



Our Community Project

Annual Report

FY 2019 - 2020



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About Our Community Project

Our Community Project aims to work within the community to create and implement projects to alleviate the suffering, distress, misfortune and poverty of disadvantaged members of our community. We use people centred innovation and social enterprise to employ and build access, equity, social action and community spirit. We seek to support and motivate, using a citizen driven approach that recognises the value of all people to contribute.

ABN | 21 271 844 991

Legal Status | Company Limited by Guarantee, Charitable Institution

Tax Concessions | Public Benevolent Institution with GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption and FBT Exemption Date Established: August 31, 2004

Total Income | FY 2019/20: \$1.7M



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Our Ventures



Our Community Project Strategic Plan

Our vision is to contribute to building a vibrant, creative, resourceful and resilient community where people and the planet are valued.

Our mission is to work with the community using people-centred innovation, co-creation, collaboration and social enterprise to empower, build access, equity, social action and community spirit

Our Values

- **Respect for people and care for the planet**
OCP is committed to fairness and social justice and to respecting the natural environment.
- **Lifelong Learning and Sharing**
OCP is committed to fostering skills development, information sharing, and a spirit of cooperation.
- **Sustainable and Viable**
OCP acts with integrity, accountability and transparency.
- **Pioneering and Innovative**
OCP embraces leadership, agility and creativity.
- **Grounded and Authentic**
OCP nurtures a strong sense of local identity and fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Strategic Aims

Strategic Aim 1 Ensure the successful operation of OCP through effective governance, structure and workplace development

Objectives **Actions**

Objective 1.1: Review and change the organisational structure

Action 1.1.1: Change the legal status of Our Community Project from an Incorporation to a Company Limited by Guarantee

Action 1.1.2: Develop effective decision-making tools for the Board in terms of strategic decisions

Action 1.1.3: Examine the current organisational structure and change to ensure effective staff and resources management and succession planning

Action 1.1.4: Develop and implement a review and evaluation framework for OCP

Strategic Aim 2 Create an environment of social innovation through incubation, social enterprise and project management

Objectives **Actions**

Objective 2.1: Review and change the organisational structure

Objective 2.2: Review and change the organisational structure

Action 2.2.1: Examine the viability of a Not for Profit Real Estate and Property Management company

Action 2.2.2: Identify projects under the Targeted Earlier Intervention Program – Community Development

Objective 2.3: Review and change the organisational structure

Strategic Aim 3 Strengthen grassroots projects by harnessing resources and building strategic partnerships

Objectives **Actions**

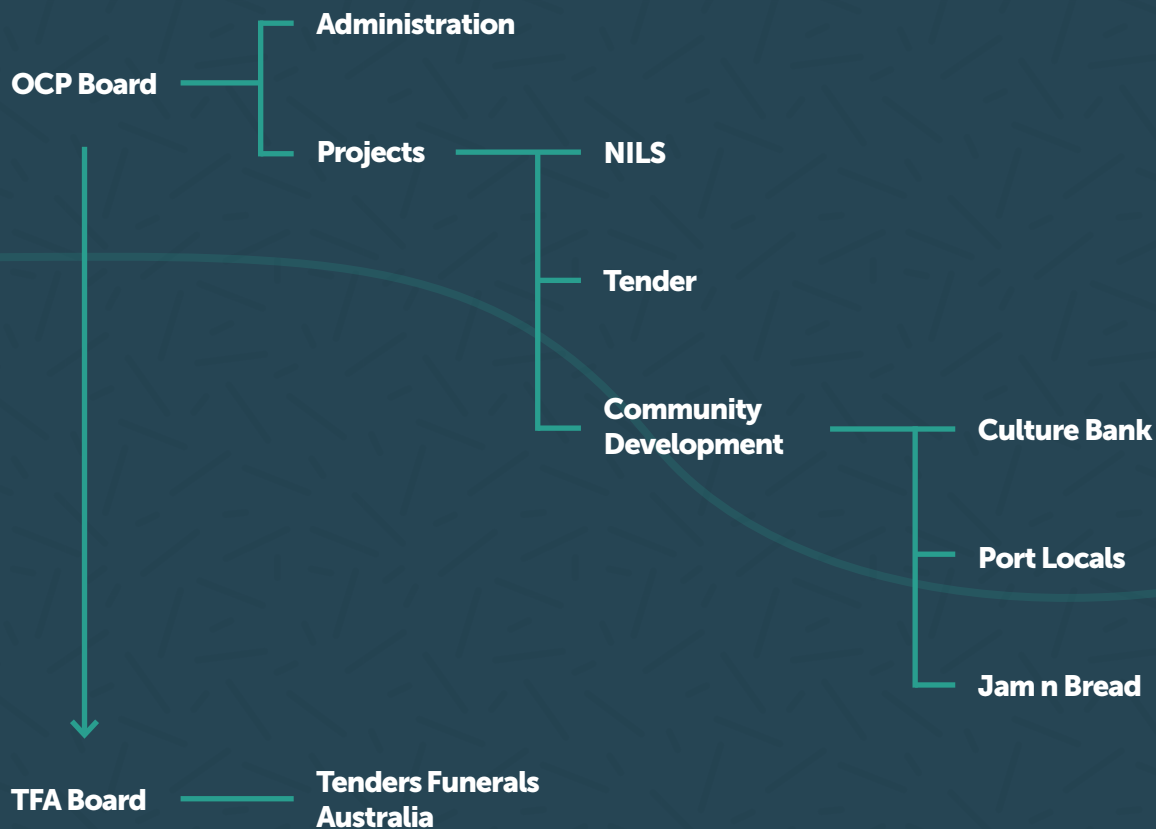
Objective 3.1: Identify, establish and maintain effective strategic partnerships that will support and assist in the implementation of programs and projects

Strategic Aim 4 Promote awareness and knowledge of OCP and continue to engage and be responsive to its community, advocating on its behalf

Objectives **Actions**

Objective 4.1: Develop a strong marketing and communication strategy and campaign

Company Structure



Board of Directors

President, Secretary, Treasurer



Ann Martin
President



Mary Finlay
Secretary



Joao Moreira
Treasurer

Directors



Tessha Mearing
Director



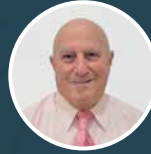
Katie Fox
Director



Mark O'Donnell
Director



Linda Campbell
Director



Robert McKellar
Director



Thomas McColl
Director



Karen Kirk-Torresan
Director

Staff

Our Community Project



Jenny Briscoe-Hough
General Manager



Pam Thorton
Business Manager



Sri Pasztor
Bookkeeper



Adrienne Talbot-Thomson
Community Development Manager



Tina Howard
Administration



Lisa Brunt
Cleaner

Culture Bank



Tania Mastroianni
Culture Bank Wollongong

Jam n Bread



Ann Lehmann
Jam n Bread Facilitator

NILS



Tina Howard
Nils Consultant



Misty Gurtala
Nils Consultant



Anne Steyer
Nils Consultant

Port Grocer



Tessha Mearing
Project and Store Manager



Patrick Harrison
Retail Manager



Zaneta Stojanova
Retail Manager

Tenders Funerals



Amy Sagar
Funeral Director



Jade Kelly
Funeral Director



Susan McMurdo
Casual Funeral Director



Christine Costello
Funeral Director



Ashley Martin
Administration



Lee-Anne Wein
Funeral Director

Chair Report



Ann Martin

Planner | Southern Region

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

The global and local events that have faced our local Port Kembla, and broader communities in the last twelve months have challenged our ability to be both flexible and to stay focused on our roles as a Board, and as an organisation delivering projects and programs across our community and beyond.

During this time, Our Community Project (OCP) has continued to provide services that support the community. The Board is incredibly proud and thankful for the hard work of our staff and volunteers, led with the energy and commitment of our General Manager, Jenny Briscoe-Hough. They have all undertaken their roles with demonstrated resilience and commitment.

The continued hard work and contributions of our staff, volunteers, Board and our Port Locals Committee has enabled OCP to continue to expand over the past year, despite these uncertain times. We are excited for the new opportunities that are on the close horizon... a local waste free Grocer, our continued success and growth of our No Interest Loans Scheme, Culture Bank, the Men's Group, our Community Development program to name just some of the activities and initiatives we deliver. The ongoing success and steady growth of Tender Illawarra and Sydney continues to be an exemplary model for the expansion of Tender Australia, quietly changing the face of the funeral industry locally and across Australia.

