



THE CENTRE: CONNECTING COMMUNITY IN NORTH AND WEST MELBOURNE INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

14 September 2015

VISION AND PURPOSE

The purposes of the association are—

1. To facilitate an environment in which community members are able to develop responses to their own needs.
2. To facilitate the development of programs that are responsive to the needs of local residents.
3. To function as a resource, information and referral focus within the local community and, subject to the resources being available, to support the production of a community newspaper.
4. To address social inequalities and increase life opportunities for people who are disadvantaged, by encouraging the development of self-help and skills development activities, social interaction and participation.
5. To foster community development programs which involve active participation initiatives of the members themselves in addressing issues of the wider community.
6. To encourage and promote the development of community networks.
7. To provide educational, social, cultural, environmental and support activities.

VISION

Our vision is to contribute to a connected, resilient and sustainable community by promoting a sense of community belonging and providing resources, tools and space in response to community issues.

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MEETING PAPERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

In accordance with the Constitution of the association notice is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting of The Centre will be held at 6 pm Monday 14 September 2015 at the club rooms Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women North and West Melbourne Branch 16 Little Errol Street North Melbourne.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2013-14 AGM
4. Receive the Management Committee Annual Report 2014-2015
5. Election of 3 persons for a three year term (2015 to 2017) to be members of the Management Committee.
Nominations for membership of the Management Committee close at 5 pm Sunday 13 September 2015.

6. Annual Financial Report year ended 30 June 2015 in accordance with Section 30 of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.
7. Determine the annual subscription and date for payment thereof.
8. Appointment of an Auditor or Auditors

The provisions of the Act allow for our accounts to be reviewed rather than audited however it is

RECOMMENDED:

THAT Mr Eugene Odachowski of J.P. Hardwick & Associates be re- appointed independent auditors for The Centre for the period 201516.

9. General Business
 - 9.1. An address by our Life Member Lorna Hannan
 - 9.2. Honorary Life Membership

The following resolution will be RECOMMENDED as a special resolution:

THAT the person proposed by the Management Committee at the AGM be appointed an honorary life member of the Association in terms of clause 14 of the Constitution.

Provision is made for members to appoint a proxy for the meeting and any special resolution.

Members of the public are invited to attend as observers subject to the direction of the Chairman.

The reports will be publicly available on our website www.centre.org.au progressively from 24 August 2015.

Michael J Halls
Director and Returning Officer
24 August 2015

MINUTES 2014

Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting of The Centre: Connecting Community in North and West Melbourne Inc. held at 6 pm on Monday 29 September 2014 in the Training Room, 58 Errol Street North Melbourne

1. Welcome

The meeting opened at 6:02 pm with welcomes by the Chairman and the Director.

2. Attendance and Apologies

The following apologies were received and accepted:

Nancy Lane
Alex McGillivray
Kath McPherson
Mark McPherson
Mary Parfrey
Steven Weir
Anne Wilkinson

The following members of the Management Committee were present:

Doone Clifton (Treasurer)
Lorna Hannan (Vice Chairman)
Karl Hessian (Chairman)
Bill Liddy
Malcolm Peacock
Margaret Wood (Secretary)

The Constitution of The Centre requires that the quorum for an AGM must be 10% of current members (4). There were 20 members and 2 visitors present. (Refer the attached attendance sheets.)

The Secretary reported the proxy votes that had been submitted

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2012-13 AGM

The minutes of the 2012-13 AGM held on 30 September 2013 had been circulated. A hard copy version of the Minutes was available to all members present and in electronic form at www.centre.org.au as a part of the Annual Report.

It was **RESOLVED:**

THAT the minutes of the 2012-13 Annual General Meeting of The Centre be confirmed as a correct record.

The members thanked the Director and the staff of The Centre for their work and the preparations and material for the evening.

4. Receive the Management Committee Annual Report 2013-2014

A hard copy version of the Annual Report was available to all members present and in electronic form on The Centre website.

The Chairman, Mr Karl Hessian reminded members of the financial constraints we had operated within over the last year and thanked staff for their efforts in tightening budget restraints. The Management Committee acknowledged a fine job. Karl also acknowledged the achievement of the formation of a cooperative by the 6 neighborhood houses and learning centres that formed the Inner North Cluster.

The Treasurer, Ms Doone Clifton, presented the financial report and indicated that we had not achieved our financial aim for the year but we had maintained our solvency and liquidity. She commended staff on the excellent job they did in raising funds and keeping expenditure within available limits.

The Director, Michael J Halls thanked the wide range of volunteers who support The Centre and praised the supportive and dedicated staff of The Centre.

Members and visitors raised no questions at this time.

It was **RESOLVED:**

THAT the Annual Report 2013-2014 as presented be received.

5. Election of 9 persons to be members of the Management Committee

Copies of the new Rules of the Association were available for all present. The Returning Officer declared the following persons elected unopposed:

For a one year term:

Lorna Hannan

Bill Liddy

For a two year term:

Doone Clifton

Nancy Lane

Malcolm Peacock

For a three year term:

Karl Hessian
Kathleen McPherson
Margaret Wood.

As the Constitution provides for a Management Committee to consist of 9 persons, the Returning Officer declared one casual vacancy to be filled by the Management Committee in due course.

At its first meeting the Management Committee will elect from amongst its members persons to fill the office bearer positions of

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary and
- Treasurer.

6. Annual Financial Report year ended 30 June 2013 in accordance with Section 94 of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

The Treasurer presented the financial overview contained in the Annual Report. A hard copy version of the fully audited Annual Financial Report was available to all members present and in electronic form at www.centre.org.au.

The Centre had been assisted in the preparation of the report by Mr Craig Barry General Manager of the INC Education Advisory & Support Service Co-operative Limited.

The financial results for 2013-14 reflected the 'normal' expenditure of The Centre against the lower funding received from the City of Melbourne for community service provision and the Spring Fling festival.

It was **RESOLVED:**

THAT the Annual Financial Report year ended 30 June 2014 be received and accepted.

7. Determine the annual subscription and date for payment thereof

In terms of clause 12 of the Rules of the Association it was **RESOLVED:**

THAT the annual subscription for 2014-15 be \$0.00 (zero) and that the date for the subscription period commence on 1 October 2014 until 30 September 2015.

8. Appointment of an Auditor or Auditors

Our long standing auditor (Sean Denham and Associates Accountants and Auditors) had given us notice during the 2012-13 audit that he would likely not be available for another term and he confirmed that in April 2014. The provisions of the Act allow for our accounts to be reviewed rather than audited however the Management Committee proposed and it was **RESOLVED:**

THAT Mr Eugene Odachowski of J.P. Hardwick & Associates Unit 7, 617-643 Spencer Street West Melbourne, VIC 3003 be appointed independent auditors for The Centre for the period 2014-15.

9. General Business

The Chairman proposed the special resolution for the award of Honorary Life Member to Mrs Lorna Hannan. He indicated her indefatigable young at heart character had embodied and diligently implemented the Centre's principles of community capacity building and development. Her advice and robust participation across the range of our activities and other community groups had made our community a much richer place.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED:**

THAT Lorna Hannan be awarded honorary life membership of The Centre: Connecting Community in North and West Melbourne Inc.

The Chairman thanked the members, staff and volunteers and invited members and guests to stay and join in the hospitality of The Centre.

The meeting closed at 6:36 pm

Chairman

OFFICERS' REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The **Management Committee** consists of nine dedicated community members of the Association and it is my pleasure to be the chairperson. Each and every one of them is a tireless worker not only for The Centre but also the wider community.

The Centre is a charity¹ and seeks contributions from the community and grants from philanthropics to enable us to deliver our programs. We believe it is important that members of the management committee equally contribute to charity; it goes to demonstrate the character of the wonderful people who volunteer to lead the association. Many make personal donations to The Centre but significantly they are themselves very active supporters of other community charities for example:

- Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project
- Foodbank Victoria
- Girl Guides
- Gowrie Victoria
- Red Cross
- Trek Medic.

