



SHERWOOD
NEIGHBOURHOOD
CENTRE INC

43RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



19 OCTOBER

2022



SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



Brisbane
City Council



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Government



Councillor for Tennyson Ward
Nicole Johnston



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SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

AGENDA

Wednesday 19 October 2022

1. Meeting open and welcome
2. Attendance and Apologies as per list
3. **Guest Speaker:** Alison Petelski
4. Acceptance of the Minutes of the AGM held 20 October 2021
5. Business arising
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Appointment of Auditor's 2022/2023
9. **Centre Reports**
 - 9.1 Director
 - 9.2 Community Sector Support
 - 9.3 Housing and Homelessness
10. Election of Management Committee for 2022/2023
11. Close of Meeting



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Apologies for 2021

- Jess Pugh MP State Member for Mount Ommaney
- Madeleine Buckley - Volunteer
- Matthew Wilding-Wykes Staff community support officer
- Errol Raiser – Volunteer Bus Driver
- Suliana Samu - Vice President
- Karen Olds – Management Committee Member

Attendance 2021

1. Cr Nicole Johnston – Councillor for Tennyson Ward
2. Muriel Moxley – SNC Volunteer Mudlarks
3. Nantawan Wood - Student Placement
4. Georgia Cummings – SNC Volunteer /Mindfulness and Metta Practice
5. Alison Petelski – WSC – Member
6. Michael Waterhouse – Mudlarks Member
7. Barbara Waterhouse – Community Member
8. Lloyd Hancock - Member
9. Ann Hancock - Member
10. Cathryn Porter - Member
11. Leigh Winsor – Member

Management 2021 (Volunteers)

12. Geoff King - President
13. Maree Jackson - Treasurer
14. David Bartholomew - Secretary
15. Ron Gordan – Committee Member

Staff

16. Karen Hayes - Director
17. Elizabeth Palk – Housing Co-ordinator
18. Theresa Mortimer - Administration
19. Kate Walton – Housing Support Worker
20. Vinay Prakash – Accountant



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Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre 2021 AGM Minutes

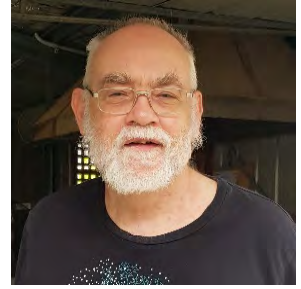
Date: 20 October 2021
Time: 6:05 pm
Venue: Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre
Attendees: As per attendance list
Apologies: As listed

Item	Topic	
1.	Welcome and acknowledgement of country to elders past, present, and emerging by President Geoff King	
2.	Attendance and apologies	As listed
3.	Guest Speaker – Nicole Johnston – focussed on the following in her electorate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sherwood Community Festival is on in a modified form in November and December – see their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/2021sherwoodcommunityfestival• Hives Park upgrade – focusing on the playground equipment• Walter Taylor Bridge – the many challenges facing the proposed bridge duplication	
4.	Previous AGM Meeting minutes for endorsement Minutes read and moved for acceptance	Moved: Ron Gordon Seconded: Vinay Prakash CARRIED
5.	Business arising from previous AGM minutes - Nil	
6.	President's Report for 2020 presented by Geoff King <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hoping we will be back to normal next year after another year made difficult by Covid• The Centre has coped quite well due to the efforts of the staff• Geoff also expressed thanks to the existing and new board members and the politicians we work with to achieve our goals set by our Strategic Plan	



Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre 2021 AGM Minutes

7.	<p>Treasurer's Report presented by Maree Jackson</p> <p>The Centre is still in a good position with less spending due, again, to Covid. Maree acknowledged the assistance of Vinay in overseeing the financial situation.</p> <p>Maree moved the motion that the report be accepted</p>	<p>Moved: Maree Jackson</p> <p>Seconded: David</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
8.	<p>Maree Jackson moved that the Auditor, David Hartmann, be appointed for the 2021-22 financial year</p>	<p>Moved: Maree Jackson</p> <p>Seconded: Ron Gordon</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
9.	<p>Karen Hayes gave the Centre Report for 2020</p> <p>Karen made the point that 2020 was a difficult year with the lockdown and it was hard work to supply the Community with ongoing support.</p> <p>Staff, volunteers, Vinay in finance, and the Management Committee were thanked for their ongoing support over the 12 months.</p> <p>Motion that the Centre Report be accepted</p>	<p>Moved: David Bartholomew</p> <p>Seconded: Maree Jackson</p>
10.	<p>Election of the Management Committee for 2020-2021</p> <p>Chaired by Nicole Johnston</p> <p>All positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and ordinary members were nominated, accepted, and elected unopposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">President: David BartholomewVice President and Treasurer: Maree JacksonSecretary: Geoff KingOrdinary Members: Ron Gordon, Ally Petelski and Lloyd Hancock	
11.	<p>Meeting closed at 7:05 pm</p>	



President's Report

David Bartholomew

This past year was my first as Chair of the Management Committee. It does take a couple of years to really ascertain the role we play and what interactions we have with the Director, staff, volunteers, and users of the centre.