We have celebrated the success of funding applications for Targeted Early Intervention programs to be delivered in our community during this time and have overseen our transition from our previous legal status as an Incorporated Community Association, to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

As Chair of OCP I would like to acknowledge and thank our current and previous Board Members who have each made valuable, strong and considered contributions to our role in our community and beyond, to our projects and programs.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of OCP, I would like to thank our local, state and federal funding bodies, our many donors, sponsors, Foundation supporters and legal advisors and our community who have all helped make us the organisation we are, and will continue to be.

General Manager's Report



Jenny Briscoe-Hough
General Manager
Our Community Project

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live. I would like to also acknowledge the Elders past and present of the Dharwal people of the Wodi Wodi nation. They are the traditional custodians of the land on which we work every day. We deeply appreciate their continued support.

When you read through this report it will, I hope astonish and inspire you as it does me every year. This report is filled to the brim with what has been achieved. I am not going to repeat any of it here. The achievements of OCP belong to the brilliant people who have done that work and so I will commend their words to you. Instead I am going to talk about why we do what we do, and how that work is informed by a philosophy and a culture that has been being practised by this organisation for over 20 years.

Our Community Project, is a community development organisation that believes in the power of community to transform, strengthen and inspire each of us to contribute something to the culture in which we live.

Culture impacts everything. Culture is simply the way we do things around here; and the way things are done, should reflect the values, skills and dreams of the community. At OCP we partner with organisations, groups and individuals to develop and grow projects, enterprises, programs or simply an idea.

We are careful but not risk adverse.

We understand that culture requires a continual act of building by all of us all the time. We make the world we live in and the making of the world is a joint responsibility belonging to no less than everyone. What is required is that we bring to this task the best of ourselves. Our unique gifts whatever they may be, need a culture and community to grow and thrive.

I hope when you read through these pages you will catch a glimpse of what can happen when people decide that something needs to be, created, expressed, developed and built, or when something simply needs to be done differently. In order to belong we all need communities which we can belong to.

This is our work, we are participating in many communities, we are helping to change the culture to be more like a culture that helps us to live and to die well. Each of us doing the work that is the best of us. I want to say thank you to Our Board, they are responsive, careful and brave. The Staff of OCP who work with their whole hearts and their fierce minds to pull it all off. Our brilliant volunteers who we rely on all the time and who we learn from every day. The Funding bodies for supporting our work, we are grateful for your trust. Finally, and most importantly I want to acknowledge and thank the community. Because the communities we work with continue to inspire, motivate and enlighten us and there is no end of energy, goodwill and creativity with which to engage.

Funders

- Vincent Fairfax
- Create NSW
- Department of Justice & Communities
- FASCISA
- Office of Fair Trading
- Ecstra Foundation
- myCommunity Funding
- National Australia Bank
- Bendigo Bank
- Wollongong City Council
- Covid Relief Funding – Federal Funding
- Port Kembla Community Investment Fund
- Bashurda
- Snow Foundation

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Supporters

- Good Shephard
- Social Ventures Australia
- University of Wollongong
- Kate Lynch Plans Drafting
- Port Kembla Public School
- Phillips Tiles
- Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation
- Fair Food Forager
- Beyond Empathy
- Mike Malone
- FamS
- CustomLAN
- Jan Hunter
- Invey Studio

Business and Financials Report



Pam Thorton
Business Manager
Our Community Project

This financial year 2019/20 Our Community Project continued with increased activities in all areas of the organisation with turnover for the 12 months being \$1.7 million, including with continued growth, Tender Funerals revenue of \$992,000. OCP managed eighteen separate projects during this period. OCP is predominantly self- supporting raising more than 65% revenue.

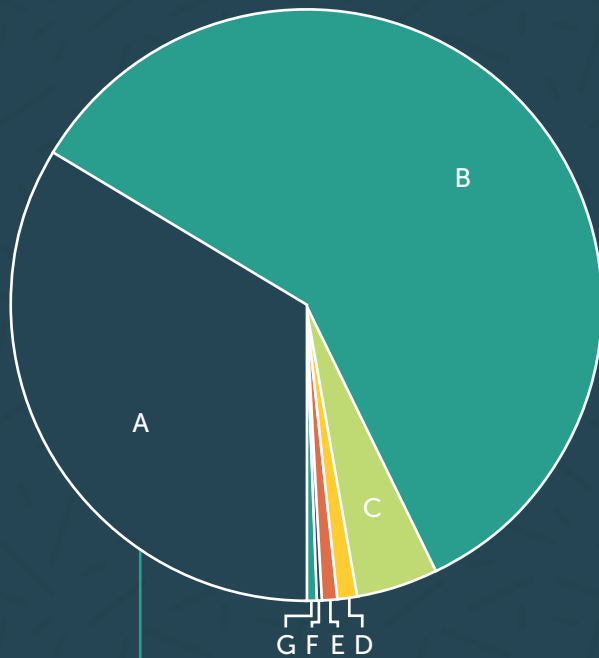
Following notification of a new Grant in late 2019 and at a cost of \$91,000 OCP commenced creation of Port Grocer in this period. The engagement of a Project Coordinator for the set-up, infrastructure build and operating systems in leased premises during this period required input from all staff and additional volunteer engagement. Trading will commence and project completion will continue in the next financial year.

Staff changes occurred in Finance and Administration and Tender Funerals continued consolidation of their staffing structure during this period. Tina Howard increased work with NILS and reduced responsibilities in Finance and Administration. In 2019/20 the annual OCP payroll cost increased in total from the previous year by \$134,200. At the end of this period 24 regular staff are employed equal to 10.1 full time equivalent staff. The OCP administration continues to be the area requiring expansion of funds and personnel.

I was welcomed to the OCP team in October 2019 and must thank Tina Howard for the detailed preparation of the 2019/20 accounts and handover of all things OCP finance and also much appreciation to Sri Pasztor in the position of Bookkeeper for ongoing dedication and diligence.

The OCP & Tender teams within the administration and community outreach have a clear vision of their contribution to health and well-being and the diverse opportunities to harness while setting a challenging pace for their many contributions to future operations.

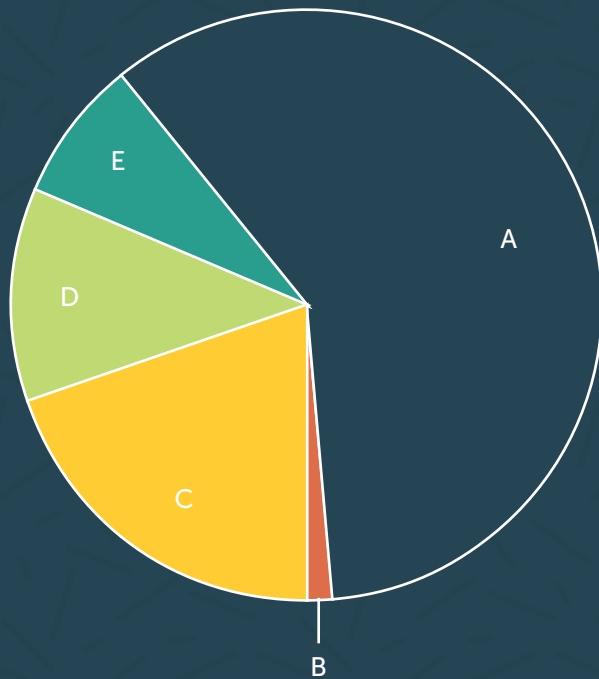
Revenue Source



**OCP Revenue Source
FY 2019-20**

A	Grants (see below)	33.67%
B	Funeral Services	59.29%
C	Donations	4.48%
D	Outsourcing Fees	1.03%
E	Rent	0.96%
F	Interest	0.21%
G	Miscellaneous Income	0.37%

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OCP Grants FY 2019-20

A	Funding NSW	20%
B	Funding Local	0.4%
C	Philanthropic Funding	6.7%
D	Federal Funding	3.9%
E	Federal Funding COVID	2.6%

Note: Percentages listed in above table and chart are derived from total revenue.

