



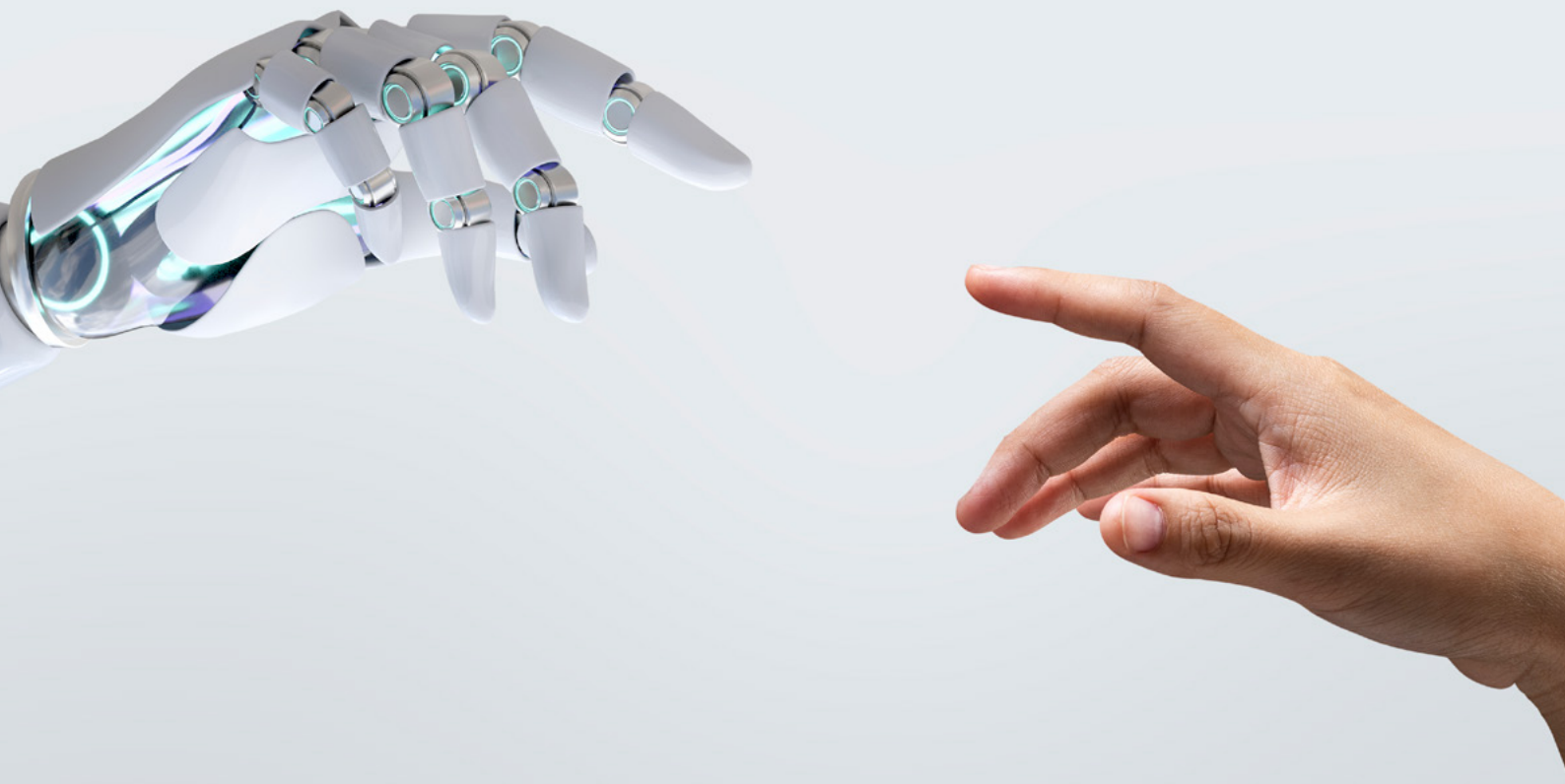
PENINSULA VOICE

# News

**Welcome to the  
Peninsula Voice  
Newsletter.**

**Learning • Conversation • Engagement**

Peninsula Voice works to help build a more resilient community on the Mornington Peninsula. We shine a light on the issues that impact us, bring together experts to share evidence, knowledge and lived experiences, and we support conversations that promote positive, community-led solutions.



