

# Annual Report

## Our Community Project



2016 / 2017

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The Staff and Board of Our Community Project acknowledge elders past, present and emerging of the Dharwal people of the Wadi Wadi nation who are and always will be the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We appreciate their continued support.

# OVERVIEW

**Vision** To build vibrant, creative and resourceful communities that value people and the planet.

**Mission** Our Community Project uses people centred innovation and social enterprise to empower and build access, equity, social action and community spirit. It seeks to support and motivate, using a citizen-driven approach that recognises the value of all people to contribute.

## Values

- Care for people and planet
- Learn and share
- Pioneer and create
- Be kind
- Be grounded and authentic

## Strategic Objectives

- We have profitable social enterprises and sustainable community programs
- We are known and respected for the work we do
- We have the structures, skills and resources to achieve our mission
- We have social enterprises and community programs that are responsive to changing community needs and demographics

**ABN:** 21 271 844 991

**Legal Status:** Incorporated Charitable Institution

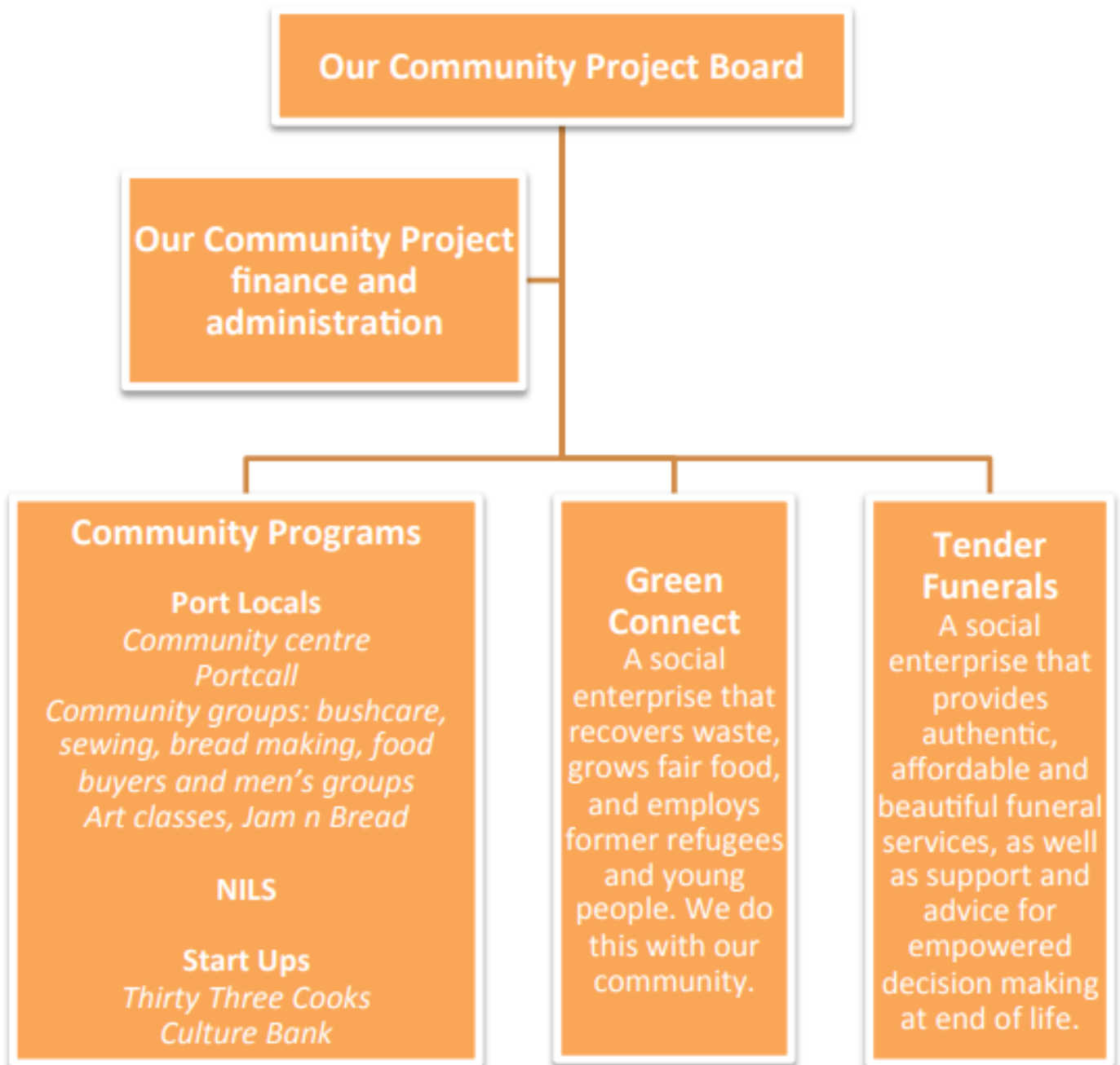
**Tax Concessions:** Public Benevolent Institution with GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption and FBT Exemption

**Date Established:** August 31, 2004

**Total Income:** 2015/16: \$1,237,529



# STRUCTURE



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Today we celebrate another challenge year of the Our Community Project – PORT KEMBLA. As we look back on the past year, we have had many achievements and faced many challenges. When you read through the annual reports you will see it has been a year of growth for the organisation.

