

vision

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



mission

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

purpose

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

PRIORITIES:

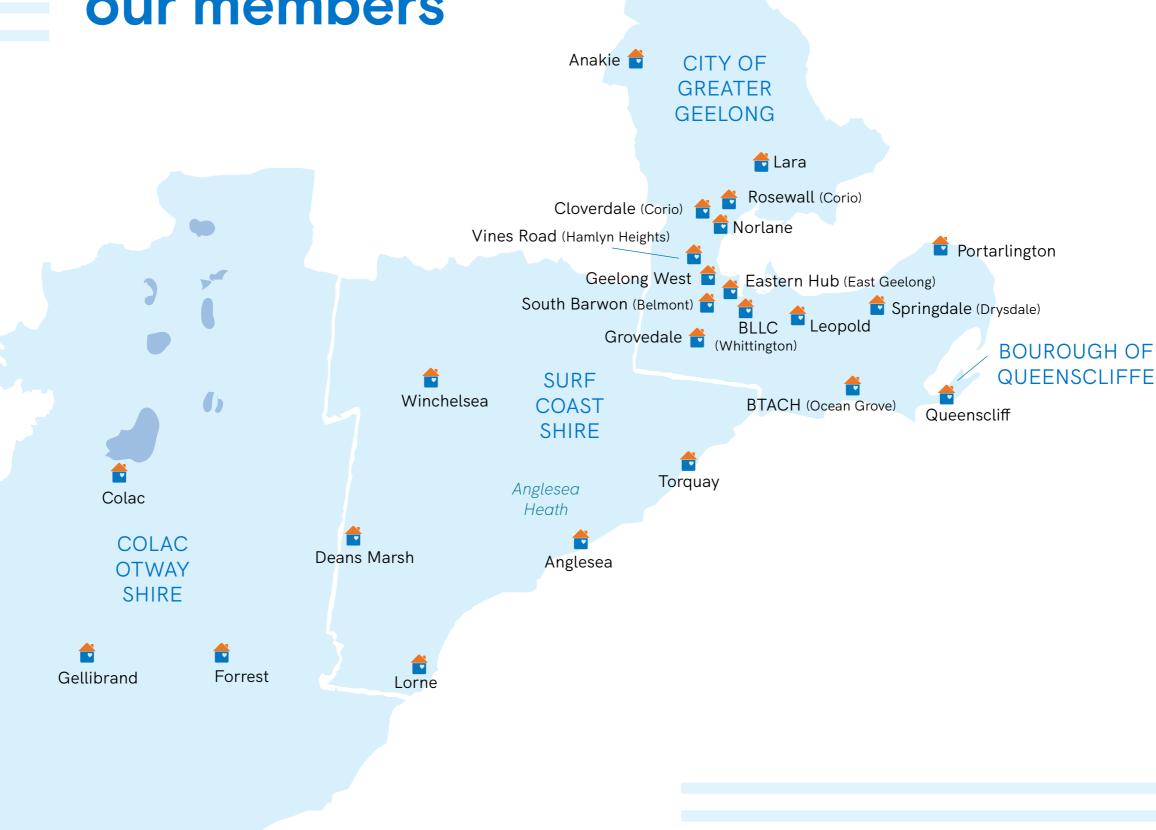
- Sharing resources, information and knowledge
- Linking members with each other and our community partners
- Community development
- Conversations- positive and productive
- Advocacy



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our members



Connecting and Re-connecting

The year 2020/21 challenged all aspects of the community sector, especially how we have connected and re-connected with our communities. We have had to rapidly adjust and navigate our way through changing restrictions and multiple lockdowns and re-openings of houses.

Connecting and re-connecting with our community has certainly been an ongoing process with lots of challenges. Let's look at some of the positives from 2020-2021, the success stories and what learnings we will take with us to shape the future of Neighbourhood Houses

Connections, the success stories



The Newsletter/ letters/ post cards and phone calls we made to connect with seniors



New partnerships were formed with local businesses.





We used houses as a COVID clinics



We connected through video, YouTube and Facebook









Managed and trained volunteers in the Covid environment



We mailed out care packages



We used a range of new technology to deliver programs





We will not be afraid to try new things.

Some houses will offer

programs online now

during cooler months or in wet weather.

Houses/ Network will continue

to use new technologies

like Zoom to deliver training,

updates and stay connected

with each other.



Some Houses created new online booking and payment systems.



We will continue our social media presence



Strengthen our association with other community groups that we engaged with throughout COVID.

Learnings & opportunities

What we can continue to use to strengthen **Neighbourhood Houses** and re-connect with community as we open up again



Houses will continue to offer our online service delivery into the future even when restrictions are lifted (e.g. more inclusive for people with people with disabilities/mental health problems and reaching new audiences such as youth groups)



The COVID-19 pandemic has generated an ongoing health, social and economic crisis, the consequences of which are yet to become fully apparent. We as network need to keep talking with our communities to understand how we can adapt our programs to address this.

Our theme this year is Connecting and Reconnecting, and in this yet another pandemic year it certainly has been the relevant challenge.

Chairperson's Report

Your Exec Committee made the decision to make Connecting and Reconnecting the focus of NHBarwon's work over the year rather than attempt to commence any new projects or additional activity. We knew from the previous few months that keeping connected is one of the key things for us professionally and also personally. The staff in our member houses have been focusing on trying to keep their local communities supported and engaged and we kn ew that providing opportunities for staff to connect to each other, to share stories, to support each other was vital in fulfilling the work that we do in the neighbourhood house sector. We also broadened out the reach to connect with committees of governance in the houses, particularly the Chairs / presidents. This has seen the establishment of new relationships and new conversations that have served to support and strengthen governance in our houses.