So, what role does the Management Committee have in the running of the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre? In its purest form I believe we support the decisions of the Director and staff and, to use an American term, have oversight in the running of the centre, its finances etc. We also respond to serious contentious issues, and perhaps external problems affecting the running of the centre.

Looking back at last year's report much has changed and much has stayed the same. COVID is still with us, admittedly to a lesser extent but we still feel the impact of the pandemic in the way we interact with others – masks are still used by many in busy spaces. Numbers of attendees and events have not yet fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

The floods in February were an unexpected event with many traumatic results. I don't think anyone was fully prepared for such an event, as there was virtually no warning. The centre was able to support flood recovery to an extent by providing a safe environment for those affected to interact with the necessary services to help them get back on their feet.

Soon, we hope Sherwood is better prepared for the aftermath of this or a similar disaster and we are working toward this. To this end we are working in conjunction with our local government member, Councillor Nicole Johnson, to set up a disaster response team to work out of our Centre in the event of the next disaster which has, unfortunately been forecast for the near future.

On the positive side of the register, the centre has been the receiver of increased funding which will allow increased opening hours. It will now be possible for the centre to operate on the five working days. Membership is slowly increasing, and we look forward to promoting the centre in the year ahead.

In August the management committee, at the instigation of our outgoing member Ron Gordon, held a morning tea to begin a conversation with current and future stakeholders to further our interaction in the community.

Finally, the Management Committee wishes to thank the Director, Karen, the staff and of course the volunteers without whom the centre would not function as it does now, for their support and work over the last year.





Treasurer's Report Maree Jackson

The 2021-2022 Financial Year provided various challenges for Sherwood Neighborhood Centre in fulfilling its objective of providing valuable services to the community. There was some lingering effect of Covid19, but overall, the centre continued to deliver quality programs to its clients and the community throughout this challenging environment.

The ongoing provision of support for disadvantaged people both financially and psychologically, continues to be a prime focus of the centre. This support places increased demands on the resources of the centre.

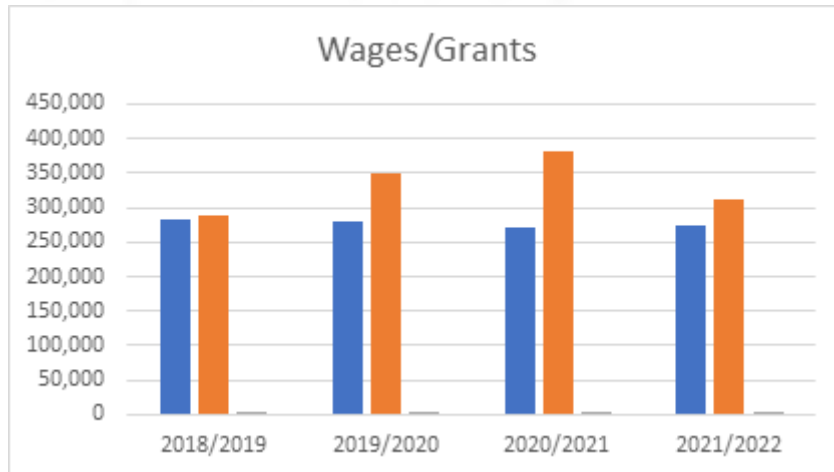
Key points from the enclosed audited Financial Report include:

- An overall surplus of \$16,509 which continued to be influenced by job-keeper as well as a tight rein on expenses
- This is the seventh consecutive surplus we have posted due to diligent management of centre's financial position
- The centre's net cash position continues to be in a strong position, enabling us to ensure any liabilities can be covered
- The centre continues to attract grants from the state government, not only in supporting the day to day running of the centre, but also in targeting specific purposes and programs outlined in the Strategic Plan. All grants, of course, require acquittal to the relevant authorities
- The quarterly recurrent grants from the Department of Communities do not cover all of the operational costs of the centre and additional sources of income have to be sought to fund programs. Renting the hall to community groups remains a significant part of this income and fortunately hall hire has returned to pre-covid19 levels. Property rentals increased from the previous year. We continue to improve income due to the Pottery Groups, the Thrift Shop and Bus Hire. The Fund-Raising Committee continues to look for new ways of raising additional funds





