

Our Community Project



Annual Report 2017-18



- Pioneering and innovative
OCP embraces leadership, it's agile and creative.
- Grounded and authentic
OCP nurtures a strong sense of local identity and fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion.

Strategic Objectives

Ensure successful operation of OCP through effective governance, structure and workplace development

We have a healthy, happy and flexible workplace which provides learning and career pathways to our staff.

Create an environment of social innovation through incubation, social enterprise and project management which will support the growth and sustainability of OCP and its mission.

Strengthen grass root projects by harnessing resources and building strategic partnerships

Advocate on behalf of community, promote awareness of the work of OCP through effective monitoring and communicating. We are known and respected for what we do.

Jennifer Briscoe-Hough

GENERAL MANAGER

Vision

Vibrant, creative, resourceful and resilient communities have been built that value people and the planet.

Mission statement

Our Community Project works with communities using people-centred innovation, co-creation, collaboration and social enterprise to empower and build access, equity, social action and community spirit.

OCP Values

- Respecting people and caring 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; it is accountable and transparent.



ABN: 21 271 844 991

Legal Status: Incorporated Charitable Institution

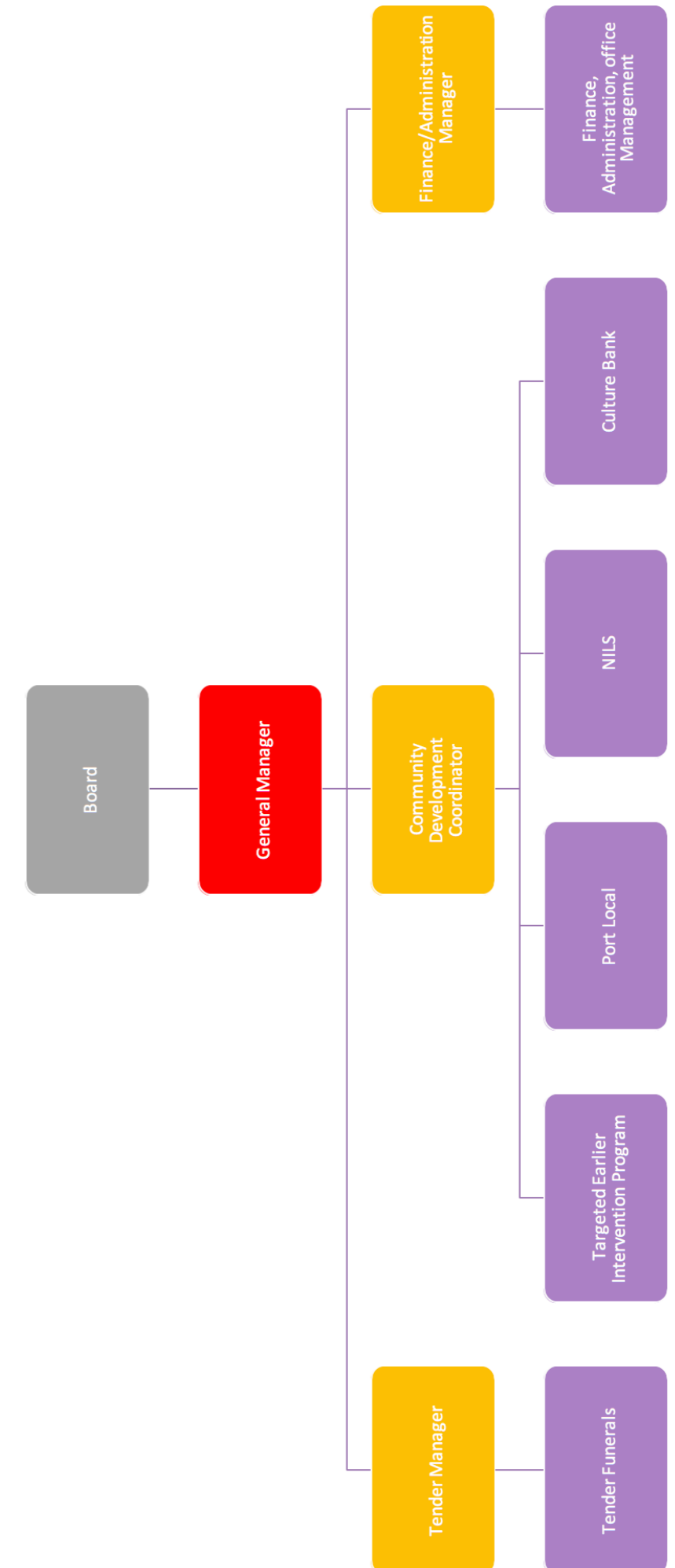
Tax Concessions: Public Benevolent Institution with GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption

and FBT Exemption

Date Established: August 31, 2004

Total Income: 2017/18: TBA

Our Community Project





Ann Martin

President

This has been, for all committee and Board members of Our Community Project, past and present, an extremely challenging, at times, confronting, but ultimately satisfying 12 months.

Our Community Project responded to a powerful request from Green Connect to leave the fold and merge with a new organization. After all the tumult it was a move that gave Green Connect a new, much larger management and corporate structure to work with. Giving the chance for OCP to regroup, elect a new Board and consolidate an enormously busy program that is truly committed to community and cultural development and creative social entrepreneurship.

To make the way clear for the final formal De merger, which occurred in February 2018. This also included careful conversations with our funding bodies, with our key stakeholders, staff and volunteers. Thank you to everyone involved including legal, financial, media and communications people's. OCP, NILS, Port Locals, and Tender Funerals supporters, that helped us through the difficult and complex process.

Board, as well as the rest of the staff

from Green Connect and OCP who worked to make the De merger happen. It's a point of pride that Green Connect was able to leave OCP a much stronger, sophisticated and growing organization than when it arrived in our office with only \$30,000, a chair and a table. Amazing, a credit to everyone involved in Green Connects growth over the years, aided and supported by the previous boards and committees of OCP.

We wish Green Connect all the best in their future.

Since February, OCP has continued to build the Board. As former Board members Kylie McRae, Adrienne Talbot Thompson, Karen Kirk Torrenson and Kylie Flament have left us over the twelve month period to take on new horizons and adventures. We thank each of them for their commitment to the work of OCP, for their contributions and guidance. I also thank the continued commitment and time of our current Board members who give their experience, knowledge and networks to work with staff to manage and provide policy. As Chair of this great organization, you are totally important and I thank you for your time and focus.

Our No Interest Loans Scheme- (NILS) has increased its program reach since the last Annual report, and we are now the largest non religious delivery agency for the NILS program in Australia. We continue to help many more community members with the help of Shez, Misty, Tina and Anne.

The Mens' Group are busy working on their own projects, and helping others wherever possible. They have been a constant and reliable support group to every program area of OCP.

The Sewing Group has made more re-useable shopping bags. The baking group, jam and Bread continue to provide the warmth and joy of fresh made bread alongside great local music.

Culture Bank has funded more projects, and supported artists, playwrights, dancers, musicians, film makers, poets and many others. Creativity runs in our veins,

and we will make more happen with more members and their financial investment in our local government area through Culture Bank. Thank you to Tania Mastrioni for your continued and tireless work to keep Culture bank real.

In the month of September we have said goodbye to one of our OCP NILS stalwarts Sheryl Wiffen, or as we know her better Shez. We thank you Shez and we intend to keep you close. However we understand just how much more you have to do as you continue your other projects. We look forward to seeing you around Port Kembla. Thank you for your years of service and for your kindness, clarity of purpose and for all those members of our community who you have helped through our NILS program.

Tender Funerals has been a wonderful initiative, now into its second year, and growing all the time. Amy has left to have her baby, and we look forward to when she returns. We are very fortunate to have Amy, Ashleigh and Lauren working with us three great funeral Directors who share the vision and culture of what Tender funerals represent. And of course Jenny, who inspires and forges ahead, where others fear to go.