As I write my last Annual Report for NHBarwon I am prodded to reflect on the great work that happens at the community level across Victoria because of the passionate committed people in the 26 houses in Barwon and approx. 400 houses across the state. Programs that provide opportunity, hope, connection, and support to so many people and their communities. Yet I also reflect on the systems that are supposed to support us in making a difference to our communities and I feel a sense of helplessness and frustration to see the lack of vision and energy that goes into these support structures. Over the last fifty years the regulatory and legislative environment has changed so much and it places increasing burdens on local voluntary committees particularly in terms of HR and financial accountability. Yet the structures and systems have not changed since the sector was birthed in the early seventies, they no longer serve us well yet there seems little interest from 'the powers that be' to support us in moving with the times. We deserve better!

Additionally, the move by some people and organisations to seeing neighbourhood houses as just one more welfare provider staffed by managerial staff undermines the uniqueness of our sector as the ONLY community development funded sector in the state.

The theme of Connecting and Reconnecting becomes even more important when viewed through this lens... reconnecting with our vision and purpose so that we are not dumbed down by small thinking but stay open to opportunities and innovations that are life affirming and help our communities thrive.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the incredible work that has been done by NHBarwon staff this year. Firstly, Julia Leonard, who is now on maternity leave getting to know her new little girl, Bess. Julia performed the unseen tasks that make smooth sailing for everyone, and produced the regular newsletter that is so much part of Connecting. We have welcomed Anthea Warlond into the role while Julia is on leave. Our Network Coordinator, Jill Evans, has been a shining light in finding ways to Connect and Reconnect. Her use of technology to ensure that staff across the region have been able to build new and supportive relationships has brought the importance of the NHBarwon into new focus, as has the establishment of networks for the

It is with a great deal of regret that the Exec Committee accepted Jill's resignation, so that she can set off on fulfilling her personal dreams. Jill's influence and work has made a real difference to the region as she introduced us to new ways of working, and has shown us that we don't have to give in to frustrations when things change - even as radically as they have during a global pandemic!

I acknowledge the continued contribution of those who served on the Exec Committee, their voluntary contribution ensure that NHBarwon continues to serve its members and their communities.

It has been privilege and pleasure to contribute to the sector through the role as President of NHBarwon and I wish it continued success through the challenging times ahead.

Yours in friendship,

Beth Davidson, OAM.

Neighbourhood Houses Barwon



Networker's Report

As I write this report, a reflection on the 2020, 2021 year, I pause to take a deep breath before attempting to describe the roller coaster year we had. As a Network the sharing of knowledge and skill has built a strong base that will be of great value to all its members. The results of a survey we conducted in early 2021 demonstrated the tremendous value of investment in a sector that is able to adapt to shifting sands, respond so strongly to community need and with very little additional resourcing, come up with creative solutions.

The role of the Network is to create a structure of support to enable each neighbourhood house to utilise its resources effectively and efficiently.

Across the sector the burden of administrative and governance requirements often takes precedent over the key pillar of community development. Community development is a critical factor that takes time, time to listen, time to form partnerships, time to try things, time to review and try other things. Over this year the Network has trialled ways of connecting people to each other through shared platforms, through regular online meetings as well as taking advantage of time to come together in person. Support has been extended to now include governance through the Chairs of each house. Online sessions were provided to address come areas of need along with a platform for Chairs to communicate to one another. For the Networker this addition has resulted in a much increased workload.

The role of the Network is to create a structure of support to enable each neighbourhood house to utilise its resources effectively and efficiently.

Governance oversight is important and yet requires significant investment. The work of a neighbourhood house depends on a functional, professional relationship between the Manager/ Co-ordinator and the Chair of the Governance Committee. This relationship is not an accident, it requires clear and consistent communication, a clear idea of who does what and what to do when decisions need to be made.

Governance is undertaken by volunteers who are charged with developing a strategic direction for their house, employing staff to implement the plan, and then undertaking all the elements of an employer taking public funds.

There are many organisations that provide assistance through courses, on line information and the like, but, this assumes that volunteers have some basic understanding of their role, have a place to go to ask the hard questions, and when times are tough who to turn to.

NHVic provides sound leadership for the sector across Victoria and works hand in glove with Networks to deal with the local issues. This structure is a positive of the current arrangement. Networks across Victoria can play varying roles with an underlying commitment to their local need. 2020/2021 in Barwon saw the formation of a Network that is inclusive, accepting and useful. This is because there are 24 funded neighbourhood houses that were prepared to take the ride up and down those hills.

Jillian Evans

Networker





Colac Otway Shire

Council has continued to work closely with the Neighbourhood Houses and the Barwon Network to ensure that the supports the community needs are provided.

One of the ways Council has done this is by providing financial support through its annual grant program and through the Community Activation and Social Isolation Program funded by the state government. This support has allowed houses to provide programs such as:

- a weekly community lunch,
- IT upgrades,
- social connection opportunities
- support to isolated families and individuals.

During the past year council has also worked closely with one of the Neighbourhood Houses and its community to develop a plan for the relocation of the Neighbourhood House to a more suitable building.

The Colac Otway Shire recognises that the four Neighbourhood Houses in the shire and the Barwon Network continue to provide significant benefits for both the individual and the community as a whole, particularly in the current times, and looks forward to continuing the positive and productive relationship.

