

# 2022-2023

## Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Annual Report



Kew  
Neighbourhood  
Learning Centre





# Thriving Equitable Resilient

Front cover and inside cover Artwork –Lina Cololmbani



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# Chair and Executive Manager Report

As we reflect on the year gone by, it's evident that the challenges of the initial half of 2022-23 set a unique tone for Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KNLC). Both the management and staff anticipated a gradual end to 2022 and a potentially difficult start to 2023. However, a surprising turn of events unfolded during the latter half of the first six months, revealing a promising upswing in community engagement.

The latter part of 2022 witnessed a steady resurgence, with individuals returning to participate in one-off workshops, social activities, and we experienced a spike in inquiries about our programs. A remarkable appetite particularly emerged for our Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) classes, leading to an uptick in enrolments. This unexpected resurgence, though welcomed, led us to cautiously prepare for a gradual start in the first half of 2023.

January brought with it an unforeseen surge of enthusiasm as we opened our doors. Waiting lists of eager learners, participants, and volunteers awaited us. The experience was nothing short of euphoric as we welcomed back familiar faces and greeted new ones, each brimming with a thirst to reconnect and actively engage in both our established and newly designed programs.

The challenges of the preceding years had nudged KNLC to re-evaluate our offerings. We initiated a review of our programs and activities, while actively seeking feedback from our community. The response was heartening – our learners, participants, and volunteers felt a sustained sense of connection and engagement through the consistent communication we provided.

During this period, KNLC remained steadfast in delivering an array of educational programs under the Learn Local banner. Our social support programs for the aged and disabled in our community continued to make a positive impact. Fee-for-service programs, our Occasional Care program (Shoestring) supporting local children and families, and our Social Enterprise café (Sparechair), all played pivotal roles in rejuvenating the sense of community.

While we appreciated government financial support, the pandemic-induced loss of income underscored our lean operational framework. KNLC, alongside other Learn Locals, championed efforts, led by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and Adult and Community Education Victoria, to address the funding gap for ACFE programs. These initiatives sought to secure increased funding levels, especially during a time when additional resources were necessary to address learner re-engagement and program innovation.

His endeavour underscored the crucial role that our funders play and the importance of them comprehending the inherent value of our work.

Our gratitude extends to our funders for their sustained support, but it remains evident that we continue to shoulder the responsibility of program planning, development, and marketing, absorbing the associated on-costs. We will continue to work with our funding bodies to recognise the need to align funding with the holistic value of program delivery, encompassing development, resourcing, support, and ongoing evaluation.

As a community-focused For Purpose organisation, we consistently seek alternative financial avenues to sustain our programs. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Stuart Leslie Foundation and the Toorak Op Shop for their continued generosity, bolstering our programs and enterprises. These relationships demonstrate the significance of community and philanthropic support, advocating for us even when we might feel unseen.

In the face of a global pandemic and constraints providing services in an aging building, over the last 12 months KNLC maintained a spirit of innovation and growth. The popularity of our Women's Shed led to the introduction of Saturday sessions. The Kew Cart, initially a Tuesday morning initiative for Customer Service Students, now operates five days a week. And our Just in Time (JiT) Garden and Maintenance Enterprise has expanded its client base and learning focus.

KNLC upholds its commitment to the Social Enterprise model, championing 'business for good.' The Sparechair café and JiT Garden and Maintenance enterprises were conceived to address social and environmental issues. These enterprises not only support learning journeys but also provide pathways to better employment outcomes. They are transformative tools with the potential to create lasting social impacts, affecting whole communities.

This year marked our third Ro Allen Learn Local Award recipient in the Pre-accredited Learner category. Callum, like past winners, used his learning success as a stepping stone to further studies, pursuing animation at JMC Academy. It is a mark of KNLC that we celebrate all our students, supporting them well beyond their time at KNLC. Throughout the year KNLC was honoured to host Ministerial and local State and Federal member visits. The conversations generated by these visits underscored the significance of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres as safe spaces for people to connect, develop, and engage – a sentiment that resonated more than ever given the past few tumultuous years. We extend our deepest gratitude to our remarkable staff, particularly the office/programs team, for their unparalleled dedication. Our Board's unwavering support and guidance have been invaluable. As a management team, we remain committed to serving our community, offering opportunities for connection, learning, and growth to all. Together, we look forward to continue to weave the tapestry of community at KNLC.

**Scott Samson, Chair | Barbara Ghiani, Executive Manager**









# Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc

## Real Impact. Real Value.

**INCOME**      **\$985,100**

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**VALUE**      **\$4,372,871**

### **This figure includes the value of:**

Improved quality of life through social connection: **\$859,185**

Volunteer contributions: **\$106,337**

Services provided: **\$197,180**

Adult Community Education: **\$3,128,020**

Early childhood education and care: **\$80,884**

Social enterprise goods & services: **\$140,013**

### **Services value includes:**

- Computer/internet usage: **\$960**
- Facilities use or hire: **\$9,600**
- Résumé assistance: **\$5,400**  
Auspicing other organisations: **\$1,265**
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: **\$11,040**
- Fee for service activities: **\$30,167**

### **THIS COMMUNITY VALUE EQUATES TO:**

**\$4.44 FOR EVERY \$1 OF INCOME**

**\$48.19 FOR EVERY \$1**

**OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COORDINATION PROGRAM FUNDING  
OVER \$1,656.39 FOR EVERY HOUR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE IS IN  
USE**

### **EMPLOYMENT VALUE**

**16.6 FTE JOBS | INCLUDING 12.0 DIRECT AND 4.7 INDIRECT FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS**



THESE VALUES ARE PRODUCED BY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA BASED ON DATA PROVIDED BY KEW NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE INC IN THE 2022 NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES SURVEY. ONLY A LIMITED RANGE OF ACTIVITIES WHERE A DETERMINABLE VALUATION METHOD EXISTS ARE INCLUDED.





*Our*

## Vision

### A thriving, equitable and resilient local community.

We aspire for people in and around Kew to live with a sense of belonging and purpose, and be able to realise their potential. This applies regardless of people's backgrounds and life experiences. We recognise that life has its ups and downs so we also aspire for community resilience, whereby people can enjoy the good times and bounce back from the difficult times.

*Our*

## Purpose

### We empower people in and around Kew to learn and connect.

We provide opportunities and resources for our local community to learn, develop and grow. Our spaces, places and programs also enable people to meet and get to know one another, and make friends. Building skills and confidence, and being socially connected are critical for people to flourish, disadvantage to be addressed and communities to recover from adversity.

*Our*

## Impact Areas

### Social connection

From enabling initial contact to supporting ongoing interactions to building meaningful relationships, social connection will continue to be at the heart of what we do at Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre.



### Education and employment

Supporting education and employment pathways is central to our work and vital to our community. Learning opportunities and meaningful work also have other benefits, such as social connection and better wellbeing.



### With an equity lens and commitment

Some people experience more discrimination and disadvantage than others. That's why we're committed to fair and equitable communities, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

*Our*

## Organisational Priorities



**Supported and high-performing team with a culture of innovation**



**Financial resilience and responsibility backed by great governance**



**Data-driven decision making and digitally-enabled practice**



**Exceptional partnerships close to home and further afield.**

*Our*

## Values

**Leadership:** We embrace innovative approaches to remain relevant and responsive to our community's changing needs.

**Excellence:** We strive to learn and improve so we manage and deliver our services with professionalism and purpose.

**Approachability:** We care about the wellbeing of others and we will listen and respond with understanding kindness and care.

