# NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BARWON

# 2026 ANNUAL REPORT





Cover Art elements by **Billy-Jay O'Toole** (Papul art)
Wadawurrung Traditional Owner

Billy-Jay (BJ) O'Toole aims to educate people about his culture and love for land through his art. BJ grew up in Geelong on Wadawurrung Country, an area that stretches from the Great Dividing Range in Victoria's north all the way to the south coast, covering the land between Aireys Inlet in the west to the Werribee River in the east.
At the age of 23, he graduated with a Certificate IV in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage management and has managed and protected cultural heritage sites on Wadawurrung Country, working for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. Working on country every day ignited his passion for art. Through his business Papul Art, BJ enjoys creating collaborative commissioned works, such as designing a playground in Ocean Grove and tops for the Torquay Tornadoes Hockey Club.

We are thrilled to have commissioned BJ to create beautiful artwork capturing the essence of Neighbourhood Houses Barwon and our Reconciliation journey together with the 24 Neighbourhood Houses in the Barwon region and the communities they serve.

**Artwork Elements Description**

Titled: Barwon Neighbourhood Houses

Every day, the sun rises to bring us a new day. Bunjil (wedge tailed eagle), the creator of Wadawurrung country soars high in the sky, watching over Country, waters and people. Waa (The crow) is the protector.
The hand symbolises everyone's commitment to Reconciliation, it takes many hands to come together.
The track markings are of kangaroos and emus that once were of plenty across Country.
Water gives life to country and all of us. Our Sea Country, River Country and wetlands are home to abundance of species that roam across Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Country.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BARWON

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BARWON

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Neighbourhood Houses Barwon acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which 24 Neighbourhood Houses connect with their communities - the land of the Wadawurrung, Eastern Maar, Gulidjan and Gadubanud people - and pay respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Neighbourhood Houses Barwon acknowledges and pays respect to the First nation's people and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and education practices.

## OUR VISION

Community development principles and practice delivered with a sense of unity and a collective voice.

## OUR MISSION

Enabling the delivery of quality community development through high-level representation, advice, guidance, and support.

## OUR PURPOSE

Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc will provide "a collective voice and a sense of unity" for its members.

## OUR PRIORITIES

- Sharing resources, information, and knowledge
- Linking members with each other and our community partners
- Community development
- Positive and productive conversations
- Advocacy

# WHERE OUR MEMBERS ARE




NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BARWON

# FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON AND NETWORK MANAGER

It has been another productive year for Neighbourhood Houses Barwon, with a strong focus on governance, member support, partnerships, and sector leadership.
Throughout the year, the Network worked closely with member houses, Committees of Management, managers, staff, volunteers, local government, and sector partners to strengthen organisational capacity and respond to emerging challenges across the region.

A major achievement this year was the comprehensive review of the Network's Governance Manual, with policies updated and new policies introduced where required. This work has strengthened the Network's governance framework and commitment to continuous improvement.
We also provided practical support to member houses, including governance advice, Committee and manager recruitment assistance, staff probation processes, work planning, and implementation of the new NHCP funding guidelines.
Where significant governance or operational issues arose, we worked collaboratively with houses, local government, and DFFH to ensure appropriate responses and ongoing compliance.

The implementation of the Network's Annual Plan remained on track throughout the year.
Member engagement continued to be strong, with approximately 90% attendance at NOCH meetings, providing valuable opportunities for information sharing, collaboration, and peer support.
Our mini-conference was also well-attended and positively received, supporting professional development and improved sector connections.

Nurturing strong partnerships continues to be an important part of the Network's work.
A highlight of the year was our partnership with Colac Otway Shire, which led to two successful grant applications. These initiatives will provide additional funding for our Colac-Otway members through project partnerships, supporting local cooking and youth programs while also delivering broader community development outcomes.



Communication across the Network was strengthened through the rebranding of our monthly newsletter, the Barwon Exchange, and the launch of an updated Neighbourhood Houses Barwon website, improving access to information, resources, and professional development opportunities.

Neighbourhood Houses Barwon also remained actively engaged in state-wide sector activities, attending approximately 80% of State Network meetings, contributing to projects, supporting advocacy campaigns, and ensuring the voices of Barwon Neighbourhood Houses were represented in sector discussions.

The Network maintained its strong financial position, delivering a budget surplus for the year. We strengthened organisational capacity by transitioning the administration contractor role to an employee position, providing greater continuity and support for Network operations.

In the coming year, we will support the establishment of the new Neighbourhood House at Ocean Grove, continue assisting members with implementation of the NHCP guidelines, and pursue funding for a Network-wide HR support project.
We remain committed to strengthening governance, supporting our members, fostering collaboration, and ensuring Neighbourhood Houses across the Barwon region continue to thrive.

*Jodii Anderson* — Chairperson

*Fran Fogarty* — Network Manager

## Chairperson's Farewell

As I come to the end of my time as President of Neighbourhood Houses Barwon, I would like to reflect on what has been a very rewarding two years in the role, and ten years as a member of the Committee. It has been a privilege to contribute to the Network and work alongside so many passionate and committed people.
I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Committee members, staff, Neighbourhood House Managers, Committees of Management and volunteers for your support, encouragement, and commitment over the years. I am incredibly grateful for the friendships, experiences and connections I have made along the way.

While I am stepping away from the role, I am proud of what we have achieved together and wish Neighbourhood Houses Barwon, our member Houses and everyone involved every success for the future. Thank you for allowing me to be part of such a wonderful organisation. It has been an honour and a privilege.

**Jodii**
President
Neighbourhood Houses Barwon

## Acknowledgements and Thanks

We extend our sincere thanks to Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic) for its ongoing support, leadership, advocacy, and commitment to the Neighbourhood House sector. In particular, we acknowledge **Beth Davidson, President**, and **Keir Paterson, CEO**, for their leadership and dedication.

We also thank our valued partners and stakeholders, including G21 (CoGG), particularly **Nateesha Thomassen**, Surf Coast Shire, and Colac Otway Shire, particularly **Ashish Sitoula**, for their ongoing collaboration and support.

A special thank you to the Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Committee of Management for generously contributing their time, expertise, and leadership throughout the year:

- **Jodii Anderson, Chairperson**
- **Alan Davis**
- **Sandra Anderson, Secretary**
- **Julie Martin, Treasurer**
- **Wendy Greaves**

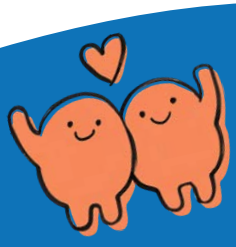
We would like to thank **Nicky Albert**, our bookkeeper, whose work is often carried out quietly in the background but is essential to the effective operation of our organisation.

