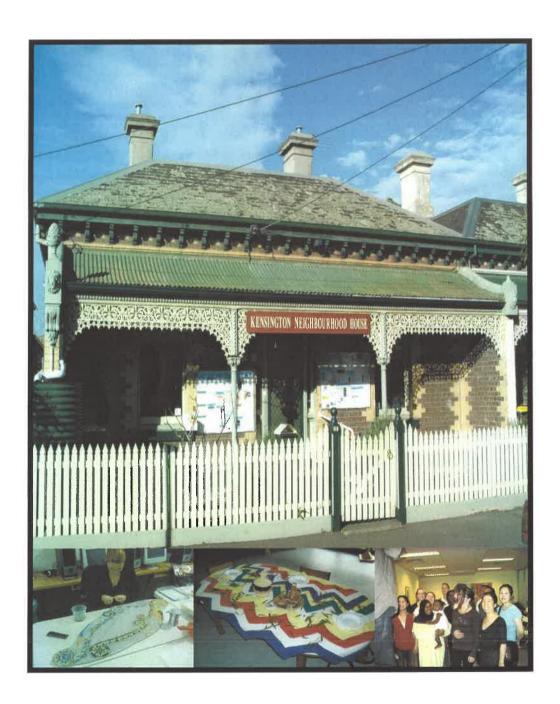
Kensington Neighbourhood House



Annual Report 2009

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- To work within the principles of Community Development and Social Justice.
- To provide quality Adult Community and Further Education as a registered ACE organisation.
- To provide a welcoming environment which is universally accessible and free of discrimination, to foster personal growth and development.
- To alleviate social isolation particularly the aged, frail and persons with disabilities by encouraging self-help support group development.
- To encourage the enhancement of skills and knowledge, particularly those from lower socio-economic groups and residents whose first language is not English.
- To provide an environment which encourages self determination by which individuals may seek choice and take control of their own lives.
- To provide culturally appropriate access to information, advocacy, linkages and resources, particularly for the unemployed, homeless and victims of domestic violence and others living in circumstances where they are unable to adequately provide for themselves and their family.
- To provide quality occasional childcare.
- To provide services to alleviate poverty by accepting donations of clothing, toys and food to be redistributed to those in need, particularly children.
- To assist in the development of each individual's potential as members of the broader community. To provide an environment where people may develop community networks and supportive relationships.
- To provide the opportunity for individual self-expression, social interaction and personal achievement.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Every year I continue to be amazed and encouraged by the vibrancy and success of the Neighbourhood House and the importance of its role in the local community. As the years go by more and more people are finding their way to our door and taking up the opportunities offered by the House, be they recreational or educational.

Our Certificate III in Children's Services Course continues to flourish with students of all ages and backgrounds studying together, graduating and finding work. Other students learn to use computers or practise their English in small groups. The House also welcomes local residents who enjoy a range of interests from Mosaics and Creative Writing to knitting, sewing and book discussion. Health and Wellbeing have not been forgotten either whilst 'foodies' have enjoyed Saturday cooking classes.

For children we have after school art classes and the very well attended school holiday activities. Many families in Kensington have been happy to experience our Morning Childcare - a warm, caring environment for children to play and learn. Whilst at the other end of the age spectrum the House provides a venue for the Wednesday Social Group and the Vietnamese/Indochinese Elderly group.

All of the above would not be possible without the amazing people who give so much time and devote so much energy to the organisation and running of the House and its programs. Carolyn and Sandra, our incredibly hard-working coordinators, Ann, Hayat and Iza in Childcare and Margot and Marian who run the Certificate III course. Shelley and Gina in the office and all the teachers, committee members and volunteers who make the House what it is - THANK YOU.

Thanks must also go to all of our major funding bodies; Dept of Planning & Community Development, City of Melbourne, Adult Community Further Education and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

A note of thanks also to the Honourable Bronwyn Bike who has long supported the work that we do and who has generously welcomed us to her electoral office for the Certificate III graduation over the last few years.

I have saved the best for last and hopefully by the time you are reading this report you will be sitting in our newly extended and renovated building. We received a Federal Government grant of \$147,000 that has enabled us to enlarge the downstairs area and to create an additional classroom upstairs. With more space we hope that in the future we can offer more courses and a venue for community events.

