



North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House
Annual Report 2022 - 2023

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Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Woi-Wurrung people of the Kulin nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House stands. We would also like to pay respect to the Wurundjeri elders, past and present, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait people from other communities.

In Memory

We dedicate this Annual Report to the memory of Rosie Riding and Sharon Khoo, two very dear members of the Railway House community who passed away this year. Both women were members of our community lunch group, with Rosie attending for at least the last 20 years and Sharon for the last four. Sharon also served on our committee of management. Rosie and Sharon brought so much joy to the House, and we will miss them enormously.



Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Annual Report for 2023.

I wish to acknowledge that the Railway House stands on the unceded traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, and I pay my respects to elders past and present.

This has been a year of consolidation, with the Railway House Community fully engaged post pandemic. The reconnection of our members and users with our staff and each other in activities that bring meaning, purpose, and interest to their lives. I want to acknowledge the role of our staff, volunteers, tutors, and members in so quickly bringing the House and community garden back to pre-Covid levels of life and engagement. While both beautiful to look at, it is the people of our community that animate our space and bring it meaning.

As I step down from the Committee of Management, I want to thank the staff; Alison, Lisa, Lisa and Jeff without whom we would be a much less interesting and inviting place. Our staff are the heart and soul of the House, and we would be poorer without them. I would also like to thank my Committee of Management colleagues for their dedication and commitment to this endeavour.

I appreciate the opportunity I have had to serve as the Chair of the Committee of Management and to work with a group of dedicated and inspiring colleagues who have worked tirelessly to achieve our goals of:

1. Increasing proactive engagement to ensure the voice of our neighbourhood is heard.
2. Developing and delivering services that promote participation and meet the needs of a range of people across the community, with a focus on priority groups.
3. Maintaining North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House for future generations through best practice governance.
4. Developing and evolving our policies and practices to create a safe and supportive workplace and space for all.

Finally, I thank all of you who, through your interest and engagement, make the Railway House and Garden such a special place.

Rachel Tuffield

Chairperson, Railway House Committee of Management



Manager's Report

It is a pleasure to present my report for 2022-2023, not least because (for the first time in several years) we had a full year without any disruption to our important work. We have seen a noticeable increase in engagement with Railway House, which has been a hive of activity this year, with new people discovering what we do and joining in our activities.

On weekdays, people from all walks of life come together to participate or volunteer in programs and activities, socialise, use our services, get some help, or simply to enjoy a coffee and some company. Weekends see our beautiful House being enjoyed by families hosting birthday parties and other celebrations. This year we ran approximately 25 regular weekly programs during school terms, and in the school holidays, thanks to a Yarra Council grant that we auspiced, we were able to run activities for the children living at the Princes Hill Public Housing Estate. New partnerships and collaborations this year enabled us to run more one-off community events than in previous years, with 16 special events over the course of twelve months. We also provided a range of services such as food collection, food relief and recycling. Additionally, seven weekly programs were run by other community groups at the House. Further details of our activities can be found in this report.

Our mission of ***“strengthening connections across our community, encouraging social action and supporting people to expand their possibilities”*** underpins everything we do, however, and so programs and events are only a part of the story. This year we have begun some initial work around sustainability and have considered ways in which Railway House, as a leading community organisation, can be more sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change, and support our community to do the same. In partnership with Yarra Council and Jesuit Social Services, the nine Neighbourhood Houses in Yarra worked together to develop a shared Climate Action & Resilience Plan. We also developed our own individual plan and are looking forward to focussing on some of the actions in that plan next year.



Learning Club volunteers Lottie, Poppy & Alex

Some highlights of our other work this year have been helping members of our community to secure employment; working with public housing residents to address issues with waste management and safety; and supporting several families new to the neighbourhood, and to Australia, to settle into life in Princes Hill. This emphasis on working closely with our community members and cultivating personal relationships - knowing everyone's name and often their stories - is one of our greatest strengths and why Railway House has a reputation for being a place that local people trust and value.

We have a very special community of people here at Railway House - people who care about each other and our organisation – and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to every one of the many people who help make Railway House such a welcoming and inclusive place. This includes our very dedicated office staff team, our fantastic team of tutors, our amazing volunteers, and all the wonderful people who participate in our programs and activities. Together, they all help create the inclusive, safe and happy place that is Railway House and I feel privileged to be part of this community.

Finally, I would like to thank Chair Rachel Tuffield, who is stepping down this year, for her support and guidance over the last two years, as well as Julie Johnston (Manager of the Northeast Neighbourhood House Network) and Kathy Vrettas (Community Development Officer at Yarra Council) who are always available to provide guidance and advice and are great advocates for Neighbourhood Houses.

