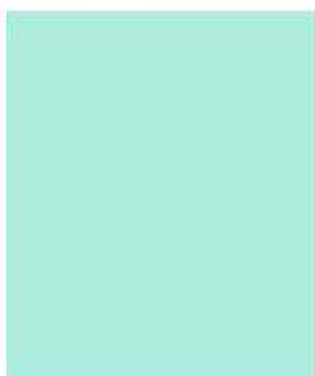




Central Highlands Association
of Neighbourhood Houses

Annual Report 2018-2019



Acknowledgements

Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses would like to acknowledge and thank our membership neighbourhood houses, including their committees of management, staff, volunteers and coordinators for their ongoing commitment to our organisation.

Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses would also like to acknowledge the support and advocacy of our peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, for their dedication to our sector.

Finally, Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses acknowledges the contribution and commitment of the Department of Health and Human Services in funding both our network and membership houses, and the support provided by our local liaison officers.

About Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses

Our Vision:

A strong, collaborative
Neighbourhood House
Network

Our Mission:

To support the
sustainability,
development and
growth of our
members.

OUR GOALS:

Governance and Management

We will facilitate quality governance and management by providing advocacy, advice and assistance.

Advice and Support on Service Development

We will be strong and responsive community development organisations.

Professional Development and Resources

We will be agile, responsive and skilled by engaging in learning.

Capacity Building and Linkages

We will actively engage with each other and community organisations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2018-2019

Helen Powers, Bacchus March Community College

Lyn Plummer, Ballan and District Community House

Vicki Coltman, Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

██████████, Ballarat North Neighbourhood House

Pauline Ball, Beaufort Community House and Learning Centre

Lana De Kort, Clunes Neighbourhood House

Kim Gilliott, Creswick Neighbourhood Centre

Renae Knight, Darley Neighbourhood Centre

Danny Liversidge, Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre

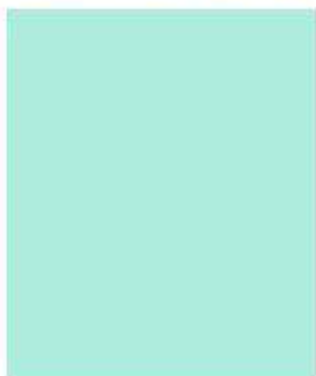
Joan Coker, Haddon Community Learning Centre

Pam Ridd, Meredith Community House

Tania Sawyer, Trentham Neighbourhood Centre

Manya Ferwerda, Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre

*** Name redacted by request, Sept 2026



Our Performance





PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another year has passed us by and I'm very proud of all of us and the work, learning, support and growing we have achieved as a network. There's quite a bit to celebrate.

Led by the Network's Strategic Plan and under the guidance of our capable Networker, Jane, we continued to work toward our strategic aims and through the network were able to provide governance and management support, the development of shared resources, opportunities for houses to engage in professional development, and we began the work of our major project for the year, 'implementing a relevant and accessible marketing and branding strategy'.

I'd like to thank all managers and their houses for their time and contribution to the network over the past twelve months, for their attendance, contributions at meetings, hosting of meetings and events, and for inviting more involvement from their wider house community.

There remains work yet to be done but in a climate where we strive for continuous improvement, enough of this mammoth task is now operational and we can look forward to exciting new projects and the further implementation of our strategic goals.

We begin our new year with benchmark standard policies and resources – available for us all to access via our Dropbox or, in the case of Committees of Management, the Governance Materials Pack found on our website.

We took on your feedback and now schedule meetings in more accessible locations where possible, always a challenge given the spread of our organisations across the Central Highlands region.

We reached toward whole house sustainability and to achieve greater inclusion by inviting staff members, volunteers and committee of management members to join us at network events and professional development opportunities, we kept house committees up to date with network happenings through the 'Committee Corner' newsletter.

You're never on your own when you're part of a network and our network has supported us to respond and stay up to date with changes in our sector, including great information and support provided to us by Cameron from Neighbourhood Houses Victoria who helped us prepare for changes in the way we report to the Australian Tax Office, Portable Long Service Leave and Peppercorn Rents. Our network has kept us abreast of changes such as upcoming information sessions to inform changes to DHHS funding guidelines.

We are excited to welcome a new member to our fold – Danny Liversidge, Acting Manager at Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre, and Kate Owens from the newly funded and incorporated Ballarat East Neighbourhood House. Danny joins us from a corporate background, bringing business acumen and drive, whilst Kate brings much experience in the community sector. It is lovely to have both these skilled and enthusiastic people and a brand new house become part of

our network. With the funding of our new house also came an increase in our funding from the Andrews Labor Government and DHHS, after many years of advocacy from our State Peak Body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, houses on a contract of 20 hours of funding were increased to 25 hours of funding bringing much gratitude and relief for three houses in our region, as well as a boost of support to our network, benefitting everyone.

