

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023-2024



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OUR VISION

ORWIL STREET COMMUNITY HOUSE IS A WELCOMING PLACE THAT PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER, BUILD CONFIDENCE AND LEARN NEW SKILLS.

OUR COMMUNITY HOUSE IS:

- INCLUSIVE
- SUPPORTIVE
- RESPECTFUL
- INFORMATIVE
- SAFE AND WELCOMING FOR ALL



OUR TEAM

OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Val Wooding - President Gwen Cauchi - Treasurer Laurence Anderson – Vice President Padmini Thorakumbura – Secretary Leslie Fernandez - General Member Benjamin Watkins - General Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS OUTGOING

Lynda Gardner Susan Borg

OUR COUNSELLORS

Lynne Alexandra Rachel Austin Sandra Garnier Sandra Wilson Wei Lai

OUR FACILITATORS

Erin Clifford – Cooking Groups
Hayley Gravener - Declutter Workshops
Jinli - Tai Chi and Qigong
Jo Ridgeway – Women's Wellbeing
Karl Two Eagles - Meditation
Kate Hart – Walking Group
Melanie - Children's Playgroups
Monica Dawes – Exercise Classes
Pierre Uri - Men's Program
Sandra Wilson – Steps to Wholeness
Tina Strafford – Art Bites
Wendy Van Dort – Community Yoga
Val Wooding – Cardmaking

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Eva Malloy - Women's Shed
James Haakman - Yard Maintenance
Joe Ferrarotto - Maintenance
John Darke - Women's Shed
Joy Tilley - Reiki
Karen Kent - Reiki
Mariette Pasnin - Reiki
Mary Nickson - Admin
Padmini Thorakumbura - Admin
Phyllis Neafsey - Free Library
Shekhar Kamat - Mindfulness
Sunshine Melody - Reiki
Susan Borg - Mandalas
Suzie Piggott - Reiki
Terence Phillips - Advertising and Promotion

OUR STAFF

Birgit Ross – Cleaning Kate Hart – Administration Kim Mayor – Finance Karen Vanderkaay – Manager



WE ARE GRATEFUL
TO THE AMAZING
TEAM OF PEOPLE
WHO CHOOSE TO
WORK WITH US IN
SUPPORTING ORWIL
STREET COMMUNITY
HOUSE AND OUR
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS.

THANK YOU

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another year has flown by, and the House has seen a marked increase in the number of people attending our programs, rising to almost 15,000 in the past financial year. This increase in the number of participants has required more resourcing to manage the programs and operations of the house. Thus, we invested in staffing to support the operations. Unfortunately, we have learned that this increase in resourcing is not sustainable under our current funding model and has required careful management and a reduction in staffing hours.

Neighbourhood House Coordination funding has not increased exclusive of CPI for many years despite the increase in demand on houses like ours. The house receives 30 hours of funding per week from State Government for coordination of programs. Less funding than a full-time position, but with the expectation that we will continuously improve to meet all compliance and safety requirements.

Keeping up with these requirements and our communities changing needs is challenging when the time and resources to help us do so are not funded. Part of our work as the Committee of Management this year has been advocating for increased funding to State Government and our peak body Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

A review of our programs, utilisation and finances by Frankston City Council earlier this year by consultancy firm OTIUM provided helpful information about how the organisation is travelling, and largely confirmed what we already understood. The team at Orwil Street work hard to maximise room usage and deliver programs that the community want, and this was reflected in the report.

The following actions have been achieved against our strategic goals:

- 1. Engage socially isolated community members.
- -Partnered with Project Fresh Start who provide community lunch twice a month
- -Continued to provide free and low-cost Programs and events
- 2. Develop a community engagement plan to keep in touch with the changing needs of our community.
- -Monash OT students survey of participants.
- -Supported FCC community consultation during Harmony Day.
- 3. Provide programs to improve the mental health & wellbeing of our community.
- Partnered with Belvedere Community Centre to fund Women's Wellbeing Program.
- Monash Uni Students ran Occupational Therapy Workshops for the house.
- Supported the establishment of the Monash Carers Clinic at the house.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

- 4. Review and plan for our infrastructure needs.
- Installation of Acoustic Panelling -State Government Universal Design Grant
- Lobbying for funds for a Women's Shed





- 5. Actively promote the programs and services we offer to the community.
- Participated in the Bayside Jobs Expo
- Presented at Peninsula Business Networking Meeting
- 6. Develop strategic partnerships with other organisations to bring together resources for our community.
- Active on networks including LGBTQIA+ Collaborative and The Community Plate Action Group.
- Partnered with Belvedere to provide Literacy and Numeracy program.