Alison Beck

Our Staff

OFFICE STAFF

Alison Beck	Manager
Lisa Claiborne	Communications and Administration
Jeff Coley	Financial Manager
Lisa Giufre	Community Engagement
Tamika Paterson	Cleaner

TUTORS

Kate Borland	Cooking and Rescued Food Market
Flip Case	Choir
Michael Chalk	Digital Essentials
Damian Curtain	Art
Barry Dickins	Creative Writing
Lucy Derum	Gardening
Kat Lavers	Gardening
Carol Matthews	Pilates
Lianne Metcalf	Monday Moves
Jen Mounir	Women's Exercise and Tai Chi
Shede Olukhale	Kids' Soccer
Helen Rout	Kids' Karate



Lianne Metcalf with Monday Moves group



Kate Borland & school holiday cooking

Our Volunteers

Railway House offers rewarding volunteering opportunities to our local community, and we are incredibly lucky to have a strong cohort of volunteers who give their time to support our work. Volunteers help our organization with fundraising, policy and strategic development, events, and programs (some of which are completely volunteer led), and they are instrumental in enhancing our capacity. Sincere thanks go to the following people – we could not do what we do without you!

Committee of Management

Rachel Tuffield	Chairperson
Brett Pascoe	Secretary
Jeff Atkinson	Treasurer
Peter Deutschmann	Ordinary Member
Jeremy Dixon	Ordinary Member
Joy McCaffrey	Ordinary Member
Hannah McVean	Ordinary Member (until February 2023)
Pam Tuffield	Ordinary Member
Sarah Tutton	Ordinary Member



Other Volunteers

Grace Apa	General Help
Olga Betros	Garden Guardian
Alex Bleasdale	Learning Club
Mark Brickel	Garden Guardian and Food Relief Program
Martyn Brogan	Bus Driver
Genevieve Campbell	Program Facilitator (French Gouter)
Louise Christie	Community Lunch
Lynn Corcoran	Garden Guardian
Michele De Courcy	Recycling Program
Maria Doogan	Learning Club
Mary Dykes	Passion Project
Mary Egan	Learning Club
Sue Egan	General Help
Helen Gill	Passion Project
Elizabeth Grgacic	Garden Guardian
John Gunter	Community Lunch and General Help
John Harland	Repair Sessions
Geoff Hopkins	Repair Sessions
David James	Bus Driver
Nick Jans	Recycling Program
Robert Jongebreur	Bus Driver
Craig King	Garden Guardian
Richard Lasek	Repair Sessions
Jane Mackenzie	Learning Club
Jane Miller	Garden Guardian
Maureen Nokes	Community Lunch
Lyn Pedersen	Repair Sessions
Fiona Ross	Passion Project
Jordan Rozanski	Learning Club
Pat Rustad	Tutor (Learning Club)

Megan Scannell
Lottie Seligman
Louise Steyaert
Julian Stickland
Pam Tuffield
Poppy Tutton-Gill
Ragini Wheatcroft
Elizabeth Wielga

Program Facilitator (Book Club) and Tutor
 Learning Club
 Community Lunch
 Garden Guardian
 Program Facilitator (Bus Trip)
 Learning Club
 Learning Club
 Community Lunch

We would also like to thank the following people who have worked to keep our community garden thriving this year:

Stephen Betros, Marie Bolduc, Benita Bowles, Anne Brabet, Alison Brown, Robert Brown, Raewyn Buchanan, Ceci Cairns, Lola Champtaloup, Eugenie Chung, Istvan Danko, Michael D'Arcy, Jane Deegan, Barbara Deutschmann, Mish Edstein, Anna Evans, Peter Gaffney, Cristina Guerrero, Veronica Harrison, Monica Haverkamp, Em Heley, Ellen Holmes-Preston, Deborah Kane, Freya Keam, Maggie Krivanek, Jane Mackenzie, Gosia Mikolajczak, Mamta Nayyar, Maureen Nokes, Katie Nowell, John Peters, Susan Quinn, Rose Rainbow, Andrei Razhev, Linda Richardson, Corrine Rudis, Eileen Sheriden, Jen Shields, Goh Sionghoe, Brigid Walker, Ragini Wheatcroft, Bonnie Williams, Khim Yue.



Elizabeth Grgacic



Mark Brickell



Pat Rustad & Mickey



Pam Tuffield & Grace Apa

Our Programs & Activities

"We always have a lovely day.... Martyn, our bus driver, and Pam, our group leader, are two diamonds. We are blessed to have the real-life superheroes of Railway House in our lives! The outings provide relaxing days of respite and are very therapeutic. They are such a valued gift for us as we don't drive ourselves. We are very grateful."