I thank our Executive Team members and acknowledge the contribution they make not just in the extra time and travel but for their care and concern for the good governance of the network and the dedication they have brought to all the tasks they've carried out over the period.

The Executive Team met throughout the year to plan, draft and review documentation and processes to ensure that meetings ran smoothly and much of the strategic work was prepared and ready for consultation with the membership. The Executive oversaw matters relating to the employment of our Networker, and the contracting of our Bookkeeper Sharni Hutchison. We worked on the draft budget, worked to resolve issues with the ATO, and undertook a range of administrative tasks. The hours and dedication given to these roles are not reflected in the remuneration and are generous contributions made by individuals to support the work we all do.

As we look back on the period 2018-19 I'd like to thank our Networker Jane Grimwood for her hard work, dedication and commitment to the sector, the houses, the committees and most of all to the managers. Jane is always available to offer support and advice in the form of relevant information and brings to her role a level of skill, professionalism and compassion that far exceeds my expectations.

To our Department of Health and Human Service representatives – to Samantha Redding who we really enjoyed working with and most of all to our longstanding DHHS Rep - Suzannah Burton, who after many years of being with us in the neighbourhood house portfolio is taking a new role as the Executive Officer of the Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership from 12th September. We send her off with our every best wish in her role. Thank you Suzannah for your expertise, time, and care, as I said in my email we will miss your smiling face and hope you come back to visit us. We look forward to working with Karen Monument who in a previous life was a neighbourhood house manager so brings with her not only years of experience working for the department but firsthand experience in our sector.

Kim Gilliott
President



NETWORKERS REPORT

When we commence a transformation it is impossible to predict the results of where our efforts will lead us. We can strategise, set SMART goals, create plans and objectives 'til the cows come home, but the magic of change is wholeheartedly investing in the process, knowing the end will not fully become clear until it has arrived.

As CHANH emerges from the chrysalis of 2018-2019 we find ourselves a new organisation we did not anticipate before we began this journey. We have a new name, a new brand and style, but deeper than this we have shifted the awareness of our responsibilities- we have begun to reach further, be more inclusive, recognise how our role as leaders in our organisations and our sector requires our investment in the people around us, now and for the future.

Our year began with forming a connection with Retro Marketing and Events, to deliver our planned Marketing Strategy, rebranding our organisation and developing marketing materials for our region. I ran a vigorous tender process to find the best fit for our organisation, and Retro stood out for their commitment to the not-for-profit sector and willingness to go the extra mile. Working with Emma and Jarrod from Retro has been an absolute pleasure- the passion they have brought to the project has been outstanding. We identified the opportunity to re-name our organisation at the marketing consultation held in August, followed by intense discussion and Special Resolution at our October meeting. I registered the name change shortly after, and by November we had a new name, a gorgeous new logo and a corporate style guide for our organisation.

Alongside the excitement of our marketing project, I committed to developing informational resources for each of the thirteen houses in our network- the 2018 House Data Sheets brought together information from the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census, the 2017 Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Census and the 2018 Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Survey in a simple one-page document highlighting the demographics of each of our communities and the role of our houses within them. Originally intended to support committees of management, the Houses Data Sheets were a hit, and were included by houses in grant applications, presentations to stakeholders and circulated to the public.

Another significant shift has been the recognition of how much we have to learn from each other. I conducted evaluation of the previous year and recommended changes to our professional development approach, including the instigation of Open House Tours, the opportunity to recognise the expertise we have in one another. Visiting each other's houses, we have been inspired, surprised and at times challenged by the diverse approaches, projects and practice we use to create amazing outcomes in our communities. The Open House Tours- to Ballan and

Darley Houses in November 2018 and Wendouree and Clunes houses in March 2019- have been a real success, building relationships and encouraging and enabling great community development practice.

The evaluation also highlighted the need for readily available governance resources. In early 2019 I created the CHANH Governance Materials Pack- 12 neighbourhood houses specific templates and guides for our committees to adopt and adapt to support efficient and effective governance in their organisations. The Pack was reviewed by a CHANH subcommittee and my fellow networkers, with the final materials now in use across the state.

Governance support has also been provided one-on-one in houses, in the past 12 months I have delivered presentations on governance to neighbourhood house committees in Daylesford, Beaufort and Trentham, provided support to Beaufort Community House and Learning Centre in their campaign to Pyrenees Shire Council, and facilitating the development of the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre Strategic Plan. I have also circulated six editions of Committee Corner, our newsletter experiment, providing key information on governance, community development, neighbourhood houses and our network straight to committee members across the region.