Tender will continue to take us into new territories that will challenge the funeral industry, challenge the fears and taboos around death and dying. Provide comfort and compassion to families and loved ones as they grieve and come together to say their goodbyes.

We are very proud of what we have made, and I look forward to what the future holds for all our projects and program areas.

We are very proud of what we have made, I look forward to what the future holds for all our projects and program areas.

I want to take the time to acknowledge past and present staff and to give my appreciation to you all including our board members, contractors, volunteers, advisors, funding bodies, donors, media partners, Wollongong City Council, advocates and all those who trust in the

future of Our Community Project.

Ann Martin
President OCP



Port Locals Sewing for Zero Waste Group

Our group had a busy year-

We were asked by Lara McCabe from Thirroul some questions about how our sewing group started so we could spread the word about us. As a result of the article we have had a few inquiries about our group throughout the year. One lady joined us one Saturday to finish making her Boomerang bags kit, a few other ladies have donated some fabric.

We received a grant that Tina had applied for so that we could purchase a new sewing machine for the group. Christine organized to purchase an industrial over locker, which is getting a good workout every month. It's such a dream to sew with!

In September we were interviewed by Natalie from Illawarra Bombora online information. She also took photos of us and the bags hanging up in hall.

The Red Kitchen were selling our beautiful bags and we had an assortment of different styles and sizes hanging in the hall. Our group of five women long for new members that have the same passion as us. We enjoy getting together designing bags from different fabrics, we still have so much to get through.

Christine and Lisa took turns sewing a beautiful navy velvet stretcher cover for Tender Funerals. it was completed in march and Amy was very happy with the end result!

In January 2018, I was contacted by Warrawong Advertisers Flyer who are advertising our group for free.

I collected our bags, aprons and signs from The Red Kitchen cafe. After five years of doing us a lovely favour selling and promoting the products of sew4 zero waste group Caroline was closing.

Christine found a lovely piece of white fabric in our materials cupboard to make Beth Crawford's artwork stand out. As well as a two metre ribbon for her (DV) domestic violence symbol at Easter in Jindabyne.

Port Locals

PK Bread Making

Port Kembla Bread Making Group

Christine Okoniowski again ran the Port Kembla Bread Making Group. This group runs 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.



In April, Christine sewed 11 Tags on Touch Football shorts for Misty's children's team PK.

Christine also sewed Nella a bag for her beach umbrella.

We also had another donation of fabric.

Christine started using the overlocker for sewing Veg Bags and large drawstring bags for the shredded paper from OCP office.

In May, Christine and Lisa went to the paper bag launch at The Commercial pub PK. We had a display of our bags and information about us. We were interviewed by WINTV. We made \$70 this day by selling 6 bags & 2 Veg Bags. It was great.

Lisa, Eileen, Christine, Sue, Noelene.



Port Kembla Men's Group

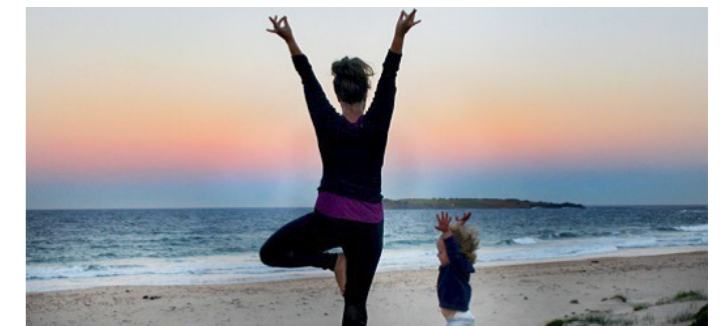
Our Men's group meet at the Community Centre every Wednesday from 9am to 3pm. They talk, eat, drink coffee and do projects for the community (and themselves). The group have been busy with community projects, Barista's at events, cleaning up the Port Kembla laneways, centres gardens, making useful things for our community. They have also revamped the seating area around the chessboard and it looks great!