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing



The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) are again inspired by the work of Neighbourhood Houses Barwon (NHB) and the 24 funded Neighbourhood Houses in the Barwon Area. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, NHB and the Neighbourhood Houses have continued to maintain connections with their community. The community has reported feeling supported and valued through innovative approaches and programs of the Neighbourhood Houses including community pen pals, delivering care packs, online cooking and gardening tutorials, trivia and book

Working alongside NHB Network Coordinator, Jill Evans, DFFH continued to support Neighbourhood Houses in 2020-21. DFFH support included additional funding to print over 40,000 postcards during Neighbourhood House Week, supporting individual Neighbourhood Houses with local

priorities and the with input from Coordinators developed the booklet, How we responded to COVID-19 - Neighbourhood Houses in Barwon. This booklet highlights the success of Neighbourhood Houses in 2020 and reflects on the challenges and lessons learnt in the past 12 months. DFFH continue to promote Neighbourhood Houses to internal and external stakeholders.

In 2020-21, the Department of Health and Human Services went through a Machinery of Government change to separate into two departments, the DFFH and the Department of Health.

DFFH Barwon Area look forward to continuing to work with Neighbourhood Houses to improve opportunities for engagement with DFFH clients and communities across the Barwon Area to support strong, safe, vibrant and inclusive communities.



City of Greater Geelong



Like so many others, Neighbourhood Houses across the City of Greater Geelong have witnessed firsthand the challenges and uncertainty faced by our community members throughout the COVID pandemic. The stress of this has been evident with impacts on our communities social and economic opportunities, as well as mental health and wellbeing. Despite this, Neighbourhood House coordinators, staff, program facilitators, volunteers, community members, and other community centre users have worked together to ensure continued program delivery and safety, while managing opening and closing centres multiple times in line with State Government restrictions. The continued efforts, patience, and dedication to accomplish this is recognised by the City, and you should all be proud of this achievement.

It has been positive to see strong interest in the City's grants programs to support the continued delivery of community development projects, programs, and other opportunities for communities. Over the 2020-21 financial year, the City supported Neighbourhood Houses through the allocation of almost \$200,000 across multiple grant streams. including the Neighbourhood House Grants Program, the Healthy and Connected Communities Grants Program, the Arts Project Grants Program, the Christmas in the Community Grants Program, the Community Infrastructure Grants Program, and

the COVID-19 Quick Response Grants Program.

Highlights include:

- The delivery of a 10-week Wan-Yaari Cultural program where families made their own possum cloaks.
- Development of strategic plans through staff, volunteer, stakeholder and community
- The development of gardens, picnic tables, and a mural, and
- Supports to acquire cleaning items, PPE, and other equipment to operate in line with COVID safe requirements.

We have recently had the pleasure of meeting the newly appointed Network Coordinator, Kai Whyte. We look forward to the opportunity to work with Kai and continuing to connect with you all. Whether it be face-to-face or via Zoom, I am confident Geelong's 14 Neighbourhood Houses will continue to provide positive opportunities for our community and have the resiliency and support to face whatever the future holds.

Anakie











































Anakie Community House

The last 18 months has been very difficult. People lost their regular social contacts and, in some cases, found it hard to reconnect with their past interests, due to the very real fear that another lockdown is just around the corner. During lockdowns, when the neighbourhood house was unable to provide those social connections, we tried to adapt. We had to find other ways to keep contact with those most vulnerable - that being, in particular, people living alone. Regular phone calls are not nearly as beneficial as in-person visits, but they helped to some degree. Ordering and delivering meals to the door of these residents also helped them cope with their feelings of isolation and loneliness. Children in the 3 & 4 year old group received packages of craft activities, crayons and colouring books and a jumping castle at the end of the year whilst Victoria was free from lockdowns gave those children a chance to reconnect.



Anakie C



Anglesea Community House

Like all other Neighbourhood houses, Anglesea Community House has seen a very different year than other years. As a community house we expect to be a hub of activity. This all changed during times of Covid-19. Having to close our doors made us look at different ways that we could still connect with our community. The positive was that we were able to achieve this as living in the age of technology, video conferencing very quickly became a part of our lives.

We were also able to adapt quickly to opening and closing our building due to lockdowns while still being able to run classes and groups whether it was online or in person. Covid-19 gave us the opportunity to connect more with our local network and state body.

We listened to our community and were able to involve more young people in our programs through our Active Kids Active Futures workshops and starting a new playgroup for parents and children who hadn't been able to socialise with each other.

We were able to have a presence within all our community groups and by developing our new website anglesea.org.au we brought them all together in one place. We look forward to seeing how things evolve moving forward and will always strive to find ways to adapt and change to keep our community connected.

Bellarine Living and Learning Centre Inc.



In reviewing the last financial year, Bellarine Living & Learning Centre has grown stronger. We have adapted to change, we have strengthened connections, we have a strong community.

Through lockdowns, reopenings and ever-changing restrictions, food has been our connection with our community. Every Wednesday BLLC distributed food through our foodbank program; but it was more than food. We supplied a friendly face (albeit that it was often behind a mask), a weekly check-in, friendly banter and lots of laughter.

At a governance level,
BLLC worked to complete
a Community Engagement
report and Business Case – To
change the name of BLLC or
not? This will form the basis
of the strategic plan where
connection and adaptation to
change will feature.

With the challenges that change brings, including staff turnover, it has also bought opportunities. As the year has ended, we have seen an increase in the community looking for new opportunities to reconnect. Gradually new and established programs are returning to the centre.

BLLC would like to acknowledge the work of Jill and NH Barwon for their significant and continued support and guidance as we adapted to a year of challenges, changes and hope.