## Artificial Intelligence - its here to stay

As the cool winter sets-in we naturally spend more time inside compared to when the weather is warmer.

That in turn suggests we might pay more attention to what we see in the various forms of media... newspapers, TV, social media etc.

It would be hard not to see/hear the daily references to AI and all that surrounds what is possibly becoming one of society's most contentious issues.

As with a lot of things these days we use an acronym to describe Artificial Intelligence or more commonly AI.

What is it...is it good for us...should we be concerned as to what it means for the future?

AI is likely to have significant and wide-ranging effects on communities, in the coming years. These effects will vary depending on how AI is developed, deployed, and regulated.

AI has the potential to greatly benefit communities—by improving services, access to education and healthcare, and economic opportunity.

But it also poses serious challenges, including job displacement, bias, and inequality. The future impact of AI will depend heavily on public policy, ethical design, and how equitably its benefits are distributed.

AI can and will have a transformative impact on local or semi-regional communities—such as small towns, rural areas, or loosely connected regional hubs. These communities including the Mornington Peninsula often have different needs and constraints compared to major cities or global centres, so AI's effects will be uniquely shaped by local contexts.

**In Summary:** The reality is that AI is not going to go away. It is on an exponential curve at an increasing rate of development.

We can be justifiably concerned that it may get out of hand, however we ignore it at our peril.

The challenge is to embrace the good aspects of AI and make it work for the community and to be discerning about what is not suitable and be able to recognise the difference.

AI will become a focus in future Peninsula Voice Newsletters with regular updates.



## It's here!

Share Victoria's State of Volunteering Report 2025, providing the latest insights into volunteering across the state.

As the state peak body for volunteering, Volunteering Victoria is committed to helping our members and stakeholders understand the changing landscape.

Understanding who volunteers – and who doesn't – is critical for shaping policies and practices that promote inclusive, sustainable volunteer engagement.

Volunteering is transforming. The report offers a clearer picture of how, where, and why Victorians volunteer – and what must change to support them into the future.

Read more [here](#).

### Key findings:

- **3.3 million Victorians volunteer in their community.**
- This represents **58.9%** of the Victorian population aged 15+ years.
- Collectively, Victorian volunteers contribute **over 732 million hours.**
- **69.4% of young Victorians** (15-24 years old) volunteer; the highest rate of any age group.



## Doorways

How often do we set our sights on some future moment, believing that when we reach it, we'll have "arrived"? That promotion, that relationship milestone, that achievement—we imagine them as finish lines.

Yet life consistently reveals a new path.

An education opens access to applying knowledge in new contexts. A new job serves as a threshold to new responsibilities. A relationship becomes an entrance to a deeper understanding of yourself and others.

Even death—the most final-seeming threshold—is viewed in many wisdom traditions not as an ultimate destination but as a passage to something beyond.

**When we embrace this "doorway" mindset, everything shifts...**

We hold achievements more lightly, seeing them as passages rather than endpoints.

We measure success not by destinations reached, but by doorways bravely entered.

**What door are you preparing to walk through next? True wisdom lies in recognising each achievement as simply the next beautiful doorway on our journey.**

## Positively Uplifting Story

There was a man taking a morning walk at or the beach. He saw that along with the morning tide came hundreds of starfish and when the tide receded, they were left behind and with the morning sun rays, they would die. The tide was fresh and the starfish were alive. The man took a few steps, picked one and threw it into the water. He did that repeatedly.

Right behind him, there was another person who couldn't understand what this man was doing. He caught up with him and asked, "What are you doing? There are hundreds of starfish. How many can you help? What difference does it make?" This man did not reply, took two more steps, picked up another one, threw it into the water, and said, "It makes a difference to this one."