In April we commenced filming for our Marketing Strategy. Emma and Jarrod from Retro visited each of our houses to capture stories from the people in our communities, creating films and still images to support our brand across the region. This project has been remarkable, the stories shared reflect the soul of neighbourhood houses and the valuable role we play in people's lives- we look forward to launching these and the spin of documentary next year.

Finally, I want to make note of the wonderful people who have made contribution to our network this year. Each of the managers of our houses have continued to provide inspiration and encouragement to me personally, as well as to each other in the spirit of real collegiality and collaboration. At Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre we have said goodbye to Claire McKenna and welcomed Danny Liversidge in the Acting Manager role. We welcomed Kate Owen to the fold as the manager of the newly funded Ballarat East Neighbourhood House. And I could go no further without recognising the tremendous contribution of the CHANH Executive Team, Helen Powers (Secretary), Manya Ferwerda (Treasurer), Vicki Coltman (Vice President) and Kim Gilliott (President), in driving and guiding the business of this network for the past 12 months.

As always we have benefited from the constant support of our DHHS Community Wellbeing Team, particularly Susannah Burton and Sam Redding, without whose assistance we could not have created our impassioned in-house training on the Funded Agency Channel in late 2018. I want to recognise Marianne Hendron and Deb Harris from Women's Health Grampians, who spoke to us about CORE – Communities of Respect and Equality- in February, and have brought enthusiasm and creativity to our membership of this incredible regional program. I also want to thank the team at Neighbourhood Houses Victoria for their wonderful dedication and support, particularly to Cameron McCrea for his presentation on changes in financial legislation and regulation at our meeting in May.

Finally, I am excited for the year ahead, as we forge forward with a new identity, stronger connections into our member organisations and community stakeholders, and a new horizon full of potential. As we plan and look to the future it is exciting to know that we can't predict where we may be when we get there.

Jane Grimwood
Networker



**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

Submission of Financial Statement to General Meeting

– Incorporated Associations

Associations Reform Act 2012

Sections 94(3), 97(3) and 100(3)

I _____, being a member of the committee of the Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses hereby certify that I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses held on Thursday the 22nd of August, 2019 and the financial statements of the Association for the financial year ending June 30th, 2019 were submitted to the members of the Association at that general meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Balance Sheet

As of June 2019

ABN: 96 376 374 241

Email: wncmanager@ncable.net.au

Assets		
Bendigo Bank Account	\$31,875.07	
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	\$43,433.90	
Trade Debtors	\$1,204.99	
Equipment	\$1,252.05	
Total Assets		\$77,766.01
Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$68.99	
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$1,611.79	
GST Paid	(\$504.75)	
Total GST Liabilities		\$1,107.04
Superannuation Liability	(\$14.49)	
PAYG withheld	\$1,790.00	
Total Liabilities		\$2,951.54
Net Assets		\$74,814.47
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$84,017.81	
Current Earnings	(\$9,203.34)	
Total Equity		\$74,814.47

