



WATSONIA
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2018 – June 2019



Watsonia Neighbourhood House respectfully acknowledges and values the Wurundjeri willam people of the greater Kulin Nation as the first people of this land.



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We appreciate the support of:





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ABOUT WATSONIA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Watsonia Neighbourhood House is an Incorporated Association operating as a not for profit community organisation within the Banyule local government area since 1991.

Watsonia Neighbourhood House brings people together to participate, learn and connect to their local community. We do this through social, educational, recreational and support activities using a community development approach.

Community development is about enabling communities to identify and address their own needs. It starts from the assumption

that communities have existing strengths and assets that make them part of the solution.

Community development practice is about doing with, rather than doing for.

Watsonia Neighbourhood House welcomes people from all walks of life. This inclusive approach creates opportunities for individuals and groups to enrich their lives through connections they might not otherwise make.

Watsonia Neighbourhood House is governed by a volunteer Committee of Management and run by paid staff with assistance from volunteers.

We offer a range of classes, activities and groups through our term program including;

Classes

- Patchwork Quilting
- Scrapbooking
- Artability
- Creative Art
- Acrylic Painting
- Creative Encyclopedia
- Paper Crafternoon
- Happy Mail (Card Making)
- Dress Making
- Knitting and Crocheting
- Boomerang Bag Making
- Sewing Circle

Groups

- Small Talk
- Social Art
- Book Club
- Men's Breakfast
- Friendship
- Competitive Scrabble
- Social Scrabble
- 500 Cards
- Walking
- I Am
- Family Games Night

Workshops

- Paint Pour
- Job Wise
- Survive and Thrive — family violence mentoring and support
- Basic Home DIY for beginners — Independent living skills
- Harps for Happiness

We have provided community services to;

- people with physical and mental illness
- people experiencing social isolation
- people on low incomes and economically disadvantaged
- people from Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- people experiencing unemployment
- people experiencing family violence
- people experiencing food insecurity
- people with physical, cognitive and intellectual disabilities
- people in a wide range of age groups from infants to elderly



THE VISION FOR WATSONIA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Our Vision

Creating community, fostering friendship, living and learning.

Our Purpose

Watsonia Neighbourhood House continues to build a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment where community needs are addressed, life skills developed and well being and harmony fostered.

Core values

These values reflect who we are as an organisation and what's important to us;

- **Equity** — we treat staff, volunteers and all community members with fairness and respect in accordance to their needs.
- **Inclusiveness** — we welcome all community members equally and provide an environment that is accessible for everyone.
- **Engagement** — we develop strong and meaningful connections with our community.
- **Diversity** — we recognise and value an individual's differences.
- **Honesty and integrity** — we act in an ethical manner.

Our values inform how we work, the decisions we make and are part of our organisational culture.

Our Committee of Management approved a five year strategic plan (2016- 2021) which provides us with a long term view for our organisation. *Watsonia Neighbourhood House* is committed to continue playing a key role in building a strong, healthy and inclusive community in Banyule.

This plan guides our decision making and ensures that everyone involved with the organisation has a clear picture of its direction, priorities and objectives. The plan has considered the changing social, economic and political environment that can impact on the House to ensure that we stay relevant, robust and responsive.

We will continue to report back to these objectives to ensure that we remain focussed and on track.

Our key strategic objectives are;

1. **Supporting the needs of the people in our community**
2. **Environmental stewardship**
3. **Strong governance and financial management**
4. **Building community life**
5. **Working in partnership**

Throughout this Annual Report you can read more about these objectives and our work towards achieving them.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Building on a solid financial and partnership base allowed us to fully embrace the direction we've been heading and the programmes that have been unfolding as we head into the mid-term of our current strategic plan (2016-2021). We've been working on reviewing existing policies, risk management and working to the budget. We've been running more community events and building our programmes. With so many fabulous resources around it's so tempting to take advantage of every opportunity, so our strategic plan has been invaluable in determining which activities to take up and which to leave for a later time.

With some great financial support from grants and an increase in the Neighbourhood House Coordination Funding from Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the increase in Banyule Council recurrent funding to all Banyule Neighbourhood Houses, we were in a position to recruit a short term Project Worker, to assist our Manager with forwarding the excellent community development work that was already happening. More community engagement opportunities became available and in particular the 3 Sustainable Watsonia Open Days have been a resounding success in participation, in promoting WNH, and in developing key partnerships in our local and wider community. Embedding environmental stewardship into our work has been a strategic and personal goal for many of us. With over 300 people at our last open day in June, it's a great achievement for everyone involved.