I would like to thank outgoing COM members Lynda Gardner and Susan Borg for their hard work, and thank Lynda for continuing to support the house where she can.

I would like to thank Kim for always keeping a watchful eye on our finances with Gwen our Treasurer overseeing and keeping us on the straight and narrow.

I would like to thank all COM members, staff and volunteers for supporting me during the year. I would like to thank Karen in her role as manager for committing to the House with vigour and enthusiasm, and her support in me as President.

In the coming year we look forward to providing new and exciting opportunities for the people we support through various projects, partnerships and activities.

VALERIE WOODING

President

TREASURERS REPORT

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for Orwil St Community House for the financial year ending June 2024.

Financial Overview:

This year has presented challenges for our association, culminating in a financial loss. While our income has generally remained steady, and even increased in some areas, we have still encountered a shortfall due to rising operational costs.

Income: Our income from programs and facility bookings saw a notable increase this year, reflecting a 30% rise in the number of visitors to the House in 2023-24. However, sourcing income from grants has become increasingly difficult in an extremely competitive market. Unfortunately, funding from our governing bodies has not fully addressed the gap between CPI increases and the surge in our operational expenses.

Expenditure: Our expenditure reflects the heightened costs associated with maintaining our operations in the current economic climate. This increase is primarily due to rising wage costs, with our general expenditure remaining relatively stable.

Net Result: Although our equity remains strong, the current financial environment has led to a reduction in equity for the year. We will continue to closely monitor and review our financial position to ensure our long-term sustainability.

Challenges:

Despite our efforts to reduce non-essential expenses and enhance operational efficiency, these measures were not sufficient to fully offset the financial pressures we faced. The broader economic conditions, particularly the rising cost of living and limited funding availability, have compounded these challenges. However, we remain dedicated in our commitment not to compromise on productivity, community engagement, and participation. These core principles are essential to our mission, and we will continue to prioritise them as we work towards the empowerment of individuals to develop the skills needed for greater self-sufficiency, and dependence on long-term government assistance.

Moving Forward:

To address these financial pressures, we are implementing several strategies to stabilise our financial standing:

Funding Applications: We are actively pursuing new grant opportunities and exploring alternative funding sources to boost our income.

Fundraising Initiatives: We continue to strengthen our fundraising efforts events, including our annual Bunnings Sausage Sizzle.

Cost Management: We will maintain rigorous scrutiny of our expenses, seeking further efficiencies where possible without compromising the quality of our services.

I would like to personally thank Kim Mayor and extend my sincere thanks to our volunteers, staff, and the Committee of Management for their unwavering support and dedication in making the House a success.

Our 2024 audit report has been prepared by Vergona Randsmith Accountants.



Orwil St Community House Inc.

Balance Sheet June 2024

Assets	
Cheque Account	8,720
Investment Account	26,910
Undeposited Funds	355
Debtors	3,626
Petty Cash Term	200
Deposit #1 Term	50,000
Deposit #2	75,000
Total Income	\$164,811
Liabilities	
Deposits Received	520
GST Liabilities PAYG	4,699
Withholding Payable	8,720
Superannuation Payable	1,494
Provision: Annual Leave	6,681
Provision: Long Service Leave	7,718
Provision: Personal Leave	12,849
Total Liabilities	\$42,681
Net Assets	\$122,130
Earrigh.	
Equity Detained Farnings	150 224
Retained Earnings	150,324
Current Year Earning	(28,194)
Total Equity	\$122,130

Orwil St Community House Inc.