Below is a pic of the Laundry Trolley the Men's group made for a member of the community.



Yoga Mum's

This year we formed a partnership with Mega Yoga who we brought to Port Kembla Community Centre Yoga for Mums/Carers and there kids. They meet on a Thursday night for a bit of organized chaos. What a wonderful way for children to learn how to keep their body and minds healthy. Thanks to Coleen our instructor who volunteers her time. s



King George Oval Bushcare

The volunteers continue to work most Saturday at King George Oval. They continue to plant, establish and renew the bush around the cricket field and playground. Here are two pics: one from 2006 and one from today. Head down there to check out how much they have done.



Jam n Bread

Over the last six 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 their 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 has a mailing list of over 200 people and a strong Facebook presence with 415 likes <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Music-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

The 2018 program featured:

Saturday February 10th - Come and Jam with Tunes from around the World with our guest the amazing cellist, Rita Woolhouse.

Saturday May 12th - featured guest performers Ernie Beach from local group Nga Hau e Wha and Sydney-Rella Pihema who is of Cook Island Maori and Samoan decent. We had intergenerational fun with a range of activities including:

‘E papa’ stick dance

Poi song

Kumara Pork and Puha (high school/ descant fun song)

Samoan song ‘Tele l’a o le sami’

Cook Island Imene tuki ‘ Aue Te Okotai’

Tiare Rarotonga (Cook Island action song girls only)

Cook Island drum beat song (dance)

Ukuleles and more songs

Saturday July 14th - Sako & Damo as our guests. The official Winter Feast to be held in the evening sadly had to be canceled due to low ticket sales but we kept the spirit alive with our own FREE feast of music, bread & veggies. The community brought along some homegrown veggies for the wood fired oven.

Saturday August 11th - Klezmer with local group Goyish Klezmer.

Goyish Klezmer began in 2017, when a few local musicians met at a Honk! Oz workshop and decided to start a klezmer jam. They play a range of klezmer and klezmerish tunes, on instruments including

violin, bass, tuba, clarinet, and even banjo.

Sat 8th Sept Music & capoeira from Brazil with guest artists Drauzio and Nigel Jones. This event falls right in the middle of the FREE THE LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL at Gala Cinemas 6-9th September with a selection of 14 movies representing Latin America at its finest.

As well as the regular monthly events Jam n Bread was represented at Thirroul Festival and KidsFest Shellharbour where musical instillations were set up which inspired some beautiful family jams.

With thanks,

Ann Lehmann-Kuit musicjambread@gmail.com 0414 680123



NILS

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.

This financial year we have transitioned to a new NILS model in which we are a Collaborative Loan Provider. This means that we still see clients from our area and we also assess loans from outside of the Port Kembla area. In addition, we are now doing telephone interviews for areas down the South Coast that cannot get to a NILS Service Provider. So we have been busy learning two new online systems, to enable us to reach more clients and distribute more loans. This has been a challenging time for us – however, we have accepted the challenge and continue to become more confident.

In addition, the possible loan amount has now been raised to \$1,500 (still subject to the client's ability to repay).

We are also beginning to do top up loans. This enables you to top up a current loan – if you have paid more than 50% of your client loan back. This is very handy – as we all know everything breaks down at the same time. This has started to eliminate the rent to buy and other high interest loans for clients.



NO INTEREST LOANS FOR ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND SERVICES



Culture Bank

In July 2017 Culture Bank members met and funded \$5000 in total to:

Strawberry Boogie which is a monthly event that 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 was successful (again). Culture Bank donations went towards keeping everything free in order to remain inclusive for people who can't afford to attend workshops and performances. This was the fourth year that the festival was successfully held.

To The Neo Perennial Press being in partnership with the Neo Perennial Press helped bring the Stella Prize to Wollongong. Including presenting two days of events on women's writing and writing about women. The grant from Culture Bank paid 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.

The Tender Cloth project impressed members, it was 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 transformed 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.

