





**Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network  
Annual General Meeting  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

# Annual Report

*for financial year 1/1/2020-31/12/20*



**get connected**  
....there's a lot going on at your neighbourhood house!

**Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network team:**

Tennille Hall – Chairperson

Trish Dixon – Vice Chairperson

Loretta Waters - Secretary

Amanda Crisp – Treasurer

Sara Jenkins – General member

Anita Chennell – General member

Trish Curtis – Network Coordinator

The Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network receives Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding through the Department of Health and Human Services.



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**AGENDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**Birallee Park Neighbourhood House**  
**10.30am**

**Open & welcome** by Chairperson Tennille Hall

**Apologies**

**Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2020**

**Correspondence**

Nil

**Chair Report**

**Network Coordinator Report**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Membership Fees for 2021**

**Declare all positions vacant and call for all nominations for the positions of:**  
*(hand over to external person to call for nominations)*

Chairperson  
Vice Chairperson  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
General Committee

**Vote of thanks to the outgoing and incoming office bearers and committee**

**Close of meeting (Chairperson)**



# Minutes

## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Via Zoom

### Record of those present:

Name	Member
David Thorpe	Yackandandah Community Centre
Bill Dee	Yackandandah Community Centre
Karen Ramsay	Bandiana Neighbourhood House
Anita Chennell	Quercus Beechworth
Tennille Hall	Pangerang Community House
Loretta Waters	Open Door Neighbourhood House
Amanda Crisp	Felltimber Community House
Jill Graham	King Valley Learning Exchange
Debbie Cooper	Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House
Sue Lees	Trudewind Rd Neighbourhood House
Lou Newman	Tallangatta Neighbourhood House
Sara Jenkins (late arrival)	Corryong Neighbourhood Centre

### Invited Guests

Trish Curtis	Networker
Nicole Battle	NHVic
Stephen Carroll	DHHS

### Apologies

Pauline Wilson	Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House
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Meeting opened at 10:09am	
Meeting opening and apologies	Tennille Hall, Acting Chairperson, welcomed everyone and acknowledged and paid our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands from which we are meeting today. Respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging Noted apologies from Pauline Wilson
Declarations of Conflict of Interest	Nil
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2018	Motion: That the minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting be accepted as true and correct. Moved: Debbie Cooper Seconded: Amanda Crisp
Correspondence	Nil
Chair Report	Presented by Loretta Waters who until recently was Acting Chair, as submitted in Annual Report Motion: That the Chair Report be accepted as true and correct. Moved: David Thorpe Seconded: Bill Dee
Network Coordinator Report	Presented by Trish Curtis, as submitted in Annual report Motion: That the Network Coordinator report be accepted as

	true and correct. Moved: Loretta Waters Seconded: Karen Ramsay		
Treasurer's Report	Presented by Amanda Crisp, Treasurer Motion: That the Special Purpose Financial & Audit Report for financial year ending 31 December 2019 be accepted as true and correct. Moved: David Thorpe Seconded: Loretta Waters		
Recommendation of membership fees	Motion: That the UMRNH annual membership fee for 2020 remain at nil. Moved: Amanda Crisp Seconded: Debbie Cooper		
Nominations of Committee of Management positions	Tennille Hall stepped down as Acting Chair, and handed Chair role to Stephen Carroll for the election of the new Committee of Management.  Stephen declared all positions vacant and called for nominations for the positions of:		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Chairperson	Tennille Hall	Anita Chennell	Amanda Crisp
Vice Chairperson	Loretta Waters	Tennille Hall	Trish Dixon
Treasurer	Amanda Crisp	Trish Dixon	Sue Lees
Secretary	Vacant		
General committee	Anita Chennell	Amanda Crisp	Sue Lees
General committee	Sara Jenkins	Tennille Hall	Loretta Waters
General Committee	Trish Dixon	Loretta Waters	Tennille Hall
	As there were more positions than nominations, those people who were nominated were duly elected to the positions.		
Presentations	Stephen Carroll, Senior Advisor Population Health & Community Wellbeing, Ovens Murray Area DHHS and Nicole Battle, CEO NHVIC, both gave a short presentation		
Vote of thanks to outgoing Committee and incoming office bearers and Committee	Debbie Cooper, Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House and Jude Doughty were acknowledged for their years of service to the committee and ongoing support of the Network. Anita Chennell, Quercus Beechworth, and Sara Jenkins, Corryong Community Centre were welcomed onto the committee as General members.		
Meeting closed at 11.12am			