Bellarine Training & Community Hub

2020 – 21 has seen a year of growth and change for Bellarine Training Community Hub (BTACH). There has been a change in management that has worked to support the development of new programs to offer to the local community.

Our focus throughout the continual lockdowns has been to ensure that the community in which we work is supported. We have done this through negotiating to remain open as much as possible, development of remote learning for our students, development of online programs and competitions when our youth programs could not be delivered at the centre and ensuring, when safe, that our centre-based programs to the community are able to be delivered.

We have attempted to remain in contact with all stakeholders via email, text and social media and have developed strong links with services in the region to ensure ongoing physical and mental health supports are available to the community across the Bellarine.

The ongoing health and well-being of the local community and the development of relevant and innovative programs based on community needs will be the ongoing focus for the team moving forward.





With community engagement and wellbeing at the fore of our work, a new connection was created through Lotus Kitchen. Each week, starting during the 2020 lockdowns, a volunteer group of predominantly Thai women planned, prepared and distributed up to 600 healthy, affordable meals from the centre.

Some of the women came to Cloverdale for support with issues including family violence and modern slavery. They were supported and, in return, continue to give to our community.

When programming resumed, Lotus Kitchen grew and now operates with a team of up to 20 multi-cultural volunteers who participate in shifts to prepare and serve the meals.

Not only has their involvement expanded to participation in other programs, community members accessing the meal service have engaged, many for the first time.



Lotus Kitchen grew and now operates with a team of up to 20 multi-cultural volunteers who participate in shifts to prepare and serve the meals.



What a busy and unusual year it was!

The house was used to its fullest potential in supporting the entire community in ways we would never have thought.

What began as a usual year soon became something quite different and at times resembled scenes from the old TV show MASH!

A community support 1800 number was set up at the Neighbourhood House by the auspice organisation Colac Area Health for people to access assistance for any and everything during these most worrying times. From July to September these were the some of the things that happened.

- 3083 Calls received these related to social / emotional and COVID related issues
- 1518 Calls made informing people of test results, welfare checks, liaising with DHHS, COVID monitoring and tracing teams
- **75** Food relief requests

During lockdown in 2020, **1766** COVID tests were conducted at the house providing the community a safe place to attend and the staff a warm and comfortable place to do their work from until a more appropriate building was available.

Immunisations have also taken place at the house on three occasions with hundreds of people attending.

We have been able to conduct our business as usual from time to time and some of the activities and programs have been wonderful to see get off the ground.

Resuming normal activities brought a lot of joy to a lot of people including me!

Thanks to the generosity of ACCIONA wind farms and Colac Otway Shire we have groups running for Yoga from the Chair, Quilt making for donation to vulnerable people, Conversational English for our CALD community, Have a Hat, knitting and crochet group and Understanding Islam an educational session for those who would like to know more about our Muslim friends.



To celebrate the house reopening after lockdown we held a market day which was attended by over 100 people and was just the medicine we all needed to relax and enjoy the garden whilst looking at the wonderful things on offer.

Fill It Up Mate program began in June and to date has fed 164 people: this can only be possible due to the overwhelming generosity of the people of Colac Otway Shire.

Some of our plans are on hold due to the restrictions but as soon as possible we will be opening the doors and welcoming our wonderful members and visitors back to our lovely house.

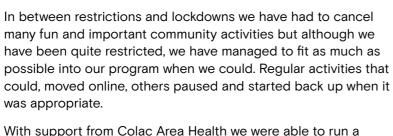


Deans Marsh Community Cottage



We have been lucky in Deans Marsh to have been able to host some events between lockdowns and it certainly has been big learning in adapting and providing a covid safe environment for our events. Our annual events program is a key way that we keep our community connected. Being a small rural community we welcome regular gatherings and a good chinwag and sharing. Local micro businesses welcome our markets as a key outlet for a myriad of local produce and opportunity to promote what they grow, make and create. It was great to be able to manifest the markets in November, February and March of the last year. We held our Deans Marsh Mini Fest over a weekend instead of having one day of activity this was broken into a range of smaller events. The format worked well and featured a play on the Friday night, a CD launch on the Saturday from local band Mountain Grey and the Market and a range of activities on the Sunday. Our event volunteers worked really hard to adapt and make sure that all felt comfortable with participating.

Forrest & District Neighbourhood House



With support from Colac Area Health we were able to run a fantastic open air cinema earlier in the year which turned out to be the last big community event we were able to run.

A \$2000 Youth Week grant saw us put on an afternoon of fun with our Forrest Youth Fest which included a silent disco, professional photo booth and other games and activities.

Regular essential food services have continued and are stronger than ever with multiple rescue food drops per week that make up 'top up' boxes that are delivered to the community and a weekly nutritious lunch that is enjoyed by many.

We continue to focus on trying to keep the community connected with small activities like a town quiz, lolly jar guess, colouring competitions and "The sunflower project".



Geelong West Neighbourhood House

One of the important factors for dealing with changes and the pandemic has been connection and adapting to change. It's never been more important for people to grab time together whenever they can. In particular, our Café Care Connect group who are dementia sufferers and their carers. If we think this is all confusing, it can only be imagined as much worse for those suffering dementia, not to mention the social isolation felt by our older vulnerable members of the community. Our facilitators have worked very hard

keeping in contact and keeping the group up to date with changes and adapting plans to ensure the group is fun, informative and keeping the connections in place. As well as this our zoom and recorded classes continue to be a success when face to face classes are out of the question or just break the monotony of lockdown.







Gellibrand Community House

Gellibrand loves their events and a chance to get together.