We've strengthened connections with the local transition town network and launched Sustainable Watsonia as Banyule's newest group. This gives a focus to our stewardship and creates a pathway for new volunteers to get involved.

Our partnership with Banyule Council through the series of waste education and decluttering workshops expanded through this focus. There's also our links with like-minded folks in Diamond Valley LETS (Local Exchange Trading System) and in Cohousing Banyule, supporting a group of locals endeavouring to find land and build 21st century housing that best supports living independently and in community. (See page 10 for Environmental stewardship).

Other partnerships have been consolidated and built with our participation in the Banyule Nillumbik Family Violence Network, Diamond Valley Foodshare, Gurwidj Aboriginal Women's Neighbourhood House and others. We also hosted Concord Special Development



School with exciting excursions for their students, including a morning of board games and lunch. (See page 14 for Working in partnerships).



Additionally, our programme of supporting people with disabilities has extended through our partnership with self-advocacy group VALID (Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with a Disability, a peak organisation in the Victorian disability sector) and supporting their local Peer Action Group. A new partnership with Olympic Adult Education has enabled us to offer our own innovative 10 week programme to support goals and aspirations of people with disabilities to participate in the workforce, further study and connecting in the community.

At our 2018 Annual General Meeting we invited Phil Strode to be a Life Member of Watsonia Neighbourhood House for his tireless committee and governance work over many years and particularly the support he offered the committee and coordinators through sickness, financial challenges and an

overall difficult period. We are delighted to say that Phil accepted our invitation and we look forward to continuing our connections.

As always it's a team effort. Thanks to our amazing staff Lucie Holden, Rose Perera and Sophie Miller. And my personal thanks to the solid professional and management support for the staff team that the fabulous and dedicated committee have again provided, through all the challenges of aches and ops and illness and children and grandchildren. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Bob Regan, Pamela Walker, Cheryl Findlay, Lia Caelli, and our new committee member this year, Luke Nelson.

Thanks to all our participants. We do all that we do so that you experience a welcoming and safe place to be in this community. And thanks to every single one of our volunteers for all that you do, whether it's something we know that you do, or something you quietly do that makes this place a little friendlier. This is indeed a wonderful community that we are thankful to be a part of.

K. Barling

Katherine Barling | *President*





MANAGER'S REPORT

We've had a fantastic year building on our work from previous years to deliver the objectives of our five year strategic plan (2016-2021). Through our community development practice, we continue to identify and address community needs.

A priority and concern for our local community has been the design development for the North East Link project, which will have a major impact on our local area. We have supported community members to have their say through a meeting at the NE Link hub with project specialists available to answer questions about the project design. We also offered 2 sessions at the House where community members were able to come and get help with making online submissions, as well as access through our internet.

We have been playing our part in Change the Story (the national shared framework for the prevention of violence) and contributing to a safer community built on respect and equality. We have responded with local actions and coordinated events to collectively address the drivers of violence including gender inequity, rigid concepts of gender and gender roles in our community. We have been addressing the needs of people in our community who have experienced violence, raising community awareness as well as strengthening our organisational capacity to respond to the issue.

Activities have included:

- Delivery of training to our staff and volunteers by Women's Health in the North to strengthen the capacity of our organisation to recognise signs that women may be experiencing violence, and how to respond appropriately and effectively when family violence is disclosed.
- Delivery of Survive and Thrive family violence mutual support group and Survive and Thrive Community 10 week Mentoring Program in partnership with Lisa Bonavita, who developed and facilitates the Survive and Thrive program.
- Provision of a safe space at the House where all community members feel welcome and accepted.
- Delivery of Gender Diversity training to our staff and volunteers by Trans Gender Victoria to strengthen our gender diverse inclusive practice and understanding of issues impacting community members who identify LGBTIQ+. By addressing concepts of gender, gender norms and roles, we have improved our inclusivity for community members.
- Participation in community awareness raising events such as International Womens Day and Week without Violence. The Clothesline Project,

which we ran during Week without Violence, has brought a visual and powerful display of this issue to our House.

These events provided opportunity for the expression of community voice through storytelling and sharing. They encourage open communication between people with a diverse range of life experiences, which strengthens community resilience.

