

# ALPHINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

2019  
2020

ANNUAL REPORT

**Front cover:** Stories from Isolation

**Back cover:** Happiness

Alphington Community Centre Inc.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As COVID-19 hit, Alphington Community Centre explored different ways of connecting our community, including keeping in touch with our older members on the telephone and modifying our programs for online engagement.

As a community we have enjoyed the weekly **ACC Online** newsletters, the **Honesty** letters and **Stories from Isolation** wooden people/sculpture project, to name but a few of the recent new initiatives at ACC.

I would like to congratulate Leanne on her enthusiasm, leadership and innovative ideas over the last year and recognise the wonderful work that has continued since COVID-19 by all ACC staff including Kalmina, Suzanne, Jenny, Jen, Dave, Lee and Jill.

But I'd also like to reflect back on this last year, remembering how we typically come together as a community.

In November we saw 26 history enthusiasts walking the streets of the original Alphington Village, thirsty for more knowledge of who came before us and the legacy we are so lucky to enjoy today.

In December our ACC community and friends gathered for an early **Christmas Lunch** at the Alphington Bowls Club, to celebrate the year. We were treated to wonderful entertainment and a delicious meal.

Shortly after, in a packed venue, again at ABC, neighbours and friends enjoyed the Christmas spirit as Jan Wright, accompanied by the Alphingtons, guided us through our favourite carols. The gold coin donations from this annual event went to the **East Gippsland firefighters**.

March saw our last community gathering before lockdown, the **Alphington Show**. Exhibits, stalls, Devonshire teas, neighbours and dogs! A fun and slightly competitive community event we all look forward to, it is a chance to connect in with our creative community of artists, gardeners and crafters, the local **CWA** and **Preston Garden Club**.

ACC enjoys strong community connections, particularly with the **City of Darebin** and the **City of Yarra**, but also with a wide variety of local community organisations including the **Melbourne Farmers Market**, **SAFCA** and the **Darebin Parklands Association**.

Change really has been a feature of the year, and we've seen some significant works completed both internally and externally at ACC. The **kitchen has been updated**, our windows have all been upgraded and as passers by on neighbourhood walks will attest, we have a **new mural** out on the corner. We also have a **new pergola** out the front of the community shed and a **new ramp and new front door**. I think lockdown has generated a thirst for learning for all of us and I am sure the physical changes at ACC will enhance future program delivery.

This year I would like to thank our supportive **Committee of Governance**, Michelle, Heather, Andy, Amaya and Kate. You are all so generous with your time and energy. I would also like to thank **Peter, our accountant**, who ensures we remain a healthy entity.

Finally I would commend to all, if you find yourself with a little extra time on your hands and a desire to be involved in this wonderful Alphington community, then there are many opportunities awaiting your participation.

Thank you, stay safe.

**Anne Crehan**

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

This year more than ever I would like to thank our staff, committee, partners, supporters, friends and volunteers who are all working with us to ensure that nobody in our community falls through the cracks in these unprecedented times.

We started our year oozing creativity. We trialed new activities in our **community shed**. We had great interest and attendance across a series of **craft-based short courses** for adults. Our **book clubs** grew in popularity. We held a number of successful community events around art, craft, music, and food, and our **community lunches** continued to grow in popularity.

But then coronavirus hit us. From March we pivoted our focus to core business - connecting with, caring about, and looking after our existing neighbourhood friends, and reaching out to grow our network, to engage with and support the most vulnerable in our immediate and broader community. Our robust COVID-19 response involved simultaneously building up our online capability and presence, investing in emergency relief, and rapidly implementing a new program of neighbourhood experiences as other engagement opportunities waned. You'll find more detail in this report.

ACC is uniquely placed to respond to COVID-19. Our strong grassroots relationships enable us to understand changing community needs and our agile modus operandi, anchored in a community development framework, allows us to adapt and respond quickly to meet new challenges.