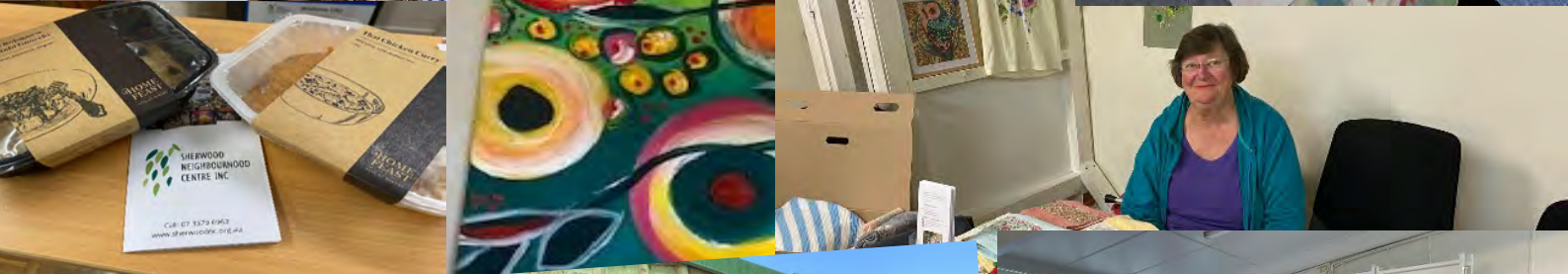
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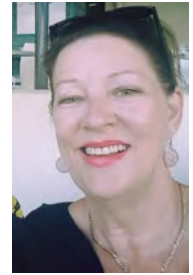


- Significantly, the quarterly recurrent grants from the Department of Communities do not usually cover the cost of wages at the centre. During the first half of this financial year, because of loss of income for the centre, we were able to obtain Job-keeper which improved our overall income significantly
- This year saw significant problems with the computing and phone systems and increases in utilities costs. To offset these costs, solar panels were installed and an updated Wi-Fi and phone system were investigated to reduce problems and costs for the next financial year
- The centre's employee obligations in the form of long service leave and recreation leave are fully provided for in the Balance Sheet. Also, the centre is fully compliant in regard to the legislated Transitional Pay Equity Order, thus ensuring our staff are paid at rates that acknowledge their efforts and skills
- The Management Committee, in consultation with centre staff, are continuing to review the centre's Strategic Plan and associated budget to demonstrate the Management Committee's determination to not only ensure the centre's financial position remains sound but to also look ahead at future projects that will enhance the centre's community focus

This report would be incomplete without acknowledging the excellent work of our Financial Officer, Vinay Prakash in his diligent management of the centre's finances. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our auditor, David Hartman in ensuring our financial processes and procedures are compliant with the appropriate standards.







Director's Report

Karen Hayes

General news

Well, another year has passed by, and we are at the business end of our year again, with the AGM (Annual General Meeting) coming faster than I anticipated.

It has been a year dominated by floods and disaster, with Covid19 taking a step back from being in the spotlight. It has given us the opportunity to play a pivotal role during these unfortunate times in which we continue to do everything we can to help those who were impacted by the devastation. As we speak, those affected are still trying to get back to normality and will remain supportive throughout.

The start of the new year brought flooding rains that impacted our immediate and surrounding communities. We returned to the centre in early March as soon as it was possible, to help our community through the devastation of this disaster.

Not long after our return to the centre, the State Government Recovery team requested to set up a Recovery Hub for flood victims to receive assistance with financial, practical, emotional support and other needs. I allowed the Recovery Team to utilise the centre to help everyone in our community gain access to the necessary assistance. With this, our in-house groups and hirers were all disrupted by accommodating the Community Recovery Hub and would like to thank our Groups and Hall Hirer's who were all very cooperative and understanding to work around the disruptions.

I am currently working with Councillor Nicole Johnston on preparing our centre for future disasters. We aim to have the ability to take action, aid and assist our community as soon as the danger of any disaster passes.

We have had some other wonderful things happen throughout the centre. For example, the installation of the Solar Panels, which has been a long-standing vision for our centre. Another exciting development is that we have received a financial boost from our funding body, Department of Communities Housing and Digital Economy, to assist the Community Support section of our centre. This enables us to be open five days a week as of the 1st of October 2022. Once again, this has been a vision that has taken a long time to come to fruition. Our organisation is excited to be able to offer our services to our community for a standard working week. This will enable us to be more robust and offer more support to our community.

We have had our fair share of disappointments this year. Specifically, one of our properties was significantly damaged when it was rammed by an out-of-control vehicle. This unfortunately forced





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us to urgently rehouse a large family of 10. With our marvellous Housing team as their support, we managed to achieve a positive outcome for the family. The repairs are still on-going which is disappointing, especially due to the housing shortage everywhere. We think this will unfortunately take a few more months to rectify at this stage.

Staffing

We have seen long standing staff members move on and we have gained new staff members, but all strive for the same goal; to support and advocate for our community and do it in the best conceivable way, with kindness and in a caring manner.