We saw major reviews and changes not only the sector but to government policy and directions including Federal Governments proposed reforms to Human Service, NSW Volunteering Living Statement of Principles and State Governments Family and Community Services (FACS) Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) review, the State Governments proposed amalgamations of Wollongong and Shellharbour Councils and at the local Government level, Wollongong City Councils. The FACS review has been ongoing over the past 18 months and we are now entering into the final phase with changes to core funding requirement for the Coordinator Project and Child Youth and Family Support Project and the Neighbourhood Youth Work program funding, all now based on an outcomes and early intervention framework.

As a TEI service provider, OCP have been offered three-year contracts for the Coordinator position and Child Youth and Family Support project, providing we participate in the TEI commissioning, planning and transition processes, all of which the Board have agreed to undertake. Therefore when

senior staff are away from centre they may be participating in local planning processes, with our FACS district officers and other Government agencies to ensure the organisation continues to meet our obligations under the funding contract. The TEI review process will see many funded programs streamlined into one program with two streams; the Community Strengthening stream and the Wellbeing and Safety stream. These streams are targeted to better support vulnerable children, young people, families and communities, particularly children 0-5 years, 8-14 years olds, young parents under 20 years, Aboriginal children and emerging refugee communities. We do not know what this might look like in terms of our service provision and partnerships, but with the focus on prevention and community development and targeting to reduce the number of children entering the child protection and out of home care systems, than it will be a positive step forward.

The Board of Management, staff and volunteers have worked extremely hard in ensuring all their legal and financial responsibilities related to the centre, funding and grants, hiring systems, incorporation and charity status accountability requirements have been accomplished.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Staff Jenny, Tina, Misty, Shez, Chris

Williams, Jess, Jacqui, Bronwyn, Nat, Caragh, Lisa. Amy and all the casuals and volunteers for their continued support to the organisation and to the Port Kembla Community.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge and thank all my colleagues on the Board. The group of volunteers do an incredible job. The Board is responsible for the governance of the organisation, they are the people who have ultimate responsibility for everything that happens under the organisation's name. Their role involves legal and financial accountability, being the employer and associated supervision and performance management requirements, strategic planning and reviews, development of policy and procedure, contract management and accountability, setting budgets and approving expenditure and ensuring the organisation continues to be sustainable. They do all this in a voluntary capacity, with the highest care and diligence. Their continued commitment and untiring support to ensuring the organisation continues to remain a viable concern is astounding.

The year ahead will be interesting one as the Board and staff embrace all the challenges that are put in front of them, but with a such a great team they will seize every opportunity and overcome every obstacle and turn the challenges faced into positive learning experiences, ones that develop

their skills and knowledge.

As I step down this year as chairperson with Our Community Project -Port Kembla Inc. I wish to thank each and every one of you for the opportunity to be part of a progressive organisation. One that had a vision, mission and take the risk to fulfil the talk and acted on the needs of the community. This group of people embraces every opportunity and views changes as positive and away to move forward. I will be more involve with the Port Locals project, Like Bread Baking, Sew 4 Zero Waste, Jam and Bread, encourage the community in the different project to enter their talent in the local Exhibitions Show example Bulli, Dapto, Kiama.

I thank you for your caring and for your unresolved support to the Port Kembla Community.

Your sincerely  
Christine Okoniowski  
Chairperson

For and on behalf of the Board  
OCP- PORT KEMBLA.

15th Wednesday **November 2017. Time 6pm.**

# Our Community Project



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



## PORT LOCALS

### Port Kembla Bread Making Group

Christine Okoniowski again ran the Pork Kembla Bread Making Group. This group runs on the second Tuesday of each month. She continues to teach people to make their own bread, pizza dough, burek, scrolls etc. The group has regular attendees and new people all the time.



### Meditation

The Mindfulness Meditation Classes is a wonderful workshop developed by our friend and teacher Wendy, around her interest in meditation. Wendy was trained by The Gawler Foundation and developed an 8 week class available to everyone. Her classes have run for the last few years and again throughout July 2016 and February 2017.

### Port Kembla Men's Group

Our Men's group meet at the Community Centre every Wednesday from 9am to 3pm. They talk, eat, drink coffee and do personal and community projects. The majority of time this year was spent doing renovations of Tender Funerals building. This year they have continued to complete a number of community projects, Barista's at events, cleaning up the Port Kembla laneways, centres gardens, making Bat Boxes for research projects and the beach clean ups. Opposite is a picture of the men giving a donation to a family for Christmas.





### **Port Locals Sewing for Zero Waste Group**

The Port Locals Sewing for Zero Waste Group continue to meet monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, to create bags and aprons from the lovely donations of materials they receive. The group sells their bags and aprons in our community hall and at the Red Kitchen Café in Wentworth Street. The Flametree Food Co-op continues to purchase our veggie bags. They continue to enter local shows (Bulli and Dapto) to exhibit their works.



### **King George Oval Bushcare**

The volunteers continue to work most Saturdays at King George Oval. They continue to plant, establish and renew the bush around the cricket field and playground. This is a picture of the oval at the beginning in 2006.

### **Port Kembla Art Group**

Our Art Class has met every Thursday morning for the past fifteen years. Beth Crawford, the Visual Artist was in attendance to help and encourage students. The students worked across all mediums; including oil painting, acrylic, charcoal, pencils, ink, mono-printing on glass and collage with paper.





