



# 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18 OCTOBER

2  
0  
2  
3





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



Brisbane  
City Council

**Cr Nicole Johnston**

Councillor for Tennyson Ward

180 Fairfield Rd, Fairfield 4103

(07) 3403 8605

tennyson.ward@bcc.qld.gov.au

www.nicolejohnston.com.au

@crnicj

Putting people before politics

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNITY FUND  
AND THE COUNCILLOR FOR TENNYSON WARD



**K.M.SMITH**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*We think of everything*

Funded by



Queensland  
Government



**coles**



**PainSlayers**  
Graceville Physio



ROTARY CLUB OF  
BRISBANE INNER WEST



**Rotary**



Brisbane  
Taylor  
Bridge

**GIVIT**  
goods for good causes



# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

## AGENDA

Wednesday 18 October 2023



1. Meeting open and welcome
2. Attendance and Apologies as per list
3. **Guest Speaker:** Cr Nicole Johnston
4. Acceptance of the Minutes of the AGM held 29 October 2022
5. Business arising
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Appointment of Auditor's 2023/2024
9. **Centre Reports**
  - 9.1 Director
  - 9.2 Community Sector Support
  - 9.3 Housing and Homelessness
10. Election of Management Committee for 2023/2024
11. Close of Meeting





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



## **Apologies for 2022**

- Graham Perrett MP – Federal Member for Moreton
- Jess Pugh MP – State Member for Mount Ommaney
- Matthew Wilding-Wykes – Community support officer/Staff
- Lexie Smiles – Member/Ballet Revisited
- Rob Erskine-Smith – GOM
- Anthony Farrington –GOM
- Lexie Smiles – Ballet Revisited
- Jasmine Bond – Volunteer/Staff
- Geoff King – Secretary
- Judy Thornton - Seals
- Georgia Cunningham – Mindfulness and Metta Practice
- Michael Waterhouse - Volunteer
- Barbara Waterhouse - Volunteer

## **Attendance 2022**

1. Cr Nicole Johnston – Councillor for Tennyson Ward
2. Muriel Moxley – SNC Volunteer Mudlarks
3. Dakota Cunzolo – Student Volunteer
4. Keith Lamb – GOM Chair
5. Emma Wilson – Student Volunteer
6. Madeleine Buckley – Volunteer
7. Natalie Oldham – Western Suburbs Clayworkers
8. Kim Tupicoff – Volunteer/Staff
9. Sharyn Shields – Volunteer

## **Management 2022 (Volunteers)**

10. David Bartholomew - President
11. Maree Jackson - Treasurer
12. Geoff King - Secretary
13. Ron Gordan – Committee Member
14. Lloyd Hancock – Committee Member
15. Alison Petelski - Committee Member

## **Staff**

16. Karen Hayes - Director
17. Elizabeth Palk – Housing Co-ordinator
18. Nantawan Wood – Administration







# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

## 2022 AGM Minutes

**Date:** 19 October 2022  
**Time:** 6:05 pm  
**Venue:** Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre  
**Attendees:** As per attendance list  
**Apologies:** As listed

Item	Topic	
1.	<b>Welcome and acknowledgement of country to elders past, present, and emerging by President David Bartholomew</b>	
2.	<b>Attendance and apologies</b>	As listed
3.	<b>Guest Speaker – Alison Petelski – Emergency planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discussed planning and preparation for bad weather events and other disasters: <a href="https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/plan">https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/plan</a></li><li>Things that could be useful: emergency kits, placing important documents in a safe place e.g., metal suitcase, making copies</li></ul>	
4.	<b>Previous AGM Meeting minutes for endorsement</b>  Minutes read and moved for acceptance	Moved: Cr Nicole Johnston  Seconded: Karen Hayes  CARRIED
5.	<b>Business arising from previous AGM minutes - Nil</b>	
6.	<b>President's Report for 2022 presented by David Bartholomew</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continuing another year with Covid19 to a lesser extent., centre attendance has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.</li><li>February floods unexpected - the centre became a flood recovery hub.</li><li>An increase of funding has allowed the centre to now operate Monday to Friday</li><li>Management Committee expressed their thanks to Karen, the staff and volunteers for their support and work over the year</li></ul>	
7.	<b>Treasurer's Report presented by Maree Jackson</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Centre is still in a good position with less spending due, again, to Covid</li><li>Seventh consecutive surplus due to diligent management of centre's financial position</li></ul>	Moved: Maree Jackson  Seconded: Cr Nicole Johnston  CARRIED