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement

**OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT INCORPORATED
(INCORPORATED UNDER THE ASSOCIATIONS
INCORPORATIONS ACT, 2009)**

**CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Amounts unexpended carried forward	119,379	115,190
Project Funding and Grants		
Funding – Federal	60,000	60,000
Funding – NSW	284,411	297,965
Funding – Local	5,700	8,005
Funding – Philanthropic	44,888	10,000
Membership Fees	-	59
Donations Received	67,971	33,163
Rent	14,575	17,540
Miscellaneous	106,380	26,101
Interest	1,794	2,657
Photocopying	234	70
Bank Commission	1,422	734
ERO Supplement Funding	19,224	6,909
Café/Coffee Income	150	193
Tender Funeral Services	899,765	628,898
Pooled Funds Income	60,681	79,558
Outsourcing Income	15,598	18,098
Contribution from FACs	<u>11,080</u>	<u>14,300</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>1,713,252</u>	<u>1,319,440</u>
COST OF SALES		
Other Purchases/Direct Costs	<u>497,307</u>	<u>308,221</u>
TOTAL COST OF SALES	<u>497,307</u>	<u>308,221</u>
GROSS PROFIT	<u>1,215,945</u>	<u>1,011,219</u>

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement (Continued)

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT INCORPORATED

(INCORPORATED UNDER THE ASSOCIATIONS
INCORPORATIONS ACT, 2009)

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 (Continued)

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
EXPENDITURE		
Project Expenses	25,242	106,137
Audit and Accountant Fees	4,430	3,800
Legal Fees	26,060	2,831
Advertising	12,984	3,788
Bank Fees	3,540	2,025
Donations given	100	1,385
Culture Projects funded	9,000	7,500
Events	602	3,121
Waste	3,907	2,268
Insurance	11,977	10,700
Subscriptions/memberships	1,297	1,525
Catering	2,108	1,526
Subcontractor costs	9,250	2,745
Training and Conferences	1,599	351
Tools and Equipment	26,974	6,431
Consumables	2,815	1,372
IT equipment and software	15,951	12,784
Food for staff and vols	618	1,145
Rent	2,083	-
Electricity	4,747	4,743
Water/Rates	1,221	1,728
Security	850	548
Telephone/Mobile	5,618	3,402
Postage	468	461
Printing	2,756	3,253
Office Supplies	1,788	1,324
Contributions FACs	11,080	14,300
Cleaning Expenses	733	802
Maintenance – Building	8,297	16,305
Maintenance – Equipment	5,956	4,251
Maintenance – Grounds	1,100	500
Maintenance – Port Grocer	22,363	-
Business Development	16,750	-
Pooled Admin Expenses	60,681	79,558
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,744	3,286
Funeral Subcontractor	2,548	-
Bad Debt Expense	853	1,846

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement (Continued)

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT INCORPORATED
(INCORPORATED UNDER THE ASSOCIATIONS
INCORPORATIONS ACT, 2009)

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 (Continued)

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Motor Vehicle Expenses	7,416	3,482
Licencing and Administration Fees	252	181
Wages	518,300	389,823
Annual Leave Provision	48,938	53,114
Superannuation Expense	52,197	38,717
Workers Compensation Insurance	10,645	16,112
Travel and Accommodation	4,987	6,720
First Aid	-	9
Depreciation	13,581	13,581
Provision for Assets	-	15,356
Music Downloads	131	134
Staff Training	(182)	5,522
Interest	14,936	40,784
Website	3,280	-
Gifts-Volunteers and Staff	<u>642</u>	<u>564</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>985,213</u>	<u>891,840</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE for the year	230,732	119,379
Less AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED TO UNEXPENDED GRANT FUNDS	<u>230,732</u>	<u>119,379</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE for the year	\$ <u> -</u>	\$ <u> -</u>

Statement of Financial Position

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT INCORPORATED

(INCORPORATED UNDER THE ASSOCIATIONS
INCORPORATIONS ACT, 2009)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank		464,773	273,097
Petty Cash		776	409
Receivables		14,932	42,145
Term Deposits		<u>159,421</u>	<u>147,332</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>639,902</u>	<u>462,983</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Buildings and Improvement- Cost		545,574	545,574
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(13,556)	(10,167)
Office Equipment- Cost		41,403	30,494
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(20,736)	(15,857)
Transportation- Cost		70,184	33,206
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(22,580)</u>	<u>(17,267)</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>600,289</u>	<u>565,983</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,240,191</u>	<u>1,028,966</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accrued Expenses		124,321	107,185
Provision for Employee Entitlements		141,882	120,001
SEFA Loan		197,804	248,415
Unexpended Grants		<u>426,562</u>	<u>203,743</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>890,569</u>	<u>679,344</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>890,569</u>	<u>679,344</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$ 349,622</u>	<u>\$ 349,622</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Balance 1 July 2019		349,622	348,039
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>1,583</u>
BALANCE - 30 JUNE 2020		<u>\$ 349,622</u>	<u>\$ 349,622</u>



What people
who work with
us have to say...

Adam Cox: Transition Town Port Kembla

I am very happy to have had the opportunity to work with OCP on this program.

The organisation is very effective in engaging and delivering positive outcomes for the community. On the flip side, OCP's influence makes it a custodian of opportunities. OCP's voice, contacts, and organisational knowledge mean it is a gate-keeper with the power to curate and summarise the community voice on applications and submissions.

OCP is a strong group of passionate organisers building community and delivering positive change.

Collen Rod: Mums and Bubs Yoga

Collen spoke about how OCP provides support for sex workers.

This is the type of comradery community centres need. It is outstanding how OCP looks out for these women and acknowledges their safety and wellbeing.

Paul Heiler: Bush Care, Fair Food Forager

Seeing the community I grew up in develop and evolve by OCP is reassuring that this community is in good hands.

In the past Port Kembla did not have a good reputation. But with the current development OCP has done for Port Kembla, they have created a trendy environment which has helped the reputation of Port Kembla.

Tania Mastroianni: Culture Bank

OCP takes everything into consideration. If someone has an idea they will support and bring that idea to life. They have a quirky way of working and that's what makes them who they are.

Honora Jenkins: Kind Art Ed

OCP don't run projects and programs for the community they run projects and programs with the community. You can notice the difference between the two.



Our Ventures Annual Report



Port Grocer



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Port Grocer officially opened its doors to the public on Monday 20th July! After six months of hard work from the team at OCP, this latest social enterprise launched with amazing community support and backing.

And hasn't it been a very busy six months getting this project off the ground! From securing a commercial lease, to obtaining a Complying Development Certificate, to managing the fit out and set up, to recruiting a core team of staff and volunteers, to sourcing suppliers and wholesalers – there has been no shortage of challenges and obstacles to overcome in bringing this innovative project to life.

Thankfully we had no shortage of community support and offers of assistance during the establishment phase. The locals of Port have helped to paint walls and gates, build pallet furniture, set up dispensers, and assist in a wide

range of maintenance tasks that were involved in getting the store ready to accept products. Local artists have added stunning artwork to our walls to create an inviting and colourful space. We received donations from other local businesses in the way of counters and displays. All of this has reinforced the dynamic community spirit that exists around Port Kembla and we have been fortunate to benefit from it.

The outcome of all this has been that we are now ready to present Port Grocer to the community and provide it with a wonderful variety of ethical fresh produce and products, all stemming from a zero waste ethos. Our shelves and fridges are fully stocked with a broad range of produce sourced from a wide selection of suppliers. We are excited to see it finally open to the public and be able to offer the community a local shopping option.

*A community focused
and sustainable grocery
store comes to
Port Kembla!*



No Interest Loan Scheme

Southern NILS was established in 2005, and began offering affordable finance to low income earners living in the southern suburbs i.e. Port Kembla, Berkeley, Cringila, and Warrawong, to purchase household goods and services. Over the past 15 years of providing loans to our area we have changed but our principal remains the same – to assist clients to become more financially independent.