Over the last five years the community has been invited to join the FREE monthly Jam n Bread music making gatherings to "come sing, play music, bake bread and share culture" on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 12noon-3pm at Our Community Project, Port Kembla. All ages & all abilities are welcome and instruments are provided or people can bring your own. The Jam n Bread events coincide with Art on the Grass to create increased community vibrancy.

Jam n Bread creates interactive spaces with guest culturally diverse musicians taking a leadership role. People of all ages and from a range of different cultural backgrounds can come together, share skills and culture in a relaxed social atmosphere.

Attendance ranges between 30 - 120 people, with a core group of musicians and families attending almost every event. This has resulted in many new friendships and also a greater sense of understanding about what the project is about and achieves.

In addition, Jam n Bread has engaged in outreach jams at local events and festivals. This environment is particularly focused on providing children and their families an opportunity to try instruments in an informal environment.

## JAM 'N' BREAD

Jam n Bread has a mailing list of 193 people and a strong Facebook presence with 396 likes.



### 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.

### OUTCOMES:

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



**Saturday June 10**

**Jam n Thread**

Mixing up the creative joy that is Jam n Bread with Kids Junk Koutoure- we had sewing machines on hand and a bunch of fabric and old clothes to re-purpose into something wonderful. We sewed up a frenzy 11am-1pm followed music jam til 3ish. Many families came bringing ideas, old clothes & fabric and much magic was created with a music accompanied cat walk of the creations made.

**Saturday May 20**

**Jam n Bread at KidsFest Shellharbour**

Featuring the amazing Mark Holder-Keeping and his amazing assortment of home made instruments at Killalea State Park leading a lantern parade for the Dusk Twilight event.



**Saturday April 5**

**Jam n Bread at Child's Play Killalea**

Community outreach celebrating interactive music making for children and their families.

**Saturday March 11**

**St Patrick's Day**

Jam & Irish dancing with Andrew McKay from Cross Rhythm Dance Co. This event included fresh baked wood-fired Irish Soda Bread made by a range of children- many of Irish descent. The Irish session led by Johnny Spillane (whistle and bodhran) and Andrew (uilleann pipes) with the community bringing whistles, cellos, concertinas, mandolins, guitars, bodhrans and uilleann pipes .



**Saturday Feb 11**

**Tap Dance with Feonah-Rose  
from Lost Arts Society School**

As Feonah says "Tap Dancing is Morse Code for the Soul...." We had an Irish inspired jam with the amazing multi-instrumentalist Paul Spencer and the velvet voiced Danny Priestley- the community brought your whistles, mandolins, guitars, concertinas, singing voices and tap shoes.

**Thursday Dec 8**

**The Annual Christmas Feast**

With the fabulous Brazil infused trio Murmur playing sharing out instruments for the community to join in on their cool grooves. With Luke O'Neil on guitar and vocals, David Gale on percussion and Tom Stjepanovic on bass they were a musical treat.





# SOUTHERN NILS COMMUNITY LOAN SCHEME

Southern NILS 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 items.

This year, we have cause for much celebration, Misty has been with Our Community Project for 5 years and we celebrated Sheryl's 10 year anniversary.

## We also celebrated our 2000<sup>th</sup> loan in May 2015

- Southern NILS has provided over 5,000 loans to the value of over \$2 million.
- We got an increase in capital funding to help reach more people in our community
- The NILS loan process helps develop financial

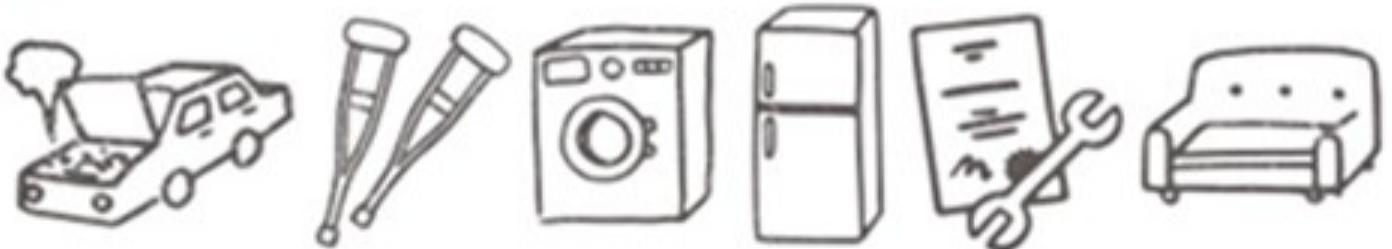
literacy and facilitates a pathway towards financial inclusion for those most in need

In recent times NILS has increased reach to refugee /multicultural communities through OCP's Green Connect program.

For the past 3mths we have been supporting NILS clients beyond our allotted postcode areas. Apart from providing support to more people experiencing financial distress, this has resulted in us initiating new partnerships & strengthening existing ones.

In preparation for the new NILS model we have been trialling streamlined assessments to make the transition quickly and effectively.

**NO INTEREST LOANS FOR ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND SERVICES**



# One of Our Success Stories

Maddison is an Aboriginal single mother with two children under the age of two years old. Her son is currently in hospital in Sydney undergoing tests for an unknown illness.