Profit & Loss Statement July 2023 to June 2024

Income	
Funding - DFFH	116,267
Funding - Frankston City Council	50,363
Association Membership	36
Classes	26,557
Donations	2,396
Fundraising	3,449
Interest	5,041
Venue Hire	33,126
Total Income	\$237,235
Expenses	
Advertising	1,100
Assets Purchased	7,539
Audit Fees	750
Bank Charges	124
Donation	300
Facilitator Fee	33,496
House Expenses	9,752
Insurance	76
Memberships & Subscriptions	4,232
Office Supplies	2,705
Program Expenses	5,301
Salaries	204,079
Telephone/Internet	1,806
Training & Development	222
Utilities	2,207
Workcover	2,717
Total Expenses	\$276,406
Other Treeses	
Other Income	
Grants	10,977
Total Other Income	\$10,977
Net Profit/Loss	\$28,194



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ORWIL ST COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, a special purpose financial report of Orwil St Community House Inc., which comprises the balance sheet and profit and loss statement for the financial year ended 30th June 2024.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein and has determined that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of the members. I conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.



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A. B. N. 42 919 908 941

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness. of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting requirements. 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 that which it was prepared.

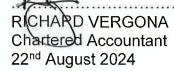
I believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, I have complied with the independence of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of Orwil St Community House Inc. presents a true and fair, in all material respects the financial position of Orwil St Community House Inc. as of 30th June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the committee's accounting policies. The financial reports are also in accordance with the relevant regulatory framework (Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)





MANAGER'S REPORT

This year has passed so quickly that we've hardly had time to scratch ourselves, between events, programs, meetings and important conversations, it feels like our feet have barely touched the ground. In the time that has passed so quickly we've achieved a great deal, building on projects started in the previous financial year and partnering up with organisations like Family Life and VALID this year to provide more opportunities to connect with our community members.

Our Volunteers

Our Volunteers have been busier than ever with the many events we've run throughout the year. Our Committee of Management Volunteers have been instrumental in supporting these events and ensuring the harmonious management of the house.

We are grateful to John Darke for his continued support of our Women's Shed program. John shares his skills each week teaching women how to do woodworking and home maintenance. Padmini and Mary continue to help us in Reception each week, ensuring we have two people in the office at all times.

Thank you to our wonderful neighbour Peter who regularly mows the lawns for us, as well as many of the other Orwil Street neighbours' lawns along the street. And thank you James, who put our bins out and brings them back in every week, as well as tidying the front yard for us.

We are very grateful for the beautiful women who volunteer to provide Reiki to our community each week, Sunshine, Joy, Suzie and Mariette, thank you for all the healing you share.

Once again with funding from the Department of Social Services we were able to show our appreciation and provide support to our volunteers through reimbursements of expenses, training and this year we provided a special lunch during Volunteers Week.



MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

Our Student Placements - Occupational Therapy Students from Monash

This year we've had six Occupational Therapy students on placement from Monash University as part of the Pathways to Mental Health Practice Project. Students have been supported with long arm supervision by Laura, facilitating groups for the house that have focused on mental health and wellbeing, including Values and Self Care. The students have also supported other groups at the house, helping in the Women's Shed Workshops and Playgroups.





Our Staff and Facilitators

All of the wonderful people who facilitate our programs or work in administration to support the operations of the house form part of our talented Team and we are lucky to have them. Thank you to Melanie for her support with our Baby Playgroup and Big Play Days earlier in the year. Unfortunately, the numbers for playgroup have been low, so we've been unable to sustain a regular group.

Thank you to all of our facilitators who give so much of themselves to share their skills and expertise with our community members who are so eager to learn new things.

Our Impact and connections

In the last financial year OSCH delivered 1270 programs for the local community, welcoming 14,992 visitors to the house. Staff provided 4048 hours of support to the community, providing facilitation, information, referral, administration, financial management and coordination for the house.

Volunteers, including Committee of Management members have contributed approximately 2438 hours of their valuable time, skills and experience, to support the operations and governance of Orwil Street Community House during this time.

