



Our Community Project

Annual Report

FY 2020 - 2021



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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



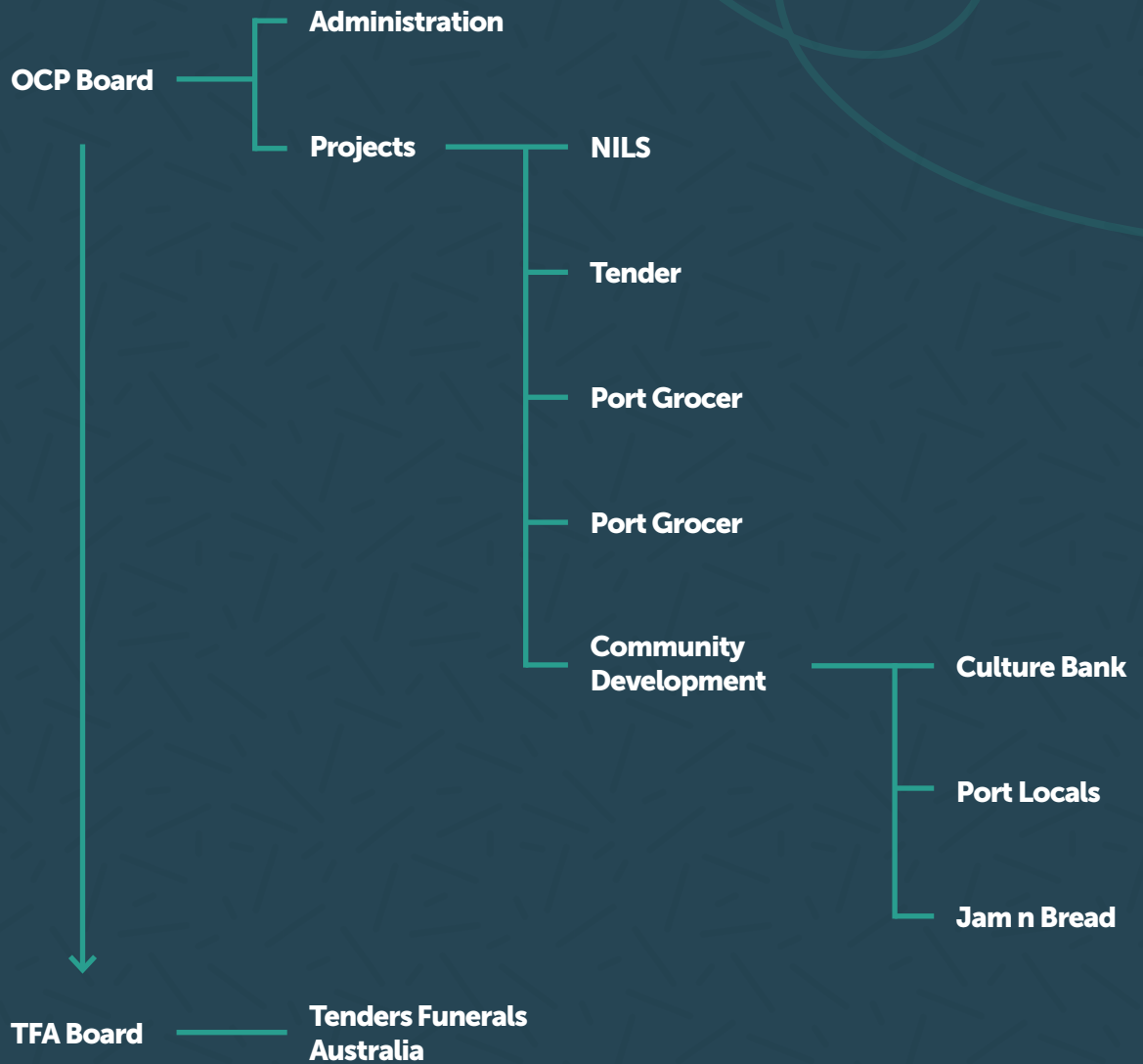
Our vision is to contribute to building a vibrant, creative, resourceful and resilient community where people and the planet are valued.