Maddison successfully completed a previous loan with Southern Nils. She is receiving Single Parent Pension and Family Tax A& B and has been living in private accommodation for 6 months.

Maddison also has state debt recovery in place which costs her \$20 per fortnight and has a Centrelink loan which she pays back at \$103.74 per fortnight.

Maddison also has a pay-day lender loan which she took to help cover the extra costs of her son in being hospitalised.

Maddison applied for car registration/greenslip and roadside assistance totalling \$773.55.

Maddison travels to Sydney from Wollongong to support her son and the extra costs of petrol, parking at the hospital and accommodation while in Sydney are seriously depleting her available income. Her car is due for registration and clearly she needs transport to cope with her current issues.

Our Loan Assessment Committee is made up of representatives from local community & health services.

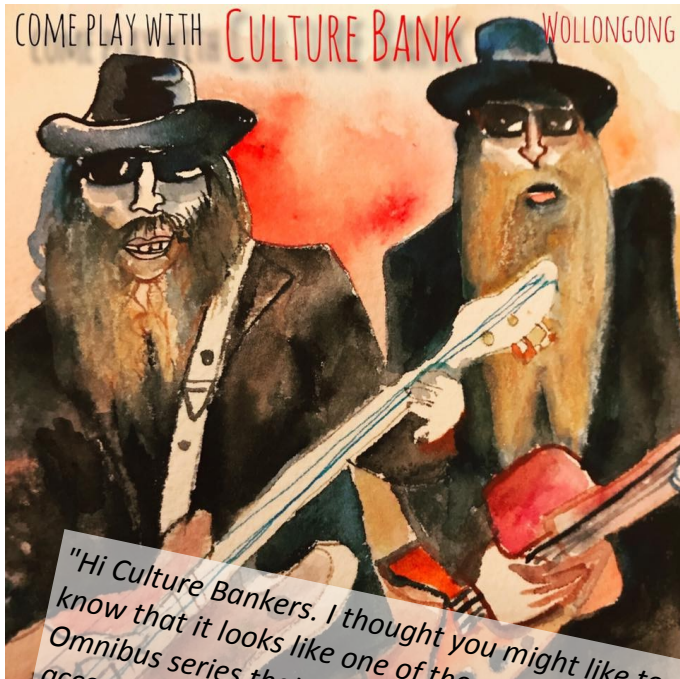
As a result of input from a health employee LAC member, we were able to provide Maddison with links to Government travel allowance, weekly parking permits at the hospital and an accommodation allowance.

With Maddison's permission we linked her with NSW Health Social workers for comprehensive emotional and practical support.

We linked her with CHAIN (Community Health for Adolescents in Need) to attend young mothers parenting classes. This will allow her to access WDO (Work Development Order) to pay her fines while learning new skills and gaining support around parenting.



## 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 want to 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.

Since our inception, Culture Bank Wollongong has given away over \$55,000 to support innovative cultural projects in the Illawarra.

We are committed to increasing our membership and our goal is to reach 200 members this year. More local business support will continue to be a priority. The more money we have, the more money we can give away - helping create a vibrant and interesting city to live in. Culture Bank has become very well respected in the local

"Hi Culture Bankers. I thought you might like to know that it looks like one of the poems from the Omnibus series that I am working on has been accepted for publication by a literary journal. It won't be out until later in the year, and I'll post details then, but I wanted to say thank you for supporting me in the writing of this work. Your support has made a big difference to me. I'll let you all know if anything else exciting happens to the poems I'm sending out into the world."

Ali Jane Smith (Poet and Critic)





"The poem 'Visions' was published in the Hunter Anthology of Contemporary Feminist Australian Poetry last year! This poem was one in the Omnibus Series that I've been writing with the support of Culture Bank".  
 Ali Jane Smith (Poet and Critic)



DAMIAN BANCKS LOCAL VISUAL ARTIST AND MEMBER OF CULTURE BANK

community, and more people are growing aware of our role and work that we do. Additionally, we have gained interest and positive feedback from other national and state arts funding bodies for our initiative.

Culture Bank currently has 124 members  
 In this annual year Culture Bank has funded 11 projects to the value of \$15,000 .

Each round gave away a total of \$5000 .

At the most recent June 2017 Funding Round, Culture Bank members chose to support the following applications:

- Strawberry Boogie, a monthly event which amalgamates a diverse range of artistic forms. The event showcases a number of local bands and musicians each month, orbited by an array of creative energy in the forms of live art, cinematography, photography, visual mixing, independent fashion, comedy and interactive concept installations.
- Honk OZ Street Music Festival 2018. Culture Bank will help towards keeping everything free, to remain inclusive to people who can't afford to attend workshops and performances. This is the fourth year that they are putting on the festival.
- The Neo Perennial Press to help bring the Stella Prize to Wollongong, and in





**ALI JANE SMITH**  
 POET & CRITIC  
 Member of Culture Bank

"I feel like this isn't an adequate enough show of appreciation to all of you behind the operations of Culture Bank and of course all of the donors, but really thank you all so incredibly much for not just the financial grant, but just putting your personal time and energy into supporting creative projects in the area. I moved from Sydney down to Wollongong a few years ago now and the main reason was just seeing how much support there was in the local community for creative projects, we've already seen the incredible community down here now but this grant will help us try reach even more people of the local creative community in the Illawarra. Thank you so much again!"