**Respect:** We are an inclusive community who warmly welcomes people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, valuing all contributions.

**Nurturing:** We work in collaboration, nurturing and strengthening partnerships and people to create stronger communities.



# Adult Education and Training

## Expanding Horizons at Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre: Empowering Learners through Innovation

At the heart of education lies the Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KewNLC), a beacon of opportunity and growth for learners of all walks of life. As an accredited Learn Local provider, KewNLC has once again demonstrated its commitment to transforming lives by securing a remarkable 20,745 hours of funding from the Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) in 2023. This achievement stands as a testament to the center's unwavering dedication to educational excellence and its profound impact on the community.

### Pioneering Learning: A Growing Journey

A remarkable trend has been sweeping through KewNLC's corridors as the number of enrolments surges across all programs. As students return to the center with renewed enthusiasm, the courses offered have proven to be not just relevant but transformative. This surge in demand is a reflection of the trust the community places in KewNLC and its ability to provide impactful education that transcends mere skills.

### 30 Pathways, Countless Possibilities

Within the walls of KewNLC, a tapestry of 30 Pre-accredited, LEAP, and Digital skills programs is meticulously woven, each thread representing an opportunity for growth and self-improvement. The center's commitment to progress is vividly illustrated by its addition of new tutors and the revival of programs that faced temporary pauses during the challenges of the COVID-19 era. Among these offerings, the Women's Shed (Trade Taster) Class has emerged as a true standout—a class that not only imparts skills but empowers individuals with a sense of agency in fields traditionally dominated by gender stereotypes. The recent expansion of this class to include a Saturday group speaks to its overwhelming popularity and the center's responsive approach to its learners' needs.

### A Tribute to the Torchbearers: Tutors and Volunteers

The success of KewNLC is a symphony played by many hands, and at its core are the dedicated tutors and volunteers. Their commitment, hard work, and unflagging dedication have nurtured a learning environment that goes beyond the classroom. Their impact resonates in the individual stories of growth and achievement that unfold within the center's walls. The tutors and volunteers not only impart knowledge but also foster a sense of belonging and encouragement that helps learners reach their full potential.

## Individual Journeys, Collective Triumphs

As the pages of KewNLC's journey turn, they unveil countless individual stories of transformation. Each student's journey is unique, a testament to the center's ability to meet learners at their level and guide them to new heights. These stories are a living testament to the center's mission—to create an inclusive and innovative learning community that serves as a catalyst for personal and collective growth.

In conclusion, the Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre is not merely an institution; it is a force of change, a sanctuary for growth, and a testament to the boundless potential of education. The funding grant, the surging enrolments, and the success of the center's diverse programs all point to a future that is brighter, more empowered, and enriched by the commitment of KewNLC to the art of learning and the pursuit of excellence. As the pages of KewNLC's story continue to be written, each chapter unfolds with hope, progress, and the promise of a more knowledgeable and vibrant community.



*I think my English is gradually improving.  
- I can meet good people, both teachers and friends, and enable me to participate in social activities and networks.  
-Helen Park, EAL student*



# Learn Local Awards

**The Ro Allen Award – Learn Local Pre-accredit Learner (skills for study and life)**



## Callum Lydiard

**Winner of the Ro Allen Award – Learn Local Pre-accredited Learner (Skills for study and Life)**

Callum has a work ethic to match his star ambitions. He recently completed the pre-accredited Creative Industries course at KNLC, which sent him on the road to becoming a filmmaker, artist and animator. Callum has a learning disability and is on the autism spectrum, but these issues won't impede his ambitions.

Learning from a professional producer gave him great insights into production process both in performance and filmmaking. He was immersed in a broad range of technical and creative activities and these experiences helped him determine his direction

The Creative industries course gave Callum the resources and opportunity to sharpen his newfound creative and technical skills on his own productions including a film called 'My Working Life' for the International Day of Disability 2021. Callum is excited to bring his visions to life in a new chapter, where he'll hone his filmmaking skills at JCM Acadamey



## Christina Li

**Nominee of the Ro Allen Award – Learn Local Pre-accredited Learner (Skills for study and Life)**

Christina enrolled in English language and Transition to Employment classes at KNLC to improve her English skills and develop an understanding of Australian culture. She arrived with low spirits and anxiety due to a series of personal issues. But with quiet determination, she became a valuable, enthusiastic participant who shared her own difficulties to help others.

Having already withdrawn from a university course, Christina was resolute about reconnecting with education and the wider community. Studying in a small class and supportive environment enable her to develop her social skills and recover as she honed her speaking, reading and writing competencies.

The Australian cultural content within the course enabled Christina to learn appropriate responses to personal and study situations. She triumphed over her difficulties and gained the confidence to resume higher education. With two scholarships, she embarked on a masters degree in Information Technology at Melbourne University and commenced in 2022

# Our Volunteers

**Volunteers play a crucial and diverse role in various aspects of our community, contributing their time, skills, and energy to make positive impacts. The role of volunteers is multifaceted and extends across different sectors and areas**

I'm Chris Liu, a new immigrant to Australia. I came from China with my family four years ago. My previous professional job was a human resource outsourcing manager.

I'm currently studying English in the AMEP program at Swinburne university. Last term I joined the SLPET course (Settlement Language Pathways to Employment and Training) at Swinburne university. This course helps migrants learn how to look for a job and gain some working experience in Australia. Fortunately, I got a 40 hours work placement in KNLC.

I worked as an administrator and teachers' assistant, setting table, copy materials and sorting some documents.

KNLC is an amazing Neighbourhood Learning Center. The staff are very kind and warm hearted. I want to be one of them to contribute to our lovely neighbourhood.

I learnt a lot of new digital skills, for example, about how to avoid spam and how to use the smart phone efficiently. Also, I feel involved in the community and improve my English.



Jack's journey from migration to Australia to his current achievements is a testament to his resilience, determination, and the transformative power of education and community engagement. Arriving in Australia in 2020 for a fresh start, Jack's life took an unexpected turn during the lockdown when a bicycle accident left him with serious injuries, including head trauma and permanent knee damage. Battling both physical pain and emotional distress, Jack's prospects seemed bleak.


However, a turning point arrived in 2022 when he discovered Learn Local KNLC through a friend's recommendation. Enrolling in English courses marked the beginning of his remarkable transformation. Overcoming language barriers, he honed his English proficiency for both everyday interactions and professional settings. Furthermore, he dedicated himself to understanding Australian workplace culture, boosting his confidence and readiness to seize opportunities in the training and employment sector.

Jack's engagement with TE (transition to employment) and EAL (English as an additional language) programs revealed hidden talents and passions. With guidance, he unearthed a penchant for career guidance and found his way to the Jobs Advocate program. This led him to a 6-month Product Management course, sponsored by Jobs Victoria, and culminating in a paid 12-week internship at Dulux in their marketing and innovation division.

Through volunteering at KNLC, Jack further solidified his commitment to community betterment. His contributions to administrative tasks showcased his dedication, while his involvement in the Balwyn church's youth group highlighted his role as a mentor and motivator for fellow young individuals facing challenges.







*I am honoured to be part of the Horticulture Program with Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre. In the short time I have been with the program I can see the enjoyment it gives participants, and can see how the program helps facilitate independence, skill development & social skill development. Michelle is inspiring to work with and I enjoy learning new skills with her.*

*-Jenny, Horticulture Program Volunteer*





# Childcare

## Occasional Care

With the staff ratios for Occasional Care changed to 1:4 for under 3's, we have generally adjusted our sessions to accommodate 12 children instead of the 15 that the space is licensed for.

