

Newlands & East Coburg Community Hubs Incorporated.

Annual Report 2017-2018



**Edited version, less photos
to enable email sharing.**





Art by Fiona Dempster and Barry Smith.
Limited edition print presented at the Communities in Control Conference 2018.

Acknowledgment of the first nations of Australia

Newlands and East Coburg Neighbourhood Hubs Inc acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the land where we gather, and where we are involved with the diverse community we now call Coburg.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging; Elders who have nurtured their community and their land for countless generations.

This land was taken - sovereignty never ceded; compensation never paid, and a just treaty never made.

Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc aspires to be part of reconciliation processes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples that name past wrongs, redress injustice, identifies mutual benefits and works together for justice and equality.



CONTENTS

Thank you to our sponsors
Committee of Governance
Presidents report
Managers report
Treasurers report
Financials
Auditors report



THANKYOU

Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc. (NECCHi) would like to acknowledge the support of our major funding bodies,



NECCHi would also like to thank the following organisations for their support between January and June 2018,

Vic Police Multicultural Liaison Unit

Merri Health

Active Moreland

Kangan Institute Broadmeadows

Moreland Primary School

Coles Coburg North

Woolworths Coburg North

The Source Bulk Foods Brunswick

Loving Earth

RMIT

Melbourne Polytechnic

Moreland City Council staff for the smooth handover in January:

Paula Jorgensen, Veronika Pradel, Nalika Peris, Barry Hahn, Lynn Waters, Jenell Quinsee, Katrine Gabb, Carmen Reid, Rachel Wood, Marina Thompson.



Thanks to our amazing tutors who give so much of their time to look after the community, and for contributing to the growth in house participation.:

Jasmine Corbett
Fiona Figliomeni
Alister Karl
Diem Van Le
Coco Nkurumah
Cheryl Wilson
Gemma Mahadeo
Cathy Williams
Simone Litchfield
Wai Chun Lee
Simona Schmidt
Paul Carey
Erica Pringle
Rachel Shrives
Andy Higgins
Rose van Herk
Angela Pollock
Sheena Mathison
Trish Lloyd
Fern Smith
Emma Grace
Sarita Galvez

Thanks you to Judy Lazarus, the Northwest Neighbourhood House networker, who assisted the committee and manager during the transition, and has continued to be a support for the new staff joining the sector too.

Thank you to the Committee of Governance who also volunteer their time to ensure NECCHi have a strategic plan for the future, and for the great working relationship we enjoy, we are looking forward to the coming year.

Thanks to the Students on placement for their valuable contribution to research and resources, and program development.

Emma Balingeer
Tarquin Mckinnon
Nawal Mohamud
Collette Parker
Shakilah Wesonga
Zenash Woldeamanuel
Ruby, Dom and Saboora – Food Security project
Nathalia, Caroline and Daniel – Autism play project
Singh and Ashtar – Disability access project

We would like to thank the team of new volunteers who have joined us for projects, weekly classes and community gatherings since January, we couldn't do this without you

Christina Addari
Amne Mehri
Nazish Akhtar
Marlene Gorman
David Ho Seong Kang
Liz Ralph
En-En See
Sean Pickard
Heidi Sanghvi
Andrew Higgins
Stella Prideaux
Anne Marie Williams
Nagma Hasan
Janet Grigg
David Glanz
Penny Oxford
Rachael Hopwood
Helen Gyatt
Nina Lyons
Elenora Angeli
Karen Ye
Helen Kratzman

Finally, thank you to program coordinators Ash Lee and Elizabeth Round for their contribution to the organisational set up of NECCHi operations, and making our community feel welcome at both Houses.

THE COMMITTEE OF GOVERNANCE



President – Michelle McCann

Michelle is an experienced community services and disability professional. In her career she has worked with marginalized members of the community including people with complex mental health issues, disabilities and ex-prisoners. This reflects her strong commitment to social justice and human rights. Michelle teaches into the Certificate IV in Disability, Certificate III in Individual Support and also works at the Future Social Services Institute developing a Co Design framework for on-going skills development for graduates in the community services sector particularly Aged Care and Disability.