We have a new Administration Officer this year, Nan, who has done a brilliant job at handling the role from Theresa Mortimer who we were sad to see move onto better things.

In the Housing area we have welcomed a temporary appointment of Sarah. She is backfilling for Kate who is on placement for her University Degree for a 7-month period. Sarah is doing a fabulous job in the role and is a pleasure to work alongside. Elizabeth is a great mentor and leader in the Housing Coordinator's role. She exceeds expectations in trying to juggle housing issues for our clients and tenants.

Matthew, our Community Sector Support Officer has been fine tuning our Emergency Relief area and helps with coordinating volunteers and students on placement throughout the different areas of the centre. He has also organised projects and events throughout the year that have been successful with many people from our community attending, thank you Matthew. Everyone be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming events!

Finally, Vinay has done a marvellous job with our finances. We work as a team to strive for the best outcomes, thank you, Vinay.

Service users

My heartfelt thanks go out to our centre users, groups, private hirers, and private services. Without your support we would not be in such an acceptable position. It also fills us with pride to see the centre humming along with the community. It is always a pleasure meeting people for the first time and greeting the long-term regular users.

In appreciation

My thanks go to my supportive Management Committee, as they are the backbone of our success. David Bartholomew has been deemed some tasks throughout this year that he perhaps did not think would arise, these are good and not so good things, but he has taken it all in his stride, thank you very much David for supporting me and the Organisation. Geoff (Secretary) and Maree (Treasurer) have been excellent in their roles on the Executive Committee, as well as Ron who is leaving this year and has given the organisation some new and inventive ideas on ways to collect data and information how our future should look, along with Alison and Lloyd. I thank you all.





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Once again, to thank the people who are our stalwarts and/or who are new in volunteering throughout the different areas of our centre. Words are never enough to express our gratitude to all our volunteers who we appreciate having alongside us and supporting us and your community.

Volunteers work in the following areas of the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre - Thrift Shop, bus driving, reception, computer tutoring, the collection and bagging bread or gardening and the bottle donations to be collected and delivered to the bottle depot.

I would like to acknowledge the following organisation and businesses for supporting our centre:

- Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - ongoing funding
- Brisbane City Council – Lord Mayors Christmas Fund
- Community Fund
- Community Connection
- Active Lifestyles GOLD programs (they finance to run throughout the year)
- Coles Corinda – Donation Food Box in store
- Bunnings Oxley

My thanks to the ongoing extraordinary support from **Councillor Nicole Johnston** who has been a pillar of strength with several events throughout this year!

I also would like to mention the **Honourable Jess Pugh MP** in that same light, who is always supportive and at hand when needed, thank you!

My thanks to the **Honourable Mark Bailey MP** who is always in the midst of helping, whether delivering groceries or moral support to the centre along with the **Honourable Graham Perrett MP**.

Thank you everyone for supporting Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre Inc. as we look forward to a successful and adventurous year ahead.





Community Sector Support Officer Report

Matthew Wilding-Wykes

External events impact

The global pandemic has continued to offer challenges, particularly at the beginning of 2022. While the centre was unavailable in person, we were able to continue offering information and referral remotely alongside welfare checks during this period.

The community has been hugely impacted by the Brisbane floods. The centre was able to accommodate a Flood Recovery Hub on site and continued to supply ER support as well as being a hub for general donations within the area. We were able to compliment the Recovery Hub services represented, by offering a welcoming space and through assistance from businesses (King Street Bakery and Bunnings) offered warm meals for visitors. In addition, we advised the services at the Recovery Hub on what supports we could offer and continued raising awareness within the community.

Throughout the period we have continued offering Emergency relief food, toiletries and Telstra vouchers utilising the food donations received from our Coles donation box and generous donations within the community. We have found that there has been a continued need for assistance to community members. Some individuals have required further support and ongoing assistance as well as a number of complex cases.

Emergency Relief & Projects

As mentioned above our Emergency Relief support has continued to be used throughout this period. There has been a significant need for the support due to the unprecedented events of this period. As noted on Figure 1, there was a spike in persons looking for assistance over March a large portion of these individuals were directly affected by the floods.

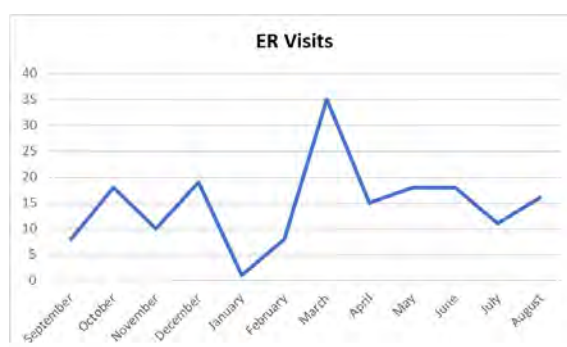


Figure 1

With assistance from the Sherwood team and volunteers we were able to run our Community Connections project, funded as a 'one off' project through the Brisbane City Council. In the wake of the global pandemic, wellbeing and social isolation has been a major concern for the community and society as a whole. This gave us the opportunity to run a project focusing on social connection





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and community wellbeing. We aimed to set up a programme that would offer soft referrals for individuals within the community to access social/special interest/hobby groups. Despite the challenges of Covid 19 and the February floods the project culminated in a Hobby/Interest Expo allowing for the community to try something new and see what is out in the community.

