



## **YOUR NEWS**

**Issue 9 March 2019**

*Keeping You Connected to Mt Gravatt Community Centre and Your  
Neighbourhood*

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### **From Deb's Desk**

Dear MGCCI clients, members, volunteers and supporters

I hope you all had a wonderful end-of-year holiday and a great start to 2019.

Firstly I would like to apologise for the difficulty getting through on our phone system. We experienced an IT systems crash early this year which affected the phone lines. This has now been rectified. Unfortunately we are one Call Centre Operator down so we are unable to answer as many calls as usual. Other team members and volunteers are helping out answering the phones as much as possible as we do understand that waiting can be frustrating. Please be patient while we are training our new Call Centre Operator, Anna.

Many other exciting changes are happening at the Centre this year. Thanks to the funding received from Queensland Airport Corporation, the cold and freezer rooms have now been stabilised with a steel base. Once the rewiring work is complete, our chilled food storage capacity will increase significantly, allowing us to store more food for

those in need.

We have commenced our planning process for the *Social Isolation Project* with our partner organisations, the University of Queensland, the Department of Communities and the Queensland Community Alliance. Social isolation and loneliness has been strongly linked to poor health and quality of life, and it affects people of all ages in our community. By connecting people with their local community and to meaningful groups with shared interests, this is an exciting opportunity for our community to create stronger connections, support structures and partnerships.

Our social isolation project will be run by Wendy Blackmon, our new Community Link Worker. With a Bachelor of Human Services, Wendy has lived in the local area for over 20 years and brings to the role over 25 years work experience including positions based within Government, Not-for-Profit organisations and, more recently, Mount Gravatt Community Centre. Wendy's role will be to engage with members of the community who feel socially isolated and assist them to link up with meaningful group programs within the community, with an aim of increasing their sense of belonging and well-being.

In other news, I am very excited to report that our funding applications for the following projects were successful:

- Brisbane City Council – Community Development and Capacity Building Indigenous Women's Group
- Brisbane City Council – Black Diamond Community Culture Sharing Project
- Additional funding for Commonwealth Home Support Program Modifications

Our Food Relief Program is continuing with some changes this year. One emergency food relief parcel is available at no cost every six weeks. However, small fees of \$5 for a small hamper (singles/couples), \$10 for a medium hamper (up to four people), \$15 for a large hamper (4+ people) are now payable for additional emergency food relief parcels. Recipients are able to select items they would like included in their food parcels, e.g. bread and dairy products, depending on availability.

Our Emergency Relief Program (funded 2019-2023) has also commenced. We can now provide financial assistance to community members in need within our catchment area. Relief is provided on an appointment basis in the form of petrol vouchers, assistance with utility and pharmacy bills. We also discuss general finances with recipients to raise awareness of schemes and concessions available. These can help to reduce the need for emergency relief and promote financial well-being.

I would also like to welcome our new Maintenance and Modifications

Coordinator, Kate Magill, to the team. Kate has extensive experience in the aged care sector and is also a registered nurse (please see her introduction in Kate's Corner, below). She commenced in mid-January 2019 and is looking forward to assisting our clients with their maintenance and modifications needs.

Thanks to generous donations by community members, staff members and the Macgregor Lions Club, the Neighbourhood Centre was able to supply family members in need with back-to-school supplies to alleviate some of the financial stress associated with this time of year. Over 20 families received school supplies through this support.

On the staff training front, we received a very informative training session on dementia from Alzheimer's QLD and conducted in-house training on Wellness and Reablement in recent months. During February we held our bi-annual Professional Development afternoon, where there was a lot of useful training and discussion on current activities at the centre and future directions.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our 2018 Skilling Queenslanders for Work Group 1 graduates. We are very proud of all their hard work, and will continue to support those still seeking employment. I'm pleased to advise that we have employed one of the graduates to join our In Home Team. Welcome Ann!

Deb Crompton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mt Gravatt Community Centre

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# MOUNT GRAVATT COMMUNITY CENTRE UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH TO MAY



## MARCH

### 2nd to 10th March QUEENSLAND WOMENS WEEK

Join in recognising and celebrating the achievements of Queensland women and girls.

### 20th March | 10am to 11am ATO TAX AND SUPERANNUATION INFORMATION SESSION

Come along to MGCCI and learn more about the Australian tax and superannuation systems and ask any tax questions you have.

### 21st March | 11am to 12.30pm HARMONY DAY CELEBRATION AT MGCCI

Join the One Family Dreaming Indigenous Womens group as they share Indigenous cultures through food, art and entertainment and celebrate diversity in our community. All welcome.

### 27th March | 10.30am to 12pm CONVERSATIONS WITH PURPOSE - NEIGHBOURHOOD INITIATIVES

A monthly cross-cultural women's workshop. Bookings are essential.

### 27th March | 9.30am to 10.30am NEIGHBOUR DAY MORNING TEA

In lieu of Neighbour Day on the 31st of March, join us at the centre for a cuppa and to connect with our neighbours in the community. All welcome.

## APRIL

### 3rd to 14th April QUEENSLAND YOUTH WEEK

Join in an activity in the community to celebrate and recognise the achievements of our young people.