## Chairperson Report

The Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network (UMRNHN) is one of 16 networks representing neighbourhood houses and learning centres across regional and metropolitan Victoria. The Networks provide management and operational support and resources to the member houses and centres. This includes personalised support to Committees of Management/Governance, staff and volunteers. Networks also have a facilitative role, enabling their members to participate in broader community development strategies.

As we now work on our Strategic Planning for 2021-2024, it's an opportunity to reflect on our achievements from our four strategic goals set in our current plan which were

- Building the capacity of our members through relevant, quality professional development and networking
- Raising the profile of members through effective lobbying and relationships
- Providing ongoing governance training and support for members
- Ensuring financial sustainability for the Network

Some highlights have been:

- Providing training to the Network in Mental Health First Aid in partnership with Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership
- Establishment of Chair Forums in partnership with our neighbouring Network GNEACC to provide a platform for Chairs of Neighbourhood Houses in both Networks to share ideas, challenges, opportunities and professionally support each other
- Establishment of Finance & Administration forums in partnership with GNEACC, with a similar purpose as the Chairs forum, but focused on Finance & Administration roles within Neighbourhood Houses
- Hosting a Social Enterprise Learning and Development program in partnership with SENVIC
- Fantastic stakeholder engagement and management resulting in the Network being invited to participate in regional strategic discussions such as: North East Resilience Forum, Gender Equity Community of Practice and Bushfire Recovery
- Most recently, being invited to give an oral presentation at the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference in Sydney after a successfully submitted abstract written by our Networker and project consultant
- Three great projects are being delivered well, which include the new bushfire recovery project

It would be remiss of me to not reflect on COVID-19 and the impact this has had on our Network. Our Network purpose "Advocating for each other and our Houses" was really achieved during this challenging period.

The work of our Network Coordinator, Trish Curtis has been paramount during this time for which I would like to express our sincere gratitude. The establishment of our weekly meetings to bring us together to unpack information relating to our services, share ideas, approaches, challenges and sometimes just to support each other both personally and professionally - only strengthened our Network. Trish's dedication and commitment to the prosperity of our sector is second to none. A particular area to highlight is the stakeholder engagement and management work Trish has been doing across our region, which is resulting in invitations being made to the Network and to Houses to attend meetings within the region, where previously we have not been considered. We are fortunate to have Trish Curtis in the role of Network Coordinator and are incredibly grateful for this ongoing commitment.

When Premier Daniel Andrews spoke about 'Front Line Workers' he always reminded people that this didn't just include our wonderful health care workers, but all of the workers such as childcare

staff, supermarket staff, couriers etc. who continued to work to ensure Victorians had the services they needed to survive. These people did not have the option to work from home, in a COVID-safe environment.

Most Neighbourhood Houses staff and volunteers however, DID have this option. Yet many chose not to take it. Many chose to put their own health and wellbeing concerns aside to deliver much needed services to their community; providing emergency food relief, cooking/delivering meals, mask making, scrub making, opening doors for computer/internet access, supporting people to access government assistance and so much more.

I'm incredibly proud of all of the Houses in our Network and in fact right across the state, including the work achieved by our peak body NHVic during this time.

Our work is not always easy to quantify, but during this time we have not only supported our community in ways that other services cannot, but we have raised our profile and highlighted this work in a broader sense. Opening doors to future partnerships, collaborations and funding opportunities, which will only further strengthen the good work of our sector. The Network has been an important contributor to this impact.