Also, funded was the Wombarra Sculpture Workshop where members wished to create a large sculpture of a shell. The sculpture will be located on the coastal landscape, a focal point and a tourist

attraction. The grant from Culture Bank contributed to the cost of materials, design, structure and labour of the project. The sculpture has ended up permanently located at the headlands in Austinmer.

In December 2017 Culture Bank again funded a diverse range of projects to a total sum of \$5000:

Anne-Louise Rentell was a successful grant applicant who asked for support to complete a draft script of The Siren Project (in preparation for development process and public showing of work in progress in July 2018). The Siren Project is the working title of a

new performance work that draws narrative inspiration from Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid and the local Aboriginal myth of the Story of the Five Islands. While they are both quite different stories, both the indigenous and the western tale involve 6 sisters and 6 monologues which underpin this new work. These stories have been collated through the Where Lies Beauty oral history project.

Members also decided to fund the project Cortex Journal, a digital publication that

hosts articles on science, philosophy, and culture, complimenting Wollongong's emergence as a cultural hub. The vision is to blend thought from science, philosophy and art, especially promoting local content, writers and artists. They are inspired by the diversity of visions present across the arts and believe such an approach can be usefully applied to address political and social issues. Hoping to foster creative approaches to collaboration, especially across disciplines

and schools of thought, and will publish creative and critical writings, as well as illustration, photography, and video.

Funding was provided to support the creation

of original artwork to celebrate the Omnibus poetry project and to gain more publicity for Culture Bank. There will also be a public launch with poetry readings and a Culture Bank sign-up event. Funding will see a limited edition of art posters designed and printed. The posters will include an Omnibus poem by Ali Jane Smith with original artwork by local artist Tania Maria Mastroianni. A poster and launch is a powerful way to collaboratively develop and extend the life of the project.







While also acknowledging our current Culture Bank members contribution, and looking to gain more (much needed) support from our community. Additionally, Tania Maria Mastroianni. A poster and launch is a powerful way to collaboratively develop and extend the life of the project; while also acknowledging our current Culture Bank members contribution, while looking to gain more (much needed) support from our community. Additionally, Tania Mastroianni produced an animation/film to support the poem called Number 65, Wollongong To Port Kembla and to further promote Culture Bank in our community.

Link here: <https://vimeo.com/271618909>

Also a financial contribution was made by our members to encourage the development of a project called Elsie and The Bird. This performance is a character-driven circus show that explores mental health, sexuality and gender. The individuals involved work professionally in both circus and mental

health in the region, and are making a circus work which invites local audiences into this discussion. As artists, they are using their experience and expertise in circus to create a profoundly physical language. This is achieved through aerial choreography and contemporary clown - which explores the overwhelming feelings of isolation and anxiety of a brilliant young person called 'Elsie'.

In June 2018 Culture Bank again funded another round giving away a total of \$5000.

Culture Bank members funded Enough Said Poetry Slam's vision, involving the production and expansion of an established poetry slam that draws professional artists to Wollongong. As the only regular poetry slam on the NSW South Coast, it aims to celebrate and grow the emerging local spoken word scene and contributes an arts-focused event to the midweek nightlife of Wollongong. It is a social occasion, but importantly also an opportunity for community members to

express themselves on the open mic.

We also funded an exciting project by local film maker Hung-Yen Yang for creative development with local creatives, actors and digital practitioners to create a stage play called "A Practical Guide To Self-Defence." Based on an autobiographical story he wrote "I had my first fist fight in the playground of Mt Ousley Public at the age of 6, because I was mistaken for the other Chinese kid in the school, who had failed to share his Twisties at lunch time. My family and the 'other' Chinese kid's family were the first two of our kind at our school. By the age of 21, the fights I got into eventually numbered more than 50 and I had gone from asthmatic, skinny nerd to asthmatic, skinny fighting machine." Hung-Yen Yang's play will examine the theme of 'the beast within' and questions "...at what point do you become your own worst enemy, and how do you seek redemption when you are the one you need to save yourself from?"