Treasurer – Helen Rowe

Helen is a Coburg local who joined the committee because, living in an apartment, she wanted to explore how the neighbourhood house could provide much needed spaces for apartment dwellers who need places to meet and do activities. She works in urban planning and policy, and through this has much experience in working with government and the community.



Secretary – Deb Davison

After over forty years working in the public, private and community sectors, I am now enjoying retirement, and being on the Committee of Governance of the wonderful NECCHI. My working life involved varied and challenging roles in education; health; human rights; community engagement; children's rights, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, training and support; youth work. Now I'm happy working in her/my garden, reading, watching films, talking about politics and acting to make things better where possible.



Jas Streten – general member

As well as his membership of the NECCHI Committee of Governance Jas is heavily involved in other community-focused activity through his membership of Committees at St. Vincents Hospital and Friends of Talbot and Henkel St. He is a local artist and works as a Patient Advocate for the Australian Patients Association.



Emily Caspi – general member

Through her love of community and art, Emily Caspi has worked with various neighbourhood houses facilitating children's art workshops. After experiencing all the amazing work and connections neighbourhood houses contribute to their community, Emily joined the governing committee of NECCHI to learn more about and support her local neighbourhood houses.



Lori Arthur – general member

Living in East Coburg near the Merri Creek, my passion is in gardening and spending time in the outdoors. Being a mum of 2 very vibrant young boys, I'm kept pretty busy in parks and playgrounds around Coburg. I joined the committee in 2017 with a keen interest in making the houses real hubs for the community to come together, whether to share a meal, join a playgroup, learn something or grow some veggies and to create a real sense of place in the community.

COMMUNITY



KIDS SEWING INTERMEDIATE

SAT 10.30AM - 12.30PM # SESSIONS 8/25/3/5

East Coburg Neighbourhood House 05 9915 5472

BOOKINGS CLOSE SOON

hyknaking.com.au/201



ZERO WASTE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 21ST JULY 1PM-3.30PM ONLY \$10 BOOK TODAY

NEWLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE, 20 MURRAY ROAD COBURG NORTH, 3026 2532

OR TRYBOOKING



Rainbow Families

Share the delights, wonders and challenges of parenting, use other people's stories for a fun resource of play, rhymes, stories and songs together.

MUSIC AND PLAYGROUP

BY ANN LEYLA FOSTER/BRIGITTE SERRIEN/JOHN AND JEFFREY HANCOCK AT NEWLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE, 20 MURRAY ROAD COBURG NORTH

Healing Yoga

Fridays 12-30 - 1.30 pm \$6

At Newlands Neighbourhood House 20 Murray Road Coburg North

Join this supportive and gentle Hatha yoga class aimed at assisting the physical and mental healing process, and may give some relief for chronic pain, soothe anxiety, and increase mobility. Suitable to an experienced and compassionate yoga practitioners. Please call to book, casual attendance is welcomed. Call for more information: 9528 2332

Parents & Carers Yoga

Whether you are a struggling or confident parent, this is your chance to connect with other parents and carers.

Wednesday 6.15-8.15am



Neighbourhood House Week

Call in for a chat and bite to eat, meet the neighbours and give us some feedback on your community.

WEDNESDAY 2ND MAY AT NEWLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Everyone welcome! 3.30PM till 7pm. 20 Murray Road Coburg North.



Mini ME & MUM

Music Classes for children aged 3-5 years

13 798 560

PRESIDENTS REPORT

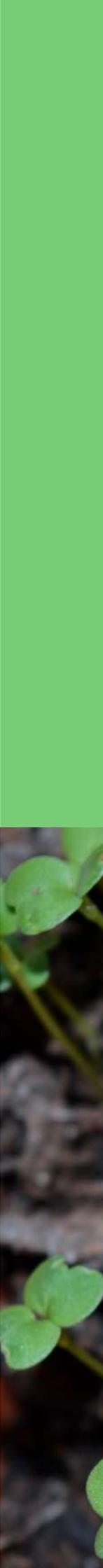
It gives me great delight to be writing my first report as the Chairperson of the Committee of Governance of NECCHi! It has been a number of years since Governance of East Coburg Community House and Newlands Neighbourhood House has been in the hands of the community.