Over the past year we have had to adapt with the rest of the world to make this happen.

The usual events went ahead such as The Biggest Morning Tea and Halloween, with some new collaborations with projects such as the Catching Dream Project organised by Deb, our exiting coordinator. Kits were handed out to the community where beautiful dream catchers were created and displayed all over the area, symbolising the community's hopes and dreams that were on hold during the lockdowns.

The Gellibrand Welcome Wall has been in the planning for a few years, and was completed this year. It is a powerful installation that has been community driven and created. Everyone has been

involved at some level from Local artists and skilled labourers to kids and their grandparents. It celebrates the area, its indigenous history and the people living here.







Grovedale Neighbourhood House

Grovedale Neighbourhood House has continued to connect with community throughout the upheavals of the pandemic. Our Facebook page and website have been vital for connecting with community by providing relevant information, promoting programs, and sharing the latest status on restrictions. It has been overwhelming at times while we worked to incorporate new procedures and adjust to a 'new normal' way of working.

It was fantastic to see most of our regular facilitators and programs return in the new year, which demonstrated our communities need to re-connect. Our Ukes 'n' More group had a topsy turvy start to the year, with classes moving online some weeks. In term two, we were lucky to find a new facilitator to recommence our Community Kitchen, and we celebrated the contributions of five local heroes and held an afternoon tea in honour of their achievements. Utilising the City's Neighbourhood House Grant, we worked in partnership with Wan-Yaari Aboriginal Services to provide a family cultural program, aimed at building and strengthening connections to culture through each family's creation of their own possum skin

As a neighbourhood house, we welcome the opportunity to adapt, grow, and respond to community needs while maintaining a warm space and strong relationships with our facilitators, room hirers, and all visitors to the hub.





Lara Community Centre

As for all of us, 2021 has again been a year of challenge. While we started on a bright note, and had some success reconnecting with the community once we were able to open the doors, it has been a case of two steps forward and one step back.

In February/March, despite the snap lockdown, we were able to run a Wiser Driver course. Initially enrolling twenty-four students, we lost a few who were too nervous to come into a group setting so close after a lockdown, and then of course, we had the challenge of group sizes being limited to ten. Thankfully, the very lovely tutor, Lee Knight, was happy to spend extra time with us so we could run a morning and afternoon group on the same day. If you have the opportunity to run this course in your community Dawn Harper from Hawthorn Community House is to one to contact.



The Centre has developed a number of new

We have also started a podcast series "Stories my grandmother told me about Geelong," which will be expand over time to include stories from my granddad, aunts and uncles. Our produce Swap Cart has been popular and a talking point for people who attend the Community Hub and we are hoping they will be everywhere in Leopold.





ABOVE: Produce Swap Cart. LEFT: Mary and Jeff our Winter Warmer Chefs!

There is a song we sing with the children in our childcare service and by changing one word it describes our year "Open ... shut them, Open ... Shut them, give a little ... shrug"

Although disappointingly so many activities were cancelled, the feeling of when we have achieved a successful session is great. Along with other Surf Coast Houses our Let's Go Outside program of activities through a Shire grant saw participants with an age range from 3 months old to 80 years old participated in outdoor exercise activities. Volunteers have flocked to work in our kitchen garden, feeling safer participating outside while creating new and ongoing social connections. The bonus is a beautiful and productive free food source for our entire community.



ABOVE: Filming the Marrar worn online covid gig in September 2020. RIGHT: Continuing to support the community with face to face events when possible, May 2021



Responding as we could to the covid-19 crisis, Marrar Woorn continued to support the community through online programming, hosting an increasing number of visiting social services as well as education and community development.

Our flagship event for the year was our online community concert to help support our community in Victoria's second lockdown. A line up of all local musicians were complemented with lockdown stories, connecting our community during a very difficult period. This event was filmed in the Apollo Bay Seniors Hall, using all the new multimedia equipment we had purchased the year before from a Pick my Project funding.

For the first time ever we were a distribution point for Foodbank and we worked closely with local social support services, contributing additional food cards. An increase in employment, legal, financial and social services operating from Marrar Woorn enables us to better support our community's ongoing needs.

Leopold Community & Learning Centre

Norlane Community Centre has had a very busy year responding to the changes and challenges of keeping everyone safe and connected during this year. On top of accepting the challenges of last year, we have been able achieve a number of outcomes:- surveying our members to prepare for our strategic plan, starting new classes and initiatives that have been requested by our community and keeping up our food share table during lockdown.

Our community garden has been a great asset in food delivery and mental health. To assist with the pressures of our current situation we are currently developing a health and wellbeing team for our community to access when they need.

Our volunteers, students and workers have been a great asset in keeping our centre safe, welcoming and functioning. We commend them for being positive, flexible and responsive in this ever







During a time when our community were separated due to lengthy COVID-19 lockdowns, members of the Portarlington Neighbourhood House Art Group remained connected through their love of painting. Each of the 20 artists in the group were provided with a section of a larger image and were tasked with painting a replica of their image on a 20cm x 30cm canvas while isolating at home. Once the group were able to re-connect in person, all pieces were brought together to produce a larger art piece with stunning results. The final piece titled "Together again", measures 1.2m x 1.5m and is soon to be on permanent display in the foyer at Parks Hall, Portarlington.

This art piece provides our community with the opportunity to reflect on a time when, although a pandemic may have kept us apart physically, wonderful collaborations could be achieved in isolation.

Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House

Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House has worked hard on keeping our community connected through small events and programs that bring people together – whenever possible. Our Men's Shed program keeps growing with monthly BBQ's, a new gardening program and an increasing range of activities covering group discussions, restoration work, bike repairs, veggie boxes and weekly scone baking morning teas.