Groups & Volunteers

Alongside our centre events GOM and Seals have been able to have speakers and outings between covid restrictions and the floods. Most recently we have been able to collaborate with the GOM's for an event to celebrate Seniors Month taking place at the end of October. While Western Suburbs Clay workers had their annual exhibition of their work at the Botanic Gardens.

The volunteers have been a huge asset to the centre it has been incredible to see the huge impact they have on the day to day running of the centre. There have been several student volunteers throughout this period who have been a massive help to the community department. It has been great to see them learn and flourish during their time with us and to see some continue taking roles in the centre after their placement.

Events

While navigating around covid restrictions we have been able to host several events at the centre since last October:

- Seniors Month October 2021
- Queensland Mental Health Week 2021
- Children's Week 2021
- Christmas Volunteer lunch 2021
- Neighbour Day 2022
- QLD Day 2022
- Community Connections – Hobby & Interest Expo 2022
- Queensland Mental Health Week 2022

It was great to collaborate with Benarrawa CDA and Inala Hub to hold events for Queensland Mental Health Week last year and this year. We also were very pleased to work with C & K Sherwood Kindergarten for Children's week 2021. The support from the community and local groups (internally and externally) has been key in the overall success of our events.

We were incredibly pleased with the huge success of our Hobby & Interest Expo for the Community Connections project and hope to run a similar event in 2023.





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Final words

Christmas will be upon us soon and I look forward to continuing to support the Centre's efforts to assist the community. I would like to acknowledge the amazing support and assistance we have received from the community, the management committee, all the centre staff, our groups, external organisations, and local members, Graham Perrett MP, Minister Mark Bailey MP, Jess Pugh MP, Cr Nicole Johnston, and Senator Paul Scarr.





Housing Coordinator Report

Elizabeth Palk

This year we continued to provide crises and emergency accommodation support through three single bedroom units and four community-based houses for families through the Crises Accommodation Program. The housing is owned by Qld Department of Communities, Housing and the Digital Economy. Our Housing team is usually comprised of myself, and Housing Family Support Worker Kate Walton. Kate has been on study leave since mid-year and is due to return in December. Sarah Berardo has been undertaking this role in her absence. It is lovely to work with each of these skilled people as they develop very positive relationships with our clients to support them through evidence-based practice, as they work to remove the obstacles, which have hindered them from gaining appropriate housing.

Although our accommodation is offered on a short-term basis, we are able to extend this when the duration of need demands, and in the present social housing crises, we often need to extend tenancies for a longer period.

This year we supported 45 individual clients with direct accommodation, providing a total of 9587 bed nights through the program.

Of 18 support periods that ended during this period 17 reflected that the client exited to secure and sustainable housing and one person left their pre-existing family situation.

Client background and family make up

We provided case managed support to a total of 49 people (5 of whom were not accommodation by our program). Of the total number of 45 clients 17 identified as First Nations people and 25 were of Culturally and Linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Health Status

We seek to gain information about health and disability status as people enter the program. However, we have noticed that sometimes it is when they are in our accommodation that there is appropriate time and resources with which to follow up with gaining a diagnosis. For instance, we have observed that children in our housed families are often likely to be in the process of gaining a diagnosis or accessing the NDIS once they are housed and attending school regularly.

Additionally, we are fortunate to be able to refer clients to the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre Emergency Relief and community programs when appropriate.





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Education

Statistics concerning education among our younger clients. Once a family is housed, we seek to support the parent/s in navigating the school system. As unstable accommodation is logically associated with unstable school attendance for a range of issues, such as lack of uniforms and school equipment through to health, behavioural issues and (sometimes undiagnosed disability).

As we began to live with Covid19 this year, we were able to increase our home visit activities. Much of the training our team has undertaken this year, has still been delivered online and the increasing awareness of the incidence, and impact of domestic abuse has led to an increase in our skill levels and responses to this issue – which is also reflected in changes to our funding Departments Policies and Procedures.

Continuous Improvement is always on our radar but perhaps more so this year as we were selected for review by Department of Communities, Housing, and the Digital Economy. This required us to submit our policies, procedures and evidence of contemporary practice and we are now waiting to hear back with respect to any suggested areas for improvement.