Jim—Strawberry Visions



**Image Credits:**

- Love Festival & Honk 2017
- A Mile In My Shoes
- Others have members names on images
- Artwork credit Tania M Mastroianni, 2017

partnership with them present two days of events on women's writing and writing about women. The grant from Culture Bank will pay for the educator fees to bring the Stella Schools Program to Wollongong. The Schools Program will present a hands-on writing workshop that explores the relationship between language, gender and power for high school students.

- Tender Cloth which is a series of community workshops to create a textile installation made from donated funeral flowers printed on to fabric. Tender Cloths was devised at Tender Funerals in Port Kembla. The project transforms funeral flowers into ephemeral textile artworks, by artist Michele Elliot. Flowers are often thrown away after a service, but now they will be incorporated into an artwork that will have relevance and meaning for families and for the broader community.
- To Wombarra Sculpture Workshop who wish to create a large sculpture of a shell that will be located on the coastal landscape, a focal point and a tourist attraction. The grant from Culture Bank will contribute to the cost of materials, design, structure and labour of the project.

Additionally in November of 2016 our members decided to fund:

- Lillian Rodrigues-Pang to create a 'podcast' exhibition called A Mile in My Shoes, which



*"Culture Bank certainly enriches our local Illawarra culture! Selections from latest funding round sound so interesting and appropriate to our times"*  
A. Raymond (member)

will be about local refugee shoes and the stories of their experiences.

- Sarah Moss to produce a documentary profiling local artist Diedre Arthur Armstrong's experience of her "Vision and Space Gallery" in Austinmer 2002-2009
- Mel Wishart to create an all-female band to perform at HONK! Oz 2017

- Alexander Brown, Melanie Barnes and Nick Southhall for Love: Art, Ideas, Music, Politics - a weekend gathering that aims to explore the power of love through workshops, discussions, art, music and dance.

Back in our August 2016 Funding Round:

- Ali Jane Smith for 'Omni - a series of poems written about various Wollongong and Illawarra Bus routes'. Ali has a significant background as a writer and poet. She knows Wollongong very well and all the Culture Bank Members just loved her proposal!
- Queer & Now who requested funding to organise and promote regular, safe and inclusive music and social events for the LGBTQIA+ community in the Illawarra. Culture. Bank Members were also very passionate about this proposal.



# Our Community Project



# GREEN CONNECT

# GREEN CONNECT

## GREEN CONNECT

*"I lived in [a refugee] camp 25 years. We were growing vegetables and the [Burmese] army came and they made a fire to the house, we were running. I was very small. We left everything. We only had our clothes when we came to the camp... It was very hard. We can't go out. It was like jail. I didn't go to school.*

*....At Green Connect ..... I'm learning more about recycling and gardening and planting. The difference between planting seeds and seedlings. I'm happy working with the people here. In this garden there are different cultures, different people.*

*Green Connect is a very good place to work...I am learning more. When my children grow up maybe this company is popular, maybe my children can be working with Green Connect, for the office, they can do the computer, everything ... My life is like that I think, for my children's future. They can come and enjoy Green Connect. I am thinking for my family, I am thinking we are a community people, for the children, for the future. I'm working hard for my community."*

**Su Meh—Senior Farm Hand, Green Connect**

The Illawarra grew out of the development of mining and manufacturing. These industries created jobs. They also had big impacts on the environment. Today, these industries are shedding jobs and the region has one of the highest unemployment rates in Australia. This makes life harder, and it affects some groups more than others. Wollongong has a big refugee population, and only 31% of refugees have a job 5 years after resettlement. In Port Kembla and Warrawong, where we're based, youth unemployment sits at 22 to 36%.



So Green Connect set up to tackle three problems:

- Refugee and youth unemployment
- Waste
- Unsustainable food

Green Connect is a social enterprise – a different kind of business. We recover waste, grow fair food – by which we mean food that’s good for those who eat it, those who grow it and the planet, and employ former refugees and young people. We do this with our community.



This year Green Connect:

- Kept 1,990 tonnes of waste out of landfill, and turned 1,817 tonnes of organic waste into compost
- Grew and distributed 13,754 kilograms of fair food
- Employed 131 people (including 114 former refugees and young people). 11 were employed on a permanent/contract basis and 22 transitioned to mainstream employment.
- Had 1,469 volunteer visits from the community.
- Had \$1,091,258 in income, and funded

82% of expenses with income from trade.



While doing this, we also invested in the future. We developed our human resource and support systems to be a better place to work. We developed our quality management system and database to ensure we capture information and lessons, ensure quality, and support continuous improvement and replication. We built a new website to better engage our community. We further developed our farm to grow more fair food and create more jobs. And we did product development on our food and garden organics composting service, to keep more waste out of landfill and turn it into a productive resource, and create more jobs.





We did all this to help build a more connected community that values people and planet.

We did this with the support of other organisations.



Our partners included:

- Westpac Foundation
- Ian Potter Foundation
- IMB
- The Funding Network
- Australian Ethical Foundation
- Wollongong City Council
- NSW Department of Education
- Warrawong High School
- Jackson Environment and Planning
- Training, service and community organisations that provide wrap-around support to our staff
- Our community

## OUR PEOPLE

Green Connect employed 131 people, including 114 former refugees and young people. We were supported by our Board, advisors, partners, and 1,469 volunteer visits. Green Connect was and is developed in partnership with all of these people – our community.