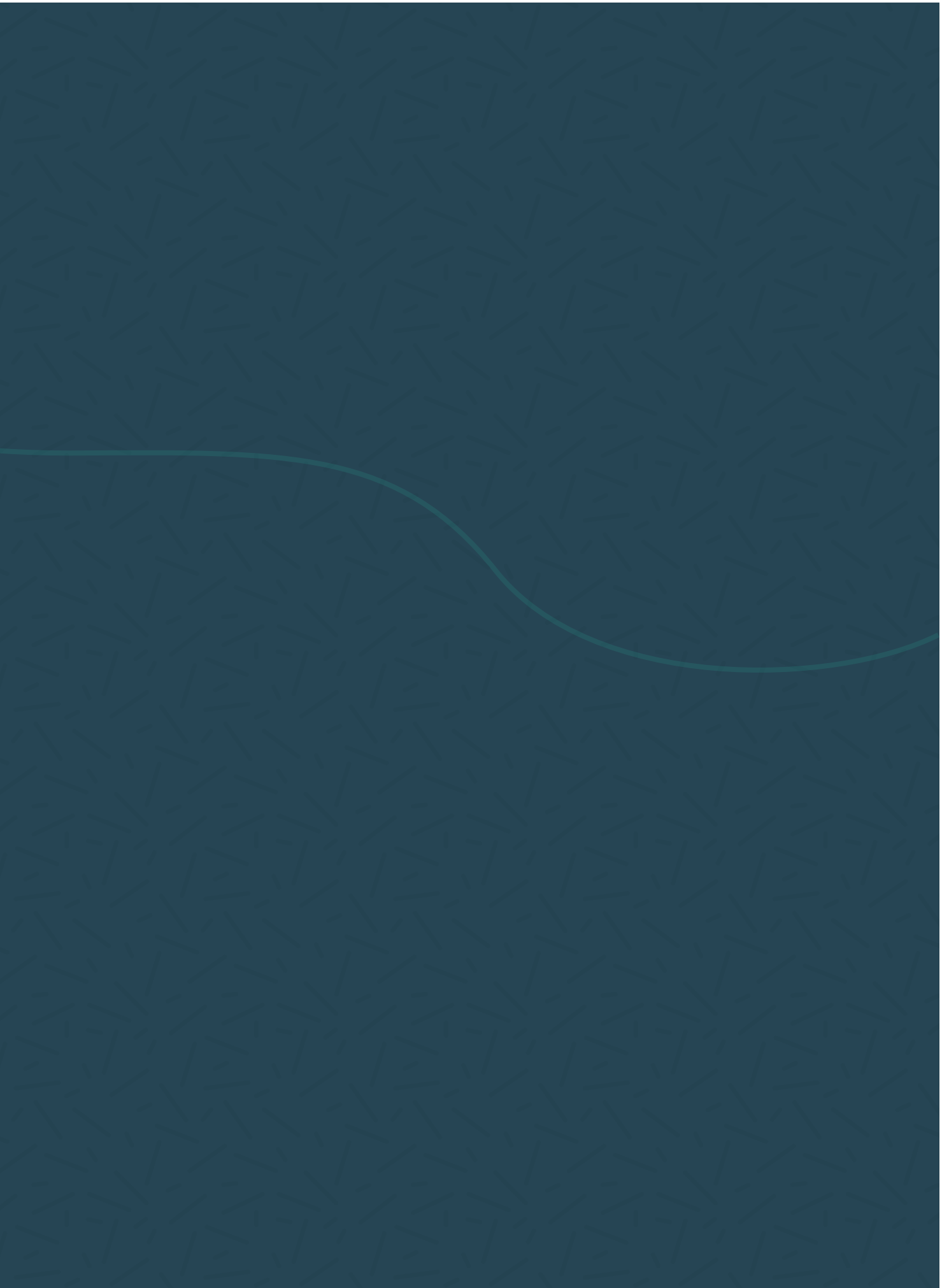
Our mission is to work with the community using people-centred innovation, co-creation, collaboration and social enterprise to empower, build access, equity, social action and community spirit

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.

Company Structure





Board of Directors

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer



Ann Martin
President



Thomas McColl
Secretary



Adam Cox
Secretary



Anna Ambrose
Treasurer

Directors



Linda Campbell
Director



Robert McKellar
Director



Jess Whittaker
Director



Rachel Bolton
Director



Ben Lovelace
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

Staff

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



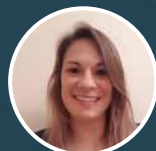
Amy Sagar
General Manager



Nadine Giles
General Manager



Angela Figliuzzi
Operations
Manager



Wendy Bebbington
Retail Manager



Amy Bowie
Retail Manager



Susan McMurdo
Casual Funeral
Director



Lee-Anne Wein
Casual Funeral
Director



Jordan Lukey
Casual Funeral
Director

Project Staff



Amy Bowie
Website and
Marketing, Board
Induction and
Tender Build

Tenders Funerals Australia



Samuel Clowes
Network Manager
and Administrator



Rivkah Nissim
Communication
and Community
Education

Chair Report



Ann Martin

Planner | Southern Region

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

In spite of the disruptions, collective anxiety and loss of momentum caused by COVID, our staff, volunteers, past and present Board Members worked together to ensure that we could safely deliver our programs, projects, and community support activities.

Our Community Project is directed and provided oversight and good judgement by a highly skilled Board, supported by our General Manager, Jenny Briscoe-Hough. Jenny's enormous energy, commitment and service to the organisation over the years, working with the Board, and managing our fantastic team and all those who collectively contribute to our successes, has forged and strengthened our program and initiatives.

The Mens' Group, Sewing Group, Bush Care volunteers, our NILS - No Interest Loans Scheme, Culture Bank, Bread and Jam, and all the other groups, events, and associated projects were affected, and have endured in the year before, during and after the first Covid Lock down.

At the same time, the Board delivered on its major strategic plan program, which included resolving technical and operational issues and successfully delivering Tender Funerals Illawarra and Sydney, and processing, and responding to the challenge of the establishment of Tender Australia, which has its own Board with some shared OCP Board members.