At the moment, we have 3 vacancies across the week, but have been able to include 15 children on Tuesdays due to the age range. There is a small list of children wanting an extra day for next term.

48 children are enrolled for Occasional Care each week at the moment.

## Playgroups

We continue to hold 3 playgroup opportunities per week, with the Thursday afternoon playgroup for children from birth to 2 years old to attend. This model has proved successful in encouraging New Mothers Groups to attend as well as others with young children.

To date, in 2023 we have welcomed 766 family visits to playgroup. These playgroups are often used as orientation and familiarisation for people considering attending Occasional Care and contributes to the smooth transition to being left in our care. Some families attend more than once a week, and the centre has become a very important part of their lives

## Links to the Community

We continue to keep our profile out in the community, as it is important to continue to inform new families about our centre. This has been achieved by:

- Presenting regularly to the New Mother's Groups at 3 local MCH centres
  - Linking to the community via a local Facebook group
- Staffing

This year our wonderful staff include Cathy, Tikki and Julia. We are fortunate to have such a great team, and with the addition of Natasha, Faye and Hiromi we have been able to cover extra leave and long service leave during the year.

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*For Charlies birthday his Mumi asked him if he would like her to take him to the zoo.  
"No. I would rather go to Shoestring!" (they went to the zoo in the afternoon)  
-Charlie. 3*





# Inclusive Communities Program

**The inclusive Communities Program (ICP) is a group of programs designed to provide positive social, physical and emotional outcomes for a diverse range of people with varying needs. All programs within the ICP are designed so that they can be delivered to people with a range of skill levels and experience levels.**

It has been another big year for the Inclusive Communities Program, a dedicated program which continues to provide social support for people with disabilities and older adults in the Kew community.

We are pleased to welcome our new tutors who have joined us this year. Shane White is our new Inclusive Shed tutor and Jessica Rodda Rowe is our new art tutor. Both of them have settled in well and have made a fantastic impact on their respective programs.

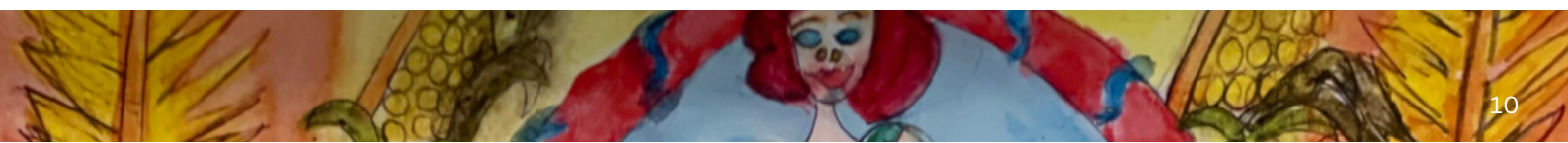
This year, we have welcomed a significant number of new participants into the centre. Our inclusive shed and fit at home classes are now full. We are working on new program ideas in order to meet this increase in demand.

The ICP received some government funding through the HACC-PYP program. This funding has allowed us to purchase a new 70-inch TV for classrooms 1 and 2 and some new gardening equipment.

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our participants, tutors, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to the success of the Inclusive Communities Program in 2022/23. Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of creating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity and empowers each individual to lead a fulfilling life. With everyone's continued support, we are excited to embark on another year of growth, connection, and positive change.



**Josh William, ICP Art**





# Inclusive Communities Program - Participant Spotlight



Eileen has been able to upgrade a lot of her stuff at home. She loves learning how to do things that she never thought she was capable of.

Currently, Eileen's focus centres on constructing a new bed frame. While sourcing materials and planning the design, she continues to expand her knowledge. Claudia and Shane have taught her to design and plan things before she starts her projects.

Discussing KNLC's influence, Eileen expresses that coming to the shed programs gets her out of the house and gives her lots of new projects to focus on.

Eileen values the chance to both create useful items and develop new skills through KNLC. Eileen has loved meeting and interacting with a diverse range of people. She loves trying new things and stretching her imagination.

It has been a pleasure to have Eileen at the centre, and we can't wait to see the new projects that she will make in the future.

## Eileen's KNLC Journey

Eileen first came to the centre in 2010-11. She enrolled in a Gardening group to learn about growing vegetables. Alongside this, she explored activities such as computers, knitting, and volunteering. After a brief break, Eileen returned last year with a fresh interest in woodworking, something she had never tried before but quickly became passionate about.

Eileen has successfully completed eight projects in the shed so far: a large stool, a small stool, wooden shoes, a platform for moving plants, a bird feeder, a tray, a chopping board, and a kitchen counter board.

Eileen's enthusiasm for woodworking motivated her return to KNLC. She initially joined the inclusive shed before becoming a part of the women's shed too. Through this journey, she has become a lot more confident using almost all of the tools in the shed.

Eileen says that she loves every aspect of coming to the shed programs. She is particularly interested in acquiring new skills, such as handling tools and painting. The opportunity to connect with new people in a warm and friendly environment is another highlight she mentions.





# Social Enterprise

## Kew Cart

The Kew Cart stands as a vibrant testament to the harmonious synergy between various creative and skilled groups within the Centre. Each contributor, whether it's Threads of Kindness, the Men's Shed artisans, the café's culinary craft, or the green thumbs of Horticulture students, lends a unique touch to the tapestry of offerings.

Beyond its role as a retail outlet, the Kew Cart has evolved into an educational hub, where ACFE students embark on a transformative journey of experiential learning. The Cart becomes a classroom in action, where the art of merchandise display turns into an immersive lesson, where greetings and interactions with customers are real-world communication exercises, and where the handling of sales and currency transforms into a tangible application of financial skills. These budding retailers also engage in the strategic aspects of marketing, understanding how to effectively present and promote the diverse range of products.

With a creative twist, the ACFE Customer Service students organise seasonal stalls like the heart-warming Mother's Day and Father's Day events. These stalls not only extend the reach of the Centre's creations to a wider audience but also spotlight the efforts of the Threads group, shining a spotlight on their craftsmanship.

Central to it all, the Kew Cart isn't just a cart; it's a stage upon which skills are refined, passions are shared, and creativity flourishes. It becomes a focal point for commerce and community, showcasing the impeccable quality of goods and crafts that originate within the Centre's walls. In essence, the Kew Cart is a living embodiment of collaborative education, community support, and economic enterprise, weaving a tapestry that seamlessly blends education, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurship into a single, remarkable narrative.



The evolution of the Just in Time Garden Service from its pilot origins into a thriving endeavor is a testament to the power of creating meaningful employment pathways. Initially designed as a pioneering concept to provide opportunities for horticulture students, it has since blossomed into a venture that extends its nurturing touch to both its team of gardeners and the local community it serves.

The growth of the service, evidenced by the expanding roster of clients and gardeners, reflects its resonance within the community. Clients, who once struggled with arduous tasks, now find solace in the capable hands of the team. From reaching those elusive high branches to taming stubborn weeds in hard-to-reach corners, the team has become a harbinger of relief and rejuvenation for the gardens in our local community. Their adeptness in maintaining clear pathways, pristine driveways, and even taking charge of the daunting task of autumn leaf clearance showcases their commitment to fostering beautiful, functional spaces.