The members of your management committee are themselves volunteers within The Centre's programs. They facilitate the delivery of some of the programs and they give up significant hours of their time to represent the association with various authorities and organisations for example they write submissions to organisations that give us grants, they design and deliver courses like the *Active at Any Age program* and *Key Figures in History Laneways Project*, and they attend meetings with the City of Melbourne to discuss the accountability reports we must submit just to mention a few.

This past year we welcomed a new member of the committee Mr Ben O'Connor who we hope will serve for many years to come. We are also farewelling long standing members of the committee but I am saving those words for the meeting.

Karl Hessian
Chairman

¹ Without DGR status

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is pleasing to be writing that we have reversed the trend of the last few years and ended the year with a modest surplus. That surplus contains a revaluation of our assets and those parts of the 2015 Spring Fling grant that we utilize in the last quarter of the financial year.

We were successful in securing increased student contact hours and funding from the Adult Community and Further Education division of the Department of Education and Training.

The Centre is required to provide an assessment of our business and governance against specified criteria and ratios established by the ACFE Board. The committee received a report on the application of these ratios introduced in August 2014. It illustrated quite dramatically the ridiculousness of applying these ratios as key indicators for funding. In the two working examples for one we assumed we paid all accounts payable, Group Tax, and Superannuation at June 30. We also removed the accrued income of \$35000 and the 2015-16 ACFE grant of \$56,000 in advance. If we do this, we hit the targets. In the alternative example (which is the final accounts before you) we include the ACFE money in advance of \$56000 and we do not achieve the ACFE targets. We will take this anomaly up with the ACFE Board.

The financial year also saw us implement the new strategic partnership with the City of Melbourne (see below). This is a positive change from the dramatic funding cuts in 2009-12 periods.

Our Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) funding under the existing agreement with the Department of Health and Human Service's came to an end but we were pleased that it has been renewed.

Without losing our commitment to provide for the disadvantaged and marginalised members of our community we are still able to generate a significant part of our income comes from the participants in our programs (see the charts below).

The year end also marked the separation of the INC Education and Advisory Service Cooperative Ltd from within The Centre to stand alone as subsidiary of all the INC partners. This project was a tremendous achievement by us and congratulations go to all involved.

Doone Clifton

Treasurer

FINANCE

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2015

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Top-line Results	2010/11*	2011/12	2012/13*	2013/14	2014/15
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Income	427,246	380,349	351,192	431,295	468,903
Total Expenditure	419,666	274,139	482,760	466,419	405,149
Net surplus (deficit)	7,580	106,210	(131,568)	(35,124)	63,754
Net assets at end #	100,944	207,154	75,586	32,873	89,908
Cash held at end #	175,866	248,681	98,742	119,215	136,875

* Includes delivery of Spring Fling Street Festival during the period

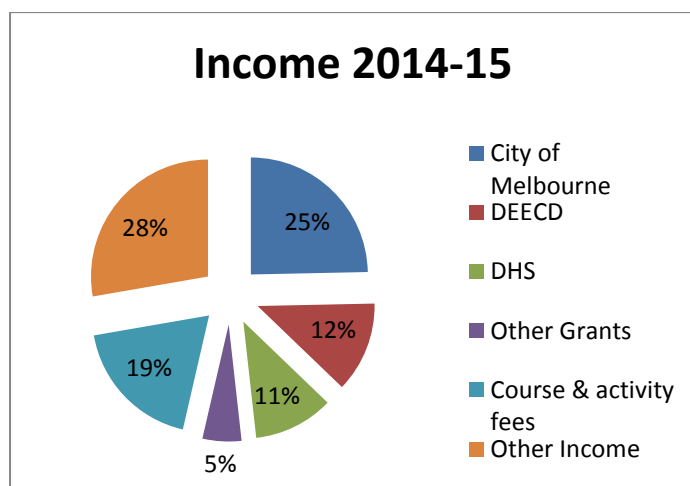
May include committed funds held for future use

Important notice:

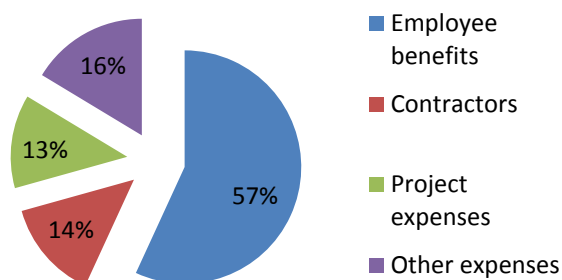
Information used in this financial overview is extracted from the full financial report of The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne Inc. ("The Centre") for the year ended 30 June 2015.

For a complete understanding of the financial performance, financial position and activities of The Centre, the full financial report should be referred to. The full financial report also includes a full description of the accounting policies adopted by The Centre, and explanatory notes to the financial statements.

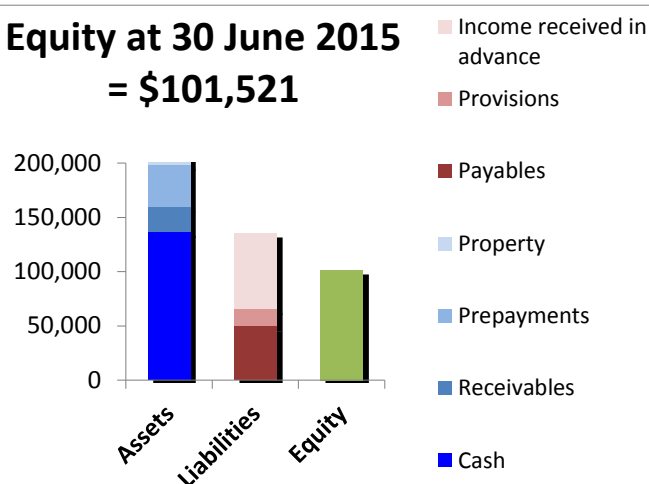
The full financial report, including the independent auditor's report, is available free of charge at www.centre.org.au or on request from The Centre by calling 03-9328 1126 or emailing finance@centre.org.au



Expenditure 2014-15



Equity at 30 June 2015 = \$101,521



FUNDING AGENCIES, SPONSORS AND DONATIONS

Our grateful thanks are extended to the community for their generosity and willingness to meet some of the costs of the activities and programs we coordinate. In particular thank you to

Tom Cayce who donated an acer laptop

Jocelyn Sellers and one other person (anonymous) who donated art materials

Joanne Davis who donated \$150 to the GHP

and to all those members who made a donation with their membership renewal.

There are several agencies, sponsors and donors without whom we simply would not be able to continue as a charitable institution (the supporters of the Spring Fling are acknowledged in the report for that event).



AUDIT

The Centre has appointed JP Hardwick and Associates, Chartered Accountants as its financial auditors. Mr Eugene Odachowski ACA is the designated auditor.

The audit report is included in the full Financial Statements confirms that our affairs have been presented fairly in accordance with the standards and regulations. As part of our membership of the INC partnership we are moving toward a common audit program.

AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT FOR PROFITS COMMISSION

The Centre's returns to the ACNC are available at their website. We also have a partnership with the Meadow Heights Community Foundation and the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA) Public Fund so that we can

- Accept tax deductible donations (\$100 or over) and
 - Apply for funds from philanthropic foundations/trusts and corporations requiring DGR status.
-

CITY OF MELBOURNE:

Community Services Funding

The new community services funding agreement (CSFA), 2014-15 to 2015-16 renewable for two years, was signed although we remain concerned at the nature of some of the evaluation methods were proposed. The process requires quarterly submissions and an annual report and meetings. The Centre met its reporting obligations and is in discussion about future improvements in the process after this initial year of the agreement.