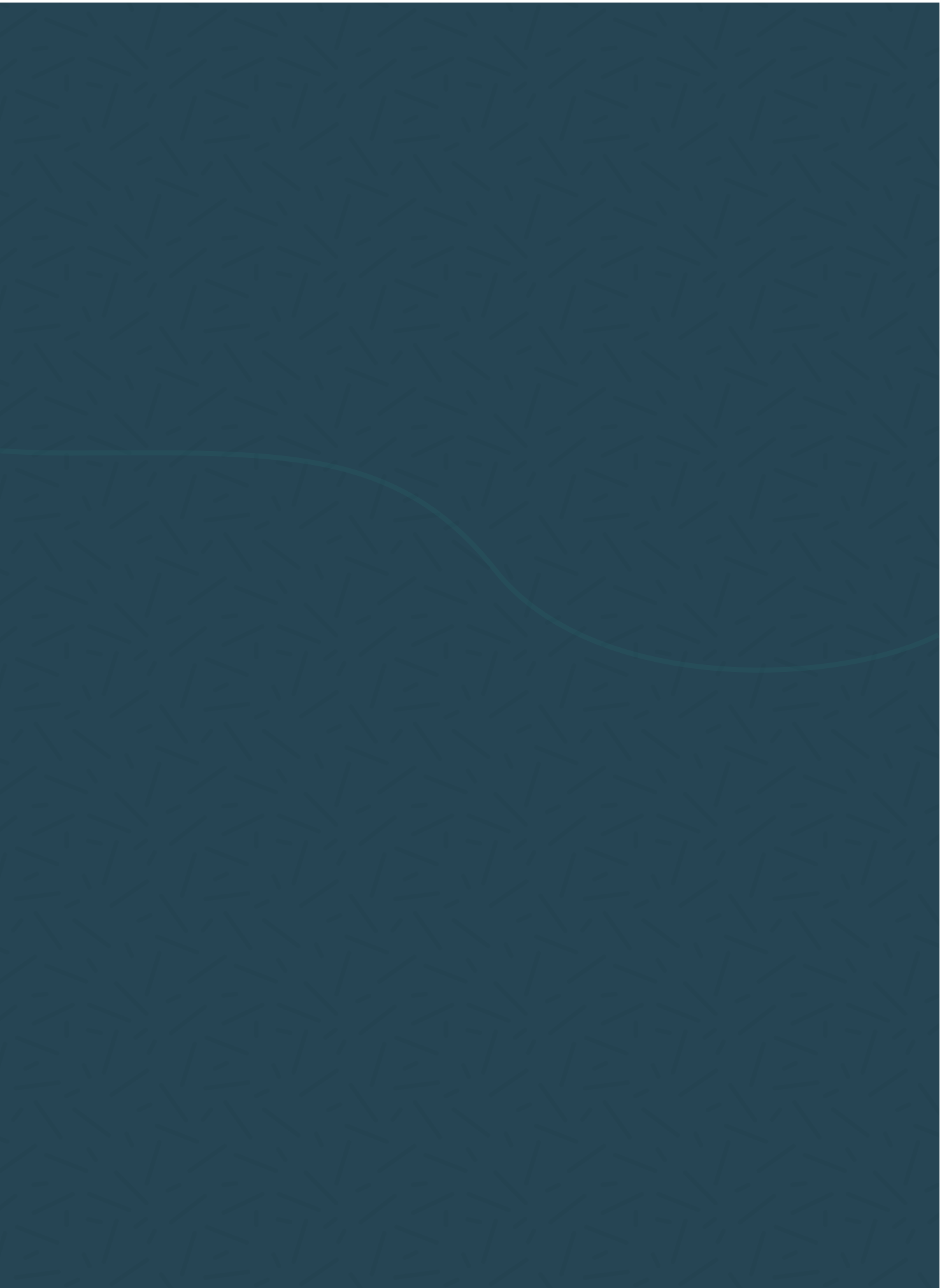
This was also a year of great expectations, and disappointments. We were successful in receiving a grant to open the Port Grocer - seeking to be plastic free, supporting local farmers and suppliers wherever possible, and opening 7 days a week. Our funding required us to open during Covid. The Grocer was a brave effort to deliver another meaningful community enterprise. It employed people, we had terrific volunteer support, and it traded for almost 12 months. Thank you to all those who helped make the Grocer happen.

During this time, OCP also continued to support and deliver meaningful and authentic funerals through Tender Funerals Illawarra and Sydney. We were also successful in achieving funding through the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund to help us expand our home on Military Road.

Finally, the Board of OCP has met regularly using Zoom, and when we could, in person through the year, and helped our staff deliver our ambitious strategic plan, and we are now preparing a new strategic plan and program for the next years.

We have had some Board members leave us, Karen Kirk-Torrenson and Ben Lovelace since our last AGM. On behalf of the Board, I thank them for their service and contribution both to the Board, to the program and communities we serve at Our Community Project. We also welcomed new Board members Anna Ambrose, Jess Whittaker, Adam James and Rachel Bolton.

We are excited for what the next year will bring. Alongside our great staff and General manager, the Board and all those many others who are part of the Our Community Project story, I look forward to another great year of value led community focussed activities.



General Manager's Report



Jenny Briscoe-Hough
General Manager
Our Community Project

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live. I 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.