The foundation of this success lies in the comprehensive skill set acquired through the pre-accredited Horticulture course. With Supervisor Paul guiding the way, the team is not just cultivating gardens but cultivating invaluable experience in the realm of open employment and entrepreneurship. This journey extends beyond the physical act of gardening, encompassing crucial aspects of business management such as maintaining job records and actively contributing to marketing strategies.

Yet, it's more than just a job for this dedicated team; it's a passion that fuels their work. The gardens they tend aren't just landscapes, but canvases upon which they paint strokes of joy and dedication. Their commitment to the well-being of the clients is palpable, transforming their services into a symphony of care and rejuvenation.

Just in Time Garden Service isn't just a business; it's an embodiment of growth, empowerment, and enrichment. It stands as a living reminder of the profound impact that a harmonious blend of education, passion, and community engagement can have on transforming a simple idea into a source of pride and inspiration for all involved.





## Sparechair Cafe

### Elevating the Café Experience: A Year of Growth and Promise

The café at our centre has embarked on a remarkable journey this year, marked by a noteworthy upward trend in sales. While the pace did temper during the winter months, there is an unwavering confidence that the momentum will reignite as the chill of the season gives way to the warmth of spring. This increase in sales isn't just a statistical triumph; it is a reflection of renewed consumer confidence post-COVID, a sign that the world is finding its way back to a semblance of normalcy. This newfound vibrancy has breathed life not only into the centre as a whole but has translated into increased footfall and bustling activity in the café.

### An Era of Renewed Normalcy and Loyal Patronage

The increase in sales finds its roots in a variety of factors. The rekindled confidence in the world's trajectory has brought more people through our centre's doors, and with them, a host of new and returning café patrons. Among these, a group of new regulars has emerged, a testament to the café's prowess in delivering an experience that is both memorable and worthwhile. Their unwavering loyalty, evident through their repeat visits, stands as an endorsement of the café's commitment to quality coffee, delectable food offerings, and an ambiance that beckons them back.

### A Symphony of Flavours: Commendations and Delight

The café is not just a venue; it is a haven of culinary delights that has earned a chorus of commendations. The accolades for the coffee and food quality have been resounding:

"The best coffee in Melbourne."  
"Best muffin ever."  
"The café always smells delicious."  
"Delicious soup."  
"Best chai."

Such praises speak to the exceptional dedication of the café to craft an experience that delights the senses and fosters a loyal community of patrons.



### Balancing the Books: Navigating Price Adjustments

The café's commitment to excellence extends to its pricing strategy. Recognising the reality of escalating food costs, the café has periodically reviewed its prices to ensure sustainability. This approach, while involving slight price adjustments, has proven to be a boon, especially with a modest increase in coffee prices. This ongoing process of refining pricing underscores the café's dedication to offering value while ensuring its products remain profitable. Impressively, the adjustments have been met without complaint, a testament to the trust and satisfaction of the café's patrons.

### Catering: A Cornerstone of Success

Beyond the café's regular operations, its catering endeavours have continued to flourish. The Stroke Group's consistent monthly lunches stand as a testament to the café's ability to satisfy discerning palates. Furthermore, successful catering collaborations with esteemed entities like The Boroondara council and Swinburne Institute have not only boosted sales but highlighted the café's versatility and capability to cater to a diverse range of events.

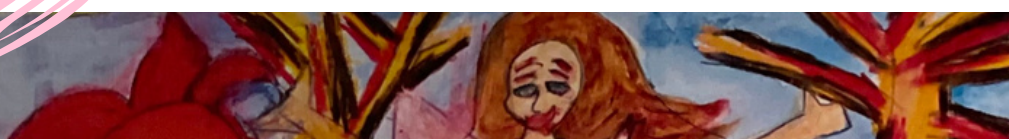
### A Future Ablaze with Potential

The café has enjoyed a year marked by positivity and promise. With the steadfast support of its valued customers, a commitment to offering the finest in food and drink, and a well-considered pricing approach, the café is poised for continued growth. As the seasons change and the café looks toward a brighter future, it is the sum of these efforts that will guide it upward, creating an experience that nourishes not only the body but the spirit of our community.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**SPARECHAIR**  
cafe

CHAIRING IS CARING





# Program Spotlight



I joined the Just in Time Garden Services team as supervisor in April 2023. I had recently returned from the UK where I had been involved in a community garden project and was keen to find a similar role here.

I was immediately impressed with the set up at Kew NLC and felt it was going to be a good fit. Hearing how the JITGM project had begun in response to requests from the local community for gardening services, and to provide real work experience for the young people who had done their horticultural training at Kew, it fit with my previous work and belief in the value of community initiatives.

JITGM is a small scale, local community gardening social enterprise providing a 'helping hands' service performing the sort of tasks that some people either have a lack of time to do or need assistance with. Everything from weeding, raking, sweeping, pruning and planting, to digging out roots, moving large pots, fixing fence panels and reattaching gutters on sheds.

It is a friendly, flexible, fair priced service delivered by a highly motivated team who are gaining new skills through the work they are doing. Not just practical skills, but organisational, cooperation and communication, and taking on the responsibility of delivering safe and quality working practices for themselves, each other and clients.

It goes beyond this. This initiative is also about building connections and relationships, with all the personal and professional benefits that brings. The team has 'grown' into a proper unit, displaying increasing confidence and ability to organise and execute tasks, as well as deal with some new and challenging situations that have involved work outside their previous experience. These challenges have been met and overcome with great success.

The connections and relationships established with clients are important, too. Our approach to tasks is professional and thorough, but at the same time the team have developed a way of engaging with clients which reflects the fact we are an extension of Kew NLC and part of the community. The conversations and chats had during our garden visits are a significant part of the service, for all involved.

As the initiative continues to grow, retaining this personal level of connection with our clients and community will be key.

**Paul Joslin**

**Just in Time Garden Maintenance Services supervisor**

*...it's really good for me to  
have some help in the  
maintenance of the garden  
I really appreciate you  
guys coming  
-Di Gillies*



# Threads of Kindness

## **Empowering Communities Through Creativity: Threads of Kindness and the Women's Liberation Halfway House Partnership**

In the heart of October 2022, Threads of Kindness orchestrated an awe-inspiring exhibition that transcended mere craftsmanship—it was a testament to compassion, creativity, and community. This remarkable event not only showcased an array of meticulously crafted bedspread designs but also symbolized a collaborative effort that breathed life into discarded fabrics. The metamorphosis of these materials into intricate bedcovers was a touching tribute to resilience and hope.

The genesis of this endeavor was rooted in generosity, as Highly Sprung Interiors donated the canvas for these vibrant creations. The Threads of Kindness exhibition, which spanned the month, served as both a gallery of aesthetic splendor and a beacon of empathy. Each bedspread whispered tales of rejuvenation, showcasing the dedication poured into every stitch. The culmination of this exhibition was a poignant presentation to the Women's Liberation Halfway House (WLHH). This marked not just the delivery of bedcovers but the embodiment of solidarity, reminding survivors of family violence that they are seen, valued, and supported.

Central to Threads of Kindness is a spirited group of volunteers who convene every Tuesday. Beyond the act of creation, these gatherings foster an environment of camaraderie, where threads of friendship are woven as seamlessly as the fabric they work with. The enchanting alchemy they perform with these textiles extends far beyond bedcovers. Nothing escapes their creative touch—door draught stoppers, aprons, bags, microwave bowl mitts, wine bottle bags, heat packs, novelty pens, cards, and cushions all bear the imprint of their ingenuity. Through the avenues of the Kew Cart and stalls on occasions like Mothers and Fathers Day, their creations are not just sold, but stories of resilience packaged with love.