Mona and Michael, bus trip participants

Our programs, services and activities are inclusive and accessible, and promote broad participation. They are reflective of our diverse community. From structured programs run by our wonderful tutors to social groups run by participants themselves, from gardening to food relief, from recycling to advocacy, we are responsive to our community's needs and interests and aim to enrich community life.

The following regular programs took place this year and were facilitated by tutors or volunteers or were self-run:

Art Class

Book Club *(in partnership with Yarra Libraries)*

Bus Trips *(in partnership with Yarra City Council)*

Cards Group

Choir

Community Lunch

Cooking Class

Creative Writing

Cycling Group

Digital Essentials *(ACFE)*

French Conversation

Gardening

Kids' Karate

Kids' Soccer Clinic

Knitting and Crochet Circle

Learning Club

Movement Class

Passion Project

Playgroup *(run by Yarra City Council)*

Sustainable Gardening *(ACFE)*

School Holiday Programs

Table Tennis

Tai Chi

Women's Exercise

Women's Table Tennis



Cooking Class



Tai Chi

The scope of our work goes far beyond our wonderful array of programs. We also offer a range of other services, helping us to engage and support a broader range of community members and extending our reach. The following services were offered this year:

Book Swap

Coffee Cart

Community Gym Memberships

Community Support and Advocacy

Food Collection for the Asylum Seeker Support Service

Food Relief

Internet Access and Drop-in

Power Saving Bonus Program *(in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses VIC)*

Recycling Drop-off

Safe Seats, Safe Kids Program *(in partnership with Kidsafe Victoria and Neighbourhood Houses VIC)*

Railway House also serves as a low cost or free venue for community groups and individuals running programs and activities. This year, these included:

Awkward Giraffe (Arts Support Group)

Bella Mummas (Women's Choir)

Brunswick Old Timey String Orchestra

Creative School Support

Friends of Public Housing Advocacy Group

Havana Palava Street Band

Highway One Theatre Company

Homebrew Veranda Singers (Men's Choir)

Italian for Kids

Melbourne Pétanque Club



Bus Trip to Dandenong Botanical Gardens



Railway Readers Book Club

Program Spotlights

Community Garden

Over the past twelve months up to fifty keen gardeners have worked in the garden on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, coming together to grow produce and hone their growing skills.

But the garden also has a big emphasis on community education, and this year the Railway gardeners have supported the City of Yarra play group, which meets weekly at Railway House, and the local primary school. The playgroup children greatly enjoyed planting daffodils and now have their own tomato plants. Members of the Tuesday group welcomed school children and teachers from Princes Hill Primary School to the garden, giving them a tour and showing them the compost system and worm farm. Some of our gardeners also helped some keen young gardeners to set up a new garden at the school.

As an un-fenced garden accessible at all hours the garden has a lot of regular visitors, from pre-schoolers who like to come and look at the ladybirds and bees and search for strawberries to the young couple who live in a one bed-room apartment and come over nearly every day after work to relax in the garden. It is a hub for locals doing evening walks or just wanting to check out what it might be good to plant in their own gardens.

The commitment to horticultural and plant education continues. In 2022, thanks to ACFE funding, Lucy Derum ran a series of organic gardening workshops and has continued her connection with Railway House with bi-monthly Saturday visits where she gives hands-on garden advice to the gardeners and any other locals who wish to join us.

The gardeners continue to fundraise for the running costs of garden and this year we had three successful plant stalls at Railway House's Makers Markets. As well as these events, in February Moira Christie ran a Tussie Mussie Workshop, which was also a fundraiser. In total, \$4,544.15 was raised for the 2022-2023 financial year. Thanks to everyone who supported our fundraisers.

We are also grateful to Rob Christie for the supply of free sunflower seeds and supervision of the planting, and to Marilyn from Bunnings for generous donations for our market stalls. We are also grateful to Ceres Environment Park propagation nursery who have donated many seedlings which were excess stock or past their use by date. With a little bit of care many lettuces, silver beet plants and parsleys have grown happily in our garden. Michael from Lygon St Nursery continues to keep an eye on our citrus trees which are getting established.

Other new initiatives this year included establishing a worm farm and a small propagation unit to allow gardeners to grow from seed. Liaison with the House's Wednesday community lunch and supply of fresh greens is continuing.

