

# Seniors Month at Melton Libraries October 2023



*Growth, Warren Langley, 2013*

Range of programs offered across the municipality. Highlights at our libraries:

**Seeking Advice** – delivered by Seniors Rights Victoria, a series addressing planning ahead, support services, money and aging.

**Tech & Tea** – demonstration of available tech courses through LinkedIn Learning

**Intergenerational STEM** – creative tech activities for seniors to do with younger generations

**VR History** – Captivating history programs viewed through VR sets

**Pearls of Wisdom** – Collecting oral stories



# Seeking Advice Series


## FOR SENIORS

Facilitated by Seniors Rights Victoria  
Seniors Rights Victoria | Home  
Community education includes:

- Protecting your Rights  
Planning Ahead  
Money, Ageing and Family

**FOR CARERS** or anyone in professional  
contact with Seniors

- Elder Abuse Response Kit – to  
improve worker confidence in supporting  
older people at risk of elder abuse –  
these will be offered next year in  
collaboration with the Seniors group.



**SEEKING ADVICE  
INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Join us for an information series delivered by Seniors Rights Victoria.  
Understand your rights and build your capacity through increased  
knowledge and support.

**MONEY, AGEING, FAMILY AND PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS**  
MONDAY 9 OCTOBER | 10AM TO 12PM | MELTON LIBRARY

**PLANNING AHEAD**  
MONDAY 30 OCTOBER | 10AM TO 12PM | CAROLINE SPRINGS LIBRARY

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## TECH & TEA INFORMATION SESSIONS

Did you know the Melton City Libraries has free e-Resources for you to access at any time? The Library may close at the end of the day, but our digital collection is always open!

This Seniors Festival, come along to your local library and we'll give you all the tools you need to access our online collections, and a free morning tea to top it off.

We have information sessions on LinkedIn Learning, eBooks and eAudiobooks, Kanopy Movies and Freegal Music, and Universal Class and Mango Languages. Scan the QR Code or visit our website for session times and to book.

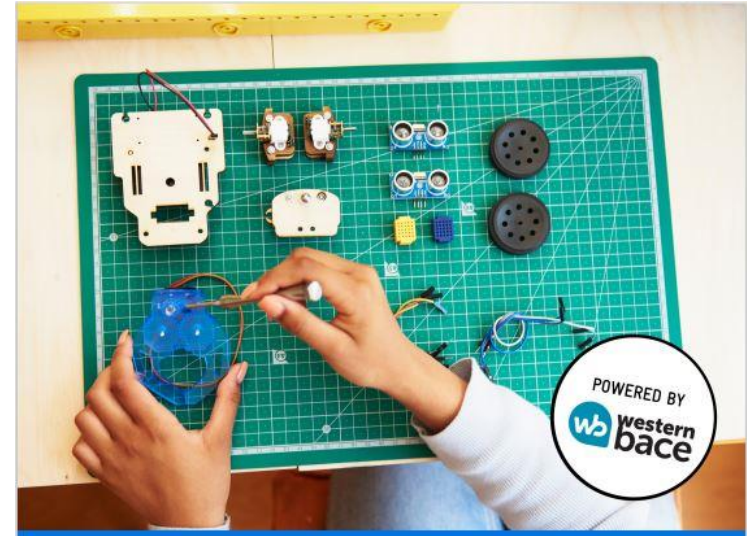
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## INTERGENERATIONAL STEM

Learn something new this Seniors Festival with fun, experimental and creative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) challenges!

Our friends at Western BACE are bringing STEM to your local library, allowing youth, parents, grandparents and caregivers the opportunity to learn together and participate in hands-on tech activities.

HOURLY SESSIONS FROM 10AM TO 3PM  
TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER | MELTON LIBRARY  
TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER | CAROLINE SPRINGS LIBRARY  
SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER | CAROLINE SPRINGS LIBRARY

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## Pearls of Wisdom (pilot project - current)

Objectives:

“Elder not Older”

“It is never too late”

Opportunity to share lessons learnt

Promote positive ageing, storytelling and connection





- Recruit senior community members directly, approaching existing patrons attending other activities
- Video or sound-only options
- Set up in a comfortable and quiet corner so that it does not feel technologically threatening – conversation style/ casual
- Questions/prompts –
  - can you think of something that you would like younger people to understand?
  - is there something you know now that you wish you had learnt a lot earlier?
  - what are some items on your learning bucket list?
  - what advice would you give your 20-year-old self?

# Learnings so far...

- Most patrons choose sound recording only, and some just wanted a written note to capture their story, rather than any form of recording – fear of tech/ misuse of information etc.
- The prompts have developed to promote a positive response – easy for the conversation to be about negatives
- Conversations develop with more depth if they are in a group, rather than responding to open-ended questions individually
- *Common themes:*
  - if we are lucky, we will all grow old, but you feel the same age always (35-40)
  - desire to have more intergenerational activities
  - general negative experience of formal education
  - the value we (as program planners) place on “having a voice” or “being visible” is not a shared objective – most did not feel that being seen as important
- *Total interviews so far: 32 /total consent for public view: 1*

# Challenges ahead

- Archiving and access plan
- How to make this a regular program in the form of a podcast or other forms
- Training of senior community members to use our podcasting and recording equipment
- Inclusion of CALD community
  
- More information –
- [www.melton.vic.gov.au/Libraries](http://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Libraries)
- [www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au](http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au)
- [https://youtu.be/DoVVn5ryq-g?si=lwFd50\\_xJF85673H](https://youtu.be/DoVVn5ryq-g?si=lwFd50_xJF85673H)