

ANNUAL REPORT

For Year Ended 30 June, 2022



Sorrento Community Centre Inc.

ABN 98 085 210 677

Where
People

Connect

Learn

Grow

Strengthen



Vision

To establish and maintain a healthy, vibrant and connected community.

Purposes

Sorrento Community Centre aims to provide community leadership by bringing people together to connect, learn, grow and strengthen through:

- Responding to, supporting and engaging the community using community development processes such as
 - community consultation, responding to identified needs and priorities,
 - collaborating with others to build sustainable funding bases and
 - ensuring ongoing financial viability and accountability
- Promoting community participation and inclusion
- Supporting lifelong learning opportunities
- Promoting health and wellbeing opportunities



Values

Collaboration.

We believe that by working with others, more can be achieved. Building partnerships with other organisations and agencies is our way of work so that we can help people to find a sense of belonging.

Connectedness and Inclusivity.

We believe in the power of people. We continually work to engage the members of our community in ways that meet their needs so that we can help create a healthy, vibrant and connected community. We welcome people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Learning and Curiosity.

We believe in the importance of learning opportunities for people throughout all cycles of life. We aim to stimulate curiosity as part of a Positive Ageing Strategy.

Health and Wellbeing.

Positive health and wellbeing is fundamentally important for all segments of our community and is a key success factor for the centre.

Accountability.

In order to effectively maintain and grow our services for our community, we strive to become financially viable, transparent and accountable.

Chair's Annual Report

I am very pleased to present this Annual Report on behalf of the Sorrento Community Centre in my first year as a Board Chairperson. What an interesting and challenging year it has proven to be.

When the current Board was first assembled at last year's Annual General Meeting it had a membership of ten (10) and it was intended that the position of Chair was to be shared equally between myself and Board members Janice Thomas and Angie Baker. The objective of this arrangement was to put in place some initial steps in a succession plan which would create greater flexibility of approach in Board Room procedure and provide valuable experience for those considering higher level Board responsibilities in the future. There was also a possibility that the remaining 2 vacancies on the Board could be filled on a casual vacancy basis during the year with people who were suitably experienced and who might have long-term potential. However, despite the best of intentions the three-stage rotation for the position of Chair never occurred with both Janice and Angie becoming increasingly committed to the demands and growth of their respective business interests. We were also unsuccessful in attracting any outsiders to either of the two (2) unfilled Board positions.

In addition to Janice and Angie, three other members of the Board had demanding work situations which often prevented them from attending Board meetings or participating in additional projects or committee work. While this was sometimes not ideal, we still managed to utilize a mix of pre-meeting information, zoom and person-to-person communication at meetings and constructive discussion to make sound decisions. Over the 12-month period, only one meeting was disrupted by the lack of a Quorum.

On the 16th June, the Board lost the valuable services of Janice Thomas due to business and personal pressures – a great loss at the time as she had been a valuable contributor. Janice's departure reduced the size of the board to 9 members.

In what has been a year largely free of government enforced Covid restrictions there has been a slow and cautious return to a life more normal than what we have experienced in recent years. In the broader business community confidence has been noticeably damaged by lockdowns and many businesses have had to make significant changes to their operations or close their businesses down. Even today many people in the community are tentative about attending large group functions, particularly those indoors.

Faced with this situation our Centre felt it was necessary to become a more prominent and effective contributor in the community. Initially, the need was to increase efforts to form stronger and more effective links with businesses, our customers, and other organizations and to assist in lifting community spirits and restoring confidence. To achieve this, we had to ensure that the Community Centre building and surrounds were in the best possible condition to encourage maximum use and that services and programs were pitched at "real needs". In re-shaping our business, the review of our three-year Strategic Plan was necessary. It had been launched in 2019 and had served us well but the world had changed dramatically since its inception.

Chair's Annual Report cont'd

The review commenced later than anticipated due to a number of reasons but eventually, the formal process got underway on the 7th April 2022 with a Strategic Planning Review workshop held at the Centre and facilitated by Lynley Dumble, the Director of Community Wellbeing from Brimbank City Council. At the workshop, the existing Strategic plan 2019 – 2022 was reviewed and the broad parameters of our future business were defined in accordance with changed environmental conditions and opportunities. A working party was formed to continue the process and prepare a draft of a new Strategic and Operational Plan for 2023-2025. On completion of the draft, it was then to be referred to the Shire for further review to ensure that what was being proposed was in alignment with the Shire's operational requirements and future business directions.

The Working Party's deliberations and preparation of the draft have turned out to be a slower process than was expected. The delay was mainly caused because of the limited availability of the Working party members. However, in the past few months, steady progress has been achieved and the draft plan has now been referred to Tricia Folvig at the Shire for perusal and comment. We are hopeful that the final document will be available for distribution to all SCC members and the public before Christmas 2022.

