

Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

9740 6978

enquiries@sunburyhouse.com.au

sunburyhouse.com.au

531 Elizabeth Drive Sunbury VIC 3429

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements 3

Who is SNH? 4

What drives SNH? 5

Our Values 5

Manager’s Report 6

Treasurer’s Report 10

Chairperson’s Report 13

Financial Statements 18

Auditor’s Report 30

Community Development Snapshot ... 31

Sunbury Dads 32

Pictures Worth a Thousand Words 33



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sunbury Neighbourhood House would like to acknowledge the Gunung-Willum-Balluk people Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Clan of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work, and play. We acknowledge the tens of thousands of years over which they have nurtured and looked after this land we now call our home. We pay respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging and towards the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community.

We would like to thank our major sponsors, Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH) and Hume City Council (HCC) for their continued financial support, helping Sunbury Neighbourhood House contribute to building community resilience.

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, Hume City Council Community Grants Program the Millett Family, CareWorks, for their very generous Community Grants' program.

We would also like to thank the Sunbury business community for their contributions, and to the many donations received from members of our community.

We also extend our thanks to everyone who has participated in the activities this year, we appreciate your support and valued contributions.



WHO IS SNH?

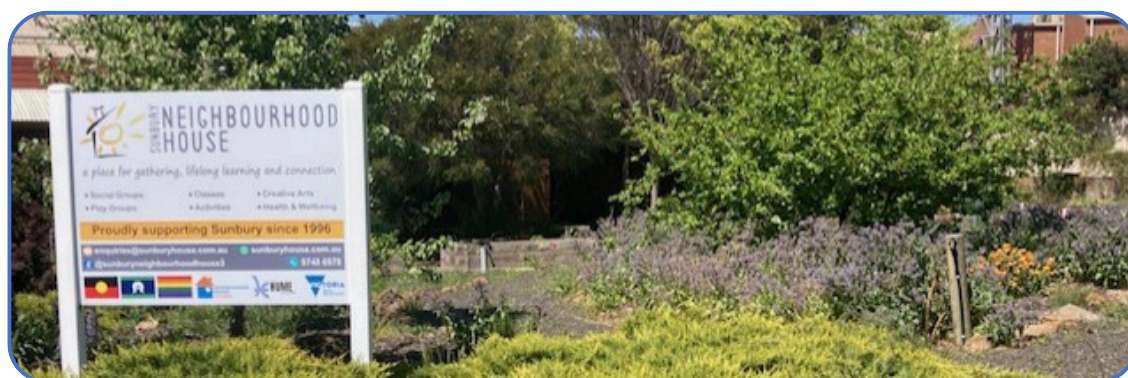
Sunbury Neighbourhood House is a not-for-profit Sunbury based Neighbourhood House that has been serving the community since 1996. We are an incorporated organisation, committed to providing low-cost programs and activities to the local community in an environment that is safe, accessible and inclusive, that promotes gathering, lifelong learning and social connection.

SNH governance structure includes an independently elected volunteer Board of Management, adhering to the Rules of Association. As a registered charity, we rely on the support of the community to make a difference. We are community-led, responsive to the needs of our community, and regularly seek out donations, grant applications, and fund-raising opportunities.

Our organization is a recipient of the State Government's Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) funding, as well as the Hume City Council Neighbourhood House and Community Centre's Annual Grant.

SNH is staffed by 5 part time staff members, volunteers and facilitators and operates 50 out of 52 weeks a year, which means we are closed on public holidays and for two weeks over the Christmas and New Year period. Our organization is open for six days a week, from Monday to Saturday, offering programs and activities from morning till evening. This allows us to accommodate the schedules of community members and provide access to our programs at desired times. We understand how important it is for our community to have access to our programs and activities and we strive to make our organization as accessible as possible. Our commitment to serving our community extends beyond our operational hours, and we are always looking for ways to improve and expand our services.

You can find us within the Sunbury Community Centre, along with CareWorks Inc., at 531 Elizabeth Drive Sunbury.



WHAT DRIVES SNH

Our Vision:

Sunbury Neighbourhood House will be a valued, trusted, inclusive and respected place for people to gather, engage in life-long learning and make community connections.

Our Mission:

Sunbury Neighbourhood House connects people by providing accessible community-focused and facilitated opportunities to gather, interact and learn, in a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment.



Repair Cafe

OUR VALUES

We value:

- all our staff, Board members, community members, volunteers and participants in our programs and activities
- respectful, ethical, fair and responsible interaction between all members of our Community;
- transparency, honesty, inclusivity, empathy, compassion and trust;
- the support and advice of the peak body, our funding bodies and all other sources of advice, support and inspiration.

“SNH is a very welcoming place. The facilities are amazing and the staff are always friendly and ready to help with any enquiries.”

MANAGER'S REPORT

The past year at Sunbury Neighbourhood House (SNH) has been one of transformation, connection, and growth. In every aspect of our work, from the programs we offer to the way our community comes together, the sense of belonging and empowerment has flourished.

Our Neighbourhood Garden has become a beautiful metaphor for SNH itself. Just as the garden flourishes with each season, so too does our organization and the people within it. The garden's growth is sustained by care, collaboration, and the nurturing of every plant, much like our programs, which thrive through the support and involvement of our participants. Key members of our community act as bees, pollinating SNH with their enthusiasm, spreading positivity, and encouraging others to participate. Their energy, like the bees moving from flower to flower, ensures that our programs continue to grow and flourish, creating a vibrant and interconnected environment where everyone is encouraged to thrive.

Our entrance at Sunbury Neighbourhood House is designed to resemble the warm welcome you receive when visiting a friend. Starting with The Free Little Library which has quietly become a cherished part of our community, drawing visitors who come to swap and donate books. It's heartwarming to see the joy on faces as they engage with the weekly chalkboard joke or relax in our inviting space. Along with the ongoing exchange of produce, including fresh lemons, limes, and popular zucchinis, further enhances our community spirit.

SNH is proud to open our doors to a wider audience by featuring regularly in the local newspaper throughout the year, highlighting our events, programs, and community efforts. In addition, SNH is now listed weekly in the community calendar, ensuring that the information about our programs is accessible to all. This visibility has been crucial in spreading the word about our services and encouraging more people to get involved.

Music continues to be a cornerstone of our offerings, creating a unique space where connection and calmness meet. Whether through our weekly music playgroup, guitar lessons, or the popular jam sessions, music has allowed participants to express themselves, find joy, and form bonds.



Bee Workshop

“Keep up the enthusiastic
work SNH”

MANAGER'S REPORT

Our health and wellbeing programs, such as tai chi and yoga, have been more than just learning experiences. These classes offer participants friendship and connection, with many staying back for a cup of tea or heading out as a group for coffee. Some participants even planned a group trip, taking advantage of free travel during Seniors Week. The classes beautifully reflect the personalities of our facilitators, and we are blessed to have their ongoing, loyal support. They contribute so much more than expertise; they create spaces of warmth, care, and community, helping participants find not just physical wellness but also strong social connections.

