

Acknowledgements:

We wish to acknowledge the following people, for, without their support and efforts, none of this would be possible.

The past and present Committee of Management and volunteers for the countless hours of contribution over 40 years.

Linda Hay for over 29 years of service and the first paid Coordinator to steer the organisation to where it is today.

Barbara Gough, our volunteer who spent many hours researching and collating significant timelines from the minutes of meetings spanning the 40 years.

Janet Hayes for facilitating and producing a Mural to celebrate 40 years of life at the Wonga Park Community Cottage.

Acknowledgement to the lead project manager Louise Schweiger and the steering Committee of Joan Hale and Dawne Tapper.

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back to the cottage

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Alan Bickford built the Cottage in 1950 as his family residence

The need for proper childminding facilities was discussed and a voluntary roster was organised in 1983

Alan Bickford died in November 1983

In 1981 The fees were \$5.00 per term, no matter how many classes a person attended. Activities underway were a Youth Group (who also mowed the Cottage lawn), pottery, breadmaking, leadlighting, spinning and weaving, keep fit class and some 'one-off' and 'how to' classes such as Greek cooking



In 1978 the Cottage was purchased by Lillydale Shire Council as part of plans for a recreation reserve



1987 An extension and renovation was completed to ensure the Cottage met the requirements for a 'public building'. In the same year a new logo was created

10 years since the Cottage started, in 1990, Linda Hay became the first paid co-ordinator after funding from Council was provided

The first qualified childcare centre co-ordinator was appointed in 2003 and everything temporarily moved to the Wonga Park hall while extension/renovations proceeded at Cottage

2005 was the official opening of new centre and was held in Term 2 and Don Thompson became a Life Member of Cottage and was acknowledged at the opening

Channel 31 came to do a 'House around the Corner' video special in 2012

Today, 27th November 2021, we celebrate local culture and history of the cottage at the Back to the Cottage event with the unveiling of an artwork by Janet Hayes



In 2004 The Cottage applied for A Manningham City Council Community Development Grant, to bring together intergeneration histories and stories from residents and record the outcome.

Talking History in Wonga Park project was completed and the Wonga Vine Newsletter distributed to the local community

In 2008 Louise Schweiger was appointed as Assistant Co-ordinator

New guttering and downpipe installation threatened the climbing rose on the front porch in 2016. Thankfully our gardener was able to give it a prune. Unfortunately in 2020 this heritage rose was removed entirely



Scan the QR code for the full 40 year history