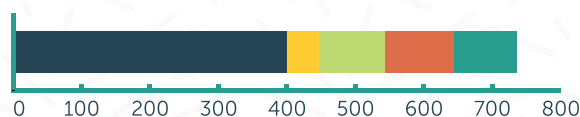
This is our second year using a new NILS model of being a Collaborative Loan Provider. This model means that we do both interviews for NILS applications and we are also NILS assessors for applications in house and for 4 Sydney and Southern Highlands based providers. We now do interviews for the whole of the Illawarra/ Shoalhaven area (alongside other providers). We also assess loans throughout NSW and have great ties with other community organisations.

Over the past 18 months we've had the advantage of an additional 6 volunteers and a number of social work student placements who gained valuable skills and experience whilst working at NILS and assisted with the provision of a smoother process for clients to access NILS and the delivery of a more efficient service to the community. It was a pleasure to watch each of them grow in their capacity as valuable workers throughout their time with NILS.

NILS Loans Approved During 2019 - 2020

The 2019-2020 financial year saw Southern NILS approving 716 people with a no interest loan. We conducted 399 interviews and the rest were interviewed by our Client Support Providers. This means that 716 households have been diverted from payday lenders.

Southern NILS	399 Loans
Fairfield NILS	48 Loans
Focus	95 Loans
Highlands	102 Loans
MTC	92 Loans



2018 saw us farewell Sheryl Wiffen who had worked in the role of Southern NILS Co-ordinator for over 10 years. Her passion for working closely with the local community of OCP was one that was unique because of her wealth of experience she brought to the service from previous positions held AOD, health & the general community. Her compassion for our clients and dedication to providing the best outcomes for clients accessing NILS never waned. Sheryl has been missed and clients accessing the service often ask for her, demonstrating that they felt very well supported by Sheryl. NILS workers are in regular contact with Sheryl, and while her leaving NILS was a sad loss we are confident that she made the right decision to leave and embrace other choices in life.



Anne Steyer, our wonderful volunteer of 14 years, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her inspiring qualities that make a difference, in August 2019. Anne started as a volunteer with NILS on our Loans Assessment Committee. In the lead up to the new NILS model being launched, Anne began working at the centre 1-2 days a week as a volunteer and became our casual/annual leave relief worker. Anne has over 35 years' experience in welfare, community development, child protection and addiction management. She brings her care, knowledge, expertise, articulate and immaculate case notes as well as bubbly nature and great anti-pasto platters to our office everyday she is here.

Client Responses

I came to NILS in desperate help some years ago.
I personally am so grateful for this program and the wonderful caring staff who have managed to guide and help when it was needed.

I have fully furnished my house hold with NILS help. It has gave me dignity and confidence once again. I have purchased, over time vertical blinds, to lounge suite, coffee table, dining suite, floor covering, washing machine, lounge room rug and had my rego paid, tyres on my car.

Where would one be without the wonderful support
it's so exciting for me when i know it drawing closer for me to shop again
it feels like Xmas.

Thank you once again.

Kind Regards,
Vicki Turner



Culture Bank

Culture Bank Wollongong is an independent and diverse organisation of residents from Wollongong and its suburbs who all share a common passion for nurturing and developing a richer cultural environment for everyone to enjoy. Using a grassroots crowd funding model of raising money within the community, we offer an effective and simple way to nurture and develop creativity that is free of bureaucracy and generous in spirit. Culture Bank Wollongong funds artists and other creative people through a democratic process that actively involves members.

Culture Bank held two funding rounds for Wollongong during the June 2020 - July 2020 period giving away in total: \$19,000 plus it initiated one-off funding round for our southern neighbours in Culture Bank Goes South - supporting creative people and projects affected by the bushfires. Call for funding opened 1 July - 31 July, 2020 and will be giving away 3 x \$2000 - \$6000 total grants to successful applicants (these additional funds were raised from members and community, through FB funding call, direct deposits to OCP via requests on social media, Illawarra Mercury and ABC local radio).

In this period Culture Bank secured donations from individuals/organisations and business, and on a few occasions members donated: \$500 each to the Culture Bank kitty. Current membership is approximately 140.

Some recent comments made about Culture Bank from our Wollongong Community:

"I am a member of Culture Bank and I have had projects funded through them as well. They are a lifeline, a community and a solid witness to the creative process. Get involved in any way you can. It is worth it."

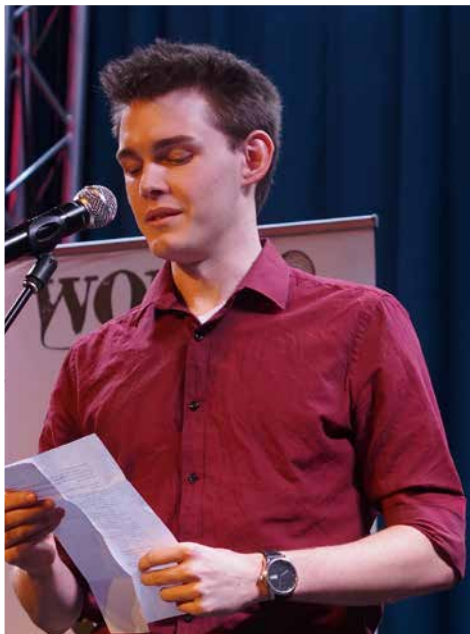
"As a previous recipient of funds from CB, I am eternally grateful, it has made such a difference to me and my project."

"As a donor, my monthly contribution leaves my account without me noticing until I read of all the wonderful projects that my small donation has helped to support. SMALL DONATION - BIG FEELING!"

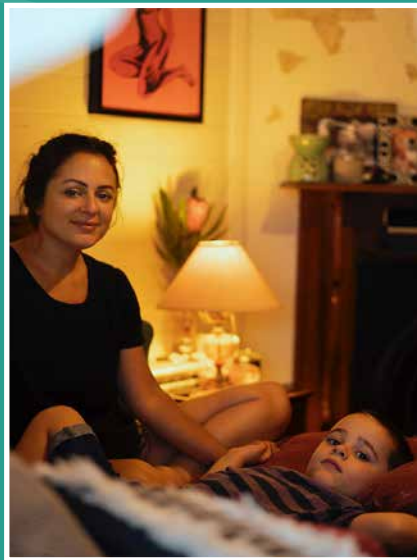
"In these days when the arts feel under attack, our community's support and value of our artists is a bright shining example of what is possible - be a part of it!"

"Wowser!!! A truly amazing collection of projects supported in this round of Culture Bank funding"

"We are so fortunate that there are people in this fantastic community who not only value what organisations like ours are trying to do, but agree with our vision for a culturally vibrant, creative and collaborative Wollongong".



We offer an effective and simple way to nurture and develop creativity.



October - November Funding Round 2019

Total: \$9000

Culture Bank members voted to fund the documentary film *Women of Steel*, about the Jobs for Women Campaign which challenged discrimination at BHP and won. This documentary is about "the exceptional yet ordinary local women who campaigned for the right to work in BHP were told repeatedly that they would never succeed; and yet they beat a giant!" -These funds were ultimately returned to Culture Bank - due to the bushfires and some other issues for the film producer, and funds were then used to kick-start Culture Bank Goes South - grant applicants call out July 2020

Culture Bank also voted to support The Dire Theatre Company, and to fund their next All Female Shakespeare project. Our members are therefore helping to establish a seed fund to ensure their project continues into the future. Their next project is based on a play "Anthony and Cleopatra" and was planned to be performed in two venues in Wollongong. We are currently consulting with this group to see if there may be alternative ways to develop a project outcome.

Misty Escarpment asked us to support her wish to perform jazz concerts in local nursing homes, for audiences who can't get out to venues. Song programming for the two events, consisted of selective jazz standards that the audience would be familiar with, such as *Girl from Ipanema*, *Take the A Train*, *Summertime* - one performance has gone ahead, while another on hold due to impacts of COVID-19 (significant due to performance being in aged care facility).

Culture Bank also funded Urban Biodiversity Illawarra's to: "get everyone across the Illawarra talking about enhancing their verges and gardens with beautiful local native plants!". Urban Biodiversity Illawarra has been working for the last five years to develop an amazing website showcasing local native trees, shrubs and plants. They have a vision of a region where the local plants are grown absolutely everywhere for their beauty and their benefits for local wildlife. They wrote "We're on the point of releasing the website but would LOVE to have a big public launch that gets it into everyone's awareness. Imagine all our local streets populated with the stunning and hardy rainforest trees of the region! It's 'culture' in a slightly unusual sense, in that the trees grow themselves, but we like to think that they will help create a more conducive

environment for creativity of all sorts across the region". The project was forward so as to not be impacted by COVID-19 social distancing restriction/public events.

