

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HOUSE NETWORK

Annual Report 2017-18



About Central Highlands Community House Network ...

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 2017-2018

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

Clare McKenna, Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre

Joan Coker, Haddon Community Learning Centre

Pam Ridd, Meredith Community House

Tania Sawyer, Trentham Neighbourhood Centre

Manya Ferwerda, Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre

Lou Makin, Ararat Neighbourhood House (associate member)

*** Name redacted by request, Sept 2026

Acknowledgements

Central Highlands Community House Network 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.



*Jenny Mikakos, MP with CHCHN
Networker Jane Grimwood*



Central Highlands Community House Network 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 Community House Network 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.

OUR PERFORMANCE



President's Report

What a year! There's certainly been some changes for our network. I am very proud of the work we have been able to achieve together. Thank you all for being here today, and for your commitment and contribution throughout the year.

We welcomed new Managers – Renae Knight, Claire McKenna, Vicki Coltman and Lou Makin, bringing new energy and expertise to our organisation. We said goodbye to colleagues Jeannette McGonegal, Michelle Whyte, John Smith, and Fiona Robson.

Well - it all began with a robust and consultative Strategic Plan that set the direction the network has taken. I commend everyone including former Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Manager - Michelle Whyte, who took a major part in the development of that plan along with the network members.

From the Strategic Plan the former Executive developed a position description and began the recruitment process for a new Networker. I acknowledge the work of the former Executive Committee, headed up by longstanding Network President Pam Ridd, Treasurer Joan Coker, Vice President Pauline Ball, and Secretary Jeanette McGonegal – thank you all.

Little did we know when we birthed (somewhat painfully) that Strategic Plan that our preferred candidate, Jane Grimwood, would have the skill and passion to action that plan so definitively, to work to develop and solidify relationships, create underpinning documents and resources, and build what has become the organisational bones of the high functioning network we strive to be.

Change Management is a tricky business and one that we're all familiar with in our houses where change is welcome to some and uncomfortable to others. And we have changed, we are changing, as we continue to develop. Part of that change insures we consult, listen to our members, discuss perspectives and ideas, and adjust our practices, embracing a continuous improvement approach.

And so here we are –achieving, delivering, ambitious – reaching for benchmark, yet still excited about the work ahead. With a huge body of work already undertaken - we now take a deep breath and look toward the next stages of realising our plan. We see the vision of our identity come to life with fresh branding, and we change up the way we work together to strike the right balance of peer support, skill sharing, and access to development opportunities. As I reflect on the work over the past 12 months I'm excited to, over the next 12 months, to hear more from the experts in the room, our fabulous Managers - their diversity of approach, and the general 'get on with it' attitude that the membership brings.

Networker's Report

Construction projects refer to the excitement of breaking ground on a new project – when the research and planning has finally been completed and you have reached the point where you can actually dig your spade into the soil of your worksite and begin building the concept that has only existed on paper before. It is a real milestone.

I have felt like we have been breaking ground at a few points over this year- beginning with the adoption of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan in September and my employment. My first major task was preparing for the 2017 AGM, providing insight into each house and reviewing regional data. With the successful strategy developed and in place, the 2017 Executive Team identified this would be an ideal time to hand on the reins - their dedication and passion for our network cannot be underestimated – thank you Pam Ridd, Pauline Ball, Joan Coker and Jeanette McGonegal for your commitment and contribution. A full suite of vacant executive roles provided the opportunity to refine and define the role of the executive team as we moved forward. I researched and created a new Committee Handbook, including new position descriptions for the executive roles, as well as a full suite of AGM support documentation, including the member register, script for election officer and nomination and ballot materials.

As I took up the reins of my role, meeting with other networkers and our Department of Health and Human Services colleagues, I was itching to get away from the administration and out to visit the houses I would be working with. I am grateful for the warm welcome Emma Barrance, DHHS, and I received as we visited each house across the region, as well as for the insight and advice offered by the neighbourhood house managers as I started out in my new role. This was instrumental as I drafted the 2017-2020 Implementation Plan, outlining the actions identified from these conversations to create the pathway for achieving the new strategic plan.



