Wyndham Park Community Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Bunurong people as Traditional Custodians of the lands on which Wyndham Park Community Centre is built. We pay respect to Ancestors and Elders who always have, and always will, care for Country and community today and for future generations.

We acknowledge any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in this tradition and call us to shared responsibility. May our words and actions lead us to respect Country, learn from Elders and practice creative wisdom for future generations.

Committee of Management 2024 - 2025

Kristy Gray	President
Cassandra Anderson	Vice President, Elected 2024
Christine Morris	Secretary
Hassan Nur Hussein	Treasurer
Khushi Ashraf	Committee Member
Raj Singh	Committee Member
Malaang Chool	Committee Member, Elected 2024
Robyn Parmenter	Committee Member, Elected 2024
Serena Low	Committee Member, Elected 2024
Paw Ner Moo Gay	Committee Member, Completed term 2024
Sunil Abbot	Committee Member, Completed term 2024
Syeda Bahadur	Vice President, Completed term 2024

Our Vision

A community where everyone belongs.

Our Mission

We identify and respond to our community by embracing their strengths and collaborating with valued partners. We provide place and space for people. We prioritize accountability, responsiveness, inclusion, respect, integrity, and safety.

Our Strategic Priorities

- Community Development
- Financial Resilience
- Quality and Compliance
- Environmental Sustainability
- Personnel
- Communication

Board Report

Kristy Gray - President

It has been a privilege to complete my second year as President of Wyndham Park Community Centre (WPCC) and to celebrate another year defined by community, connection and compassion. This Annual Report highlights the outstanding work of WPCC as we continue to pursue our vision of 'a community where everyone belongs'.

As a volunteer on the committee of management, I continue to see firsthand the remarkable impact this organisation has in people's lives. WPCC is a vibrant, inclusive space that brings people together across cultures, interests and generations. Through its programs and partnerships, the Centre provides meaningful opportunities for people to find support, share their skills and build the confidence and connections they need to thrive. Whether at the Centre or the Shed, participants are encouraged to use their strengths and talents while forming relationships that are essential to wellbeing- values that deeply align with my own.

Our volunteers, committee members and community partners have all played a vital role in ensuring WPCC continues to respond to the needs and strengths of our community. Their commitment provides the backbone support for our staff, and I would like to sincerely thank them for their energy, care and dedication. Behind every outcome is the tireless work of the WPCC team, whose professionalism and compassion ensure the Centre remains both responsive and resilient.

WPCC continues to stand proudly for inclusion, fairness and justice. As a community, we have provided safe spaces for local action and dialogue that promotes equality and the just treatment of all people, including indigenous communities and other groups experiencing injustice.

WPCC continues to take an asset and placed based approach to delivering vital community programs and services. The strengthening and expansion of this approach has been a defining feature of the past 12 months, helping us to meet the local needs while building on community strengths.

The year also saw stronger partnerships develop through our collaboration and the Centre for Just Places, opening the door to new opportunities with other community houses in the future, particularly through the Climate Resilience Project. This project has been a major highlight, a complex and rewarding body of work that reflects WPPC's capacity to engage meaningfully with the big issues that face our community.

Programs such as Gear Up and our community lunches continue to be outstanding examples of what makes WPCC unique. These initiatives connect people and places, building bridges between schools, young people and local organisations that deliver meaningful services for our community.

As we close the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the shared effort, care, and commitment that have guided our work. The year has brought both challenges and moments of strength and through it all our Board has remained thoughtful, engaged and values driven.

A special acknowledgement must go to Fouzul, whose exceptional stewardship of our financial systems has made our accounts more streamlined, accurate and accessible. Her efforts have been invaluable in supporting strong governance and transparency.

I am deeply grateful for the Board's wisdom and resilience during times of change, including when we addressed safety concerns in the Shed and managed the impacts of unexpected infrastructure disruptions. Despite these challenges, the Board's steady leadership, empathy and focus on constructive solutions have been remarkable. Each member contributes their own strengths and expertise, from social and climate justice advocacy to financial oversight, policy knowledge and strong community connections, creating a well rounded and values driven governance team.

Our new members have brought fresh perspectives, energy and optimism that have strengthen the group even further. I also want to acknowledge the open, positive relationships between staff and the Board, especially the transparent communication sense of mutual trust and shared purpose is the heart of what makes WPCC strong.

Even when things aren't perfect, there is a spirit of reflection, honesty and continuous improvement that defines who we are under Ian's leadership. I am proud to work alongside such dedicated, thoughtful people who show up every day with care, purpose and heart.