The two houses closed a number of years ago as both experienced difficulties that led to them being non-viable. It was agreed by Moreland City Council (MCC) and DHHS, that both centres be formally closed temporarily, then be re-opened under interim MCC management to enable opportunities for the community to significantly participate in a process of ongoing reactivation.

The Neighbourhood Houses Reactivation Project (NHRP) was established in the second half of 2015 to reactivate the two neighbourhood house venues and return them to sustainable community governance. Members of the community were asked to volunteer to steer the community centres at this time. A small group was formed.

In March 2016, wisdom+work consultants, Rob Ryan and Meg Montague, were appointed to support and resource the group and to strengthen community engagement in the reactivation project. A group of ten community members was formed to assist in this process. The group was asked to recommend a governance model for the centres. With the help of the consultants, the group mapped out a plan to achieve this. Over time the informal group became a structured steering committee. The plan was to investigate good practice models, draw on the expertise of practitioners, research the demographic features of the community, gather information from the community and those who work in it, and to develop principles and criteria on which to make our recommendation. We undertook this task by asking questions, visiting centres, gathering, reading and analysing information and data, attending forums and meetings, discussing and synthesizing material, ideas and options. The Steering group met fortnightly then monthly for 2-hour meetings on a mutually agreed weeknight to undertake this work.

Flash forward to 2017 and that small Steering Committee became the Inaugural Committee of Governance and a new organisation was incorporated with one Governance structure, Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc. (NECCHi).



NECCHi is currently governed by a voluntary committee of seven members which is made up of interested members of the local community. Our purpose is to strengthen the community through creating a space of belonging, inclusivity, equity and growth. Each committee member brings extensive skills, passion and knowledge to the position and a strong commitment to community building and participation.

Over the past year we have employed a manager, Lee Palumbo and two program coordinators, Ash Lee and Elizabeth Round who have done an exceptional job in reinvigorating the houses and making them inclusive, welcoming and accessible to the community. Combined grant writing skills saw NECCHi win a grant to seed a community choir from Creativity Australia, one of five in the state, and we look forward to seeing the outcome when they launch in November.

We have been fortunate to have the assistance of a grant from MCC to re-vamp the east Coburg garden space, under the direction of Lori Arthur, and hope to have this completed before the end of the year.

I would like to thank on behalf of the Committee, Moreland City Council, The Department of Health and Human Services, Networker Judy Lazarus, Meg Montague and Rob Ryan who all provided endless support and guidance to us as we steered our way through the maze of Incorporation and Governance requirements in the early stages.

A special thanks is also given to Mel Alexander, Toona Berwick, Abdurahim Humed, Afroz Uvais and Mengxiao Pan (Michelle) who were on the original steering committee and gave endless hours of their time in helping build the foundations for the Governance Committee as it is now and contributed greatly to the houses being back in community hands.

Lastly I would like to thank the current committee members Deb Davison, Helen Rowe, Lori Arthur, Emmily Caspi, Jas Streten and Bruce Mowson for all your support and your commitment to community. It is a pleasure and an honour to be the Chairperson of NECCHi working alongside you all.

MICHELLE McCANN

President



MANAGERS REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present the managers report for the Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs. (NECChi) inaugural annual general meeting. It has been an exciting start for the team at NECChi, with the official handover from Moreland Council on 1st January this year and programs resuming a few weeks later. I commenced in December and worked closely with Moreland staff, and together we ensured a smooth transition for the existing participants and programs.

In the first 6 months we have seen....

- 16 new regular activities and 6 events take off.
- 12 student placements from RMIT and Kangan, 2 from Melbourne Polytechnic, and 1 from IKON Art Therapy College
- Membership growth from 7 to 126
- Employed 1 full time and 2 part time staff and one casual staff member, and a team of volunteers.
- Refurbished rooms at each site
- Developed a new logo and new term flyers
- Updated computer equipment at Newlands, and furniture at both sites.
- Developed a suite of policies and procedures, a strategic and business plan.
- Partnered with other organisations to bring new groups into the Houses.