Geoff Howard, MP, receiving CHCHN signed "We Deliver" Campaign Cards

At the 2017 AGM we welcomed Kim Gilliott to the Role of President, Vicki Coltman to the role of Vice President, Manya Ferwerda to the role of Treasurer and Helen Powers to the role of Secretary. Again there was a sense of breaking ground, with the new Executive Team meeting for a Planning Day in early December to review recommendations made in the newly developed the Implementation Plan, the Network Management Framework, Annual Plan, Policy and Risk Management Review, DHHS Service Agreement Monitoring Review, Networker Supervision and Goal Performance Plan, as well as draft policy's for financial management and expenditure. At the end of this intensive day we had a road map for 2018 – work on our foundations first, and build from there. Thank you to each of these wonderful leaders who has provided feedback and guidance over the year.

As we approached the end of 2017, advocacy became a hot topic, as the entire sector went into battle for neighbourhood houses funding increase – I worked alongside our houses and our peak body to deliver the "We Deliver" 2018 Budget Campaign Cards to our local members, meeting personally with MP for Buninyong Geoff Howard and MP for Ripon Louise Staley. The dedication of managers in our network to the

campaign and encouraging the community to participate was a true demonstration of sector solidarity. It was thrilling when our campaign was funded for 21.8 million in May, resulting in increased funding for three houses in our region and increase of funding for our network (and in 2018-19 a new house for Ballarat – more on that next year).

2018 started with a deep dive into compliance – through policy practice and legislation for our organisation, through focus on risk management for network professional development and as I worked in partnership with DHHS to conduct our first regional Health Check.

I worked with VMIA to develop a new training program on risk registers for neighbourhood houses to be delivered at our Representative March Meeting– the first of its kind. At the same meeting I presented eight up-to-date draft policies to be ratified to meet our core compliance requirements in everything from Complaints Processes, to Leave Management and New Member Induction. A further four policies and a risk register were in place by the end of June, as well as an Operations Manual, to track compliance actions and avoid missing deadlines. Many thanks to Vicki Coltman for her valued review of each policy created. Feedback has showed that these policies have not just been essential for the network, but valuable to our members as they have renewed and up dated their own policy documents.

The Regional Health Check was the other major action for 2018. Planning for this massive undertaking began in January. I worked alongside Emma Barrance from DHHS to develop the information and plans to conduct Service Agreement Monitoring Meetings with each house in our region. Involving an in-depth conversation with managers and committee members, the Health Check provided houses with the valuable opportunity to reflect on strengths and opportunities, as well as paint an overall picture of the health of houses in our region – the trends and impacts creating challenges and opportunities to respond. Emma stepped out of this role just before we broke ground in February, but we were fortunate to be joined by Letitia Meaney, an expert in the use of the Service Agreement Monitoring System. My thanks to Emma and Letitia, and Community Wellbeing Team Leader Suzannah Burton for their dedication and expertise in seeing this shared initiative delivered. I cannot express my admiration enough for the 30+ people we met with for their openness, passion and drive in creating wonderful neighbourhood houses in our communities – and I know that these are just the tip of the iceberg.

In April we welcomed Nicole Battle, the newly appointed CEO of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, with a tour of Darley, Clunes and Ballarat Neighbourhood Houses. I represented neighbourhood houses at the Central Highlands Prevention Lab in May, exploring the health issues impacting our region. May was also very busy with both the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Conference and the Communities in Control Conference – great opportunities to learn and contribute to the community sector.

In June we had the opportunity to explore the results of the Health Check, instigating initiatives to provide higher levels of support for our Committees of Management, as well as key operational actions to assist managers in key compliance functions. Jobs Australia provided us a valuable session on Leading with Purpose, providing guidance in goal planning for performance management. As we closed out the year there was another sense of breaking ground, with a well researched budget we could commit to achieving the first Major project of our Strategic Plan, rebranding our organisation and marketing for the network and houses in our region.

In all, it has been a high paced and intensive year, transforming our organisation to meet the aims and intentions outlined in our strategic plan. To have achieved so much we have embraced the practice of agility – results first, with a commitment of continuous improvement. I have treasured every conversation I have shared with the many neighbourhood houses devotees I have met this year – managers, committee members, DHHS – your drive, commitment and insight is the bricks and mortar of our organisation.