We also acknowledge and thank our staff:

- Fran Fogarty, Network Manager
- Thurid Pfeiffer-Busby, Administration Coordinator

Most importantly, we thank the 24 Neighbourhood Houses within our network for their ongoing engagement, participation, and commitment to sharing knowledge and resources. This collaborative spirit is one of the Network's greatest strengths and helps build stronger, more sustainable Neighbourhood Houses across our region.

We are grateful to the volunteers, committees, staff, stakeholders, and partners whose ongoing support helps strengthen our sector and communities.



# CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Author: Nateesha Thomassen, Senior Community Development Project Officer

## STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES

Over the past 12 months, the City of Greater Geelong has continued to work closely with Neighbourhood Houses to support strong, accessible, and community-led services across the municipality.

Over the past two years, the City has supported the transition to a new Neighbourhood House service provider in Lara.

The City thanks Cloverdale Community Centre for providing interim management to ensure continuity of programs for the Lara community and congratulates Rosewell Community Centre on its successful application to deliver Lara's Neighbourhood House service into the future.

The City also took on temporary management of Ocean Grove Neighbourhood House, ensuring continuity of service for the local community while leading preparations to return management to a community-led group.

## A NEW MULTI-YEAR FUNDING AGREEMENT

A key focus during the year was progressing the new three-year Funding Agreement. Moving from grant funding to multi-year funding agreements was a key recommendation of the City's review, which was endorsed by its leadership in 2025. The review's key findings were presented at a workshop with Neighbourhood Houses in March.

Funding Agreement templates were subsequently developed in consultation with Greater Geelong Neighbourhood Houses and Neighbourhood Houses Barwon, reflecting a shared commitment to clear expectations, constructive collaboration, and strong community outcomes.

The City was also pleased to provide each Neighbourhood House with an additional $2,143 in annual funding from the 2026–27 financial year, together with annual indexation of 2 per cent under the new Funding Agreement model. This increased the City's total annual investment in Neighbourhood Houses to $252,500.

Alongside the introduction of the Funding Agreements, the City developed a new process to administer annual payments and reporting through the SmartyGrants platform. This will provide a more consistent and streamlined approach for both Neighbourhood Houses and the City.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In the year ahead, the City will continue to engage with Neighbourhood Houses to develop the new Neighbourhood House Partnership Framework. The framework will clarify the partnership, align priorities, and highlight the critical role Neighbourhood Houses play in supporting the unique needs of communities across Greater Geelong.

A Partnership Forum will be designed and delivered in early 2027 to continue these conversations, build shared understanding, and further strengthen the partnership between the City and Neighbourhood Houses.

The City will also continue to develop practical tools and processes to support reporting and help Neighbourhood Houses meet their obligations under the Funding Agreement.

Together, this work will provide a stronger foundation for an enduring partnership and responsive Neighbourhood House services across Greater Geelong.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

# MESSAGE FROM COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

Author: Ashish Sitoula, Manager Community Services

Colac Otway Shire Council values its longstanding partnership with Neighbourhood Houses Barwon and the vital role Neighbourhood Houses play in strengthening community connection, inclusion, and wellbeing across our region.

Neighbourhood Houses provide welcoming and accessible spaces where people of all ages can learn, connect, participate, and contribute. They are often the first place community members turn to for support, social connection, volunteering opportunities, and lifelong learning. Through their work, Neighbourhood Houses help build resilient communities, reduce social isolation, and create opportunities for local leadership and participation.

Council is proud to support Neighbourhood Houses across the Shire through annual financial contributions and collaborative partnerships that enable local communities to thrive.
Council recognises that Neighbourhood Houses are trusted community hubs and essential partners in advancing the social, health, and wellbeing outcomes that matter most to our residents.

Colac Otway SHIRE

Council is particularly excited about the opportunities presented through the Connected Futures Project, a VicHealth-funded initiative that seeks to strengthen social connection, wellbeing, and community participation across Colac Otway Shire. Neighbourhood Houses Barwon and the local Neighbourhood Houses in Colac, Apollo Bay Forrest and Gellibrand, will play a key role in delivering place-based programs, supporting community-led initiatives and creating meaningful opportunities for young people and residents to connect, contribute and shape their communities.
The project recognises the unique value of Neighbourhood Houses as trusted local organisations with deep community relationships and a proven ability to bring people together. Community engagement on this will begin soon.

On behalf of Colac Otway Shire Council, I would like to thank the Board, staff, volunteers, and community members of Neighbourhood Houses Barwon for their ongoing commitment and leadership. Your work makes a tangible difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities across our region.

Council looks forward to continuing this long partnership and working together with Neighbourhood Houses to deliver the Connected Futures Project and other initiatives that support healthy, inclusive and connected communities for years to come.

# MESSAGE FROM SURFCOAST SHIRE

Author: Rochelle Harding, Acting Coordinator Community Health and Development

Over the past 12 months, Surf Coast Shire Council has continued to strengthen its partnership with the five Community Houses in the shire, located in Anglesea, Deans Marsh (Cottage), Lorne, Torquay, and Winchelsea. These valued community organisations provide welcoming, inclusive spaces and deliver activities, programs, and services that respond to local needs, strengthen community connections, and support participation and wellbeing.

Council works closely with the Community Houses to identify opportunities for collaboration, build the capacity of staff and volunteers, and deliver initiatives across the Shire.
This year, Council supported a range of free training opportunities, including Child Safety training for Torquay Community House, delivered in partnership with Child Safe Australia, and priority access to Mental Health First Aid training for its staff and volunteers.
Two free First Aid courses were also delivered at Anglesea Community House, with priority places offered to Community House staff and volunteers.



Community Houses again played an important role in celebrating National Volunteer Week, with Council partnering with Lorne, Anglesea, Deans Marsh and Winchelsea Community Houses to deliver locally tailored events recognising and thanking local volunteers.

The Community Houses are also important partners in Council's broader community wellbeing, inclusion, and engagement work. All five are hosting workshops to inform Council's Disability Action Plan and delivering activities as part of Positive Ageing Month.
Their strong local networks help Council share information about community events, activities, services, and engagement opportunities, ensuring information reaches people through trusted and accessible local channels.