Just a few of the highlights for the first 6 months have been:

International Women's Day - open house at each venue to celebrate the day with a lesson in Hosho, paper and dye art, morning tea and great conversation.

Veggie Swap - in response to requests in the area we started a monthly veggie swap on the bank of the Merri creek once a month., run by a local volunteer.

With One Voice Coburg Neighbourhood Choir - we won a seed grant to start a community choir with Creativity Australia. One of 5 awarded in the state. Local Singer and musician Phoebe DeKlerk will lead this, all inclusive group. The choir will establish its own committee over the year and become autonomous eventually. A true community choir, no auditions.

Arabic Women's Social group excursion to the snow - with the return of local Arabic women's group to the east Coburg House, a range of new activities and excursions got underway, with the snow trip being a highlight for the women. many have been coming to the East Coburg House since the 1980's. The group is supervised by a local volunteer, Amne Merhi, who has a long history with the House and is happy to be "back home" at east Coburg House.

Merri Creek Club A partnership with Moreland Primary School, parents and children meet at the House for a chat and refreshments before heading down to the creek to clean up as much rubbish as they can.

Seniors Computers - we have grown the group to provide an intermediate class and a computer club, drop-in session for one-off attention. We see a real need in the community for more attention to this issue as more services require an online response.

Girls Shine Bright - a new program to help young women transition from primary school into high school with confidence, through creative processes. Run by local Movement therapist Cathy Williams.

Zero Waste Workshop - Hosted by The Rogue Ginger, Erin Rhoads, a very engaging and useful workshop to learn how to reduce our waste at work and at home aiming for a zero waste lifestyle, well attended!

New Programs included QiGong, extra Yoga classes, including a parents yoga class, new art classes, Bookbinding, puppet making, school holiday activities and a growth in children's sewing classes, thanks to new sewing machines, and the enthusiasm of the tutor.

We are seeing both Houses utilised to a greater extent for gatherings, childrens parties and cultural groups, the Yemeni friendship Society at Newlands and support groups at east Coburg.

The team in operations have spent time listening to community members talk about what they would like to see in their neighbourhoods, and how the House can play a part in that. Short surveys and feedback from participants and tutors have helped shape what we offer, and we plan to continue our conversations with the community at every opportunity to ensure we maintain a grassroots approach to community development in both neighbourhoods.

Building awareness of our new organisation in the community has been a focus of our marketing, and regular mail drops of our term flyers have helped this process. This year we also joined with the other Moreland Houses in a joint advertisement to promote our connectedness to one another. Increasing our social media presence has also enabled people in the area to find out what we are up to. The logo design was finalised, and we are grateful to James Rewell design for the professional and timely execution of the task.

It has certainly been a busy and exciting start for NECCHi, and we have met some amazing people along the way. Now we are looking forward to moving into a year of deeper community engagement, listening and assessing and reflecting on the work we do alongside the people living in the neighbourhood.

LEE PALUMBO
Manager



Some feedback from programs

Yoga classes have grown from one Saturday Class to include a Wednesday evening class and most recently trialling an early morning, 6.30am class.

The participants include people who have been attending the classes regularly and who enjoy the Yoga Synergy methods of practicing and others who are returning to their yoga practice after a break or are just looking for a local class, as well as people coming along for their first experience of a yoga class of which most have expressed their physical and/or mindful health improvements acquired during the class. Whilst the early morning class is new and perhaps a challenge for people to get out of bed on the cold, dark winter mornings, participants observations of their early practice has led to having “a really good day”, “feeling energised” and they “enjoy it”. Some senior school students have expressed interest in booking into the early classes next term.

Simone Litchfield, Yoga teacher

The initial classes include an 8-week beginners course where topics stem from the pupils ‘fears of using technology’. After the initial 8 weeks, courses will become available for students to “specialise” and direct their learning toward technology that is more relevant to them - Laptops, iPhones/smartphones/mobile phones, iPad/Tablets. Each of these “specialty” classes will run for 8-10 weeks and will continue to build on the information learned in the beginners classes and will include a module around Cyber Security as applicable to their platform.