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Profit & Loss Statement

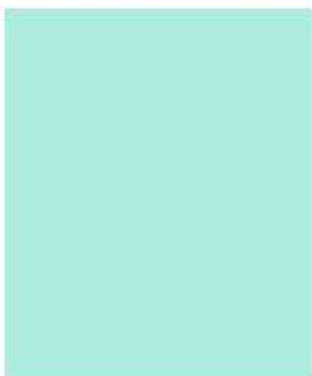
July 2018 To June 2019

ABN: 96 376 374 241

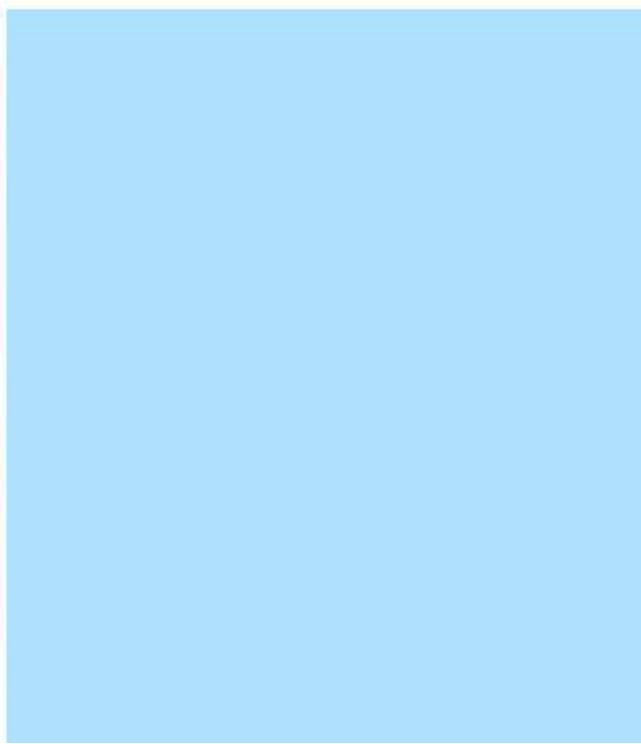
Email: wncmanager@ncable.net.au

Income		
DHHS Funded Networker		\$57,079.66
Bank interest		\$1,223.95
Other Income		\$2,555.79
Total Income		\$60,859.40
Gross Profit		\$60,859.40
Expenses		
Accounting & Bookkeeping		\$1,613.00
Advertising & Promotion		\$11,500.00
Assests < \$5,000		
Office Equipment	\$717.27	
Bank Charges		\$9.20
Executive Allowances		\$1,409.10
Member Support Services		
Catering Expenses	\$1,878.26	
Member Conference Subsidy	\$2,500.01	
Member Professional Dev	\$1,723.75	
Networker Conferences	\$1,090.91	
Computer Expenses		
Computer Expenses	\$60.48	
Meeting Expenses		
Meeting expenses	\$330.00	
Memberships - Affiliations		\$1,156.98
Salaries & Wages		
Networker Recruitment expenses	\$189.90	
Networker Superannuation	\$3,594.16	
Networker Wages	\$38,202.29	
Telephone		\$555.46
Networker PD & Training		\$816.00
Travel & Accommodation		
Networker Travel	\$2,715.97	
Total Expenses		\$70,062.74
Operating Profit		(\$9,203.34)
Net Profit/(Loss)		(\$9,203.34)

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.



Our Members





**BACCHUS MARSH
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 25 hours

Major Programs: ACFE, RTO, Men's Shed

Our year in review:

Bacchus Marsh Community College has had another very successful year and continues to provide quality training and support services to community members of the Bacchus Marsh community as well as providing Nationally Recognised Training further afield. Throughout my career I have championed the Neighbourhood House and Community Education sector but realise there is a definite need to develop partnerships with TAFE and other organisations. I was honoured to be awarded a VET International Practitioner Fellowship and am looking forward to bringing back innovative ideas and practices, that can be implemented into our sectors. The fellowship will also look at gaining valuable information in relation to access and foundation courses that can assist early school leavers and vulnerable learners pathway from community based organisations, Neighbourhood Houses and Learn Locals, to further education and ultimately into meaningful work.

Our key achievements:

1. Partnership with the Australian College of Higher Education – Bacchus Marsh Community College (BMCC) established a partnership with the Australian College of Higher Education to deliver an alternative educational program to early school leavers and disadvantaged vulnerable learners. Women's Wellness Day – BMCC sponsored, organised and conducted a very successful Women's Wellness Day at the Bacchus Marsh Football Clubrooms. Over 120 ladies from the Bacchus Marsh Community attended.
2. BMCC Sustainability
 - a. Loan Repayment – BMCC has been able to make a significant if not huge payment against the loan on the buildings, due to the very successful year experienced.
 - b. Renovations and refurbishment – BMCC has continued to upgrade the buildings with the VCAL building being extensively renovated.

Our thanks to:

- Dept. of Health and Human Services (Neighbourhood House Coordination Program)
- Skills First – Department of Education and Training ACFE – Adult Community and Further Education
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Bacchus Marsh Community Bank (Bendigo Bank)
- BMCC staff and Board Members



**BALLAN AND
DISTRICT
COMMUNITY
HOUSE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 25 hours

Major Programs: ACFE

Our year in review:

The launch of the Lesley Batchelor Gallery was a highlight of the year with a big crowd in attendance and the sale of works brisk. The Mayor of Moorabool unveiled the plaque in dedication of Lesley Batchelor, one of the House's Volunteers who taught painting here for 15 years. Lesley's daughter Mrs. Sue Giddins was Guest of Honour. The House thanked the Moorabool Shire and the Bendigo Bank for their generous sponsorship of this important community facility.

Upgrades for the lighting and power systems for the building were made possible by grants from Hepburn Wind. Twenty-four solar panels have been installed on the Community House end of the building, resulting in a 45% reduction in our power consumption over a 6 month period. We have also installed seventy-five new LED lighting units in the building, resulting in far brighter lighting and ambience and a vastly reduced running cost. Only another 150 units left to replace throughout the building.