Community Use of Town Halls Scheme (CUTHS)

We communicated our concern at the new City approach to community access to the "art making" spaces of North Melbourne within its Arts Strategy for

- Arts House North Melbourne Town Hall
- Arts House Warehouse
- Arts House Meat Market (owned by the Victorian Government and managed by the City of Melbourne)

The City's new policy has had the following effect on our Health and Wellbeing program and budget. The decision to relocate *Wild@hART* from the Town Hall to the Meat Market has meant that we are now short one room at the Meat Market for Pilates and that the proposed men's program will not go ahead. The consequential cost increases adversely affected our grant budget.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

We are pleased that the long term funding for the Department of Health and Human Service's Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) 2015-2016 has been renewed and we are able to continue to -

1. “Support the provision of community development programs and activities which lead to community-strengthening outcomes through:
 - a. supporting diversity by promoting community participation and inclusion,
 - b. facilitating community development and capacity building in support of individuals and groups within communities,
 - c. supporting life-long learning opportunities for people to improve their training and employment pathways and community participation; and
2. Support community development processes to address locally identified priorities and needs through:
 - a. community consultation,
 - b. development of agreed community responses to identified priorities and needs,
 - c. identification of partners and funding sources,
 - d. facilitating and evaluating responses to identified needs and priorities.”²
 - e.

We are funded for 20 hours of “coordination” and in our annual audit we reported that this funding had –

- supported around 70 volunteers averaged per week
- allowed us to be open for 40 hours per week over the whole year
- which meant we could deliver nearly 110 activity hours per week.

Victorian Government Risk Framework applies to departments and public bodies covered by the Financial Management Act 1994. All other agencies are encouraged to adopt the framework as best practice. It reflects the Australian and New Zealand Standard and better practice approaches to risk management and describes the mandatory requirements for risk management and insurance. The framework requires agencies to demonstrate they are managing risk effectively; including having arrangements in place to address inter-agency and state significant risk. Under the terms of our funding agreements we are compliant with and have completed a risk attestation annually that demonstrates that we have an effective risk management strategy.

Screening Requirements: The Centre also complies with the Department’s safety screening obligations.

² <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-business-and-community/community-involvement/in-your-neighbourhood/neighbourhood-houses/neighbourhood-houses-co-ordination-program-resources>

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff of The Centre are a truly remarkable group of people. They practice what they profess.

During this year they have volunteered a remarkably high number of hours unpaid service to support The Centre to deliver its services, programs and activities. On average each person would volunteer around 2 hours additional and unpaid time on the days they normally work. This equates to a little over \$73000 over a working year.³ In addition they volunteer to support other worthwhile initiatives such as volunteering on the organisational team for an event called The Feast in April. It's a dinner that takes place in a number of cities around the world on the same night⁴, acting as an advocate and ambassador for the Think Pink Foundation and the Breast Cancer Network, Freemasons Foundation Inc., Medi Trek (Nepal), Cancer Council, and volunteering on the *Ride to Pride* train.

Arising from a major staff planning day in December 2014 a number of improvements and new developments are in progress such as improved operational planning, volunteer recruitment, fundraising (see the GHP report below) and new programs. For example in 2015-16 we have been successful in obtaining additional ACFE student contact hours under the Growing Pre accredited Delivery and Research Trials initiative for

- i. An additional 1520 SCH for additional pre accredited delivery:
 - Prepare for Work: Financial Literacy – New
 - Introduction to Health Studies (Active at Any Age) – Existing
 - Basic Self Defense – New
 - The Knowledge- General Understanding for Taxi Drivers The Knowledge- Knowing your way around Melbourne The Knowledge- Driver Behavior (jointly with INC) – New
 - Train The Trainer – Existing
 - Understanding workplace documents and processes –New
- ii. An additional 880 SCH (\$6328) for the research trial to extend the JLTC and Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation programs. This included project costs as part of the ACFE Capacity and Innovation Fund round 7:
 - Core Skills for Work (Flagstaff) – Existing
 - Prepare for Work: Foundation Skills – Existing.

The Centre enjoys the benefit from a huge number of volunteers to support the *Spring Fling*, to write, produce and deliver the *North and West Melbourne News*, to assist as teachers aides and to facilitate our services and programs.

Despite the never ending requests we make the staff and volunteers continue to deliver for the North and West Melbourne communities and I am in aware of their generosity of spirit and commitment. Thank you.

Michael J Halls

Director

³ The former Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development determined in its report The Economic Value of Volunteering in Victoria, December 2012, to use the ABS national accounts estimate for "average compensation per employee" which in 2014 values is \$31.93 casual per hour based on the NHACE Collective Agreement.

⁴ <http://feastongood.com/worldwide/> and <https://www.facebook.com/TheFeastWorldwideMelbourne>

ACTIVITIES COURSES AND PROGRAMS

ART

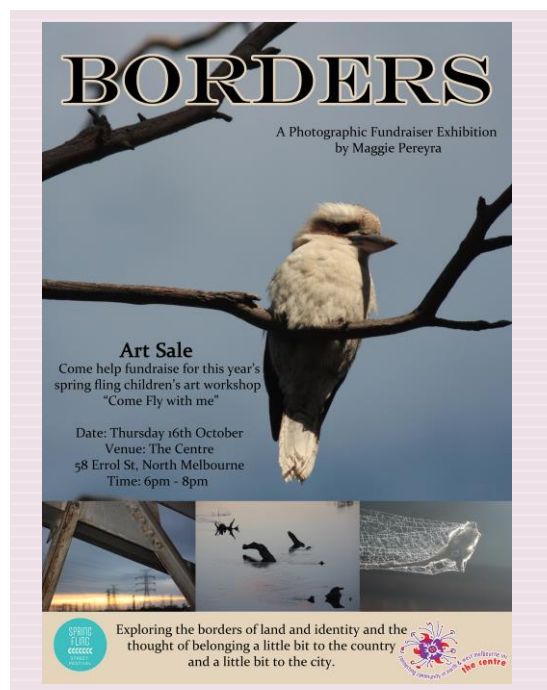
Art Institute

Art Warriors and Art Heroes

Sadly the demand for these programs was so low in 2014-15 that they have been discontinued.

One of the activities of this program included an Art Sale *Borders* a photographic fundraiser exhibition by Maggie Pereyra. As part of 2014 Spring Fling Festival program Maggie ran a free kids workshop called 'Come Fly with Me' where kids were invited to paint and decorate a pair of cardboard wings in the shape of fairy wings or bat wings, then attaching elastic so they could wear them at the festival and after. The workshop was a resounding success on the day.

The **Art Institute** also known as *Craft, Create and Communicate* was both a creative industries skills program within an Art Therapy framework. Without recurrent funding support from the major agencies participants already marginalised by health issues were unable to fully fund the course.



The children's creative art skills programs **Art Warriors and Art Heroes** took their last enrolment in Term 1 –2015. The program included a healthy eating component. Typically while they ate snacks the trainer would normally go around the table and the children would share a story from their week. Then it was art time!!! It was not always a 2D art activity but included some performance stuff for example sock puppets they made. We used heaps of felt and craft glue, paper, pencils, paper plate and all sorts of other stuff too. It was wonderful to receive anonymous donations of art materials from two different people during the year. The children were very keen to use the computers

CENTRE ADVENTURES AND BUS TRIPS

The **Centre Adventures** form part of a suite of programs with outcomes that support the City of Melbourne objectives that:

- People are healthy
- People are connected and participate
- People have knowledge and skills and
- People feel they belong.

We linked our program to

- Explore art and the creative industries
- Our history and
- Develop an understanding of other people, their culture and identity.

July 2014: Facilitated by Michael Halls with Dr Nancy Lane to South Melbourne: See Yup Temple, Australian Tapestry Workshop, South Melbourne Town Hall and the Australian Academy of Music, Big Hueys Diner, Portable Iron Houses, SIA Women's fashion designer. Program involved healthy nutrition discussions and snacks Bus supplied by the City through North Melbourne CC

August 2014: Bendigo with volunteer facilitator Megan Fitzgerald. Visited the Freemasons Victoria Bendigo centre and enjoyed a fascinating talk by WBro Richard Penna PSGD and a tour of the facility and its historical material. The Great Sutupa Buddhist temple was highlight of the visit.