Financial Report

CHCH Network Inc
C/- Haddon Learning Centre
396 Sago Hill Road
HADDON 3351

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2017 through June 2018

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Income	
DHS Funded Networker	\$46,803.28
Bank interest	\$1,226.14
Total Income	<u>\$48,029.42</u>
Expenses	
Network Administration	\$412.90
Networker Wages	\$23,476.67
Networker Travel	\$2,497.83
Networker Superannuation	\$2,182.17
Conference Expenses	\$6,039.08
Executive Allowances	\$2,071.98
Memberships - Affiliations	\$648.64
Meeting expenses	\$1,018.07
Printing & Postage	\$539.08
Office Supplies	\$344.85
Telephone	\$763.56
IT Equipment & Support	\$21.82
COM Professional Development	\$765.00
Bank Charges	\$2.00
Gifts & Catering Expenses	\$137.27
Advertising & Promotion	\$973.39
Bookkeeping	\$704.75
Total Expenses	<u>\$42,599.06</u>
Net Profit/(Loss)	<u>\$5,430.36</u>

CHCH Network Inc
 C/- Haddon Learning Centre
 396 Sago Hill Road
 HADDON 3351

Balance Sheet

As of June 2018

20/11/18
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Assets	
Bendigo Bank Account	\$47,204.99
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	\$42,525.52
Equipment	\$1,252.05
Total Assets	<u>\$90,982.56</u>
Liabilities	
Trade Creditors	\$2,663.99
GST Liabilities	
GST Collected	\$2,395.82
GST Paid	-\$737.75
Total GST Liabilities	<u>\$1,658.07</u>
Superannuation Liability	\$1,473.31
PAYG withheld	\$1,488.00
Total Liabilities	<u>\$7,283.37</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$83,699.19</u>
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$78,268.83
Current Earnings	\$5,430.36
Total Equity	<u>\$83,699.19</u>

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 Community House Network hereby certify that I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Central Highlands Community House Network held on Thursday the 29th of November, 2018 and the financial statements of the Association for the financial year ending June 30th, 2018 we submitted to the members of the Association at that general meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

BACCHUS MARSH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Supported by



Bacchus Marsh
Community Bank® Branch



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	20	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	47
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	256	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	886
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	38	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	6
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE, RTO, Men's Shed

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

Bacchus Marsh Community College (BMCC) has had an extremely busy and productive year and the organisation continues to grow. BMCC has expanded into a range of new ventures enabling the College to meet the needs of the community. Many local organisations now use BMCC's facilities to hold their meetings and with the upgrade to parts of the buildings, additional training and activities can now be ran at times that better suit local members of the community.

It is pleasing to note that training delivered through the Registered Training Organisation, at BMCC and the Learn Local, has been very effective with many students following pathways into further study or employment.

BMCC has also participated in a most successful Strategic Planning with Foresight Lane for the next three years and are in the process of rebranding.

The ability to provide training and facilities to a diverse range of activities for the community has definitely contributed to the creation of a more vibrant and viable community hub that will continue to thrive for many years to come.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Facility Upgrades:
 - a. Creative Studio – funded by the Bacchus Marsh Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) we upgraded the old art room, giving BMCC the capacity to deliver a range of creative programs to members of the local community.
 - b. Multi-Purpose room – funded through the Stronger Communities Program, repurposing our computer training facility to a multi-function room, creating an additional high quality room, available to community organisations to use for a range of activities.
2. Men's Shed – funded by DHHS, the Men's Shed refurbished our old out building. A new roof was installed and the building generally upgraded, creating two separate Men's Shed areas.
3. CAIF Funding – we were funded by the ACFE Capacity and Innovation Fund 10 (CAIF 10) to specifically address the low educational completion rate/early school leavers in Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool Shire – one of the first of its kind. BMCC and the Moorabool Shire Council (MSC) have formed a partnership to address the issue of upskilling early school leavers.

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

Supported by



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	25	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	78
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	457	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	994
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	53	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	101
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

The House has moved to sustainability mode with a new 6.6kW PV solar System and new LED lighting, thanks to Community Power Hub (CPH) Ballarat and Hepburn Wind.

We have expanded offerings to the Community in the past year. The Ballan Film Society has been established and an enjoyable launch was held in October with 25 people attending. The mission is to show films that “encourage interest in film as a medium for public education, information and entertainment with films of artistic, cultural or informative character.”