The Kensington Neighbourhood House has been part of this community for 35 years and as we move back into our new 'home' I look forward to a rewarding continuation of that partnership and an exciting future as we continue to be part of something that is very special – Kensington!

Denise Farmery

HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

A big focus of 2009 was the renovation. The House was bursting at the seams. Community space was in high demand. As owner of our building we needed to either raise the money to fund the renovation ourselves or access infrastructure funding – something that has traditionally been very hard to find. Thank goodness for the Global Financial Crisis and the need to stimulate the economy.

After securing \$50,000 from the State Government (Department of Planning & Community Development) and then \$142,500 from the Federal Government (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations) our need became a reality.



Hayat supervises one of Morning Childcare's budding artists

In between preparing for the renovation it was business as usual for our House programs and activities. The Childcare Service, which was historically one of the triggers for the establishment of the Kensington Neighbourhood House, continued to maintain its excellent reputation. A parent satisfaction survey conducted in the second half of the year scored 100% highly satisfied in all areas. To quote one parent, "The first time I used this service, I felt confident about leaving my child in the staff's care and am always impressed with the relaxed environment and opportunities for play for my child".

The success of the Childcare Service is primarily due to the excellent staff we have. Ann Morrison is adored by both the children and parents. She provides a warm and nurturing environment for the children. She has a never ending array of ideas for activities and play using limited resources. Hayat Alisheikh and Iza Davies are wonderful and dedicated assistants. To quote another parent, "(they are) beautiful, gentle, caring and professional" sums up all three staff.

The House's two long-term social groups, *Wednesday Lunch Group* and *Elderly Vietnamese and Indo-Chinese Group* are still going strong. After many years of internal catering both groups have been forced to change how their meals are prepared in order to meet Council's food safety regulations. Whilst food is a good way to get people together the main aim of these groups is to reduce social isolation. A recent survey amongst the *Wednesday Lunch Group* confirmed that their main reason for coming was to meet friends and socialise.

The *Elderly Vietnamese and Indo-Chinese Group*'s annual camp this year was at Rawson Village near Walhalla. 48 people attended the 4-day trip. For many participants this is the only opportunity they have for an affordable holiday. This year the camp cost \$180 per person which covered; food, transport, accommodation and all activities and entrance fees. The House subsidises the camp a little, however one of the main reasons it is so affordable is that it is self-catered. Chi Tran, one of the group's volunteers, plans and shops for all meals prior to departure. To shop with Chi is a learning experience on shopping on a budget!

Both these social groups are reliant on the support of volunteers. Thank you to Ben Somer, Wendy Toohey and Adrian Healy for their help with the Wednesday Group and to Chi Tran, Sa Nguyen and Kim Lan Hua for their help with the Vietnamese Group.

The House's Arts Programs continue to be popular. In 2009 we offered our regular *Mosaics, Creative Writing, Creative Art for Kidz* and *Painting & Drawing* classes. Popular new classes that were introduced were *Crochet, Learn to Sew* and *Kids Only Sewing*. With the assistance of an ACFE equipment grant we were able to purchase four new sewing machines for the sewing classes. Other new programs included the *Book Group* and *Everyday Philosophy Club*. Our weekend workshops continued to be popular and engage those residents that work or study during the week.

With a Melbourne City Council grant we were able to run a series of free environmentally themed workshops for the wider community as well as for our own ESL classes and The Elderly Vietnamese & Indo-Chinese Group with the assistance of interpreters.

In 2009 we signed a new three year Community Funding Service Agreement with the City of Melbourne in what was a new process for council funded community services. The House submitted an individual funding application which addressed various criterions. In addition to this the House also collaborated with North Melbourne Language & Learning, The Centre and Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre in preparing a collaborative partnership document which highlighted the vital role that Neighbourhood Houses provide in the municipality. I am pleased to say that we received almost to the dollar the amount that we requested. This was a boost for the Kensington Neighbourhood House as it was an increase of almost 100% on what we had been receiving from the City of Moonee Valley.



Annie, Bridget and Wendy prepare the back wall for demolition

The increase in local government funding allowed us to employ a Community Development worker 10 hours a week. We welcomed Gina Mancuso to this position in October. Gina's first task was to undertake a needs analysis amongst local employment agencies to ascertain the type of training opportunities they needed for their clients. This has already paid dividends with the extension to our scope of registration as mentioned in Sandra's Further Education Co-ordinator's Report. Having Gina onboard will help the House to better identify and target areas of un-met need in the community.