September 2014: With Megan Fitzgerald to Tooradin lakes, Churchill island and Phillip island: The program included a relaxing walk at the Tooradin Lakes, a tour and talk at the Churchill island heritage Farm including its links to the American Civil War and a healthy lunch at the Phillip Island bakery, The return trip included a short stop at the Chocolate factory for afternoon tea.

November 2014: Facilitated by Julie Halls with Michele Clifton Footscray Community Arts Centre, Point Gellibrand historical precinct, Williamstown Beach and Ferry to Southbank. The day included a wonderful picnic lunch.

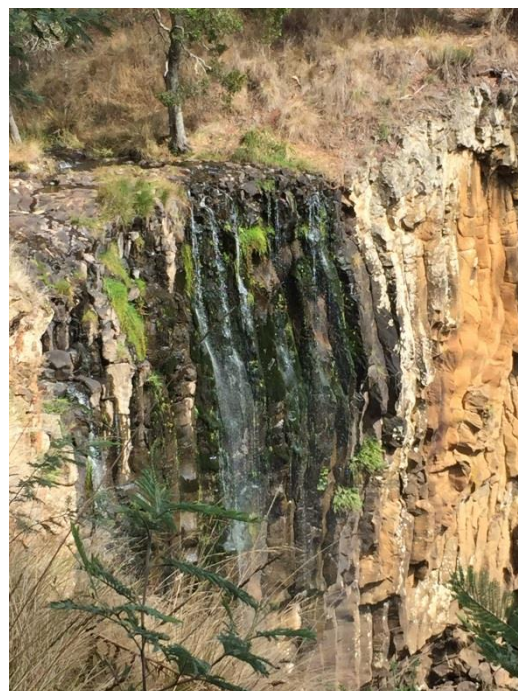


February 2015: Around the Bay: An alternative trip around the greater City of Melbourne looking at our first settlement at Sullivan Bay Sorrento and the Queenscliffe Ferry. It turns out that some of us get seasick! We made the most of our visit discovering the connection to the French expeditions and their revolutionary war. Facilitated by Michael Halls and Megan

Fitzgerald.

March 2015: What a spectacular trip to Trentham Falls and the Macedon Ranges Convent Art Gallery in Daylesford. An opportunity to experience some of the hidden wonders near Melbourne and see some well known historic stone buildings, glimpses of Mount Macedon at every corner, boutique cellar doors and regional art. Facilitated by Michael Halls and Megan Fitzgerald.

April 2015: Facilitated by Michele Clifton, with the assistance of Megan Fitzgerald. Participants enjoyed a leisurely drive to the outskirts of Geelong, where we visited Narana Creations, an aboriginal centre, show-casing indigenous artwork and artefacts. On arrival we had a late morning tea. Then, as we toured the gallery, we were lucky enough to have an impromptu explanation of the paintings by Raymond, the gallery manager at Narana and the relationship between the "Dream time" and the paintings



and also their belief system in relation to the indigenous tribes. Due to the amount of time spent here, it was then time to find somewhere for lunch. Following lunch, we headed back to North Melbourne, arriving at approximately 4pm.

May 2015: Facilitated by Michael Halls with Page Kerr intern from Careers Australia. A trip to Ararat, the high land, was filled with new information on the history art and culture of Victoria. The town was heavily influenced by the arrival of the Chinese (or 'celestials' as they were know) in the 1850s. In fact it was two Chinese miners that discovered the first gold there in 1857 and the French who planted some of the earliest French wine grape vines in 1863. Our visit included an opportunity to increase our understanding of the cultures and identities that make up Victoria through a tour of the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre which houses some grand examples of architectural art, textiles and embroidery and metal craft. Social and political events in Ararat contributed to the development of the male franchise, secret ballots and land reform in the early colony.



June 2015: Facilitated by Julie Halls with Megan Fitzgerald and Donna Bouten. The trip explored the north east outer urban fringe visiting the Yarra Ranges regional Museum in Lilydale and the Big Bouquet a modern flower farm and alpaca stud at Healesville. The Museum not only has a large collection on Coldstream's most famous resident, Dame Nellie Melba but also exhibited the personal stories of residents in Double Vision: perspectives on War. The visit to the farm provided the opportunity to look behind the scenes and learn first-hand about the growing of top quality gerberas and the breeding of alpacas.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

From 27 October 2014 all adults are required to report to police if they know or reasonably believe that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under the age of 16. It is a criminal offence to fail to comply with this obligation. This reporting obligation is different to mandatory reporting obligations under child protection laws. It applies more broadly than to the professionals currently subject to mandatory reporting requirements under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005. A new 'failure to disclose' offence relating to child sexual abuse has been introduced under the Crimes Act 1958. An additional criminal offence to protect children from sexual abuse became effective 1 July 2015. This new offence requires a person in a position of authority to reduce or remove the risk of sexual abuse of a child by an adult associated with their organisation.

The Centre takes its responsibility seriously. All staff and volunteers must obtain Police Checks and Working With Children Checks.

GLOBAL HOMEWORK PROGRAM

This year has been a very steady year for the Global Homework Program...a bene fit that comes from having stable, well trained and dedicated staff, reliable and committed volunteers, strong support from The Centre and the libraries involved (North Melbourne and Altona North) and from having a strong reputation gained over years of best practice delivery.

In North Melbourne we continue to run 2 sessions per week. We have a total enrolment of around 35 primary and secondary students and a pool of 20 regular tutors. The sessions run smoothly with the emphasis on homework task completion, development of independent learning skills and personal responsibility for one's own performance and behavior. We continue to provide additional learning activities, healthy snack making and themed nights with raffle prizes at the end of each term. The Careers Night for Senior Students has now become a permanent feature of our program. We also continue to regularly contribute students' writing to the *North and West Melbourne News* for publication.

Student Comments

Frances Mcmillan
Co-coordinator,
Foundation Skills
Programs said to one
teenage student who has
a sister in the program
*"Your sister loves coming
to the homework program"*

*He replied "Everyone
loves coming miss. The
teachers are really nice"*

Thank you!

A highlight for this past year was the Pirate Day for the primary school students, an extension activity designed by GHP staff and the children's librarians at North Melbourne. The students made pirate hats then went on a pirate treasure hunt throughout the library to find clues and items and to "learn the lay of the land". This hunt created by Michelle (Captain Blue Dress) was a resounding success and when they were finished the students enjoyed a feast of chocolate gold coin.

It was with great sadness, however, that we mourned the loss of Fiona Baranowski, the manager of the North Melbourne Library who died suddenly earlier in the year. Fiona was an exceptional person and a great supporter of the GHP. She is deeply missed.

The news on the Altona North front is also good and steady. Now into its second year this program on Thursdays has an enrolment of over 20 primary and secondary students (80% CALD students) and a pool of 10 regular tutors. (We continue to benefit from the Shared Energy Contribution Scheme) So the GHP grows and thrives with the input of the Altona North Library staff and the total support of the feeder schools (Altona North Primary School and Bayside Secondary College).

Last year GHP program added a "Transition to High School" group in the last term. These grade 6 students had 2 tutors dedicated to them and they did a variety of tasks to prepare them for Secondary school, had a safe forum to discuss issues and concerns, and had a visit from the orientation teacher at Bayside Secondary College. They were also given special attention to their learning needs and or gaps in their knowledge. We are preparing a repeat of this transition program in Altona North and North Melbourne for the last term of 2015.

Hobsons Bay City Council nominated the GHP for a LG PRO award. LG PRO is a local government professional organisation⁵.

On the business side of things we can report that the Global Homework Program has just received a grant from the **Helen Macpherson Smith Trust** which will pay for us to employ a fundraising specialist to design and implement a sustainable strategy for the future. We also gladly acknowledge a donation from **The Mount Martha School of Dance**. To help with the covering of very basic costs a small fee was introduced in North Melbourne which has provided some support.