Generous grants from the Moorabool Shire Council, Bendigo Bank and Chamber of Commerce have enabled major upgrades and a combined Art Studio and Community Gallery with hanging and lighting systems. Over the past months, new furniture and carpet have been installed and volunteers Rodney Browne and Lyn Plummer have given the Supper Room, the Meeting Room and the BDCH Offices inviting new colour-schemes.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Upgrades in the public areas of the House & Mechanics’ Institute Reserve
2. The Board of Management, immediate past Secretary/Public Officer for 11 years, Kevin Healey, received a Semi-Finalist certificate in the Victoria wide Regional Achievement & Community Awards
3. Establishment of the Film Society

THANKS TO:

Moorabool Shire Council, DHHS, ACFE, Bendigo Bank, Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce, Ballan Farmers’ Market, Hepburn Wind, Goldwind Moorabool Wind Farm

BALLARAT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



Supported by



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	40	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	53
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	410	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	838
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	45	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	27
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE		OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE, Jobs and Skills Centre

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

It was a year of change and reflection with the arrival of our new manager. This year we had a strong focus on teamwork and staff personal development with training in topics including customer service, health and wellbeing, marketing, and business development. Our participants now have a tearoom and are benefiting from the reorganization of offices, classrooms and meeting spaces which more closely aligns with their needs. Around the Centre we added new photos, a display stand, a community newsletter noticeboard, plants, tables and chairs to create a more welcoming environment. We increased classes, ACFE delivery hours, community activities and support programs for our long-term unemployed clients. Visitation to the Centre continues to increase and we now have several regular volunteers in our community garden. We were delighted in August to make the finals for the third consecutive year of the local Business Awards and to be a Learn Local Awards finalist.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Our community garden is now flourishing and growing food for the catering social enterprise, which continues to provide pathways into education and employment for our long-term unemployed clients.
2. Increased pre-accredited training delivery hours for Learn Local education with Skills Reconnect and Parent Next new partnerships.
3. Place based community development activities saw the Delacombe Strategic Plan Achievements handbook released, a Sebastopol Community Safety project delivered, and the Mt Pleasant History Group become more independent as the year progressed.

THANKS TO:

- City of Ballarat for their support of the Our Kitchen Social Enterprise and community development projects.
- Brotherhood of St Laurence for their support and advocacy of the Jobs Victoria Work & Learning Centre
- Jobs Victoria, DHHS & DET for their ongoing support of our programs.

BALLARAT NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	30	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	36.5
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	112	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	853
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	25	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	39
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Auspiced	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

We are a well-established not for profit, Neighbourhood House based in Soldiers Hill. We have been operating for 30 years and offer a wide range of activities and programs in response to the needs of the community. You will find us located in The Salvation Army building on Crompton Street. Our modern, purpose built Centre is a popular option for furthering skills and taking part in the diverse range of opportunities available at our Centre.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Walking Soldiers Hill Tuesday 30 October with National Trust – Ballarat Branch. The walk was promoted in the Victorian Seniors Festival program hence we had participants from Ballarat, Clunes, Ararat, Geelong & Melbourne. We had 62 people on the walk guided by 3 volunteers from the National Trust Ballarat Branch.
2. BeConnected We have been successful in delivery of three programs under the BeConnected umbrella
 - (a) Be connected 2017 Active Grant Round 1 \$2,000 to establish a BeConnected members and support 30 older Australians
 - (b) Building Digital Skills round 3 \$10,000 to support 200 older Australians
 - (c) BeConnected – Get Online Week 2018 – we hosted an event on Friday 19 October ‘#try1Thing over a lunch and afternoon tea for 32 people.
3. Creative Connections - Dementia Art is a program the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House has been actively supporting since 2010. The program is for people living with Dementia to connect with the world through Art. People living with Dementia often become isolated. The Art program is facilitated by Christine Hickson who inspires everyone to have a go. In 2018 & 19 the program is been supported by a Community Impact Grant - City of Ballarat. We have had continuous support from Eyre House staff and volunteers. The Neighbourhood House is a Ballarat Dementia Friendly organisation and partner of the Dementia Alliance.

THANKS TO:

- The Salvation Army
- City of Ballarat
- Wendouree NH
- Ballarat NH
- Good Life Foundation

BEAUFORT COMMUNITY HOUSE AND LEARNING CENTRE



Beaufort Community House
and Learning Centre

Supported by

 **Bendigo Bank**
Bigger than a bank.

Beaufort
Community Bank® Branch
and Skipton agency



MANAGER	Pauline Ball		
NHCP FUNDED HOURS	20	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	48
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	176	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	794
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	20	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	5
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

Classes have been varied and in the main excepted well however, we still experience difficulty in meeting our ACFE quota of students.

The Accredited Courses have been well attended and we have had the bonus of the Goldwind Wind Farm being established, as the many companies involved have been requesting First Aid Classes for their staff.

This brings outside money into the organization instead of BCHLC relying on the local community.

Art classes were well attended with some amazing art work being produced.