Kristy Gray
President

Financial Report

In 2024–2025, Wyndham Park Community Centre recorded total income of $771,109 and total expenses of $784,759, resulting in a modest deficit of $13,650, equivalent to approximately 1.8% of total income. The result reflects a year of steady performance, with revenue continuing its upward trajectory driven by successful diversification of income sources — including government funding, community programs, room hire and fee-for-service activites. WPCC continues to operate sustainably while prioritising investment in community programs, staffing, and infrastructure. Over the last three years WPCC's average revenue has been approximately $735,000 with an average annual deficit of approximately $300.

Revenue from activities

2025 - $771,109
2024 - $686,736
2023 - $748,422

Results from activities (profit / loss)

2025 - ($13,650)
2024 - ($10,861)
2023 - $23,702

Total Equity (net assets)

2025: $443,734
2024: $457,384

Total Assets

2025 - $686,479
2024 - $574,909

Total Liabilities

2025 - $242,745
2024 - $117,527

Board members and Manager Ian Fenton with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria CEO Keir Paterson at the community managed community centres board appreciation event.

Shed Member Peter Vaux and Shed Manager Daniel Schultheis accepting a $40,000 Wyndham City Council community grant for the Shed for All Abilities Program.

General Statistics

These statistics have been sourced from the Community Value Report received from NHVIC for 2024. Please note this report is for January to December of 2024. Community Value Reports are generated once a year by NHVIC based on data provided by WPCC for the year.

Income

$686,736

Value

$3,600,609

This figure includes the value of:

Improved quality of life through social connection:
$897,747

Volunteer contributions:
$1,125,884

Emergency relief provided:
$503,210

Services provided:
$1,073,766

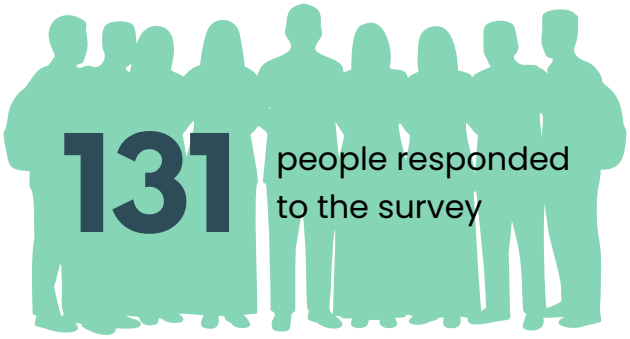
This community value equates to:

$5.24 for every **$1** of income

$22.82 for every **$1** of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding

Over **$973.14** for every hour the neighbourhood house is in use

In November 2024 people attending Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria were invited to complete a survey. The following statistics are based on how people at Wyndham Park Community Centre responded.



55% Came to meet new people

44% Felt their wellbeing and confidence improve

40% Came to help their community

34% Developed a new interest or activity

Respondents went on to do other things as a result of participating in WPCC:

27% Started volunteering

54% Made a friend

36% Learned a new skill

Participating in an activity at a Neighbourhood House had positive effects for most respondents:

89% Improved emotional wellbeing

85% Improved social connections

77% Stronger sense of belonging to the community

Photos Over the Year

Community Store Report

Janine Shannan

In 2025, our Food Relief Program continued to provide vital support to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. We gratefully acknowledge Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic) and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) for their funding and commitment to the Neighbourhood House Food Relief initiative, which enabled us to sustain and expand this essential community service.

Beyond meeting immediate nutritional needs, our program continued to play an important role in building social connection and trust among participants. Many community members who access our food relief service, also find a welcoming space to talk, share experiences, and build relationships reducing isolation and fostering a genuine sense of belonging.