Through these partnerships, Council and the Community Houses continue to strengthen local capacity, connection, participation and inclusion across the Surf Coast.

# DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, FAIRNESS, AND HOUSING

Author: Lisa Charleson, Principal Partner Agency Performance Partnerships and Systems Support, Barwon Area

As Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) staff, we are continually inspired by the dedication of staff and volunteers across Barwon Neighbourhood Houses.
Their ongoing commitment to achieving positive outcomes for local communities remains a defining strength of our shared work.



Over the last twelve months, Barwon Houses have once again responded to community needs through a diverse mix of partnerships, programs, and supports. Strong and collaborative relationships with the Neighbourhood House Network, Council, and other key stakeholders continue to underpin the effectiveness of this work and have been clear throughout the year.

VICTORIA State Government | Families, Fairness and Housing

This year also saw the introduction of updated Victorian Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Guidelines. The shift to monthly reporting, strengthened safety and screening requirements, and clearer expectations around community advisory groups highlight the sector's commitment to transparency, safety, and community-led governance. These updates support Neighbourhood Houses to continue delivering high-quality, responsive services while recognising the evolving community needs.

We deeply value these ongoing collaborations and look forward to continuing to work alongside the Network and Neighbourhood Houses to support the Barwon community.



NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BARWON

# Gathering Principles

**Gathering principles are simple, shared guidelines that help everyone feel welcome, safe, and respected at our Neighbourhood House. They support kindness, inclusion, & working together as a community.**

*Neighbourhood Houses Barwon acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which 24 Neighbourhood Houses connect with their communities - the land of the Wadawurrung, Eastern Maar, Gulidjan and Gadubanud People - and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging. Neighbourhood Houses Barwon acknowledges and pays respect to the First Nation's people and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and education practices.*

## RESPECT

Respect is active honouring: valuing others and their experiences with care, fairness, and openness.

## TOGETHER

Being TOGETHER is enough.
I participate today as part of this community.

## EMPATHY

Empathy is active understanding: listening with your heart and standing alongside others in their experiences.

## KINDNESS

Kindness is active care: small, consistent actions that uplift others and honour relationships.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is active responsibility: owning your choices and working to repair trust when needed.

## ENGAGING

Engaging is active participation: showing up, contributing, and connecting with others to create impact.

Developed in consultation with Arranyinha Pty Ltd.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES IN BARWON

REAL IMPACT.
REAL VALUE.

Income
**$6m**

=

Value
**$32.9m**



## This COMMUNITY VALUE equates to:

- $5.48 for every $1 of income
- $13.33 for every $1 of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding
- Over $548.46 each for every hour the neighbourhood houses were in use on average

## This EMPLOYMENT VALUE equates to:

- 57.4 FTE jobs including 41.3 direct and indirect FTE positions

These values are produced by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria based on data provided by Neighbourhood Houses in Barwon in the 2025 Neighbourhood Houses Survey. Only a limited range of activities where a determinable valuation method exists are included.

# 32.9M NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BARWON VALUE BREAKDOWN

**12.1M**
Improved quality of life through social connection

**6.4M**
Volunteer contributions

**5.9M**
Adult Community Education

**4.5M**
Emergency relief provided

**3.1M**
Services provided

**0.2M**
Social enterprise goods & services

## 4.5M EMERGENCY RELIEF BREAKDOWN

**$4,426,224**
Food & Groceries

**$46,296**
Food Vouchers

**$4,260**
Fuel Vouchers

**$38,640**
Clothing

**$14,484**
Personal care & hygiene items

## 3.1M SERVICES BREAKDOWN

**$12,720**
Computer & Internet

**$10,080**
Resume Assistance

**$10,080**
Facilities Use & Hire

**$11,600**
Tax Help

**$203,923**
School aged breakfasts

**$37,948**
Auspicing other Organisations

**$222,960**
Community lunches & frozen and other meals

**$549,098**
Fee for Service Activities

**$147,900**
Power Saving Bonus

# OUR MEMBERS

Anakie Community House

anglesea community house

CLOVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Colac Neighbourhood House
Living Learning & Linking Locally

DEANS MARSH COMMUNITY COTTAGE

Forrest & District Neighbourhood House

Geelong West Neighbourhood House
Celebrating Diversity, Building Community

Gellibrand Community House

GROVEDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Leopold Community & Learning Centre

LORNE COMMUNITY HOUSE

MARRAR WOORN Neighbourhood House

norlane COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ocean Grove Neighbourhood House

Portarlington NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House
The Heart of the Community

Rosewall Community Centre

South Barwon Community Centre

Torquay Community House
respect • equality • inclusion

Vines Road Community Centre
Something for everyone

Whittington Neighbourhood House

WINCH HOUSE
Reaching into the community

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## ANAKIE COMMUNITY HOUSE

Anakie
Community House

The 2025–2026 year has been an exciting period of renewal, growth and new beginnings for Anakie Community House.

We farewelled Heather O'Shannessy, who had been at the helm for 38 years – guiding the House since its inception – and began an exciting new chapter for our community.

Over the past 12 months, the House has continued to grow and evolve, strengthening our programs, building new community partnerships, and finding new ways to connect with local residents.
We have enhanced our communications and online systems, progressed important compliance work, and invested in both the House and its gardens to ensure they remain welcoming and vibrant community spaces.

A key focus throughout the year has been creating more opportunities for locals to come together, learn, participate, and connect. Alongside our regular activities, we introduced new workshops, community events, learning opportunities and partnerships, bringing fresh energy and ideas into the House.
Highlights were: Community Christmas Lunch, Anakie Community Day, Wadawurrung Bouquets, Neighbourhood House Week Morning Tea, Paint and Create, Social Bus Trip to Ballarat, and our many working bees to establish our native and edible gardens.








# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## ANGLESEA COMMUNITY HOUSE

Our Twilight Market enjoyed another very successful season and continues to grow from strength to strength each year. The market has become a much-loved part of the Anglesea summer calendar, bringing locals and visitors together and creating a vibrant community atmosphere. Each season we continue to build on what we have learnt, and it has been wonderful to see the market become increasingly popular and successful.






One of our most exciting developments has been the establishment of the Anglesea Community House Annexe. With our existing Community House operating at capacity, the opportunity to take on an additional building has provided some much-needed room to grow.

A considerable amount of work has gone into preparing, furnishing and setting up the Annexe so that it is welcoming, functional, and flexible for our community.