My most important take away from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, is the value of connection to us as Humans, irrespective of our positions, titles, wealth or situation. And Connection is fundamentally what Neighbourhood Houses provide a place for. Our Network is valuable in many ways, but importantly, it is a place for us as leaders of our organisations, to connect. For that I feel incredibly grateful.

Within UMRNHN, we are grateful for the ongoing support and enthusiasm of our Committee members: Deputy Chair Trish Dixon, Treasurer Amanda Crisp, Secretary Loretta Waters and General members Sara Jenkins and Anita Chennell. Together with our outstanding Network Coordinator, Trish Curtis, we have positioned the Upper Murray Network to continue its unique role in advocating for each other and our Houses.

Thank you.

Tennille Hall

Chair - Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network (UMRNHN)

Executive Officer – Pangerang Community House Wangaratta

## Network Coordinator Report

*"It turns out that people who are more socially connected to family, to friends, to community, are happier, they're physically healthier, and they live longer than people who are less well connected"*

Robert J. Walsinger – psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, Zen priest

That quote won't come as a surprise to anyone who works in the neighbourhood house sector. As humans we are social beings, needing to connect to others in some way, no matter how introverted we might be.



One of the most important functions of a neighbourhood house is that of *connecting*, particularly people to *each other* and their *community*. The adversities experienced by people in our communities last year - catastrophic bushfires as well as COVID-19 - forced everyone to acknowledge the importance of social connections, and neighbourhood house managers and boards to think hard about how their centres could continue to connect and support people when their doors were

closed. As a result we saw a lot of innovation and creativity across the State, including in our own Network, with many in government recognising the increasingly important role that neighbourhood houses play as trusted leaders in their communities.

Neighbourhood houses do well and truly punch above their weight, as can be seen from the statistics in the infographic on the following page, which come from the 2019 Neighbourhood House Survey administered by our peak body, NHVic. NHVic has been able to articulate this through the Community Value figure – in the case of our 13 of our 16 neighbourhood houses, a massive \$11.559M, calculated from a range of data points. We don't yet have data from 2020, which will undoubtedly show a massive decrease in 'normal' activity, but we need to ensure the incredible work that took place instead is effectively captured. The Department of Health and Human Services (now Department of Families, Fairness and Housing) did gather data during COVID-19 through the sector 'pulse checks', so ideally this will contribute to the overall impact measurement of neighbourhood houses during 2020.

Using the 2019 figures as a prompt, let's have a look at some of the key activities of neighbourhood houses, and how these activities made a difference in 2020.

**Volunteering** plays a critical role in empowering individuals, in fostering active citizenship, and in building inclusive and resilient communities<sup>1</sup>. Volunteering is very important in rural and regional communities as it helps ensure vital programs and services remain affordable and available in those communities.

Neighbourhood houses support, nurture and train many volunteers each year, making an important social and economic contribution. The work of our neighbourhood houses during the bushfires and COVID-19 was extremely important in keeping volunteers connected and engaged in meaningful activities. This included recruiting volunteers to make masks and scrubs for community members and health professionals, and cooking thousands of meals that went to bushfire affected communities.

<sup>1</sup> Volunteering Victoria website, <https://volunteeringvictoria.org.au/faqs/how-does-volunteering-benefit-our-community/>, accessed 29/4/19



Considerable time and effort was also put into keeping in touch with volunteers through regular phone calls, emails, and social media, and we know this made a difference to many people.

**The Neighbourhood Houses in our Network achieve amazing things...**

**1,070**  
In 2019 there were more than 170 people volunteering weekly in neighbourhood houses across our Network - that's 1,070 volunteer hours every week!

**4,357**  
4,357 people visited our neighbourhood houses each week in 2019. 1,241 of those were participating in one of the 768 available programmed activities; others were accessing services, including a range of visiting services

**107**  
Neighbourhood houses in our Network employed 107 full time, part time and casual staff in communities across the region. That equates to 69.43 FTE jobs

**362**  
In 2019 our neighbourhood houses worked with 362 partners to develop and deliver a range of programs, projects and services. They supported 200 community groups, including Men's Sheds, self help, health & wellbeing groups, and playgroups

**8,906**  
8,906 people attended community events run by neighbourhood houses in our Network, with 388 people volunteering!