The House's partnerships with other Kensington agencies, in particular Urban Communities, were further strengthened during the year. We have a great collaborative working relationship with Urban Communities. In addition to jointly facilitating programs we have welcomed Deb Wilson from Urban Communities onto our Committee of Management.

Another partnership that we are pleased to be part of is a "Shared Services Partnership" (SSP) which has been funded by an Adult Community Further Education (ACFE) Flexible Business Grant. The aim of this project is to investigate ways of working together to improve efficiencies in workforce processes such as data collection, learning pathways, financial systems and strategic planning. Lead by North Melbourne Language & Learning the other participating organisations are Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Wingate Avenue Community Centre, The Centre and Network West. The SSP employed a project worker in August to assist in the delivery the project. The final report will be delivered in June 2010. Aside from the focus areas of the project we all now have a much greater understanding of what each other does. We have built mutually supportive relationships which enable us to seek help and exchange information on issues that affect the sector.

So all in all it's been another big year with lots of achievement and things to celebrate. Most of which would not have been possible without the support of the other staff, committee, tutors, volunteers and of course the participants. A big thank you to Sandra McCarthy who does an excellent job as the Further Education Co-ordinator. Those that were involved in the House before she came on board can see how she has grown the Further Education program. Thank you to Gina Mancuso and Shelley Hosking, our Admin worker, for their contribution and value that they add to the House. Shelley was responsible for creating our website. Finally thanks to; the Committee of Management for their support, childcare staff, tutors, volunteers, students and last but not least our funding bodies.

2009 is going to be a hard year to top!

Carolyn Webster

FURTHER EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

2009 was a year of review and change. 186 students attended in Further Education courses at the House participating in a wide variety of language, literacy, computer and vocational training courses. While our teaching staff underwent some changes in personnel they continued to offer relevant interesting programmes to our student group. There were changes too, in the way in which our programmes access government funding. We also changed our scope of registration which determines which accredited courses we can offer, to include a vocational preparation course for those people wishing to enter or re-enter the workforce. An extensive quality audit by the Victorian Registration and **Oualifications Authority in September found**



We managed to attract three levels of government to the Certificae III graduation ceremony; from left Margot Njoku, Jennifer Kanis, Maria Espinosa, Bronwyn Pike & Lindsay Tanner.

that the house was compliant with all regulatory requirements. This successful review allows us to continue to offer accredited courses such as the childcare certificate, and to extend our scope to meet community need. Our business viability was reviewed by both ACFE (Adult Community and Further Education) and Skills Victoria and our business practices were approved for another 12 months of programme delivery. Also as a result of this approval we can access new funding opportunities from Skills Victoria to deliver more accredited training.

Our ESL programmes catered for students from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds including Sri Lanka, Somalia, Ethiopia, China, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines. As well as extending their English language skills, students joined in activities that widened their cultural knowledge and understanding of local community resources. Both general ESL classes enjoyed a talk on indigenous plants and foods from Bronwyn Riddell, our environmental presenter, as part of an environmental grant the house obtained. They then enjoyed an excursion to the Botanic Gardens with Bronwyn, who took them on a guided tour of different plant trails. A visit to an exhibition of indigenous art at the Ian Potter gallery helped students learn about the opportunities for leisure and activity in their local environment, while a talk on door to door selling from the North Melbourne legal service alerted them to the need to understand contracts and credit liabilities. Our ESL conversation and reading and writing classes offered specialist English practice for interested students and were well attended. A Melbourne City Council Emerging Needs grant allowed us to run an English class for older isolated ESL students with minimal English, who need a small group situation to gain confidence and to build some English skills as a pathway into our other ESL classes.

An outreach class that teaches English to Chinese students at the Ormond Street hub in the public housing estate continued to have large attendance and enthusiastic learners. The average age of the participants is 70 and they show no signs of flagging! This class was a sustainable outcome of the successful Community Learning Project we ran at the housing estate in 2008. Thanks to Ann Conroy, Marito Rodriguez and Sue Michell, the teachers who planned and taught these professional and dynamic ESL courses. Our student feedback shows that we are meeting their needs and extending their language and community knowledge. Similarly, the students in our computer classes expressed a high level of satisfaction with their courses and their teacher. Seven, eight week classes were run across 2009 with 45 students gaining a basic understanding of computer operations. Thanks to our tutor, Basil Theophilos, the entry level students find that technology is not the threatening ordeal they were expecting and take to the lessons confidently.