Although the documentation of the plan has not yet been finalized, many of the important elements, objectives, and key processes in it are already being actioned.

Over many years the local community has been graced with a wide range of special interest groups, service clubs, Men's Sheds, neighbourhood houses, management committees, sporting clubs and activity groups, etc. The majority of these organizations are not-for-profit and are voluntary. Many of them perform similar and sometimes competing tasks and activities and very few communicate or work in unison with each other.

One of the key action areas initially identified in our Strategic Planning Review process was the role which we could play in bringing together these various community groups by encouraging them to share resources and work together to achieve major changes in the community. With this clear need identified our Centre Manager Greg Hilton has invested a huge amount of time and effort in forming new and stronger relationships with sporting bodies located on the David Macfarlan Reserve and other organizations beyond. Both Greg and SCC Board member Brian Stacey have been involved in working with other stakeholders and Shire officers in developing a Master Plan for the future development and use of the David Macfarlan Reserve. Many of these stakeholder planning meetings have been hosted by SCC and their involvement is expected to result in significant enhancements to the Reserve and its facilities. Amongst the various proposals included in the Master Plan are extensions to the Skate Park and the conversion of netball courts on the bayside of the SCC Building to an outdoor Pickleball facility.

Chair's Annual Report cont'd

Greg also insured that the Community Centre is represented in the recently formed "Spirit of Sorrento" business group which was established to revive life and business in the local community. The first initiative of this group was staging a Sorrento Master Chef's Luncheon, raising much-needed funds for The Portsea Camp.

The Community Centre has always pursued a policy of assisting newly formed local "not-for-profit" organizations to commence their operations. The most recent examples of this have been the formation of the very successful Point Nepean Men's Shed, the establishment of the Blairgowrie Community Garden and improvements to the Roger Penman Playground Reserve at Blairgowrie Village. Our intention for the future is to continue to be involved in this support and development process.

SCC Board and management continually strive to work in close partnership with all of those organizations which are linked to the control and governance of neighbourhood houses. This involves establishing open and effective communication links with Shire officers and Councilors. The Board extends its thanks to Nepean Ward Councilors Sarah Race and Susan Bissinger for their interest and support during the year and to Shire operational managers who regularly offer sound advice and assistance.

The design deficiencies and the maintenance requirements of the Sorrento Community Centre building have been exhaustively documented and debated with the Shire over many years. The building was poorly designed and constructed 20 years ago. Today the basketball auditorium does not meet the minimum size requirements for competitive basketball, and this has been a distinct disadvantage in promoting sporting events at the Centre. Regular requests for major capital works to improve the amenity of the building have been lodged with the Shire but usually without success. The most recent of these was a capital works proposal for the widening of the auditorium and the erection of public and internal toilets at the southern end of the building.

From the outset of the current year, the floor of the basketball auditorium was declared unsafe and banned for use by the Shire. After prolonged investigation and contemplation there was acceptance from Shire officers that the floor was designed as a "Sprung Floor" and that repairs could be carried out reasonably cheaply. Eventually, this corrective work was undertaken, and sporting activities were reintroduced.

Further concerns were raised during the winter months about increased movement in the floor surface. Initially, the problem was thought to be associated with groundwater. It was with some relief that the Shire addressed this problem quickly and Pickleball sessions and junior basketball training were relatively unaffected.

A pivotal meeting with Shire Acting CEO Mike McIntosh and several of his managers at the Community Centre on the 19th July 2022 relating to problems at the Centre generated some positive advice and action.

Chair's Annual Report cont'd

Early follow-up by Shire officers after that meeting on some of the problem areas has certainly been encouraging. Amongst the proposals discussed was the erection of a fence at the north end of the building to enlarge the Early Learning Centre outdoor area. After investigation, the Shire has agreed to the proposal and plans are in place for those works to be carried out.

During the course of the year, Board member Brian Stacey, who is also a member of the Sorrento Rotary Club and the Point Nepean Men's Shed arranged through his various contacts to have carpet tiles installed in the Centre's Meeting room. This has made a substantial improvement to the acoustics and comfort of that facility

Twenty-year-old buildings require regular and ongoing maintenance work and despite recent encouraging action by the Shire to address our list of maintenance requirements, there are still outstanding issues to be addressed. Included among these are roof leaks near the reception area and also above the north end of the basketball auditorium.