When in lockdown, our choir and ukulele groups continued to make music and our courses moved online when possible.

We reactivated our House Gallery in 2021 with a committed group of volunteer artists. Monthly exhibitions have kept the house open on weekends, connecting more of the community to QNH. Whilst larger events have been scheduled, cancelled and rescheduled – Tides of Welcome Choir, Sea of Ukes and Shedding the Blues have still squeezed in regular music gatherings and performances that give meaning, purpose and joy as people connect through a shared love music. We squeezed in an Open House Day, showcasing our interest groups and programs then gathered outside to eat and sing together. The arts inspire, give hope and transform.







In a year marked by COVID restrictions and recurring lockdowns, Rosewall has persevered and rebounded out of each lockdown with energy and commitment to serve. We have continued to offer our full range of courses and programs, run a regular offering of low-cost meals through its Café, as well as bring the community together for some larger events to celebrate Christmas and Neighbourhood House Week. In many ways people have become more bonded through the shared cycles of lockdowns over the past year. The importance of a strong sense of connection to your neighbourhood has been highlighted like never before.



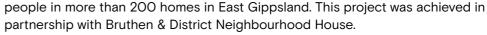


The workshop was run as part of National Science Week and in partnership with Geelong Sustainability

South Barwon Community Centre

A special project that the community created last year was the growing of herbs, creation of herb baskets and their delivery to the communities of Bruthen, Buchan, Clifton Creek and Sarsfield.

Herbs to Help project kept many people in our community busy during lockdowns and gave us something to look forward to. It also helped to lift the spirits of



SpringDale continues to pivot quickly to enable activities to continue on Zoom and online selection from both of our Toy libraries are being well used by our community.



the value of a QR code, mask and sanitiser. (Lots of impromptu lessons there.) We know how to bake sour dough and all have decluttered our garages.

We know how to do this.

Our community has made the most of what it can do. Our jigsaw lending library has been very busy, with us encouraging people to borrow more if we can see a lockdown coming. Last year in lockdown 2 we were able to open for returns and lending, this was a wonderful acknowledgement by DHHS that this was important. We quarantine all the returns for a week and as I write this there are 50 on the rack as a result of returns between lockdown 7 & 8. We also have received hundreds of donations as every jigsaw available in Geelong last year was sold.

It's lockdown 8 and our community has lost a few

but not to COVID. We have a vaccine now. We know

The centre has adapted to going into hiatus and look forward to a little bit of opening up. Our regular groups, like craft, art, writing, OMNI are back as soon as they can. For the ones living alone they can always ring for a chat. Rick has worked with our regulars in using technology to adapt

to our times, whether it is QR Codes on phones, the idiosyncrasies of using Zoom like programs, applying to be vaccinated online or ordering food online, sometimes in person and sometimes using technology.

We had some works projects that we could focus on which has resulted in the concrete pad and outdoor table and chairs set up that has just been completed. We've added semi-permanent sanitising stations and made our rooms adaptable to the density limit changes. There's been a lot of positive talk and planning for when we can open up from the committee down to the volunteers. Keeping that positivity and feeding that energy back into the community has become a very valuable function of the Centre.

But... if you stand still too long I tell you all about getting vaccinated, who you ring and when is the best time to go. I may walk all over your freedom to choose, but to say I'm passionate about this as our only way out of this situation in one piece is an understatement.

on more nimble

Torquay Community House has been more nimble than ever in the last 12 months. Amid Covid chaos, we've had an incredible year of partnering with our communities to connect, re-connect and adapt.

Initiatives such as 'Hello Surfcoast' (neighbourly lockdown check-ins) and 'One Big Table' Christmas Luncheon (a free shared Christmas meal for families), the Surfcoast Justice March, which had national media coverage, and the 'Let's Go Outside' lockdown exercise program, have all helped us to collaboratively address some of community's most challenging issues.

As community needs change, we adapt - as we sadly farewell long-time retiring Coordinator Laura Connor, we look forward to a new phase of development, where we will continue to deepen our community impact in responsive and inventive ways.

Top: Bush Bouquet
Bottom: Justice Walk



Torquay Community House



Vines Road Community Centre

Vines Road Community Centre sought to reconnect with our community at the end of summer with an open day. People were keen to get out and about and learn about the centre and the programs we have to offer. The highlight of the day was most certainly the various community groups that offered to perform for the event, from the North Geelong Community Big Band to the centre's very own Gospel Choir. Topped off with a classic Aussie sausage sizzle, everybody walked away from that event with new friends and heightened spirits.









Winchelsea Community House

Connection over the past year has been extremely important for our neighbourhood house. During all the Victorian lockdowns we were in constant contact with our community via email, telephone and social media. We tried our best to inform our community of the services available to them during lockdown and keep them up to date with the ever changing rules. Zoom quickly became the flavour of the month and all meetings were held using this internet facility. This enabled everyone to be able to talk face to face on a screen and to help and support each other.

In between lockdowns was a time of reconnection. During this time we tried our best to recommence activities and groups although this was difficult under the density rule requirements. Our community enjoyed returning to some form of covid normality and being able to get out and about.

The whole covid journey has been about adapting to change and learning new ways to do things.

A huge thank you to the enormous support provided by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and Neighbourhood Houses Barwon. Also thank you to all the Coordinators and Managers in the Barwon Region for helping and supporting each other on all levels. So lovely to work in a sector with such wonderful people.

Pictures of our Gentle Movement Class and our Lets Go Outside Tai Chi Class which resumed in between lockdowns.