As a result of this work we were thrilled to win the 2018 Innovative Community Development Initiative Award from North East Neighbourhood House Network and be a finalist for Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (our peak body) 2019 Fiona Richardson Award for Gender Equity. Having our work recognised by our peers is very rewarding and a great honour.

We have also been supporting other vulnerable people in our community through the Tax Help program for low income earners, Job Wise program for people seeking employment, Work for the Dole participation with Job Active providers and collection of grocery items for Diamond Valley Food Share for distribution to disadvantaged people in Banyule.

We participated in Banyule Council's IDAHOBIT 2019 (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia) community art project called "Strand by Me". A table was set up on our Sustainable Watsonia Open Day in March, where community members were invited to write messages of solidarity on pieces of rainbow coloured ribbon. This activity was replicated across Banyule during April. The ribbons were woven into an art piece and displayed at Hatch Contemporary Art Space in Ivanhoe. By participating in this project, we are confirming our commitment to providing a safe and inclusive place free of discrimination and to treating everyone with dignity and respect.

In December we received a call from a local women's refuge asking if we could help them with Christmas gifts for the children living in their centre. We put the call out and within a short time were inundated with donations

from the local community with gifts for both the children and the women. We would like to thank Greenhills Neighbourhood House for also supporting this initiative. What a compassionate and caring community we have around us.

Our House has been refreshed by Banyule Council with internal painting and upgrades to our external ramps. We have also cleared unnecessary furniture and equipment from internal walkways and rooms. This contributes to a more accessible and welcoming space for everyone in our community.

Banyule Council continue to be a strong supporter of Watsonia Neighbourhood House and we were thankful to receive an increase in recurrent Council funding this year from \$15,000 pa to \$30,000 pa. This demonstrates Council's value for the work we do and represents an ever strengthening partnership to meet the needs of the community in Banyule. With these additional funds we have been able to develop more partnerships, support more people in the community and provide greater opportunities for community participation.

I would like to thank the Committee of Management for their support throughout the year. As always, I appreciate your encouragement, guidance and hands-on support. Having a governance and management team that work so collaboratively with such positive team spirit has delivered great results.

Speaking of team, Watsonia Neighbourhood House exists because of the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers. Every day our House benefits from your willingness to share skills, time and friendship. This is what makes our community so connected and a joy to be a part of. Your contribution is valued and appreciated — thank you!



Lucie Holden | *Manager*

SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

We will respond to the needs of people in our community through support and provision of services. Our focus is to engage more participants in our programs and social groups to address needs relating to mental health, social isolation, low income and employment, and disability.

Supporting families

We have been working with Banyule Council, HeadSpace, Watsonia Maternal and Child Health Centre and Mercy Hospital to better support young parents (under 25 years old). Young parents are at risk of experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage and social isolation. Young mothers often don't receive the peer support and access to social networks that older or more experienced mothers do and find established playgroups intimidating. Together we worked on a project to establish a group with peers of a similar age to give support and also create social connections. This resulted in Small Talk, a young parents supported playgroup that was delivered in several places across Banyule including at Watsonia Neighbourhood House. By participating in the group, young parents learned strategies to support their child's learning and development and access to one-on-one support through home coaching visits.

The Australian Breastfeeding Association Plenty Valley region provides breastfeeding and parenting support to families in our local area. The organisation uses our space for running regular drop in support and information sessions.

Community participation

Social isolation is a major issue in our community with one in six people experiencing emotional loneliness. It is linked with mental health issues and chronic physical health issues. Anyone can experience social isolation but people at greatest risk are older people, new parents, people with disabilities or people experiencing significant life changes such as retirement, loss of a loved one or relationship breakdown.

In a recent survey by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (our peak body) 88% of people stated that the main benefit to visiting a neighbourhood house was to spend time with people and make friends.

At Watsonia Neighbourhood House there is a strong social component to everything we do. Our classes provide an opportunity to learn something new in the company of others with similar interests. We also have a range of social groups and communal activities including community lunches, family board games, food swaps and craft sessions.

Through our Sustainable Watsonia Open Days (in October, March and June) we



have engaged with many more community members who enjoyed our welcoming and inclusive approach. Our event in March coincided with Neighbour Day, an annual celebration of community, encouraging us to connect with and build better relationships with those who live in our neighbourhood. These events brought community together so we can grow stronger, well connected and resilient communities. Sitting around the fire pit engaging in the Yarning Circle at our winter event, gave individuals equal opportunity to share, be heard and connect with other community members. We received lots of positive feedback about our success with community building and skill sharing.