We are also grateful for the ongoing collaboration with Sunbury Cobaw Community Health Centre. We've welcomed visits to our pre-school programs of Messy Play and Sunbury Dads



Crafternoon

to engage with parents about their children's development. Their Dental Health Team, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Community Partnership, and Engagement Officer have been invaluable in providing resources and support to families in our community.

We were also honoured to welcome Sam Rae, MP for Hawke, to SNH this year. His visit reflected the growing recognition of our work, both in supporting local initiatives and advocating for positive change. It's encouraging to see our efforts being noticed by key decision-makers, and it strengthens our resolve to continue advocating for the needs of our community.



Bunting Workshop

Our decision to remain open although on reduced hours during school holidays reinforced our commitment to providing continuous support and connection for our community. Continuity is crucial in fostering strong relationships and supporting wellbeing, particularly during times when other services might not be available. Keeping our doors open allowed us to maintain those important community connections even during quieter periods.

Playgroups remain fundamental to SNH, with children and families gathering to celebrate key events like Aboriginal Children's Day, Book Week, and Science Week. The joy of seeing children engage in learning through play has been a constant reminder of the importance of these programs. This year's "Bluey Week" during Messy Play was a standout, bringing families together for a fun and memorable experience. Additionally, local kindergartens visited SNH, playing, exploring, and leaving with a Boomerang bag and a donated book—a small but significant way of sharing our resources with the wider community.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Our social groups are vital to SNH, and none more so than the newly formed "Chat and Chai" group. This weekly gathering brings people together over chai tea, fostering inclusivity, conversation, and cultural exchange. Whether long-time locals or new residents, members have found a welcoming space to forge friendships and share stories. It's a simple tradition, but one that has made a big impact, showing how something as ordinary as tea can become a powerful tool for building connections.

We also introduced two other new programs this year—Carers Walks and the Sunbury Dads group—both of which have been warmly received by the community. The Carers Walks, which started as an information session, have transitioned into a monthly walk where caregivers can connect, relax, and support one another. We extend our gratitude to our neighbours at Careworks for supplying fruit for these walks, enhancing the experience for our participants. Additionally, the Carers Walks participated in a podcast about being a carer and the benefits of the program, which was part of a project by Melbourne University Masters of Social Work students. The Sunbury Dads group, led by our new facilitator Nick Burnett, has provided a vital outlet for fathers in our community to bond with their children and with each other. These new programs have been a wonderful addition to SNH and further strengthen the connections within our community.

Sustainability has also been at the forefront of our holiday celebrations. Our Christmas raffle was not only a fundraising success but also a heart warming community effort. Volunteers came together to create a sustainable Christmas display, decorating nine trees with handcrafted ornaments made from recycled materials like newspaper and dehydrated oranges. The display even made it into the local newspaper, showcasing our creativity and commitment to the environment.

The year has been marked by successful advocacy efforts as well. We secured a new five-year license with Hume City Council, ensuring the continuity of our services. Additionally, we encouraged community submissions to Hume Council, advocating for much-needed improvements to our facilities. While we've seen some promising results, there's more work to be done to ensure our space reflects the quality of the programs we offer.

Volunteerism is on the rise at Sunbury Neighbourhood House, with the Repair Cafe Sunbury becoming an attractive opportunity for community members to get involved. Operating for nearly five years, the ongoing success of the Repair Cafe highlights how community-driven initiatives can empower individuals and foster a culture of collaboration and care. As we continue to grow at SNH, we look forward to more opportunities for engagement and connection through such valuable programs.

Financially, it has been a challenging time for our community, and we have seen more people leaning towards our free or gold coin donation programs. This shift reflects the increased cost-of-living pressures many are facing, and as a result, SNH has had to make some difficult decisions. In the past, we could absorb the costs of programs that hadn't broken even, but that is no longer the case. While it's disheartening to see the impact of these economic challenges, we remain committed to offering as much support and accessibility as possible to our community.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Our programs are uniquely designed for a Neighbourhood House, reflecting the distinct needs and preferences of those we serve. Since our establishment in 1996, we have built a strong foundation of participation and support that our growing community deserves to continue. It is essential that we can provide the same level of engagement and opportunity that has been available to our community members from the beginning.

As we look to the future at Sunbury Neighbourhood House, we find ourselves very concerned about maintaining and sustaining these offerings and meeting community expectations. While we have been successful in applying for various grants, there is an urgent need for an increase in sustainable funding to ensure we can continue to grow and adapt to the needs of our expanding community.

While the funding we receive is appreciated and responsibly expended, it is clear that we are operating at capacity. Currently, we have zero additional staffing hours available to induct new volunteers, apply for grants, participate in collaborations, or represent ourselves at various opportunities. SNH is often the first organisation invited to a festival, to participate in a steering group or working group and weekly we are asked to promote other organisations materials to our cohort; these requests mainly come from larger community organisations, local and state government. It is flattering that SNH's reputation in the community is so valued, however we now find ourselves at a standstill. We cannot meet our current population's needs, let alone the needs of other larger organisations.

Simply put, we cannot expand our offerings or services as needed. The demand continues to rise, and while our community looks to us to adapt and grow alongside them, our current funding limits our ability to do so. If we want to continue meeting the needs of our community effectively, we must secure additional resources and funding that can support our expansion efforts.

Should we receive the needed funding, we can ensure that Sunbury Neighbourhood House remains a vital and responsive resource for all community members, just as it has been for nearly three decades.

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that the strength of SNH lies in our ability to evolve and adapt while remaining true to our core values of connection, inclusion, and empowerment. Whether through the blooming garden, the sound of music, or a simple cup of chai, we continue to build a stronger, more united Sunbury community. We are looking forward to another year of growth, learning, and togetherness and the challenges that will add to our strength.

Thank you to each member of the Board for your ongoing hard work and support.

“ Since moving to Sunbury and joining Tai Chi at SNH I have made lots of friends and we have social get togethers as well. Best thing I ever did. ”

TREASURER'S REPORT

As the Treasurer on the Sunbury Neighbourhood House Board of Management, it is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report for the 2023-2024 financial year.