Our vocational course, Certificate III in Children's Services, was offered to three groups of students during 2009, with 13 students from the two graduating classes being awarded their certificates by the Hon Bronwyn Pike at her electoral office in December. The Hon Lindsay Tanner and Councillor Jennifer Kanis also attended the graduating ceremony and congratulated the students on their achievements. This qualification gives our students, who are predominately from non-English speaking backgrounds, an assured employment and training pathway. 90% of them are working in a paid capacity in the local area by the end of their course. Thanks again to our teachers, Margot Njoku and Marian Tinnion, for their training and childcare knowledge and expertise.



Sandra McCarthy and Deb Wilson (Urban Communities) present Xiao-Mei Zhou with a First Aid Certificate

In addition to class delivery, we submitted the report of our 2008/9 Community Learning Project to ACFE. This project offered informal learning opportunities to residents at the public housing redevelopment in Kensington, working in partnership with Urban Communities and AMES. As a result of our report we were classed as an exemplar project which involved showcasing our project to other training providers. This was a great profile raising outcome. Later in the year we submitted a proposal for a second project to attract the more isolated residents on the estate and in September found that we had been successful. We then started to plan a men's support group, community carpentry, and community art and community media. This project will run in 2010 and complete in early 2011.

Thanks to the teachers for their dedicated work during 2009. They make a difference to students' lives. Thank you also to Carolyn for her fine leadership as House Coordinator and to the Committee of Management for the time and effort they take to ensure that the house remains a vital and effective setting in which to connect and learn with each other.

Sandra McCarthy

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Kensington Neighbourhood House continues to remain in a very healthy financial position as at 31/12/2009 with net assets of \$178,912. Overall the House made a small profit of \$331.00.

The 2009 year income was \$365,138 (2008 year \$314,298). The income sheet shows an increase in funding from Melbourne City Council and the loss of funding from Moonee Valley. This is in line with the changed municipal boundaries which came into effect in 2008.

Additional funding of \$50,000 was received from the Department of Planning & Community Development (DPCD) for renovation works as well as our regular funding under the Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Program. Approximately \$80,000 of the DPCD funding has been carried forward to 2010 for expenditure.

The House also received \$142,350.00 from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) for our building works. Most of this has also been carried forward to 2010 when it will be expended.

Total expenditure in 2009 was \$364,807 (2008 year \$303,887). The increase in expenditure is primarily due to expenses associated with the commencement of the building works towards the end of the year.

It is my pleasure to thank everyone at the Kensington Neighbourhood House for our financial situation. This healthy situation is due the commitment and expertise of Denise Henderson, our bookkeeper, the Co-ordinators and my fellow committee members.

Joy Pratt Treasurer

KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME			
Grants - DP&CD - Neighbourhood House		55,016	96,653
Grants - DHS - One Off Grant		2,403	-
Grants - DHS - Occasional Care		-	4,633
Grants - DHS - Capital Grant		-	1,688
Grants - City of Melbourne		56,810	27,888
Grants - Dept. of Education - ACFE/OTFE		159,338	109,004
Grants - City of Moonee Valley		=	15,674
Grants - Commonwealth of Australia		10,186	2,972
Grants - Victorian Multicultural Commission			1,500
		283,753	260,012
Rental Income		620	935
Fees and Other Income		70,805	60,568
Interest received		4,025	7,148
Sundry Income		5,935	(14,365)
TOTAL INCOME		365,138	314,298
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenses		43,786	28,910
Employment Expenses			
Professional Development		2,980	4,377
Wages & Salaries		60,148	57,077
Superannuation		5,505	4,733
Workcover		2,275	2,146
Other Employment Expenses		2,380	2,976
Provision for annual leave, sick leave, long service leave		1,408_	3,067_
•	1.5	74,696	68,242
Finance Expenses			
Bank Charges		90	30
Legal & Accounting		9,157	6,983
	7	9,247	7,013

KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

1	Vote	2009 \$	2008 \$
House Utilities & Maintenance			
Electricity		1,018	969
Gas		806	717
Water Rates		618	697
Insurance		1,288	1,285
Maintenance		2,446	1,286
Cleaning		4,488	5,113
Provision - House Extension		10,000	
		20,664	10,067
Cost of Programs		266	1,544
Marketing Transport Uira		9,109	8,306
Transport Hire Venue Hire & Accommodation		9,128	7,959
Consumables		4,174	5,993
Repairs & Maintenance		21,435	14,623
Miscellaneous Administration		7,934	11,375
Wages & Associated Expenses		115,268	110,705
Co-ordination Fee		26,873	20,840
Contractor's Fee		22,227	17,599
		216,414	198,944
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		364,807	313,176
Profit before income tax		331	1,122
Income tax expense	2		-
Profit after income tax		331	1,122
Retained Profits(Losses) at the beginning of the financial year		37,780	36,658
Retained Profits(Losses) at the end of the financial year		38,111	37,780

KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	3	240,125	185,677
Trade and other receivables	4	2,097	6,113
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	_	242,222	191,790
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5 _	108,076	112,520
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	_	108,076	112,520
TOTAL ASSETS	-	350,298	304,310
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other creditors	6	15,361	18,681
Amounts received in advance	7	125,533	83,483
Provisions	8	40,678	33,751_
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	7) -	181,572	135,915
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	181,572	135,915
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	191,197	
NET ASSETS	-	168,726	168,395
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Retained profits		38,111	37,780
Capital Reserve & Grants		130,615	130,615
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS		168,726	168,395

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF KENSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Kensington Neighbourhood House Inc. which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2009, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

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

Independence

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

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion:

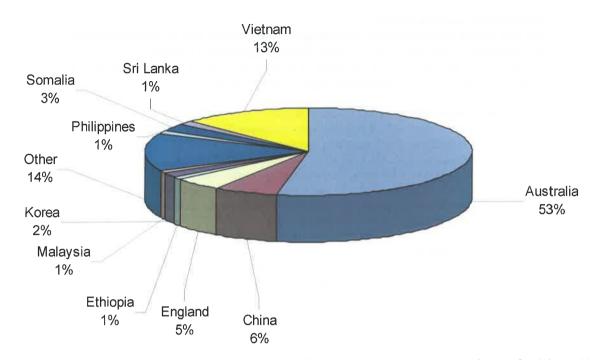
The financial report of Kensington Neighbourhood House Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic) including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 31 December 2009 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic).

Sean Denham

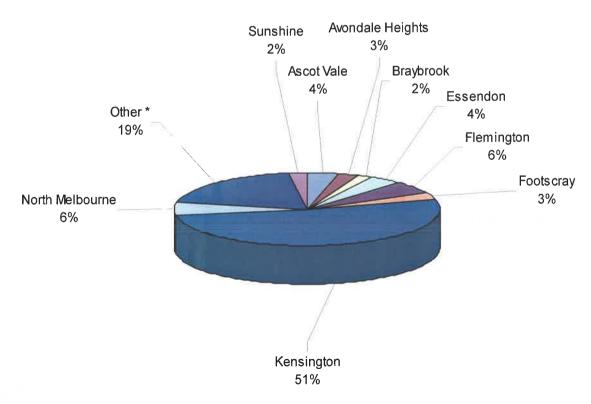
Dated: 15 March 2010 Sean Denham & Associates CPA's Suite 6, 707 Mt Alexander Road Moonee Ponds Vic 3039

Country of Birth



^{*} Other includes; Asmara, Austria, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Guadeloupe, Holland, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Macedonia, Malta, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor, Turkey, Wales, Zimbabwe