As the general manager I work with the staff, volunteers, board and community which works with OCP. I recommend to you this annual report which is filled with information and inspiration about what OCP delivers into the communities in which it works. The brilliant teams of OCP have each contributed their stories. Their words tell beautifully of their achievements and their challenges. Those voices are the heart, mind and soul of OCP and the report is both a motivating and inspiring document.

OCP is not an ordinary organisation we work locally regionally and through TFA nationally. It is a complicated, ambitious, creative and innovative organisation, which is driven to make a difference in all sorts of ways to individuals and their communities. It is fair to say that sometimes outcomes for projects, may not always materialise in the way that was planned for and imagined. The Port Grocer was such a project. We opened and closed the grocer over the last 12 months. The grocer was a project brought into being in partnership with the local community who wanted a local grocer in the main street. They were keen for it to be as close to zero as possible.

There are many reasons why the grocer closed which include:

- The lack of affordability due to not being able to buy in large enough bulk
- A large fit out cost
- A mix up around planning permissions which delayed opening of the Deli

Most importantly

- The drying up of funding due to covid and bush fires which impacted our working capital
- Inadequate time for planning

Having said that both the opening and closing of the grocer was also an incredible achievement with some wonderful outcomes

These include

- Connecting with our incredibly motivated community who provided 100's of hours of volunteer time
- Employment outcomes for some volunteers
- The creation of 8 part time jobs over the period
- An increased knowledge and experience around social enterprise

The last 12 months have in some ways been extraordinary with the Pandemic and all that came with it. During this time we continued to do our work I am so inspired by the resilience of our organisation to keep on delivering outcomes. We are learning to measure our outcomes and this will be a focus over the next 12 months. Some outcomes I can report on is that Tender over the 5 years of operation facilitated 1000 funerals which represents a saving to the community of around \$6.4 million. Nils delivered 595 loans totalling \$68,987.18. Community development delivered so many projects and outcomes but importantly created one of the very few community events to occur in the last 12 months, an amazing lantern parade through the streets of Port Kembla, it is on track to become an annual tradition. Tender Funerals Australia was recognised as a public benevolent institution, finalised its franchise agreements in a social framework and signed 2 Franchise agreements and we managed to complete the Tender Funerals manual. Our Business and finance coordinator, have implemented a complete overall of our systems and processes to ensure that OCP is governed and managed in a professional and impeccable manner. In so many ways we in better shape because of this work than we have ever been.

I was asked recently what I love about Our Community Project. This is my response to that question

I love that OCP is that it has at its core a belief in the strength, compassion and creativity of human beings to create strong, resilient, inclusive and empowered community. OCP as an organisation is not afraid to imagine a change that the culture may be longing for and to endeavour to support and enact those changes. I love that OCP has a citizen driven rather than client driven approach in all that we do. I love that the idea of OCP is that we are keen to partner with community members, groups or other organisations who have ideas projects to benefit the community. I love that we continue to have community development at the centre of our practice. I love the people that I get to work with every day.

The board continues to grow and strengthen the governance that creates the space for the work to be done. Thank you to Ann Martin our Chair and all of our board for stewarding OCP through this last 12 months of change, challenge and outcomes we can all feel proud of.

Funders

- Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
- Create NSW
- Department of Justice & Communities
- Fair Trading NSW
- Ecstra Foundation
- My Community Project
- National Australia Bank
- Bendigo Bank
- Wollongong City Council
- Covid Relief Funding – Federal Funding
- Port Kembla Community Investment Fund
- Snow Foundation
- AMP
- Multicultural NSW
- Clubs Funding
- Stronger Communities Funding
- Community Building Partnerships
- SEFA
- Planning Industry and Environment
- Good Shepherd Australia

Supporters

- Social Ventures Australia
- University of Wollongong
- Kate Lynch Plans Drafting
- Port Kembla Public School
- Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation
- Fair Food Forager
- Beyond Empathy
- Mike Malone
- FAMS
- CustomLAN
- Jan Hunter
- Invey Studio
- Fran and David Curtis



Staff Development

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OCP engaged Phil Preston a Purpose Strategist to facilitate a staff development day.

We looked at how we have changed, participated in a number of team challenges, and developed a framework for the way we want to work.

Team Values and Culture

- It's okay to be human
- We can be vulnerable
- We can ask for help
- We're aware of our impact on others
Attitude is everything
- We go forward in a positive way
- We view problems as opportunities
- We follow through on our commitments
- We support each other
- We respect and care for our colleagues
- We are friendly, act kindly and are always helpful
- We have each other's backs
- Clear communication
- We communicate clearly, directly and responsively with empathy
- We are clear on our roles and responsibilities
- We share information and stories in a healthy way
- Bring our best
- We measure outcomes and impacts when it makes sense to do so
- We are responsible and accountable for what we do
- We are expected to call out behaviours that don't fit who we are







Our Ventures Annual Report



Port Grocer

The Grocer and the library have been in so many ways an incredible success. It was inspiring to work with the community to develop this wonderful resource. The connections that have been forged between various people, groups and associations have been amazing and we hope they continue.

Nothing about 2020 was predictable, in a time when many other businesses were closing, we had just opened our door. We have looked at other solutions, however our timing has probably been our biggest challenge. Unfortunately, the project has been unable to gain the momentum required for financial sustainability in the projected time frame.