This year I'd like to recognise the immeasurable value of secure funding from the **State Government, City of Darebin** and **City of Yarra**. It means we can confidently plan and deliver our unique mix of targeted initiatives.

And I'd also like to acknowledge the **fabulous volunteers** that enable us to capitalise on this investment, and deliver a suite of programs with such wide reaching benefits, including building skills and knowledge, maximising opportunities for local connections and friendships, and encouraging everyone in our community to lead active, sustainable lives.

## THE FUTURE

We're currently exploring our capacity to run programs outdoors.

We know that while coronavirus is a feature of our lives, community interaction will be safer outdoors. We are looking to adapt our site accordingly. Additional pergolas, landscaping and flexible indoor/outdoor furniture and equipment are some of our priorities for the coming year.

Thanks once again everyone!

**Leanne Coughlin**



# PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

This year we were once again delighted to benefit from the support of numerous organisations in our local and wider community and to partner with so many to deliver a diverse and responsive range of regular activities, short courses, and events.

## SUPPORTERS

One of our all-time favourite funders – Lee and the crew at **Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank** brought to life our suite of beautiful GIFs (moving images) highlighting 12 simple, everyday activities to bring happiness to our lives. And they provided a grant for our MyTime Peer Support Playgroup (for families with additional needs). **Recklink** also donated sporting equipment for these families as coronavirus meant we all had to stay at home.

We were delighted to connect up with the **Inner North Community Foundation** for the first time this year. They supported us to purchase a laptop to build our online presence and community engagement when COVID restrictions arose.

The **City of Darebin** funded our new mural (executed so beautifully by local artist Lee Arkapaw), updated our kitchen with a new dishwasher (a lifesaver for community lunch) and installed a new door and ramp for us out the front, making our entrance friendlier for all our users, including those with a disability.

**Grill'd, Fairfield** kindly supported our Women in the Shed program in its infancy through their 'Local Matters' funding. **Bunnings Fairfield** helped us finish fitting out the shed. **BeConnected** funded an outreach project that explored and encouraged local connections between schools and aged care facilities for digital learning. **Nelson Alexander** once again funded advertising boards for our events. We appreciate this ongoing relationship. **E&A Salce** provided great prizes for the Alphington Dog Show.

The **Victorian Government** supported us with funding through the COVID-19 Business Support Fund grant and the DHHS Men's Shed Funding Program grant. The latter enabled us to build a new pergola and kitchen outside the community shed.

And last but not least, **Yarra Valley Water** came up trumps - their Conservation grant will enable us to improve water efficiency across our site and install a brand new water tank for our community garden.

## PARTNERS

Alphington and Fairfield Vet  
Alphington Bowls Club (ABC)  
Alphington CWA  
Alphingtons Choir  
Alphington Open Studios  
Amrita Yoga  
Ankylosing Spondylitis Victoria  
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)  
Australian Men's Shed Association  
Be Connected  
Darebin City Council  
Darebin Fuse Festival  
Darebin Libraries  
Darebin Neighbourhood House Network  
Darebin Parklands Association  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Fairfield U3A  
First Alphington Scouts  
Friends of Baucau  
Harps for Happiness  
LearnIt Programs  
Learn Local  
Melbourne Farmers Markets  
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic)  
Playgroup Victoria  
Preston Garden Club  
Secondbite  
South Alphington and Fairfield Civic Association (SAFCA)  
Victorian Men's Shed Association  
Village Greening  
Yarra City Council  
Yarra Neighbourhood House Network

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

At ACC we use a community development framework to focus our energy, and build and evaluate our program of regular activities, short courses and events. We utilise ABS data, talk to our community, review our successes and pursue new opportunities and ideas to continuously improve.



This year we built and strengthened a number of community relationships. We actively engaged with our local childcare centres and kinders, our maternal and child health professionals, and the local women's shelters, to look at how we could work together in coming years.

We also built a new connection with Chronos Care, our local aged care facility. We explored opportunities for local students to help residents master their digital devices and worked together on a shared community art project.