BCHLC hosted an evening for our Volunteer of the Year, in the Beaufort Resource Centre, and this was very well attended, and the recipient of the award, Maurice Barwick, a former COM member was very touched and pleased.

We also co-hosted a very successful “Waltzing Matilda” evening at the Beaufort Resource Centre, with many of the patients from the Beaufort Nursing Home attending and enjoying an evening out socializing.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Commencing a Soup Kitchen once a fortnight for the lonely and socially deprived members of the local community.
2. Commencing Bus tours for the senior members of the public to various tourist destinations throughout Victoria.
3. Forming an unofficial partnership with Goldwind Wind Farm and providing work place classes for the many employees.

THANKS TO:

A new and revitalized Committee of Management who are thinking outside the square and bringing exciting new ideas to Beaufort Community House & Learning Centre.

CLUNES NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	30	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	71
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	205	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	535
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	25	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	315
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE		OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	na

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

2018 has seen the culmination of three years of facility and grounds upgrades made possible through the support of volunteers and a variety of fundraising activities; including funding by the Creswick & District Community Bank to develop 3 working studios out of railway containers. This work has significantly improved our footprint; enabling a more diverse range of activities on site and in the grounds.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Launch of the Creswick & District Community Bank Art Factory – 3 purpose built studios for local and visiting artists/creatives.
2. Securing a two year youth and art project (Art Attack) in partnership with www.askingfortrouble.com.au that is supported by the State Government of Victoria through Creative Victoria's Future Makers of Change Initiative in partnership with Regional Development Victoria. This project includes a Youth Worker 1 day a week, ongoing circus program for primary and secondary aged kids, and holiday programming developed in consultation with local youth.
1. 3. Safe and Supportive Community initiative funded by Hepburn Shire Council. This capacity building project enabled community members to work collectively to identify the needs of young children and families; delivered training (by Childwise) for local community groups in child safe practices and in January 2019 will culminate in the release of a set of policy and procedural documentation, including case studies, suitable for grassroots organisations working with children.

THANKS TO:

- Our 30+ team of operational volunteers who help us deliver our activities and programs each week
- Department of Health and Human Services, Creative Victoria, Regional Development Victoria, Hepburn Shire Council, Creswick & District Community Bank, Good Things Foundation, Wesley College @ Clunes, RACV Goldfields Resort, Hepburn Health Service, Royal Flying Doctors Service, Lambley's Nursery, The National Hotel (Clunes), Clunes Tourist & Development Association, AAG Property Group, Clunes IGA, Long View Farm & Meats, Clunes Green-er Grocer, Quigley & Clarke

CRESWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	20	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	57
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	320	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	725
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	25	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	31
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	na

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

Playgroup went next level and are now self-coordinating, delivering an activity based program, promoting to the community, accessing equipment grants, with average attendance of 17 families. This has been a fantastic grassroots initiative for children in our community.

Other features of the year included ever popular workshops such as Fungi Foray with Alison Pouliot, attracting 43 people exploring the world of the mysterious mushroom. A session on sustainable fashion which was attended by 39 people and inspired a new monthly group who re sew past fashions. The Planning Group recycled every plastic shopping bag they could get their hands on into mats for the soup bus and re-usable bags. We initiated a new fundraising program, hosting monthly trivia nights in the local pub, with proceeds provided to community groups in Creswick.

We provided a range of community information sessions, including a well-attended event covering 'My Health Record.'

Our market continues to be one of the most popular in the region with a consistent sustainability vibe and we now auspice the much loved Wholefoods Co-op in our house.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. We celebrated a funding increase from 20 hours to 25 hours which literally changes everything
2. We held our first successful youth-led music event 'Winterwick' - four bands aged 14 – 18 years
3. Program Highlight – A Well Planned Journey. Mapping the journey toward a good and well planned end of life.

THANKS TO:

- Amazing staff, dedicated volunteers and our fantastic Committee of Management
- Creswick and District Community Bank.

DARLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	25	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	41
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	147	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	260
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	35	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	6
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	Childcare

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

Over the past 12 months Darley Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre (DNH) has continued to provide a safe and welcoming environment for many community groups and individuals. DNH continued to be home to many community and support groups including Open Place, Pinarc Parent Connection Group, Carers Support group, U3A, Dementia Support Group, Creative Art Disability Group, Photography Club, Indigenous Homework Group, C.R.A.F.T for mums and Natural Parenting Playgroup. DNH has experienced an increase in demand for health and wellbeing courses such as mediation and Yoga. The House experienced continued success with the Mosaics class and run highly successful cooking classes including Dumplings and Tapas. The Occasional Childcare program has met some challenges this year with fluctuating numbers and changes to the funding stream but regardless the focus has continued to be on providing high quality care in a welcoming and educational environment. DNH has been heavily involved in the wider community taking part in local events such as the Flower and Garden Show and the undertaking of a Mosaics Exhibition at the Bacchus Marsh Arts Council Gallery. DNH has continue to strengthen partnerships with local groups and agencies and has experienced success through range of funding opportunities which have contributed to the development the facility.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. DNH were fortunate to have the opportunity to host a Mosaic Exhibition at the Bacchus Marsh Arts Council Gallery during November 2017. This allowed members of the Mosaics class an opportunity to showcase their work and sell some of their pieces. The exhibition was an incredible capacity building exercise all the class experienced the bump in and out process and had the opportunity to experience running a gallery exhibition. The Exhibition was highly successful, and the variety of artwork exhibited was a credit to the group. This was incredible volunteer effort with members willingly giving of their time to set up, pack up and man the gallery. DNH was incredible grateful to the Bacchus Marsh Arts Council for allowing us to have such a valuable experience.
2. As a result of funding received through a Moorabool Shire Community Grant DNH were able to undertake some small upgrade around the exterior of the Occasional Care building. The installation of a window shutter, new signage, installation of a safety gate, relocation of rubbish bins and general beautification added to the overall aesthetics of the exterior. Another highlight of this project was the creation of the delightful Humpty Dumpty mosaic that now greets everyone as they enter from the carpark. The implementation of this project was supported by many volunteer hours.
3. Over the past 12 months DNH has continued to broaden it's marketing reach with a Facebook campaign to hit 650 likes far surpassing expectations. This combined with some free one-off taster courses has translated into new faces coming into the House as well as being the impetus for new classes.

THANKS TO:

- Victorian Government, Federal Government, Bacchus Marsh Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Branch and Moorabool Shire Council.
- Many thanks to the Committee of Governance for their commitment and ongoing support for the House.
- Thanks also to our wonderful staff and volunteers who significantly contribute to making DNHL such a warm and welcoming 'place for everyone'.

DAYLESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



daylesford neighbourhood centre



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	30	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	53
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	145	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	773
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	41	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	26
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

It's been quite a year for Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre, with many highs and lows, but now back to a more even run as a place where everyone is welcome and can, usually, get the assistance they need. We are back to providing a wide range of community programs where locals are delivering programs for locals. Unfortunately there has been a decline in demand ACFE funded courses, which appears to be a trend in regional areas. Online courses seem to have had a big impact on the decreasing the demand for courses. After the introduction of NDIS, and the ceasing of HACC funding, finding funding for our All Abilities group has been problematic. It has been through the generosity of the Coordinators volunteering their time that the Tuesday and Wednesday groups the groups have been able to continue.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Receiving ACFE funding for the development of a Mushroom Farm. The physical building is almost complete and we can start growing mushrooms soon, establishing growing times, production levels, etc. We have excellent community support for the program which should be up and going early next year.
2. Increasing the number of community service agencies renting out a space in the Centre, which means that locals don't have to travel into Ballarat to access employment services. It also assists in providing valuable income to the Centre.
3. Engaging in a number of partnerships that includes Hepburn Shire Council, Daylesford Community Health, and Daylesford Secondary College. The DNC, and the other Neighbourhood Houses in Hepburn Shire, are considered a valuable partners in community programs.

THANKS TO:

Everyone in the network who has shared their knowledge and wisdom so freely. I wouldn't have been able to "repair" the DNC without you all.

HADDON COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE

Supported by



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	30	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	63
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	147	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	878
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	33	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	25
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

In 2017-18, we delivered 2,396 ACFE pre-accredited student contact hours. And we successfully finalized our two ACFE Capacity and Innovation Fund Grants, the last one, CAIF9, in May 2018. The grant of \$50,000 funded the “Learn Locals Engage, Connect, Achieve and Sustain” project to train disadvantaged young people and those with disabilities and develop an income stream for the Centre. We conducted specialised video and sound training, and developed training videos that we trialled successfully at other small Learn Local centres. This project yielded great results, with fantastic resources that will enable us to develop further activities and courses. Also, other young community members have already used the equipment purchased on a number of projects.