For many years one of the cornerstones of our business at the Community Centre has been the Early Learning Centre which has had a reputation for high-quality childcare. Even during the difficulties of the Covid period, the ELC Team has shown an outstanding ability to maintain service levels. However, the sudden departure of Team Leader Bianca Moresco on the 18th of May was a big loss. Bianca was a competent, caring and valued employee of the Centre and replacing her has been a continuing challenge. During the Covid period, both in Victoria and nationally there has been a massive exodus of early learning and kindergarten staff and filling key vacancies has become a real issue. Board member Judy Dunn, a retired Kindergarten / Early Learning Directoress has been assisting our current ELC team and Greg Hilton to manage some of the issues arising since Bianca's departure including the search for a replacement ELC leader.

Earlier in the year Jan Barrett a Consultant in Early Years & Community Development had completed a study commissioned by the Board to assess the future community needs for early learning and kindergarten services. Jan was also to advise on the process which SCC needed to follow to increase daily sessions and transition towards funded 3-year-old Kindergarten status. The appointment of an appropriately qualified ELC Team Leader was a critical component in this process. However, what seemed to be a very achievable goal six months ago now seems to be far more difficult to achieve in the immediate future.

Involvement in Social and Sporting activities associated with the Centre slowly but steadily improved during the course of the year although it seemed that many people were still reluctant to venture out after the lockdown era. The Sorrento Savvies, with a membership of 171 has recorded a healthy but sometimes sporadic growth in attendance numbers for its various social activities during the year. Participants on Friday walks generally vary from 15 -35 depending on weather conditions and some of the evening dinners in recent months have attracted 40 to 50 people.

Chair's Annual Report cont'd

The Centre continued to offer a variety of programs and activities including Book Clubs, Art Floral Arrangement and Mosaic Classes, Tai Chi, Pilates and Exercise to Music. Our small hard-working group of ladies who produce Boomerang Bags continue their good work and are always looking for others to join them. Recently this intrepid team of seamstresses produced 350 Boomerang Bags for the Rotary Motor Show which was held at Point Nepean on Sunday the 30th of October 2022.

Also on the 30th of October 2022, the Community Centre was hosting a Sports Expo with a focus on Skateboarding demonstrations and competitions and Pickleball. The event was covered by local media services and the level of public attendance and response was excellent. Nicole Topp and Deb Dick were prime movers in making this event such a success.

The pickleball courts in the Basketball Auditorium originally marked out temporarily in late 2019 and then permanently in January 2020 just before the pandemic lockdowns, came back into full use in May 2022 with a well-organised promotion planned and executed by Greg Hilton and Nicole Topp. This event attracted sixty participants and gave new lifeblood to this fast-growing ball game. Since that date in May, Pickleball has established a strong foothold at the Centre with Sessions being held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Annual Community Golf Day which has in the past been a major fundraiser for the Centre was held again this year after two years in abeyance. However, the emphasis this year was no longer on fundraising but on providing an opportunity for people to break the shackles of Covid lockdowns and start enjoying life again. Held at the Portsea Golf Club on Friday the 28th of October 2022 the event attracted 52 golfers and a larger group of diners for the post-golf lunch. Despite some inclement weather at the early morning shotgun start the rain stayed away for most of the playing time.

The Navigator Dementia Café held monthly at the Centre provides a valuable service for dementia sufferers and their carers. These café's work at empowering people living with dementia to regain their autonomy, boost their self-esteem and improve well-being while providing support to those in the caring role. Usually based in the Art Room at the centre participants can discuss dementia diagnosis and meet and learn from others in similar situations.

As the year quickly draws to an end, I wish to acknowledge the fine work done by Manager Greg Hilton and his Support staff members Deb Dick and Nicole Topp whose work at front of the house, assisting with ELC administration matters and the organization of functions and events has been outstanding. Also, Annie Fitch who provides backup at the reception and is assisting with the review of our record system. The Early Learning Centre Team and other volunteers, all of whom breathe life into the Community Centre on a daily basis, transform problems into solutions and ideas into actions should be congratulated. For all of them, It has been a challenging year sprinkled with hope and some revelations. We are so fortunate to have a group of such resilient, experienced and committed people working with us.

To my associates on the Board, all of them volunteers my thanks to you for setting aside the time in your busy lives to provide the necessary governance, direction and support for the Centre. I have already mentioned earlier in this report the mid-year loss of Janice Thomas as a Board member and it is with great sadness that we say farewell to Judy Dunn, Brian Stacey and Amanda Oldridge all of whom are leaving the Board.

Judy and her husband John are relocating to Melbourne to be closer to their family, Brian needs to devote more time to his other volunteering ventures and Amanda is concentrating on growing her business. We wish them all well and thank them for their valuable contributions. A special thank you also to Shane McMahon my predecessor as Chair who took on the role of Board Secretary & Public Officer this year and did a tireless job in keeping Board members so well informed and “on their toes”

Doug McLaine



Treasurer's Report 2021/22

Despite the significant challenges, the Centre is still in a good financial position.