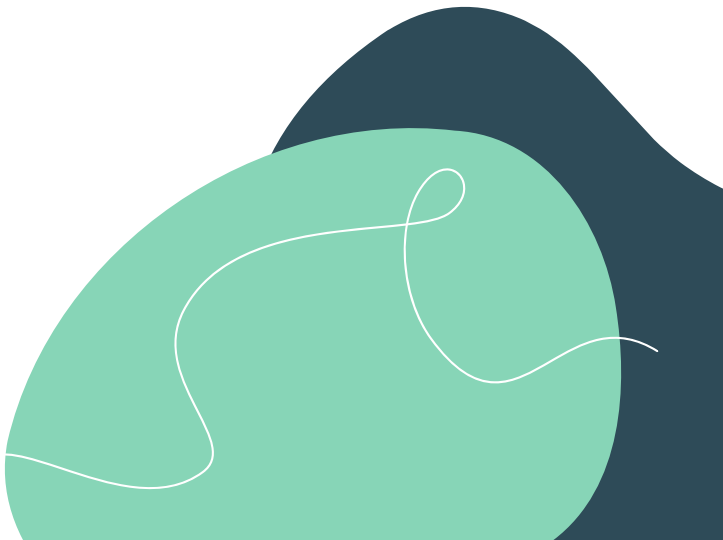
Importantly, the Food Relief Program offers a non-traditional, approachable avenue for support. Families and women who may hesitate to seek help through formal systems such as police, Centrelink, or other agencies can connect with our centre in a safe, stigma-free environment. Through these informal conversations, staff can gently link participants with Community Connectors and other services and resources, helping them address broader challenges in their lives.

Huge thanks goes out to our team of Volunteers who also experience their own hardship, often juggling personal challenges, limited resources, or emotional strain yet continue to show up with remarkable dedication weekly, providing them with a strong sense of purpose and belonging. Through helping the Communithy and contributing meaningfully to the lives of others, they support one another and find value and connection in doing so.

We wish to also acknowledge and extend our sincere gratitude to our regular donors, whose ongoing generosity plays a vital role in sustaining the community store. Their charity is a powerful reminder that consistent acts of kindness lead to meaningul change. Thanks goes out to Health In Kind, Mission Humanity, Woolworths Hogans Corner, Nandos Werribee, Port Phillip Prison, Bunnings Hoppers Crossing, Rotary Club of Werribee, Rotary Club of Wyndham, Rotary Club of Wyndham Harbour, Parks Victoria (Werribee Park Mansion & Gardens), Kiev Nation and Hoppers Crossing Secondary College, along with OzHarvest and FoodBank Victoria.

The success of this program reflects our commitment to not only to food security, but to community wellbeing, inclusion, and empowerment, and we look forward to further growth and connection in 2026.

Janine Shannan
Community Food Store Coordinator



Community Shed and Tool Library Report

Daniel Schultheis

The Wyndham Park Community Shed flourished throughout 2024–25 as a welcoming, hands-on community hub that blended creativity, repair, sustainability, and social connection. With hundreds of members and volunteers contributing to daily activities, the Shed strengthened its role as a cornerstone of community life by hosting major events, expanding programs, and deepening partnerships with Wyndham Park Community Centre, Wyndham City Council, VicHealth, Rotary Clubs, Bunnings, and local schools. More than 150 participants took part across the Men's Shed, Kookaburra Girls (Women's Shed), Shed for All Abilities, Tool Library, and creative streams including ceramics, mosaics, tech, gardening, and bike maintenance. Volunteers and students from MatchWorks, GenU, and local schools further supported operations, enabling ongoing improvements to equipment, safety, and training.

Across the year, each program added to the Shed's vibrant culture. The Men's Shed maintained a strong presence at community events such as the Rotary Men's Health Forum and the State Rose & Garden Show, while completing numerous community projects and celebrating the opening of the upgraded wood-turning room with a donated lathe by the late Alan Drury. The Kookaburra Girls continued to grow as a creative meeting place for women, with weekly sessions and fundraising stalls supporting shed improvements. The Shed for All Abilities, led by Hayden Cronin, provided empowering opportunities for 16 participants who created furniture, market goods, and exhibition pieces showcased at Harmony Day and the Mother's Day Mini Market.

Woodwork and metalwork remained central to the Shed's identity, with members producing items for markets and fundraising, and the metalwork team completing upgrades including new carport doors. The ceramics studio, led by Melissa Murphy-Vella, expanded through fully booked workshops, working bees, a new taster course, and the Sharing Plates Project, which supported community lunches. Mosaics reached full capacity with new installations, while the Tech Hub improved its workspace, expanded 3D-printing capabilities, and prepared free workshops for the Wyndham Learning Festival. The community garden continued producing fresh produce for the food pantry, supported by the popular biodigester fertiliser initiative.

The *Gear Up!* bike program, led by Lou Ripari and Reece Smith, continued supporting young people through hands-on learning at Wyndham Vale Primary School and expanded to Walcom Ngarrwa Primary School with support from VicHealth and Council teams. The Tool Library strengthened its circular economy impact, surpassing 50 members and nearly 1,000 hires, expanding inventory, and participating in the National Garage Sale Trail. The Werribeeks Apiary remained active with public education, World Bee Day events, and collective learning to address seasonal challenges.