The program is steady and successful because of its people...staff, tutors, student's families and the wider community and we thank and really appreciate you all. But this year we highlight one person in particular whose hard work, commitment and extraordinary involvement has made the greatest impact and that person is Dan Tutas our volunteer administrator. He is unflinching in his support, innovative and meticulous in his method and this affects us all. We cannot thank him enough. And now it is time to congratulate Dan on the completion of his studies to be a secondary teacher. Well done and very well deserved. We hope you have a rich and meaningful career in the future.

FOUNDATION SKILLS

⁵ <http://lgpro.com/awards/awards-for-excellence>

WORKOUT PROGRAM

The Workout Program is a program of foundation skills preparing participants for work and introducing core skills for work.

The program has been running successfully for four consecutive years and it is fully funded thanks to the **RE Ross Trust** and the **Judy Lazarus Transition Centre** (JLTC) education budget provision. It runs continuously throughout the year so we can meet the needs of all residents of JLTC who may enter the facility at any time. There's no rest for...

The Program is ably staffed by Frances McMillan and Louise Cindric. In 2014 sixteen men have completed the program and another 4 men were enrolled but moved on to further training before completion. The program structure suits the men very well with a 2 ½ hour session planning and preparing for job searching, and a 2 hour session learning to use computers for the job seeking process. We see very positive changes in the participants in each program as their confidence and self-awareness/validation grows and they achieve a high standard of professionalism in the preparation of their written documents and in their success in interviewing techniques.

We suffered a couple of blows to our plans this year, however, as the restructure of Job Services Agencies and new funding arrangements saw the WISE Program for ex-offenders axed so we don't have it's participation any longer and, because of internal economic difficulties and a takeover of the TOLL Group by Japan Post we had to re-negotiate our relationship with TOLL's Second Step Program for ex-offenders. We have managed to maintain contact and establish new schedules and activities to support the men.

All other aspects of the program continue to thrive and we thank all the staff at The Centre and the North Melbourne Library who supports it 100%. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support of **Faces and Places**.⁶

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PILATES



Pilates has continued to be a very successful program. In 2014 – 15 we ran five classes per week ranging in levels from beginner through to quite advanced. Our classes cater for people from ages 17 through to 75 and everyone is able to exercise at their own level. This year we have added an extra instructor, Sarah Groenewald, who lives locally. We now have three instructors sharing the classes. In the holidays we run extra classes which are well patronised.

People feel the benefit of continuing their exercise all year round.



⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Faces-and-Places-Cafe/134715753266628> .

Each term the body awareness strength and flexibility of the participants makes noticeable improvements. Most people return each term to so they can continue their Pilates programs.

Classes are all performed on mats using a variety of small equipment to increase the challenge of the exercises and add variety to the classes. Most recently we added XR Slides (pictured) which produced some soreness in our shoulder muscles from the different techniques. Each term we aim to expand the classes in size and number as people discover the physical and mental benefits of Pilates.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Many of our programs have dual purposes. Our drop in morning teas is a case in point. Our 'simple steps to better health' is targeted for people to reconnect with their neighbours this activity also regularly covers a range of health issues including nutrition, movement, sleep, relaxation, memory, and social interaction. It is



always well attended and the evaluations demonstrate a strong health and well being outcome for the participants. Intermittent presentations have been made covering the City of Melbourne Out and About program, speakers from the (then) Department of Health, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria and other agencies and groups. We also welcomed participants in our "Pop in" Program as part of the Disability Sport & Recreation Festival in December

2014.

BE ACTIVE AT ANY AGE – AND ESPECIALLY ON TUESDAYS

Just because you're over 50 or retired doesn't mean you need to slow down—at least not on Tuesdays. The Centre has a new, expanded program called 'Active at Any Age' for those who are free on Tuesdays, and we particularly welcome people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. This program was generously funded by a grant from



the Department of Health and Human Services Participation for CALD Seniors grants program

**Using a focus group
methodology comments
from the participants
included:**

Enjoyed every Tuesday - lots of variety and
always different exercises and food to try
Lots of fun and laughs
Liked to have a bit of exercise
Really nice food--some new things I hadn't
eaten before
Enjoyed the healthy snacks.
Was great that Dora and Jocelyn brought
some of their homemade foods to share
with us
Thought the teachers were really good
Liked the meditation which you sometimes
did after we exercised but before we ate
I loved all the dancing -- Zumba, hula, and
rock and roll
Great group of people
Provides companionship
It's good how the group shares
information

I also asked whether they had applied
anything they learned outside of class

Yes, sometimes I get inspired and put on
some music and just dance at home
I like to do some of the yoga exercises for
relaxation, and also put on some relaxing
music to go with it
I always try to keep moving my hands and
feet when I'm doing lots of sitting
The memory recall exercises have helped
me remember names better
I am walking more, especially around the
area
I am trying to eat less sugar and sweet
things as I know it's not good for me
I try to convince the homework students to
eat more fruit - they only seem to like junk
food

A few also mentioned that they liked to
bring lemons or olives from their gardens
or to save bottles to give to Dora and
Jocelyn, because they really appreciated
the food that these two brought to share

The first Tuesday of the month is morning tea—a chance to chat, as well as to try some delicious dishes and healthy snacks. For example, one month we had minestrone made by Dora, herb scones from Jocelyn, almond cake (with very little sugar) baked by Maria, and ricotta cheese with various types of bean sprouts on rye crisps supplied by Nancy. And all scrumptious! There is a charge of \$3 for those who just taste, but free for those who bring a dish for others to try. In addition the participants annually join in the **Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea** raising significant funds for research.

The second and fourth Tuesdays of the month are a chance to keep active—and it's free! The Centre received a grant from the State of Victoria under the CALD Seniors program, which covers the cost of instructors and healthy snacks. During Term 3 -2014, Robbie Cottrill ran a 'sampler' program of different types of movement routines that are appropriate for people of any age.

The first week Cathy Connop from Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre, who specialises in fitness for older adults, ran a gentle exercise class. Most of the participants had to strip off as they had come with too many clothes on. The next week Robbie took a short version of a Tai Qi sequence called Shi Ba Shi, and the third exercise session, a taster of Pilates, was taken by Sue Gertzel, our local physiotherapist. Future plans include a full Tai Qi class, an Alexander Technique movement class, and a possible Feldenkrais class. Each class finishes with morning tea, which includes healthy snacks made by the participants and the coordinator Dr Nancy Lane.

Term 4 -2014, Nancy continued the movement program, and also recommended some tips and tricks to help people stay healthy as they get older. And of course, there was more healthy snacks to try.

On the third Tuesday in 2014 and the fourth Tuesday in 2015 each month is a bus excursion. As well as a chance to see something new, it's a chance to get to know people who live in North and West Melbourne and other nearby suburbs. Some of the past excursions have included trips to Bendigo, the Mornington Market, and Hanging Rock. The cost of excursions is \$35, or \$25 concession—but you do have to book and pay in advance, so we know there will be enough room on the bus.

Recently Michael Halls, the director of The Centre, took us on a 'mystery' bus tour—which turned out to be just over the river in South Melbourne. There we toured the See Yup Chinese temple (and Nancy got her fortune told by shaking sticks), viewed the women working at

the Victorian Tapestry Workshop (where the huge wall hanging in Parliament House, Canberra, was made), walked to the portable iron houses on Coventry Street (the oldest 'pre-fab' houses in Melbourne), and

visited the Fleurance Perfumier Atelier, where you can get a one-off special scent developed just for you (unfortunately, beyond our price range!).

We had lunch at Big Huey's American Diner, which had great food and a juke box playing 'oldies but goodies' in the background. And we felt virtuous, having had a healthy snack of almonds and walnuts, rather than cake, with our morning and afternoon tea.

February 2015 was a highlight - Self defence. Jason Pope demonstrated simple ways to disengage with people who might accost you – getting used to being in someone else's 'space', twisting their arm back, standing on their toes, or clapping their ears. Participants asked questions during snack time, and then Jason demonstrated the different types of martial arts: karate, jujitsu, kick boxing, tae kwan do, etc. Jason has competed and won titles nationally and internationally.