### 24th April | 10am to 12pm CONVERSATIONS WITH PURPOSE

A monthly cross-cultural women's workshop. Bookings are essential.

## MAY

### 11th May | 4pm to 6.30pm MOUNT GRAVATT COMMUNITY IFTAAR

Join us to share in the experience of Iftaar breaking of the daily fast as part of Ramadan. Learn about and celebrate the diversity that exists in our community. Bookings are essential.

### 22nd May | 10am to 11am VOLUNTEER WEEK MORNING TEA

National Volunteer Week celebration morning tea at MGCCI.

### 29th May | 10.30am to 12pm CONVERSATIONS WITH PURPOSE

A monthly cross-cultural women's workshop. Bookings are essential.

## LATER IN THE YEAR

### 28th June SKILLING QUEENSLANDERS FOR WORK GRADUATION CEREMONY

Celebrating the achievements of our Certificate III in Individual Support students.

### 20th to 22nd September PAINT PALS ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

Everyone is welcome to come along on the opening night of the art exhibition to view artwork by the Paint Pals Social Art Group, watch the judging and enjoy light refreshments.

### October WELLBEING FETE

Come along to the Wellbeing Fete at MGCCI to connect with other community members and find out about activities and groups are offered in the community.

### November MOUNT GRAVATT COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL EVENTS VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, DROP IN OR CONTACT US ON (07) 3343 9833



/MTGRAVATTCOMMUNITYCENTRE/

## Conversations With Purpose

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, SHARE AND SOCIALIZE WHILST  
DISCUSSING CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES

Join us for a  
Community morning tea  
& discussion about  
Neighbourhood Initiatives

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #00728f;">FREE EVENT WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #8b0000; font-size: 1.2em;">TO BOOK</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #8b0000;">CONTACT FARINA 0466227003 FARINA.MWAF@GMAIL.COM OR ELLEN 33439833 ELLEN@MGCCI.ORG.AU</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #8b0000; font-size: 1.5em;">WHEN</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #8b0000; font-size: 1.5em;">LAST</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; color: #8b0000;">WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, NEXT SESSION:</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #8b0000; font-size: 1.2em;">MARCH 27 FROM 9:30-12</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #8b0000; font-size: 1.2em;">WHERE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #8b0000;">MOUNT GRAVATT COMMUNITY CENTRE 1697 LOGAN ROAD, MOUNT GRAVATT</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #00728f;">Proudly supported by</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   <small>Dedicated to a better Brisbane</small> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">   <b>Mt Gravatt</b>  <small>COMMUNITY CENTRE</small> </div>
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Our next **Conversations With Purpose workshop** is coming up!

As always, there will be an opportunity to connect and share with other women and discuss the challenges and solutions in our community.

If you would like to attend, please book ahead as numbers are limited. Contact Farina on 0466 227 003 or [farina.mwaf@gmail.com](mailto:farina.mwaf@gmail.com) or Ellen on 3343 9833 or [ellen@mgcci.org.au](mailto:ellen@mgcci.org.au).

## Coming Soon: Matt's Chat

Here at Matt's Chat, our industrious Maintenance and Modifications Supervisor, Matt Campbell, shares handy household tips and tricks from the world of home maintenance.

**Handy household tip:** If you have a clogged drain and would like an



easy, cost-effective, and natural cleaning solution: try pouring a cup of bicarbonate soda down the drain. Let it sit for at least a few minutes. Next, pour a cup of white vinegar down. Flush with hot water. Hey presto, a clean drain! No nasty chemicals required.



Photo by [Daniel Fazio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**Changes to Smoke Alarm Legislation:** New smoke alarm legislation will make Queensland households the safest in Australia in relation to fire safety.

The new legislation specifies that all Queensland dwellings will be required to have interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms in all bedrooms, in hallways that connect bedrooms with the rest of the dwelling and on every level.

A 10-year phased rollout of interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms in Queensland will happen over three specific periods starting from 1 January 2017.

What does this mean for your home?

To comply with legislation, interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms are required:

- **From 1 January 2017:** in all new dwellings and substantially renovated dwellings (this applies to building applications submitted from 1 January 2017).
- **From 1 January 2022:** in all domestic dwellings leased and sold.
- **From 1 January 2027:** in all other domestic dwellings.

For more information on these changes, [visit the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' website](#).

(Smoke alarm article source: <https://www.qld.gov.au/about/newsroom/smoke-alarm-legislation>)

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## Congratulations to our Certificate III Graduates!



Congratulations to our hard-working 2018 Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduates for completing their Certificate III in Individual Support! We are very proud of you and wish you many happy years of employment in the aged care and disability support sector.

Our next Skilling Queenslanders for Work Certificate III in Individual Support starts soon. If you would like to gain employment in the aged care and disability sector

Thank you to Robyn Keenan and Amanda Corrin from Ace Community Colleges for your wonderful teaching and organising efforts. Thank you also to Corrine McMillan MP and to the Queensland Government for supporting the

program. The training was proudly funded and supported by the Queensland Government through its Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative.