**\$4.035M**  
The total income of our neighbourhood houses in 2019 was over \$4M, bring much needed money into our rural and regional communities

**\$11.559M**  
This community value equates to:  

- \$2.86 for every \$1 of income
- \$11.22 for every \$1 of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding
- \$361.22 for every hour the average neighbourhood house is in use

Source: 2019 Neighbourhood House Survey undertaken by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria. 13 of our 16 neighbourhood houses responded

Our neighbourhood houses provide a range of responsive **programs, activities and services** that are easily accessible and affordable to people in rural and regional villages, towns and cities. In a normal year, this will include vocational education and training, literacy and numeracy training and support, community meals, community transport, music, art and craft, emergency preparedness and recovery, family support programs, Aboriginal and CALD cultural activities, school holiday programs, playgroups and youth groups. As well as helping people build their skills and knowledge, these programs provide much needed opportunities for people to connect and share, building critical social capital, and community health and wellbeing. There is a high rate of attendance in these programs from people on low incomes, unemployed, seniors, people with disability, and people with mental health issues (48% in 2019).

A number of our neighbourhood houses also provide access to important services that save people having to travel many kilometres, including visiting services such as employment services, financial counseling and mental health services.

When all face to face activity ceased in March last year, many of our members rose to the challenge and adapted programs to deliver online and remotely, including art and craft, exercise, vocational training, and children's activities. While a number of our neighbourhood houses had to shut their doors, several stayed open providing critical services to their community. This included emergency food relief, computer and internet access, and Centrelink Agency access.

With an average 137<sup>2</sup> full time, part time and casual **staff**, our Neighbourhood Houses are important employers in their local communities. Coupled with this is the over \$4.035M of **income** generated by our Houses, which includes government funding (recurrent and project-based), philanthropic funds and fee for service (self-generated). As employers and small-medium businesses, neighbourhood houses are of significant economic importance to their communities.

Like most businesses, COVID-19 impacted on income generation, and the ability to maintain staffing levels. Many of our neighbourhood houses applied for and received Job Keeper, which was hugely important in keeping staff on to assist in maintaining volunteer and community connections, and developing new programs and delivery methods.

**Partnerships** are important element in the way neighbourhood houses, and the Network itself, identifies and addresses community needs. Our members are creating and strengthening partnerships and relationships that extend what they are able to achieve. Some exciting partnerships developed last year, including with emergency services and agencies, local government, cultural organisations and schools. Our three Network-wide projects have contributed to increasing the profile of our members, and the development of new and exciting relationships.

Many **community groups** and organisations get their start from the support they receive from their neighbourhood house. Houses support groups by providing room usage, administrative support, and auspicing for those who require legal status. During 2020, when all group activity ceased, our neighbourhood houses kept in touch with vulnerable participants to check in and ensure they felt connected and cared for.

**Community events, festivals and markets** are a wonderful way to bring people together; many of our neighbourhood houses lead or help run these kinds of activities in their communities, often working closely with other local organisations. Of course, COVID-19 put a stop to everything in 2020, but successful events such as the music festival held in Yackandandah earlier this year show how eager people are to get out and attend social activities again. Our members are gearing up to restart community meals, open days and other face to face events.

For the Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network, 2020 was a very big year, although looking back it's difficult to identify exactly what I was doing!