So if you're free on Tuesdays, please join us for any or all of the activities. Other than the bus excursions, you can just show up. It's a win, win, win situation: Stay active, eat healthier, and get to know your neighbors.

DOCKLANDS

We have been working to develop the community of Docklands since 2005. 46% of Docklands' residents were born overseas, and 45% of these residents are in a family household according to the Docklands Small Area Demographic Profile, 2013. They are isolated and The Centre, working with other agencies, hopes to increase the neighborhood capacity to meet its needs.

The Centre is pleased to have a working relationship with the Melbourne Institute of Technology and Federation University Australia for their students to develop a number of enterprise in education projects.

Kelly Vanderwert, Hannah Portelli and, Jacqueline Trawn developed the **Ready Steady Walk** Project.

Their project plan focused on the creation of a walking tour to not only introduce people to the breadth of the suburb but also its content. The walk creates a sense of community within Docklands, bringing together groups of people, exposing the public to using technology, and also providing the public with a day of exercise.

Sarah Chapman, Melissa Vallance, Brittany Davis, and Hannah Williams developed the **Connecting Melbourne, Connecting Families From Around The World With Our City And With Each Other** project.

This project was aimed at women and their families who have recently moved from overseas, living in the Docklands region of Melbourne who are unsure of their surroundings and want to explore and get to know the city around them. While the husband is at work, it would be fair to suggest that the mother is at home with their children. Considering they are home alone the women may feel isolated and feel like they are unable to feel comfortable getting involved in the busy city, especially with their children. The project includes weekly activities within close proximity to their apartment (The Hub, located in central Docklands), and experiential/learning activities at the end of each month. The project will be run by The Centre in partnership with the YMCA and potentially volunteers from the community.

KENSINGTON

During the year we were involved with many many others in the reopening of the Kensington Town Hall. As part of our contribution to that development we utilised our relationship with Melbourne Institute of Technology and Federation University Australia students to develop a projects for that community.

One group proposed the development of a school holiday program for primary aged children-centred around health and nutrition, family engagement and benevolence. It included a plan to deliver a dinner to family members at the Kensington Town Hall and raise funds for a specified charity.

Cooking4life is the new holiday program proposed for that location. It is structured around students in years 4, 5 and 6 to take part in a 2 day session where they will learn about food safety, handling and preparation on the first day and will then make dinner for their families at the Town Hall on the second day in the school holidays.

HOMELESSNESS AND LONELINESS

The Centre in partnership with the Salvation Army Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation and their Open Door program delivers digital literacy and preparation for work training (see the next section). As well we support individuals directly at Shop 58 for example:

David is a homeless man who visits The Centre regularly to make himself coffee.

Bernadette Galbaly and Michele Clifton always try to make him feel welcome and accepted. At last years' Spring Fling Festival there was stallholder from a not-for-profit organisation called 300 Blankets, whose aim is to provide blankets for homeless people. After a discussion with them, which included David's story, they gave us a blanket to pass onto him, next time he came into the Centre, which we gratefully accepted.

On his next visit to The Centre, which was some weeks later, we explained to him, the 300 Blankets project and handed over the blanket they had given to him. (He looked like he was going to cry and gave Michele a huge hug and thanked her profusely).

Just prior to Christmas a Christmas card was delivered to The Centre, addressed to Michele and Bernadette. It was from David. The mere fact that he had gone to so much trouble, bought the card from his presumably limited funds and gone to the Post Office to buy a stamp and post it to us, was not lost on the staff.

Mid last a year, a lady by the name of **Margaret** came in to visit The Centre and inquired about our programs and courses.

We had a chat about what we offered and she went away with some course information. She took to popping in to The Centre whenever she was passing and over time explained to us that she had recently been made redundant in very unpleasant circumstances. As she is a lady of mature age, she felt uncertain about what her future held for employment. The frontline staff introduced her to the Director and after much discussion, with Michele and Michael she decided that the best move for her professionally, would b e to enrol in the accredited Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Margaret began the course in July 2014 and went on to successfully complete the course in October of the same year. She then completed our accredited Diploma of Management program.

At The Centre graduation ceremony (held annually for all course participants) Michele was talking to her about how far she had come and how she seemed much more positive since completing the course. Margaret went on to tell us how Michele had become a “beacon of hope” for her, at a time when she was at one of the lowest points in her life. She praised her for the kindness she had shown to her and the encouragement she had given her.

INFORMATION, DIGITAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY



The Centre offers a wide range of programs in digital literacy including:

- Foundation technology skills to prepare for work
- Core technology skills for work
- Step by step skill development in groups and one on one
- iGadgets for the e-challenged
- ICDL – the International Computer Drivers Licence
- INTEL® Learn Easy Steps and
- Digital Photography

We deliver these programs to a wide range of participants including the clients at Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation and their Open Door program, Judy Lazarus Transition Centre participants, seniors and general members of the community seeking to enhance their skills for either work or personal development. These programs are delivered by our senior tutor Louise Cindric. She provides a friendly, fun filled environment where students enjoy learning new ways to use their computer. The Centre is establishing itself as a ‘go to’ place for computer training.



We have highlighted just some of her and the participant’s accomplishments over the 2014-15 periods:

- Several of students were confident enough to buy their first laptops as they knew what to look for and knew what they were asking. They now bring their own laptops to class and are more confident users.

- Our program continues to build self-esteem of the JLTC participants as they often state 'they are treated like normal people' when they come to The Centre.
- Managed to teach one of the beginner students how to use the mouse! He had been to many places before and they had all told him he was untrainable. It took 3 lessons! And he is very proud of himself.
- Assist participants to save money on their internet and mobile accounts as they were able to conduct search comparisons for different providers. One was able to get \$70 cash back!
- Commenced a new one to one program for those that just want help with a particular task.
- Introduced a Tutor Pack that includes procedures and documents that a Tutor needs to follow to ensure all documents required are completed by the end of the term. This makes sure tutors are self-sufficient and accountable. It helped them to make sure that all their documentation was collected and was always up to date, hence I was able to hand it all in on the last day of the term ready for the admin staff to process/file.

From one of the Learner reviews:

'Louise is very helpful and she is a good mentor'.

NORTH AND WEST MELBOURNE NEWS

The ***North and West Melbourne News*** has published four issues quarterly. Our content has focused on a number of important areas for the local community, such as:

- Local politics, including the controversial move to disallow community groups from using the Arts house rehearsal spaces (found in our March edition - http://www.centre.org.au/images/uploads/NWMN_March_2015_online_version.pdf). After our publication of this article, the City of Melbourne re-entered negotiations with local groups.
- Local icons, including a number of profiles of successful and historical members of our community such as Jean McKendry, John Monash and others. These profiles are a favorite of the community and we receive a lot of positive comments about them. A small survey recently showed that this was the most popular section of the paper.
- Local events, photojournalism and artwork. This helps ensure that local groups and members of the community are regularly mentioned in the paper, providing a sense of continued inclusion. We work to provide a thorough cross-section of the community, including the local Islamic Eid al-Fitr festival, The Spring Fling, Anzac Day ceremonies, church group fetes and the promotion of local schools and businesses.

Our efforts have gathered enthusiastic responses from local stakeholders, including local business and politicians, as well as letters from general members of the community. We have had a great year and will continue to work as a valued part of the community.

I remember the day I started work at what was then The Imlay Magnet in Eden. It was 1991 and I had taken the job straight out of my journalism degree at the Canberra College of Advanced Education (now the University of Canberra). The desk was clear, all but for the IBM and the flashing green cursor on its otherwise blank black screen.

I found myself understudy to one of the hardest working people I, still to this day, have worked for or with, long-term Magnet editor Leanne Abernethy. I had sought the job on the advice of a former college mate who was now in the sports chair in Eden. When I was offered it, I marked the words of my college broadcast lecturer Pru Goward, then ABC correspondent, now state polmie, who always said “take the chance when it presents itself” – or something along those lines (time has not been kind to my memory).