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job-keeper has allowed us to invest in new phone systems – involved extensive research and analysis by Karen in liaison with Vinay in finance and myself</li> </ul> <p>Maree moved the motion that the report be accepted</p>	
8.	<p><b>Maree Jackson moved that the Auditor, David Hartmann, be appointed for the 2022-2023 financial year</b></p>	<p>Moved: Maree Jackson Seconded: Alison Petelski CARRIED</p>
9.	<p><b>Karen Hayes and Elizabeth Palk gave the Centre Report for 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karen – Covid has taken a step back with 2022 being a year dominated by floods and disaster</li> <li>Groups and hall hirer's faced disruptions due to recovery hub requiring hall use</li> <li>Karen has commenced future disaster planning in liaison with Cr Nicole Johnston</li> <li>One of our properties was significantly damaged due to a vehicle collision resulting in the need to urgently rehouse a large family of 10</li> <li>New things at the centre: solar panels, additional hours</li> <li>Thanks went to staff, volunteers, student volunteers, Vinay in finance, groups, hall hirers and Management Committee were thanked for their ongoing support and flexibility</li> <li>Elizabeth - We supported 45 individuals through our crises and emergency accommodation and an additional 5 who were not accommodated by the program</li> <li>Able to increase home visit activities</li> <li>Team underwent additional training to increase awareness of incidence, and impact of domestic abuse</li> <li>Continue to seek significant support through agencies such as St. Vincent's and Givit</li> </ul> <p>Motion that the Centre Report be accepted</p>	<p>Moved: David Bartholomew Seconded: Maree Jackson</p>
10.	<p><b>Election of the Management Committee for 2021-2022</b></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> <p>President: David Bartholomew Vice President and Treasurer: Maree Jackson Secretary: Geoff King Ordinary Members: Ally Petelski, Lloyd Hancock, Sharyn Shields</p>	
11.	<p><b>Meeting closed at 6.50 pm</b></p>	



## Chair, Management Committee Report

### David B.

2023 recognises the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre (SNC).

It is also seeing my second year as Chair of the Management Committee. It does take a couple of years to really ascertain the role the Management Committee plays and what interactions we have with the Director, staff, volunteers, and users of the Centre.

It is fascinating, if that is the correct word, to observe the inner workings of the Centre for the services most of us would be unaware of if not being on the Board.

2023 has seen many positives for our Centre.

Community Centres were granted increased funding for the future. This has allowed SNC to now open on 5 days in the week enabling us to extend our support of the community.

Two new staff members joined SNC (Michelle in Communities and Di in Housing) to support our very able Director, Karen in the day to day running of the Centre.


We have been fortunate that we have not had a major disaster on our hands in the last year after 2022 saw devastating floods while the remnants of COVID19 still affect us today.

SNC, at the instigation of our favourite BCC Councillor, Nicole Johnston, has been preparing, in conjunction with various stakeholders – Red Cross, local churches and organisations, for example – a disaster plan to cope with the next eventuality be it flood, fire or if you have been streaming too many programs, the collapse of society as we know it! Though we cannot provide accommodation we can be the touch point in the local area for disaster recovery.

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.

Soon, we hope Sherwood is better prepared for the aftermath of this or a similar disaster and we are working toward this by working in conjunction with our local government member, 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.

Finally, the Management Committee wishes to thank the Director, Karen, her 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.