In April 2021 we announced to the staff, volunteers and public that we would be winding up the Port Grocer and Our Library of Things. By the end of May we had successfully fully orchestrated multiple sales, including a large garage sale and were able to leave the building clean and empty for the next chapter of its life.

We want to let you know that this has not been for lack of commitment, financial as well as heart and effort. The staff, and volunteer engagement, all of which has been inspiring and outstanding. On April 1st we had a lovely Thank You party for all the staff, volunteers, board, and suppliers. Jam and Bread were so kind as to animate the night with their mariachi band. We gave the Grocer a final zero waste farewell by using all the perishable food to make beautiful dishes to share that night.

We are grateful for all the support and kind feedback the Grocer has received. Port Kembla is a resilient and resourceful community that loves a challenge. We have learned a lot and we would not have missed that opportunity for the world.

Although the Grocer has ended there have been some amazing achievements made by all the community involved. Hannah Rochester, one of our Social Work Placement Students, equally Volunteer Coordinator at the Port Grocer has put together an amazing report about the volunteers.

Total Number of Volunteering Hours

The total number of hours that volunteers contributed to the roster equalled 3,151 hours over the course of nine months. This averaged to 350 hours per month, 81 hours per week, and 11.5 hours per day. This averages at 59 hours per volunteer. The majority of volunteers assisted the Grocer on a weekly basis. Four people volunteered fortnightly, and five volunteers did a range of other miscellaneous jobs when needed. The estimated dollar value for the volunteer contribution is \$253, 928. This figure was gained by using the States and Territories Peak Bodies Volunteering value calculation tool. Three volunteers contributed to social media which equalled 194 hours in total.

Port Grocer collaborated with two disability organisations, Flagstaff and Greenacres Disability Services. Eight participants from these organisations volunteered and gained work experience at Port Grocer. Participants from Flagstaff volunteered for three hours once a week, over a course of six weeks. Participants from Greenacres Disability Services volunteered for four hours over the course of three weeks. In total, participants contributed 138 hours to the Port Grocer roster. This averages at 17 hours per volunteer.

What Volunteers Received

"A sense of being part of the community, connections, contributing to the development of Wentworth St and diverting waste and building sustainability." Volunteers felt the venture was personally rewarding, with a highlight on three key areas:

Friendships Volunteers enjoyed building friendships with the people they worked alongside. And were inspired by other's passion to see Port Kembla rise to its potential. Volunteers also felt they gained valuable experience at the Grocer.

Community Volunteers said Port Grocer gave them an opportunity to be part of something bigger than themselves that they felt was purposeful. They liked being able to contribute to something which benefited the whole community.

Sustainability Volunteers said they grew in their understanding of how to be environmentally friendly. Volunteers also enjoyed shopping in the store. Volunteers felt it was important to do something that would benefit future generations.

Unique Opportunities Volunteers said Port Grocer provided them with unique opportunities to volunteer in a setting different from their job or previous experience. Volunteers felt it was a supportive environment with quality staff who operated with integrity. Volunteers felt staff were encouraging and this was important to volunteers. Volunteers felt they had the opportunity to develop new skills and their confidence increased. The volunteering opportunity was able to be flexible to cater to their particular needs and skills. Volunteers felt they were able to meet and mix with different people.



The Best Thing About Volunteering

"Friendly staff and volunteers."

"Being part of something I believe in."

"Being part of a community lead social enterprise trying to create more sustainable shopping options locally"

"The people I worked with and the customers. Also getting to know other venues along Wentworth St."

"Having a community hub we could go to any day and catch up with other community members informally."

"It was good to be with likeminded people wanting to make a difference in how grocery shopping can be done and helping a community with a local grocery...I liked seeing a community project trying to help others within the community they live."



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 16 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 third 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 year we've had the advantage of 2 wonderful volunteers, Anne and Mary, who assist both with NILS but also with providing Electricity Vouchers. In addition we had Zakia, a social work student on placement who gained valuable skills and experience whilst working at NILS. It has been a pleasure to watch each of them grow in their capacity as valuable workers throughout their time with NILS.



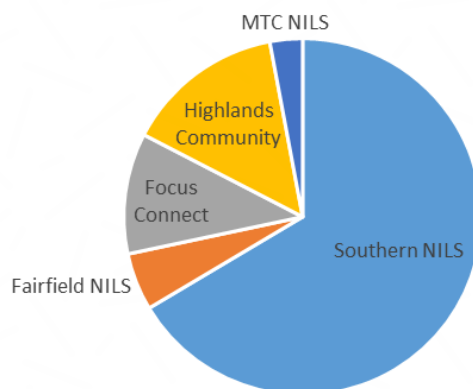
2021 saw us celebrate Anne Steyer, volunteering with OCP and in particular Southern NILS. Anne started as a volunteer with NILS on our Loans Assessment Committee, in the lead up to the new NILS model being launched Anne began working at the centre 1-2 days a week as a volunteer and became our casual/annual leave relief worker. Anne has over 35 years' experience in welfare, community, Child protection and Alcohol and other drugs, and brings her knowledge, expertise, articulate and immaculate case notes, caring, bubbly nature and great anti-pasto platters to our office everyday she is here.