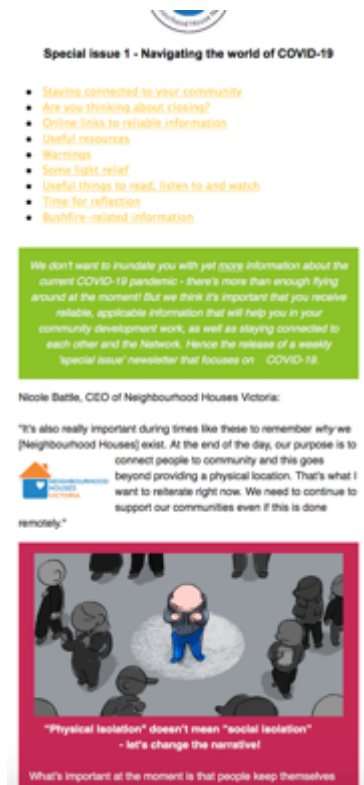
The year started badly, with the horrific bushfires that affected many communities in our Network area, particularly in Corryong. Staff and volunteers at the Corryong Neighbourhood Centre worked tirelessly to support people in their community. As the Centrelink Agency, they were extremely busy helping people access financial aid and linking them with other services – all this while dealing with their own traumatic experiences. Other neighbourhood houses really stepped up and showed what an important role these organisations can play in emergency recovery and resilience, including Birallee Park Neighbourhood House where volunteers cooked over 3,000 meals that went to bushfire affected communities.



The Network sent out monthly newsletters with current bushfire-related information that could be shared and passed on to others in the community, as well as updates on what our neighbourhood houses were doing.

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<sup>2</sup> From Neighbourhood House surveys 2016-2019



In March, these monthly newsletters morphed into COVID-19 updates. Titled “Navigating the world of COVID-19” these newsletters were an important way for our members to make sense of the huge quantities of information coming out of various government departments, peak bodies and other organisations. Information relevant to committees and boards was also provided, particularly as it related to risk management and planning around COVID-19. As importantly, the newsletters encouraged and supported ideas for how our neighbourhood houses could stay connected to their communities, even if their house was physically closed. It was critical that managers stayed connected to their staff, volunteers and members of the community.

Much of my work during the year was supporting our managers through what was an extremely difficult and stressful time. One of the very positive steps was initiating a weekly Zoom informal gathering in early April, which brought managers together to share ideas and challenges, have a bit of a laugh, and generally just debrief amongst colleagues who truly understood what they were experiencing. This has gone a long way to strengthening relationships between managers, who are now more likely to call on and lean on each other than perhaps they were before. The

prolonged use of Zoom also made us all into online meeting experts, one of the positives that has continued on post-COVID.

Toward the middle of the year we were encouraged to apply for funding through the Mental Health and Wellbeing after Bushfires program. This was great recognition of the important role in health and wellbeing that neighbourhood houses have in their communities. To our delight, our application for \$315K, which involved five of our neighbourhood houses and one in Mansfield, was successful. Using the principles of co-design our project aims to:

- Empower each community to work with their neighbourhood house to design and deliver local initiatives that will benefit recovery and resilience
- Build the capacity of participating neighbourhood houses to respond more effectively to emergencies by developing a recovery plan that will link to broader emergency plans within their LGA
- Support neighbourhood houses to be included in future emergency planning

We are extremely fortunate to have engaged Anne Leadbeater as our project consultant. Anne has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the recovery space that is proving invaluable to the participating houses. The development of local initiatives by the six neighbourhood houses will further raise their profile and strengthen their community engagement practices. As Tennille mentioned in her report, we successfully submitted an abstract about our project to the 2021 Australian Disaster Resilience Conference, and have been invited to present a paper later this year.

Our other two projects, *Behind the Scenes at the Neighbourhood House* ((gambling harm reduction project funded through the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation Prevention Partnership Program) and Hume Local Lead (support and development of social enterprises in Hume Region, funded by the Victorian Government through the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship) didn't progress much during the year, as most of the activities we'd planned involved face to face work. However, we were also able to provide some activity through the online environment. We held two online workshops as part of *Behind the Scenes*, to help our managers better understand the impacts of gambling related harm. Because we met online, with the barriers of travel removed, we

had attendance from all our managers, as well as some volunteers and board members. This project has been key to us building a strong partnership with the Gateway Health Gambler's Help service.