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



## Treasurer's Report

### Maree J.

The 2022-2023 Financial Year saw a marked difference for Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre in fulfilling its objective of providing valuable services to the community. Continued and increased grants combined with variable staffing arrangements eventuated in extremely positive financial outcomes.

The Centre continued to deliver quality programs to its clients and the community throughout this fluctuating environment ensuring 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:

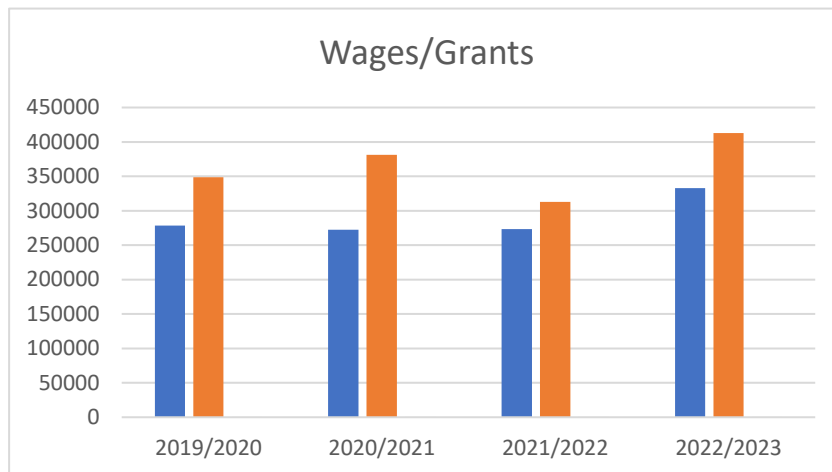
- This is the seventh consecutive surplus we have posted due to diligent management of Centre's financial position.
- The Centre's net cash position continues to be in a strong position enabling us to ensure any liabilities can be covered.
- The Centre continues to attract grants from the State government, 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 is at outstanding 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 quarterly recurrent grants from the Department of Communities do not always cover the cost of wages at the Centre. The previous year we relied on Job-keeper, while this year has seen significant increase in government funding to ensure we are able to employ adequate staff.







# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



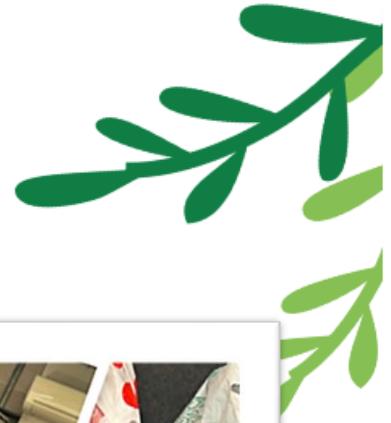
- Last year's problems with the computing and phone systems and increases in utilities costs saw us invest in an updated internet and phone system. The solar panels installed last year have made a significant difference to power costs.
- The Centre's employee obligations in the form of long service leave and recreation leave are fully provided for in the Balance Sheet. Also, the Centre is fully compliant with regards to the legislated Transitional Pay Equity Order thus ensuring our staff are paid at rates that acknowledge their efforts and skills.
- Longstanding Housing Co-Ordinator, Elizabeth, retired from the centre this year and her value was irreplaceable. There was also a change to the Community Support Co-Ordinator. The replacement of both positions meant there was some instability in staffing arrangement which reduced wages overall. However, there was no decrease in services thanks to Karen and her leadership and organisation of remaining staff who stepped into the breach.
- The Management Committee in consultation with Centre staff is 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.
- An overall surplus of \$64,877 which resulted from fluctuating staffing matters, strategic forethought investing in solar panels the previous year, the return to normality for groups attending the centre and a thriving Thrift Shop.

This report would be incomplete without acknowledging the excellent work of Centre Manager, Karen, and Financial Officer, Vinay for their 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 is compliant with the appropriate standards.





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

2023







# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



## Director's Report

**Karen H.**

### General News

We have a busy year again with the upgrade of flooring to our centre and our amazing community garden looking wholesome and healthy again.