Culture Bank members decided they wanted to help Jacuzzi Workshops go to another level. They recently launched a weekly disco, funk and dance event called Jacuzzi Stu and from that other things developed. These workshops will be providing an opportunity for women, trans and non-binary music enthusiasts to try their hand at electronic music. Their first workshop "proved successful with a full class and an exceptionally positive review from all who attended. The workshop came to fruition when we were able to provide one of the students an artist slot at one of our weekly disco nights. The patrons loved the music she was playing and this demonstrated to us the potential of the workshops to provide an entrance path to the industry".

WHAT SOME OF OUR CULTURE BANK SUPPORTERS HAVE HAD TO SAY THIS PAST FINANCIAL YEAR:

"You can join as an individual for \$10/month or as a family for \$20/month. This is consistent philanthropy/support for the arts, done on a local level, and

managed by people who know the local creative scene. Amy and I have been members for 2 years, been to a couple of decision dinners (which all members are invited to), and have seen a number of amazing projects, people and groups get supported. It is an organisation made up of people who want to make things happen. I cannot recommend this organisation enough. I think it is really, truly brilliant." - Feargus Manning, Culture Bank member spoke this at public meeting recently.

"The Culture Bank grant we received proved to be a remarkable help. It assisted the events and enabled us to continue supporting the arts & music community in the Illawarra. It allowed us to support music and visual artists such as Donny Benet, Saskwatch, Good Morning, Solid Effort, Dippy, Sundog and Tinker to name a few, at Strawberry Boogie - our monthly event celebrating the diversity and strength of the local creative scene". - Strawberry Boogie (project funded by Culture Bank 2017)

"THANK YOU Culture Bank for supporting the next stage of The Siren Project! It's such an honour to be supported by your community to make art about and for that community. Myself, Aunty Barbara Nicholson, and Ali Smith have been working on the project for the past 18 months - this money will enable me to complete the show's narrative structure in preparation for the development with composer Daryl Wallis and actors in July 2018".- 2018" - Ann-Louise Rentall (member of Culture Bank and funding recipient).

"How great is Honk Oz? And Jobs For Women - the film? And the Wollongong Writers Festival? And Music Jam n Bread? All these projects have received support from Culture Bank Wollongong, a crowd funded organisation to support creative projects in our city. I give them ten bucks month, and with lots of us giving a small amount, they can do amazing work" - Mithra Cox, local musician, Greens Councillor Wollongong Council & member of Culture Bank.

“The single most vital resource for making art is time. And the single hardest thing to get support for is time to spend making art. It takes an organisation like Culture Bank to have the vision to see that artists making art is where it all starts. Decisions about who Culture Bank supports are made by Culture Bank members, the real experts on our local community and culture.” - Ali Jane Smith, local poet and Culture Bank member and funding recipient.

We also got a message from Honk to forward onto you. They said:

“A huge thank you to Culture Bank for supporting HONK! Oz Festival of Street Music in 2018 (January 11-13). HONK! Oz is a free three-day spectacle featuring alternative community bands and related arts. The festival brings together 100+ visiting and local musicians performing on the streets of Wollongong. The free workshops and performances rely wholly on the hospitality, goodwill and financial support of the Wollongong Community”.

Also, do you remember funding A Mile In My Shoes project by Lillian Rodrigues-Pang? Some fantastic news about this being part of The Oral History Australia 2017 Conference. Also some recordings are now available as Podcasts bringing you ‘shoe stories from the community around us’.

Have a listen here: <https://amileinmyshoes.podbean.com/>

Remember when we funded PRIDE TIDE? It is an arts and social night for the LGBTQIA+ community in Wollongong. They updated us too:

“With help from Culture Bank’s funding we have been able to put on regular gigs at various venues in Wollongong (Jane’s, Rad, Urge Records) and at these gigs we’ve been able to pay every single artist who plays. We have our second birthday show coming up in September at Rad which is a meaningful milestone for us, one we couldn’t have reached without Culture Bank!”