What difference are we making? Big or small, it does not matter. If everyone made a small difference, we'd end up with a big difference, wouldn't we?

**Moral of the Story:** It's the little things that make a huge impact in our lives. Sometimes we ignore the small things that are already in front of us because we lose sight of what is important. A small act of kindness, actions that seem insignificant for most people could mean the world to another person!



## The wisdom in aging

A recent article about Pope Francis' final reflections a few months before his passing reveals his thoughts on aging.

He wrote:

"It is true, one becomes old, but this is not the problem: the problem is how one becomes old," he wrote. "If we live this time of life as a grace, and not with resentment; if we accept the time (even a long one) in which we experience diminished strength, the increasing fatigue of the body, the reflexes no longer what they were in our youth — with a sense of gratitude and thankfulness — well then, old age too becomes an age of life which...is truly fruitful and capable of radiating goodness."

### Instead of embracing each stage with curiosity?

He went on to share: "Because to say 'old' does not mean 'to be discarded.' Saying 'old' instead means saying experience, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, thoughtfulness, listening, slowness."

There's wisdom in viewing each phase of life not as better or worse than another, but as offering its own unique gifts. The vibrancy and exploration of youth. The focus and ambition of middle years. The perspective and discernment that come with age.

So, "What am I becoming more of as I age?"

Wisdom, patience, discernment — these aren't consolation prizes for lost youth. They're the very qualities our world desperately needs more of right now.

**Maybe our aging isn't just a personal journey but a gift we're preparing to offer others?**

## Try the ABC's most popular winter recipes

Read more [here](#).





## An Encouraging Recycling Initiative

Simply Cups has collected 50 million paper cups across Australia and New Zealand, diverting them from landfill through its recycling initiative.

The program, run by Closed Loop Environmental Solutions, gathers cups from over 1500 collection points, including coffee, soft drink, ice-cream, frozen yoghurt, and Slurpee paper cups.

Simply Cups has created the capacity to collect, process, and recycle more volumes of paper cups.

The program boasts more than 690 public collection locations, with 7-Eleven Australia as a pioneering partner. These collection points are found in schools, universities, shopping centres, office buildings, construction sites, and major events.

### **Community participation has been key to the program's success.**

The system works when the community knows they can recycle their paper cups separately by either collecting cups at home and dropping them off at a collection location or ensuring they return the cups daily at one of the collection sites.

Schools have played an active role incorporating Simply Cups into sustainability education. Simply Cups is a valuable resource for school to educate students and the wider community about sustainability and to foster lifelong learning.



## Morningsons latest game changer!

The new Civic Reserve Pavilion marks a significant milestone for three local clubs - it's the first time they have a facility to call home!

Read more [here](#).



## Libraries...not just for books

Did you know your local library provides lots of free services for young people?

Most libraries run regular, free groups for young people, and school holiday activities. Some activities include Lego builders, craft groups, Minecraft club and support with technology.

Your free library membership also entitles you to access free magazine subscriptions, online newspapers, music streaming, and audiobooks. There is also a huge library of free movies.

If you take your device into your local library, your friendly librarian will be able to set this access up for you.

Register [here](#).

## Mornington Community & Support Centre - Pantry Call Out

Every week we're taking care of more and more people in our community - and our cupboards could do with a top up...

We're short on the following non-perishables for our pantry and our cafe, anything you can donate would be gratefully received.

**Dropoff to the Centre, 320 Main Street Mornington during weekday hours: 9.30am-4.00pm.**



### Café List

- Hot Chocolate
- Marshmallows
- Serviettes
- Coconut cream
- Tins white beans
- Passata
- Tin chick peas
- Vegeta stock powder
- Cheese
- Butter
- Ham
- Salt + Pepper



SUPPORT CENTRE

### Pantry List

- UHT milk (full cream)
- Muesli bars
- Sweet biscuits
- Dry biscuits
- Peanut butter
- Vegemite
- Coffee + Tea
- Tinned tuna
- Instant noodles
- Laundry liquid
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Deodorant