I have been busily working on a few things behind the scenes and one of those is trying to assist our community in being prepared for any disaster. Our Local Councillor Nicole Johnston lead this idea for this comprehensive project with many local community services, schools and businesses involved as part of the response if a disaster should happen, with all helping with their knowledge and suggestions to create an operational action plan in such event should happen.

Our organisation has signed a Service Agreements this year, Department of Communities is a 5-year agreement and so is the Department of Housing, with the latter releasing funding for 1 year at this stage due to Federal Government pending decisions around the homelessness programs and funding.

The department has also recently released a 'one-off' grant to every Community or Neighbourhood Centre throughout Queensland to try to offset the struggle a lot of households are suffering from due to increased costs of living; this will be used to distribute food and essential items to those who are in need.

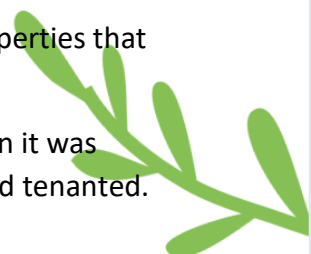
Our organisation has also been awarded a tender in delivering a service to the community in the event of a disaster.

I believe that it is so important to help our community to be resilient and for us to be here to help wherever it is possible, with our Management Committee being supportive throughout this program along its progress and this has been a bonus for the many positive outcomes we have achieved so far.

I mentioned earlier the department came into to the centre to inspect the front hall and concurred it needed replacing so that has happened and it looks much brighter in that area as well as the entry/reception area.

Overall, the department has been supportive with a few projects including the CAP properties that we manage.

The incident I reported last year, (one of our properties was significantly damaged when it was rammed by an out-of-control vehicle) it took 12 months for this property to be fixed and tenanted.





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

The department also painted the house whilst it was untenanted, that was a bonus for our organisation and for our tenants.

## Staffing

I wish to thank all Volunteers for the great work throughout the year. They are exceptional people trying to help and give to others, their time is truly appreciated by Management and Staff.

Elizabeth our Housing Coordinator retired this year after 10 years with our organisation, we wished her all the best in her next venture. Matthew left at the beginning of the year, we bid him farewell also.

We welcome Di carrying out the duties as Housing Coordinator and Michelle is the Community Sector Support Coordinator. They both carry a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Vinay our Finance Officer continues to be a great support to me and the organisation with all things financial.

We have Kim working as the Housing Support person and Nan as the Administration Officer, both carry out extremely good work and both roles are very important to support clients, fellow staff and volunteer members, not to forget the fabulous work that everyone in the centre carries out to help our clients and the community. I would like to acknowledge both of our Casual support officers, Jasmine and Cassandra, thank you for being here to help with everything.

## Service Users

Thank you to our centre users, groups, private hirers, and private services for your support and cooperation at times, when there is interruptions or changes to availability of some areas due to works being carried out. We appreciate your support for our organisation.

## In appreciation

Our Management Committee continue to support our team and myself to make it another great year at our centre. I know that I mentioned last year, but the committee organised a stakeholder's meeting for the purpose being to invite stakeholders from many different sectors of our community to have an input and have their say about what they would like to see at our centre. We have started working on and having a couple of the suggestions that was put forward.

This type of support is very useful to where we can align to match our local community needs, so thank you to those who were involved.

David Bartholomew is Chairperson for his second year and has done a great job throughout the year, he is always readily available to help, thank you David.

Our other Executive of the committee members are Geoff King as Secretary and Maree Jackson as Treasurer who carry out several tasks throughout the year to help everything run smoothly. My thanks to all Committee Members for your support.

Our thanks and gratitude go to Councillor Nicole Johnston, Honourable Graham Perrett MP, Honourable Jess Pugh MP and finally to the Honourable Mark Bailey for your continued support to us and to our community.





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



## Community Support Report

### Michelle G.

The Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre's community support team has continued to provide a high-quality service with good humour and flexibility when facing the day-to-day challenges of frontline community support work. Our small team would struggle to 'keep up the pace' would it not be for our team of dedicated and wonderful volunteers.