Our counsellors have provided 668 hours of support to community members in the last financial year, in person at the House, over the phone and on zoom.

We are grateful to Lynne Alexandra, Sandra Garnier and Sandra Wilson for their commitment to providing accessible and affordable counselling to our community members. A special thanks to Michael Woolsey for his ongoing support of our counsellors through professional group supervision.

OUR SPECIAL EVENTS

International Women's Day Morning Tea

Hayley Gravener, of Be Healed, the Declutter Expert and specialist Trauma Counsellor presented at out IWD morning tea this year, reminding all women that they matter, and our lived experience is important.





Biggest Morning Tea Fundraiser

Padmini decided this year that she wanted to organize a Biggest Morning Tea event to raise funds for the Cancer Council and the community got behind her in the wonderful way they do to create a fun day of much yummy food and frivolity had by all! Everyone bought a plate to share and there were hampers raffled with goods donated by local businesses.

With everyone's help Padmini raised \$1020 for the Cancer Council. Thank you to all who supported this event.







Harmony Day Morning Tea

This year for Harmony Day we partnered with Family Life, working with Aly Madden to create a morning tea that celebrated the diversity of our local neighbourhood. We played some trivia, and everyone bought a plate of food to share. We had some door prizes of cooking books from various countries that we gave away and a special coin celebrating the Luna New Year. Thank you to Family Life for providing funding for this event.

People attending brought their favourite dishes from the Netherlands, Britain, Poland, Macedonia, Canada, India, Sri Lanka, China, South America, and Australia. It was a wonderful atmosphere, with everyone sharing stories about their culture and traditions. Thank you to everyone who attended.



OUR SPECIAL EVENTS

Voice to Parliament

In her last visit to Orwil Street Community House, Peta Murphy MP, at the invitation of the VALID Peer Action Group, attended a session to talk to us about the Voice to Parliament. The VALID Peer Action Group are a self-advocacy group for local people with disabilities. As always Peta was relaxed and welcoming, explaining the referendum in easy-to-understand terms. Peta, you are greatly missed.

Disability Pride Event

Early in 2023 VALID and the Peer Action Group approached us to organize a celebration of Disability Pride. They wanted to hold an art competition and event for International Day of People with a Disability. Of course, we said yes, and the event was bigger than we ever imagined with over 100 people attending on the day. Following this we were approached by Kelly Bolton and Kath Struthers from the Brotherhood of Saint Laurence (BSL) to be involved in a Universal Design Project for events. Kath and Kelly have facilitated two codes ign workshops with a group of passionate community members with a disability, supported by local services. We are now in the process of organising an event for International Day of People with a Disability 2024 and looking at a plan for a bigger event in the future!









Teddy Bear's Picnic in the Park for Families Week

In May 2024 we partnered with Family Life and FCC to celebrate Families Week with a Teddy Bears Picnic in the Park. Organisations attending included Mental Health and Wellbeing Local, Oz Child, Anglicare BSL and Relationships Matter. Families participated in games, story time and left with a gift bag of goodies and information. Thank you to Shanny Gordon from Family Life and Elaine from FCC for organising this event.

OUR SPECIAL EVENTS

Garage Sale Trail

This was our first year as part of this Australia wide movement to encourage people to upcycle, recycle or sell their unwanted stuff rather than sending it to landfill. The Garage Sale Trail is Australia's biggest second-hand treasure hunt with over 3 million pre-loved items going up for sale over two big weekends of garage sales. We are busily preparing to be part of this event again, with our second Big Garage Sale in November 2024.



Celebrating Seniors Week

Another first Celebrating Seniors week with our resident Chinese and South American Senior Citizens groups. We welcomed over 120 people on the day to experience our seniors Tai Chi demonstrations, a delicious South American BBQ and games in the park. It was a fabulous day, and we plan to make this a yearly event.





