawkner Community House. While she was coordinating one of these courses it just so happened that a teacher was unwell and unable to teach.

Asha was simply told to "keep the students busy", but she felt inspired standing in front of the classroom and quickly decided that she wanted to do more than just fill a few hours. Her supervisors were impressed with her teaching abilities, and recommended that she complete some formal training, which she did in the form of a Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) and a graduate diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

When we asked Asha what she most loved about teaching English, the passionate teacher found it difficult to pinpoint just one thing.

"I love interacting with my students and helping them achieve their goals, whether they want to go on to further study or become job-ready, or simply to adapt to their lives in Australia.

"It makes me so happy when my students feel confident in expressing themselves in a language that isn't very well-known to them.

"I have a lot of students that have gone on to other studies and further courses, they have gotten jobs now and many have their own businesses - they have come a long way, it gives me a lot of satisfaction," she said.

At Fawkner Community House, there are four levels of English classes to cover various levels of confidence with the language, and these are funded by the neighbouring Brunswick Neighbourhood House.

A unique concept about this English learning program is the considerate and accommodative approach to teaching, according to Asha.

"I always make sure we cover a wide range of topics and focus on developing the curriculum based on the needs of the group – everyone is different and we accommodate that," she said.

To join these English classes, you can head down to Fawkner Community House at 79 Jukes Road and talk to one of the friendly team, or you can call 9359 1824.

The Fawkner Community House has a range of activities for the whole community to enjoy. For more information visit <https://fawknerch.org/> or pop in and say hello!



TRUE TASTE OF FAWKNER

Kathiawari Choley

This delicious and tangy chickpea-based curry is extremely versatile, making it a perfect option for a quick snack or a bigger meal. This mouth-watering and flavoursome dish was provided by Tanzeel Talha, the winner of Cook, Dine & Shine's cooking competition. You can read more about Cook, Dine & Shine on page 7.



Photo of Tanzeel Talha

Ingredients

- 500g yoghurt
- 4 tablespoons gram flour
- 1 tablespoon turmeric
- 3 cups water
- ½ cup oil
- 1 sliced onion
- 10 – 15 curry leaves
- 3 boiled potatoes, cubed
- 1kg boiled black chickpeas
- 3 red chillies
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon ginger and garlic paste
- 3 tablespoons boiled tamarind
- Chaat masala to taste
- Red chilli powder to taste
- Salt to taste
- Coriander

Method

1. Blend yoghurt with red chilli powder, gram flour, salt, turmeric powder, and some water.
2. In a pan, pour the blended mixture and add 3 cups of water, then cook on a medium flame for 1 ½ hours.
3. Add oil to another pan before blackening the red chillies and adding cumin, sliced onion, curry leaves and ginger and garlic paste.
4. Take the oil and chilli mixture off the heat and add it to the other pan.
5. In another pan add the boiled potatoes, chickpeas, and the boiled tamarind, then cook for five minutes on high heat.
6. In a bowl add the potato and chickpea mixture, then add the curry on top, and garnish with coriander, chillies, chaat masala, and a drizzle of boiled tamarind.

FAWKNER EVENTS WRAP

Harmony Day Wrap Up

Harmony Day is held in March every year and is a day to celebrate cultural diversity. What better place than Fawkner! Throughout the month of March this year, over 900 Fawkner residents celebrated Harmony Day across 17 events. Local organisers each received \$100 from Hello, Fawkner! to help with their event. We heard so many stories of people getting to know their neighbours, learning about different cultures, and embracing the diversity of Fawkner.

Here are just a couple...

Khalida's Event

Khalida hosted 32 people at her home, with guests bringing something important to their culture. Her daughter, Tamanah, loves what Harmony Day represents.

"Harmony Day is a day of unity, a day where we hold our hands together and show that even though we have our differences, we are all human," Tamanah said.



Photos from Harmony Day events held throughout Fawkner

Alveena's Event

On Friday, 8 March, Alveena hosted her local community members at Charles Mutton Reserve, where they came together to enjoy meals from different cultures.

"My function was outstanding and very successful on Harmony Day. We had people from different cultures come together and bring a plate, we had a great time and fantastic food," she said.



Hina and Tanzeel's Event

Over at the Community House, Hina and Tanzeel hosted an event for mums and kids, which saw 20 people attend the fun-filled evening.

"The event was so much fun, we watched movies and did things like musical chairs, kurta (shirt) swap and a "best dish" competition with all the winners getting a surprise gift. We also came together for dua (prayer) at the end for the Christchurch victims. It was a great Harmony Day," Hina said.



To get involved...

If you'd like to throw a Harmony Day party next year, email hellofawkner@merrihealth.org.au or call 1300 637 744!



WHAT'S ON IN FAWKNER

Fawkner Food Bowls - Fawkner Food Swap

Fawkner Food Bowls, a community-run garden that operates out of the Fawkner Bowls Club, is now encouraging people to come along and swap their food for someone else's. It could be home-cooked or something from the veggie garden – it's simply a chance to try something different and fresh.

Every second Sunday of the month, the Food Swap takes place, with all family members, including pets, encouraged to attend this free event.

If you're stuck on what to bring, think leafy greens, seasonal fruits, herbs, seeds and seedlings, chutneys, jams and preserves, baked goods, or anything you've produced yourself!

For the remainder of the year Food Swap will take place on Sunday, 10 November and Sunday, 8 December, at 10:30am.

The Food Swap takes place at the Fawkner Food Bowls, at Fawkner Bowls Club, 2 Creedon Street, Fawkner.

Visit the event on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/394772744429927/>



Open Table

Join together with friends and family for a monthly Halal feast in Fawkner thanks to Open Table.

This monthly lunch aims to bring the community together for a free meal made from surplus food, reducing food waste as well as providing healthy food to those in need.

Open Table began four years ago as a small community dinner at the Brunswick Neighbourhood House. Today they run weekly lunches at seven different community spaces throughout Melbourne.

The success of Open Table is due to the efforts of its hard-working volunteers. The delicious meals offer an open and inclusive place for the community to connect.

Food has the ability to bring the community together, and the Open Table meals never fail to do so.

Guests are encouraged to bring their own food from the garden, as well as musical instruments, to accompany the community meal.

The lunches take place on the second Saturday of every month at the Fawkner Senior Citizens Centre, 77 Jukes Rd, Fawkner. The event is free and all ages are encouraged to attend.

For more information visit: <https://www.open-table.org/events>



2019 Fawkner Festa

The Fawkner Festa is back! Following the success of the 2018 festival, the Festa has returned to bring together the community to celebrate all that is Fawkner. A variety of entertainment ensures there is something for the whole family. Enjoy live music, participate in some art, take part in a workshop, or taste some delicious local food at the Festa.

The annual event aims to celebrate cultural diversity. The Festa is a great Sunday activity, with fun for the whole family at the inclusive event. It's a great opportunity to meet and get to know your community in the festive environment.

Last year, the council altered the format of the festival, changing up the layout and starting the event an hour earlier.

There was a full stage program and two community-engaged art projects that were launched in the lead-up.

This year audiences can expect a very similar format, with local food and drink, a stage program, workshop activities, demonstrations and interactive art.

The 2019 Festa will take place on Sunday, 10 November at the CB Smith Reserve, Jukes Road, Fawkner and as always, the event is free!



Photo Credit: Theresa Harrison Photography



Artwork by local designer Domenica Grasso

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Sign up for the monthly Hello, Fawkner! e-newsletter at
<https://merrihealth.org.au/hello-fawkner>

If you have a story that you would like
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hellofawkner@merrihealth.org.au

*Accurate at time of print