## CORE TEAM

**General Manager:** Jess Moore

**Operations Manager:** Jacqui Besgrove

**HR Manager:** Bronwyn Williams

**Farm Manager:** Cal Champagne

**Finance Manager:** Chris Williams

**Bookkeeper/Administrator:** Caragh Porter

**Farm Supervisors:** Johnny Alevras & Darren Bell

**Support Worker:** Emmanuel Bakenga

**Senior Farm Hands:** Jamie Henning, Su Meh and Shay Reh



*“Green Connect’s work supports a number of key issues facing our region. Firstly, the regions high intergenerational unemployment rates, with our region currently experiencing the highest youth unemployment in Australia and higher general unemployment rates and lower labour force participation rates than both the NSW state and Australian national averages. Secondly, over the last decade we have, on average increasing numbers of refugees settle in our region and call Wollongong their home. In 2002-13 our region had the highest number of humanitarian entrants for any regional city in NSW. In 2012, Wollongong became a targeted regional settlement for Category 204 refugees which results in a larger than average population of female head of household communities.*

*Green Connect provides training and employment opportunities for many young people and resettled refugees in our community... to ensure they can address employment barriers and access economic opportunities.*

Gordon Bradbery  
Lord Mayor, Wollongong City Council



Our Community Project



# TENDER FUNERALS





# TENDER FUNERALS

Tender has now been in operation for 11 months and has now done almost 70 funerals. Our opening was a beautiful and heartfelt event with Zenith Virago and Lynette Wallworth speaking. Uncle G conducted a powerful smoking ceremony which had a profound impact on everyone present and a lasting impression inside of our beautiful building. We remain very grateful to all three of these magnificent humans.

I could not recommend Tender Funerals more highly. Such a personal experience and everything you need from a funeral director (and more!). They let us personalise the funeral as much as we wanted and totally respected our wishes in every regard, helping us give our mum a beautiful send off. A refreshing alternative to your average funeral home and an amazing team of compassionate people.

Stacey April 2017



I can't thank the Tender Funerals team enough for the care that was put into my brother-in-laws funeral. It was such an important part of the healing process for our family and every single person who attended his funeral said it was a life changing experience. It was also affordable and flexible which was greatly appreciated at such a difficult time.

Jacqui March 2017





We have 20 volunteers inducted with us, 2 casuals, and 2 funeral directors with an ad out for another casual at this present moment. Our volunteers are passionate committed people who we are proud to work alongside of. They are full of ideas and enthusiasm and they bring a great sense of community and support to all we do.

What gives us the most joy is the impact Tender is having both in our community and in any community we are working in. Tender has been built around the idea of activating community at what can be the most difficult of times. When we first thought about Tender we had an idea about if we empowered people to participate then it would help the whole process and we are happy to report that this has proven true. By offering a model of continual choice we have seen 40% of people make the choice to participate in the mortuary which is a remarkable figure considering most funeral homes have only a handful of people

each year.

The feedback about our services have been which we are receiving has been huge and positive.

We are proud to say we have met our milestones for the year and we are now doing research for licensing, we will hopefully be licensing our first Tender funerals service in regional NSW by early next year.

Community education is very important to us as it underpins the way in which change is empowered in any system. We are building networks of support and knowledge around end of life and after death care services. We have provided education in health, youth, multicultural, welfare, aged care and general community settings. We will continue to do this as it takes our community from the default position of mystery to knowledge. This is the basis of creating a healthy culture and



My name is Jade and I am currently in my third year of study, completing my Bachelor of Social Work Degree at the University of Wollongong. I've been given this unique opportunity to increase my skills and knowledge around bereavement and community engagement by doing my supervised professional practice placement with Tender Funerals.

When I was first offered the placement, I was a little apprehensive and nervous, as the subject of death and dying is often not spoken openly about and knew I was going to be out of my comfort zone. I was warmly accepted into the service which made the transition a much easier process with the guidance of Amy the Funeral Director.

I have embraced every opportunity to immerse myself in the culture and have been amazed at the sense of community Port Kembla has. I found it humbling to be a part of a service that assists families make affordable informed decisions at such a vulnerable time in their lives. Losing someone is never easy, and empowering families and friends of the deceased who are wanting to see their loved one off in a personalised, meaningful way.

To me this is so inspiring, I am learning so much every single day and am so grateful to be given this chance to see and experience such dedication and compassion to the needs of the community.

Jade July 2017

imbedding it into an everyday practice and it really seems to be working.

We particularly want to thank the Port Kembla Men's group for doing all sorts of things that we don't know how to do, like putting wheels on things and putting things up and taking things down that are endlessly helpful. We also want to thank the sewing group for making our curtains for the van with so much care.

We would like to thank OCP Staff specifically Will and Caragh who have spent hours designing and implementing our financial systems and reporting. Finally the Board, for what is a continual holding for which we are very grateful.



# Our Community Project



# ADMINISTRATION

# THE BOARD



The Board (voted in at the annual AGM) is made up of volunteers from the community that come from many different backgrounds. Some have been in Port Kembla all their lives while others are relatively new to the area bringing in knowledge and enthusiasm.