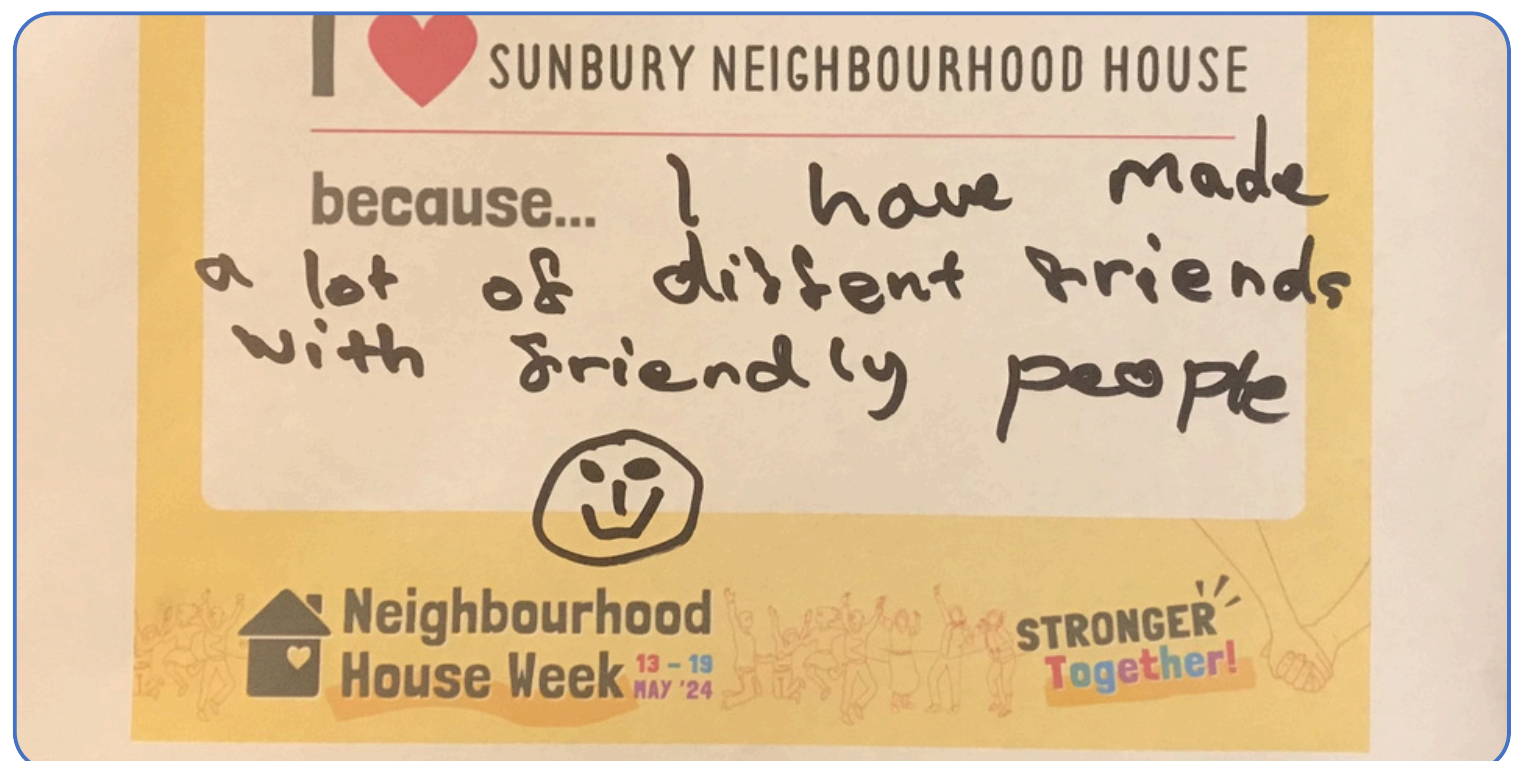
During the 2023-24 financial year it was widely acknowledged that persistent inflation presented increased challenges for households and businesses alike, that were struggling to manage the cost of living. Sunbury Neighbourhood House (SNH) was also affected by inflation, most noticeably with the increase in many of its costs, resulting in a constant challenge for the House throughout the year.

However, I am pleased to report that despite the challenges, SNH finished the 2023-24 financial year in a steady and much stronger position than initially expected. This was made possible by the hard work and collaboration between the Board of Management and the House Manager, along with substantial government support.

Government Support

The House continued to be generously supported by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Hume City Council (HCC). In 2023-24 SNH received an increase in combined funding from DHHS and HCC of 12% on the previous financial year, for which we are very grateful.

Due to the diligence of our Manager Hope and her team, we were also successful in receiving new government grants to deliver two new programs designed to improve the resilience of our community, "PS Our Family Matters Carer's Program" and the "Dad's Group", which have continued to grow in numbers of participants.



TREASURER’S REPORT

During the 2023-24 financial year, Program Income increased from \$29,669 in 2022-23 to \$36,312. In the same period there was also an increase in income from Room Hire from \$26,451 in 2022-23 to \$30,907.

The total income in 2023-24 increased by 8%, from \$213,499 in the previous financial year, to \$229,993.

Expenses

Due to persistent inflation, SNH faced an increase in many of its costs during 2023-24. However, through careful spending and planning, we were able to reduce some expenses in Program Costs and Occupancy Costs by 45% and 40% respectively.

The total expenses overall in 2023-24 were reduced by 5.5%, from \$269,891 in 2022-23 to \$254,986.

Summary

The overall financial outcome in 2023-24 financial year was a deficit of \$24,993, 42% less than the anticipated deficit of \$43,312. Although this financial position was not as positive as desired, the House was able to achieve a reduction of over 56% to the deficit of the previous financial year.

Table: Comparison between 2023-24 and 2022-23

Financial-Year	2023-2024	2022-2023
Gross-Income	\$229,993	\$213,499
Gross-Expenses	\$254,986	\$269,891
Net-Surplus/Deficit	-\$24,993	-\$56,392

I ❤️ SUNBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

because... it is such a welcoming space that fosters, promotes and encourages such a beautiful community spirit through a variety of activities. Not to mention the beautiful staff!



Neighbourhood House Week 13 - 19 MAY '24



STRONGER Together!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Full details of the SNH finances for the 2023 -2024 financial year are contained in the “2024 Sunbury Neighbourhood House Annual Report”, including approval of our financial records by the Auditor.

Acknowledgements

The SNH Board and Management have worked closely together to maintain a delicate balance between providing programs that are affordable and meaningful to the community, and programs that are financially sustainable for the House. We would like to thank our SNH community for their continued support of the House.

The Board wishes to express our gratitude to DHHS, HCC and DFFS for their generous support during the 2023-24 financial year.

The Board also wishes to acknowledge JCJ Services Pty Ltd for their accounting guidance and professional knowledge of the not-for-profit sector.

The Board would like to thank our Manager Hope and staff members Cathy, Ebony, Maddie and new staff members Christie and Nick, and volunteers, for their hard work and dedication to the House. The achievements of 2023-24 would not have been possible without you.

Denise Heffernan

Treasurer, Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc. Board of Management.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This is my seventh Annual Report to Sunbury Neighbourhood House Members as Chairperson of the Board.

Last year, in my sixth Report I said that we'd all been through a challenging but very rewarding and successful year. This year, I'll just say that the challenges, some old and quite a few new, have continued and that throughout that time the House has not wavered in its commitment to and focus on providing our burgeoning community with a very welcoming, safe and inclusive environment where they'll want to gather, interact, learn and enjoy themselves.