Jane Miller
Thursday Guardian



**Marie with students from
Princes Hill Primary School**

Children's Programs

Our support for younger members of our community – and in particular those residing at the Princes Hill Public Housing Estate - remains a major focus and we were delighted to welcome to our programs this year a new cohort of children who recently arrived in Australia. It has been a joy getting to know them and their families and welcome them to our community.

Passion Project

Our Passion Project program has gone from strength to strength. First piloted in early 2022 with one child, we had more than 20 children and young people participate in the program this year. Thanks to funding from the Inner North Community Foundation and Vic Health, and some dedicated volunteers, this program enables children to take part in activities which they might otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in. This year's activities included dance lessons, gymnastics, karate, and netball. Being able to participate in the kinds of activities enjoyed by their peers has myriad benefits to children involved in this program, including an increased sense of social inclusion, a widening of social connections, and improved health, wellbeing, and confidence. We have also discovered some real talent amongst our Passion Project kids!



*Passion Project participants
Tobias & Dag*



*Learning Club participants
Assim, Yacoub, Abdullah & Mounib*

Learning Club

With new families moving into the neighbourhood, eight new children joined our after-school Learning Club this year and we had a regular group of 10-12 children. Attendance was very consistent, and we are lucky to have had a dedicated group of volunteers coming along each week, ensuring one-on-one support for children that need it the most and providing a sense of stability for the children. Welcoming these children and the volunteers that work with them is a highlight of my week and seeing the progress of the new children, who only arrived in Australia this year, is truly delightful. They are thriving and we are thrilled that they are already showing a strong sense of belonging to the House.

School Holiday Activities

A Yarra City Council community grant allowed us to provide a range of school holiday activities once again. These included activities such as cooking workshops at Railway House, a cupcake decorating workshop at Sussex Neighbourhood House and the old favourite - a visit to an indoor rock climbing and play centre! It was the first time visiting these places for several of the children and it was wonderful to be able to offer them these experiences.

With thanks to Yarra City Council, the Inner North Community Foundation and Vic Health for supporting our children's programs.

Alison Beck
Manager



Aisha at a bag making workshop



Yacoub at a cupcake decorating workshop at Sussex Neighbourhood House

Special Occasions & Events

Special occasions and community events are an important part of our calendar when we mark significant days and host events that bring our community together. We were able to run many events over the course of this year, many of them thanks to our strong partnerships with other organisations and others which were initiatives of community members.

JULY 2022

National Tree Day

Planet Ark's National Tree Day has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event. This year Yarra City Council called on Yarra residents to get involved and hosted a tree planting session in the Hardy Gallagher Reserve near to Railway House. This was a very enjoyable community event with people of all ages getting their hands dirty and giving back to their community.



Christmas in July

Members of our community lunch group had the idea of hosting a special "Christmas in July" lunch to bring some festive cheer to a dreary winter. Members of Railway House's other groups were invited, and a beautiful array of festive dishes was prepared. A very enjoyable time was had by all!

AUGUST 2022

Knitting, Crochet and Art Exhibition

Another event that brightened up our winter was this wonderful exhibition, which showcased the talents of our knitting/crochet group and art group. A regular event on our annual calendar for the past 10 years, we were delighted to host this community event again after a two-year hiatus.





SEPTEMBER 2022

Makers' Market (December 2022 and April 2023)

Our Makers' Markets have become a regular twice-yearly community event. They are a great opportunity for local makers to sell their products, and for Railway House to raise additional funds. Our garden group also uses this opportunity to raise funds for the garden, running a very successful plant stall and raffle. There are certainly some very creative and talented people in our community!

OCTOBER 2022

Children's Week Event

Thanks to a grant from the Department of Education and Training, we were able to celebrate Children's Week with an event for the children residing at the Princes Hill Public Housing Estate. The children planned the event and invited friends from the broader community to come along, including their classmates at school. This gave them a strong sense of ownership of the event which involved face painting, delicious food, games and a disco.



NOVEMBER 2022

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM took place on a warm afternoon at the end of November, with the Railway House choir beginning proceedings with a special acknowledgement of country. Approximately 30 members and friends gathered on our beautiful veranda to hear about our work for the year and elect our new committee of management. We were delighted to welcome Tim Read, State MP for Brunswick, as our guest speaker.

DECEMBER 2022

VCAL Community BBQ

VCAL students from Princes Hill Secondary College hosted a BBQ for our community members. This was a lovely end of year event that not only provided students with experience in running an event but also provided an opportunity for intergenerational connections.



FEBRUARY 2023

Tussie-Mussie Workshop

Members of our garden group organised for local resident Moira Christie to run a tussie-mussie workshop which also served as a fundraiser for the garden group. Participants learned how to make their own tussie-mussie using fragrant flowers from the community garden.