We offer volunteering opportunities which enable people to connect with their community, learn new skills and feel valued. We find that through volunteering, meaningful and supportive friendships are formed creating connections between people who may not otherwise have met. Good relationships with others can transform communities. These social connections bring us joy and help prevent loneliness, isolation and disconnection.

Supporting people with disabilities

As co facilitator of the Banyule Peer Action Group for VALID (Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability, a peak organisation in the Victorian disability sector), I wasn't really familiar with neighbourhood houses but was curious about how we could work together. I was unsure about how accessible the space would be and

how disability aware the staff and volunteers would be. I've had difficult experiences in the past with non-disability specific organisations in terms of willingness to be adaptable and understanding of the needs of people with disabilities.

It became clear to me that WNH was not only interested in providing us with a room to meet in, staff and volunteers were keen to be involved in my Peer Action Group and willing to learn how they could support us. Group members have established personal connections with the WNH community and feel comfortable there.

I was interested in giving back to WNH by offering my experience and knowledge through volunteering to benefit other people with disabilities in our community. I was offered a position on the Committee of Management which in return has increased my understanding of governance and the neighbourhood house sector. I am now able to encourage other people with disabilities to connect with their local neighbourhood houses and step away from their day services, which can be restrictive and inflexible. Neighbourhood houses are the gateway to participation in community.

I am able to participate at the House without needing to bring a support worker with me because I live close by and the staff are willing to assist me. I enjoy being in a place that isn't just for people with disabilities because we can connect over other things we have in common. Watsonia Neighbourhood House is a place I can relax and feel safe.

Luke Nelson | *Committee of Management
Peer Action Group Co Facilitator*





ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

We will provide leadership in the protection of our natural environment. Our focus is the responsible use of resources and community education relating to environmentally sustainable practices.



This year we were thrilled to be awarded a Banyule Council Sustainability and Environment Grant 2018 to deliver Open Days showcasing sustainable living initiatives in our local area. We employed Sophie Miller as project worker who organised Sustainable Watsonia Open Days in October 2018, March and June 2019. We ran eight activities at each of these events which included discussions, repair cafes, talks and skill share spaces all of which had great community feedback. The winter event in June attracted 348 people and was bustling with interactive

activities including opportunities to share thoughts and stories around the fire with Cindy from Gurwidj Aboriginal Women's Neighbourhood House. Our Open Days were also a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with other community groups including VALID Peer Action Group (self-advocacy group for people with disabilities), Mend It Australia (for fixing and repairing expertise), Montmorency Community Group, Sustainable Macleod and Sustainable Greensborough (some of the local Transition Town groups), Diamond Valley LETS (Local Exchange Trading System), Open House Macleod and Roving Refills.

Watsonia Neighbourhood House created a new transition town group called Sustainable Watsonia which was formally launched at the Open Day in October 2018. The aim of Sustainable Watsonia is to actively promote sustainable living initiatives and encourage local residents to join together to build a more resilient community. When we refer to transition we mean the changes we need to make when moving towards a more just, low carbon, socially connected society than the one we live in today.



The ongoing work of the Sustainable Watsonia initiative has put Watsonia Neighbourhood House in the limelight as a leader in community engagement and capacity building in the area of sustainability. The project recruited many new enthusiastic volunteers and members who speak highly of the work we are doing as it reflects the commitment of Banyule residents wanting to live more sustainably.

One of the initiatives of the Sustainable Watsonia group is a registered Repair Cafe which has attracted volunteer fixers and assisted many local residents to get household items repaired that would have otherwise gone to landfill or used fossil fuels to be recycled. We saved a total of 97kg from landfill or recycling by keeping 55 items in use in the community. The repair cafe has garnered huge community support riding the wave of interest around climate change issues and the need for better management of waste disposal.



The Watsonia Food Sharing Hub was set up in the kitchen this year by a passionate volunteer who is encouraging people to share excess produce from home. People bring kitchen and garden items such as potatoes, lemons, preserves, celery and seeds that will go to waste if left in their own fridge or pantry. This is an excellent initiative and we thank Nicola for her efforts.