Hope has talked in detail about our programs, successes, achievements and challenges and Denise has highlighted the important aspects and status of our finances. So, like last year I will focus on the work of your 100% volunteer Board of Management and highlight some examples of how what we do supports and contributes to this amazing place and the positive impact it clearly has on our community.

During its 2023-24 tenure, your Board met 11 times, either face-to-face or via MS Teams videoconference, discussed and approved at least 36 resolutions and identified and followed up on at least 42 individual Action items arising from our meetings. We also managed several other items requiring decisions via email, SMS and the mobile phone.

The Executive Group met at least 6 times to clarify priorities, establish agendas and assist the whole Board with their deliberations. The finance sub-Committee met to discuss the budget, cash flow, expenditure and to make recommendations requiring the whole Board's consideration and approval; and the IT sub-Committee reviewed our contract for IT provision and support with GICI. Involving a face-to-face visit to their offices it concluded that whilst the House is generally happy with GICI's service and support, the cost is one of our biggest outlays and therefore remains ongoing monitoring and review.

Regardless of where, when, or how we meet, the Board's major focus was and always is on the appropriate and ethical governance of the House. We are acutely aware of our responsibility as volunteers for ensuring the transparent and accountable management of the House's finances, its compliance with mandatory local, state and federal government rules and regulations and in the broadest sense, the implementation of and adherence to our Strategic Plan.

For example, early this year we learnt that the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) were going to change their expectations and management of charitable organisations in Australia. Soon after, we were advised that the state government had released new Model Rules for Incorporated Associations and that as a consequence (of both these developments), our existing constitution, our Rules of Association, would no longer be fit for purpose. So, with support,

“ Since moving to Sunbury and joining Tai Chi at SNH I have made lots of friends and we have social get togethers as well. Best thing I ever did. ”

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

advice and a suitably modified and compliant template from NHVic, we called and conducted a Special General Meeting in April which unanimously agreed to adopt NHVic's template which with subsequent ratification by Consumer Affairs Victoria, became the House's new Rules of Association.

After several months of negotiations with Hume City Council, our landlord, we also reviewed and signed our new Licence Agreement. Whilst not being very different from our earlier agreements it does give us a 5-year tenure, added a little bit more floor-space within 531 Elizabeth Drive – Hope's Office – and most importantly includes most of the garden area at the front of the House.

After several months of negotiations with Hume City Council, our landlord, we also reviewed and signed our new Licence Agreement. Whilst not being very different from our earlier agreements it does give us a 5-year tenure, added a little bit more floor-space within 531 Elizabeth Drive – Hope's Office – and most importantly includes most of the garden area at the front of the House.

In April we were very pleased to join Hope at a special meeting of Hume's Councilors and senior staff at the Broadmeadows Town Hall to speak in support of multiple submissions made on behalf of SNH to the HCC 2024-2025 Budget Planning process. These submissions from SNH members sought Council funding for upgrades to the building and adjacent play areas, improved noise reduction and enhanced building security, inside and out. We also reminded Council – our landlord – that Council's interactions and communications with us often reflected a belief that we occupied and were responsible for the whole building at 531 Elizabeth Drive, not just the 25% of the floor space we do actually occupy. I'm not sure that we've had any tangible outcomes, but we were very pleased to be given the opportunity to talk directly with the Council.



Bunting Workshop

Late last year we started to discuss our 'Acknowledgement of Country' and whether it achieved its purpose: the recognition of the traditional custodians of the land we are on and their continuing relationship with it and their ancestors. Over the ensuing months Win developed a discussion paper for the Board and in June we adopted the very meaningful and sincere words that were recited at the beginning of this meeting and at all our Board meetings.



Excellent, affordable classes catering for all age groups and abilities



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In January the Board came together with staff for a Planning Day. Under Win's guidance and leadership and input from Karen Washfold (our Networker), we talked about who we are, what we want to achieve, who we work with (and for) and how we interact with and relate to them. We went on to discuss the things we need to consider when we plan, including the changing demographics in our community, the impact of Covid and the potential for other serious health risks, the economy, our resources and most importantly, the capacity of our staff to cope with it all. By the end of the day we had established a number of operational and/or strategic opportunities that we felt would help us respond to at least some of the challenges facing the House. These included:

- recognizing the need to optimize our 'who we are' and 'what we do' messages to the community
- building on and improving existing relationships with other organizations in and around Sunbury, including Hume City Council
- looking for opportunities to increase revenue, for example the option of getting DGR status; and developing stronger relationships with local businesses
- identifying groups in the community whose needs were not currently being met and developing and delivering programs to address them. Two of the groups we identified were 'new dads' and 'carers' respectively. The Board is therefore very pleased to see our "Sunbury Dads" and "Carers' Walk" programs up and running in this Financial Year.

Even though we are all volunteers, we are very much aware of our status and collective role as an employer and that we are therefore legally and contractually responsible for overseeing the employment and welfare of our staff. We are committed to ensuring they have a safe, healthy, inclusive and supportive place to work because we know that a happy, motivated and dedicated staff underpins the whole operation of the House. Without them, there would be no SNH. Therefore we have continued our involvement in the development of a new enterprise bargaining agreement for all people employed in our Sector; the Neighbourhood Houses & Adult Community Education Centres Collective Agreement 2024 (NHACE24). When it is adopted and accepted by a majority of the Houses and their respective staff and ultimately ratified by the FWC, it will prescribe the employment arrangements, conditions and salaries for all neighbourhood house staff, including ours, well into the foreseeable future.

Challenges:

One of our biggest challenges in the current F.Y will be the review and updating of our Strategic Plan. Whilst I believe the goals of the current Plan - Profile, Community, Team, Programs and Governance – are as relevant and important today as they were four years ago, the Board will have to ensure that any new Plan recognises and acknowledges the growing size and diversity of our community – the people who come through our doors – and just as importantly supports and enhances our capacity to continue offering and providing programs and activities that are inclusive, accessible, welcoming and relevant.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

However, as Denise and Hope have flagged, the Board's biggest and most time-consuming challenge will be to maintain our commitment to providing affordable and accessible programs, services and support to our community whilst ensuring the House stays financially solvent. Like most neighbourhood houses across the state, we will have to devote a lot of time and energy to monitoring and addressing the issues that arise when the cost of running Programs and delivering services and support is increasing much quicker than the revenue we receive from any and all sources. Put bluntly, since 2016 our revenue has increased by just under 41% but our costs have risen by over 67%. So in a nutshell, the biggest challenge facing the Board you will elect tonight will be to find new revenue that is not tied to programs or service delivery whilst identifying ways to reduce our outlays with minimal, if any, negative impact on how we support and contribute to our community.