The words may not be exact but the message is as clear as if it was delivered yesterday – rural and regional publications provide a perfect start for young journalists.

Therefore, it’s with anxiety I read of the Fairfax “watchlist”. The Australian reported that global consulting firm Bain & Co recommended in a 2013 report (which isn’t available online) that a smorgasbord of regional newspapers be potentially chewed up by Fairfax: “... as the company continues a series of aggressive cost-cutting measures that could affect local communities and threaten the quality of the company’s journalism.”

The list includes another paper I once worked on, The Cooma Express – its demise would also cause personal angst. However, the impact of cutting the papers on the watchlist would stretch well beyond those who work or have worked on the papers.

To me, if the papers on the list were given the chop, the loss would be twofold: the loss of these papers would reduce the chance of journalism graduates to find work and, perhaps more importantly, the demise of the publications would reduce the capacity for local people to read THEIR stories – the stories about them, sometimes by them, but always for them.

The local rag is a constant of regional and rural life. It provides the community with a go-to when a story needs to be told, funds need to be raised, memories need to be shared, and lives need to be honoured.

Where young journalists cut their teeth.

The watchlist includes The Wollongong Advertiser, The Kiama Independent, The Lake Times, The Cooma Express, The Magnet, and The Illawarra Mercury. All these papers have hired University of Wollongong journalism graduates and, ironically, our current journalism students last week reported on our former journalism students at The Illawarra Mercury striking about the job cuts at Fairfax.

Regional and rural newspapers, and radio and television for that matter, are, for so many, the place where journalism graduates enter “the real world”. It is under the governance of the likes of Leanne Abernethy that the knowledge young journalists have acquired at university is nurtured and propagated.

However, it is its role as the “go-to” that sees the local newspaper rightly situated at the heart of local communities. We need look no further than The Magnet to illustrate the point.

A Wollongong journalism graduate named Blake Foden earlier this year followed a familiar path to the NSW Far South Coast town Eden to start his first fulltime job as a reporter.

The Magnet is now a once-a-week, two-journalist operation (including the editor). However, for Blake it was his big break. He was one of our award-winning journalism graduates and, to be honest, he could have turned his nose up at the local paper option and held out for something better to come along. No one would have blamed him. But, much to my pleasure, Blake jumped at the option to work on The Magnet. It wasn't a surprise. Blake was determined to get his start and he wasn't about to play the waiting game.

As is often the case with local papers, Blake was thrown in the deep end. His editor was away his first week, they were down the one and only advertising rep, and the admin officer was off sick. Blake was running the show.

The paper came out.

Not too long after, tragedy struck the Far South Coast. Tathra surf lifesaving stalwart Christine Armstrong, 63, was killed in a shark attack at Tathra Beach. Blake covered the story, and did so with the poise of a journalist that defied his employment history. The coverage was accurate, informed and sensitive.

He did what all local news reporters must do – tell the story, and do so knowing his story meant something to the community of which he was now a part. The shield of anonymity that surrounds many metropolitan journalists does not exist for local reporters. The words and images they publish impact locally. They are accountable – locally.

Blake covered the tragedy and subsequently reflected on it, under the headline “That first, big story”. The editorial he wrote again defied his on-paper experience.

He ended the editorial with this:

Over the last week, we've heard more and more stories about Christine's life, and her selfless nature in her work as a volunteer surf lifesaver.

We've seen Rob, a man who has just been through the most traumatic of times, go out into the community to offer his support to others, even speaking to Nippers on Saturday to ensure that Christine's passion of swimming is not lost because of her death.

And that's the real story here.

That's why we report on these things, because these stories need to be told.

Because whether you're a 21-year-old journalist or a 70-year-old retiree, I think we can all learn something from Rob and Christine Armstrong.”

This, more than anything, is what will be lost if local newspapers disappear – local people telling stories for and about local people. I anticipate Blake Foden has a future in journalism beyond The Magnet, but he will no doubt look back on his time in Eden as formative and invaluable – it is an opportunity that should not be denied those who would follow him and the community that benefits.

By Shawn Burns

This article was originally published on The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/au>

SPRING FLING



The 2014 Spring Fling Street Festival marked the 37th year since the festival first commenced in North and West Melbourne. All components of the program ran successfully with 95% meeting the expectations of the festival team and receiving positive feedback after the event.

The Centre's key goals for the year were to successfully introduce an active public transport service to an extended event site and continue building on the sustainability of the festival through a diverse program of accessible activities.

The 2014 Spring Fling Street Festival was held along Errol Street, Victoria Street and in surrounding areas on Sunday 19th October. This year we saw dramatic changes to the format of the event as a result of the site extension as this provided additional space for themed, interactive activities.

The King and Victoria Street Reserve was again utilised as one of the primary entertainment hubs, with a strong focus on the cultural diversity of North and West Melbourne as a precinct. This is where the festival's largest stage was located, showcasing an array of music and dance as well as a number of multicultural food and retail stalls. The north boundary of the event extended over Queensberry Street and further down Errol Street for the first time, where the **Alexkarbon** Community stage was positioned, being one of the busiest spots over the course of the day. It proved a huge success to utilise the large grassed area in the middle of the road for seating/relaxation and the flat area of the road for a number of community based stalls and the Spring Fling Dog Show.

Building on the theme of the year before, the 2014 focus was "Urban Existence" and was intended to shine a spotlight on the many creative, sustainable and diverse ways people live within the communities of North and West Melbourne. Through the introduction of the WorldView Multicultural Stage and a number of interactive activities that focused on environmental sustainability, arts and crafts, youth education and performance, the theme "Urban Existence" was a key characteristic of the day.

Other activities introduced to the program were Artists In Action; a live street art demonstration by a Thailand based graphic artist, and the Pop Up EcoCinema which took place in partnership with **Environmental Film Festival Melbourne**. The North Melbourne Primary School also conducted one of its successful fundraisers (see their website <http://www.northmelbourneps.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/events/2014/10/nmps-fundraiser-at-spring-fling-2014>)



The festival accepted a total of 80 stall applications for the general festival site, comprised of 34 general trader, 28 hospitality trader and 18 not for profit agencies. For the first time, the Spring Fling ran the art and crafts market within the Lithuanian Club. This feature of the local area was formerly a project of *Thread Den*.

The festival collected a total of 30 applications for the Spring Fling Artists Market and as a result generated a new and significant income stream for the festival.

FRIENDSHIPS PARTNERSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIPS

COMMUNITY USER GROUPS

We 'auspice' or support a number of community groups including

- Friends of the GHP
- Viva La Seniors
- A Modern Community Offline project
- Melbourne City Mission Palliative Care Bereavement Counsellor

PARTNERSHIPS

Our ability to leverage of the relationships we make is also extended to our partners:

- Meadow Heights Community Foundation
- MBG Education Pty Ltd and
- Premium Health
- Salvation Army

Some examples of the synergy are:

HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT INC.

The **Key Figures in History Laneways project** was delivered (in conjunction with the Hotham History Project Inc. The first display was Sir John Monash the Citizen and the Vice Chair Lorna Hannan reported that numbers for three exposures (we planned four) was

- 10
- 11 – 8 in one group and another 3 and
- 11 – 3 plus 2 plus 1 plus 1 plus 4.

The next laneway event was on William Maloney in a different format. A small poster display is in the window of Ray Walters for his cousins Walter Joseph Gleeson and William Patrick Harris.

On ANZAC Day our own window display depicted the range of local men involved in WWI. Only three women WW1 nurses have been identified given the time available and this seemed an inadequate statement of the engagement of women. However Heather McKay has arranged a talk in the library about Mary Clementina

De Garis, descendant of John Buncle which gave some prominence to a woman. There were also stands of a selection of other locals in the library.

ERROLS ANGELS COMMUNITY CHOIR

On a Sunday afternoon in August 2014 the Choir held a concert in the North Melbourne Arts House (Town Hall) to fundraise to aid asylum seeker. What a wonderful Sunday afternoon concert in all respects. Great singing, wonderful support acts, full venue, extremely generous audience and most importantly outstanding door takings including donations of \$2,225 accompanied by food and blankets.