The Boomerang Bag making group continues to grow and share the message of using a cloth bag for shopping instead of using plastic. This group provides a social hub for community members as well as an opportunity to share tips on zero waste cooking, gardening and ways that we can all reduce our environmental impact on the planet. This year Watsonia Neighbourhood House introduced low waste community lunches to coincide with Boomerang Bag making sessions and incorporated a focus which was already happening — a communal share lunch aiming for no single use plastic. At our community lunches we share tips about practical solutions to achieve our living waste free goal.

Sophie Miller | *Project Worker*

BUILDING COMMUNITY LIFE

We will promote inclusiveness, strengthen social cohesion and build community capacity within our local community. Our focus is creating a safe and welcoming place and providing opportunities for community participation.

During this year our focus has been on inclusivity and identifying potential barriers for people in our community to access our services or participate in our programs. This is always an area of continuous improvement for our organisation as we strive to understand the needs of community members, especially those who feel isolated or experience discrimination.

Trans Gender Victoria were engaged to provide training to our staff and volunteers on inclusive practice in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse people and the issues impacting people in the LGBTIQ community. We strive to address gender based discrimination and be accepting and supportive of everyone in our community. This fits with our other activities to challenge gender norms and take action on gender equity and reduce barriers to participation. Rigid concepts of gender and gender roles are drivers of gender based violence in our community, so we are contributing to a safer community life built on respect and equity.



We have reviewed our volunteer program to be more inclusive of people with disabilities. As a result of our developing partnership with VALID (Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with a Disability) the peak organisation in the Victorian disability sector, we have seen an increase in volunteering enquiries from people with disabilities. Victoria Alive has also provided Disability Inclusion in Volunteering training to our staff resulting in a more effective and respectful volunteer program. Volunteering is an opportunity for people to forge social connections and participate in their community in a meaningful way by sharing their skills, time and life experiences. It also builds confidence by having skills and contribution valued.



There is an identified need in our community to be more resilient, live more sustainably and tackle the issue of climate change with localised action. Our Open Days were a wonderful opportunity for the Watsonia community to come together to develop a common understanding about how best to respond in practical ways to one of the most pressing issues of our times. Our project brought together like minded individuals, organisations and community groups so we can grow stronger, well connected and resilient communities. This has captured the imagination of all those who have attended the days and made us all feel more optimistic about the future.

We also supported the Friends of Aminya local action group to work with Banyule Council to improve the park and amenities of the Aminya Reserve, which is located next to Watsonia Neighbourhood House. Friends of Aminya was formed by a group of local residents who identified the need for improvements to be



more accessible, upgrade the play equipment and improve the recreational areas. We hosted a number of meetings and community consultation events as well as liaising with stakeholders. As a result a project design has been developed and Council allocated \$158,000 in their 2019/2020 budget. We are excited to see works commence in the coming year.





WORKING IN PARTNERSHIPS

We will continue to work cooperatively with other community based groups, networks and service providers with whom we share common purpose and values. Our focus is to establish new cooperative relationships and strengthen our existing partnerships.

The Banyule Neighbourhood Houses collaborated on the Clothesline Project during Week Without Violence during October 2018. This involved inviting participants and house visitors to paint words or pictures expressing their thoughts and experiences of family violence or nonviolence on t-shirts. The t-shirts were then displayed publicly in our centres. Across our network 120 t-shirts were painted, generating discussion and opportunities for community members to tell their stories. Staff and volunteers had completed Women's Health in the North Identifying and Responding to Family Violence training which equipped us to support people who engaged with this project.

We supported the Stronger Together project, which is a collaboration between Living and Learning Nillumbik and Lalor Living and Learning Centre funded through Adult Community Further Education Capacity and Innovation Fund. We participated in the Project Reference Group with representatives from Nillumbik Shire Council and Whittlesea Community Connections. This was a great opportunity to connect with other

organisations also supporting women who have experienced family violence and has resulted in Watsonia Neighbourhood House joining and participating in the Banyule Nillumbik Family Violence Network. We also collaborated with North East Neighbourhood House Network to host an information session by Victims Assistance Program about keeping pets safe in the context of family violence.