We conducted two ACFE LEAP programs and a wide variety of general courses including successful art workshops. We provided free classes and activities for Seniors, Neighbourhood House and Adult Learners weeks and the “Seniors Festival.”

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Creation of flexible delivery training CAIF9 project– Our successful application for a CAIF9 grant enabled us to develop and deliver two pilot courses combining video, online and classroom delivery that could be delivered in a time and cost-efficient manner to small groups in remote regional community learning centres. We trialled courses at Ararat and Beaufort, BRACE and HCLC.
2. Hospitality – Café Skills training courses (ACFE pre accredited) – We have conducted several very successful courses during the year, with learners finding employment in this key regional industry as a result of their participation.
3. Train the Trainer course (ACFE pre accredited) – Finding and keeping good trainers is always an issue so we developed and delivered our own course. Four eager students participated, two of whom will hold their first pre-accredited courses next year at the Centre while the others will trial some shorter workshops to gain more experience before conducting courses in 2020.

THANKS TO:

- Department of Health and Human Services Victoria(DHHS)
- Department of Education and Training Victoria – Learn Local (ACFE) (DET)
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria(NHV)

MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Supported by



Geelong
Community
Foundation

Your gift working forever



Learn
Local



Meredith **Community** Centre
working for our community



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	25	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	44
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	180	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	912
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	30	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	10
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE, Childcare

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

Meredith Community Centre has had a business as usual year with all of the usual ups and downs. We often have successes and disappointments from unexpected places. Our health and wellbeing programs and art based classes continue to be the backbone of our community participation while we have had great difficulty attracting interest in the pre-accredited employment and further education offerings. This has forced us to evaluate our Learn Local participation and we have decided to put this on hold for next year. We have been successful in winning several significant grants. The transition to the new childcare system has been a huge amount of work but provides us with the ability to provide subsidised occasional care service to the families in our community. This service continues to be an integral part of the Meredith Community Centre.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Successful in attaining a Community Childcare Fund grant which will subsidise our Occasional Care Service and provide opportunities to explore different operating models for the next 3 years.
2. We have realized a long held desire of our Committee to expand our program to include after school and school holiday programs using a grant from the Geelong Community Foundation.
3. Successful transition to the new Childcare system. A mammoth administration task.

THANKS TO:

- Our wonderful staff and Committee
- Golden Plains Shire
- Jane Grimwood CHCHN Networker
- Fellow Managers and Co-ordinators' of the CHCHN Network.
- Staff at DHHS.
- The Team at SW ACFE Region for their advice and the sharing of knowledge.
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
- Geelong Community Foundation

TRENTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

TNC Trentham
Neighbourhood
Centre Inc.
a small centre with a warm welcome



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	25	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	41
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	158	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	1177
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	26	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	5
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	na

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

Another busy year at the TNC. Along with the usual ever-changing array of classes, groups and events we have embarked on a program of improvements and upgrades. We have installed a split system unit to lessen our reliance on hugely expensive LPG gas – solar panels are coming next to decrease electricity costs and our carbon footprint. We have upgraded our built in projection system to public film screening quality and replaced all our 60 ageing chairs in the Centre. All of these projects have been funded by grants from external bodies. Our Youth group has gone from strength to strength – including second prize in the NHVIC photo competition! Our first annual Halloween party in October 2017 was a huge success – 4 times as many participants as we had hoped for and now a permanent fixture on our calendar. We have responded to increased local interest in environmental and sustainability issues by establishing ourselves as a depository for many recyclables (coffee pods, toothpaste tubes, printer cartridges etc) and also starting and hosting a group producing reusable bags for the local supermarket and green grocer. Voices: Trentham Stories our public art project has been a major focus as well – funded by Creative Victoria as part of the Regional Centre for Culture 2018 this project is producing beautiful ceramic pieces to improve the outside of the TNC building and enhance the Trentham streetscape.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Establishing ourselves as the place for public events. Venue hire as a revenue stream has continued to grow with a wide variety of events being held at TNC from Book launches, to kids parties to flower shows. Hepburn Shire Council meetings have been brought back to Trentham by the use of our centre (councilors previously refused to meet in HSC's own space in Trentham due to it's state!). TNC as host of public events has seen a lot of growth this year: New Residents sessions, Public art collaboration, Trentham Halloween party, Anzac Day reception, Whole Town Garage Sale, Seniors Festival lunch, Forest Management information sessions etc.
2. Rebuilding our Committee of Management. The last 2 years have been a huge struggle attracting and retaining committee members. Our committee at one point was down to only 3 people – it is an added strain on staff to have so few people involved in governance. We are finally back to a healthy 8 members and can get on with a new and effective strategic plan.
3. Digitising records..... a mammoth and ongoing task.