The fundraising concert surpassed all expectations and Choir members had to deliver two car loads of winter goodies to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. They of course also received the above donation.

Jim Wetherill from the *North & West Melbourne News* was in attendance all afternoon and provided many wonderful photos some of which made it into the following edition of the News.

The Choir expressed its appreciation to The Centre staff and committee for their support with some members of the committee attending the afternoon and importantly using their networks to publicise the event. The turnout in numbers and the amount raised was further evidence of this support.



We also took the opportunity at the Choir fundraiser for Asylum Seekers on Sunday 3 August to take a photo of the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Choir and The Centre. The Choir was supported by the Melbourne Ukulele Collective and the Homebrew Verandah Singers.

The Choir is currently reviewing its status as an independent incorporated association. Their AGM is on Thursday 17th September. The Director has been nominated as secretary to support a further year of independent incorporation.

The third annual Errol Street Christmas Carols on Thursday 11 December 2014 was a huge success. There were somewhere between 100 and 150 people at the commencement of the evening. This year the Choir and The Centre in conjunction with the *Precinct Association* and the local *Metropolitan Fire Brigade* delivered a tremendously engaging evening of family spirit and

music.

LEGION OF AUSTRALIAN EX SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

The Centre has developed a growing relationship with the North Melbourne Branch of the Legion of Australian Ex Servicemen and Women. It has among other things allowed us to engage a group of marginalised and senior members of our community activate their Club Room for functions and promote the

objectives of The Centre. One way in which we have done this is to at their invitation organise the major festivals for the Legion.

- Sunday 10 August “Victory in the Pacific” wreath laying ceremony. (VP Day is actually 15 August).
- Sunday 9 November Remembrance Day ceremony.(Remembrance Day is 11 November)
- The Legion 14 December Christmas function.
- Saturday 25 April **ANZAC Day**

At each of these ceremonies The Centre concentrated its presentation on the role of women in the support of our nation, the objective of peace and the involvement of the local community in each historical event.



The following organisations together with The Centre form the INC partnership;

- Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre.
- Farnham Street Learning Centre,
- Kensington Neighbourhood House,
- North Melbourne Language and Learning,
- Wingate Avenue Community Centre.

The partnership was originally formed in 2009 and has recently signed a new memorandum of understanding for the period 2014-2017.

The group seeks to partner to strategically and collaboratively obtain efficiencies and economies of scale for each participating organisation that will strengthen service delivery. Its objectives are:

- Improve community program service delivery to local communities.
- Actively support and promote the INC Education Advisory and Support Services Cooperative Ltd
- Access reciprocal expertise and assistance for all partner organisations
- Improve accountability to all stakeholders
- Investigate initiatives and opportunities for a broader provision of community development

During the past year The Centre contributed to the development of the partnership by leading the establishment of the INC Education and Advisory Services Cooperative a wholly owned subsidiary of the partners. Our director served as the foundation chairperson of the Cooperative until May 2015. The achievements of both the partnership and the Cooperative have been:

- Financial Literacy Project
- Providing input into development of ACFE Partnerships Support Package
- Development of INC logos, branding and marketing collateral
- Launch of INC Education Advisory & Support Services Co-op at opening of KTH
- Successful in obtaining Partnerships for Access Grant
- Joint delivery of Taxi Project

- Securing premises at KTH
- Adoption of a new partnership agreement
- Rollout of INC Payroll & Bookkeeping services
- Roll out of cleaning services across INC organisations.
- Employment of an administration person for INC service agency
- Work for the dole programs across INC
- Delivery of ACFE pre accredited programs at KTH
- Implementation of Wisenet at FSNLC (the last to move to this platform)
- Development of new website
- Regular meetings for Managers, FE Co-ordinators, CD worker, Admin staff
- Meetings with staff and Management Committees
- Implementation of the new CSFA strategic funding partnership with the City of Melbourne for four of the partners
- Implementation of new ACFE Business and Governance assessment guidelines
- Moving towards a common audit.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Centre is a member of several organisations and peak bodies:

- Volunteering Victoria
 - APRA|AMCOS Australian Performing Right Association and Australasian Mechanical Copyright Society
 - VCOSS
 - ANHLC
 - Network West
 - North and West Melbourne Precinct Inc.
 - Our Community
 - North Melbourne Agency Collective
 - North West Melbourne Association Inc.
-

HUMAN RESOURCES

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

The Centre relies on a huge number of active community members and we are grateful and thankful for their community spirit and energy. There were around 120 volunteers working on the day of and leading up to Spring Fling 2014 for example. The simple table below shows the magnitude of the commitment in other areas:

Program	2014	2015
GHP Teachers Aides	30	46
Events Management	17	10
Community Volunteers	25	25
Core Skills for Work experience	10	7
Media and the <i>NWMNews</i> creative management	15	10

We also support a wide range of internships and job preparation programs:

Administration and Community Development	Peta Rennison Nitisha Chauhan Janine Stewart Manjula Pragasam Shaahen Merchant
Careers Australia	Page Kerr
Hong Kong Baptist University metropolitan attachment program	Sarah Mg Nga Tung -2014 Wai Chu Wong - 2015
Melbourne Institute of Technology/ Federation University Enterprise Education	Kelly Vanderwert, Hannah Portelli and, Jacqueline Trawn Sarah Chapman, Melissa Vallance, Brittany Davis, and Hannah Williams
Victoria University Community Development and Welfare	Kylie Bolger

Maza Hailu

Brigit Rogers

Ilksen Oksuz

STAFFING

The net 'value' of our employees, consultants or contractors is not easily calculable. There are methods for calculating that value but they are both an art and a science. The science aspect embodies everything that is quantifiable, such as salaries, benefits, equipment depreciation and other costs. The artistry is recognising the value of elements such as employee morale, good will and similar intangibles such as attitude, punctuality and willingness to 'go the extra mile', that can't be quantified.

These people are invaluable:

Amy	Baillie	Tutor - Teacher's Aide
Bernadette	Galbally	Administrative Assistant
Chiem	Jardine	Tutor - Computers
Nancy	Lane	Tutor - Health and Wellbeing
Dan	Tuturas	GHP Volunteer Administrator
Emma	McCashney	Events Coordinator
Frances	McMillan	Foundation Skills Coordinator
Katie	De Aruyo	Tutor - Yoga
Louise	Cindric	Tutor - Computers
Maggie	Pereyra	Tutor - Creative Arts
Margaret	Wood	Tutor - Communication Skills
Michael J	Halls	Director
Michele	Clifton	Information and Administration
Perla	Gerlic	Information and Administration ⁷
Robbie	Cottrill	Community Development Coordinator
Sharon	Orbell	Events and Communications Consultant

⁷ Maternity Leave

Sue Gertzel

Senior Tutor -Pilates

Sarah Groenewald

Tutor - Pilates

ENGAGEMENT

The Centre's current program participation rates are listed below (number of participants in brackets. Over the 2014 calendar year we had 488 participants in programs registered on the participant database. In the first half of 2015 we had 350 participants.

1. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

	2014	2015
a. Pilates	103	73
b. Active at any age	13	15
c. Drop In Morning Teas and seasonal lunches	20	15
d. Centre Adventures	29	21

2. EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

a. Event Management	17	7
b. Media (see News)	-	-
c. Teachers Aide	24	14
d. Vocational and further education	33	24
e. Creative Industries	0	4
f. Information & Communications Technology	48	23
g. Foundation Skills/CSfW	44	13

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

a. Volunteer program	34	34
b. Spring Fling	76	0
c. N&WM News	15	10
d. Errol's Angels Community Choir	35	41

4. CHILDREN AND YOUTH

a. Art Warriors & Heroes	19	4
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b.	GHP: Global Homework Program	53	61
c.	Family participation and support fund	0	N/A
5. RESOURCE, INFORMATION AND REFERRAL			
a.	Information service	319	-
b.	INC Education and Advisory Service	8	-