Michele Elliot and Cresaline Ryder, Tender Cloth (image courtesy artist)

Detail of dyed fabric, Tender Cloth (image courtesy Michele Elliot)

Shell Sculpture in progress (image courtesy artists)

Jacuzzi Stu DJ Workshop

Honk 2017 (image by Judy Pettiford)

Enough Said Poetry Slam event (image from FB)

A Decision Dinner in progress hosted by our members (image Tania Maria Mastroianni)

Local poet Ali Jane Smith reading an Omnibus poem to other local poets

Detail image of artwork in progress for the Omnibus animation/film and poster (image Tania Maria Mastroianni)



we:

Formed a partnership with Kiama Community College to offer accredited training to our staff in employment skills and vocational pathways.

We were invited to the launch of War on Waste season 2 and were able to pitch our own ideas about what the next series could focus on.

We said farewell to one of our senior farm-hands who started with us as a young person who was disengaged from school and almost seven years later was one of the most knowledgeable and skilled employees at the Green Connect farm. He has gone in to a permanent full-time supervisor role in an area that he loves and we couldn't be prouder.

In Addition we De-merged from our home at Our Community Project and merged with national not-for-profit Community Resources. And moved in to a new office in the heart of Port Kembla.

We wish to thank the team at Our Community Project for their passion, support and collaboration over many years. Green Connect has grown significantly since joining OCP in 2013 and has enormous respect for the work that has been done and continues to be done by OCP to improve and empower the local community. OCP embodies Margaret Mead's famous words - "...that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has".

Kylie Flament
General Manager Green Connect

Green Connect

Green Connect is an Illawarra based social enterprise that employs young people and former refugees in jobs that make the planet better. We grow organic food on our urban farm, we work with councils, businesses and event organizers. We compost, recycle and reduce waste to landfill, and we offer labour hire to give our staff employment experience in other organisations.

This year, on top of providing employment to 106 young people and former refugees, composting, recycling and diverting 2,653 tonnes of waste from landfill, and growing and distributing 20,628kg of organic food,





funerals, to the mortuary work which most are more than happy to help with and general maintenance of the building and gardening



We have had the pleasure of welcoming our musicians and artists in residence at Tender. Michele Elliot who is our artist has been working with families to help make tributes or keepsakes for family members who have died. She has also been using the natural dyes in flowers to make beautiful tributes to loved ones. These were on display at Our Community remembers. Michele also runs the Tender sewing circle with families who have used Tender as their chosen funeral director. Michele has also worked with these families sewing with them in the lead up to the funerals. Tender also has 2 musicians Jodi and Malaki who sing and play instruments at funerals, They also Sing in the mortuary with the family while they wash and dress their loved ones. The Tender choir runs every 2nd Thursday of the month with people from our community with Jodi and Malaki helping to run this. Tender were so fortunate to be given a government grant for these services which means at this point in time it doesn't cost our families anything.

Tender Cloths Michele has dyed using the natural dye from flowers. These flowers are from the families of loved ones we have taken care of at tender. These are given



Tender

Tender has just celebrated it's second birthday and has now done 240 funerals. In the past twelve months we have welcomed a part time funeral director to the tender team. Amy has gone onto Maternity leave and is due any day now, We have also welcomed Lauren into the team as Amy's maternity relief.



We love our volunteers and could not function without them. At this point in time we have around fifteen volunteers who work along side the funeral directors. We love that we can have such strong ties with our community and build on those relationships day in and day out. They are such a valued part of Tender, from helping around with housekeeping, to helping with



back to the family as a keep sake.

Tender held its first "Our Community Remembers" event at Mt Keira Girl Guide Camp in June. We welcomed around 60 people from our community who we have had the privilege of looking after their loved ones. Our Volunteers were a strong presence in the event. Everyone bought a sacred plate of food to share over a cuppa around the fire place. It was a time to remember and cherish the memories of our loved ones who have died.

Currently at this point in time we are repainting the outside of the Tender building. The bars have been removed so we can sand back the windows and repaint them. Mark is one of our volunteers who has been putting a lot of his time into this for Tender and we are truly grateful. Tender now has a new front door with our logo on the screen.