### **Sustainability and Ingenuity: Every Stitch Tells a Story**

The ethos of Threads of Kindness embodies both sustainability and ingenuity. Not a scrap of material is discarded. Every remnant finds purpose, whether as a cozy door draught stopper or an elegant wine bottle bag. This commitment to minimizing waste is a testament to their dedication to both artistry and environmental consciousness. The diverse range of handmade goods they offer reflects their adaptability, as they ingeniously turn even the smallest piece of fabric into an object of value.



### **Weaving the Tapestry of Support**

What Threads of Kindness achieves is beyond the realm of mere craftwork. They weave a tapestry of support, a tangible reminder that even in the face of adversity, there is beauty to be found and solace to be offered. The partnership with the Women's Liberation Halfway House exemplifies the potential of collaboration in creating a better world. Through their art, Threads of Kindness doesn't just decorate spaces, they decorate lives with hope, empathy, and the assurance that there's a community standing by.

Threads of Kindness exhibition and their collaboration with the Women's Liberation Halfway House stand as a testament to the transformative power of creativity and compassion. The threads they wield don't just bind fabrics together; they bind people in a web of support, resilience, and healing. This narrative is one that deserves not only recognition but celebration—a celebration of the human capacity to craft both beauty and kindness out of life's remnants.



# Garden Cafe Project

## Cultivating Connections: Blossoming of the Garden Café Project

Drenched in the spirit of revitalisation and community engagement, the Garden Café project at KewNLC has taken root through a grant from the Victorian Government Office for Suburban Development's Living Local Fund. This endeavor seeks to breathe new life into the outdoor space, weaving a haven adjacent to the café that's destined to be more than just a physical expansion.

## Grant-Powered Transformation: Where Beauty and Function Converge

A symphony of café furniture, a greenhouse, a gazebo, a garden shed, and a palette of fresh paint for the fence—these are the strokes of transformation that the grant has empowered. This project is a testament to the harmonious dance between aesthetic enhancement and practical utility. The resultant space will not only delight the senses but also stand as a testament to what collective vision and collaboration can accomplish.

## Education in Bloom: Fostering Learning Through Horticulture

Beyond its physical transformation, the Garden Café project has woven itself into the very fabric of learning at KewNLC. Within the haven of the greenhouse, our ACFE Horticulture students embark on a journey of nurturing life as they cultivate seedlings. These verdant gems are destined to grace the café's offerings, providing a wholesome touch of freshness to every dish. Through their hands-on experience, students are nurturing skills that extend beyond the greenhouse, shaping their understanding of cultivation and the intricate interconnectedness of nature.

## A Canvas of Learning: The Playground of Skills

The project's canvas extends beyond the realm of horticulture. It serves as a training ground where our trade students translate theory into practice. Armed with tape measures and determination, they grapple with dimensions and undertake site levelling. The laying of pavers becomes more than a task; it's a hands-on lesson in precision and construction. With brushes in hand, they transform fencing into a mural, proving that creativity knows no bounds. The hum of activity includes concreting, shed construction, and a tapestry of skills that come together to build more than just structures—it's building futures.



## Where Art and Community Meet: Enriching Aesthetics and Experience

As the mural takes shape under the deft strokes of art and activity groups, it stands as a testament to how beauty can forge community connections. Every stroke carries a story, and when the mural is complete, it will narrate the tale of unity and shared creativity. Meanwhile, the café patrons are poised to be the ultimate beneficiaries. With the new facilities and enhanced café area, they'll find not just a place to dine but a space to connect, rejuvenate, and experience the transformative power of a vibrant environment.

In this narrative of growth and transformation, images speak louder than words. The pictures that chronicle the journey of the Garden Café project are worth a thousand tales, each capturing a moment of commitment, learning, and unison. As the project flourishes, it serves as a living reminder that when the vision is nurtured with dedication, even the seeds of a humble garden can blossom into an oasis of inspiration and change.





# Be Connected

## Empowering Older Australians through Digital Proficiency: Unveiling Be Connected

Be Connected stands as a resounding testament to the Australian government's unwavering commitment to bolstering the confidence, digital skills, and online safety of our esteemed older generation. Designed as a transformative initiative, it opens doors to a realm of possibilities, offering a bridge to both acquiring new skills and immersing oneself in novel subjects. As Be Connected unites the pursuit of knowledge with the tools of today's digital era, it unveils a pathway to empowerment that empowers older Australians to confidently navigate the digital landscape while prioritizing their online security.

### Facilitating Connectivity

In the nurturing space of the "Be Connected" class at KNLC, a journey has unfolded over the past few years, offering seniors from our local community a valuable opportunity. As participants walk into our class, a blend of curiosity and apprehension often accompanies them, as they prepare to confront the world of new and unfamiliar technology. How does one navigate a mobile phone? How does the enigmatic iPad reveal its secrets? And most importantly, how can the vast realm of the Internet be safely traversed?

From the foundational steps to more intricate maneuvers, we take our group members through an evolutionary process of skill development. What might have seemed daunting initially now unfolds as comprehensible, empowering individuals with capabilities they might never have dreamed of.

Amidst the exchange of knowledge and the mastery of devices, a palpable atmosphere of camaraderie and encouragement prevails. In our shared pursuit of newfound skills, laughter echoes through the classroom, and the joy of discovery resonates in every click and swipe. Witnessing this atmosphere of learning camaraderie is truly heartening.

KNLC is delighted to be spearheading the "Be Connected" program, a resource that has found a special place in the hearts of Kew and its neighboring areas. The impact this initiative has on our community is tangible, as individuals continue to explore and expand their technological horizons. We recognize that in the ever-evolving world of technology, this journey is one that we'll be on for quite some time, as we continue to learn and grow alongside our dedicated students.

### Be Connected – A participants perspective

The be connected class at KNLC, has for the past few years been a great asset to seniors in the local community. We arrive at class with some trepidation with our new and scary technology. How to use a mobile phone? How to master an iPad? How can we safely use the Internet?

With the enthusiastic support and instruction from Alison Keiffer, group members have developed skills from the very basic to more advanced.

There is a great atmosphere of fun and encouragement, as we learn new things and encourage each other in our learning.

I thank KNLC for providing this be connected program for Kew and surrounds.

I am sure I'll be needing it for quite some time

**Rosemary Lade**

**Be connected participant 2023**



Australian Government

## Be Connected

Every Australian online.





# Community Partnerships

**KNLC has forged profound partnerships with organizations, cultivating these connections upon a foundation of robust relationships, synergistic strengths, and a harmonious pursuit of shared aspirations.**

## **Swinburne University/ Box Hill Institute**

With our education partners KewNLC explores opportunities in the connection between pre accredited and accredited programs to support the education and training continuum for learners

## **Burke and Beyond**

Burke and Beyond provides programs for young people with disabilities to develop independent living, communication and social skills. In combination with the KewNLC pre accredited education for employment and training pathways the partnership harnesses their respective expertise to provide young people with disabilities opportunities to make choices about their future.

## **Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (GMCT)**

KewNLC and GMCT formed a partnership in 2019. GMCT is committed to providing support to disadvantaged and marginalized members of the community and to partner with organizations in line with their core values. A goal of the partnership is to collaborate on the GMCT Horticulture Learning Development Program as an example to inspire organizations to work collaboratively to achieve education, training and employment pathways for young people with a disability. GMCT have a safe and nurturing environment which provides the perfect platform for a range of opportunities combining horticulture and workplace capabilities.

