



HOUSE PROUD

Connecting Community

Issue Date: 6 July 2020

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When Roy and Gillian Johnston retired, they bought a property on the Port Rd now known as Harvester Moon. Back then, about twenty-two years ago, they raised alpacas. I remember being amused at the sign 'PACA POO' above the bags for sale outside their home. Six years later they set up house in Portarlington itself and since then have involved themselves in many community activities.



Both artists, Gillian attends a local painting group and Roy has recently become a member of Geelong Sculptors where he exhibits his quirky wire and wood sculptures. Gillian attends a French Conversation class at PNH while Roy pursues his interest in writing. He has self-published a booklet of poems written about his time serving in Vietnam and currently has a novel in search of a mainstream publisher. Roy recently became a member of the PNH Committee.

Both Roy and Gillian are keen gardeners and have participated in the 'Portarlington Art and Garden Trail' over many years, having locals and more distant visitors wander through their beautiful native garden and view their various artworks.

Our Neighbourhood House is an organisation where **volunteers have the opportunity to share their skills for the enjoyment and benefit of others.** As a lab technician in a past life, Roy developed a wide range of skills which enable him to fix mechanical objects, appliances and furniture. He, and his two equally talented assistants, will take apart and analyse objects brought to the '**Repair Café**' in the Park View Room at the Neighbourhood House on the second Saturday of the month from 10am until midday.



Of course, not everything is fixable, but they'll solve most problems. My piano keyboard had died and I was about to ditch it before someone suggested the Repair Café. A tiny fuse was replaced and away I happily went. Someone else needed help assembling a 'flat-pack', the instructions for which were written in a foreign language. A toaster was given a new lease of life after an offending raisin was removed from the element...and all for \$2.50!



The **Repair Café** will be back operating in accordance with council Covid regulations so keep an eye open for the Neighbourhood House updates. At this point in time the Repair Cafe will open for business on the 2nd Saturday of August and Roy and his team will be ready to try and solve your mechanical problems. Updates are being sent out regularly. Stay informed, stay safe and stay well. We hope to see you soon.

Jenny Macaulay
6 July 2020