Lillian Pang shared her vision for 'Fabled Feasts' a bi-monthly storytelling event in Wollongong and surrounds. She wrote "Imagine an outdoor setting, tables, small stage area, sound system, food being prepared on the side. Strangers and friends arriving somewhere new - its never looked like this before. It probably wont again. Entrées served, music playing and an exchange between storyteller and musician begins. Words, song, sound dance as food is served. There is time between each story for talk. Time to change seats for the next course and the next story. Create community, a shared moment and then disappear into the night feeling full and warm". This project has also been impacted by COVID-19 and is currently developing an online component and other alternatives means as to proceed.

Members were moved to put our money towards supporting a local photographer who proposed developing a community based project, shedding light on homelessness and our sleeping lives. Keziah Sugarat wrote "Where Did You Sleep Last Night" is the topic of my project. My aim is to have an inclusive and non judging look into where our community sleeps. Being homeless for a short while myself and spending years travelling to the next couch, I wish to document and raise awareness". Keziah hopes for everyone to come together at the end, realising the more vulnerable people in our community and to focus on support and change. "Perhaps strengthening a part of the community that is sometimes shunned or ignored by many." This individual had began the project and documenting community, but decided she could not personally proceed with this project due to COVID-19; and part of the funds were returned. Culture Bank has encouraged to re-apply when circumstances change.

Our most recent funding round May - June, 2020

Total \$10,000:

Firstly, Culture Bank members agreed to fund the production of *The Purple Turtle* - an environmental short film which is a call to action for the fight to save our oceans from plastic pollution. The film is set in coastal towns along the Australian east coast and into the Pacific Ocean. The narrative of the film follows the journey of a plastic toy turtle which is dropped in the ocean in Australia in 1980 as it washes up on beaches around the Pacific Ocean over a 40-year period. Through the turtle's eyes we see the ocean progressively fill with more plastic between 1980 - 2020 as our dependence on single use plastic increased.

Secondly, Culture Bank has funded an A to Z of Wollongong Podcast that will shine a light on local creativity and curiosities and on what makes these topics unique. The aim of the podcast is to profile different suburbs in a exploration of creativity, curiosity, history, and culture. "We may not be able to explore Wollongong and the Illawarra as freely as we would like under COVID-19, but that doesn't mean we cannot get to know her intimately. And maybe break through some stigmas and uncover new hometown favourites in the process".

Additionally, our members voted for *Magic Mountains* - an interactive digital work. This project will be filmed at Waterfall Sanatorium and will include a crew of locals as dancers, choreographers, singers, performers, interviewees and musicians. The intention is "... that honouring those who died in previous waves of contagion is crucial for healing and moving through our current anxieties with COVID-19". The project plan is to create an "engaging touch screen digital work that uncovers a little bit of local history and invites viewers to think about the spooky graves in the bush near Helensburgh in a new way".

Next, members decided to support the idea for a project that aims to undertake street art therapy and create a "happening" in Port Kembla. The project was proposed by a trio of local community artists called *Sketchy Sisters* - who also stated that they have "decades of experience". They pitched themselves as "thriving on helping others to express themselves in the places they inhabit; promoting inclusion, ownership, encouragement and interaction.". They asked that we "Imagine a wall on Wentworth Street as an open studio for everyone who passes by". They said "We will be there to paint & coax & listen...an invitation to make marks on a group work".

Finally, Culture Bank funded a project called *Notes From Home*, Podcast. It will platform young emerging musicians and elevates creative stories and voices in the Sydney/Wollongong areas. It aims to document the journey's and pathways of young emerging musicians in the Illawarra. "We're creating an oral history of cultural and creative communities that aims to inspire young musicians through the process of storytelling".

Jam n Bread

Jam n Bread is a FREE monthly community celebration where people from diverse cultural communities come to sing, play, bake bread, feast and share culture. Each month is an open community cultural celebration featuring musicians and dancers from different cultural backgrounds. It follows a participatory model breaking down the barrier between musician and audience by inviting participants to engage in both music making and bread baking of the culture featured. Instruments are provided and all ages & all abilities welcome.

Attendance is between 30 and 80 people each event with a broad range of ages, cultures and abilities represented. Jam n Bread has a mailing list of over 210 people and a strong Facebook presence with 495 likes and 533 post followers. Social media posts about events tended to reach between 120-1300 people depending on the event.

To date the 2020 Jam n Bread program has featured:

February 8
Indian rhythms with Joshua Carbone baking Peshwari Naan

March 14
Irish dance & tunes with Andrew McKay baking Irish Soda Bread

Due to Covid 19 the following planned events were cancelled:

March 21
Cultural Treasures Festival

May 9
Stagecraft & Croatian celebration- Michael Simic

On Sat July 25 Jam n Bread will trial an International on-line session with Kenyan music and dance therapist Senyor C-Jeys via zoom from 4:30pm who will be presenting the workshop from Kenya. Senyor recently presented at the World Congress of Music Therapy. The facilitator asked if he had ever had the opportunity to present out of East Africa. He replied no, but was very interested, hence the invitation to be our guest for Jam n Bread. There are already over thirty people registered including three from Kenya and one from British Columbia. This is an exciting new space for Jam n Bread. When we go back to face to face sessions, sharing video excerpts on social media, we will have an International audience.

Jam n Bread is also proud to support the opening of the Port Grocer with Mexican Mariachi Gerardo Montoya performing at the official opening on Sat Aug 14 from 1-2pm.

Jam n Bread has been lucky enough to receive a small grant from Wollongong Council and a Celebration Grant from Multicultural NSW. Once social restrictions ease up Jam n Bread has a great line up planned for the rest of the year including:

- Stage craft with Michael Simic
- Balkan fest with Zlatkos Balkan Caberet
- Middle Eastern drumming with Aiwa
- Spanish rhythms with Ana Otero & Nigel Jones
- Pacific Islands Ukulele & Poi with Nga eh Hwa

On behalf of Jam n Bread, I would like to thank OCP for your incredible support over the last six years. Jam n Bread has created a wonderfully inclusive culture of creativity and connection thanks to your support.

Jam n Bread Aims:

- To celebrate cultural vibrancy & diversity and create an inviting space for sharing culture through playing music & baking bread.
- To provide performing opportunities and support musicians in the community build on skills and meet other musicians.
- To support intergenerational skill sharing & passing on musical traditions.

- To showcase the vibrant cultures that exist in our community

Jam 'n Bread outcomes :

- Increased community participation and connectivity
- Leader development within the arts for building community capacity
- Increase community pride, cultural awareness and appreciation



Connecting with culture through bread making & baking.



Tenders Funerals

Tender has served 231 families and communities who have experienced a loss since this time last year. Off the back of funding from Create NSW our Community Choir has produced a CD filled with songs of Love and Remembrance and our artist in residence Jodi Phyllis has beautifully created a Tender book of Ceremonies and Rituals for our community to access. A digital copy of this book can be found on the Tender Funerals website. The funding has also afforded us the opportunity to film some videos displaying the work that our artists do. This helps inform our community on what creative practises can be done in death.

We have created a fresh new website to reflect the work of Tender Australia and the formation of working groups for other Tenders to open around Australia. Have a look at our page by visiting www.tenderfunerals.org

Van Fundraiser

This financial year started off with a big community fundraiser spearheaded by our volunteer Jordan Lukey at The Servo Food Truck Bar. Artists, musicians and local businesses all rallied together and offered their support. The night was a huge success in getting us started in our big goal for another van.

In June 2020 Tender was successful in raising the funds for our second van. Jordan not only organised the fundraising campaign but he also drove the van to Tamworth and back for its conversion into a funeral vehicle. Here he is pictured at the wonderful Tamworth golden guitar with our new van! Our non-manual driving community are celebrating now having an automatic vehicle. Thank you to everyone in the community who contributed to this campaign, we couldn't have done this without everyone's generous support.