The Annexe is already opening up new possibilities for programs, activities, and community use, while also providing opportunities to generate additional income to support the ongoing sustainability of the House. This includes the development of a dedicated co-working space, providing a quiet and affordable local option for people who work or study remotely, as well as spaces available for regular programs, meetings, and one-off activities.

Both the continued success of the Twilight Market and the establishment of the Annexe reflect the way Anglesea Community House continues to respond to our growing community — creating opportunities for connection while also looking for new and sustainable ways to support our work into the future.

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## COLAC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE




Colac Neighbourhood House has seen an incredibly busy time this year, moving into a new location.
Our opening was held with many members of the community in attendance and Community Radio OCR FM broadcasting about the event.

We are settling into our new facilities at Myers St, Colac, located in the Central Reserve and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with many activities planned.





# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## CLOVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Over the past year, Cloverdale Community Centre has brought people together through learning, wellbeing support, music and community events, as well as building confidence, skills, and connections.

We have reimagined Lotus Café, now open two days a week with support from our partnership with Geelong Grammar School, providing a gentle, welcoming, and inclusive space in our corner of Corio–Norlane.

A highlight of 2026 was our community partnership with the 2026 Geelong Jazz and Blues Festival, supporting local musicians' participation and strengthening inclusion and access across the festival.
Through Real Deal for Geelong, we have also strengthened community voices and advocated for change.

Despite financial pressures being faced by our community and growing demand for support, we remain focused on participation and belonging for those who seek it.









# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## DEANS MARSH COMMUNITY COTTAGE

2026 has been another busy and rewarding year, continuing our commitment to Meaningful Connections and Welcoming Spaces.

We have remained a hub for our community, offering regular activities including Yoga, Pilates, Marsh Fit, Bootscooting, Youth Group, History Chats, and the Grow Free Pantry.
Our annual community events continue to provide social connection. Winter Solstice, the Deans Marsh Festival, and Dog Trails remain as popular as ever, while Run the Marsh celebrates its 10th year this October.
We'll round out the year with Carols, bringing the community together for an end-of-year celebration.
Our Community Dinners are a highlight each month, offering an opportunity to get together for a shared meal while providing food support to those who need it. Music and the arts have also flourished through Music @ the Marsh, and SPaRK creative activities.
Our Youth Group offers local young people the opportunities to connect and try new activities including darts, while Farmer Fridays have created a relaxed space for local farmers and families to catch up over an end of season BBQ.



2026 also saw a change in management, with Caroline finishing her time at the Cottage to pursue a new opportunity, and Casey coming on board as the new Manager. This has been a year of transition, learning, and building on the strong foundations already established.

Behind the scenes, we have strengthened reporting, volunteer administration, and compliance and risk management, while continuing to build partnerships across our community and the wider Barwon Neighbourhood House network.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, tutors, community members and supporters — the Cottage wouldn't be what it is without you.



# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## FORREST & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

It has been another busy and rewarding year at Forrest & District Neighbourhood House, and we are incredibly proud of what our small community has achieved together.

One of the highlights of the year was our wonderful community Bush Dance — a fantastic evening that brought people of all ages together for some good old-fashioned fun, music and dancing, and strengthened the sense of connection and community spirit in our town.

Our Food Security Grant has enabled us to expand the support available to our community. Through increased food support, grocery vouchers and training opportunities, we have been able to provide practical assistance to people and families while creating new opportunities for participation, learning, and connection.





Our regular groups and activities continue to bring people together, including our Youth Group, Seniors Morning Teas and Studio Forrest Art Group.
We have also enjoyed supporting other local groups, organisations, and community events to get their ideas off the ground and succeed in their own activities.

We are so grateful for our little town and the incredible volunteers, staff, participants and community members who make Forrest such a wonderful place to live. Their enthusiasm, generosity and willingness to get involved are at the heart of everything we achieve.



# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

Geelong West Neighbourhood House
Celebrating Diversity, Building Community

## GEELONG WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

It's been another eventful year at Geelong West Neighbourhood House, with blockbuster events punctuating another year of community connection and development for our little house on the fringe of Geelong CBD. Being so centrally located means that we are blessed with opportunities to sit in the heart of Cultura's Pako Festa, and to be a home to groups like Geelong Rainbow, the Beaders Guild of Geelong, Geelong Salsa, and Geelong Chess – we've even started our own Swing Dancing classes this year!

Our Winter Solstice event has consolidated its place as a staple on the Geelong West community calendar. We welcomed another thousand participants to this year's edition, with the theme being a low-waste event. We also used the opportunity to showcase local community groups on stage and as part of our market stalls, with over 30 volunteers supporting the event.

We are also incredibly proud to have delivered an art project that celebrates and acknowledges our site as a traditional gathering place for Wadawurrung people. Local Wadawurrung artist Nandali Ahmat designed a beautiful artwork that sits on our building facing into West Memorial Park; thank you Nandali!



Photo by: Jonathan Chee



Photo by: Danka Dear



Photo by: Danka Dear



Photo by: Danka Dear

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## GELLIBRAND COMMUNITY HOUSE

During and following the January 2026 fires, Gellibrand Community House responded quickly to support residents across Gellibrand and surrounding communities.
The trust and strong relationships established over many years enabled us to mobilise volunteers, prepare and distribute lunches, coordinate food relief, share reliable information, and provide a welcoming place where people could connect, access support, and feel less isolated.

Throughout the recovery period, the House has continued to play a significant role as a trusted local hub, responding to changing community needs and helping residents remain connected to services and one another.
This experience demonstrated the importance of locally based organisations that understand their community and can respond quickly during challenging times.



We sincerely thank our dedicated volunteers, NH Barwon, and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) for the significant roles they played and continue to play in supporting Gellibrand Community House and our wider community throughout this challenging period.






# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## GROVEDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

This year at Grovedale Neighbourhood House, connection, exploration, and a touch of festive fun brought our community together in new and memorable ways.

In response to community feedback calling for more affordable opportunities to connect, we were delighted to host a special Christmas in June celebration. More than 75 local community members came together to enjoy a wonderful day of festive activities, including a Christmas tree decorating competition, face painting, live entertainment from our very own Ukes 'n' More ukulele group, and an engaging performance by Mark the Magician. The event provided a welcoming space for people of all ages to connect, meet new friends and discover opportunities to become more involved in community life.