## SUPPORTING YOUNG FAMILIES

Starting a family is a time of major change, a time where feelings of isolation, and mental health issues can arise. We run playgroups to support young families and help them create community connections. We ran 5 playgroups this year and were delighted to connect our longstanding peer support playgroup with **Down Syndrome Victoria** and **MyTime**.

## SUPPORTING OUR AGING POPULATION

We offer a range of low cost/no cost programs to engage with older community members who find themselves struggling financially and/or feeling lonely or socially disconnected. Examples include community craft, book clubs and gardening group. This year we also ran programs such as line dancing to encourage people to stay fit and active, and community lunch to provide community connection and a no-cost meal (and food to take home) for those not necessarily eating well.

## SUPPORTING PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

In 2019/20 we ran a number of access all abilities (AAA) programs including a carer-led art program and our longstanding bowls partnership with **Alphington Bowls Club**. AAA Bowls is a fabulous team effort and we appreciate the bowlers who volunteer their time each week to make it run smoothly.

In the shed our AAA program introduced tools like hammers and electric drills. Participants enjoyed taking home the projects they worked so hard on. We are aware that the demand for AAA programs is growing as more people get access to carers via the NDIS, giving them more autonomy to do the things they love.



# COMMUNITY SHED

Our community shed provides space for all members of our community to build new skills and gain confidence, to get messy and dirty, to use tools and make things with their hands. It also creates the opportunity for people to connect with others and make new neighbourhood friends.

This year we finished fitting out our shed and continued to build its use. We introduced a Women in the Shed program which has been a resounding success. In 2020 we explored **Learn Local** funding for the first time with this program. Women have jumped at the chance to develop new skills and many participants have also noted their increasing confidence to tackle small repair jobs around their homes. This is a wonderful outcome for women living alone. It is a great addition to our Men in the Shed and Access All Abilities programs.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our events provide opportunities for people to connect with us, to volunteer, to share the joys of food and music, to show off their skills and talents, to enjoy their neighbourhood, and to make new friends along the way.

## FROM THE HEART

This shared event showcased Yarra's neighbourhood houses with a focus on sustainability. A fun celebration of food, activities, art, craft and music.

## ALPHINGTON OPEN STUDIOS WEEKEND

A wonderful event where local artists open their studios for the general public to visit. ACC helps with publicity and provides a hanging space so that artists just outside the boundaries can join in.

## ACC CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our Christmas market enables neighbourhood makers (micro-businesses) to sell their wares locally. And buying local is good for the environment. Our Christmas market is anticipated annually and is a win-win for everyone!

## ACC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thanks **Alphington Bowls Club** for lending us your facilities again. Our lunch featured mid-meal entertainment by the uke group and the line dancers, with carols led by the **Alphingtones** choir. It brings together a cross-section of our community of regular users once a year - and it's always fun!

## ALPHINGTON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Packed out in 2019, this fabulous shared grassroots community event is organised by us, held at the **Alphington Bowls Club** and led by **Alphingtones** choir. Thanks for the publicity **Nelson Alexander**.

## ALPHINGTON SHOW AND DOG SHOW

Our key annual event just slipped in before lockdown. We thank **Alphington CWA** and the **Preston Garden Club** for judging the entries. We thank all the entrants and stall holders. Our unique 'country show in the city' is a great profile building/publicity exercise for us - a first introduction to ACC for many. Thanks **Nelson Alexander** for helping us spread the word.

The Dog Show, now part of the broader Alphington Show, invites families young and old bring their fur babies along for a fun and friendly competition judged by the **Alphington and Fairfield Vet**. With lots of silly categories, the fabulous prizes are generously donated by **E&A Salce**.





# COVID-19 RESPONSE

When the world suddenly contracts to the neighbourhood it is more important than ever to feel connected locally. In March when shutdowns started we quickly reassessed our programming and took action to support those most in need in our community.