Our key achievements:

1. Establishment of the Structure and Policies & Procedures in order for the Ballan Film Society to be accepted into the Federation of Victorian Film Societies (FVFS)
2. The development of the Community Gallery
3. The successful shift of funded courses to Visual Arts training

Our thanks to:

- The Board of the BDCH and the volunteers who assist in the administration of the two organisations and to the Men's Program.
- Our major sponsors without whose support these initiatives would not be possible – Moorabool Shire Council, Hepburn Wind, Moorabool Wind, Ballan Bendigo Bank, Community Investment program, Ballan Chamber of Commerce, Ballan Farmers' Market
- The Ballan Community House acknowledges the ongoing support of the Department of Health & Human Services, the ACFE Board and the public who enthusiastically engage in the courses, groups and events organised by the Ballan Community House and Mechanics' Institute



**BALLARAT
NEIGHBOURHOOD
CENTRE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 40 hours

Major Programs: ACFE, Jobs and Skills Centre, Community Garden, Social Enterprise

Our year in review:

After 7 years the Work & Learning Centre continues to surpass expected deliverables, clearly demonstrating this social investment approach works, and resulting in an 18-month contract extension with the next in discussion.

Overall BNC has gone from strength to strength with an increase in the 22,000+ annual visitors to the Centre, more ACFE student contact hours delivered and the growth of the social enterprise. Our strong focus on employment outcomes for students and clients led to several new ACFE courses and the expansion of Our Kitchen Social Enterprise to 5 days, enabling us to now offer Friday community lunches, expand our catering offer and to obtain Social Traders social enterprise certification.

Refocusing the community garden to grow food was well received by the community with 6 regular volunteers now taking more ownership and helping across the week in the garden. The community development team continue to work in the Sebastopol, Delacombe and Mt Pleasant areas. Noting Mt Pleasant will become part of the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House activities and deliverables in 2019/20.

Staff numbers have slightly increased with 15 part time or contract staff (9EFT), and about 10 tutors.

Our key achievements:

1. Our Kitchen Social Enterprise received Social Traders certification
2. Finalist Victorian Learn Local Pre-Accredited Pathway Program Award
3. Completed the 4 year Work & Learning Centre contract, helping 859 clients and exceeding 11 out of 13 achievable KPI's. The contract is extended for another 18 months.

Our thanks to:

Overall the Centre achieved or exceeded expectations and deliverables across our Learn Local (ACFE); Jobs Victoria Work and Learning Centre; and Neighbourhood House contracts. This was not always easy to do but reflects the hard work and commitment of the BNC team, partners, volunteers and Committee members. I thank them all for their dedication and support to our clients, the community and the organisation.



**BALLARAT EAST
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 25 hours

Major Programs: In establishment

Our year in review:

With the support and guidance of the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, in the four months (March-June 2018) of taking on the Acting Coordinator position, I have been working towards the setting up of the new Ballarat East Neighbourhood House. Whilst establishing legal and governance structures, community activities have continued in the Mt Pleasant area where Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre has worked over the last 4-5 years. We hosted a Neighbour Day event, supported the Mt Pleasant History Group and Community Connections Working Group and continued to publish the Mt Pleasant Community Newsletter. The Discover Historic Mount Pleasant Project has been a significant undertaking which has resulted in great success. These community activities have moved over to the new Ballarat East Neighbourhood House. Two students have been a great asset in working several days per week for the Field Placement component of their Bachelor of Community and Human Services course at Federation University.

Our key achievements:

1. The beginnings of the new Ballarat East Neighbourhood House were established. An exciting aspect was creating our new Logo and choosing our suite of colours, which will be used on our website, feather flags, promotional materials, newsletters and other publications. We have also been investigating a permanent venue for the Neighbourhood House.
2. The Discover Historic Mount Pleasant 24 page brochure and associated website were completed and launched along with an exhibition held at the Ballarat Observatory in May 2018.
3. The Mt Pleasant Community Connections Group continues to provide opportunities for people to connect and participate through a range of activities held in community spaces.

Our thanks to:

- Committee of Management
- Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre & Ballarat North Neighbourhood House
- Partners including the City of Ballarat, the Mt Pleasant History Group, the Mt Pleasant Community Connections Group and member organisations, the Mt Pleasant Primary School and the Ballarat Observatory as well as local residents.
- Federation University Students Emily Brumby and Emma Dunn



Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 40 hours

Major Programs: Community Garden

Our year in review:

The aim of the House is to enhance the health, wellbeing and connectedness of our local community. This year The Salvation Army reviewed our strategic plan, reflecting on the ways in which the activities of the House had supported the achievement of this aim and our key strategic directions. These have included the many events and programs that provide opportunities for community members to get together connect with one another and local services, improve their access to nutritious food, gain skills and knowledge to increase employment opportunities, and participate in programs within The Salvation Army. In partnership with our community, the tutors and volunteers, Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre and Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, we have developed a new three-year strategic plan. We focus on supporting people in our community to increase their engagement and connectedness with community by getting involved in community development activities, programs, and/or volunteering at the House. We have a number of initiatives that focus on reducing isolation and increasing connection for people who are feeling vulnerable.