This year we have established a strong partnership with VALID (Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with a Disability) the peak organisation in the Victorian disability sector representing adults with an intellectual disability and their families. We host and participate in their Banyule Peer Action Group (PAG) which is a peer support group. PAG encourages people with disabilities to be active in the decisions that impact their lives, work and act together with others to promote more inclusive communities and opportunities for recreation, work and community participation. This partnership is based on shared organisational values and has provided Watsonia Neighbourhood House



with the opportunity to engage with and support more people with disabilities in our community. Together we build the community leadership skills of people with disabilities and to advocate for and drive change in our local community.

To celebrate International Day of People with Disabilities 2018 we hosted Fantastic Flicks, a collection of short films made by and about people with disabilities. The Peer Action Group has participated in our Sustainable Watsonia Open Days by facilitating discussion about issues that they are passionate about including the use of plastic straws by people with disabilities and the challenges of public transport. The inclusion of people with disabilities in our events has enabled us to explore the links between universal access and design issues and the development of sustainable communities. We have been thrilled to have PAG group members

volunteering with us in numerous ways and will continue to support the group and strengthen our partnership with VALID.

We have enjoyed connecting and working with Gurwidj Aboriginal Women's Neighbourhood House in Thornbury. Gurwidj have been very generous to us and performed the Welcome to Country at two of our Open Days. For many who attended, it was a highlight of the day. They also provided us with travelling stones as our thank you gift for volunteers, with a message asking that we respect the land we are standing on. Travelling Stones are hand painted tokens that were traditionally given to all visitors who pass through a foreign tribal ground for safe passage.

These new partnerships are the foundation of more collaborative work to benefit our local community.



STRONG GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

We will provide sound financial management and organisational governance that is responsive and accountable to our community. This strategic direction is our overall priority with our focus being on financial sustainability, risk management and implementation of best practice policy and procedures.

We will provide sound financial management and organisational governance that is responsive and accountable to our community. This strategic direction is our overall priority with our focus being on financial sustainability, risk management and implementation of best practice policy and procedures.

It is the Committee's role to decide on the direction of the House through planning and policy. In 2016 a five year strategic plan (2016- 2021) was developed to provide us with a long term view for our organisation. Since then we have been focusing on the key directions set out in the strategic plan resulting in engagement with more community members from diverse groups and partnerships with organisations with whom we share common purpose.

The strategic plan guides our decision making and ensures that everyone involved with the organisation has a clear picture of its direction, priorities and objectives. The plan has considered the changing social, economic and political environment that can impact on the House to ensure that we stay relevant, robust and responsive.

Our key strategic objectives are;

1. Supporting the needs of the people in our community
2. Environmental stewardship
3. Strong governance and financial management
4. Building community life
5. Working in partnership

This year we have been reviewing our Policies to ensure that we remain accountable, compliant and responsive. This has included areas such as;

- Environmental Sustainability
- Work place and employment
- Code of Conduct
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Venue usage and security
- Risk

To ensure that our Committee of Management continue to follow best practice in their governance role, several of our members have attended Governance training to build their skills and knowledge and drive quality improvement. Strong governance in an organisation means that it is safe, connected and meets its obligations.



TREASURERS REPORT

The passing financial year marks the fifth consecutive year the Watsonia Neighbourhood House has posted a positive return and improved its financial position.

Watsonia Neighbourhood House continues to rely on funding from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Banyule City Council. We are very grateful to these organisations that provide the stability required for our operations. Additional project grants have been obtained by clever successful submissions by our manager Lucie Holden and project worker Sophie Miller. These additional grants have boosted the income of the House significantly.

WNH has also continued to benefit from corporate room hire and our community partners' room hire. The fact that the House has attracted such interest in our facilities has enabled us to increase our income from these sources and also make a significant contribution to our financial position.

In 2018/2019 our income rose from \$170,789 to \$215,336. This was quite a substantial rise and reflects how the successful new submissions were to our financial position.

WNH expenses have of course also risen. This year we employed a project worker and thus we started our Open Days and Sustainable Watsonia.

We have also upgraded our office equipment focussing particularly on the computer systems.

The House remains in a very strong financial position. Again, I would like to convey my appreciation to Lucie Holden and lately Sophie Miller for their valuable work on program submissions. I would like to thank Rose Perera for supplying me with profit and

loss statements and balance sheets for the monthly meetings and Evan Butterworth for reviewing the accounts, preparing our annual financial statements and recommending improved accounting procedures.