THANKS TO:

DHHS, Creative Victoria – Regional Centre for Culture 2018, Hepburn Shire Council, Trentham Community Bank, Trentham Lions Club, Hairy Arch Art Competition

WENDOUREE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Supported by



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	30	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	37
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	125	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	855
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	30	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	113
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Committee	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE, Men's Shed

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

This year we celebrated 40 years as a Neighbourhood House in our community with a well-attended community event. We had a history display of many of the activities, successes and stories from the last 40 years; plenty of family activities and an open house. We were lucky enough to have one of our founding members speak on the day to tell the story of how we started and the early years.

The year has been extremely busy with several successful grant applications and including successful applications with partners to deliver community art, engagement with learners and seniors programs. We have continued lobbying for the new building plans and have received an election promise of \$7M to complete the building and masterplans including a new facility for the Wendouree Men's Shed.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. We completed the Strengthening Community Connections Project and successfully transitioned out from the project with some of the successes;
 - Successfully advocated to develop a master plan for the local Wyndholm Reserve, working with the City of Ballarat, key stakeholders and the community.
 - Supported newly formed groups from the project including Friends of the Wendouree Reserve, Wendouree History Group to develop strategic goals, increase membership and run series of activities.
 - Continued engagement with local residents supporting life skills and job skills training and engagement in social activities.
2. Learn Local Training has continued to grow in demand we have delivered substantially more SCH, with an increased demand for adult literacy and numeracy, including delivery of our very successful Getting Your L's Program.

THANKS TO:

- Department of Justice and Regulations
- Department of Education & Training
- Department of Health & Human Services

We would like to thank the many local businesses, other NFP organisations, City of Ballarat and our local Ballarat Network of Neighbourhood Houses who have supported us both financially and in kind.

ARARAT NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Supported by



NHCP FUNDED HOURS	30	WEEKLY USAGE HOURS	45
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION RATES	120	NUMBER OF PROGRAM SESSION DELIVERED ANNUALLY	263
WEEKLY STAFFING HOURS	30	WEEKLY VOLUNTEER HOURS	45
AUSPICED OR GOVERNED BY COMMITTEE	Auspiced	OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMS?	ACFE

12 MONTHS SUMMARY

‘Growth’, has been the focus of Ararat Neighbourhood House over the past twelve months and we have approached every opportunity with this in mind. We continue to strengthen existing, and establish new partnerships with local business, organisations and community groups, and have worked closely with our partners during this time. We reactivated our registration with ACFE, providing in excess of 1000 hours pre-accredited training throughout 2018. We have worked diligently to raise the profile of the house in our local community, through community consultation and feedback, directly responding to and addressing the identified needs, and by providing new and relevant programs and activities. Ararat Neighbourhood House is a busy little hive of activity with almost double the number of participants accessing programs and activities as did last year. We look forward to enjoying more positive relations, strengthened partnerships and recognition in our community in the coming year.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Ararat Food Connect operates daily out of Ararat Neighbourhood House (ANH) and addresses the high percentage of food insecurity existing in our community, rescuing tonnes of fresh produce, baked items, and frozen goods that would otherwise be destined for landfill. In March 2018 Deakin University students showed that over 10 days ANH collected in excess of 715kg of fresh produce which was redistributed to over 260 individuals.
2. “Celebrating Community Connectedness” as attended by over 100 people, local businesses and community groups all came together to help make this day a success. Supported by Vicky the Truck, Ararat Rotary Club a range of community groups, government representatives including Louise Staley MP and local Council Members, and the Ararat Advertiser. It was truly a day of celebrating community connectedness.
3. Passport2Employment (P2E) – Aimed at recognizing and developing employability skills and confidence in young people with disabilities, topics covered included, personal presentation and hygiene, health, financial skills, travel training, accessing support services and workplace tours. We are currently working in partnership with DHHS to be able to deliver course this again, focusing on a different cohort, in the new year.

THANKS TO:

- * Grampians Community Health (auspice body)
- * Ararat Rural City Council
- * Ararat Rotary Club
- * DHHS, particularly (Community Participation Team, Central Highlands Area)
- * ACFE / Learn Local
- * East Grampians Health Services
- * Central Highlands Community House Network and members
- * Community of Ararat and surrounds