Non-accommodated client activities

Our team also talk to people who drop in or phone in seeking information about homelessness or how to go about gaining social housing. The table below reflects that we worked with 105 people through this mode.

Mode of Presentation	Count of Mode of Presentation
In Person	15
Via Telephone	63
Via Third Party	20
Via Email	4
Total	105

Sometimes we respond by undertaking an assessment through the QHIP (Queensland Homelessness Information Platform), which is a shared database of consenting people who are seeking accommodation or homelessness information and/or support. Responses ranged from providing other relevant agency contacts, undertaking warm referrals, providing advocacy, undertaking QHIP assessments to case management (following QHIP assessment) depending on the needs and our capacity to provide an appropriate response.

In relation to both accommodation and non-accommodated clients we are fortunate that we can refer to the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre Community arm in relation to Emergency Relief, donated items and community activities. In addition, we really appreciate that we can occasionally purchase whitegoods for placement in the accommodation we offer.

We do access significant support from agencies such as St. Vincent's who provide a warm and responsive service to our housing clients and who work with us to support our younger clients with





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their educational requirements in addition to furniture, food items and a range of other practical supports. Being able to access the food from Brumbies is wonderful as well. We have also accessed Sheridan sheets and towels through Street Smart, which again, is extremely useful.

We would not be able to do this and much of our day-to-day work without the support of The Centre's volunteers who so generously give of their time and often a range of skills including diplomacy. I would like to thank each of them for their invaluable contribution. I also want to express my appreciation of the wonderful work undertaken by Kate and Sarah. It's been great to also work with Mathew and Nan this year. Finally, the Housing program benefits greatly from the work undertaken by Vinay our Finance Officer, our Director, Karen and finally Members of the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre Management Committee.

Please refer to the external Housing 2021/2022 Statistical Report for:

- Statistics on housing background
- Statistics on the demographics supported, age, culture, sex, family dynamics
- Statistics on housing prior to entry of service
- Statistics on referral pathways
- Statistics on sources of referrals and referrals made by our team
- Statistics on support provided and support requested by our accommodated clients





Nominations for Management Committee Member 2022-2023

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY:	SECONDED BY:
PRESIDENT	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW	KAREN HAYES	GAI MCDONALD
VICE-PRESIDENT	MAREE JACKSON	ALISON PETELSKI	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW
SECRETARY	GEOFF KING	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW	KAREN HAYES
TREASURER	MAREE JACKSON	ALISON PETELSKI	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW
COMMITTEE MEMBER	LLOYD HANCOCK	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW	KAREN HAYES
COMMITTEE MEMBER	ALISON PETELSKI	MAREE JACKSON	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW
COMMITTEE MEMBER	SHARYN SHIELDS	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW	KAREN HAYES





Our Groups



Western Suburbs Clayworkers Report

Alicion Petelski

The little clay shed at the back of the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre (SNC) was certainly busy this year, clay being an amazing medium to express one's creativity!

Due to the hustle and bustle with added new members, a well-received rearrangement of the layout was made to the studio along with the addition of new (second hand) shelving. These shelves were rarely empty with ceramic pieces either waiting to go into the kilns or to find their new homes.

The 3 kilns were running hot! And with little wonder when you consider the number of events that were on offer to the members.

Here is a summary in point form:

- Brisbane Home Show Art Space
- Sherwood Christmas Market
- Glazing Workshop
- GOLD Program by BCC
- Moggill SS Mother's Day Market
- Raku Workshop
- Exhibition at Max Galleria, Tewantin
- Toowong Library Display
- The Ekka
- BVAC Arts and Crafts Community Expo
- WSC Annual Exhibition- Clayworkers & Friends at the Mt Coot-tha Auditorium, where we raised a tidy sum for the SNC through a raffle of member's work.
- Fairfield Library Display
- Yarraman Gallery Exhibit





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Also, still to come will be a Majolica Ceramic Decoration workshop, the Moggill Christmas Market and the Summer BVAC Pop up Shop!

We had a pottery wheel repaired. So now with 4 wheels in operation we might need a new waterproof shed in the future, as things can get a bit squishy if everyone wants a turn at once.

The SWELL Festival at Currumbin and HOTA Gallery was an enjoyable day trip for the group in the community bus in September.

Looking forward to another busy 12 months of workshops.



Mudlarks Potty Group Report

Muriel Moxley

The start of 2022 for our group, which meets on a Friday, was again disrupted by Covid19. Thankfully, since mid-February there have been no more days cancelled. A couple of our members experienced Covid and another who was flooded and lost just about everything, is now in her new unit, and enjoying her life.

Our membership continues to grow; our attendance record fluctuates but also continues to grow. Our talented potters are always happy to share their knowledge and advise anyone who needs help. We all enjoy the age range from young to “not so young” – at least 85 years!