MARCH 2023

Harmony Day

Thanks to a grant awarded by DFFH's Multicultural Festivals and Events Program, we were once again able to put on a community event to celebrate Harmony Day. Held on a glorious Wednesday afternoon, the event attracted lots of community members who gathered to celebrate, enjoying a tasty multicultural lunch, activities and music by the Railway House choir.



APRIL 2023

City Nature Challenge

Yarra City Council ran a workshop at Railway House to encourage and prepare Yarra residents to take part in the City Nature Challenge, a four-day BioBlitz where participants around the world compete for the most nature observations, recording photos and sounds of animals, plants and fungi. Yarra Council teamed up with over 20 councils and organisations to represent Greater Melbourne in the Challenge.





MAY 2023

Volunteer Week

This year we celebrated National Volunteer Week with a joint event with the other Neighbourhood Houses in Yarra, with a delicious lunch at the Fitzroy Learning Network. This was a wonderful way to recognise and celebrate the work of all the volunteers at the nine Neighbourhood Houses in Yarra.

National Reconciliation Week

To mark National Reconciliation Week, we enjoyed a special community lunch. Deb Chapman, a former committee member at Railway House, facilitated discussion and ran a thought-provoking activity to demonstrate how many generations first nation peoples go back.



Law Week Event

Law Week saw us host an information session run by the Neighbourhood Justice Centre. This was very informative for both community members and staff, and we learned a great deal about the range of services available at the NJC.

Draught-proofing for Renters

Another Yarra City Council workshop, renters living in Yarra were invited to Railway House to learn how to install DIY rental-friendly draughtproofing solutions. Tenants Victoria also shared up-to-date information about tenants' rights to make energy efficiency improvements for a comfortable home.



Climate Action and Resilience

This year the nine neighbourhood houses in the City of Yarra, in partnership with Yarra Council and Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places, worked together to develop a shared Climate Action & Resilience Plan with the aim of contributing to a more sustainable and resilient Yarra. Each House also developed their own individual plan.

We considered how we could make our Houses more sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change and support our communities to do the same, identifying four objectives based on our strengths and our community's needs:



Objective 1: Sustainable Houses

We actively reduce our environmental footprint and look after our natural environment.

Our staff and volunteers are already taking action to protect the environment. We want to build on this work and make sure we have the funding, infrastructure, and leadership to support further action.

Objective 2: Resilient Houses

We work to build our resilience to extreme weather and adapt to the changing climate.

Extreme weather, like heatwaves and floods, can make it difficult to continue to provide our services. We want to be prepared so we can support our community when we're needed most, and make sure our staff and volunteers are safe.

Objective 3: Sustainable Communities

We help our community to reduce their environmental footprint and look after the natural environment.

There are many community groups and leaders, young and old, helping to reduce waste and carbon emissions, protect biodiversity and create a thriving ecosystem in Yarra. We're committed to supporting these sustainability efforts to help make the change that needs to happen.

Objective 4: Resilient Communities

We help our community to build resilience, adapt to the changing climate and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather.

Extreme weather impacts us all, but we know it impacts some people more than others. We're committed to helping our community prepare for climate change, build strong connections with others, and make sure everybody is safe and well, no matter what's going on outside.

Whilst the network, and Railway House, aspires to implement the plan in full, the ability to do so is to some extent dependent on resources and support from external partners and stakeholders. But through the development of this Climate Action and Resilience Plan we are developing an understanding of the impacts of climate change on our local communities and a commitment to embedding sustainability and resilience across our Houses and communities.

Click [here](#) to view the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network
Climate Action & Resilience Plan

Click [here](#) to view the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House
Climate Action & Resilience Plan

A Snapshot of our Diverse Community

The Railway House community is made up of people from all backgrounds, and life stages, and it is this diversity of people that makes our House a very special place to be. We strive to create a place where everyone, regardless of their background or situation, feels valued and included. Here is a small snapshot of some of the wonderful people who make up our community.



Robbie

We were so pleased to welcome Robbie to our community this year, running our coffee cart two days a week. He churns out lattes and cappuccinos for our Tuesday and Wednesday groups come rain or shine. Thanks Robbie! After his shift on the coffee cart, Robbie enjoys spending time in our leisure room and often joins us for community lunch on Wednesdays.

Jessie/Cassian

Jessie originally came to Railway House seeking to volunteer whilst on maternity leave, but with her new baby having different ideas about that, she soon realized that this wasn't really feasible! Jessie really liked what she saw happening at Railway House on Wednesday mornings, however, so she decided to join the playgroup instead. She and her adorable son Cassian now attend regularly, and we have loved welcoming them into our community.