## **Women's Liberation Halfway House**

The organisations formed a partnership with KewNLC to educate and empower the Kew community to respond to the needs of women and children who have been impacted by family violence and work towards pathways to respond.

## **Projects and collaborations**

### **Kew Cemetery**

Kew Cemetery support the KewNLC pre accredited Horticulture program with a garden classroom environment and workplace context. The Sister's Garden project showcases the achievement of the students learning as they have regenerated a special historical area and transformed it into a beautiful space.

### **Giant Steps**

Giant Steps is a school based in Kew for children and young adults with autism. KewNLC and Giant Steps team up on projects to facilitate student's social engagement and learning activities across both organisations.







# Prue Brown Community Service Award

**This years recipient of the Prue Brown Community Service Award for outstanding contribution to the KewNLC Community is Richard Summersgill**

It is with great honor and profound appreciation that we present the Prue Brown Community Service Award to Richard Summersgill in acknowledgment of his exceptional contributions to KNLC's Inclusive Communities Program. Richard's unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and passionate advocacy have not only enriched our organisation but have also transformed lives within our community. This award serves as a testament to his outstanding dedication to our mission of inclusivity and positive change.

In 2017, Richard transitioned from a dedicated volunteer to an official employee of KNLC, as our ICP Computers tutor. This transition was marked by his deep understanding of our mission and vision. As a classroom facilitator, Richard went above and beyond to create an inclusive and nurturing environment.

Richard's advocacy for KNLC has been extraordinary. He took it upon himself to passionately promote our organisation, its programs, and its impact. His advocacy extended to philanthropic partners and key stakeholders, significantly raising awareness of our mission and expanding our reach.

Richard's commitment to KNLC's core vision of inclusivity remains unwavering. Even after leaving KNLC, Richard's dedication to our organisation and programs persists. He continues to be a vocal advocate for KNLC, championing our mission and vision. His ongoing support plays a pivotal role in sustaining our organization's outreach.

In recognition of Richard's extraordinary contributions, we proudly present him with the Prue Brown Community Service Award. Richard's journey from a dedicated volunteer to an exceptional employee and advocate exemplifies the positive change that can be achieved through unwavering commitment and passion. This award serves as a symbol of our deep appreciation for his dedication to inclusivity and his enduring efforts to promote our organisation. We are immensely grateful for your invaluable contributions





# Snapshot of Achievements



**19500 hours of Education Programs delivered**



**6785 hours of Social Support programs delivered**



**29 volunteer hours per week**



**Job advocates onsite twice monthly**



**12972 Coffee and drinks sold at Sparechair Café**



**462 Suspended meals and coffee served at Sparechair Café**



**38 Community/Social Lunches offered Sparechair Café per week**



**Launch of Second session of Women's Shed**



**28 Catering Jobs**







# Welcome

**It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following members to our team**

Jessica Rodda-Rowe  
Nicole Lane  
Shane White  
Paul Joslin

# Farewell

**It is always sad to say farewell to any one from our wonderful team, but we know that they'll always be a part of who we are...and so we say 'see you around' not 'goodbye'. Thank you for all you have contributed and we wish you well on whatever new journey you have embarked on**

Jill Bamford  
Sally Newnham  
Petra Brinkworth  
Richard Summersgill  
John Gardiner

# Thank you

ACCRU  
ACFE - Eastern Region  
Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA)  
Boroondara Volunteers Resource Centre  
Boroondara General Cemetery  
Burke and Beyond  
BoxHill Institute of TAFE  
Bunnings Hawthorn  
City of Boroondara  
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
Department of Families, Fairness & Housing  
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions  
Department of Health  
Department of Social Services  
Giant Steps  
Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust  
Highly Sprung Interiors  
Kew Baptist Church  
Kew Junction Business Traders Association  
Melbourne Polytechnic  
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria  
NIECH  
Odyssey House  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
Sidney Myer Foundation  
Stuart Leslie Foundation  
Swinburne University of Technology  
Toorak Op shop  
Toscanos  
Women's Liberation Halfway House





# Lina Colombani - Feature Artist

**For over four decades, KNLC has been a bustling hub of activity, welcoming individuals from all walks of life. We recently sat down with long-time participant, Lina, to learn more about what makes KNLC such a special place.**

As we chatted, with Lina, who has been coming to KNLC for approximately 13-14 years, she shared her thoughts on what she appreciates most about this community oasis.

## **A Place of Purpose**

One of the standout features of KNLC, according to Lina, is its vibrant cafe, a place that offers more than just sustenance. "I like the cafe, the people, and the programs," she said. "It gives me something to do instead of sitting at home not doing anything. It gives me a purpose."

This sentiment underlines the importance of community centers like KNLC in providing not only physical nourishment but also a sense of belonging and purpose to those who visit.

## **A Sanctuary of Art and Relaxation**

Another highlight of the center, as mentioned by Lina, is the relaxed atmosphere it offers. "I like that it is a relaxed place," she shared. "I love the art class." The art class at KNLC evidently serves as a creative outlet, allowing individuals to explore their artistic talents and express themselves freely.

## **Laughter and Friendship**

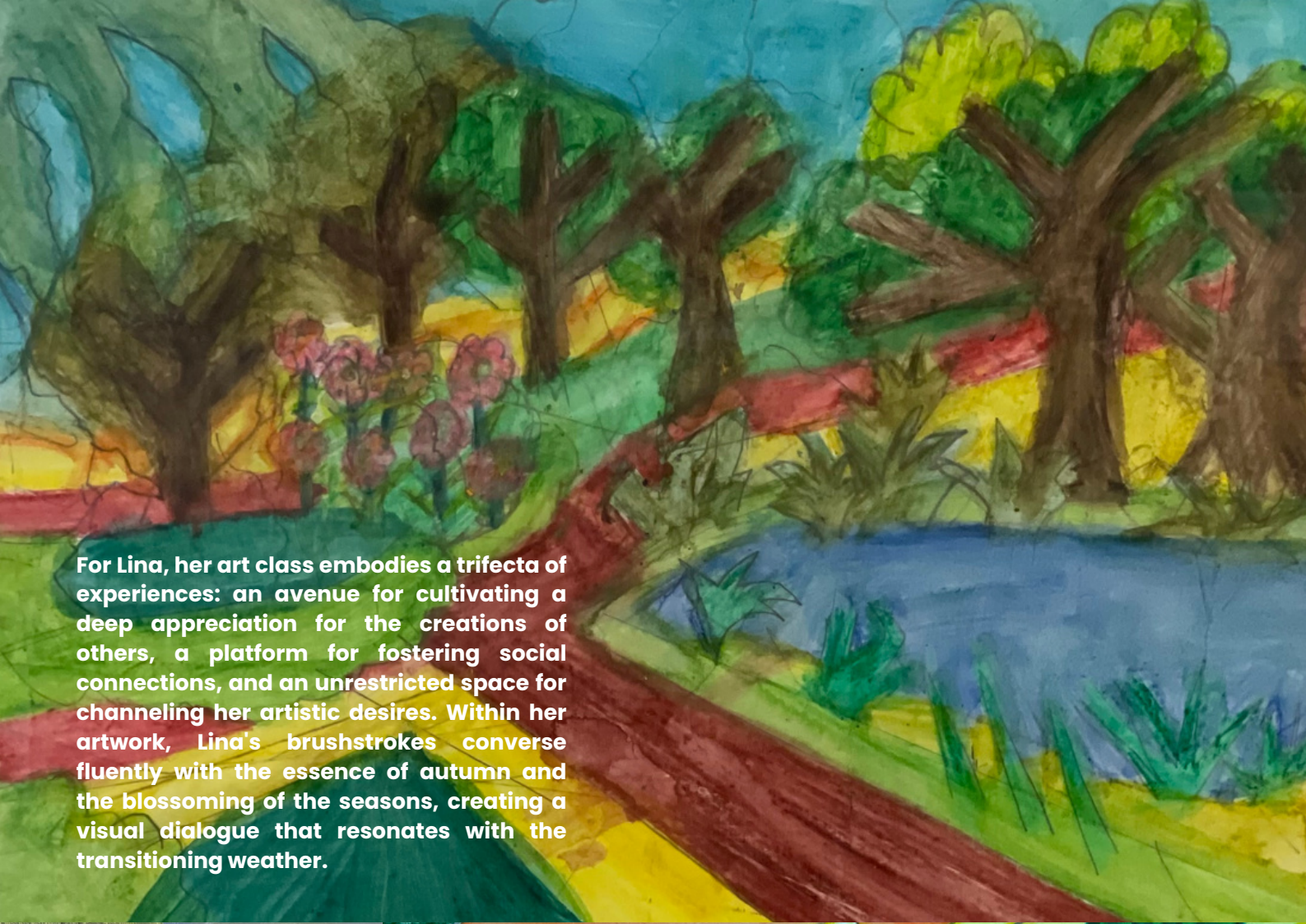
What truly sets KNLC apart, however, is its people. The diverse and welcoming community that frequents the center forms a tight-knit group. "I like the people that come here. I like all of the groups," Lina beamed. "I like the staff. They always have me in stitches laughing."