## CONSOLIDATING EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS

In the face of a world pandemic, we focused our attention on what we *could* do. We moved a number of existing programs online via Zoom and WhatsApp, including our book clubs, ukulele group, choir, line dancers and the CWA.

We reached out to the most vulnerable in our community and those who we knew didn't have internet access/skills, via telephone. We kept in regular contact with new and old friends including community shed participants, community lunch attendees, our gardeners, volunteers, crafters and more.

## BUILDING NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECTIONS

With some very timely financial support from the **Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank** and the **Inner North Community Foundation** we quickly built ACC Online, a web-based daily blog (also on Facebook and Instagram). We consolidated this blog into a weekly email sent to over 1000 locals.

ACC Online is deliberately framed as a neighbourhood conversation, written as if we are talking to our local friends who just popped in to see us on any normal day. It covers our news, neighbourhood happenings, ideas for how to keep busy and connected, food relief information, things that link to our regular activities (e.g. recipes, local history) and cheery personal stories. It has been very well received. The audience has grown steadily.

## ASSISTING WITH EMERGENCY RELIEF

From March we worked with the **Darebin Neighbourhood House Network** and partners in **Darebin Council's Emergency Relief and Support Services working group** to activate local emergency relief. We delivered meals to over 30 households weekly, provided practical assistance for people in dire circumstances and continued our essential goods support for asylum seekers, via the **Asylum Seeker Resource Centre**. We know that asylum seekers have been hit particularly hard by some of the impacts of the pandemic.

*“Thank you so much for the fantastic email newsletters, which I devour with great interest each week. I really appreciate all your effort!”*

*“Once again, a great job on keeping the ‘hood connected through your weekly update.”*

*“Just wanted to say how much I appreciate the ACC weekly news. Thanks for the time and effort you have put into providing updates, tips and useful links to other websites.”*

*“Thanks you for these wonderful updates. They have been so helpful and supportive.”*

# COMMUNITY ARTS

There is a saying that ‘art pulls community together’. This is certainly the experience at ACC. In the last year we have transformed our street presence with engaging community arts projects. And more recently we’ve ventured into the wider neighbourhood to share the joy and love of art.



In March we completed our new **mural** welcoming people to our site. In June we installed little wooden people clustered around our entrance, wearing clothes that tell our neighbourhood **Stories from Isolation** in pictures.

Since April we have posted weekly letters at sites around the neighbourhood, **Honestly** sharing personal individual experiences of lockdown.

And we made our **Happiness** poster available on the street. It was also made into GIFs, to share online, and reminds us of 12 simple things we can all do each day to look after ourselves.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

**Despite complications arising from COVID-19, I am able to report healthy and well-balanced financials for the year 2019-20. All financial and planning goals are being achieved despite obvious difficulties.**

The financial position of Alphington Community Centre has been well managed by Leanne and her staff as well as being overseen by our Finance Officer, Peter Drinan.

This year, it can be reported that the Centre has seen a higher than usual trading profit of \$58,033. This increased profit has come about due to a range of grants and subsidies from the Victorian and Federal governments to all organisations affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

Despite closing down much of the face-to-face daily contact in the last few months, staff have been retained, transitioning to working from home. As such, ACC has continued to be able to deliver a range of beneficial community programs.

Alphington Community Centre is set up for a positive financial position in 2020-21. Please refer to the detailed financial reports attached.

**Andrew Minko**

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## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

In the opinion of the Members of the Committee of the Association,

1. The accompanying revenue statement is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the Association's income for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.
2. The accompanying balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs for the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.
3. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association can meet its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

