“Our Community Centre”

Kaye Coram

Balla- Balla Resting Place in Koori

I first heard of Balla-Balla when the Mobile Blood Bank Service moved there from the Community Hall on Sth Gippsland Highway. I can recall asking all and sundry “where’s Balla- Balla”, only to have most locals shrugging their shoulders. One night at our weekly Ten-Pin Bowling session, I again asked where it was and miracle of miracles, someone directed me to “around the corner” and my small relationship with this wonderful Community Centre began.

After donating blood one day I was headed home when the Balla- Balla program caught my eye, arranged in a neat pile on the office counter, so I took one home to read.

I was amazed at the many interesting courses on offer and, immediately joined “Anthea’s Writing Group” as I just love writing and wanted to learn more about the subject.

From meeting the lovely ladies who made up (and still do) the group, I have learnt so much and look forward to the twice monthly sessions. All age group attend, as well as some different nationalities too, so I get to hear of many very interesting lifestyles and stories.

I also volunteered in the office for awhile, but found in Banjo Patterson’s immortal words from the poem “Clancy of the Overflow” that I “did not suit the office”. So Anthea our writing class mentor took me under her wing and I helped on a few “Morning Melodies” sessions along with Beryl and a few others. I’m sad to that my hip gave out, so until my operation I have put all this on the back burner, after which, no doubt I will be eager to participate again. It’s lovely to give!

What Balla-Balla means to me is Friendship, Kindness, Education and most of all; it has brought me, a once very shy person, well and truly out of my shell!

Thank you Balla- Balla