The celebration also helped inspire participation in new initiatives, including our "Walk With Me" walking group. Participants now regularly come together for a community walk followed by a complimentary coffee, creating another valued opportunity for social connection and wellbeing.

Our new Book Swap area has quickly become a popular community resource, with more than 100 books circulating each week, including a wide selection of children's books. Families can often be seen enjoying the space together, sharing stories and exploring the range of books and puzzles available.



This year also saw us welcome Camilla Wilson to the Grovedale Neighbourhood House team as Operations and Administration Officer. Camilla has brought warmth, enthusiasm and a positive energy that has been embraced by both staff and community members alike.



As we look ahead, we are excited to continue fostering opportunities for connection, learning, and community participation.
Supported by our dedicated volunteers, staff and community members, Grovedale Neighbourhood House remains committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming space where people can connect, grow and thrive.

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## LEOPOLD COMMUNITY & LEARNING CENTRE

Looking back over the year, one of the clear highlights for us at the Leopold Community & Learning Centre was the establishment of the LC&LC Community Garden.

With limited space available, we made use of the only area open to us: the balcony, transforming it into a welcoming and productive garden space.



Our community choir has continued to go from strength to strength, with tickets to its concerts now much sought after by the community.

The choir's growing popularity reflects the enthusiasm, dedication, and talent of its members, as well as the strong support it receives from the local community.



Leopold Community & Learning Centre

Another much-loved tradition, the annual Christmas lunch, was again warmly anticipated and enjoyed, bringing people together to celebrate friendship, connection, and the festive season.



Throughout the year, a variety of workshops provided opportunities for participants to learn new skills, share experiences, and enjoy creative and practical activities.

These included programs such as A Taste of Life, which focused on cooking with seasonal produce, as well as watercolour painting workshops that encouraged creativity and self-expression.

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## LORNE COMMUNITY HOUSE



Every week, the words “but I can’t sing” are quickly forgotten as locals gather for the Kindred Choir at Lorne Community House, led by the very talented Tiffany eckhardt.

Do you need to be a great singer to join? Absolutely not.
Do you need to enjoy yourself? Definitely!

With strong attendance and new members each week, the choir has become a highlight for many participants and House users. The sound of laughter after a song is often just as rewarding as the music itself, creating a welcoming and supportive atmosphere where everyone feels they belong.
The group has even had opportunities to perform at a few local events, showcasing not only their growing confidence but also the connections and friendships built along the way.

Who knew a community choir could bring so much joy laughter and a sense of belonging?

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## MARRAR WOORN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

This year has been one of growth, collaboration and strengthening community connections.
Education remains at the heart of what we do, with more than 1,600 adult education hours delivered through ACFE-funded programs.

Our Food Security Program continues to be a vital support for the community. Over the past 12 months, our Food Share Pantry distributed more than 31,000kg of food. The program also supported community dinners, emergency evacuation responses, and our free breakfast initiative, ensuring people could access nutritious food when they needed it most.



We've been involved with four evacuations through Fire Ready Apollo Bay, as a result of flash flooding and bushfires in our area. We welcomed evacuees at the Apollo Bay Community Hall between the emergencies happening and the official emergency response starting.
Phone trees were set up as a part of this community response program. This was a huge effort from our volunteers.

Working closely with Apollo Bay P-12 College, we strengthened our focus on young people through several collaborative projects.
We also celebrated children's week and have had a weekly playgroup, kids book club, and bushcraft workshops for kids.



We have continued to invest in creating a more attractive and accessible community space. Improvements this year included a new children's garden featuring water play and a sandpit, expanded vegetable gardens, additional seating and gathering spaces, and the unveiling of a beautiful mural in the Marrar Woorn lounge room.

As we reflect on the year, we are proud of what has been achieved through the efforts of our staff, volunteers, partners and community members, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## NORLANE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Over the past year, Norlane Community Centre has continued to support our local community through programs and services focused on connection, wellbeing, food security, participation, and practical support.
We recorded 16,392 attendances, an increase of more than 55%, reflecting the growing need for community-based support.

We continued to provide Food Share, community meals, material aid, community activities, and opportunities for people to connect and participate. We also strengthened partnerships, including welcoming Uniting Emergency Relief Barwon to the Centre, helping bring additional support closer to those experiencing financial and other pressures.

Despite increasing demand and financial challenges, our staff, volunteers, partners and community have continued to work together to create a welcoming, inclusive and supportive place by community, for community.









# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## OCEAN GROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

The Ocean Grove Neighbourhood House has had a progressive year, welcoming back the local community to the House after a transition period.
Regular programs including the Repair Café, Tai Chi, Yoga, Mahjong, Art Classes, and fitness for over fifties have remained popular while new programs including Crafternoon and the Embroiderers Guild grow in numbers.



The return of the Youth Program is a major success, and the support of both Ocean Grove Rotary and the Lions Club will ensure local teens (12-17) will continue to enjoy the monthly program with activities, events, and classes.

A Neighbourhood Houses Victoria grant enabled a group of local seniors to engage in Democracy with a visit to State Parliament.

The Winter Arts Series celebrated indoors with talks, activities, and workshops with local and visiting artists including William Linford, Sally Wilson and Mandy Nolan.



Stand-up comedy with the Cranky Women's Comedy Course

Spring at the House includes establishing a Community Garden with support from Rotary Ocean Grove and the Ocean Grove Men's Shed, funded via a Social Inclusion Action Grant from the Greater City of Geelong.



Ocean Grove Rotary get their hands dirty establishing raised garden beds.

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

Portarlington NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

## PORTARLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

The PNH program of activities has continued to evolve to meet the interests and wishes of our community, with some successful new additions, including Mat Pilates, Let's Talk Turkey, and Choir on Fire. The Choir in particular has taken off, with around 60 people coming along on a Wednesday evening to sing, 'pub choir' style! It's always exciting to see new ideas coming to life.

PNH has also had a busy year with events, and some of the more notable include the ever-popular Trivia Night, De-stash Market, and Newport Junction concert. These events will be repeated next year as they prove to be popular with the community.
The PNH Port Jammers also hosted a fabulous Beatles themed session, which attracted a huge crowd.
Research this year shows that 'Dance & Music' are the most popular category of sessions at PNH, followed by 'Arts & Craft', then 'Fitness & Relaxation'. This proves our suspicion that PNH members are a musical, artistic, and fit bunch of folk!