In a year of rapidly rising costs of living, we are constantly surprised and grateful for the continuing generous donations of food, second hand clothes and money from the community. In the last financial year, the food relief program has provided support on 245 occasions with a total of 854 individuals benefiting from the program. Those in need of food and financial assistance will benefit from a one-off Emergency Relief grant provided to Community Centres across Queensland in the coming year.

Several events, projects and programs were held this year. The main objective of these is to offer the opportunities to participate in activities that decrease social isolation, that provide information, that improves our mental and physical health and to celebrate our people, community, and days of significance. Events were held in Seniors Month (October 2022), Queensland Women's Week (2023), in Neighbourhood Centre week (2023), a lunch to celebrate the hard work of our volunteers, mental health and well-being information sessions and our Hobby and Interests exhibition showcased the diverse range of activities our local community offers for people to get involved. Projects and programs that spanned over the year included the replenishment of the community vegetable and herb garden, reestablishment of a community playgroup, establishing a pen pal program in collaboration with Corinda State High School and facilitating a community walking group.

We are very grateful for the continued support (in-kind, financial, and through donations) of the following people and organisations: Councillor Nicole Johnston, Minister Mark Bailey, Minister Jess Pugh, Minister Graham Perrett, Brisbane City Council, Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts, Taylor Bridge Rotary, Brumbys Sherwood and Sherwood C&K.







## Housing Coordinator Report

### Di C.

This year the Housing and Homelessness Service at the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre which is funded as a Specialist Homelessness Service through the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. We continued to provide accommodation and case-managed support to clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, through three single bedroom units and four community-based houses for families, these properties are provided to us through the Department. This accommodation is short-term, but due to the current housing crisis and escalating cost and unaffordability of private rent housing, we are finding that it is becoming more difficult to find suitable housing for people to exit to and that the Department of Housing would still be a major housing provider.

We accommodated in total 46 people, with 14 of those identifying as of Indigenous background, 18 from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds and 1 from South Sea Islander background. One of our family CAP properties was not operational for most of the year, due to a combination of the property being damaged by being hit by a car and tenant damage. The Department of Housing assisted us by repairing and refurbishing this property, which is now operational again.

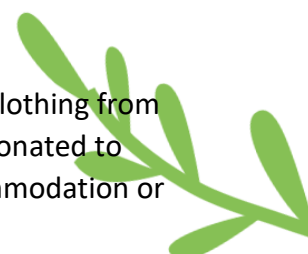
### Non-accommodation clients

Part of the housing service is responding to calls and requests for information or referral to other housing service providers or information around tenancy issues and other related matters. This table outlines the recorded information on the number of requests we have received and the mode of how they presented.

Mode of Presentation	Count of Mode of Presentation
In Person	21
Via Telephone	81
Via Third Party	34
Via Email	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>

We use the Queensland Homelessness Information Platform (QHIP), which is a database used by homelessness services to advertise their accommodation vacancies and to search for accommodation for their clients.

We have been able to access services provided by the neighbourhood centre, such as clothing from the thrift shop, food from the donated ER supplies, as well as other items generously donated to the centre. We use GIVIT at times to access bigger furniture items needed in the accommodation or





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

when tenants move out into longer-term housing, the difficulty with this sometimes is that we have to pick up the items that are donated.

## Staff

This had been a challenging year due to a number of staff changes within the housing team throughout the year. Elizabeth was in the housing co-ordinator role and went on long service leave in April 2023. Kim started in the Housing Support Worker role in April of 2023. Elle was in both the Housing Support Worker and Housing Co-ordinator roles within this financial year. I started in the Housing Co-ordinator role in August of 2023.

## Reporting

There are a number of monthly, quarterly and annual reports required by the housing service. We continue to provide information via the Specialist Homeless Information Platform (SHIP) database and upload it to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. We have a number of reports to submit to the Department in relation to Community Housing and Crisis Accommodation programs.

We thank everyone who has assisted with the neighbourhood centre and the housing service and giving of their time, skills and materially and look forward to providing a quality service to homeless and at-risk families and individuals in our community.