NILS Loans Approved During 2020 - 2021

The 2020-2021 financial year saw Southern NILS approving 575 people with a no interest loan. We conducted 382 interviews and the rest were interviewed by our Client Support Providers. This means that 575 households have been assisted. Previously the loan purpose trend was for white goods however, over time registration and car repairs are taking over.

During 2020-2021, Southern NILS received some funding from Good Shepherd via the Indigenous Money Network Community Fund. This was to engage with the local and further afield Indigenous communities in conversations regarding money. We have developed a booklet and a tote bag to give out at NAIDOC day in July 2021.

Number of Loans 2020-2021



"I don't know what I would have done without NILS. I've been able to furnish my house. It really was the only way. I've also used NILS to repair and register my car. I honestly am so grateful."

- Jenny



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 during the July 2020 - July 2021 period giving away in total: \$14,050.

In this period Culture Bank had two interviews with the Illawarra Mercury, plus received full colour front page article for the project we funded - Magic Mountain. We had a local ABC Radio interview, and was mentioned across various media platforms associated with projects funded. This of course included social media and also includes podcast interviews both achieved and being developed in this time frame.

Culture Bank secured donations from individuals/ organisations and business, and on a few occasions members and community groups even donated sums of \$1000 and \$2000 to the Culture Bank kitty. Current membership is approximately 170.

We are also currently in the development stage of a new and much awaited re-brand of Culture Bank, to bring it into line with more current social views. This decision was also encouraged by the high calibre of projects we have recently funded, emphasising the importance of securing an up-graded and properly functioning logo.

Culture Bank and the projects funded were hit hard by the COVID-19 restrictions, as was the broader arts community and this continued during the July 20/21 period. However, we were very successful at encouraging and supporting most projects that were impacted, to transition over to completion with an on-line outcome. It was inspiring to see the resilience and the profound human need to keep creating during such difficult times. The projects that we funded, continued to help galvanise our sense of our community during adversity. Culture Bank actively encouraged the artistic community to think "outside of the box" as we were not certain of what would happen with COVID restrictions in future time frames (eg. impact on live events) and we did not want to see projects stall, where possible. It was impressive to see the funding ideas and responses received - and confirmed the importance and the power of creative thinkers in our community. Some examples of projects that transitioned to online community alternatives in this period included: Sheakespeare Theatre's production of Iso-Liloquize which premiered online in October 2020, Enough Said Poetry Slams, A-Z of Wollongong Podcasts and Notes From Home project.

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

"My body of work has been going really well, I have expanded the series and it is continually evolving. I have created a substantial amount of work surrounding local bushland and have had incredible positive feedback...I have been enjoying the journey of exploring our landscape as it recovers from the fires. It has been an inspiring process, every time I go and explore my local bushland, it has proven its resilience and grown back greener and stronger than ever."

"Thank you so very much for your recent grant. As Screen Illawarra seeks to contribute to the development of the screen industry in the Illawarra, we are incredibly grateful for this support. We will indeed keep you updated of our progress and acknowledge the support of Culture Bank every opportunity we have."

"THANK YOU!!!! Let's say it again and twice THANK YOU and THANK YOU! Any volunteer run organisation requires funds to help achieve its goals and your grant will help us provide a wonderful educational, networking and screening event for the Illawarra filmmaking community and our members".

"Short+Sweet are extremely pleased to have been chosen as a recipient of a Culture Bank Grant and wish to thank you for your consideration and support of our organisation."

"In selecting us we have not only been able to start using the funds to create the vision we had hoped for this year's Theatre and Film Festivals but it has enabled us to promote and expand our vision into the years following....Also, in an intangible way supporting us has hugely lifted the spirits of all those participating in Short+Sweet Illawarra especially after the recent tough times theatre and arts in the Illawarra has experienced since the arrival of COVID-19 and for this we also wish to express our gratitude."

"In Transit Co. is very grateful to be one of the 2021 Culture Bank grant recipients for our hybrid performance work Fault/Lines which is currently in development and the support from Culture Bank allows us to pay other core artists for their work with us during this essential stage of development, which enables us to take the project to another level. Without the Culture Bank support that would have not been possible."



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



OCP decided that Culture Bank was to hold only one funding round for Wollongong in 2020 - being the first time in the history of Culture Bank that this has happened. In some respects, this was a positive action to take as people were made more aware that Culture Bank can also be a fragile entity and its operations and success are dependent on the community's support and participation. Although we lost some memberships because of the impact of COVID-19, we also gained a few additional members, due to this decision and by letting the community know we needed more support.

In July 2020 we were very happy to announce the successful projects funded in our CB GOES SOUTH (in support of creatives/communities impacted by the bush fires). 4 successful applications received funding of a total \$6000. They are as follows:

A film about the Conjola bushfires - the producer of this film (award winning film maker) lost their own house in NYE bushfire in Conjola Park. Anthony Ash Brennan was asked by Conjola Recovery Centre to produce a film about the fire and more importantly - how the artists inspired the community to recovery. This film has gone on to have overwhelming success. We Are Conjola Documentary Film received - New York International Film Awards - Honourable Mention, IndieFEST - Award of Excellence, LA Independent Film Festival- Semi Finalist. Official selections at: Venice Film Awards, Montreal Independent Film Festival & The Environmental Film Festival.