# VOLUNTEERS



At Our Community Project we rely on volunteers for a number of our services. We would be nothing if we didn't have any volunteers. We use Volunteering Illawarra service when we need someone. Here are some of our Volunteers.



# EVENTS

## Christmas Party

The Port Kembla Community Project held its annual community gathering to celebrate Christmas on Thursday, 8th December 2016.



## Winter Feast

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER and ART AUCTION  
We hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Winter Feast - Annual Fundraising Dinner in the 2015/2016 Financial year. Because we double up last year we didn't hold a Winter Feast in the 2016/2017 Financial year. Our next Winter Feast was held on 15<sup>th</sup> July so we will report on that next year.



## Reverse Advent Calendar

(Christmas Hamper Collection)

This year we tried something different. After watching all the greed and consumerism around at Christmas we thought we could be a place that people could give (and get) a little bit of the Christmas spirit. We asked people to set up a box at home and every day of advent to ADD one article of food/toys/toiletries/cleaning products to it each day. All items went to Need a Feed and Darcy House – to help fill their Christmas hampers for families that struggle.



## Community Hall

The Port Kembla Community Hall has been a hive of activity this year. Lots of community groups (our projects and other organisations) using the space. This year the hall has been used for Pilates classes, playgroups, community dinners, AA and NA meetings, political meetings and social groups. Here it is after a big event.

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

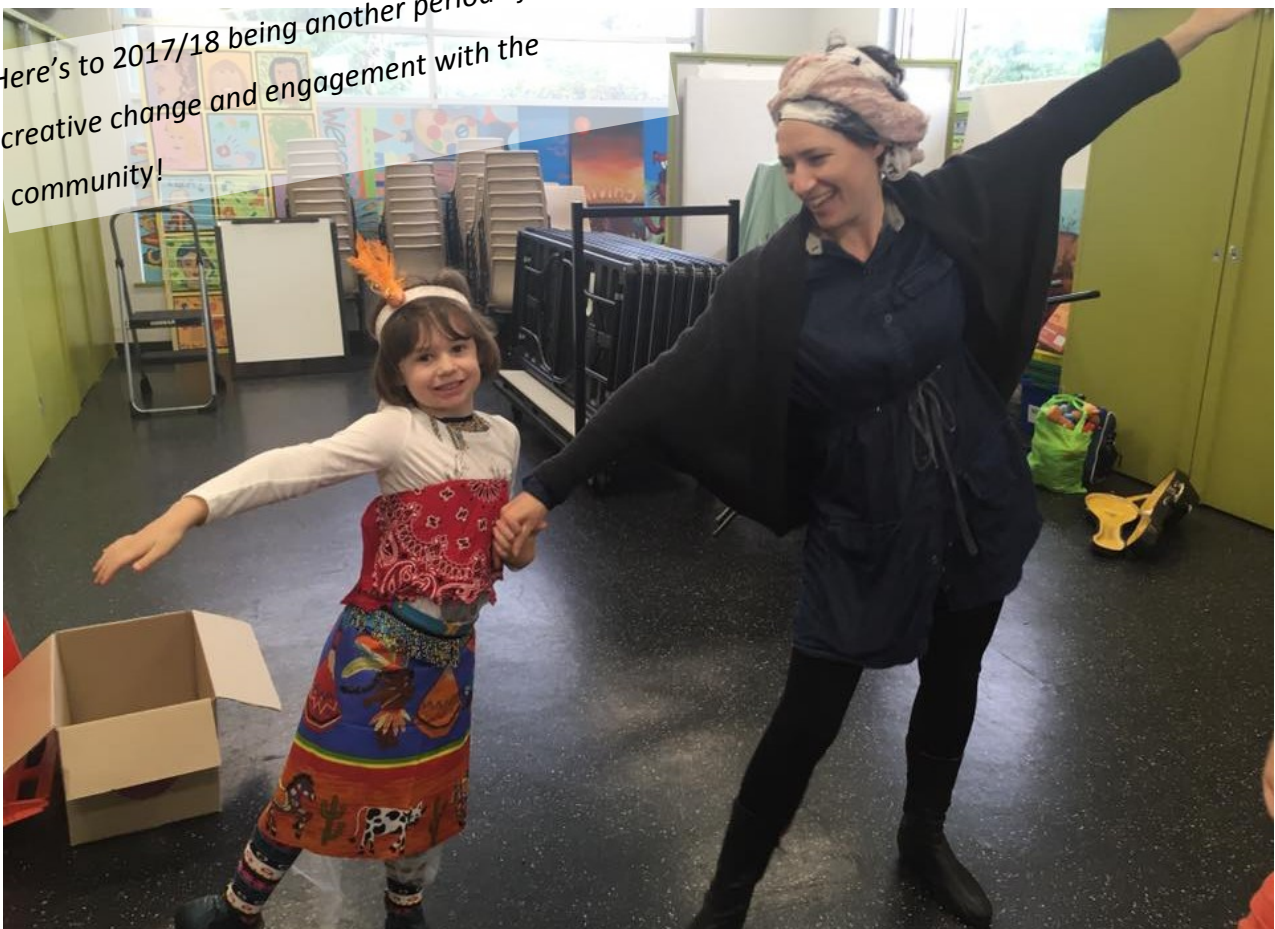
The financial year 2016/17 was yet another year of growth for Our Community Project. Our turnover for the 12 months was \$1.67 million, an increase on last year's \$1.53 million and our largest annual turnover yet. The increase was, again, largely driven by the continued growth of social enterprises Green Connect and Tender Funerals

A recent change to our policies means our accounts will be presented differently this year. For the year ending June 30, 2017, OCP will have an equity balance of \$493,220. This is a more accurate reflection of historic earnings and, in particular, shows the build-up of working capital accumulated by Green Connect and Tender.