Memorial Picnic

In June 2019 Tender's second Our Community Remembers Picnic was held with Malika Elizabeth leading the ceremony in a beautiful honouring of our dead followed by a feast of sacred food representing our memories of the people we have lost. We are hopeful the 2020 Our Community Remembers Picnic can go ahead for the 10th October, 2020 in the Mt Keira Girl Guide Camp. We invite you to join us in remembering.

Our People

Our manager Amy Sagar has returned from maternity leave and the Tender staff has grown, now employing a new experienced Funeral Director Christine Costello as well as one of our long serving volunteers Lee-Ann Wein. Of course we can't talk about the operations of Tender without also acknowledging our artists Michele, Malika and Jodi and the volunteers who are the heart of Tender. Special thanks to volunteers Mark, Jordan, Lynne, Bec, Vicki, Sue, Daniel, Mara, Paul, Tim, Moana, Carolyn, Caroline, Jodi, Belinda, Sophie, Tarshea, Dyllon and our social work students Kate and Faye. Without the ongoing contributions of you all Tender would be missing a huge part of our community.

Covid Report

This year the world experienced a pandemic, a once in a 100 year event. COVID19 put Australia in lock down, and funerals were no exception. In the thick of it all funeral attendance was limited to only 10 people and Tender had to get creative in providing extra honouring practises to include people from afar. We learnt about new ways to honour our dead, live streaming funerals and virtual viewings. We held ceremonies on behalf of whole communities and family members who couldn't be physically present. I am so proud of our response in intertwining ceremony and meaning into every step of how we served families during covid19, and I want to acknowledge our artists Michele, Jodi, Malika and Lara who put great thought into this, one of our celebrants Lynne Johns who went especially above and beyond during this period and our Tender volunteers and staff who carried a much heavier burden than usual.

At present restrictions on numbers of people who can attend a funeral has been lifted, however social distancing rules are still in place with mourners being 4 square meters apart indoors and 1.5 meters apart outdoors.

Mortuary Building and New Fridges Update

Another milestone addition to Tender is the renovation of the mortuary and purchase of 2 new mortuary refrigeration units so that we can accommodate 6 more deceased on our beautiful premises with us. This means we can serve more families who need a Tender service.

Volunteer Report

Volunteering at Tender Funerals continues to be a source of joy to me. I have been part of the Illawarra team for a few years, initially volunteering fortnightly, now attending weekly in 2020.

I like the challenge of not knowing what greets me each week I arrive. I call it a challenge, not because what I do is a problem for me, but I am presented with a variety of tasks or situations where I can offer my best service unprepared. That service can take the form of caring for the deceased ie washing & dressing, coffining and transfers or ensuring the premises are clean and comfortable for clients including tending to the garden or washing vehicles.

Staff and fellow volunteers are always very warm and welcoming and I feel supported and encouraged to contribute as much or as little as is comfortable to me.

Attending weekly has improved my confidence to the point I can go about some duties without direction. As Tender grows and new systems are introduced the operation is becoming more efficient with volunteers being updated on procedures and even encouraged to offer suggestions or ideas for improvement to practises.

I feel a valued member of the Illawarra team and look forward to increasing my knowledge and ability, wherever appropriate, to support the Tender Family and their vision and expansion into the future.

Vicki Robb

Artists Report

Sewing Circle and Textiles work

Over the last twelve months, the Sewing Circle has continued to meet twice a month. While we haven't had any new participants, there are up to 12 people in the group, with around 6 or 8 on a regular basis. Since Covid-19 restrictions, we met on Zoom weekly for the first two months, as some were glad for the contact in lockdown. This was much less, though still valuable for one family in particular. With recent easing of restrictions, we have gone back to fortnightly sessions and in mid June, we were able to meet in person and have a picnic lunch before our sewing. The Sewing Circle has been working on an embroidery project, 'Sunflowers and Sage Leaves'.

People have created unique stitched squares that will be assembled into a quilt for Tender. We are almost at the stage where the squares can begin to be joined. I anticipate that this project will be completed by the end of 2020. The group has requested that we run the shibori and indigo dyeing workshop again, it was very well received last year. A small amount of funding will be required to cover material costs for this.

There hasn't been any work with families over this financial year. I produced 8 Tender Cloths from donated funeral flowers and was commissioned to create 10 Tender Scarves for families.

Tender Community Choir and other resources

The Tender choir have found the Covid restrictions very limiting. Before the lockdown we had a lovely group of singers coming to our fortnightly choir.

Roughly 6 - 10 people came on a regular basis. The singers have been of a variety of levels. Some have never sung outside the home before. It is a healing and nurturing space. Sometimes children come along too, to participate. It seems to make everyone's spirits soar.

We have been enjoying singing a variety of traditional, modern and original songs. Making the CD last year was a highlight, as has been singing at memorial services and community events. As yet, we haven't sung at a funeral service, but look forward to that happening one day.

Lockdown has been particularly challenging. We have tried a few different online gatherings, but because of delay, we cannot truly sing altogether. Even meeting outdoors had been deemed as too risky, as singing means deeper breathing and expulsion of air. So, for the moment, choir is on hiatus until we can meet face to face again. We are hoping to meet up with the sewing circle soon, for some bonding and connecting.

Malika Elizabeth

Tenders has served 231 families and communities.





Tenders Funerals Australia



Jenny Briscoe-Hough
General Manager
Tender Funerals Australia

Since Tender Funerals first opened in 2016, communities around the country have approached us for assistance to open a Tender Funerals of their own. In those first few years we were busy finding our feet. Those requests, though, kept coming and so in late 2018 we were approached by Social Ventures Australia (SVA) who were keen to support the Tender Model rolling out around the country. This for us was the beginning of Tender Australia. Tender Funerals incorporated as a Public Company, owned and operated by Our Community Project in 2019.

Achievements

Tender Funerals Network

- Signed MOUs with the following communities who intend on building a Tender Funerals social franchise: Canberra and its Regions, Tasmania, Perth, Newcastle, Far North Queensland (Cairns), and Mid North Coast NSW. (Demand from communities continues to outpace TFA's capacity to provide support).
- Implemented a network model for working with the sites building a culture of collaboration, skill sharing and information exchange between the sites and including TFA. This group facilitates knowledge sharing and supports various community education experiences being conducted by the various sites.
- Developed a training package (including videos); with policies and procedure manuals for the sites, which are in final draft stage. The manual provides guidance on how to manage all aspects of a Tender Funerals site including establishing an empowering, culture aligned with Tender Funerals values, outlining the funeral process, setting up the administration, staff and volunteer management induction and requirements and as well as providing a practical guide for all aspects of providing a Tender Funeral service and mortuary care.
- Support has been provided to all of the sites to build their financial models, helping them to engage their communities and potential partners around a particular fundraising target.
- Worked with each of the communities to conduct various community education activities, from Tender film screenings, death cafes, webinars, and community Q&As around funerals and financial hardship.

Marketing and Communication

- Work has commenced in surveying sites to determine their training needs with regard to marketing strategies and ideas. As a result of this survey media kits with a particular focus on fundraising are being developed.

Development of Social Franchise Model

- In collaboration with sites, SVA and Freehills Lawyers, Tender Funerals Australia is in the final stages of creating a Franchise agreement in a social franchise context. This has resulted in the creation of a process for establishing a Tender Funerals social franchise site and a comprehensive supporting document with the aim of empowering and being fair; and to shift the paradigm from Tender Funerals being in the parent role to the agreement to being partnership based.

Tender Funerals Illawarra and Sydney (TFIS)

- TFA worked very closely and practically with TFIS to conceptualise, test and articulate the Tender Funerals culture and model to be used as the foundation and model for the network. Without this symbiotic and evolving relationship it would have been very difficult to ensure that the model would be effective in practice.

Collaborative Partnerships

- Continue to develop a strong working relationship with Social Ventures Australia, who have provided strategic support and have facilitated fundraising opportunities and pro-bono legal support.
- Continued to build on our existing relationship with Social Enterprise Finance Australia. They have committed to work with the network to provide loans to the franchisees pending working through due diligence.
- Partnered with the Macquarie Bank to develop a financial model template that can be used by the franchisees.