This year was again affected by Coronavirus. With limited continued support from State and Federal Governments, the Sorrento Community Centre incurred a loss of \$49,395. This compares to a profit in 2021(before Covid Grants) of \$82,025. The Board has used the surplus from the previous year, achieved with Government Grants, to ensure all the staff continued to be employed.

The Centre, apart from the Early Learning facility, closed for most of the first half of the reporting year. Even when the Centre did open, activities have been effective by people's reluctance to gather in groups.

Increased expenses of \$94,000 resulted from the full-year effect of the full-time manager and an additional administrative staff member. The Board also engaged a consultant to advise on the future strategy for the Early Learning Centre.

As mentioned, the Early Learning Centre remained open for the whole year, all be it with reduced patronage during the strictest lockdowns. When fully open we operated with full capacity and a waiting list.

Based on direct costs (before allocating a percentage of Community Centre Costs), the Early Learning Centre made a surplus of \$47,816, compared to \$162,277 in 2021. The shortfall this year is the result of the reduction in Government support grants (that were increased during the first covid lockdown), the allocation of Administration wages and the consultancy costs mentioned above.

The Committee continues to invest in capital items to improve the operations of the Centre. During the year we purchased heating for the sports arena, a stage and additional office equipment.

In closing, I would like to thank Erica Bawden, our bookkeeper, for her continued support and dedication.

Philip Hedley
Hon Treasurer

November 2022



Financial Table June 30, 2022

Summary: \$000s	2022	2021	Variance
Total Revenue with COVID Support	440	587	-147
COVID Support	2	91	-89
Total Revenue without COVID Support	438	496	-58
Expenses	489	414	75
Fixed Assets	165	120	45
Bank Accounts	191	297	-106
Current Assets	3	5	-2
Current Liabilities	46	64	-18
Equity(what we own)	314	362	-48

Manager's Report

Hi Everyone,

I would like to thank everyone for your generous support of our wonderful Sorrento Community Centre. We are so lucky to have the support of the local community, volunteers, Mornington Peninsula Council, Neighbourhood Housing Vic, Community Housing Vic, our devoted board members and our fantastic hardworking staff in Deb and Nicole.

As mentioned in my report last year's AGM report. Our team's goal was to engage with all local non-profit organisations and build relationships in which we can share information. These include good news stories, upcoming events and most importantly Sorrento Community classes each quarter. We started this by investing in platforms for our administration area to be able to understand the community who are using our centre on a daily basis. Then being able to communicate with everyone quickly, became a valuable tool for everyone. The second platform was our simple tap-and-go payment and online payments to reduce cash and allow receipts to be instantly sent out. Our team has worked hard in streamlining processes and looking forward to making things even better in the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all our devoted Early learning centre employees in making our centre the number 1 destination for 18mth to 5 years old 5 days a week. We currently have a waiting list for each day as high as 50 for one of our days.

Within our various classes for our community, 4 of our classes are Boomerang Bags, Shake It Up with Eileen, our Navigator Café - Umbrella Dementia and Drawing with Leigh. Are all run by volunteers most of the money they receive is returned to the local community as donations. Our other classes being attended by our community continue to support our centre financially. This allows us to improve the facility for new and exciting classes.

What does this next year look like, firstly we will be working on bringing all-inclusive events to our Centre? These will be varied and we have just completed a Skate park come and try day and Women's in sport expo. We are hoping to use the stadium for events like indoor markets, antique road shows, and community forums like cyberbullying for local primary school students.

Greg Hilton
Manager

Valued Partners in Building Community

Working together for the common good

It is no secret that when people and organisations who share a common goal work together, more can be achieved for the common good. We warmly thank our partners, sponsors and supporting organisations for the contribution made over the year, and look forward to continuing to build these relationships further into the future.

Some are:



Rye and District Community
Financial Services Ltd.



Health
and Human
Services

Victorian Department of
Health and Human Services



Mornington Peninsula
Shire



Australian Department
of Education and Training



Victorian Department of
Education and Training



Pt Nepean Men's Shed



Prestige In home Care



Southern Peninsula
Basketball Association



Jack 'n Andys Op Shop



Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron



Rotary Club of Sorrento

BLAIRGOWRIE YACHT SQUADRON



Blairgowrie Community
Garden Group



Portsea Golf Club



Sorrento Basketball Club



Bunnings Rosebud



Penman Reserve
Refurbishment Group



David Macfarlan Reserve
Committee



Sorrento Primary School



Community 3942



Boomerang Bags



St Joseph's Primary
School