Culture Bank funded Dumadjirii Arts Mogo - to help them purchase art materials and replace fixtures to display artworks after the loss of their community art space.

They wrote: Losing our community art space has had a huge impact on the community. As local Indigenous artists, we took pride in providing genuine authentic South Coast Yuin Walbunga Aboriginal Art to local, interstate and international visitors. Not only did we sell art, but had the opportunity to share our beautiful culture through stories with those visitors.

We funded another very successful project called Pecha Kucha. They told us: There is a strong cultural life in Eurobodalla but we believe it is a little hidden. MAP plans to host 4 annual events at various locations across the Shire, beginning with a Pecha Kucha (Japanese for "chit chat") in Moruya. Our region has been devastated by bushfires and the pandemic. The flow on effects of these disasters have had a major impact on the creative community's capacity to make and share work. We believe that by establishing a series of cultural events, such as Pecha Kucha, we can

re-ignite local creatives and entertain/engage the general public. We believe art is an integral part of life. We believe, art can bring our community together to listen, share stories, connect, support and inspire one another. This project was successfully achieved in March 2021, following a delay due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We supported visual artist Tasmin Witkamp to create a body of work inspired by the South Coast. She wrote: The landscapes of the South Coast and rural NSW are so recognisable, yet alien since the fires over summer. I plan to cover a series of different landscapes and natural features ranging from the fire affected bush land around my local area, to the untouched spots which flaunt our regions beauty. I have been working hard on my body of work celebrating Australian landscapes around the south coast of NSW. Inspired by Australian flora and its resilience to our harsh climate, I have been exploring the colours and textures of our local bushland. I have been painting from personal observation, sketches and photographs, constantly exploring the nearby national parks. Common theme within my work is the presence of water, as rivers and creeks are the veins of our landscapes which sustain so much life during the heat of summer.

In our March 2021 Wollongong funding round, Culture Bank funded the following projects:

Fault/Lines which is a hybrid performance work created by In Transit Co. and members of the Wollongong community as a creative response to crisis. As a company they explore participatory processes to make large scale performance works. Their work focuses on how people interact with spaces, structures and systems that define human beings. The project asks a community to use art to respond to the idea of crisis (environmental, health, economic). It asks how we meet? How do we come to consensus? What is our collective responsibility? Culture Bank provided \$2000 towards this project.

Culture Bank members absolutely loved an idea called "Vaudevillawarra" which proposed

using local artists to create a classic Vaudeville Variety show that includes Music, Comedy, Circus and Theatre. Taking the show to venues that Vaudeville and music hall shows were once performed in community halls. Culture Bank provided \$2000 towards this project.

Members also decided to fund the project development of a five-minute video of an "exuberant elder". With a bigger vision of producing a feature length film documenting a range of creative, vibrant elders who demonstrate that getting older doesn't mean you need to lose your spark. The applicant wrote "I am serious about developing the Exuberant Elders concept into a disruptive philosophy on ageing, and I need a way to reach and impact as many people as possible to begin spreading the word. I want to tell stories of exuberant elders - older people who make me unafraid to age". Culture Bank provided \$1050 towards this project.

Culture Bank provided funds to Screen Illawarra for a Festival of Film comprising a conference, networking, and screenings, designed to foster and promote the Illawarra and screen community. This financial contribution will effectively green light the project. Their aim is to make it an annual event. Culture Bank provided \$1000 towards this project.

Finally, Culture Bank also decided to fund The Short + Sweet Illawarra Theatre Festival, which will run over two performance weeks in July-August 2021. Short + Sweet Illawarra is open access and culturally inclusive and with its ten-minute format in all genres, it seeks to return ownership of that vital story telling ability to the community. Culture Bank provided \$2000 towards this project.

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 enables diverse cultural communities to come together to jam, bake bread and share culture. Featuring musicians and dancers from different cultural backgrounds, Jam n Bread 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.

The last year for Jam n Bread has seen the most diverse year of activities since our inception in 2013. Covid created some event challenges which resulted in trialling remote Jam n Bread sessions on Zoom. This created an opportunity to have International guest facilitators, with Kenyan dance and music therapist Senyor C-Jeys hosting a well-attended session including participants from Wollongong, Sydney, Melbourne and Budapest. Senyor C-Jeys and friends made a short documentary of their experience in Kenya participating in Jam n Bread which was shared on Facebook.

At OCP we were able to host three face to face sessions (+ zoom participation) including Irish tunes with Johnny Spillane, flamenco with Ana Otero and Nigel Jones and stagecraft with the very charismatic Michael Simic. We celebrated Michael's Croatian heritage by making Croatian sweet Povitika bread. We were also able to hold a few sessions at the Port Grocer with a combination of live and zoom participation featuring Gerardo Montoya the Mexican Mariachi, as well as providing Mexican and Macedonian musicians for the opening and closing celebrations.

Jam n Bread joined forces with Shellharbour City Council for Harmony Day to present Mexican music and baking as part of their Cultural Treasures festival.