The group expresses their thanks to the “Firing Fairies” of Western Suburbs Ceramics whom we rely on for their knowledge and great effort in taking care of our “treasures” in and out of the kilns.

We commenced a Wednesday group in August 2021 with a small group of keen potters. However, because of Covid and poor health concerns of a couple of the members it was decided we would not continue with this extra group in 2022, until the need arose. Depending on membership numbers of the Friday group in 2023 we may be obliged to revisit the idea.

In the meantime, we continue to enjoy a very friendly and caring group of people with lots of ideas about pottery and life in general.





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Craft Markets – Corinda

Irene Laverty

We have had a different year to date, as we have had a lot of rain, there has not been much opportunity for opening market stalls. Up to December we were averaging 13 to 15 stalls each month. From February to September, we are seeing numbers averaging 7 to 14 stalls monthly, but it is very hard to tell what the outcome will be.



The Crafty Ladies

Nicky McCallister

The Crafty Ladies Group continue to meet on the second and fourth Friday of the month. Generally, we do not meet during December and January, but we have now decided to continue our meetings as per usual with the exception of public holidays. One of the reasons being a few of our members feel they can become quite isolated during the holiday season.

Our numbers have grown, and we are now holding our meetings in the back hall where there is ample space.

We are a very sociable group and enjoy having chats, comparing notes while drinking (tea and coffee!). After our meetings at the centre, we usually go to lunch where we can continue to talk some more!





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SEALS



Seniors Enjoy Active Lifestyles Sherwood

Doris Cartmill Peacock

This year has seen much improvement on the previous year, as we adjusted to all the changes due to Covid19. From lock downs, isolations, to mask wearing and later to non-mandatory wearing of masks, to now able to freely mix with vaccinated and non-vaccinated family, friends, and the general public.

Our membership has remained constant with 14 ladies. Throughout the year, we have celebrated each lady's birthday by dining out for lunch together at the venue of her choice. Venues this year included: Mexican Restaurant Sherwood, O'Tooles Tavern Corinda, Hunter and Scout Restaurant Graceville, Westside HQ Corinda, Thai Malila Cafe Oxley, Forget Me Not Cafe Graceville, Corinda Chinese Cafe, Cafe 63 Graceville, Eliza's Cafe Corinda, and Asian Lily Graceville. Over the Christmas break, the group elected to continue to meet at Westside HQ and O'Tooles Tavern to keep in touch, for some to play Rummy O, while others were content to sit and chat.

Our regular monthly bus trips were reduced to three, due to Covid restrictions, the unavailability of a driver, and limited attendance. However, those who were able to attend went to Springfield Lakes Orion Pool, to swim and/or enjoy retail therapy, the Confectionery Warehouse and DFO Brisbane Airport, Queen's Park, and Ipswich. A carpool of three allowed us to enjoy our annual trip to Wynnum/Manly for our fish and chip lunch by the sea and we were able to visit many op shops in the area also.

The return of the Lord Mayor's Lunchtime Concerts saw many of our group attending six events: Buddy Holly Tribute Show, The Dawn Light, The Beetles Rooftop Concert, The Best Of British 'Pops and Circumstances, Acoustic Guitar Spectacular and The Beehives Pop Divas. Our thanks to Matthew for organising group tickets online.

Special events included the annual Lord Mayor's Seniors Christmas Morning Tea and Concert; Melbourne Cup lunch at the centre catered for by one of our members, watched on the TV; and a cooking demonstration by a guest presenter. With Covid restrictions removed, we were able to attend the five day Over 50's Autumn Camp, venue this year at Campialba, Hervey Bay. Nine group members had planned to go, but two had to cancel due to health issues. Those who attended enjoyed the wonderful meals, fellowship; day trips around Hervey Bay and the Reptile Park at Childers, where we listened to very informative talks about their snakes and crocodiles.

Sixteen Tuesday afternoons were spent in-house at Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre, activities included, planning, playing Rummy O or card games, and or connecting with each other. Our thanks go to Matthew for giving us Part 2 of his Astronomy talk, which the ladies thoroughly enjoyed.





SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

Since the beginning of our SEALS group, some twenty years ago, a few of our members are less active and mobile, needing the use of wheelie walkers or walking sticks. Some have had time in hospital for operations while others have developing health problems; we are actively rethinking activities to be as inclusive as possible for all.

Despite this, our group continues to stay as active as possible, enjoying each other's company and we look forward to another busy year ahead, hopefully free of Covid.



Grumpy Old Men

Keith Lamb - Chair

For two hours a week Grumps offers a place for laughter, the free expression of views, and healthy debate on whatever members feel is important. As we enter our twelfth year at the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre we acknowledge Rob Bruce's marathon six years in the Chair, and I thank the Grumps for entrusting me with the role.