Thank you

I think we can all agree that Sunbury Neighbourhood House is a very special place, mainly because of our wonderful, caring and dedicated staff. Hope's excellent leadership, management, commitment and vision has fostered and nurtured a very hard-working, dedicated and committed team. So, on behalf of all SNH members, a big thank you to Hope; and to Cathy, Maddie, Christie, Nick and also Ebony, who is AWLOB (absent with leave and our blessing).

Thank you too to our very talented, dedicated and supportive Facilitators and Volunteers. From the Repair Café, through the gardeners, to the Carers' Walk, your contributions help to make SNH the special place it is today. So, on behalf of SNH members and the Board, a big thank you to all of you too

We are also very grateful to our much appreciated sponsors and supporters including:

- the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), our principal source of funding and the Victorian Department of Health
- Hume City Council, our landlord and an important source of our funding
- our three Councilors, especially Jarrod Bell
- the staff at HCC, who one way or another, help to keep the House afloat
- the staff at Sunbury Cobaw Community Health and its Chair, Peter Donlon
- CareWorks, our new neighbour here at #531
- Josh Bull and Sam Rae, our respective State and Federal MPs and their staff
- Karen Washfold, our much-appreciated Northwest Neighbourhood House Networker



Federal MP Sam Rae, being shown how things should be done

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Keir Paterson and the team at NHVic (Neighbourhood Houses Victoria)
- Jacqui Marshall and her team at JCJ Accounting Services
- Greg Ibbotson and the team at GICI Computer Services, and
- any number of other contributors I've overlooked or forgotten.

Finally, as I think I've established in this Report, we have a wonderful Board at SNH. Their willingness to share their knowledge, experience, empathy and precious time to the governance of our House is exemplary. So, on behalf of all the members, friends, 'droppers-innerers', sponsors and our many and varied program participants, a big thank you to Melyssa, Denise, Meredith, Win, Shalini, Jenny, Andy and Tracey. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with you all for the past 12 months.

As I say every year, please renew, maintain and/or increase your support for SNH and if you aren't already doing so, come and join us and help us become an even 'specialer' place. Thank you for reading and/or listening.

Robert Hill
Chairperson.



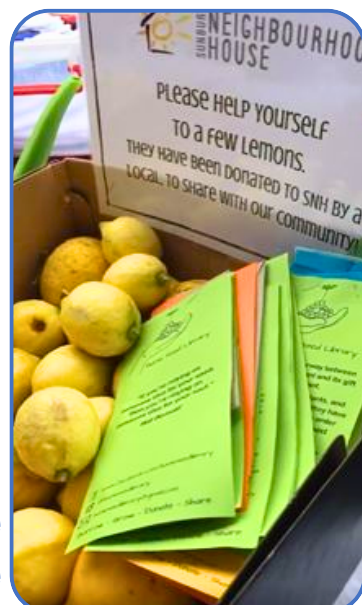
Community gardeners hard at work



Tai Chi



Celebrating Christmas on guitar



Share Table

SUNBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC

A.B.N. 11 928 572 940

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30th JUNE 2024

CONTENTS

Statement of Profit or Loss	3
Statement of Financial Position	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Statement by Committee	12

Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc
A.B.N. 11 928 572 940
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue from Grants	3	156,223.83	156,812.21
Program Income		36,312.12	29,668.85
Room Hire		30,906.91	26,451.17
Revenue from Other Activities	4	6,550.25	566.54
Total Revenue		229,993.11	213,498.77
Employee Expenses	5	200,167.09	185,519.62
Program Costs	6	27,786.19	50,588.65
Occupancy Costs	7	11,244.90	18,662.49
Administrative Costs	8	9,405.16	8,749.11
Other Expenses	9	6,383.07	6,370.78
Total Expenses		254,986.41	269,890.65
Net Profit / (Loss)		(24,993.30)	(56,391.88)

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc
A.B.N. 11 928 572 940
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<u>Assets</u>			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	125,159.56	120,185.16
Trade debtors		3,586.00	-
Accrued Income	11	1,060.00	5,137.55
Prepayments	12	-	105.00
Total Current Assets		129,805.56	125,427.71
Fixed			
Classroom Equipment	15	12,085.36	12,085.36
Less Accumulated Depreciation	15	(6,445.39)	(5,802.86)
Computer Equipment	15	40,483.61	40,483.61
Less Accumulated Depreciation	15	(33,065.43)	(30,047.40)
Office Equipment	15	23,256.31	22,711.76
Less Accumulated Depreciation	15	(16,802.81)	(16,309.72)
Total Fixed Assets		19,511.65	23,120.75
Total Assets		149,317.21	148,548.46
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Current			
Trade and other payable	13	19,899.19	15,210.51
Annual Leave Provision		17,528.12	20,092.92
Prepaid Income	14	25,000.00	1,361.83
Total Liabilities		62,427.31	36,665.26
Net Assets		86,889.90	111,883.20
Equity			
Current Year Earnings		(24,993.30)	(56,391.88)
Retained Earnings		111,883.20	168,275.08
Total Equity		86,889.90	111,883.20

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14. Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 2012 and for use by the members of the Association. The members have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following Australian Accounting Standards;

- AAS 5 Materiality
- AAS 8 Events Occurring After Reporting Date
- AAS 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

a) Revenue

Revenue comprises primarily income from room rental, programs and government grants.

Revenue is measured by reference to the fair value of consideration received or receivable by the Association for services provided.

Revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be measured reliably, collection is probable, the costs incurred or to be incurred can be measured reliably, and when the criteria for each of the Association's different activities have been met. Details of the activity- specific recognition criteria are described below.

Government Grants

A number of the Association's programs are supported by grants received from the government.

If conditions are attached to a grant which must be satisfied before the Association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue is deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

Where a grant is received on the condition that specified services are delivered to the grantor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction. Revenue is recognised as services are performed and at year end a liability is recognised until the service is delivered.

Where a grant may be required to be repaid if certain conditions are not satisfied, a liability is recognised at year end to the extent that conditions remain unsatisfied.

Revenue from a non-reciprocal grant that is not subject to conditions is recognised when the Association obtains control of the funds, economic benefits are probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc
A.B.N. 11 928 572 940
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Program Income

Fees are charged for diverse activities and courses for kids and adults of the community. Income is recognised when the fee is paid in the financial year.

Room Hire

Fees are charged for use of the Association's facilities on a need's basis for members of the community. Income is recognised when the service is provided.

Interest Income

Interest income is recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method

b) Operating Expenses

Operating expenses are recognised in the profit or loss upon utilisation of the service or at the date of their origin.

Rent

As required by Australian Accounting Standards 1058 (AASB 1058), the Committee has elected to recognise the rent from Hume City Council at cost not fair value.