## Nominations for Management Committee Member 2023-2024

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY:	SECONDED BY:
PRESIDENT	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW	KAREN HAYES	LLYOD HANDCOCK
VICE-PRESIDENT	MAREE JACKSON	KAREN HAYES	SHARYN SHIELDS
SECRETARY	GEOFF KING	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW	KAREN HAYES
TREASURER	MAREE JACKSON	KAREN HAYES	SHARYN SHIELDS
COMMITTEE MEMBER	GAI MCDONALD	KAREN HAYES	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW
COMMITTEE MEMBER	SHARYN SHIELDS	KAREN HAYES	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW
COMMITTEE MEMBER	DONNA MURRAY	DAVID BARTHOLOMEW	KAREN HAYES





## OUR GROUPS



### Western Suburbs Clayworkers

**Lyn M. (President) 2023**

Our little group down the back path of SNC is where we meet, play with clay, or just inform newer members how to enjoy using this dynamic medium CLAY.

Now without the dreaded Covid hanging over us we are free to develop our skills as potters and sculptors all in the likeminded company at SNC.

We have a very diverse group of very skilled people including beginners to professional.

We received 2 brand new pottery wheels thanks to the generosity of SNC which were very well received. We are always very grateful to SNC for our opportunity to have a home here.

Our kilns (3) are running hot again this year with the diverse group of potters/sculptors and now we have capped our member's numbers to 50 members, so the group runs smoothly.

We meet monthly for our meetings on how best to improve our group.

Some of our activities and exhibitions this year have been.

#### Workshops, including:

- 1) A group effort for Mosaics, Majolica on clay, Sculpture / Hand building, Understanding glazes and formulas, understanding Kilns and technology.
- 2) Raku firing workshops 4-5 times this year.
- 3) Fairfield Library display Sept/October.
- 4) The Ekka. Taking out several 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbons by our talented members.
- 5) Gold Programmes. By SNC. Tutored by our volunteers.
- 6) SNC open day. Including Wheel throwing exhibitions to the public.
- 7) BVAC Arts and Crafts Open day and wheel throwing exhibitions to the public.
- 8) BVAC Pop up shop and Markets x 2 at Mt Cootha Gardens.
- 9) Swell group outing to Gold Coast and Hota Gallery. Using SNC bus.
- 10) WSC Annual Exhibition "Visions in Clay" Richard Randall Gallery Mt Cootha Gardens.
- 11) Our yearly raffle proceeds going back to SNC.
- 12) Regular volunteers tutoring in wheel throwing, glazing, advice, and sculpture methods at our shed. We have several tutors within our group.

SNC provides us with a practical well-equipped studio on a community basis. And a social outlet for a very diverse group of potters/sculptors. We have been running at SNC now since 2005. (18 years) now and hope to continue our association with SNC for a very long time to come.





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



**Mudlarks Pottery Group 2023**

## **Muriel M.**

Fridays at the Mudlarks Pottery Group is always a most enjoyable and fun filled few hours for our members. Depending on personal circumstances attendance can range from 4 to 13 members. Weekly average of 8 to date.

This year more of the group are taking the opportunity to explore the wonders of wheel throwing. To see their advancement is a pleasure, not only to themselves, but also to the rest of us. The hand builders are also producing interesting “shapes” in more ways than one!!

We have been invited by a few social groups to show our efforts at their functions. By distributing Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre brochures in these situations, we will also be promoting the Centre’s activities.

Thanks again to the Western Suburbs Ceramics members who attend to the firing of our pieces. My personal thanks to Michael Waterhouse, my backdrop when I’m absent on family or other needs. His knowledge on pottery (and other interests) is also appreciated!

We look forward to another year in the shed with like-minded potters.

Our year will draw to a close with lunch at a local café in December.

## **Craft Markets**

### **Irene L.**



The market numbers continue to remain steady with a few up and downs but continue to host between 12-15 stall holders per month. The array of goods at the markets include handmade furniture, wooden kitchenware, handmade tea towels and goods.







# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



## **Mindfulness Meditation and Metta Practice**

**Georgia Cummings RN (retired) registered Buddhist chaplain (QSA)**

The Mindfulness and Metta meditation group meet weekly during school terms in the beautiful large meeting room at Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre.

Our group has grown since we began in February 2021. This group began as a private fee paying activity but when Covid set in and closures occurred, it became quite disrupted. We then decided to make our group a centre-based activity and I have continued to lead the group as a volunteer and Sherwood Neighbourhood member since then. Our numbers fluctuate and currently our email class list is 23 members. We have a regular weekly attendance from about half our members.

Our class begins with a brief sharing and some discussion. Following our catch up we sit in silent meditation practice for 40 minutes. Our members all agree that establishing a regular practice of group meditation has been beneficial to them. A weekly email with discussion topics goes out to class members who attend and also to a number of people who for various health reasons cannot attend in person. The class is open to anyone who has an interest in mindfulness meditation and self compassion or metta practice and who may be curious to learn more or establish a regular practice for their own wellbeing and support.

We are happy to welcome new members and there is no requirement to have prior experience in mindfulness meditation. We learn by doing the practice.

We have had a few celebrations over the last two years thanks to the Lord Mayors Christmas funds and enjoyed our social gatherings. Some weeks after class we will also make our way down to a local coffee shop for a chat together.





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

## SEALS (Seniors Enjoying Active Lifestyles)

Barbara H.



The SEALS are a group of ladies who meet at the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre each week to enjoy involvement and friendship.

Activities include, day trips, social interaction, memory enhancing activities such as doing puzzles, playing board games, Chinese Checkers, Rummy-o, and Dominoes etc.

The outings are fun and allow us to discover new places - but it is the people who make this group an important part of our lives. Each Tuesday we have the opportunity to get together and discuss topics that are of interest to people of our age - How to use our new phone, how to save on electricity costs, Woolworths have “*this*” on special this week. There is always a new recipe or a new way to do something that becomes a topic to talk about. This is an important ingredient to our weekly meeting because for seniors the chance to socialise becomes less likely as we age.

WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES DO WE DO? Each month we go out to a Restaurant for lunch to celebrate a member’s Birthday. We attend the free Lord Mayor’s lunch time concerts at City Hall several times a year. We have had someone come in to give a cooking lesson, we had a speaker from the Grumpy Old Men’s group come and speak to us about his fascinating hobby. One of the Neighbourhood Centre staff gave us a fantastic informative talk about the stars and other cosmic wonders.

Councillor Nicole Johnston gave us a tour of City Hall and provided an excellent lunch for us in the Council chambers. She answered our questions about “The Voice to Parliament” and explained about Taxi Vouchers and other concerns people raised.

We receive free tickets to the Lord Mayors Senior’s Christmas morning tea and concert in December.

This was a first – The Arbour Ukulele Players – a group of seniors from a local retirement facility came to entertain us and stay for afternoon tea.

Our outings in the Neighbourhood’s bus have included a trip to Walkabout Creek,

Redcliffe for a day by the sea and fish and chips for lunch, To the Strawberry Farm at Chambers Flat. To Ipswich to see “All Things Tartan” and then on to the historical antiques shop at Marburg. And an all-time favourite - to the Golden Circle Factory Outlet at Capalaba for some grocery bargains.

We are particularly grateful to the staff of the Neighbourhood Centre for their marvellous support and generosity to us throughout the year. Thanks too for the use of the Centre’s bus and our obliging drivers.

Making friends later in life can be challenging, so if you are reading this and looking for some company, come and check out the ladies at SEALS on a Tuesday at 12.00.





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



## GRUMPY OLD MEN AUSTRALIA

### Keith L.

To the casual observer we may look like a bunch of broken-down old blokes who drift into the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre on Thursday mornings and drift out a few hours later. But don't be deceived, there's over a thousand years of knowledge and life experience packed into that room!