Despite the restrictions earlier imposed by Covid-19 we have, with the support of SNC staff including Karen, Matthew, and Nan, gone from strength to strength in 2022, while those sadly deceased along the way are fondly remembered for the valuable contributions, they made during their time with us. As new members enter and tell their stories the breadth and depth of knowledge within the group continues to grow exponentially. It is truly amazing just how much synergy can be generated during a meeting.

With a current headcount of over fifty-five and a regular attendance of around twenty-five, every week yields something new. Even long-term absentees want to be kept informed of what we're up to. Once a Grump Always a Grump!!

Although many highly respected, long-established organisations are today struggling with how to attract and retain new members to ensure their relevance and survival in a rapidly changing world, one thing is certain – there will be no shortage of Grumpy Old Men!!

So, whether it's to tell our stories, discuss current affairs, enjoy BBQs in the park, travel to interesting places, or listen to a wide range of fascinating guest speakers including *Honorary Grump* Counsellor Nicole Johnston, the future as we move into 2023, is bright!

With best wishes to all for a safe and Happy Christmas!





Student Volunteers

My name is Kim Tupicoff and I have recently completed a Cert IV in Community Services. I completed my work placement at the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre, and I am continuing as a volunteer while additionally working one day per week on the Disaster Support Program, which we recently received funding for from the Australian Communities Foundation.



Tafe Queensland

Kim Tupicoff



Queensland University of Technology

Emma Wilson and Dakota Cunzolo

We have had the opportunity to complete our student placement here at the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre. We are both studying a Bachelor of Human Services at Queensland University of Technology and, as part of our degree, have had the privilege to learn from the staff at the centre.

We began our placement in the beginning of August 2022 and have since worked in various areas throughout the centre. Together, we have both had the privilege of working in reception and the thrift store. This has given us the opportunity to meet the centre's regulars and get to know members of the community.

Emma has been working alongside another volunteer, Kim, to collect the emergency relief donations from Coles every Tuesday. She has also had the opportunity to assist clients when they need emergency relief by food hampers and toiletry bags.

Dakota has also been working alongside Matthew to get the community garden up and running. She has been advertising for volunteers and organising a seed library to help get the community involved in the garden.

We have enjoyed learning from such knowledgeable staff and their diverse perspectives towards community work. Matthew has not only facilitated weekly tasks but also helped us to overcome the learning curve that comes with supporting those in need. It has also been great to learn from Nan as





SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

she also started as a student and has worked her way into administration. Due to similar experiences, Nan has always been willing to help us navigate our placement.

Our supervisor, Karen, has provided us with knowledge on organisational policies, community involvement and avoiding personal biases within the workplace.

Spending time with Elizabeth and Sarah in housing has also provided us with important insight into what goes on behind the scenes of emergency housing and homelessness. We were able to observe meetings with tenants, learn to navigate the Queensland Homelessness Information Platform (QHIP), and shadow Elizabeth and Sarah as they assess current housing.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from the staff, volunteers, and the Sherwood community. Thank you to everyone for welcoming and supporting us throughout our placement.



Thrift Shop

The thrift shop continues to grow this year with the help of the community, our faithful regulars, and lovely volunteers!

Our hard-working volunteers continue to do an outstanding job organising the donations we receive from our generous community.



Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Lara on Wednesdays. She has been a great help these last few years. We would like to wish her the best of success in all future endeavours. Sharon, one of our volunteers has kindly offered to take over on Wednesdays in addition to her volunteer receptionist role.

We would like to offer a big thank you to all our volunteers', long-standing and new faces, for which we could not operate, the shop without!





SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

Vision and Mission

Our centre nurtures personal well-being and community spirit. We:

- Promote social inclusion
- Deliver programs that respond to community needs
- Provide a welcoming community space

Our Values

Social Justice

We act in accordance with social justice principles of equity, access, inclusion, fairness, and advocacy, providing fair & equal outcomes for individuals and communities in their everyday lives.

Innovation

We provide innovative solutions, which focus on community need.

Collaboration

We do collaboration by building respectful relationships and partnerships. Working with individuals, staff, and stakeholders in a respectful, co-operative, inclusive, welcoming manner.

Integrity

In all of our interactions, we will act with honesty, accountability, and transparency. Act ethically at all times.

Our Commitment

All these services are provided in a non-judgmental community meeting place responding to community needs. The Centre promotes the sharing and learning of skills within the community and the fostering of community spirit

The Centre responds to the needs of the local community through community development work and provision of a range of services such as information and referral, crisis support, and community education in order to facilitate and enable personal and social development.

A variety of group activities are held at the centre to cater to the needs of the community.

Our Objectives for the Centre

To alleviate social isolation. Carry out the promotion, establishment, support, and assistance of social welfare programs. To assist in the direct relief of poverty, homelessness, illness, disability, and isolation.

Administration Officer

Nan Wood

live
laugh
love