As required by the Standard in choosing this election the details of the licence with Hume City Council are provided as follows:

- The organisation has a high dependence on the Lease arrangement with Hume City Council which provides it the right to use the premises at 531 Elizabeth Drive, Sunbury
- The Lease is with Hume City Council for a value of \$50 plus GST per financial year
- The current Lease is for 5-year extension period with a renewal date of 1/7/2029

Fixed Assets

Each Fixed Asset is carried at cost less, where applicable any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over their useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc
A.B.N. 11 928 572 940
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
3. Revenue from Grants		
Department of Health & Human Services	103,894.50	93,717.61
Hume City Council – Operational Grant	33,973.00	30,071.00
HCC 2023 Participation Grant	1,361.83	1,638.17
Living Local Fund	-	18,765.43
Sunbury & Bulla Neighbourhood Fund	-	12,620.00
DFFH Grant	994.50	-
DFFH Grant – Dad’s Group	12,000.00	-
PS My Family Matters - Carers Project	4,000.00	-
	156,223.83	156,812.21
4. Revenue from Other Activities		
Fundraising and Donations	2,614.50	215.00
Sundry Income	62.56	-
Interest Income	3,873.19	351.54
	6,550.25	566.54
5. Employee Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	171,772.43	162,102.33
Superannuation	18,884.63	16,234.31
Portable Long Service Leave	2,848.42	2,545.68
WorkCover Insurance	2,679.68	1,105.73
Staff & Facilitator Amenities	2,057.39	2,622.10
Training & Development	1,759.09	575.26
Travel & Accommodation	-	189.62
Volunteer Costs	165.45	144.59
	200,167.09	185,519.62

Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc
A.B.N. 11 928 572 940
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
6. Program Costs		
Program Facilitator	12,257.08	18,355.77
Program Equipment	90.35	11,330.98
ICT Expenses	8,817.96	9,161.96
Advertising & Promotion	394.29	156.00
Program Consumables	1,592.83	8,183.96
Program Room Hire	4,479.53	3,399.98
Bad Debts	125.00	-
PayPal/Stripe Fees	29.15	-
	27,786.19	50,588.65
7. Occupancy Costs		
Cleaning & Pest Control	2,300.91	4,700.85
OH&S	-	1,440.00
Equipment Hire/Lease	633.14	2,475.46
Internet	942.64	843.42
Telephone & Mobile	1,216.27	1,206.01
Repairs and Maintenance	865.35	960.00
Insurance	906.71	858.80
Utilities	585.77	2,306.50
Garden Expense	3,744.11	2,470.94
House Equipment	-	1,350.51
Rent	50.00	50.00
	11,244.90	18,662.49
8. Administrative Costs		
Management Cost	192.73	93.30
Board Meeting Expenses	269.90	619.93
Depreciation	4,153.65	4,134.63
Printing & Stationery	283.66	739.78
Membership Fees & Permits	1,402.64	890.45
Subscriptions & Licences	3,087.07	2,115.46
Bank Fees	15.51	155.56
	9,405.16	8,749.11

Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc
A.B.N. 11 928 572 940
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
9. Other Expenses		
Audit & Bookkeeping	6,383.07	6,288.73
Fundraising Expenses	-	82.05
	6,383.07	6,370.78
10. Cash and cash equivalents		
BBL Operating Account	42,787.30	8,991.95
BBL TD Cash Reserve	81,971.07	78,840.27
BBL Term Deposit	-	31,771.01
BBL - Debit Card	246.44	427.18
Petty Cash	104.75	104.75
Undeposited Funds (Till Float)	50.00	50.00
	125,159.56	120,185.16
11. Accrued Income		
June 23/24 Room Hire invoiced in July 23/24	1,060.00	5,137.55
	1,060.00	5,137.55
12. Prepayments		
Equipment Leasing for future months	-	105.00
	-	105.00
13. Trade and other payable		
ATO Debt	12,103.20	8,616.00
Superannuation Payable	5,182.40	4,288.53
Accrued Expenses	2,641.40	2,305.98
Employee money to be reimbursed	(27.90)	-
	19,899.19	15,210.51
14. Prepaid Income		
HCC Participation Grant unexpended portion	-	1,361.83
Millett Family Community Grant unexpended portion	25,000.00	1,361.83
	25,000.00	1,361.83

Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc
A.B.N. 11 928 572 940

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15. Full Schedule of Assets Detailed / Depreciation Schedule 2023/24 FY

Asset Name	Asset Class	Description	Acquisition Date	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Rate	Opening Written Down Value	Straight-Line Depreciation Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Closing Written Down Value
Outfit Classroom & Activity room	Classroom Equipment	Outfit classroom & Activity Room at SNH in Parmesan	27/03/2013	\$ 2,906.36	7%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,906.36	\$ -
Classroom Furniture	Classroom Equipment	24 Guest B Chairs Black 10 Radcliffe Flip Tables Redgum	14/09/2014	\$ 5,166.00	7%	\$ 2,273.04	\$ 361.62	\$ 3,254.58	\$ 1,911.42
Belbird - children equipment	Classroom Equipment	Premium Tray & 48.5cmH Stand - Staplestein Pastel Bundle - 6+1 - Wobble 360 - with Felt - Billy Kidz Birch Super Shop 12cmH	22/06/2023	\$ 1,736.18	7%	\$ 1,733.52	\$ 121.53	\$ 124.19	\$ 1,611.99
Fantastic Furniture - Table	Classroom Equipment	Retro Table D6 Oak	24/06/2023	\$ 461.82	7%	\$ 461.29	\$ 32.33	\$ 32.86	\$ 428.96
Cody Whelean 2 Wall Fans	Classroom Equipment	2 Wall Fans in outdoor play area	29/06/2023	\$ 1,815.00	7%	\$ 1,814.65	\$ 127.05	\$ 127.40	\$ 1,687.60
				\$ 12,085.36		\$ 6,282.50	\$ 642.53	\$ 6,445.39	\$ 5,639.97
Various	Office Equipment	Various Office Equipment purchased prior to 2009/2009	Pre 1/7/2008	\$ 4,613.00	7%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,613.00	\$ -
Typist Chairs	Office Equipment	10 x Grey Malaga Medium Black Typist Chairs	18/02/2009	\$ 3,445.50	10%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,445.50	\$ -
Wall Clock	Office Equipment	1 Penline Metal Wall Clock	18/02/2009	\$ 25.41	10%			\$ 25.41	
Stationery Cupboard	Office Equipment	1 Elite First Line Stationery Cupboard (Silver Grey)	18/02/2009	\$ 354.37	7%			\$ 354.37	
3 Drawer Cabinet	Office Equipment	1 Elite First Line Filing Cabinet 3 Drawer (Silver Grey)	18/02/2009	\$ 242.88	7%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 242.88	\$ -
Safe	Office Equipment	1 1.8 Litre Fire Resistant Safe	18/02/2009	\$ 349.00	5%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 349.00	\$ -
Mobile 3 Drawer Cabinets	Office Equipment	4 x Mobile Pedestal 3 drawer (1 file, 2 Standard) with Multilock	4/03/2009	\$ 1,340.00	7%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,340.00	\$ -
Filing Cabinet	Office Equipment	Lockers & Filing Cabinets 3x Office Chairs 7012233 plus 3 x Office Chairs 7007682	5/16/2011	\$ 1,140.00	7%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,140.00	\$ -
Office Chairs	Office Equipment		8/22/2012	\$ 1,347.29	7%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,347.29	\$ -
Projector	Office Equipment	Projector	2/27/2013	\$ 407.22	10%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 407.22	\$ -
Desk	Office Equipment	1 Oxley Desk	9/12/2013	\$ 187.77	5%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 187.77	\$ -
Return	Office Equipment	1 Mobile Return	12/9/2013	\$ 89.10	5%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89.10	\$ -
Whiteboard	Office Equipment	1 Mobile Whiteboard	9/12/2013	\$ 544.56	5%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 544.56	\$ -
Stationery Cabinet	Office Equipment	1 Camform high stationery cabinet	12/9/2013	\$ 989.09	7%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 989.09	\$ -
Stationery Cabinet	Office Equipment	1 Coform High Strength Stationery Cabinet	3/4/2014	\$ 989.09	7%	\$ 344.84	\$ 69.24	\$ 713.49	\$ 275.60
Binding Machine	Office Equipment	Qupa Binding Machine	3/24/2014	\$ 226.34	10%	\$ 16.57	\$ 16.57	\$ 226.34	\$ -