Our key achievements:

1. Be connected The Good Things Foundation, 2017 we started with an Activation Grant then moved to host "Get Online Week 2018". From our success with Activation Grant we have almost completed Building Digital Skills - Round 3 supporting 200 people in our community.
2. Creative Connection – Alzheimer's Program was supported by the City of Ballarat, this program has been supported by the Neighbourhood House for 8 years, in 2017/18 we received a Community Impact Grant to support the program.
3. Walking Soldiers Hill was in partnership with Ballarat National Trust Branch and coincides with Victorian Seniors Festival 2018. In 2018 we had about 50 people walking for an hour and National Trust told the stories and history of the Soldiers Hill area. The NH then hosted an afternoon tea to thank everyone.

Our thanks to:

- The Salvation Army, volunteers for a Family Search program, tutors WNC & BNC for supporting Learn Local in our centre



**BEAUFORT
COMMUNITY
HOUSE AND
LEARNING CENTRE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 25 Hours

Major Programs: ACFE

Our year in review:

The past twelve months have been different, exciting and frustrating. We struggled to meet our ACFE hours in 2018, but eventually came in with a slight excess. However, 2019, is a different story.

We had very successful Advanced Excel classes, for the Pyrenees Shire and Goldwind Wind Farm and they have also supported the Apply First Aid classes exceptionally well.

All Accredited Courses have been well attended. The Youth Grant, which we received 18 months ago, has benefited a number of Ballarat students, who have successfully completed their White Card and Safe Food Handling Certificates. They are now going to attempt their Apply First Aid certificate.

The Men's Shed have constructed another 6 garden beds for BCHLC in the Breezeway, and these will be flourishing within the next few weeks.

Bus trips for the public are proving to be very popular. These are each month, travelling to various destinations and visiting many tourist attractions during the journey.

Our key achievements:

1. 1. Providing various classes for Goldwind Wind Farm. These are also being supported by the sub- contractors.
2. Continuing Bus trips for the senior members of the public to various destinations around Victoria.
3. Continuing an unofficial partnership with the Men's Shed.

Our thanks to:

- The Committee of Management and the new members of BCHLC
- The ACFE staff at South Western Victoria region
- The students who help to keep BCHLC viable and upbeat.



**CLUNES
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 30 hours

Major Programs: Community Garden, Social Enterprise, Men's Shed, Volunteering Pathways

Our year in review:

Over the last 12 months Clunes Neighbourhood House has continued to focus on strengthening youth initiatives across all ages. Each week we now have more than 80 young people involved in circus and physical activities; including a growing group of at risk teenagers who enjoy parkour on a Friday night. Clunes is already an active community and increasingly Neighbourhood House is playing an auspice or support role to assist these activities strengthen or become more sustainable. This has resulted in an expanded range of activities for our community to enjoy, many of which are now occurring on our premises.

Our key achievements:

1. Expansion of our precinct through the refurbishment of 3 containers; including three new office spaces/workshops and a storage room.
2. Establishment of a new textiles based social enterprise called In the Bag. This project was the first social enterprise start up led by Matchworks and funded by the Work for the Dole program in Victoria.
3. Development of digital induction tools to assist with the orientation of new volunteers

Our thanks to:

We are supported by nearly 40 volunteers every week and could not achieve the outcomes we do without their time, talents and dedication.



**CRESWICK
NEIGHBOURHOOD
CENTRE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 25 hours

Major Programs: Community Garden, Community Market

Our year in review:

A vast array of classes and workshops were well attended along with events:

- Creswick Market – demonstrated a produce/sustainability theme and was very popular
- Monthly Swap It – people made friends, shared food, and swapped produce and related items
- Winterwick – Music Event – showcased four local youth bands and was organised by, and led by young people
- End of Year Celebration – we said thank you to our volunteers and CNC community for all they bring
- Hepburn Playday – A packed to capacity event with a variety of services and child related activities
- Reconciliation Event for Children - We were very proud to offer a reconciliation event for children in partnership with Child & Maternal Health. The excellent attendance is evidence that celebrating our first peoples is import to our community. It was fantastic to meet elder – Auntie Marilyn who easily engaged the children in storytelling and traditional instrument use. A highlight was the smoking ceremony that although was lucky to go ahead due to wet weather went off without a hitch in the end.