Jeremy

Jeremy joined the Railway House choir about three years ago and has found the whole experience to be a joy. Jeremy says *"I was very pleased to find a choir that was in such a convenient location as well as being conducted during the day, which is a bonus for a retiree like me. When I arrived for my first session, I was pleasantly surprised by the beautiful setting. Carlton has always been my favourite suburb as I've been coming here regularly most of my life, watching my favourite footy team. The classic old railway station has been well maintained and is a delight to visit. The community garden adds to the experience with the colour and fragrance of flowers, vegetables, fruit and herbs. But, most importantly, the people involved in the Railway House and the choir are wonderful. The staff are friendly, caring, helpful and dedicated. The choir members are an enthusiastic and impressive group. And Flip, the choir leader, is very professional and great to work with; even encouraging me to bring my guitar to accompany the choir. I recommend anyone who enjoys singing to come along and join us"*.



Abdul

This happy little boy moved to the neighbourhood from Sudan at the start of the year with his parents and five siblings and we were delighted to welcome the whole family into our community. Abdul and his baby sister enjoy coming to playgroup with mum on Wednesday mornings, whilst his older brothers and sisters attend Learning Club and Karate. Mum also comes to the House once a week with a friend for an hour to practice her English with manager Alison.

Jane

Jane is a familiar face around North Carlton and is a Railway House stalwart. She is a local sustainability champion and was instrumental in developing the Railway House community garden. With a background in social work, Jane is an excellent “community connector” and has done a magnificent job in her role as “Garden Guardian” these past few years to involve people in the garden. Jane has been on the Railway House committee of management previously and continues to support the House and garden. Thanks for everything, Jane!



Simale

Simale has been attending our after-school Learning Club for the past few years and is making terrific progress with her learning thanks to the one-on-one support she receives from her volunteer Jane. This year she became a participant in our children’s Passion Project program too. Along with her twin sister, she has been taking part in weekly gymnastics classes for the entire year and has been doing extremely well. She shows natural talent, and we can’t wait to see how Simale progresses with her gymnastics training. We also helped organise for Simale to join her school choir, so she is now a very busy girl with three after-school activities each week!

Nick

Nick lives at the retirement village close to the House and has regularly attended community events over the years. He is also the founding member of our bike riding group! This year Nick joined our choir, and he is also kindly volunteering in our recycling program, dropping off bags full of blister packs at the pharmacy on request. Nick loves being in the choir. Not only does he find singing to be good for his soul, but the group activity repeatedly reminds him of the old principle that, in a good team, ‘the-whole-is-usually-greater-than-the-sum-of-the-parts’. Nick says that his involvement at the House is “*a wonderful experience all round!*”





Cianna

Cianna has been coming to Railway House since she was around six years old, participating in learning club, karate, passion project and school holiday activities. Now an almost-12-year-old, she comes to “hang out” here with her friends on Wednesdays after school to make snacks and have a quiet place to relax. It is great to still have her engaged with the House!

Maria

Maria joined our community at the start of this year as a volunteer in Learning Club and has been working one-on-one with a young girl who has recently arrived in Australia. Maria loves being part of Learning Club and will be joining our committee of management next year to support the House more generally. It will be great to have you on board, Maria!



Dagi

Delightful 10-year-old Dagi has been coming to Railway House since she was a baby! She’s been a member of our Learning Club and has participated in many school holiday activities over the years. For the past two years she has been sponsored to do dance classes at a local dance studio as part of our Passion Project, with volunteer Pat escorting her there every week. She is a talented girl, and we are sure she has a bright future ahead of her!

Martyn

Martyn, our volunteer bus driver, helps brighten up the first Monday of the month for many people by driving them to often beautiful but always interesting places around Melbourne on our bus trips. Martyn says *“just this year we’ve been to Mt Martha to try the revamped chairlift, the Botanic Gardens to relax in the new meditation micro-gardens, Bunjil Place to gaze at the building, Kyneton for an award-winning pie and stroll in their historic botanic gardens, art exhibitions, gold and Greek museums and always, always there’s a coffee somewhere in the plan. But what I like most is the chattiness, the friendliness and the unforced camaraderie of those who share each excursion. It is a privilege to be the driver. And yet to come is Williamstown for the traditional end of year fish and chips.”*



Treasurer's Report

The Railway House recorded a deficit of \$1,477 for the financial year 2022-2023. This result was a significant improvement over the prior financial year. Last year, the organisation was still dealing with the tail end of the Covid – 19 pandemic and in particular the reduction of the organisation's Program fee and Venue Hire revenues.