Funding

- We have been successful in applying and receiving funding from Ecstra, a philanthropic Australian organisation for the amount of \$350,000 to be expended by 21/03/2021 and dependent on PBI status. This funding is being used to develop the national franchisee model and to support the network. TFA has put into place appropriate resourcing, and is examining the need for an expert Advisory Group, to develop a strategic business plan in conjunction with Social Ventures Australia, and to launch a website. \$50,000

has been earmarked to be used exclusively for the development and promotion of an online community information portal and associated public awareness raising campaigns.

Online Platform

- Worked in collaboration with a web designer Mike Malone and Tender Sites to re-build website to provide education and to give sites a presence online.
- Tender Funerals Australia has collaborated with Social Ventures Australia to develop an outcomes framework for TFA and all the sites to measure the impact of this work across the country.
- This has led to the development of an online platform to support Client Relationship Management (CRM) activities and outcomes to support reporting across the network. These reports will not only ensure we are delivering on the intended impact, but it will also support community education activities. This is being built by Dash up with Support from Richard Sager.

Strategic Planning

- SVA assisted Tender Funerals Australia to develop a dynamic Strategic Plan, which can be amended as developments evolve, and change.

Funeral Saver Fund and Hardship Trust

- In 2017, a broad coalition of government organisations, consumer groups and financial services companies raised a collective concern about Aboriginal communities being the target of questionable practices by funeral insurance companies
- Social Ventures was tasked with mapping the landscape of the funeral industry resulting in a recommendation to tackle the high cost of funerals and a new, more equitable approach for those that are economically disadvantaged.
- The new Funeral Saver Plan product will allow individuals to save on a regular basis to cover the costs of their funerals. Tender Funerals model and base costing have been used as the benchmark for establishing the amount that will need to be saved to cover the cost of the funeral.
- To provide for a shortfall in savings the Funeral Fund is being established with annual donations from financial services organisations for years 1-3. TFA has agreed to be the appointer of the Funeral Benefit Trust (Perpetual Trust). TFA worked with all relevant stakeholders to define the terms of the Trust. TFA has formally appointed the Trust. TFA has worked with SVA to identify and commit key external stakeholders to Advisory Council. A member of the Tender Funerals

Board will be the Chair of this Council.

Challenges

Bushfire season and COVID

- Bushfire season and COVID meant that much of the community education, community engagement, and support to the working groups in communities developing a Tender have had to be delivered remotely. These two extraordinary events have also drawn out the timeline for sites to become operational, as a number of the sites were impacted by bushfires and COVID has made elements of project set-up more difficult (e.g. building viewings paused, changing fundraising landscape, etc). These national challenges have also led to the financial saver product taking longer to get to market. Importantly, the economic challenges and pressures put on Australians across the country this year has meant that this work is more critical than ever.

Overall the year has been more challenging than we all could have imagined. However, I believe we have made good progress in spite of our circumstances and I really believe we will get there.

I would like to thank the board for its continued support of this project and of me. I am privileged to work with such a magnificent group of human beings who because they believe in the idea and the culture of Tender, have taken on the responsibility of changing the culture of funerals around the country. Each and every person on this board makes themselves available to the project, and I just want to say that how much that helps everything.

I also want to acknowledge OCP who birthed this project with such generosity of spirit and facilitated TFA coming into being by facilitating its incorporation and gifting all the IP. I know OCP is very proud of Tender and it's hard to imagine any other organisation which would have taken it on.

Thanks also to Pam Thornton who has come on board as the business manager of TFA and has worked over and above with all the sites on their business models. She has an amazing brain and heart and we are lucky that she is working with us and I am so grateful to her.

And then to Emily Adams, from SVA. I really don't have the words to express my admiration and my gratitude to Emily. She has donated so much time, energy, heart and passion to TFA. She is a rare person with an enormous heart and huge spirit. Her capacity is astonishing. I don't know how we got so lucky that she chose us as her passion project, but I am so glad that she did.

Port Locals

Sew4Zero Waste

Our Group still only consists of 4 members Eileen, Christine, myself Lisa and Bob. We still meet the first Saturday in February- November 10am-2pm. We have taught Bob the different methods of sewing on the machines and he still enjoys restyling/revamping his clothes. Christine gave the industrial sewing machine a clean out and a new needle. Our days consists of sewing all sorts of bags - shopping bags, veg bags, drawstring bags, buntings and aprons for adults and children. We still hang them up in the hall for sale with the Honesty Box donation near the kitchen door and there are also a few veg bags kept in the office for sale.

We had a stall at the Save 4 Good launch at OCP hall 23rd August 2019. We had a lot of interest in what we sew and patrons were surprised to hear the money we raise goes to a Sea life Charity. We only sold one bag this day. We had 3 new ladies join us in October. We solved one lady's problem. She was using the wrong size needle to sew her velvet fabric. She was so grateful she stayed and helped us sew straps for aprons.

In February Christine took some bags and aprons to sell at an event in Berkeley, Autorama. Only sold one bag but it was good to get recognition of where the donated money goes to because of her displayed information of Seabird Rescue.

In March we decided we must do a Production Line so that we use the Over Locker machine more. Although our sewing group is advertised in the local Warramong Flyer we still haven't been getting any phone calls to teach people how to sew a shopping bag.

Then in April the dreadful Corona Virus hit and all community centres closed. We greatly miss the interaction in our group and amongst our friends involved in OCP. We will still try the Production Line when we return and are looking forward to having our bags and aprons on sale at the new OCP Port Grocer this year.

Community Hall

The first half of this year The Port Kembla Community Hall was used by lots of different groups (our projects and other community organisations/people). The hall was used for pilates, community gatherings, sewing, men's group, NA Meetings, political meetings, etc.

Sadly, the second half of the year the hall hire was effected by COVID-19 and was effectively closed in March. During this time the hall was also repaired due to a car accident. We are hoping that our space will be used for community gatherings again in the future.

King George Oval Bushcare

The volunteers continue to work most Saturdays to plant, establish and renew the bush around the cricket field and playground.

Port Kembla Bread Making

Christine Okoniowski again ran the Port Kembla Bread Making Group. This group only ran during July 2019 to October 2019 as the program was interrupted due to the Bushfires and COVID-19.

Sew4Zero Waste



King George Oval Bushcare



Port Kembla Bread Making



Men's Group



Port Locals

Days For Girls

Celeste Mergens started Days for Girls in 2008 after working with an orphanage in Kenya. Celeste realised that many teenage girls in developing countries miss out on attending school for at least a week each month due to having their periods as they cannot access affordable menstrual pads and often have to stay at home during this time.

With a small grant from Wollongong City Council to purchase a sewing machine, material and cottons, we set up the small sewing group at OCP a few years ago and usually meet once a month. A Wollongong representative from Days for Girls provided the

pattern, training, guidance & support to enable us to adhere to their requirements.

Packs from our small group have been distributed in Senegal, Indonesia and Phillipines by various Australian travelers, impacted by witnessing poverty and want to help where possible. Days for Girls has reached more than 1.7 million women and girls in 125+ countries with DfG Kits and menstrual health education.

Men's Group

The Men's Group have had an interesting year, like everyone else during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

During the early months of 2020, the normal activities at the Centre were disrupted, but we usually meet every Wednesday from 9 am to 3 pm to chat and do activities that include:

1. Mow and clean up the grounds and garden areas at the Centre;
2. Add to the existing compost facilities and maintain the worm farms;
3. Established the 4 x beds in the Community Garden in the front of the Hall to grow a variety of vegetables;
4. Landscaped the Community garden at the front of the Hall with cardboard & mulch;
5. Thanks to Paddie Lane from Sydney Botanic Gardens for all her assistance in establishing the Centre Community Garden;
6. Host any visitors that are NDIS connected, to enable them and their minders to use our facilities and equipment to make hobby objects or repair items they bring in;

7. Collect aluminium and steel to take to the recyclers to make money for the Group;
8. Assist any other groups with their activities if needed – e.g. Christmas celebrations;
9. Set up Coffee facilities at events as needed;
10. Made garden beds for the new Dental and Medical Clinic established in King Street, Warrawong – underneath the present Library.
11. Purchased a new trailer with contributions by Men's Group and Ann Martin for use by the Centre.
12. Assisted in assembling and constructing items in the new OCP Project – the Port Grocer shop in Wentworth Street, Port Kembla.