The improved accounting procedures did have an effect our bottom line figure for this year. A substantial expected profit was reduced by the fact we had to allow for depreciation that had been under estimated in the past and there also had been an under estimated provision for employee entitlements. These adjustments give us a realistic evaluation of our financial position.

Watsonia Neighbourhood House, with good management and a responsible Board were able to make a healthy profit of \$7,558 and have a total equity figure of \$78,789 to continue our valuable operations.



Bob Regan | *Treasurer*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

Profit and Loss Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2019

INCOME	2019	2018
	\$	\$
DHS NHCP Funding	79,277	75,489
City of Banyule - Neighbourhood House	30,000	16,091
City of Banyule - other grants	16,325	1,380
ACFE Funding (auspiced by OAE)	23,584	7,266
LGBTIQ Training	700	
Total Grants Income	149,886	100,226
Class Fees & Groups Income	19,303	21,824
Fundraising & Donations	1,182	1,775
Interest Income	792	541
Other Income	620	8,495
Room Hire	43,553	37,927
Total Income	215,336	170,789
EXPENSES	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Advertising & Fundraising	1,724	2,037
Bank Fees	238	347
Bookkeeping Fees	500	0
Computer Expenses	4,029	1,410
Depreciation	4,286	5,613
Electricity, Gas & Water	3,199	3,680
House, Staff & Volunteer Supplies	2,150	1,748
Insurance	2,501	1,388
Membership & Subscriptions	973	1,089
Printing & Stationary	3,662	900
Project Expenses	12,536	5,316
Provision for Leave Entitlements	13,765	-1,076
Repairs, Maintenance & Cleaning	938	1,503
Salaries	130,790	112,894
Staff Training / Workforce Development	1,526	1,159
Superannuation	13,315	11,355
Telephone & Internet	2,018	2,018
Tutor Payments	9,628	10,308
Total Expenditure	207,778	161,688
Net Operating Income	7,558	9,101

Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2018

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	115,297	89,534
Petty Cash	200	200
Prepayments	1,870	1,389
Accounts Receivable	2,430	3,011
	119,797	94,134
Non Current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment at cost	28,067	28,067
Less Provision for Depreciation	-25,147	-20,860
	2,920	7,206
Total Assets	122,717	101,340
LIABILITIES	2019 \$	2018 \$
Trade & Other Creditors	0	0
Grants received in advance	800	4,970
Fees received in advance	350	840
Provision for employee entitlements	32,908	19,143
ATO — BAS Liability	9,861	5,148
Total Liabilities	43,919	30,101
Net Assets	78,798	71,239
Equity	2019 \$	2018 \$
Opening balance	71,239	62,138
Add / Less Current Year Net Operating Profit/ Loss	7,558	9,101
Total Equity 30 June 2019	78,798	71,239

These statements give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of Watsonia Neighbourhood House during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending June 2019



Katherine Barling | *President*



Pamela Walker | *Secretary*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our Repair Café initiative has diverted 97 kgs of waste from landfill.
- Bike racks have been installed by Banyule Council to encourage local people coming to the House to choose more sustainable transport options.
- We are the proud recipient of 2018 Innovative Community Development Initiative Award from North East Neighbourhood House Network.
- Through the Australian Tax Office Tax Help program we supported 40 local people on local incomes to prepare their annual tax returns.
- We had over 40 people attend our first Food Swap in September providing opportunity for local residents to swap excess produce from their gardens.

Identifying community needs

We identify community needs through;

- Consultation with other organisations and community groups
- Refer to Banyule Council community plans
- Use of data from annual Neighbourhood Houses Victoria participant survey
- Community consultation
- Suggestion box
- Social media
- Review of Australian Bureau of Statistics demographic data
- Everyday conversations with people who come to *Watsonia Neighbourhood House*



Our Boomerang Bag making group so far has made

1439

reusable shopping bags

749

reusable produce bags

for distribution in our local community to reduce single use plastic bags.



Our Sustainability Open Day in June attracted nearly 350 people and was supported by 30 volunteers.

Support Services

We also offer support services including;

- Free tax help — assistance to prepare and submit annual tax returns for low income earners
- Room hire — access to our facilities by community groups and partnership organisations
- Food rescue program — distribution of fresh food
- Access to internet and wifi
- Collection point for Diamond Valley Food Share
- Recharge Point — access to electricity for people who use electric wheel chairs or scooter
- Referrals to other community organisations and community services



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