CHAIRPERSON



TREASURER



Dated this 26 day of October 2020

# BALANCE SHEET

	June 2020	June 2019
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank & Cash Accounts	156130	145540
Trade & Other Receivables	9050	0
Other Current Assets	11256	1887
<b>Current Assets Total</b>	<b>176436</b>	<b>147427</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment: At Cost	88011	71932
Property, Plant & Equipment: Less Accum. Depn.	-38358	-26322
<b>Non-Current Assets Total</b>	<b>49653</b>	<b>45610</b>
<b>Assets Total</b>	<b>226089</b>	<b>193037</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors & Other Payables	18258	17232
Payroll Liabilities	15805	7908
Provisions - Employee Entitlements	32902	18780
Provisions - Other	0	43500
Revenue in Advance	53643	58170
<b>Current Liabilities Total</b>	<b>120608</b>	<b>145590</b>
<b>Liabilities Total</b>	<b>120608</b>	<b>145590</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>105481</b>	<b>47447</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	47448	39438
Net Income	58033	8010
<b>Equity Total</b>	<b>105481</b>	<b>47448</b>
<b>Equity Total</b>	<b>105481</b>	<b>47448</b>

# INCOME STATEMENT

	June 2020	June 2019
<b>Income</b>		
Grants	228968	198551
Program Income	10875	11031
Room Hire	2878	4573
Other Income	4882	5313
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>247603</b>	<b>219468</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Board & Governance Expenses	533	437
Community Program Expenses	32133	19702
Computer and Office Equipment	797	1062
Depreciation	16412	6097
Donations	849	884
Human Resources	184476	171168
Insurance	284	255
Marketing Expenses	4144	4254
Office Expenses	1441	1332
Subscriptions	705	871
Utilities	5157	5308
Volunteer Costs	155	88
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>247086</b>	<b>211458</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Profit</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>8010</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
CoVid-19 Income Support	57516	0
<b>Other Income/Expense Total</b>	<b>57516</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>58033</b>	<b>8010</b>

# CASHFLOW STATEMENT

	June 2020	June 2019
<b>Income</b>		
Grants Received	239469	222590
Program Income	16047	23528
Room Hire	3256	0
Other Receipts	3212	522
CoViD Support	38000	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>299984</b>	<b>246640</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	268940	199060
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>268940</b>	<b>199060</b>
<b>Net Cash Inflows From Operations</b>	<b>31044</b>	<b>47580</b>
<b>Net Cash Inflows from Investing Activities</b>		
Purchases of Fixed Assets	20455	8373
<b>Total Net Cash Inflows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>20455</b>	<b>8373</b>
<b>Net Cash Inflows</b>	<b>10589</b>	<b>39207</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Surplus with Cash Flow from Operations</b>		
Operating Surplus/-Deficit for Year	58033	8010
Add Back Depreciation	16412	6097
<b>Total Reconciliation of Operating Surplus with Cash Flow from Operations</b>	<b>74445</b>	<b>14107</b>
<b>Movement in Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>		
Decrease/Increase In Receivables	-18419	762
Decrease/Increase In Creditors & Provisions	-24982	32711
<b>Total Movement in Assets &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>-43401</b>	<b>33473</b>
<b>Net Cash Inflows From Operations</b>	<b>31044</b>	<b>47580</b>
<b>Cash at Bank 30 June</b>		
Cash at Bank at Start of Year	145541	106334
Add Net Cash Inflows/-Outflows	10589	39207
<b>Total Cash at Bank 30 June</b>	<b>156130</b>	<b>145541</b>
<b>Made Up as Follows</b>		
Bendigo - Operating Account	130492	123034
Bendigo - Savings Account	2743	32
Bendigo - Term Deposit	22805	22292
Cash Drawer	90	183
<b>Total Made Up as Follows</b>	<b>156130</b>	<b>145541</b>

**Alphington Community Centre acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the traditional custodians of our land and pays respects to the culture, diversity and value of all First Nations people.**

PLAN  
YOUR  
DAY

SLEEP WELL at

night

eat GOOD food



exercise RIGHT



Meet your



KEEP up with FRIENDS



HELP  
OUT  
OTHERS

NEIGHBOUR

SPEND

time in NATURE



SHARE



YOUR SMILE

DO the THINGS

U MOST LOVE



Learn SOMETHING

=new=