Central Hume Primary Care Partnership are one of our partners in the *Behind the Scenes* project, and through this partnership we have the wonderful opportunity this year of working with Chris Thorne (Aboriginal Community Support Worker) to develop a Cultural Safety Checklist that can be used by neighbourhood houses to help them understand what cultural safety means, and audit their own organisation to check for cultural safety. We assume that neighbourhood houses are welcoming and accessible to *everyone* in our community, but seen through the eyes of other cultures, this is not always the case. For example, a building must feel culturally 'safe' before an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person will walk through the door. Once completed, the checklist will be made available to other neighbourhood houses across the state.

As well, through our Prevention Partnership Project we are providing Cultural Awareness training for all staff and volunteers at our neighbourhood houses. These are both very positive steps toward our proposed strategic goal of 'reconciliation'.

Local initiatives play a key role in the delivery of our *Behind the Scenes* project, and 13 of our 16 neighbourhood houses have developed some wonderful programs and activities that aim to reduce the risk of gambling harm through reducing social isolation and loneliness, and raising awareness about problem gambling. These initiatives will be delivered this year.

Toward the end of the year, we welcomed Tanya Grant as our Project Support Worker for the *Behind the Scenes* project. Tanya was previously the manager of a neighbourhood house, so is very familiar with our sector. She has done a great job in progressing the project, and it's been a delight to have her on board.

Our Hume Local Leads work didn't progress much during 2020. Hume Local Lead is a partnership between our Neighbourhood House Network and Social Enterprise Network Victoria (SENVIC). We are one of five Local Leads working to enable social enterprises to thrive in regional Victoria through building capacity and networks.

As the Hume Local Lead, our aim is to:

- develop a network of people across Hume Region who are actively involved in or interested in the social enterprise business model
- host networking events to bring people together to learn and share skills and knowledge
- provide an opportunity to fully explore what being a social enterprise means in a rural and regional context, the various models, and challenges and opportunities
- share information and opportunities relating to social enterprise
- increase the profile of social enterprises across Hume Region through media and other communications
- explore innovative opportunities relating to social enterprise and tourism.

We have a strong commitment as a Neighbourhood House Network to strengthening social enterprise in rural and regional communities. Neighbourhood houses are in and of themselves a 'social enterprise'. By and large, they are community owned and operated businesses, with varying degrees of complexity. They receive government funding, but most of them also generate their own untied income through various fee for service activity, such as room hire, event management, and programs. As well as that, many neighbourhood houses also have a separate 'enterprise'. For example Corryong Neighbourhood Centre operates a community bakery and community garage; Quercus Beechworth operates a second hand bookshop and Op Shop. Those businesses are generating income, which the neighbourhood house then puts back into the community in some



shape or form. That really defines for me what a social enterprise is – generating income for community benefit and impact.

During 2020, we hosted a Learning and Development program for neighbourhood houses across Hume Region interested in social enterprise. We weren't able to do much else, but things have really taken off now. A very exciting part of our work this year is leading the development of a Hume-wide Social Enterprise Network. Our first event, held recently in Beechworth, has generated a lot of energy and excitement, which will lead to further events later in the year.

Through our role as Hume Local Lead, we are facilitating an important discussion about the growing issue of housing availability and rental affordability in rural and regional Victoria and what this means for people on low to middle incomes. We hope that this will lead to some strong community-led action in our region.

In July, we launched the first Chair Forum, working with our neighbouring Network, GNEACC. This was an informal event aiming to give the Chairs of neighbourhood house committees and boards the opportunity to get together, talk about the challenges of being the Chair of a neighbourhood house, and develop networks and supports at a local level. There was a great response, with 15 people registering across the two Networks. There was robust discussion about the current challenges our neighbourhood houses are facing, and a strong commitment to continue meeting. We have continued these Forums in 2021, with our first for the year focusing on how strategic plans can be used for monitoring and reporting.

In July we also held our first Administration/Finance Officer Forum, the aim of which was to connect people working in finance and administrative roles at a local level so they could build relationships to support each other, as well as to provide current sector information. This event was supported by NHVic's CFO, Cameron MacRae, who was able to provide much appreciated information and advice. We held monthly Forums to the end of the year, and plan to have at least two in 2021.

Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership are another partner in the *Behind the Scenes* project, and through this connection we were able to offer neighbourhood house staff and volunteers free



Mental Health First Aid training online. This was a great opportunity for which we are very grateful. The training will help set up staff and volunteers at the neighbourhood houses so they can better identify people who are struggling with their mental health in the aftermath of the bushfires and COVID-19.

We finished the year with a pamper day at Tuileries Winery in Rutherglen, where our managers were treated to yoga, tile art, wine tasting and massages, as well as a delicious lunch and a visit to the Rutherglen Lolly Shop. It was

wonderful to see everyone in person, and have a day to unwind and reconnect with colleagues in a relaxing and peaceful environment.

We've continued to develop a strong relationship with the DHHS (now Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing) regional team. Jade Vogel and Steve Carroll have been great advocates for neighbourhood houses and the Network, and we very much appreciate their support, and making important links between neighbourhood houses and other organisations in the region.

As there always is, there has been some ebb and flow of key staff in our houses, and on our Network Committee. We welcomed Anita Chennell early in the year as the new manager at Quercus Beechworth, and onto our Network Committee later in the year, and bid a very sad farewell to Lou Newman, coordinator at Tallangatta Neighbourhood House.

Thanks to the whole Network Committee, who continue to support and encourage me in this role. It has been wonderful to see the Committee develop and grow; introducing our annual professional development program with Rob Carolane during the year has opened up robust discussions about what constitutes good governance, and helped untangle the balance they all face between their roles in operations and governance. We aim for the Network to be demonstrating 'good practice' in governance as a resource for our members to draw on.

I'd like to acknowledge Trish Dixon, who has decided not to nominate again for the Committee – thanks for all your work on the Network Committee. And welcome to our new members. As I'm sure you can appreciate with your own committees, it's wonderful to have genuine interest from new committee members and a commitment to contribute to the ongoing work of the Network.

Trish Curtis  
Network Coordinator  
Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network

**Financial report**

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**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR  
UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD  
HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.  
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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PO Box 229, Rutherglen VIC 3685; [www.absoluteaudits.com.au](http://www.absoluteaudits.com.au); M:0407 374408; P: 03 5721 5079

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**UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.**

**ABN 37 484 149 190**

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UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.

ABN 37 484 149 190

Committee's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the **Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Collective Inc.** for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

**Committee Members**

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Tennille Hall	Chair
Trish Dixon	Deputy Chair
Loretta Waters	Secretary
Amanda Crisp	Treasurer
Anita Chennell	General
Sara Jenkins	General

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to Facilitate Community Support.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The profit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

Year ended	Year ended
31 December 2020	31 December 2019
\$	\$
14,426.69	125.98

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:

  
Tennille Hall

  
Amanda Crisp

These financial statements have not been audited and must be read in conjunction with the attached notes which form part of these financial statements.

UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.

ABN 37 484 149 190

Income and Expenditure Statement  
For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Income</b>		
DHS Operational Grant	81,559.15	77,897.11
DHHS Bushfire Grant	100,860.83	0.00
SENVIC Grant	1,927.64	0.00
Cash Boost Stimulus Package	20,000.00	0.00
Funding Vic Responsible Gambling	32,380.66	5,838.04
Interest received	33.53	32.17
Other Income	4,365.00	353.18
<b>Total income</b>	<b>241,126.81</b>	<b>84,120.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accounting/Audit fees	954.55	450.00
Bookkeeping Expense	4,960.64	4,249.64
Consultants Fees	35,912.00	500.00
Donations	0.00	124.80
Filing Fees	59.20	59.20
Forums and Workshops - Members	7,942.73	12,713.94
GST Rounding	(1.41)	1.43
Meeting Expenses	0.00	134.55
Professional Development	3,132.73	6,685.25
Project Resources	85,061.36	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1.39
Subscriptions & Memberships	1,102.61	486.36
Sundry expenses	0.00	220.36
Superannuation	6,559.55	4,342.42
Telephone	0.00	26.88
Car Allowance	2,556.84	5,066.10
Travel, Accom & conference	237.09	17.53
Website expenses	889.84	0.00
Wages & Salaries	58,291.42	49,622.86
Wages – Gambling Project	10,956.81	0.00
Workcover	1,858.91	596.61
Annual Leave	3,054.44	(5,083.70)
Time in Lieu	(1,640.19)	1,154.65
Long Service Leave	3,449.63	2,655.64
Portable LSL Levy	1,361.37	0.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>226,700.12</b>	<b>83,995.91</b>
<b>Profit from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<b>14,426.69</b>	<b>125.98</b>