Vines Road Community Centre









Treasurer's

Neighbourhood Houses Barwon is pleased to

report a surplus of \$33,845.04 for the year ended

30th June 2021. This surplus was due to receiving

\$27,000 in Job Keeper subsidy, \$10,000 from

the State Government and tax relief subsidy of

\$10,000. Operationally the Network recorded a

deficit of \$13,749. Leave entitlements amount to

\$6024.83. The Network has a healthy reserve of

funds (160k) that will be allocated to work over the

The Barwon region Neighbourhood Houses have

continues to evolve. This will be something the

The Network is supported by the Department of

Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH) through a

Community Development Worker. Currently both

Colac Otway Shire and Surfcoast Shire provide

Networker grant that covers the wages and on costs

of two workers - The Network Co-ordinator and the

Governance Committee will need to take into

account in the 2021/2022 year.

required constant support and connection through

the Network and as a result the demand for support

Report

coming years.

ACCOUNTING **Surfcoast Taxation Services Pty Ltd**

ACN 097 406 472

Certified Practicing Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc., which comprises the Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, and Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

Basis for Qualification

As is common for organizations 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, my audit in relation to cash receipts was limited to amounts recorded.

Auditor's Qualified Opinion

In my opinion, subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of the Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc presents a true and fair view of the results of the Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc operations and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2021 and its financial position as at that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the accounts.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and 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. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

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www.surftax.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Winchelsea Vic 3241 Postal: P O Box 40

Winchelsea: 22 Willis Street

Winchelsea Vic 3241

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Tel: (03) 5267 2673

support to the Network with the understanding that the Neighbourhood Houses in their municipalities are supported to meet the demands of their communities.

Membership of the Network is currently \$110 for a Neighbourhood House, given the financial strain that 2021 is bringing this will need to be reviewed.

The Network farewelled Wendy Greaves as the Treasurer after 5 years of extraordinary work to ensure that the financial records were in order. Wendy achieved this with the assistance of the network Book keeper Christine Gibson.

Christine has once again provided professional support and has assisted staff to fill the void created without having a Treasurer. Chris James has been able to support Christine with payment approvals and Ursula Unwin has provided monthly reporting.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

The Board of Management is responsible for overseeing the Committee's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objective is 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 my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that audits conducted in accordance with the 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 Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I 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 [my] 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 registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the entities' 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 registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity 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.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Margaret Leigh, CPA

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STS Accounting Group

Dated: 27th September 2021

Created: 17/09/2021 3:26 PM

Neighbourhood Houses Barwon Inc.

45 Heyers Road Grovedale Vic 3216

57.2%

NΑ

0.0%

0.8%

1.4%

0.0%

33.2%

33.2%

33.2%

(1.6)%

22.0%

59.2%

(40.7)%

22.0%

NA

(100.0)%

ABN: 43 226 845 853

Email: christine@ceedeedevelopments.com

\$52,348.25

\$166.90

\$0.00

-\$0.27

\$521.19

\$72.87

\$53,108.94

\$53,108.94

\$53,108.94

-\$118.26

\$2.77

-\$1.60

\$1.17

\$1,864.23

\$6,024.83

\$7,889.06

-\$5,735.75

-\$10,802.03

\$34,054.54

\$25,288.73

\$25,288.73

\$27,820.21

\$46,906.56

-\$19,086.35

\$27,820.21

\$0.00

This Year Last Year \$ Difference % Difference

\$91,555.13

\$63,060.11

\$5,319.46

\$160,135.97

\$160,135.97

\$160,135.97

\$7,263.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$5,735.75

\$20,957.61

\$33,956.36

\$33,956.36

\$126,179.61

\$79,273.05

\$46,906.56

\$200.00

\$0.00

\$1.00

\$0.27

\$143,903.38

\$166.90

\$1.00

\$0.00

\$63,581.30

\$5,392.33

\$213,244.91

\$213,244.91

\$213,244.91

\$7,144.74

\$2.77

-\$1.60

\$1.17

\$1,864.23

\$6,024.83

\$7,889.06

\$10,155.58

\$34,054.54

\$59,245.09

\$59,245.09

\$153,999.82

\$126,179.61

\$27,820.21

\$153,999.82 \$126,179.61

\$0.00

\$200.00

NA NA NA NA NA (100.0)% (51.5)% NA 74.5% 74.5%

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Page 1 of 1

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Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]