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
15. Full Schedule of Assets Detailed / Depreciation Schedule 2023/24 FY

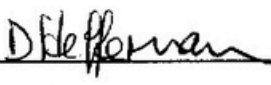
Asset Name	Asset Class	Description	Acquisition Date	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Rate	Opening Written Down Value	Straight-Line Depreciation Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Closing Written Down Value
Furniture	Office Equipment	2 Fabric Pin Boards	14/08/2014	\$ 324.00 \$ 635.45	5%	\$ 178.10	\$ 16.20 \$ 63.55	\$ 162.10 \$ 237.17	\$ 161.90
Camera	Office Equipment	Tom Saades Camera	6/10/2020	\$ 435.41	10%	\$ 461.83	\$ 21.77	\$ 28.57	\$ 398.29
Desk	Office Equipment	Toro CNRN WKST 18x18	8/03/2023	\$ 1,320.59	5%	\$ 428.61	\$ 66.03	\$ 86.65	\$ 406.84
Height Adjustable Desks	Office Equipment	4 Matr MNL Adjustable Desks	8/03/2023		5%	\$ 1,299.97			\$ 1,233.94
Visitor Chairs	Office Equipment	2 Matrix Mesh Visitor Armchairs	8/03/2023	\$ 376.95	5%	\$ 371.06		\$ 18.85	\$ 24.74
Office Chairs	Office Equipment	3 Flash II Ergo Chairs	8/03/2023	\$ 718.78	5%	\$ 707.56		\$ 35.94	\$ 47.16
Arm Chairs	Office Equipment	4 EKERO ach Skifebo yellow	29/03/2023	\$ 1,150.00	5%	\$ 1,135.35		\$ 57.50	\$ 72.15
Armchair	Office Equipment	2 Matrix Mesh Visitor Armchair	17/06/2023	\$ 508.14	5%	\$ 507.24		\$ 25.41	\$ 26.31
Vacuum	Office Equipment	3 Fgordless Vacuums	23/06/2023	\$ 951.82	5%	\$ 950.92		\$ 47.59	\$ 48.50
Printer	Office Equipment	Brother InkJet (serial E81791H2H534321)	1/10/2023	\$ 544.55	10%	\$ -		\$ 54.46	\$ 54.46
				\$ 23,256.31		\$ 6,402.04	\$ 493.09	\$ 16,802.81	\$ 6,453.50
Laptop	Computer Equipment	Toshiba L50 Laptop & in house Connection	10/11/2013	\$ 895.45	14%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 895.45
DIGI Server	Computer Equipment	DIGI7 Server - 16gm RAM, 2X21TB HDD, DVD +-RW	10/22/2013	\$ 1,777.27	14%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,777.27	\$ -
Intel Quad Core Server	Computer Equipment	New Inter Quad Core Server, 9igabyte Motherboard	9/2/2009	\$ 1,790.00	14%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,790.00	\$ -
Acer Desktop Computers	Computer Equipment	8 Desktop Computers with Wired keyboards and Monitors	10/12/2008	\$ 8,945.45	14%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,945.45	\$ -
New Server	Computer Equipment	New Server	1/10/2016	\$ 4,769.00	14%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,769.00	\$ -
New Server	Computer Equipment	4 HP 600 Computers - 7 HP Installation	9/11/2017	749.09	14%			\$ 749.09	
Computers, Modem and Server	Computer Equipment	Monitors, Rack Cabinet, Router, Modem, 13 Office 2019 Sogware, 12 Window Licences and Xeon Server 2Galaxy Tab A8 Wi-Fi 64GB -	28/06/2019	\$ 19,850.98	14%	\$ 8,734.42	\$ 2,779.14	\$ 13,895.70	\$ 5,955.28
Galaxy Tab	Computer Equipment	Grey 2 15.6" 8GB Laptops	23/06/2023	\$ 344.55	14%	\$ 343.62	\$ 48.24	\$ 49.16	\$ 295.39
Laptops	Computer Equipment		23/06/2023	\$ 1,361.82	14%	\$ 1,358.16	\$ 190.65	\$ 194.31	\$ 1,167.51
				\$ 40,483.61		\$ 16,436.21	\$ 3,016.93	\$ 33,065.43	\$ 7,446.16
				\$ 75,825.28		\$ 23,120.75	\$ 4,153.65	\$ 56,313.63	\$ 19,511.65

**STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th JUNE 2024**

In the opinion of Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc.:

1. The financial statements and notes of Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc. are in accordance with the Australian charities and Not-for Profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - a) Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards including the Australian Accounting Interpretations and the *Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
2. In the committee members' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

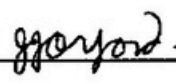
This declaration is signed for and behalf of the Committee by



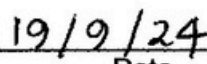
Treasurer



Date



Secretary



Date

SUNBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.

ABN 11 928 572 940

Independent Audit Report to the Members

Scope

We have audited the attached financial report, being a special purpose financial report comprising the Statement by Members of the Committee, Statement of Profit or Loss, Statement of Financial Position, Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 of the Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc. The Committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to for an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

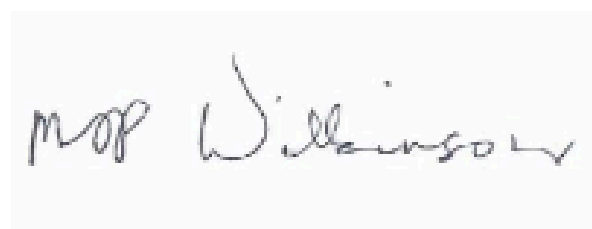
Qualification

Receipts from fundraising and donations, which are sources of income to the House, could not be fully reviewed, as by their nature, they are unsupervised receipts. It is not practicable to establish internal controls over this income prior to recording into the financial records. Accordingly, my audit does not cover these items.

Audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of Sunbury Neighbourhood House Inc as at 30 June 2024 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Signed on 9th October 2024



Mark Stuart Pressland Wilkinson, CPA 513900 and ASIC Registered Company Auditor 4485
Director of 2SM Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 235, Leopold, Victoria, 3224
Telephone: 0418 772212

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SNAPSHOT

Over the last twelve months, SNH **#SustainableSunbury** programs continued to attract like-minded, skilled and generous people willing to get involved and give back to our community.

We regularly see three main themes that make these programs so fulfilling: skill-building/skill-sharing, mindfulness around environmental issues including reducing waste, and opportunities for social connection.

Boomerang Bags Sunbury meet on the 1st Saturday of the month, with participants sewing reuseable fabric bags from donated material. Other members choose to sew from home, and all contribute to reducing single use plastic bags. The group held a very successful stall last March at Rupertswood Harvest Festival and have also been busily sewing bags for StreetLife Festival next December. The group welcomes new participants of all skill levels.

Sunbury Neighbourhood Garden has moved from a construction phase to regular use and maintenance. Monthly working bees offer the chance for people to come together in a social environment. Participants share the benefits of learning and working together and share in the produce too. We welcomed a visit from Hume City Council Gardens for Wildlife program and learned more about the benefits of encouraging diversity in the garden. We plan to build on these educational opportunities. All welcome, the 3rd Saturday each month, Feb-Nov.

Your paragraph text

Repair Cafe Sunbury, also on the 3rd Saturday, attracts on average 25-30 items per session, with many returning visitors enjoying the social atmosphere and morning tea. While not all items can be repaired, our skilled volunteers often offer advice including appropriate next steps. We have expanded the educational offerings, with a regular display of recycling information in a friendly format. We are fortunate to be joined by some of our Board members as regular Repair Cafe volunteers and visitors, always supportive and helpful.

Workshops continue to be complementary to our Sustainable Sunbury offerings. 8 participants learned to make bee hotels. 5 families had a ball making scarecrows from preloved items, 21 learned about recycling from Hume City Council staff, and 2 learned to sew their own bunting from preloved fabric.

Our **Drop In** sessions are also fantastic opportunities for our community to meet and enjoy conversation over a shared interest. In turn, we get to learn about the many skills and passions of people in our community. Drop In Chai and Chat has been a fabulous addition, and we have made many new friends over cups of delicious chai!

I am looking forward to the next 12 months of conversations and connections!

Cathy Grose



ScarecrowWorkshop

SUNBURY DADS

In 2024, Sunbury Neighbourhood House launched *Sunbury Dads*, a Dads Group for local dads and father-like figures of 0-5-year old, delivered through a Friday afternoon playgroup. The program's mission is to address isolation and encourage connection among fathers and father figures by providing a welcoming space for them to engage with their children and each other.

Since its commencement, *Sunbury Dads* has seen 36 dads and father figures join. While not all can attend weekly, the group has maintained a steady stream of participants throughout the first term. Guest speakers from the local community have added value to the program, and an end-of-term BBQ brought participants together, encouraging deeper conversations and plans to reconnect during breaks. The program has also been featured in the local paper multiple times, raising its profile and reinforcing its role in the community.

At the end of the third term in 2024, a survey was distributed to participants, revealing the following insights:

- **Motivations for Joining:** Many dads moved to Sunbury for community engagement and affordability, but they felt distanced from family. Their main motivations for joining included engaging with their children, meeting other dads, and finding support through shared experiences.
- **Challenges Faced:** Many participants identified isolation as a key challenge, particularly a lack of support from other parents.
- **Impact of Participation:** After joining *Sunbury Dads*, all respondents reported feeling more supported and connected within the community. Building lasting connections was identified as a priority for many, and the program successfully fostered this.

The *Sunbury Dads* program is supported by four-year funding from the Department of Health, providing a stable foundation for its future. Additionally, the program actively participates in a community of practice, ensuring it remains current with best practices for supporting father figures.

Looking ahead, Sunbury Neighbourhood House will be seeking funding to expand the *Sunbury Dads* concept beyond the initial four-year period and beyond the playgroup format. While the group is currently delivered through a playgroup, its primary purpose remains addressing isolation and encouraging connection among local dads. Future developments will focus on building on this success and broadening the program's reach.

The *Sunbury Dads* program has effectively addressed the needs of local fathers by creating a supportive and inclusive environment where they can build confidence, make friends, and overcome the challenges of isolation. The program also reinforces the idea that father figures play an important role in their families and communities, beyond their financial contributions.

The success of *Sunbury Dads* underscores its vital role in supporting local dads and father-like figures. With strong funding, sustained community interest, and plans for future growth, the program is well-positioned to continue providing valuable resources and fostering connections for years to come.

Nick Burnett

PICTURES WORTH A THOUSANDS WORDS



Repair Cafe- busy sewing



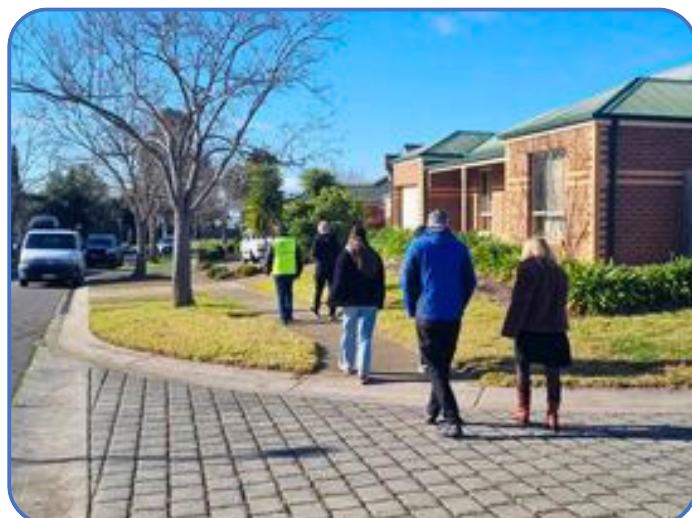
Scarecrow Workshop



Enjoying Chat & Chai



Plant propagation workshop



Carers' Walk

PICTURES WORTH A THOUSANDS WORDS



The
Parking
Lot



MESSY PLAY PICS



PICTURES WORTH A THOUSANDS WORDS



Areas flagged for improvement at Sunbury Neighbourhood House