While there have been many highlights throughout the year, perhaps the best of all is seeing the happy and engaged members coming through the doors each day. Watching members connect, learn, laugh, and enjoy our centre is a great reminder of how important our Neighbourhood Houses are for all.






# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House
The Heart of the Community

## QUEENSCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Our highlights this year at Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House have been seeing our regular groups thrive, with new activities and new faces joining us throughout the year.

Our regular classes and activities remain popular, with Weights & Balance, Chair Pilates, Tai Chi, Mahjong, craft, creative textiles and ukulele bringing people together each week. Our free Digital Skills sessions have also been a valuable part of the House, offering one-on-one support to the community.



Creativity is at the heart of QNH, with our very popular art classes offering a variety of opportunities for people to learn, create and try something new. Our House Gallery showcases the work of local artists and makers throughout the year. Our Boomerang Bags volunteers also celebrated a fantastic milestone, reaching 3,225 reusable bags made from donated and recycled fabrics.



Our Men's Shed has also had a great year, with one of the highlights being the restoration and donation of 12 bikes to the Ruffy Community Response Hub.



Our school holiday programs are always popular with local children and families.
A highlight this year was taking part in NGV Kids on Tour, alongside a range of creative workshops for children throughout the school holidays

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## ROSEWALL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE & LARA COMMUNITY CENTRE

The 2025-26 year was one of significant growth, renewal, and community impact for Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre. Throughout the year, we continued to strengthen our role as a welcoming and inclusive community space while expanding opportunities for local residents to connect and learn.

A major milestone was achieved in February when Rosewall was successful in a competitive selection process to deliver Neighbourhood House services in Lara.
We commenced service delivery at the Lara Community Centre on 1 March 2026, marking an exciting new chapter for our organisation and extending our reach to support communities across both Corio and Lara.

Community engagement was a strong focus in our year, highlighted by the Lara Community Centre Open Day, which attracted more than 500 attendees. This event showcased local services, programs, and community groups and celebrated the spirit of the Lara community. It also demonstrated the inviting, inclusive, and vibrant approach to Neighbourhood House services that we pride ourselves on.






This year we worked closely with the City of Greater Geelong to develop plans for the revitalisation of Hendy Hall (our third location) in Corio. These plans lay the foundation to enhance a community facility that will better meet the needs of Corio into the future. Complementing this work, Rosewall invested in upgrades to furniture, signage and amenities at Hendy Hall, improving the comfort, accessibility and presentation of the space.

These achievements reflect a year of progress, partnership and investment in stronger, more connected communities.



# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

South Barwon Community Centre

## SOUTH BARWON COMMUNITY CENTRE

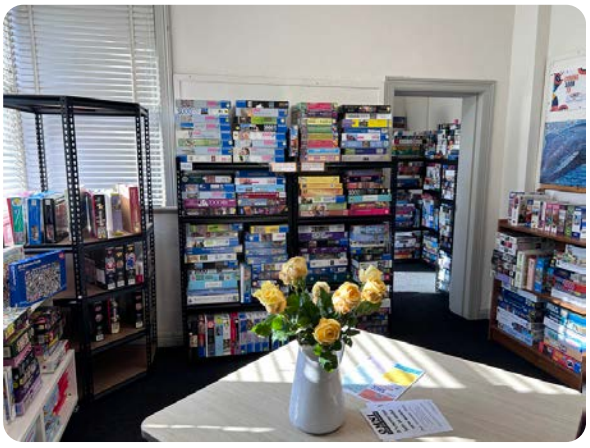
Over the past year, SBCC have loved welcoming our community into our house, bringing people together, and helping them keep active and connected whilst learning new skills.
Our beautiful volunteers have continued to bring life and vibrance to our house with the garden looking better than ever and Chatty Cafe bringing in people twice a month for a cuppa, cake, and connection.
Our OM:NI group solve the problems of the world and bring together men who may otherwise not get that social interaction on a fortnightly basis.

The Geelong Regional Orchid Workshop (GROW) held their annual orchid show, taking over the whole centre, and ran a very popular orchid repotting session.



Our Christmas celebrations welcomed community and volunteers to the centre for food and drinks and puzzle piece wreath making.

In April, we moved our puzzle library, containing over 2000 puzzles, into two front rooms, making the very popular resource easier to navigate.
It took our super organiser Carmel a week to organise them after our strong volunteers moved all the shelving.



Long-standing manager Jan retired in July, and we thank her for keeping the doors open, the programs running, and creating an open door that people are happy to walk through.

In August, we welcomed our new manager, Jess, and we are looking forward to a vibrant, exciting next 12 months with lots of new happenings broadening our reach and connection with the community.



# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## SPRINGDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

**SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre – where ideas grow and people flourish.**

SpringDale continues to build the capacity of our community in a wide range of ways. Through more than 50 Special Interest Groups, more than 40 courses or approximately 250 sessions a term, a wide range of events – Science Week, Harmony Day, Family Games afternoons etc, and a wide range of services including one-on-one support to help traverse the digital divide, and so much more, we support our community.



In 2025 we helped the community to create a 64 page book, celebrating 150 years of Drysdale Primary School, we made, served and delivered more than 1,000 Christmas meals during 8 events and held a Christmas Day lunch to meet the needs to the community.



In 2026 we helped community members to renew passports, gain Working with Children Checks, gain Citizenship and reduce stress levels in so many ways.
We found time to make dreams come true through our Repair Café and other one-offs like crocheting 10 Geelong Cats scarves together to create a blanket.

All of this was made possible through our hundreds of volunteers and our wide variety or partnerships, who share their skills, talents and time in so many ways, for which we are so grateful.




PS Our SpringDale Messenger was awarded Community Newspaper of the Year – such an honour.

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## TORQUAY COMMUNITY HOUSE

Torquay Community House
respect • equality • inclusion

Torquay Community House (TCH) is a welcoming and inclusive community hub.

Our Free Community Lunch Program remains a cornerstone of our work, and this year we've been fortunate to grow our network of local support partners, including Richard Riordan MP, Torquay Lions Club, and the Common Ground Project, ensuring the program's future beyond any single partnership.



TCH has a thriving arts community, as highlighted by the Surf Coast Arts Trail. This event drew over 600 visitors to TCH in a single weekend and featured more than 20 exhibiting artists involved with the house, including students from the local primary schools.

Our core programs continue to flourish, with Tutoring Works and our range of early years programs running across the week.