To cope with increased financial activity, we've brought on a wonderful new bookkeeper, Caragh Porter. Caragh is now administering – among other things - payroll, bank reconciliations, bill payment and invoice raising. She fits in perfectly with the culture and ethics at OCP too. So a big, warm welcome to Caragh!

It continues to be a tough time for the community sector and we remain conscious of challenges and threats we face. Ongoing funding is harder and harder to secure and there are other major threats such as the ongoing moves toward competitive tendering.

*Here's to 2017/18 being another period of growth, creative change and engagement with the community!*





# AUDITORS REPORT

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

## CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Amounts unexpended carried forward	514,254	236,716
Farm Produce		
Produce – Subscription	9,185	7,938
Produce – Surplus	3,741	3,419
Produce – Veg Box	94,760	40,740
Labour Hire and Placement	287,611	358,121
Project Funding and Grants		
Funding – Federal	60,156	71,777
Funding – NSW	177,006	188,360
Funding – Local	3,163	5,063
Funding – Philanthropic	216,250	431,210
Training and Consultancy	1,979	1,976
Waste Recovery		
WR – Audits and Plans	16,300	28,450
WR – School Program	-	46
WR – Organics	-	49,602
WR – Events	352,450	144,166
Membership Fees	6,895	775
Donations Received	60,163	87,321
Wage Assistance	10,826	12,122
Rent	7,762	6,010
Sponsorship	50	19,129
Interest	5,543	7,505
Photocopying	166	721
PortCall Advertising Income	18	-
ERO Supplement Funding	10,787	6,657
Art Classes	1,380	1,910
Tender Funeral Services	239,683	-
Pooled Funds Income	22,171	19,995
Training & Employment Services	70,119	-
Outsourcing Income	9,583	642
Stripe Fees	342	-
Freight	4,568	327
Insurance Claims	-	28,333
WorkCover Reimbursements	100	1,956
Food Buyers Income	-	846
	<u>2,186,547</u>	<u>1,771,253</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		
<b>COST OF SALES</b>		
Equipment Service Hire	92,955	13,934
Boxes	1,204	-
Freight	635	38
Stripe Fees	465	33
Seeds and Seedlings	8,646	6,045
Other Purchases	128,709	3,600
	<u>232,604</u>	<u>23,650</u>
<b>TOTAL COST OF SALES</b>		
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<u>1,953,943</u>	<u>1,747,603</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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

**CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (Continued)**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Project Expenses	8,951	6,292
Audit and Accountant Fees	4,100	3,750
Legal Fees	153	5,161
Advertising	3,585	1,442
Bank Fees	2,339	1,737
Donations given	70	4,630
Culture Projects funded	8,540	9,764
Insurance	11,831	10,901
Subscriptions/memberships	2,114	1,017
Catering	6,505	6,470
Subcontractor costs	5,899	22,805
Training and Conferences	1,509	1,383
Tools and Equipment	14,686	23,464
Consumables	21,308	11,366
IT equipment and software	10,322	2,153
Food for staff and voic	2,672	2,800
Electricity	3,323	2,461
Water/Rates	5,217	1,480
Security	591	425
Telephone/Mobile	8,288	4,880
Internet	-	1,428
Postage	382	871
Printing	2,882	2,620
Office Supplies	3,528	853
Cleaning Expenses	2,409	619
Maintenance – Building	1,512	114,961
Maintenance – Equipment	5,548	4,920
Maintenance – Grounds	3,664	2,316
Business Development	555	27
Pooled Admin Expenses	21,511	19,600
Miscellaneous Expenses	433	1,597
Consultants	900	1,500
Bad Debt Expense	1,469	1,609
Fuel	1,813	700
Plants	1,427	5,942
Licensing and Administration Fees	2,971	8,348
Wages	987,474	777,423
Annual Leave Provision	80,342	66,500
Superannuation Expense	80,607	68,764
Workers Compensation Insurance	40,633	22,052
Staff Clothing	13,088	4,386
ICT	1,453	1,385

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT INCORPORATED**  
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**CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (Continued)**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Travel and Accommodation	21,178	4,169
First Aid	380	332
Depreciation	11,389	7,739
Staff Training	400	1,277
Interest	22,278	7,011
Website	4,411	-
Closing Balances	14,620	-
Gifts- Volunteers	<u>140</u>	<u>210</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>1,441,546</u></b>	<b><u>1,233,509</u></b>
<b>SURPLUS-(DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME</b> <b>OVER EXPENDITURE for the year</b>	<b>512,197</b>	<b>514,053</b>
<b>Less AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED TO</b> <b>UNDEPENDENT GRANT FUNDS</b>	<b><u>50,034</u></b>	<b><u>514,053</u></b>
<b>SURPLUS-(DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME</b> <b>OVER EXPENDITURE for the year</b>	<b>\$ <u>462,163</u></b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.