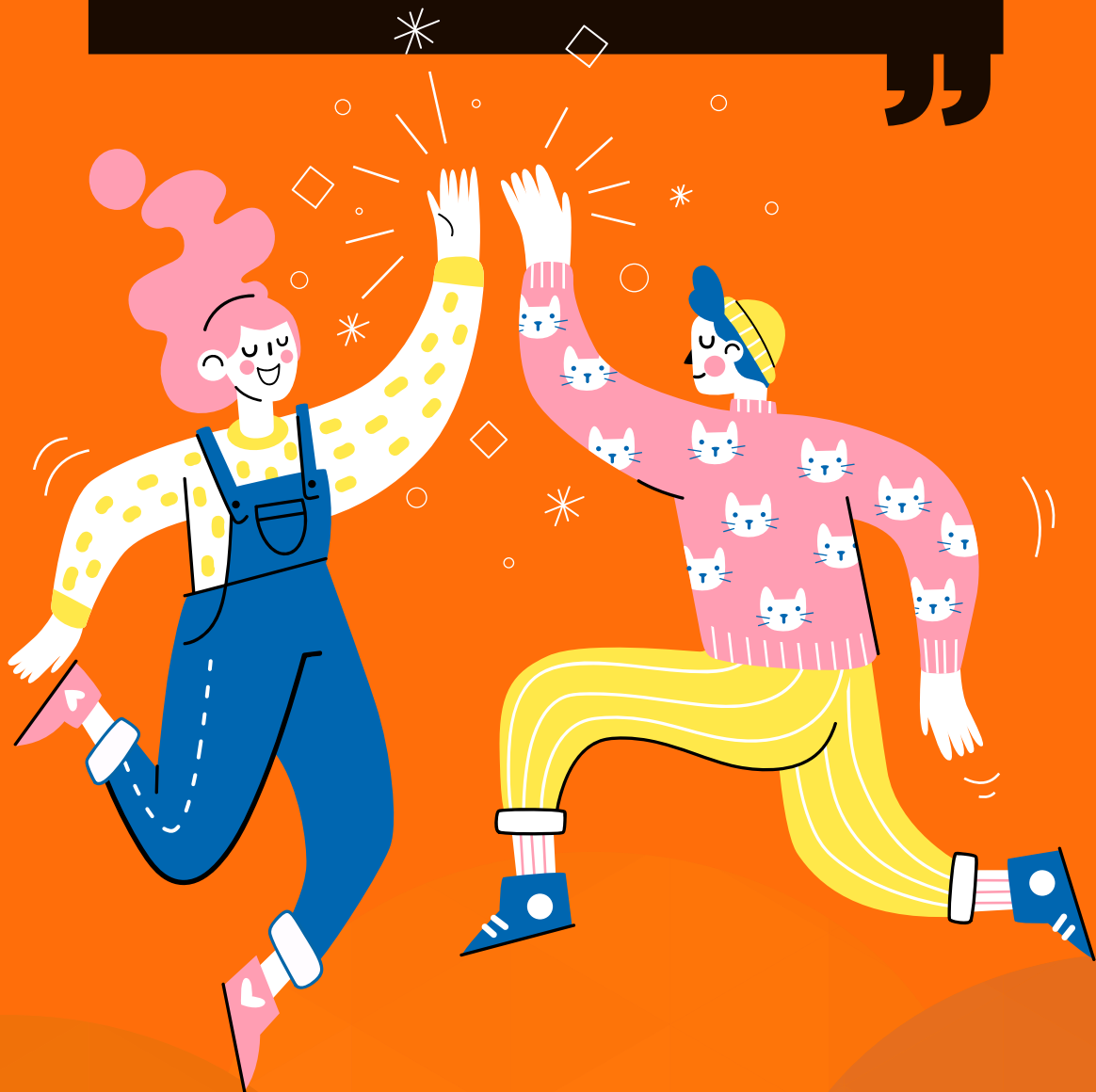


“

As we lose ourselves in the  
service of others we discover  
our own lives and our own  
happiness.

– *Dieter F. Uchtdorf*

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