Universal Design Project – Acoustic Panels

In 2022 we were successful in receiving funds to purchase acoustic panels for our counselling rooms and portable panels for our larger meeting rooms to reduce noise and echo in our rooms and hallway. We finally completed this project in April 2024 with the installation of printed panels in our counselling rooms and plain white panelling down the hallway. These panels have made such a difference in the reduction of noise in the hallway, and the printed panels provide a beautifying lift as well as increased privacy in the counselling rooms. Thank you to Alison and the team at Baresque for their assistance in choosing our panels and designs. Many thanks to Joe and John for assembly of our portable panels and installing all of the panels.

OUR PARTNERS

Every year we work hard to network and partner with key stakeholders and organisations that can help further our mission in achieving outcomes for our community.

Wintringham continued to provide support to community members aged 50+ on a Friday morning with Koni visiting the house to provide outreach support up until October 2023.

We continue to work with the **Community Plate Action Group**, a community initiative, taking a collective approach to strengthen the local food system and improve wellbeing in the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region.

In July 2023 we partnered with Peninsula Health and The Community Plate Action Group to teach people how to **Grow Some Food**. Chris Kirkpatrick applied for funding through the FCC Community Grants to run a series of workshops for the community teaching new gardeners how to Grow Some Food.

Chris delivered the first 3 workshops at Orwil Street Community House, **Frankston North Community Centre and Belvedere Community Centre**:

- 33 beginner gardeners were educated around the practical elements of growing food.
- 91% participants surveyed reported improved knowledge of growing food.
- 82% participants surveyed learned about how growing food benefits climate change.
- 50% participants surveyed were likely to connect with a community garden.
- A social media campaign delivered messaging around the environmental and health benefits of growing food to a total reach of over 3,200 users on Instagram and over 500 users on Facebook.

Two of the remaining three workshops will be delivered by Erin at Orwil Street Community House and Frankston North Community Centre. The final workshop will be facilitated by Living Culture, a culturally appropriate workshop for **Nairm Marr Djambana**.





OUR PARTNERS

Pathways for Carers Program brings together FCC, BSL, OSCH and lead carers from across Frankston to gather for a walk on the first Thursday of the month. The group supports approximately 10-15 carers each month, providing a free morning tea and information from services that can provide support to carers. This year the group has been supported financially to pay for the morning teas with funding from FCC and the Peninsula Carers Council. A big thank you to our organising committee members Karen McMahon FCC, Lisa-Marie Prountzos BSL NDIS, Annette and Mary, our Lead Carers.



Susan Morse has continued to provide free Craniosacral treatments and discounted Shiatsu massage for our community members this year.

Nepean School Social Connections Group - Gardening in the Park

We made a wonderful connection with Nepean School this year through their Occupational Therapist Tia Stewart and teacher Annabel Lock. Students from the school visited once a week to grow veggies in the community garden beds in the Orwil Street Reserve next door. They painted the garden beds, created signs for the plants and made a scarecrow for the garden. The many edible and scented plants in the garden make it an ideal sensory experience for everyone who visits the park and it's a joy to watch the children explore the gardens whenever they visit.

OUR PROGRAMS

Our Existing Programs

We have continued to run Basic Computer classes in small groups and one to one, finding that many of the people who need support have specific issues with their IT, which requires a more individualised approach.

Programs that maintained good attendance this year included Walking to Wellness, Cooking on a Budget, Women's Shed Workshops, Art Bites Workshops, Mandala workshops, Women's Wellbeing, Seated Exercise, Card Making, Tai Chi and Sound Healing.





The programs that struggled with low attendance included Garden to Plate Cooking Program, Transformational Dance, True Blue Men's Group, Yoga Jam, Meditation, Mindfulness and Zumba.

Our New Programs

New programs that have been popular this year included the Dream Catcher Workshop with Padmini, Hayley's Declutter Workshops and Mariette's Solstice Celebrations.







OUR SUPPORT GROUPS AND COMMUNITY RUN PROGRAMS

Included: Steps to Wholeness, True Blue Men's Group, Dads in Distress, Women's Wellbeing Group; Frankston Bipolar Support Group; Brain Injury Friends, Driver Education Program, BSL Dad's Group, VALID's Peer Action Group, and the Frankston City Council Supported Playgroup.