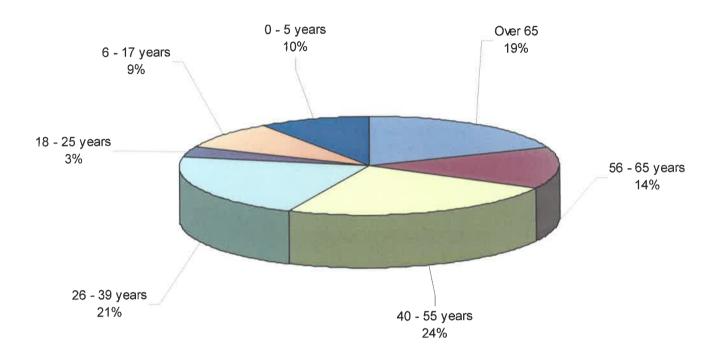
Suburb of Residence



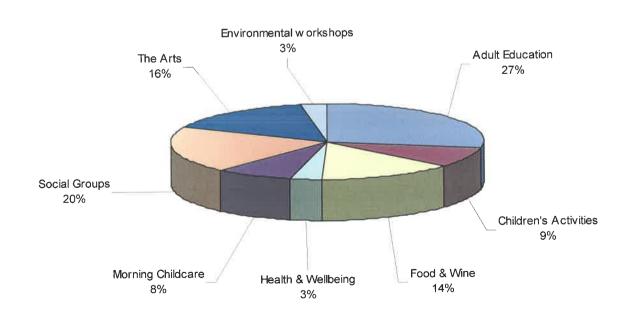
^{*} Includes; Aberfeldie, Airrart West, Altona, Altona Meadows, Aredeer, Ballarat, Brunswick, Bulla, Carlton, Coburg, Craigieburn, Delahey, East Bentleigh, East Keilor, Fawkner, Greensborough, Greenvale, Hughesdale, Jacana, Keilor, Keilor Downs, Keilor Park, Maidstone, Maibyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Ponds, Moorabbin, Mount Waverley, Newport, Niddrie, Northcote, Pascoe Vale, Prahran, Preston, Richmond, Rowville, Southbank, St Albans, Strathmore, Surrey Hills, Taylors Lakes, Travancore, Tullamarine, Vermont, Werribee South, Vest Footscray, West Melbourne, Williamstown, Windsor, Yarraville

STATISTICS ON OUR HOUSE USERS

Age Groups



Participation in Activities



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Denise Farmery
Jackie McConnell
Joy Pratt
Judy Collings
Louise Height
Annabel Rattigan
Jane Robertson
Ben Somer
Wendy Toohey
Deb Wilson
Danielle Woods
Parthena Xenidis

Chairperson Deputy Chair Treasurer Secretary

STAFF

Carolyn Webster Sandra McCarthy Gina Mancuso Shelley Hosking Denise Henderson Ann Morrison Roman Salew Hayat Alisheikh Iza Davies Zafu Engda

House Co-ordinator
Further Education Co-ordinator
Community Development Worker
Admin worker
Bookkeeper
Childcare worker
Childcare worker
Childcare worker
Childcare worker
Childcare worker
Childcare worker

TUTORS

Neil Benham Julie Bilby Fiona Burnes Emilie Collyer Cathy Connop Ann Conroy Meg Dunley Sandie Hernandez Ann Hood

English as a Second Language Learn to Sew, Kidz Only Sewing Cooking workshops Mosaics, School Holiday Activities Beer Appreciation

Vietnamese Group Camp

Wood & Simple Carpentry

Screen Printing & Lino-Cut

Crochet

Creative Writing

Low Impact Exercise

Shelley Hosking Jessica Hough Ron James Andrea Main Sue Michell

Tai Chi Felting ESL Conversation, ESL Reading

Margot Njoku Veronica Passmore & Writing, Beginning English Cert III in Children's Services Creative Art for Kids, Painting & Drawing, Art for Wellbeing, School Holiday Activities

Bronwyn Riddell Marito Rodriguez Peter Rooke Jill Snowdon Gill Sykes Basil Theophilos Marion Tinnion Carolyn Webster Environmental Education ESL Basic & Intermediate Computer workshops Reflexology Wine Appreciation Computer Courses Cert III in Children's Services

Walking Group, School Holiday Activities

CONSULTANTS

Boyd Williams Michael North

Nrolls IT Support

Cleaner

VOLUNTEERS

Chi Tran Kim Lan Hua Po Kwong Sa Thi Nguyen Adrian Healy Margaret Purdey Ben Somer Wendy Toohey John Trewin Marlene Mogford Cazz Redding Vietnamese Group
Vietnamese Group
Vietnamese Group
Vietnamese Group
Bus Driver
Everyday Philosophy Club
Wednesday Lunch/Handyman
Wednesday Lunch
Handyman
Gardener
Marketing Plan

FUNDING BODIES

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Department of Planning & Community Development Adult Community and Further Education Melbourne City Council Victorian Multicultural Commission