Kia Ora everyone!

What a blessing it has been to have an opportunity to my final year of work placement for my UOW Social Work degree, at OCP. Although I started at Tender in the second half of my placement, I am extremely grateful to have had the small amount of time here so far. Over the past 5 years I have 'crossed paths' with the Tender project, I recollect hearing Jenny give a talk as a TAFE student & I was intrigued.

More recently, I engaged Tender for a close relative's funeral & I worked closely with Amy during this time. Māori funerals can go for three days, and it was an enlightening experience for our Māori community to engage with Tender. After having a negative experience with a funeral home many years ago, I had little respect for the industry, particularly in relation to respect for cultural practices at time of death. Tender was a breath of fresh air. Not only did Amy assist with funeral arrangements but she also empowered us through education at the same time. Tender aligned perfectly with the way we do things. The universe has steered me to this organisation for a higher reason and I truly believe this.

What I love about Tender is the organisations dedication to empowerment. I love the absolute respect, support and dignity given to families and the plans they have for their loved ones. I love how Tender encourages and embraces an inclusive approach when working with families in their final moments, with their loved ones. I feel so privileged to share these final moments. Finally, I love learning from the funeral directors and amazing volunteers, I am just soaking up all the knowledge I can get!!

The dedication of Tender to provide an, 'authentic, affordable, beautiful funeral' is outstanding. I will forever be touched by the time spent here with Tender. With a bit of luck I hope to continue my relationship with Tender, so just maybe you will see my face around in the new year!! Thanks to everyone at OCP, staff and volunteers you are all so awesome!!

Hugs, Moanaroa UOW SW Student 2019

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 use the Volunteering Illawarra service when we need someone. Here are some of our amazing Volunteers at the Winter Feast. We love our Volunteers!! Thanks again.

We also take on University and TAFE students. They help us with our day-to-day tasks and learn on the job.



Events

Xmas Party

The Port Kembla Community Project held its annual community gathering to celebrate Xmas on Thursday, 7th December 2017. Lots of fun on the night with hula hoops, served a yummy baked dinner, entertained by a belly dancer and magnificent musicians. Looking forward to next year.



Winter Feast - ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER and ART AUCTION

We hosted our 7th Winter Feast - Annual Fundraising Dinner on 15th July 2017. Was a great night with lots of wonderful people, magnificent food and warm fires.



Community Hall

The Port Kembla Community Hall has been a busy place again this year. Lots of community groups (our projects and other organisations) using the space. This year the hall has been used for Pilate's classes, playgroups, community dinners, NA meetings, political meetings and social groups.



Financials

Remove extra spacing. This financial year, was a year of change for the organization. Change with our board, with the growth of Tender Funerals and with Green Connect leaving OCP.

There was also a change of Finance employees; we bid farewell to Christopher "Will" Williams and to Caragh Porter. We would like to thank them for all their work over the past few years. I was welcomed back to the Finance Manager position from March 2018, having previously held this position prior to Will, from 2008 to June 2013. We then welcomed Sri Pastor as the day-to-day bookkeeper. Sri already provides bookkeeping services to local community centers and is a wonderful asset to our organisation.

The financial year 2017/18 was another year of steady growth for Our Community Project. Our turnover for the 12 months was \$1.77 million, an increase on last year's \$1.67 million. This was due to the continued growth of Tender Funerals (and Green Connect up to February 2018).

With change brings review and for the last part of the financial year, we have been busy setting up new procedures and reviewing the effects of the demerger on our financial position. We have been busy with the fresh start and are starting to see the progress.

As usual, the funding of administration of the organisation continues to be the area that has needs tending to, as there is limited funding available for administration. We will be continuing to do the best we can, with what we have and looking for ways to ensure the health of the organisation. We continue to seek funding to complete projects/programs that build and educate our community.

Cheers to fresh starts. We are looking forward to working with our community and making 2018/2019 a year of fresh beginnings.

Auditor Statements