Thank you to the many groups and organisations that have chosen to hire space at the house this year. The income from room hire helps support programs and the operations of the house. Many thanks to the following groups for choosing to use OSCH.

- · Action your Ability
- · ALANON a twelve step program for family and friends of people with addictions.
- · Be Healed The Declutter Queen
- · Belvedere Community Centre
- · Bipolar Life Victoria a support group for people living with bipolar disorder.
- · Brain Injury Matters Support for people with an acquired brain injury
- · Brotherhood of St Laurence Dad's Group
- · Chinese Senior Citizens Association
- · Community House Network Southern Region
- Dads in Distress a support group for Dad's going through a separation.
- · Der Die Das Melbourne German Language programs for children.
- · DFFH
- · Drink Driver Education
- · Elemental Wisdom
- · Embodied Being
- · Frankston City Council Supported Playgroup
- · French at Work
- · Headspace
- · Jamica Photography
- · Kadampa Meditation
- · Keystone Strata
- · Liberty Disability
- · Monash Carers Clinic
- · Nepean School
- · Our Wave Amplify
- · Oz Child Kinship Carers Support group
- · Parent Carers Group for parents of children with a disability.
- · Peninsula Carers Council
- · Peninsula Community Health Service.
- · Peninsula Community Legal Centre
- · Project Fresh Start
- · Redress Scheme
- · Relationships Australia
- · Sewing with Betsy-Sue
- · Solutions Together
- · South American Senior Citizens Association
- Ti Tree Community Housing Cooperative
- · VALID Advocacy services for people with a disability.
- · Wintringham Housing



DONATIONS

\$900 Peninsula Business Network

\$50 Anonymous

\$500 Anonymous

\$220 Caroline Bowler (on behalf of Trish McMahon)

\$150 For Pathway for Carer's

\$100 Pauline Darke

\$50 Jill Steen

\$25 Susan Morse

- 50 Pamper Packs for Men & Women Pinch a Poo
- Lots of Books Phyliss and other community members
- Bread and fresh produce The Breakkie Club
- Wool and other craft materials
- Toys
- Pots and other kitchen items Veronica Baker
- Winter Woolies Veronica Baker
- Vacuum Cleaner, Walker and Heater Veronica Baker
- Vegetable plants and fruit trees for the garden
- Sewing Machine
- Lap Top Nemera
- Fresh Vegan Meals twice weekly Project Fresh Start
- Hamper for Biggest Morning Tea Henry's Mercato Bayside
- Voucher KMART
- Glasses, Cutlery, Biscuits James
- Vouchers and Goods for Children's Gardening Bunnings
- Dream Catchers Padmini
- Mugs and Side Board Michelle Cogley
- Outdoor Table and Chairs Peter
- Baked Goods for Garage Sale Lynda, Kim and Karen



THANK YOUS

Thank you to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria and Frankston City Council for their support with ongoing funding.

Many thanks to the wonderful FCC officers that have supported us throughout the year, in particular Fiona Cann and Tim Bearup, as well as the planning and maintenance teams, Judy, JP and Laura, for your prompt response to all our calls.

Thank you to our networkers, Antonia Halloran-Lavelle and Wendy Hiam, from the Community House Network Southern Region for your continued support, valuable information and training for all neighbourhood house staff and committees who are network members.

Thank you to the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Team, our peak body who have provided support, information and training to the sector throughout the year.

I am grateful to work with a wonderful team in our office, Kate and Kim, thank you for your support throughout the year, and the incredible job you do supporting the administration, reception and finances of the house.

We said farewell to our wonderful cleaner Birgit this year, whom we miss dearly. Thank you for looking after the house so well for the last three years. Welcome Kamila to the team.

Thank you to our Committee of Management for working together to govern the organisation and support the local community. Your selflessness in service to the people we support is evident and greatly appreciated. Many thanks to you all for your support in my role.

In the year ahead we look forward to continuing to build on the partnerships we have developed, utilising our local leaders to find creative ways to meet the needs of our changing community.

We look forward to seeing you all at OSCH.



KAREN VANDERKAAY

Manager