We again acknowledge the assistance of the Board and Staff of the Port Kembla Community Centre for encourage us to carry out our activities at the Centre and wish everyone well during these unpredictable and demanding times.

Days for Girls



Men's Group



Department of Communities and Justice

The core funding for community development at Our Community Project comes from Department of Communities (DCJ) and Justice, previously known as Family and Community Services (FACS). DCJ has been transitioning the funding from community capacity building to Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI).

DCJ funding pays for community development, Jam and Bread, Culture Bank and contributes to the administration of OCP.

We worked hard with NSW Family Services Inc (FamS), a peak body whose aim is to support the delivery of quality services by non-government, not-for-profit organisations working with vulnerable children, young people, families and communities and DCJ to ensure we mapped our program activities in line with the new TEI Framework.

We secured our funding for an initial term of 3-years up until the 30th of June 2023 and we have the option of an extension period of 2 years if we meet the milestones in our funding agreement.

Winter Event



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Our Community Project collaborated with the Port Kembla Primary School and Kind Art Ed for its annual Winter Event.

Honora from Kind Art Ed developed and held a lantern making workshop with all of the teachers, who then made lanterns with all of the students. On the night we met at the community centre and made our way to the school with the lanterns and drummers and people were coming out of their houses to cheer us on. Although it was raining

everyone braved the weather and came out for a fabulous night that included the lantern parade, drumming, circus acts, delicious paella and a sausage sizzle, a traditional Smoking Ceremony by Uncle Gerald, storytelling by Lilian Rodrigues-Pang, singing, face painting, choir performances and tree seed planting.

The idea for planting seeds is to grow trees that will be planted out in the community. A number of the trees have been already used in a community planting project.



Everyone braved the weather and came out for a fabulous night!



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Xmas Feast



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Our Annual Christmas Feast was a great success. Our volunteers did a wonderful job helping us to set up on the day and serve the meal over the course of the night. Entertainment provided by Jam and Bread and a beautiful choir performance along with our annual remembrance ritual facilitated by Jenny.

Everyone enjoyed the great food and entertainment, meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones.



Everyone enjoyed the great food and entertainment, meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones.



Street Trees and Urban Greening

Since late last year Our Community Project and Transition Town Port Kembla have been working with Wollongong Council to establish Port Kembla as a priority area for Urban Greening. This kicked off with a community planting of a number of semi established figs at Coomaditchie along with a commitment to plant 250 semi established trees in Port Kembla by the end of the financial year.

Because of the community input council met and exceeded their goal of planting 250 trees and the result for the community is the beautiful new street trees planted throughout the suburb.

Transition Town Port Kembla and Our Community Project partnered and were successful in securing approximately \$17 000.00 funding from the Communities Environment Program. The partnership approach with council has continued with the implementation of this funding allowing us to have an increased impact as a result. Plans are for planting work at King George and Coomaditchie primarily and possibly some other sites if the funding allows.



Working with Wollongong Council to establish Port Kembla as a priority area for Urban Greening.



Welcome Totems Upgrade

Aunty Lorraine and Aunty Narelle from Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation were engaged last year by Wollongong City Council to upgrade the artwork on the Welcome Totems at the entrance to community centre.

We organised a design workshop with Aunty Lorraine and some of the Stage 3 kids from the Port Kembla Primary School. Over the course of the workshop and some yummy morning tea the kids came up with some design ideas that were incorporated by Aunty Lorraine into the overall final design for the totems.

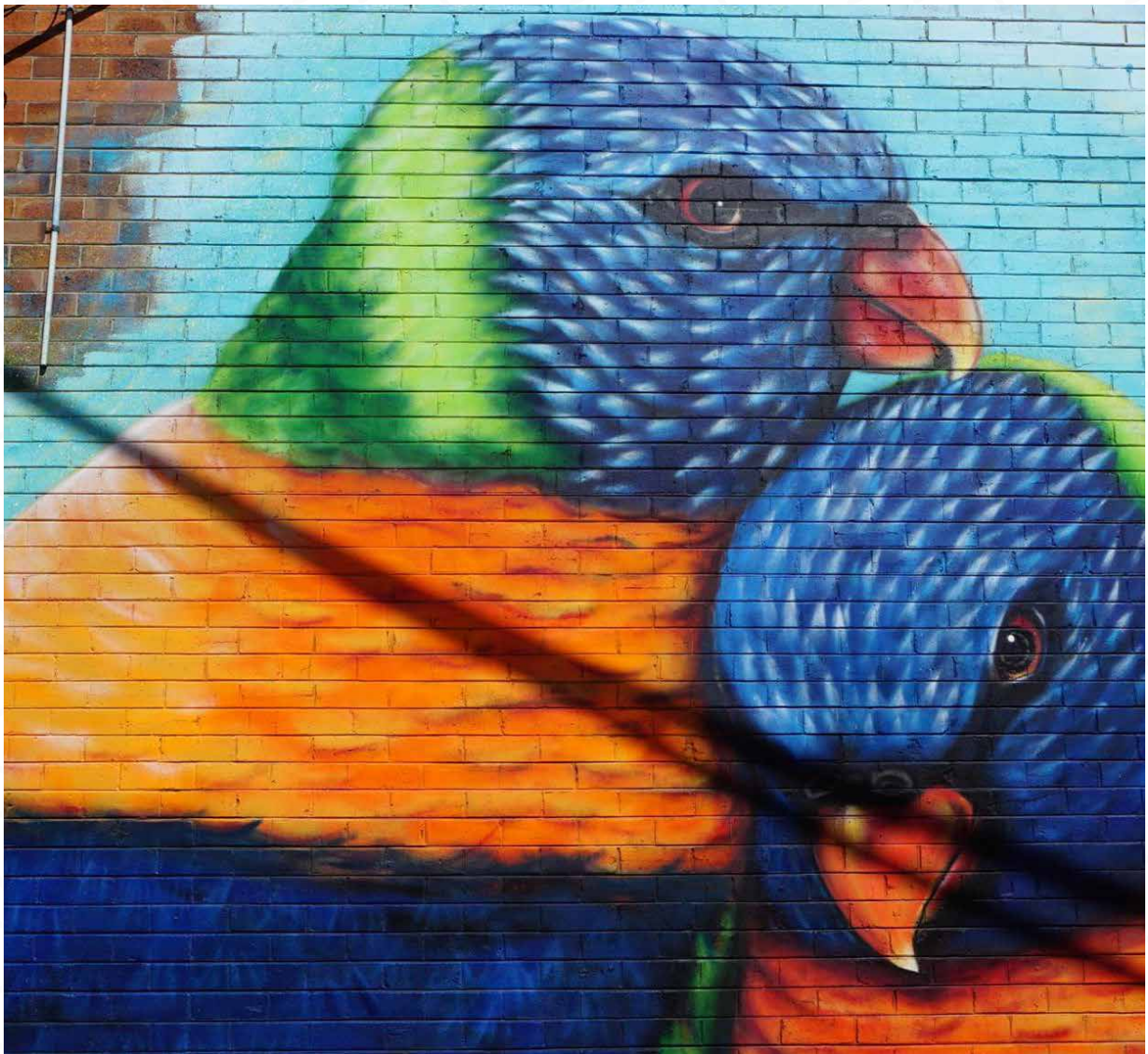
Council organised for the old mosaic to be stripped back and for the poles to be primed for the addition of the new artwork designs. Aunty Lorraine and Aunty Narelle applied the new designs and we have to say they look fantastic!



Wonderwalls Festival

Our Community Project and Verb Syndicate secured Port Kembla Community Investment Fund (PKCIF) funding to bring Wonderwalls to Port Kembla.

The community were able to see artists doing what they do best as the Murals went up all around Port Kembla. Other events over the course of the weekend included the opening at the Servo, artist talks and an exhibition at Red Point Artists Association..



*Murals went up all around
Port Kembla.*



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Community Garden

The Garden Marauders and Community Greening (Royal Botanic Garden Sydney (RBG)) built garden beds at the front of our hall to provide fresh organic produce for the centre and its community. Bob McKeller from the Men's Group championed this project along with Paddie Lane from the RBG.



Garden beds at the front of our hall provide fresh organic produce for the centre and its community.





Our Community Project

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