The ability of the organisation to provide innovative programs is very much dependent on attracting small grants & philanthropic donations each year. We have again been successful this year in attracting these grants. This requires a good deal of time and effort in forming relationships with funders, designing programs and applying for available funding. Our thanks go to our funding partners in 2022-23: Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank – Branch of Bendigo Bank, Inner North Community Foundation, Department of Social Services, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Department of Education – Children's Week Grant, DFFH – Harmony Day Grant & City of Yarra (auspice program)

My thanks go to the members of our community who supported the organisation during the year by attending programs, donating funds and supporting fundraising events. Our Market Day fundraisers also greatly assisted our programs to continue and develop throughout the year.

I would like to thank our core funders for their ongoing support of the house and our programs. Funding was provided by The City of Yarra (\$69,014) Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (\$93,718) and Department of Education & Early Childhood Development - ACFE (\$9,822).

The audited financial statement for 2022-23 provides a full picture of the organisation's financial performance and position for the year ended 30th June 2023.

I would like to thank the staff of the house for their efforts this year in securing new sources of funding for our programs, facilitating fundraising events and in containing costs.

Finally, a thank you to the committee of management for assisting me in my role as Treasurer.

Jeff Atkinson
Treasurer



NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN 26 424 383 517
COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members present the special purpose financial report on the entity for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Committee of Governance Members

The names of committee of governance members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Rachel Tuffield	Chairperson	
Brett Pascoe	Secretary	Appointed November 2022
Sarah Tutton	Past Secretary	Until November 2022
Jeff Atkinson	Treasurer	Appointed November 2022
Tony Dalton	Past Treasurer	Resigned November 2022
Pamela Tuffield	General Member	
Peter Deutschmann	General Member	
Jeremy Dixon	General Member	
Joy McCaffrey	General Member	Appointed November 2022
Sarah Tutton	General Member	From November 2022
Hannah McVean	General Member	Resigned March 2023
Patricia Sexton	General Member	Resigned November 2022
Dianna Walpole	General Member	Resigned November 2022

Principle Activities

The principle activities of the entity during the financial year were:

The Association values the diversity in our local community and aim to strengthen community connections by bringing people together from all walks of life to learn and socialise. We offer a range of learning programs and health and well-being activities which provide opportunities for recreation, the learning of new skills and interaction with others. These programs are provided at low or no cost where possible so as to ensure they are accessible to all.

Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activity occurred during the financial year.

Operating Results

The deficit for the year attributable to the entity amounted to \$1,477 (2022: \$45,271 - deficit).

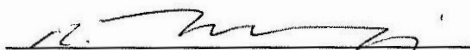
After Balance Date Events

No matter has evolved since 30 June 2023 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:


- (a) the entity's operations in future financial years, or
- (b) the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- (c) the entity's state of affairs in future financial years.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Chairperson


 Rachel Tuffield

Secretary


 Brett Pascoe

Dated this

16th

day of

October

2023

NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN 26 424 383 517
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME			
Grant Funding Income			
Local Government Grants	2	69,014	67,994
State Government Grants - NHCP	2	93,718	89,596
State Government Grants - DSS	2	379	968
State Government Grants - ACFE	2	9,822	4,368
Community Garden Grant	2	2,757	3,289
Other Grants	2	28,557	17,170
	2	204,247	183,385
Operating Income			
Program/ Course Fees Income		17,897	15,999
House Hire Income		29,950	22,189
		47,847	38,188
Other Income			
Interest Received		2,526	235
Donations		3,133	1,243
Fundraising Income		4,540	3,993
Other Income		6,301	2,428
		16,500	7,899
TOTAL INCOME		268,594	229,472