Our key acheivements:

Sustainability of our house was increased in July when strong advocacy by state peak body – Neighbourhood Houses Victoria was successful in securing a funding increase from the State Andrew's Labor Government. We are extremely grateful for the increase which acknowledges the important work of neighbourhood houses and we thank the Department of Health & Human Services for our ongoing funding under the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program.

Our thanks to:

- We were excited to receive project funding from Hepburn Wind, Hepburn Shire Council, Department of Health and Human Services and The Department of Social Services.
- We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing sponsorship from Creswick & District Community Bank.



**DARLEY
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 30 hours

Major Programs: Childcare

Our year in review:

Darley Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre continued to provide a welcoming space for the local community to connect and learn. The House has seen a noticeable increase in demand for activities related to physical activity and have run a successful Yoga program which is in constant demand. The course program experienced a high rate of success with courses including mosaics, drawing, Tapas, Dumplings, Mexican cooking, a Compost workshop.

DNH experimented with new events including information sessions, free community morning teas and having the local radio station broadcasting live from DNH. These events have been met with great success and positive feedback and will continue to be an integral component of the House program.

Unfortunately, the Occasional Care Program ceased at the end of June 2019. This was a particularly challenging time for the House – the staff are to be commended for their high level of commitment to ensuring a high-quality program under incredibly challenging circumstances.

Our key achievements:

1. Partnership project with Leadership Ballarat Western Region and Moorabool Shire Council. Community designed installation of 30 bollards painted by the LBWR group and installed in reserve adjacent to the DNH carpark.
2. DNH were successful in receiving a Moorabool Shire Community grant to purchase new tables on wheels allowing for a more flexible use of the space and painting the two main meeting rooms.
3. Ongoing partnership with Bacchus Marsh Grammar, sending groups of 15 students to create a free community morning tea their leadership development in Terms 1,2 and 3.

Our thanks to:

- Victorian Government, Federal Government and Moorabool Shire Council as major funding bodies during 2018/19.
- Bacchus Marsh Community Bank Branch
- Our partners, Moorabool Shire Council, Bacchus Marsh Community College, Lerderderg Library, Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Apple FM and various other community groups.
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
- Our volunteers, Committee of Governance members, staff, tutors and contractors who work so diligently and enthusiastically.



Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 30 hours

Major Programs: Social Enterprise, Disability Programs

Our year in review:

DNC continues to be a very busy and welcoming Centre. Our big success for the year is completing the construction of the mushroom farm social enterprise. The farm is not without its challenges, trying to find the right temperature, the right moisture level and the right light level has taken up many hours, including weekends! The “Farmers Arms” has been supportive, purchasing as many mushrooms as we can grow.

Due to ill health, Claire McKenna resigned as Manager in January and Danny Loversidge was appointed Acting Manager with immediate effect. It was a steep learning curve learning all the different reporting requirements and demands of the Manager’s role.

The DNC Management Committee membership has been stable over the last 12 months, with the exception of our Secretary, Barbara Webb who has moved interstate. Barbara served on the Committee for many years, with a great attention to detail and dedication to DNC. Annemarie Borsman also left DNC after 7 years of service, managing room bookings, finances, and many other functions of the Centre.

Our key achievements:

1. Finishing the construction of the Mushroom Farm and learning how to produce mushrooms.
2. Managing yet another change over in the Centre Manager
3. Organising the transition from in-house finance management to an external provider.

Our thanks to:

- Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses
- Farmers Arms Hotel



**HADDON
COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTRE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 30 hours

Major Programs: ACFE, Jobs and Skills

Our year in review:

Despite a slow start we managed to deliver 2600 ACFE pre-accredited student contact hours.

The ACFE 'Train the Trainer' course we conducted paid dividends with two of the learners who completed this course successfully delivering pre-accredited courses of their own for us at the centre. Computer courses continued to be popular, as did hospitality, horticulture and permaculture as well as general courses, of which we conducted a wide range, including yoga, sewing, quilting, patchwork, drawing and floristry workshops, childrens music programs and ukulele lessons for beginners. We continued to provide free classes and activities for Seniors, Neighbourhood House and Adult Learners Weeks and for the "Seniors Festival".

We became a provider of the Be Connected Program (Good Things Foundation) and provided many one on one sessions for participants fifty plus.

We completely refitted our computer lab with the aid of a successful 'Stronger Communities Program' grant application.

We have also expanded the Centre's reach by the establishment of a partnership with Camp Australia and Haddon Primary, to provide and before and after-school care and by re-establishment of a playgroup for local parents with young children. We also worked with a local home schooling consultant to deliver activities open to all.