Events across the year further reinforced the Shed's community impact, including the Karen Mortar & Pestle Project Launch, the State Rose & Garden Show, the Kookaburra Car Boot & Tool Library Mega Sale, end-of-year

ceramics exhibitions, Harmony Day celebrations, pre-Mother's Day markets, and awareness pop-ups such as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. A strong safety culture continued through fire warden training, evacuation drills, updated OHS systems, and site improvements to lighting, fencing, and barriers. Governance through the Wyndham Park Community Centre Board ensured compliance, transparency, and strategic oversight.

The Shed community also honoured the lives of long-time member and gardener Joseph Moretto and Tool Library volunteer David Venning, both remembered for their generosity and community spirit.

Looking ahead to 2025–26, the Shed will continue to expand the *Gear Up!* program, offer advanced ceramics courses and strengthen volunteer pathways. Alongside these goals we will continue to lead sustainability and resilience initiatives like the community garden and Tool Library. Through creativity, inclusion, and shared purpose, the Shed remains a place where everyone can make, share, and belong.

Daniel Schultheis
Community Shed Manager

Wyndham Park Community Shed
Wyndham Park Tool Library

Manager's Report

Ian Fenton

The period of this annual report, July 2024 through to June 2025, was a tumultuous one for Wyndham Park Community Centre. However, I would also describe it as a period when our organisation has been at its strongest.

During COVID, WPCC, along with many other organisations, was beset with challenge after challenge, but out of this period the organisation emerged stronger and demonstrated its capacity to build strength and respond to needs on an ongoing basis. The challenges which have beset our board and staff over this period have been different. In September 2024, WPCC's funding was suspended by Wyndham City Council due to concerns around safety in the community shed. This action was taken without warning and inconsistencies in the reasoning behind the suspension were never fully addressed. Concurrently, the Community Shed also had its solar panels switched off without notice by a council contractor. This occurred in January of 2024 and notice of this occurring was only provided to the management and board in November of that year.

Events seemed to be throwing us off course, but in truth, a new course was being set. After a comprehensive safety audit and a 6-month safety action plan the Community Shed is better than ever. Over 150 members across the shed and the tool library benefit from this institution each week. Including ceramics participants, clients, short-term volunteers and visiting groups there are hundreds of people who treasure the value of this hub of social connection and positive activity. Wyndham needs at least one more, if not three. The Shed now even has a much better PV solar system after the original misunderstanding was resolved and fully addressed by Council.

Challenges have made the board, the staff and the management more resilient. People have worked together, honestly, earnestly and comprehensively to ensure the value and the quality of our organisation is demonstrated and recognised. When raising issues, I have found local members, councillors and decision-makers to be highly responsive and committed to delivering outcomes which serve our entire local community. I thank them for their support and responsiveness.

What I would say to our staff, board and volunteers is that your efforts, your additional hours, your commitment to one another does not go unseen. Although the Centre and Shed supports a great diversity of groups and people, the sense I get from those I know and meet, in Wyndham and beyond, is that the Centre's is a great place to be, a welcoming place and a place for community.

In this past year, we had fantastic new employees join us. The Shed for All Abilities program, funded by Wyndham City Council has thrived. We are so grateful to have Hayden Cronin run this program. His empathy, consideration and kindness have added new dimensions to the shed's activities, while his skills and knowledge have turned possibilities into reality.

Similarly, the Resilience In-House Project, funded by Greater Melbourne Foundation, has

just begun to set the organisation along new paths and embedded new perspectives amongst the volunteers, staff and committee. This project, delivered in partnership with Jesuit Social Services Centre for Just Places aims to embed climate resilience within our organisation and our community. The coordination of this project, at Wyndham Park and three other neighbourhood houses has been exceptional and much credit for the success of the project so far must go to the exceptional organisation and facilitation of Rachel Bucknall.

Earlier this year, we had to say goodbye to Junthip (Waan) Tardif. Waan has been a source of knowledge, support and guidance to families and users of Wyndham Park Community Centre, Kindergarten and Maternal Child Health. The connection of our Centre to the Karen and Myanmar communities through Waan has been irreplaceable and Waan will always be a part of our community. We thank her for the mountain of work she did in her various roles and for the fantastic multicultural event Waan organised in April of 2025. It was great to host such a wonderfully coordinated celebration.