Chairperson


Rachel Tuffield

Secretary


Brett Pascoe

Dated this

16th

day of

October

2023

NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN 26 424 383 517
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
EXPENDITURE			
Administrative & Operating Expenses			
Advertising and Promotion		-	-
AGM Meeting Expenses		255	196
Audit and Bookkeeping Fees		2,297	1,500
Bank Fees and Charges		2,610	2,392
Catering and Events		7,029	3,262
Cleaning and Pest Control		1,318	996
Computer and IT Services		1,999	2,069
Depreciation		792	792
Fundraising & Donations Expenses		453	945
Furniture and Equipment		1,652	886
Insurance		898	885
Membership Fees & Permits		1,052	1,395
Office Supplies		1,242	701
Photocopier and Printing		1,294	1,072
Rent		416	416
Repairs and Maintenance		403	1,850
Telephone, Internet and Website		2,026	3,388
Utilities - Electricity, Gas and Water		1,142	3,063
		<u>26,878</u>	<u>25,808</u>
Employee Related Expenses			
Salaries & Wages		189,537	183,222
Superannuation		19,310	18,342
Payroll Expenses		402	70
Portable Long Service Benefits Scheme Levies		-	-
Training and Development		447	3
WorkCover		1,856	2,809
		<u>211,552</u>	<u>204,446</u>
Program & Grant Related Expenses			
Community Grant Expenses		-	900
Community Garden Costs		2,757	14,457
Children's Program Expenses		10,324	-
Holiday Program Expenses		2,414	1,118
House Program Expenses		3,710	6,555
Tutor Fees		12,436	21,459
		<u>31,641</u>	<u>44,489</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>270,071</u>	<u>274,743</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		<u>(1,477)</u>	<u>(45,271)</u>

NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN 26 424 383 517
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(1,477)	(45,271)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	<u>(1,477)</u>	<u>(45,271)</u>

NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN 26 424 383 517
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	68,609	144,388
Cash on Hand	1,311	828
Cash at Term Deposits	164,245	82,550
Accounts Receivable	1,220	-
Other Receivables	722	1
Prepayments	-	1,759
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	236,107	229,526
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Leasehold Improvements	920	6,006
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(920)	(6,006)
	-	-
Computer Equipment	9,376	9,376
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(9,020)	(8,624)
	356	752
Office Furniture Equipment	7,384	7,384
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(6,332)	(5,936)
	1,052	1,448
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,408	2,200
TOTAL ASSETS	237,515	231,726
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	271	-
Sundry Payables & Accruals	2,100	2,713
ATO GST & PAYGW Payable	6,513	8,848
Grants Received in Advance	39,124	32,385
Income Received in Advance	17,466	19,895
Provision for Annual Leave	13,878	14,052
Provision for Long Service Leave	34,287	30,218
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	113,639	108,111
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provision for Long Service Leave	4,586	2,848
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,586	2,848
TOTAL LIABILITIES	118,225	110,959
NET ASSETS	119,290	120,767
EQUITY		
Accumulated Funds	119,290	120,767
	119,290	120,767

NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN 26 424 383 517
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Accumulated Members Funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2021	166,038	166,038
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	(45,271)	(45,271)
Balance as at 30 June 2022	<u>120,767</u>	<u>120,767</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	(1,477)	(1,477)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	<u><u>119,290</u></u>	<u><u>119,290</u></u>

NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN 26 424 383 517
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

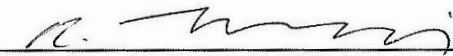
The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee, the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 10, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

- 1 a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and
b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Inc as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Chairperson


Rachel Tuffield

Secretary


Brett Pascoe

Dated: 16/10/23



Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd

127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Australia

Phone (03) 9680 1000
Fax (03) 9689 6605

www.collinsco.com.au

NORTH CARLTON RAILWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC A.B.N. 26 424 383 517 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Inc (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2023, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Board.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1, *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

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 our report. I am independent of the Association 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 my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our 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.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House Inc to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.



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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My 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 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 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 the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible 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 registered 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 those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

Auditor: Frederik Ryk Ludolf Eksteen

ASIC Registration Number: 421448

Address: Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd, 127 Paisley Street, FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

Signature:

Date: 19 October 2023

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Funding Organisations

City of Yarra

DFFH – Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Program and Harmony Day Grant

Department of Social Services (Federal) - Volunteer Grant

Department of Education & Training – ACFE and Children’s Week Grant

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation – Children’s Programs

City of Yarra – School Holiday Program

Inner North Community Foundation – Children’s Programs

Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank Branch (Bendigo Bank) – Food in Common



Supporters and Partners

Supporters

FareShare
Natural Tucker Bakery
Red Monkey Goo
Second Bite
Sugardough Bakery
Thornbury Church of Christ
Yarra Libraries

Partners

Alphington Community Centre
Belgium Avenue Community Centre
Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Finbar Neighbourhood House
Fitzroy Learning Network
Holden Street Neighbourhood House
North-East Neighbourhood House Network
Princes Hill Secondary College
Richmond Community Learning Centre
St. Michael's Church
The Footpath Library



North Carlton Railway Station Neighbourhood House Incorporated
20 Solly Avenue
Princes Hill VIC 3056
(03) 9654 3800
admin@railwayneighbourhoodhouse.org.au
www.railwayneighbourhoodhouse.org.au

ABN 26 424 383 517