We've also welcomed a number of local initiatives including the Gilbert St Yarn Bomb project (watch this space over Christmas!), Surf Coast for Reconciliation, and Barwon Health's Mental Health & Wellbeing program for carers. These partnerships reflect our commitment to being a genuine home for groups and organisations doing meaningful work in the local area.




We're proud to remain an accessible and affordable venue hire space where new ideas and emerging groups can take root and grow. This is all made possible by our fabulous staff and team of over 50 volunteers.

# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## VINES ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

2025/26 has been an incredibly big and rewarding year at Vines Road Community Centre.
Here are some of our highlights:

- The Kiss Project Geelong Exhibition was a beautiful initiative brought in partnership with AMCS. A key focus at VRCC is to support those living with Dementia and their carers. Dementia is the leading cause of death for Australians currently, so this is an important space to lean into and support. We have a number of Dementia events each year, this is one of the more touching initiatives held.




- Active Geelong Community Award - We won our first award! For working to provide affordable and varied options to get our community moving

- NAIDOC WEEK – Community Film Screening of THE SAPPHIRES - CoGG Grant funding allowed us to put on this special event and equip one of our rooms with a huge screen for future community screenings.



- Our Annual Christmas in the Community Morning Tea - This one gets bigger each year, we advertise as the biggest Christmas Morning Tea in Geelong! We love this event, as it is well attended. We celebrate the more than 30 volunteers that give their time to VRCC, there is live music, stall holders, and we just have a good party!



# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

Whittington Neighbourhood House

## WHITTINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Whittington Neighbourhood House remains a welcoming and responsive place where people can access practical support, build relationships, develop skills and, importantly, experience a sense of belonging.




Foodbank and food relief have made up a significant part of our work, supporting hundreds of local individuals and families each week. It has increasingly become a gateway to wrap-around community support in strong partnership with many different community organisations, local businesses, and volunteers. Through this model, we are creating pathways to greater wellbeing, resilience, participation and opportunity.

Alongside practical support, WNH has continued to create accessible opportunities for learning, participation and social connection through a variety of programs, groups, and community events, providing people with the opportunity to participate in ways that are meaningful for them.

Throughout the year, WNH has maintained a strong focus on the financial stability, sustainability, and long-term viability of the organisation, building a stronger foundation for future growth.

A defining strength of Whittington Neighbourhood House continues to be the invaluable contribution of our staff, volunteers, Committee and community partners, through whom our work is made possible.

As we look to the year ahead, we are well positioned to build on this momentum. Our 2026–2029 Strategic Plan provides a clear framework for our ongoing development, and our focus will be firmly on responding to our community, strengthening partnerships, and creating opportunities that make a genuine difference to people's lives.



# 2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

## WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY HOUSE

The 2025 to 2026 financial year has been quite a good one for us. We have run many different activities and events at Winchelsea Community House and the Shire Hall.

One of the highlight events during the year was our Tea and Tunes which saw over 45 people enjoy some music and lots of yummy food in the Shire Hall. We also had residents attend from the Aged Care Facilities in Winchelsea and Colac. They all love a day out, as do the local people. It was a great opportunity for social connection.




We are also very proud of our wonderful toy library that we offer to the community. There are many beautiful toys and activities available to borrow for a very small cost.

Another highlight during the year has been our Reloved Markets. We have been running two of these a year on a weekend day, and both have been very successful. It provides a chance for people to sell things they no longer need, as well as an opportunity for the commnunity to be out and about, visiting the Shire Hall and connecting with others. There is always food and drinks available to encourage attendees to stick around and chat.



During the year, many other things have been happening, such as our weekly chatty café – another chance for social connections, craft groups, Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, various information sessions, library sessions, as well as Kelly Sports for the little ones, cheese making workshops, Arts events and Exhibitions, youth activities in the school holidays, themed dinner nights, and much more.

# TREASURER'S REPORT



I am pleased to report that Neighbourhood Houses Barwon has finished the 2025/2026 financial year in a strong financial position. The Committee has continued to take a careful and considered approach to managing our finances, ensuring the Network remains sustainable while continuing to provide valuable support and advocacy for our member houses.

For the financial year ended 30 June 2026, we recorded a surplus of $17,465.56, compared with a surplus of $14,696.61 in the previous financial year. This is a pleasing result, particularly as last year's surplus was largely attributed to the write-back of prior-year grants rather than ongoing operational income.

Total operating income for the year was $157,274.75, compared with $159,282.33 in 2024/2025. While our income remained relatively consistent, we saw a significant reduction in operating expenditure, which decreased from $184,059.30 to $139,809.19.
With ongoing uncertainty and constraints surrounding funding, the Committee has taken a conservative approach to financial management throughout the year. We have been mindful of our expenditure, carefully considering financial commitments, and prioritising essential operations to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Network. This cautious approach, together with changes to our staffing structure, has contributed to the positive financial result.



One of the most significant changes in our expenditure was the reduction in wages and salaries from $109,942.56 to $66,140.30, following the difficult decision to restructure our staffing arrangements in the previous financial year. While this represents a considerable saving, it is important to acknowledge that we also engaged a contracted Administration Assistant throughout the year to support the day-to-day operations of the network. This contributed to an increase in consultants and contractors expenses to $12,606.62.
This administrative support was also funded through our Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) allocation, allowing us to maintain essential functions while operating under a more financially sustainable staffing model.

At 30 June 2026, the Network held $171,573.53 across its bank accounts, an increase from $152,438.17 at the end of the previous financial year. During the year, we also opened a new interest-bearing account to ensure that a portion of our reserves is earning consistent interest while remaining available to support the future needs of the network. At 30 June, this account held $100,160.89. After accounting for liabilities of $29,023.59, our net assets stood at $142,549.94, compared with $125,084.38 in 2025.

# WE MOVE INTO 2026/27 IN A SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION

This is an encouraging position and provides us with a healthy financial buffer as we move forward. Importantly, it supports our commitment to maintaining sufficient reserves to meet our operational policy of holding six months of forward funding.
While we recognise the importance of investing in our Network and supporting our member Houses, the Committee has remained focused on protecting these reserves to safeguard NH Barwon against future funding challenges.

I would like to acknowledge the continued work of Nicky Albert from XBH Bookkeeping Services. The improvements made to our financial systems and reporting have provided greater clarity and transparency for the Committee, making it easier to monitor expenditure, track individual grants, and make informed financial decisions.
Our accounting and bookkeeping expenses have also reduced from $6,100.90 to $3,775.00 over the past year. These improvements have been particularly valuable as we continue to navigate the financial challenges facing our sector.