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MOUNT GRAVATT COMMUNITY CENTRE INC

# TAX IN AUSTRALIA



## Free Information Session

Learn from the ATO about how the tax and superannuation systems work in Australia and ask any questions you have about tax

10am - 11am | 20th March 2019  
Mount Gravatt Community Centre - 1693 Logan Road, Mount Gravatt  
RSVP to [community@mgcci.org.au](mailto:community@mgcci.org.au) or 0424 128 096



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**Mt Gravatt Community Centre extends a warm welcome to Kate, our new Maintenance and Modifications Coordinator.**





**Name:** Kate Magill

**Role:** Maintenance and Modifications Coordinator

**How long have you been employed at MGCCI?** I have been working with MGCCI since mid-January 2019.

**What's your favourite food:** Thai food

**Your favourite hobby:** Walking, swimming, tennis, shopping, travelling, and entertaining my kids.

**Do you have a pet?** I have a cat called Eno. She is 17 years old.

**What do you like most about working at MGCCI?** The MGCCI team are wonderful people to work with. It's very much a team effort to get the work done. Always hearing people laugh, which creates a pleasant work environment.

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## Kate's Corner

Hi everyone

My name is Kate Magill and I am new to the Mt Gravatt area. I recently moved to Brisbane from Warrnambool, Victoria (an extremely cold and windy place).

I lived in Melbourne for the first 22 years of my life. I then lived in Toowoomba, QLD, for 3 years. From there I moved to Canberra for 2

years, and then back to Victoria where I lived in Bendigo for 13 years and Warrnambool for 5 years.

I have a son who has lived in Brisbane for 10 years. I visited him on numerous occasions. I decided that, after continually complaining about the cold Victorian weather, it was time to move to a warmer climate and live closer to my oldest son.

I have 4 children: Josh, 22, Tristan, 21, Alexandra, 13 and Nathaniel, 12.

I completed a Bachelor of Health Science, Nursing in 1994 and have predominately worked as a District Nurse out in the community for the last 17 years. I love working in the Community Health Sector, it is very rewarding to help people with their health concerns and assist them in staying safe in their home environment.

My most current previous role was working at the Port Fairy Community Health Centre as a Community Care Coordinator. I assisted people to connect to Community Health Services that would assist them with their health concerns through allied health, district nursing, safety in the home, respite care and carer support programs.

I have recently been appointed as the Maintenance and Modifications Coordinator at Mt Gravatt Community Centre. This role is vital in assisting people to receive home maintenance and modification services, helping them to remain living at home safely.

I look forward to supporting the community of Mt Gravatt and surrounding areas.

Regards,

Kate Magill

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Join the One Family Dreaming group this Harmony Day At Mount Gravatt Community Centre in celebrating diversity in our community. Everyone is welcome!

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**ONE FAMILY DREAMING**  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's group

invite you to  
Join in celebrating

**21 MARCH**  
**HARMONY DAY**

**FREE EVENT | 11AM - 12.30PM**

Mount Gravatt Community Centre  
Bernie's Place - 1697 Logan Road, Mount Gravatt  
Ph: 3343 9833

**GROWING OUR COMMUNITY**  
Add your cultural leaf to our family tree

Storytelling  
Traditional foods  
Activities for all

It's about  
inclusiveness, respect  
and a sense of  
belonging for everyone.

Proudly supported by:

Brisbane City  
Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Mt Gravatt  
COMMUNITY CENTRE INC.

## Contractor Spotlight

- **What is the name of your business?** L&G.M.Electrical
- **How long have you been in business?** In May I will have been in business for 12 years.
- **What type of work do you carry out?** Service, installation, domestic, industrial, commercial.
- **How many staff do you employ?** I employ myself. I like to keep it simple.
- **How long have you been associated with MGCCI?** I have been associated with MGCCI approx 9-10 years.
- **What was your first job?** My first job would have been sweeping up and labouring as an apprentice. For myself it would have been when I started subcontracting, and for MGCCI, probably a repair somewhere.
- **What was your first connection with the suburb?** My first connection would have been Garden City after emigrating, but

work-wise would have been MGCCI through a friend and also my bookkeeper lived in Mt Gravatt.

- **What is your favourite place/restaurant associated with Mt Gravatt or the surrounding suburbs?** My favourite place or restaurant would be the Surf Shack, I think, in Garden City, or the Irish bar that used to be there.



Lee Merrick from LGM Electrical.

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## MGCCI Staff Development Afternoon



MGCCI staff members. Above: Deb, Ellen, and Caroline. Right: Wendy, Darlene and Bessie.

We had a Professional Development afternoon on Thursday, February 14th at Bernie's Place to discuss what we have achieved as an organisation in the past 6 months and the future direction of the industry. We shared our ideas, suggestions for improvement and future growth such as youth programs and offering more services at the Community Centre. We also discussed the budget, organisational values and conducted human resources training for team leaders. The afternoon concluded with key motivational speaker, Emma Baker.





The MGCCI team. From left to right: Janene, Malcolm, Ellen, Wendy, Kate, Jasmin, Anita, Darlene, Bessie, May, Sarah, Matt, Deb, Tom, Caroline, Deanne, and Jennifer.