Assets

Current Assets

Cash On Hand

Load & Go

Petty Cash

Total Current Assets

Current Liabilities

Trade Creditors

GST Collected

Total GST Liabilities

Total Payroll Liabilities

Grants in Advance 2019

Grants In Advance 2020

Current Year Surplus/Deficit

Total Current Liabilities

Retained Earnings

Total Liabilities

Net Assets

Total Equity

Equity

Grants In Advance Yr 2021

Superannuation Payable

Provision for Entitlements

Payroll Liabilities

GST Liabilities

GST Paid

Total Assets

Liabilities

Total Cash On Hand

Cheque Account

Debit Card NHB

Undeposited Funds

TD 3813 Future Leave

Investment Account - A/c 6815

ne 2021		

July 2020 To June 2021

ABN: 43 226 845 853

45 Heyers Road

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.6%

1.8%

0.0%

0.1%

4.2%

0.7%

9.5%

3.4%

35.4%

0.4%

1.0%

Grovedale Vic 3216

Email: christine@ceedeedevelopments.com This Year % of Sales Last Year LY % of Sales 4-0000 Income 4-1000 Funding \$99,640,14 DHS - Networker Grant \$104,291.00 82.4% 71.0% 4-1100 4-1102 DHHS-"Early Years Inclusion" \$9,935.64 7.9% \$0.00 0.0% 4-1103 DHHS Com Engage Opportunity \$6,102.14 4.8% \$0.00 0.0% 0.0% \$2,500.00 1.8% 4-1200 Surf Coast Shire \$0.00 4-1400 COGG \$0.00 0.0% \$7,500.00 5.3% 4-1500 Geelong Community Found - COGG \$0.00 0.0% \$3,800.00 2.7% 4-1504 **Geelong Connected Communities** \$0.00 0.0% \$1,701.48 1.2% \$2,450.00 4-1800 Membership and Subscriptions 1.9% \$2,450.00 1.7% 4-1902 Admin \$3,772.73 3.0% \$2,500.00 1.8% 4-1903 Grants \$0.00 0.0% \$20,173.86 14.4% \$126,551.51 100.0% \$140,265.48 100.0% Total Income 5-0000 **Grant Expenditure** 5-1001 Art from the N'hood 2019 GCC \$0.00 0.0% \$5,441,48 3.9% 5-2400 COGG Grant Expense J400 \$5,500.00 4.3% \$1,000.00 0.7% \$9,500.00 0.0% 5-2501 DHHS Early Inclusion J406 7.5% \$0.00 5-2502 DHS J407 Com Engage Proj \$6,102.14 4.8% \$0.00 0.0% 5-2600 Making Mentors Pilot Pr J 507 \$0.00 0.0% \$9,284.29 6.6% \$21,102.14 Total Grant Expenditure 16.7% \$15,725.77 11.2% **Gross Profit** \$105,449.37 83.3% \$124,539.71 88.8% 6-0000 Expenses 6-1005 Accounting/Bookkeeping \$9,896.82 7.8% \$9,292.73 6.6% 6-1010 Bank Charges \$28.99 0.0% \$125.04 0.1% 6-1019 \$369.91 0.3% \$0.00 0.0% Computer Expenses 6-1020 Conferences etc \$1,457.92 1.2% \$2,132,73 1.5% 6-1025 Consultants \$2,240.00 1.8% \$576.00 0.4% Equipmentl Expense Low value pool 1.6% 6-1400 \$55.00 0.0% \$2,212.73 6-1450 \$352.45 0.3% 0.1% Gifts etc \$72.70 \$1,180.49 0.9% \$1,502.25 1.1% 6-1500 Catering 6-1601 Web hosting-Internet \$1,970.20 1.6% \$1,084.00 0.8% 6-1800 Legal & Accounting \$0.00 0.0% \$214.70 0.2% \$407.27 6-1850 Memberships and Subscriptions 0.3% \$992.39 0.7% 6-1851 MYOB On-line subs \$900.00 0.7% \$840.00 0.6% 6-1910 Office Supplies \$595.00 0.5% \$1,149.68 0.8%

\$89.73

\$22.41

\$270.27

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$7,598.11

\$3,077.78

\$15,954.50

\$5,045.50

\$64,026.59

\$1,275.69

\$1,278.49

\$1,105.00

0.1%

0.0%

0.2%

0.9%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

6.0%

2.4%

12.6%

4.0%

50.6%

1.0%

1.0%

\$26.36

\$31.92

\$0.00

\$859.06

\$43.74

\$175.40

\$960.18

\$5,915.54

\$13,263.69

\$4,736.31

\$49,660.37

\$599.36

\$1,366.46

\$2,554.55

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Postage

Printing

Venue Hire

Miscellaneous Expenditure

Professional Development

Travel External Yr 19

Staff Amenities

Superannuation

Travel Payroll (KM)

JOBKEEPER SUBSIDY

Workers' Comp Ins CGU

JOBKEEPER-TOPUP

Wages & Salaries

Portable LSL

Employment Expenses

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6-1911

6-1915

6-1925

6-1930

6-1935

6-1936

6-2000

6-2010

6-2020

6-2021

6-2028

6-2029

6-2030

6-2032 6-2040

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2020 To June 2021

Email: christine@ceedeedevelopments.com

					•
		This Year	% of Sales	Last Year	LY % of Sales
6-2050	Other Employer Expenses	\$0.27	0.0%	\$180.00	0.1%
6-2051	Entitlement Annual Leave	\$6,024.83	4.8%	\$0.00	0.0%
	Total Employment Expenses	\$104,281.76	82.4%	\$76,857.31	54.8%
6-2400	Telephone	\$0.00	0.0%	\$555.45	0.4%
	Total Expenses	\$125,223.22	99.0%	\$101,123.34	72.1%
Operating P	rofit	-\$19,773.85	(15.6)%	\$23,416.37	16.7%
8-0000	Other Income				
8-1000	Interest Income	\$594.06	0.5%	\$1,490.19	1.1%
8-2000	Covid-19 Subsidy				
8-2001	ATO Cash Flow Boost	\$10,000.00	7.9%	\$10,000.00	7.1%
8-2002	DJPR-Business Support Fund	\$10,000.00	7.9%	\$0.00	0.0%
8-8200	JOBKEEPER SUBSIDY	\$27,000.00	21.3%	\$12,000.00	8.6%
	Total Covid-19 Subsidy	\$47,000.00	37.1%	\$22,000.00	15.7%
	Total Other Income	\$47,594.06	37.6%	\$23,490.19	16.7%
	Total Other Expenses	\$0.00	0.0%	\$0.00	0.0%
Net Profit/(L	oss)	\$27,820.21	22.0%	\$46,906.56	33.4%

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

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