I would also like to thank Warren Pollock from WGP Audit for once again completing our annual audit in a timely and comprehensive manner. Warren's efficient and thorough approach has made the audit process straightforward and provides the Committee with confidence in our financial reporting.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our Networker Fran and fellow Committee members for their ongoing commitment to ensuring NH Barwon remains a strong and effective Network.
The financial decisions made over the past couple of years have not always been easy, but they have been made with the best interests of the organisation and our member Houses in mind.

As we move into 2026/2027, we do so in a sound financial position. While funding pressures and uncertainty remain, the Committee's careful management of our resources has provided a solid foundation for the future. Our priority remains ensuring NH Barwon can continue to advocate for, connect, and support our Neighbourhood Houses across the Barwon region for many years to come.

**Julie Martin**
Treasurer
Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**TO THE MEMBERS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BARWON INC**

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2026, and the profit and loss statement for the year ending 30 June 2026.

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc as of 30 June 2026, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for the Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc to maintain an effective system of internal control over monies received until its initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to cash receipts was limited to amounts recorded.

### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, committees are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



**Warren Pollock**
**Registered Company Auditor 224497**
**WGP Audit**

4 September 2026

ABN 67 374 316 494
PO Box 192 Torquay VIC 3228

Liability Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

# Balance Sheet

## Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc
## As at 30 June 2026

| | 30 JUNE 2026 | 30 JUNE 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **Assets** | | |
| **Bank** | | |
| NHB Debit Card | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| NHB Sandhurst Account | 100,160.89 | - |
| NHB Savings | 81.23 | 71,898.63 |
| NHB Statement Account | 70,331.41 | 79,539.54 |
| **Total Bank** | **171,573.53** | **152,438.17** |
| **Current Assets** | | |
| Accounts Receivable | - | 110.00 |
| **Total Current Assets** | **-** | **110.00** |
| **Fixed Assets** | | |
| Office Equipment | 1,068.18 | 1,068.18 |
| Office Equipment Accumulated Depreciation | (1,068.18) | (1,068.18) |
| **Total Fixed Assets** | **-** | **-** |
| **Total Assets** | **171,573.53** | **152,548.17** |
| **Liabilities** | | |
| **Current Liabilities** | | |
| Accounts Payable | 1,646.60 | 7,191.10 |
| Grant In Advance - BBL - Lara Project | - | 13,972.72 |
| GST | 3,278.03 | (60.55) |
| NHB Conference Provision | 15,000.00 | - |
| PAYG Withholdings Payable | 2,756.00 | - |
| Provisions - Annual Leave | (0.61) | 3,167.06 |
| Provisions - Long Service Leave | 10,100.15 | 6,466.44 |
| Provisions - Long Service Leave (PLSA) | (5,962.89) | (4,588.82) |
| Provisions - Personal Leave | 1,929.42 | 1,056.55 |
| Provisions - Special Leave | 276.89 | - |
| Provisions - TIL | - | 259.29 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | **29,023.59** | **27,463.79** |
| **Total Liabilities** | **29,023.59** | **27,463.79** |
| **Net Assets** | **142,549.94** | **125,084.38** |
| **Equity** | | |
| Current Year Earnings | 17,465.56 | 14,696.61 |
| Retained Earnings | 125,084.38 | 110,387.77 |
| **Total Equity** | **142,549.94** | **125,084.38** |

# Profit and Loss

## Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc
## For the year ended 30 June 2026

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| **Trading Income** | | |
| Donation - LMCF | 2,489.00 | - |
| Funding Campaign Kits | 1,040.00 | - |
| Grants - BBL - Lara Project | 13,972.72 | 1,027.28 |
| Grants - COGG - Lara Project | - | 15,945.00 |
| Grants - COGG - One Off Grant | - | 3,333.00 |
| Grants - COGG - Training Funding | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| Grants - COS - NH Funding | 3,281.82 | 3,181.82 |
| Grants - DFFH - Neighbourhood Houses | 124,441.20 | 120,400.80 |
| Grants - SCS - Carer's Week | - | 3,000.00 |
| Grants - SCS - NH Funding | 1,700.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Interest Income | 650.01 | 994.43 |
| Membership Income | 2,200.00 | 2,400.00 |
| **Total Trading Income** | **157,274.75** | **159,282.33** |
| **Gross Profit** | **157,274.75** | **159,282.33** |
| **Other Income** | | |
| Write Back/Off Prior Year's Transactions | - | 39,473.58 |
| **Total Other Income** | **-** | **39,473.58** |
| **Operating Expenses** | | |
| Accounting & Bookkeeping | 3,775.00 | 6,100.90 |
| Advertising | 900.00 | 215.00 |
| ATO Interest | - | 274.88 |
| Bank Fees | 15.73 | 18.70 |
| Catering & Event Expenses | 1,742.91 | 3,167.57 |
| Consultants & Contractors | 12,606.62 | 5,545.45 |
| Depreciation | - | 1,068.18 |
| Equipment <$1000 | - | 1,978.19 |
| Funding Campaign Kits Exp | 1,300.00 | - |
| Grant Exp - COGG - Training Funding | - | 7,500.00 |
| Grant Exp - Lara Project | 15,000.00 | 16,925.00 |
| HR Expenses | 2,263.94 | 4,229.01 |
| Industry Memberships | 533.64 | 465.00 |
| NHB Conference | 15,000.00 | - |
| Office Expenses | 222.72 | 1,270.00 |
| Payroll - Staff Entitlements | 1,615.80 | (804.86) |
| Payroll - Superannuation | 8,160.64 | 11,700.09 |
| Payroll - Wages and Salaries | 66,140.30 | 109,942.56 |
| Postage & Freight | - | 84.65 |
| Printing & Stationery | 561.54 | 2,204.21 |
| Professional Development | 103.00 | 1,838.68 |

| | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Rent | 3,267.26 | 3,198.06 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 372.73 | - |
| Staff Amenties | - | 77.27 |
| Subscriptions | 3,897.85 | 2,745.90 |
| Telephone & Internet | 250.58 | 468.74 |
| Travel - National | - | 39.24 |
| Travel Expenses | 2,078.93 | 3,806.88 |
| **Total Operating Expenses** | **139,809.19** | **184,059.30** |
| **Net Profit** | **17,465.56** | **14,696.61** |

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NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BARWON

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