I would generally like to thank all the staff and volunteers who make Wyndham Park Community Centre what it is. Each year, the staff of this organisation show new commitment and growing capacity to serve our community. The delivery of the safety action plan by Dan has made the shed a better and safe place. But beyond this, there has been so much growth and improvement within the Shed and Tool Library that could not have happened without his leadership, capability and heart warming monthly newsletters. Meanwhile, through the support of DFFH the social connection and sense of community around the community store is always growing. Over this last year Janine has lead by example amongst volunteers and done a tremendous job of coordinating our now regular community lunches alongside Alex from Open Table and the Wyndham Women's Support Group. For all of us to do what we do, we have depended on Kerrell and as the breadth and depth of activities grows I look forward to contributions and commitment of new staff who have joined WPCC since July of this year.

I would like to thank the board for their ongoing support. Their capacity to respond and take on new roles and challenges has been a great service to Wyndham Park and its community. And finally, I would like to thank the many volunteers who all contribute to the wellbeing and strength of our community in so many unique and vital ways.

Ian Fenton
Manager

Thanks to funding bodies who have supported WPCC over this period:

- Greater Melbourne Foundation
- Dennis Family Corporation
- Department of Family, Fairness and Housing
- Department of Multicultural Affairs
- StreetSmart Australia
- VicHealth
- Wyndham City Council

This underlying support has been amplified and expanded upon by contributions from various local businesses and organisations, including Wyndham Rotary, Werribee Rotary, Health In Kind, Nando's, All Green Gardening Supplies, Awesigns and many more. Each gesture of support has been a deeply appreciated act of generosity and solidarity.

Bicultural Support Officer Report

Waan Tardif

In 2024–25, Wyndham Park Community Centre continued to build bridges across cultures through programs that celebrated creativity, heritage, and connection. These initiatives were made possible through the dedicated work of our Bicultural Community Support Officer, Junthip (Waan) Tardiff, whose warmth, empathy, and cultural leadership helped deepen engagement with local Karen, Karenni, and other newly arrived refugee communities.

One of the year's most transformative collaborations was the Space2B – Karen Artisans Project, delivered in partnership with Space2B Social Design and Next Door Psychology. Through a series of workshops in both Werribee and St Kilda, local Karen artisans learned the process of developing, branding, and selling handmade products in a professional retail setting. Participants explored ceramics, weaving, knitting, and woodwork, guided by creative mentors and supported by Waan's translation, coordination, and encouragement. Their finished pieces — including woven baskets, ceramic plates, wooden cutting boards, and knitted scarves all with cultural interpretations — were exhibited and sold at Space2B's Chapel Street gallery store as part of Refugee Week in June 2024. The launch was a resounding success, celebrating not only the artisans' craftsmanship but also the spirit of enterprise and resilience within Wyndham's refugee community. The project demonstrated the power of creative partnerships to nurture both skill development and self-confidence.

This spirit of connection carried into Harmony Day 2025, when the Centre hosted Better Together — a multicultural evening funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing's Multicultural Festivals and Events Program. Bringing together more than 600 people, the event featured a rich mix of

cultural performances, food sharing, and storytelling. Under Waan's confident leadership as Master of Ceremonies, the night opened with a Tongan youth brass band and included Karen and Karenni dance groups, a Malaysian-Singapore fashion parade, and performances by local school students and community choirs. Psychologist Alison Mynard delivered an inspiring keynote on her experiences supporting Karen refugees and her work in Thai border camps, reminding audiences of the global roots and local expressions of community resilience. The event concluded with joyful music, games, and a celebration of the many cultures that call Wyndham home.

A further highlight of the year was a visit in October 2024 by Mr Tom Andrews, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar. Mr Andrews met with local members of the Burmese and Karen communities at Wyndham Park Community Centre to hear first-hand their stories of displacement, hope, and rebuilding in Australia. His visit underscored the importance of the Centre's work in providing a welcoming and culturally safe space for these communities to connect and be heard.

These programs together reflected Waan's remarkable ability to foster belonging through art, culture, and human connection. As the year closed, so too did the funded period of the Bicultural Worker role that made this work possible. Continued multicultural engagement — particularly with the Karen community — now remains an ongoing challenge for the organisation. Wyndham Park Community Centre hopes that in the near future, dedicated support for a bicultural or multicultural liaison role can be revisited to sustain the deep, trusting relationships built under Waan's guidance and to ensure that all communities in Wyndham continue to feel seen, supported, and celebrated.

Waan Tardif
Bicultural Community Support Officer

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