These financial statements have not been audited and must be read in conjunction with the attached notes which form part of these financial statements.

UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.

ABN 37 484 149 190

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>Net profit attributable to the association</b>	<b>14,426.69</b>	<b>125.98</b>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<b>14,426.69</b>	<b>125.98</b>
Opening retained profits	36,683.24	36,557.26
Net profit attributable to the association	14,426.69	125.98
<b>Closing retained profits</b>	<b>51,109.93</b>	<b>36,683.24</b>

These financial statements have not been audited and must be read in conjunction with the attached notes which form part of these financial statements.

UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.

ABN 37 484 149 190

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash Assets</b>		
WAW Cheque Account (On Call Savings)	199,339.47	87,885.44
WAW Long Service Leave Account	6,806.51	4,045.81
Trade Debtors	26,367.00	210.00
Prepayments	0.00	160.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>232,512.98</b>	<b>92,301.25</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Plant & equipment - at cost	3,390.90	3,390.90
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,390.90)	(3,390.90)
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>232,512.98</b>	<b>92,301.25</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Payables</b>		
<b>Unsecured:</b>		
Creditors	19,934.33	4,223.86
Funding Received in Advance	145,982.43	34,111.96
Accrued Expenses	576.21	0.00
	166,492.97	38,335.82
<b>Current Tax Liabilities</b>		
GST clearing	1,731.20	7,661.34
	1,731.20	7,661.34
<b>Provisions</b>		
Provisions - Annual Leave	3,408.21	353.77
Provisions - Time in Lieu	738.14	2,378.33
Provision - Long Service Leave	9,032.53	5,582.90
Superannuation payable	0.00	1,305.85
	13,178.88	9,620.85
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>181,403.05</b>	<b>55,618.01</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>181,403.05</b>	<b>55,618.01</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>51,109.93</b>	<b>36,683.24</b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>		
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	51,109.93	36,683.24
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>	<b>51,109.93</b>	<b>36,683.24</b>

These financial statements have not been audited and must be read in conjunction with the attached notes which form part of these financial statements.

**UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.**

ABN 37 484 149 190

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

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**Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of Victoria. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**(a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

There are no depreciable items for the current year.

**(b) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

**(c) Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

**(d) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

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These financial statements are unaudited.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached financial statements of Absolute Audit Solutions.



**UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.**

ABN 37 484 149 190

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

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**(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**(e) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**(f) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

**(g) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

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These financial statements are unaudited.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached financial statements of Absolute Audit Solutions.

**UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.**

**ABN 37 484 149 190**

**Statement by Members of the Committee**

**For the year ended 31 December 2020**

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The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the Financial Statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of **Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Collective Inc.** as at 31 December 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

  
Tennille Hall  
Chair

  
Amanda Crisp  
Treasurer

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**These financial statements are unaudited.**

**They must be read in conjunction with the attached notes which form part of these financial statements.**

**UPPER MURRAY REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE COLLECTIVE INC.**

**ABN 37 484 149 190**

**Certificate by Member of the Committee**

**For the year ended 31 December 2020**

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ certify that:

- a. I attended the annual general meeting of the association held on \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 were submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member



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**These financial statements are unaudited.**

**They must be read in conjunction with the attached notes which form part of these financial statements.**