Our key achievements:

1. Delivery of the Be Connected Program
2. Hospitality – Café Skills training courses expanded
3. Sew With Confidence (ACFE pre-accredited training course)

Our thanks to:

- Many thanks to the Committee of Management of the Haddon Community Learning Centre
- Our small but dedicated staff and band of volunteers – Andrea Glew (administration assistant) Gwen Pyke, Marie George and Paul Doyle
- Department of Health and Human Services Victoria (DHHS)
- Department of Education and Training Victoria – Learn Local (ACFE) (DET)
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHV)
- Good Things Foundation



Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 25 hours

Major Programs: ACFE, Childcare

Our year in review:

Meredith Community Centre has had a busy and successful year achieving several significant grants to continue our work and seeing some significant changes to our operations. The re-evaluation and changes we implemented to rectify our financial position from 2017 has been very successful and we were very pleased to show a strong financial position at the end of 2018.

We endured the implementation of the new Federal Government Childcare package which provides subsidies for our families attending occasional care. A huge number of hours were taken up putting all of the legislative requirements into place.

After a disappointing take up of our ACFE programs we made the decision not to provide Learn Local programs in 2019. This was a major decision for us as the Centre has been delivering pre accredited programs for many years.

Overall we have continued to provide a range of great programs and events to meet our mission of “working for our Community”

Our key achievements:

1. Successfully navigating the introduction of the new childcare package
2. Acquiring funding through the Geelong Community Foundation and starting our after school lego and minecraft group which has introduced some new young people and families to the Centre.
3. Success in acquiring a Federal Government Community Child Care Fund grant of \$60,000.00 over 3 years which will significantly benefit the Occasional Care program and give us some breathing space to work on the sustainability of the service.

Our thanks to:

- We would like to thank the Committee of Management and volunteers for their assistance, encouragement and support and our fantastic staff Pam, Trudy, Leah, Jo, Cate and our cleaner Joy
- Dept. Health and Human Services (DHHS-Victoria), Dept. Education and Training (DET - Victoria), Dept. Education and Training (DET -Australia)
- Golden Plains Shire
- Our Network and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria



Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 25 hours

Major Programs: Social Enterprise

Our year in review:

Our youth programs go from strength to strength with record numbers enrolled in Youth Group and the growth of our Halloween event. With the support of Hepburn Shire Council our Youth Group have been able to engage in many regional events and activities. HSC also provided a small amount of funding to enable our Halloween event to be provided at no cost to participants – I suspect this is the biggest event specifically for children in the Shire.

Our focus on environmental sustainability grows- we have established of multiple streams of recycling for the community, installed solar panels and a split system to reduce our reliance on LPG gas, established a volunteer led community bags project, provided sustainability and environment focused community information sessions.

We are extremely pleased that we have a current lease and more regular, less fraught communication with the Trentham Community Group who are our landlords. Our relationship is not so much fixed as on an upward trajectory. Our relationship with Hepburn Shire Council is also developing well – particularly in the Youth, Health and Wellbeing and Reconciliation areas.

Our key achievements:

1. Ongoing engagement of young people in our organisation, particularly our wonderful Halloween Event
2. Increased community engagement around our environmental programs
3. Committee led community consultation in the development of our new strategic plan, facilitated in partnership with our Networker.

Our thanks to:

- TNC Committee of Governance
- DHHS
- Trentham Community Bank
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Hepburn Wind



**WENDOUREE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
CENTRE**

Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding: 30 hours

Major Programs: ACFE Learn Local, Men's Shed

Our year in review:

We celebrated 40 years serving in our community and celebrated with a family friendly community event which was well attended. The Centre has continued to keep a steady pace between changes in funding. Our pre-accredited Learn Local programs remain popular and we have once again increased the number of hours of training we deliver. We work with other community organisations to develop new learn local funded programs to meet the needs of our vulnerable learners.

We received funding and have started an ACFE funded Capacity and Innovation Regional Project working to create a strong partnership between FedUni TAFE and Learn Locals. Our aim is to identify gaps and develop learn local program to best assist our learners to succeed as they transition into TAFE programs.

Our key achievements:

1. Secured the funding from State Government for new facilities and master plan developments for the Wendouree West Recreation Reserve
2. Working with Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre we trialed pop-up learning in the local community and developed an engagement toolkit based on the findings
3. Received funding to trial a Micro Business Incubator Centre

Our thanks to:

- Staff and volunteers for their dedication and inspiration over the last 12 months
- Our community partners and funding bodies who have continued to support our community, our learners and our programs

Central Highlands Association of
Neighbourhood Houses

ABN: 96 376 374 241

networker@chanh.org.au

0428 325 926