This heartwarming testimonial underscores the role of KNLC not just as a place for activities but as a social nexus, fostering friendships and spreading joy among its patrons.

The KNLC Center, with its cafe, classes, and welcoming community, continues to make a positive impact on the lives of its visitors. As we celebrate over four decades of its existence, it's evident that KNLC remains an essential part of the community, providing purpose, relaxation, and laughter to all who walk through its doors.







For Lina, her art class embodies a trifecta of experiences: an avenue for cultivating a deep appreciation for the creations of others, a platform for fostering social connections, and an unrestricted space for channeling her artistic desires. Within her artwork, Lina's brushstrokes converse fluently with the essence of autumn and the blossoming of the seasons, creating a visual dialogue that resonates with the transitioning weather.



Artwork - Lina Cololmbani



Josh turns to the realm of art as his chosen medium for self-expression. With an undeniable passion, he finds solace in the strokes of painting and the intricacies of drawing, particularly when focused on capturing the nuances of the human face.



Artwork – Josh Willam

*....artwork from some of other other talented artists*



Hamish Connor



Peter Copeland



Julie Thomas





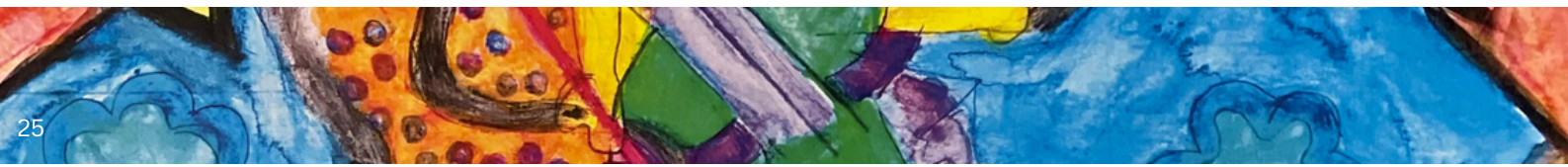
Kew  
Neighbourhood  
Learning Centre

**KEW NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE  
INC  
ABN: 47 842 381 892**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

**Accru<sup>+</sup>**  
Melbourne

A member of  
mgiworldwide





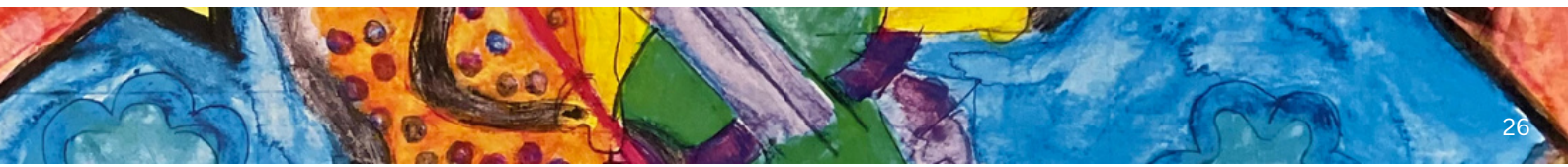


**Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc**

ABN: 47 842 381 892

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## Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc


ABN: 47 842 381 892

### Statement of Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

|  | Note | 2023<br>\$         | 2022<br>\$  |
|--|------|--------------------|-------------|
| Revenue  | 2    | <b>1,100,522</b>   | 985,100     |
| Employee benefits expense                      |      | <b>(916,815)</b>   | (864,381)   |
| Depreciation and amortisation expense          |      | <b>(4,550)</b>     | (17,038)    |
| Café supplies                                  |      | <b>(54,924)</b>    | (56,351)    |
| Cleaning                                       |      | <b>(23,198)</b>    | (24,550)    |
| Consumables                                    |      | <b>(18,513)</b>    | (19,732)    |
| Contractors                                    |      | <b>(4,740)</b>     | (2,900)     |
| IT expense                                     |      | <b>(16,276)</b>    | (6,825)     |
| Utilities                                      |      | <b>(13,528)</b>    | (12,735)    |
| Other expenses                                 |      | <b>(17,075)</b>    | (41,787)    |
| Total expenses                                 |      | <b>(1,069,619)</b> | (1,046,299) |
| <b>Surplus/(deficit)for the year</b>           |      | <b>30,903</b>      | (61,199)    |
| <b>Other comprehensive income</b>              |      |                    |             |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b> |      | <b>30,903</b>      | (61,199)    |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.





## Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc

ABN: 47 842 381 892

### Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2023

|                                      | Note | 2023<br>\$     | 2022<br>\$     |
|--------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                        |      |                |                |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                |      |                |                |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | 3    | 670,041        | 748,562        |
| Trade and other receivables          | 4    | 4,502          | 1,133          |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>          |      | <b>674,543</b> | <b>749,695</b> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>            |      |                |                |
| Other financial assets               |      | 100,000        | -              |
| Plant and equipment                  | 5    | 43,324         | 24,388         |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>      |      | <b>143,324</b> | <b>24,388</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                  |      | <b>817,867</b> | <b>774,083</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                   |      |                |                |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>           |      |                |                |
| Trade and other payables             | 6    | 92,732         | 50,792         |
| Employee benefits                    | 7    | 86,914         | 107,416        |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>     |      | <b>179,646</b> | <b>158,208</b> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>       |      |                |                |
| Employee benefits                    | 7    | 15,033         | 23,590         |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |      | <b>15,033</b>  | <b>23,590</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>             |      | <b>194,679</b> | <b>181,798</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                    |      | <b>623,188</b> | <b>592,285</b> |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                        |      |                |                |
| Reserves                             | 8    | 185,000        | 265,000        |
| Retained Earnings                    |      | 438,188        | 327,285        |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                  |      | <b>623,188</b> | <b>592,285</b> |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.





## Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc

ABN: 47 842 381 892

### Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 2023

|                               | Retained<br>Earnings<br>\$ | Innovation and<br>Programming<br>Reserve<br>\$ | Capacity and<br>Infrastructure<br>Reserve<br>\$ | Total<br>\$    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| <b>Balance at1 July 2022</b>  | <b>327,285</b>             | <b>181,000</b>                                 | <b>84,000</b>                                   | <b>592,285</b> |
| Surplus for the year          | 30,903                     | -  | -   | 30,903         |
| Transfers                     | 80,000                     | (80,000)                                       | -   | -              |
| <b>Balance at30 June 2023</b> | <b>438,188</b>             | <b>101,000</b>                                 | <b>84,000</b>                                   | <b>623,188</b> |

#### 2022

|                               | Retained<br>Earnings<br>\$ | Innovation and<br>Programming<br>Reserve<br>\$ | Capacity and<br>Infrastructure<br>Reserve<br>\$ | Total<br>\$    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| <b>Balance at1 July 2021</b>  | 388,484                    | 181,000  | 84,000  | 653,484        |
| Deficit for the year          | (61,199)                   | -  | -   | (61,199)       |
| <b>Balance at30 June 2022</b> | <b>327,285</b>             | <b>181,000</b>                                 | <b>84,000</b>                                   | <b>592,285</b> |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

|   | <b>Note</b> | <b>2023</b><br><b>\$</b> | <b>2022</b><br><b>\$</b> |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>        |             |                          |                          |
| Receipts from fees                                  |             | <b>196,881</b>           | 173,138                  |
| Receipts from government grants                     |             | <b>690,132</b>           | 614,853                  |
| Receipts from other activities                      |             | <b>275,495</b>           | 191,157                  |
| Interest received                                   |             | <b>11,391</b>            | 2,053                    |
| Payments to suppliers and employees                 |             | <b>(1,128,934)</b>       | (1,070,432)              |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities |             | <b>44,965</b>            | (89,231)                 |
| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>        |             |                          |                          |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment           |             | <b>(23,486)</b>          | (21,918)                 |
| Investing in financial assets                       |             | <b>(100,000)</b>         | -                        |
| Net cash used by investing activities               |             | <b>(123,486)</b>         | (21,918)                 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held      |             | <b>(78,521)</b>          | (111,149)                |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year      |             | <b>748,562</b>           | 859,711                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year  | 3           | <b>670,041</b>           | 748,562                  |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

#### **1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **(a) Basis of preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The Committee has determined that the not-for-profit Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

##### **(b) Income Tax**

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

##### **(c) Revenue and other income**

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

##### **Revenue from contracts with customers**

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Association expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer
2. Identify the performance obligations
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred

##### **Grants, childcare and workshop fees revenue**

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

Childcare and workshop fee revenue is recognised when the income is earned which is usually when the service is performed.



## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

#### **1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **(c) Revenue and other income**

###### **Interest revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

##### **(d) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and term deposits held with banks.

##### **(e) Leases**

The Association has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for leases of low-value assets. The Association recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

##### **(f) Property, plant and equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

###### **Depreciation**

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

Leased assets and leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or their estimated useful life.

##### **(g) Employee benefits**

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### (h) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

##### (i) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

During the current year, the Association adopted all of the new and revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations applicable to its operations which became mandatory. The adoption of these Standards has not had a significant impact on the recognition, measurement and disclosure of transactions.

#### 2 Revenue

|                        | 2023             | 2022           |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                        | \$               | \$             |
| Café sales             | 126,724          | 140,013        |
| Men's Shed sales       | 1,731            | 2,775          |
| Childcare fees         | 80,401           | 80,884         |
| ACFE/ KNLC course fees | 78,107           | 83,487         |
| Operating grants       | 651,759          | 627,273        |
| Interest received      | 14,760           | 2,299          |
| Other income           | 147,040          | 48,369         |
| <b>Total revenue</b>   | <b>1,100,522</b> | <b>985,100</b> |

#### 3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

|  |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Cash at bank and in hand               | 344,041        | 292,562        |
| Term deposits                          | 326,000        | 456,000        |
| <b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b> | <b>670,041</b> | <b>748,562</b> |

#### 4 Trade and Other Receivables

|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| CURRENT  |              |              |
| Trade receivables                                | 4,502        | 1,133        |
| <b>Total current trade and other receivables</b> | <b>4,502</b> | <b>1,133</b> |



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 5 Property, plant and equipment

|  | 2023<br>\$    | 2022<br>\$    |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Deposit paid for property, plant and equipment |               |               |
| At cost  | 10,198        | -             |
| Motor vehicles                                 |               |               |
| At cost  | 37,366        | 37,266        |
| Accumulated depreciation                       | (37,366)      | (37,266)      |
| Total motor vehicles                           | -             | -             |
| Office equipment                               |               |               |
| At cost  | 80,897        | 67,709        |
| Accumulated depreciation                       | (59,705)      | (59,305)      |
| Total office equipment                         | 21,192        | 8,404         |
| Leasehold improvements                         |               |               |
| At cost  | 66,317        | 66,317        |
| Accumulated amortisation                       | (54,383)      | (50,333)      |
| Total leasehold improvements                   | 11,934        | 15,984        |
| <b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>     | <b>43,324</b> | <b>24,388</b> |

#### 6 Trade and Other Payables

|                                       |               |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| CURRENT                               |               |               |
| Trade payables                        | 3,275         | 1,352         |
| GST payable                           | 17,873        | 16,027        |
| Sundry payables and accrued expenses  | 71,584        | 33,413        |
| <b>Total trade and other payables</b> | <b>92,732</b> | <b>50,792</b> |

#### 7 Employee Benefits

|  |               |                |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| CURRENT                                |               |                |
| Long service leave                     | 58,285        | 68,008         |
| Annual leave                           | 28,629        | 39,408         |
| <b>Total current employee benefits</b> | <b>86,914</b> | <b>107,416</b> |
| NON-CURRENT                            |               |                |
| Long service leave                     | 15,033        | 23,590         |



## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

#### **8 Reserves**

##### **(a) Innovation and Programming Reserve**

This reserve is for the purpose of projects and activities that explore Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre's core programming potential.

##### **(b) Capacity and Infrastructure Reserve**

This reserve is to be used for resourcing to support the programming.

#### **9 Contingencies**

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022:None).

#### **10 Events after the end of the Reporting Period**

The financial report was authorised for issue on 6 September 2023 by the members of the Committee.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

#### **11 Association Details**

The registered office of the Association is:  
Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc  
2-12 Derby Street  
Kew VIC 3101

## Responsible Persons' Declaration

The Committee Members are the Responsible Persons. The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 of the financial statements.

The Committee of the Association declare that:

1.The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 9, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and:

(a)comply with Australian Accounting Standards as stated in Note 1; and

(b)give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policy described in Note 1 of the financial statements.

2.In the committees' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee.

President .....

Scott Samson



Secretary .....

Leigh Dwyer



Dated 6 September 2023



## Independent Audit Report to the members of Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

#### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting


We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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



## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ☐ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ☐ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- ☐ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Committee.
- ☐ Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee Members use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ☐ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the Committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the Committee, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.



ACCRU MELBOURNE (AUDIT) PTY LTD



A N SAMADI  
Director

6 September 2023