Phoebe Willetts, IT Tutor.

The Open Studio is for emerging or established artists, or anyone who is interested in exploring art. It is a space that supports all abilities in a safe and friendly environment. It is a place to learn new techniques, build confidence and create quality artworks in a supported studio environment. The group also aims to provide professional opportunities to participants in and around Moreland; opportunities to exhibit professionally, see exhibitions and hear artists and curators speak.

Alister Karl Art teacher.

Some feedback from programs

"The women are enjoying being here very much, some are lonely and look forward to Tuesdays when they can meet the others in the group. We have become like a family and enjoy our trips together too. We welcome all Arabic speaking women to join us, any age, Muslim or not, everyone will be welcomed"

Amne Merhi, Volunteer, Arabic Women's Group east Coburg.

I was always scared of computer. Last 5 years, I took over a department and I had to learn the system. But I've learned how to run, but I did not learn how to walk or crawl. I learned computers for a job, period. That was it. But being here I learn to get confidence and I am not scared anymore!

-Jo from Computer Skills at Newlands

Open Studio at NECCHi is a great way to practice art under the guidance of a qualified art teacher. I have been attending since the beginning of 2007 when I began to explore painting with acrylic paints and continue to do so.

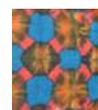
I attend on the Tuesday morning session and recommend it be extended more hours especially for us painters. i.e. all day (school hours)

Thank you!

-Nekaria from Open Studio at Newlands

"We are extremely happy having our placement at NECCHi, our time here has been fun and full of learning. We had experience of handling various practical situations. The secret to our success was your unreserved support for us, we really appreciate your guidance and understanding."

Nawal and Zenash. Student Placement, East Coburg



TREASURERS REPORT

The 2017-18 financial year has been one of transition for the Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc. Handing back responsibility for the two houses has meant that all financial management systems, policies and procedures have had to be set up and finances transitioned from the City of Moreland to NECCHi. There have been a few bumps along the way and a learning curve especially for the committee to understand the responsibilities, set up bank accounts and navigate spreadsheets. A huge effort from the committee, the NECCHi manager and all those involved. Our thanks to the many groups that have been working with us through this transition including the City of Moreland, DHHS and Networker, Judy Lazarus for their support.

At the end of the 2017-18 financial year NECCHi's finances are in a strong position. This includes a healthy bank balance with our cash at bank at the end of June 2018 being \$402,797.64. This includes funds that have banked up which will support the two neighbourhood houses to re-establish under community governance. In the current financial year the committee will be assessing ways this funding can be best support ongoing sustainability, extend our reach into the community and revitalise the two houses.

The first 6 months of return to community governance have seen some increases in existing revenue streams as well as new income streams. This has included increase in revenue from room hire and classes, as well as a grant from the City of Moreland to revitalize the yard of the East Coburg House and the Arabic Women's Program participation grant funding.



It has been wonderful having new projects come from community members knocking on the door with great ideas and enthusiasm. As a committee, we look forward to working with NECCHI's manager and our communities to bring forth more of these types of initiatives in the current financial year.

In the coming year I look forward to continuing to work with on the finance group of the committee, including Jas Streten and Lee Palumbo to support the committee. As we move into our second year, we will have more detailed financial information, including year to year comparisons to inform our decisions and also to share with our community in our next annual report, which we hope will document our continued growth.

Thank you to our bookkeeper Jacqui Marshall at JCJ Services and auditor Julie Carswell, particularly for helping us to fine tune our processes as we have started out.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this a successful year, especially those involved in the sometimes difficult establishment activities. Looking forward to a great 2018-19!

HELEN ROWE

Treasurer



A member of Neighbourhood Houses Vic.



Newlands Neighbourhood House
20 Murray Road
Coburg North Vic 3058.
8528 2332



East Coburg Neighbourhood House
32 Nicholson Street
East Coburg Vic 3058
9913 5472



NECCHi Newlands & East Coburg Community Hubs Inc.

ABN: 54794801039

INC: A0099426K