To us it's a safe-haven that provides mateship, laughs, yarns, excursions, BBQs, reflections on our mis-spent youth, and a certain freedom of speech that's often frowned upon in today's politically correct world. Some might say that makes us dinosaurs, but far from going extinct our numbers are growing!!

We're not incorporated, don't have elections, keep no Minutes, produce no Reports, and have no Office Bearers. One mug with a gavel occasionally manages to maintain order and a bigger mug collects a few shekels at the door to cover costs. The same formula has worked beautifully for the past thirteen years so we say if it ain't broke, don't fix it!!

Through the services of *Transit Care* we've had bus trips this year to exotic places such as Redlands Museum, Jacobs Well Volunteer Marine Rescue, the Fox & Hounds Old English Pub Tamborine Mountain, and the Gold Coast Motor Museum.

These, coupled with talks from our own speakers and a variety of guests, barbeques in local parks, barefoot bowls, trivia mornings, show-and-tells, and civic tours hosted by Honorary Grump Counsellor Nicole Johnston, have ensured that there's something for everyone.

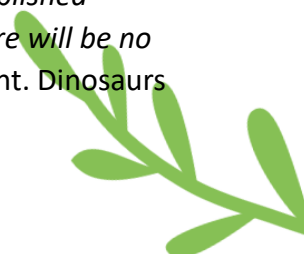
Interesting and informative topics have included such diverse subjects as: Coast-Watchers, Inland Rail, Codebreaking, Greek Cafes, The Charge of the Light Brigade, Scam Awareness, the Development of Writing, Mudmen (Oil Extraction), Golf Croquet, the Zeebrugge Raid, Hypnotism, Cross River Rail, and Drones.

Our bank of knowledge continues to grow - *if only we could remember the combination to the safe!!*

But without the dedicated staff and volunteers of the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre and people such as Karen, Nan, Michelle, and Coral, we could not function. Thank you!

I said in last year's Report, and it bears repeating: *Many highly respected and long-established groups are struggling to attract and retain new members, but one thing is certain – there will be no shortage of Grumpy Old Men.* The world may be sliding sideways, but our future is bright. Dinosaurs rule!

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





# SHERWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC



## Crafty Ladies

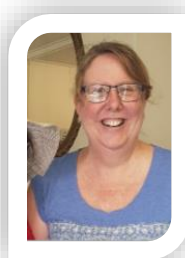
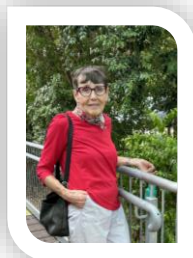
### Nicky M

Membership of Crafty Ladies remains at 23 members. We had people come along after the Craft and Hobby Fair, but they did not return after their first visit.

We were unable to have a Christmas Celebration at the end of 2022, so we had Christmas in July in 2023 with pizza and chicken and salad. It was very successful with everyone enjoying themselves. One of the members made a table runner for a lucky door prize and this was won by Gwenda White.

A local real estate agent, Nathan Young, gave us a 10 minute chat. Nathan had recently taken ownership of a warehouse of out-of-date newsagent gifts, so he bought along large amounts of mugs, plaques, toothbrushes and other bits and pieces to hand out to the group.

One of our members spent six months in a motor home travelling from Perth to Hobart and she gave us a chat on all the fabulous craft shops she had visited.



## Thrift Shop

What an amazing effort our Thrift Shop volunteers do, every day of the week. Cathryn, Vicki, Donna, Lorraine and Sharyn, thank you for your effort, reliability and friendliness. We receive an incredible amount of good quality donations throughout the year, all of which the volunteers sort, put aside for storage or stock the shop with. The clothes and other items are sold at a minimal cost to the public and are often given to people in need of clothing who are experiencing hardship. Recently Maree and Sharyn hosted a weekend sale at the Thrift Shop to sell clothes and to free up much needed space. Working in the Thrift Shop is no easy task when the donations keep rolling in, again we thank the volunteers for their hard work.







# 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