Jam n Bread was a recipient of a Wollongong City Council Engine Room Grant and a small grant, which enabled us to host a one-day New Gen Culture & Music festival at the Servo. Local New-Gen artists including Josh and Dom Hinton, Dear Violet, Mel and Marley and Matilda and friend performed as openers for experienced musicians from culturally diverse backgrounds including Sako and Atef (Syria/ Armenia); Somesing Laik Zat (Latvia); Ernie Beach and Nga Hau E Wha (Maori) and Chris, Laz and Vic Janko (Macedonia). The event was filmed by Elizabeth Tadic, produced by Sarah Hudson with Phoebe Shields assisting on camera. The film [youtube.com/watch?v=0TUuwdRW6mo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TUuwdRW6mo) captured the incredible musicianship and intergenerational engagement and was shared on Facebook.

As part of the Engine Room Grant, Wollongong City Council in collaboration with Jam n Bread have recruited nine New Gen artists (aged 16-30 years) to create a new music composition influenced by Wollongong's multicultural diversity and inspired by culturally diverse musicians who reside in the Illawarra. These artists will be invited to record their music and perform at Viva la Gong at Wollongong Botanic Gardens the weekend of November 12.

Most recently Jam n Bread also sourced musicians for the opening and closing of the incredibly well attended lantern parade.

Jam n Bread has a mailing list of over 220 people and a strong Facebook presence with 540 likes and 584 post followers [facebook.com/pages/Music-Jam-n-Bread](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Music-Jam-n-Bread)

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.



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Tenders Funerals

This financial year we supported 278 families. This means that in our 5 years of operation we have supported 977 families!

Our People

We have a lot of new faces and said goodbye to some old favourites. Ashleigh, Jade and Christine have moved on from Tender and we thank them for the time and care they put into their work and wish them all the best in their futures.

As we have grown we introduced some new roles in Tender Illawarra. Amy Sagar has taken on the General Manager role of Tender Illawarra & Sydney. Amy is expecting the arrival of her second baby in October 2021 and Nadine Giles has been employed to take on the General Manager role during Amy's 12 month maternity leave. Nadine volunteered with Tender for a year before moving to Melbourne and working as a funeral director, we are so pleased she has moved back to rejoin our community as our General Manager.

Angela Figliuzzi has brought her organisational expertise as our Operations Manager and creatively implemented new systems for us, as well handling all of our scheduling, administration and accounting needs.

Our casual Funeral staff is built up of Lee-Ann Wein, Susan McMurdo and Jordan Lukey. They are well known faces in our community and all have a few years each of experience with us.

Social Impact

The Australian funeral industry has been under a much needed review by the IPRAT Summit (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal) which Tender was fortunate enough to contribute to. We submitted many reports and surveys providing recommendations on changes to our industry. Data from our shrouded burial survey was submitted, along with recommendations around changes to funeral insurance, pre-paid funerals and funeral pricing. We advocated for community participation and home funerals. Some immediate outcomes off the back of this review was new regulation about funeral price transparency and accessibility with all funeral homes in NSW now being required to display their pricing on their websites. Further outcomes are still pending.

Our Community Remembers

In a beautiful moment before we went into another lockdown our community gathered to remember the people they had lost at Tenders annual "Our Community Remembers" memorial event. On the eve of the winter solstice about 70 people rugged up in the valley of Mt Keira in the Girl Guide Camp. Elder Uncle G welcomed us to Dharrawal Country in a powerful smoking ceremony followed by the main ceremony led by Lee-Ann Wein. River stones were handed out and placed in water as our community members spoke the name of the person they were remembering. Children played around the fire and the sewing circle invited everyone to contribute an ever growing string of bunting. The hall echoed with the voices of our choir who sang. We laughed and we cried...and then we ate! The sacred food brought by everyone, each dish representing a person, a memory, a loved recipe passed down generations. The Our Community Remember's event grows every year and always receives good feedback from the participants about how helpful and healing it is to them. If you haven't been to one yet, we would love for you to join us next year!

Upcoming Renovations

As Tender has grown we are needing more space. We were successful in acquiring a \$347,000 grant from the Port Kembla Investment Fund which will fund a renovation of Tender to provide more office space, family meeting space, a washing and dressing room and cool room. This expansion will benefit the Port Kembla community but also facilitate a large training space for the rest of the Tender Network. We are looking forward to the completion of this, with works planning on starting over the next few months.

Funeral Benevolent Fund

Tender has formally developed a Funeral Benevolent Fund which is being received with high regard from our families. \$250 is charged on our funerals, which is discounted as a concession as required and goes to a fund to support financially disadvantaged members of our community who struggle to meet funeral costs.

Volunteer Week fire at the station night

Tenders Volunteers continue to be an integral part of our model. They are strong in numbers and in passion, providing a high level of dedication and care. Our social gatherings have been restricted since covid so volunteer week was especially important to us this year as we gathered for a 'Fire at the Station Volunteer Night' which was an opportunity for us come together socially in a relaxed manner to thank each one of our volunteers for contributions to Tender.

Abby's removal pod

In November of 2020 Tender helped a community farewell a special little girl, 4 year old Abigail Crous. She had a beautiful funeral at the Illawarra Rhododendron Gardens in a ceremony lead by celebrant Lyn Johns. With the permission of Abby's family Lyn elected to donate her fee to go towards a new piece of equipment for Tender in memory of Abby. This donation afforded Tender a transfer pod used to remove deceased from small spaces where stretchers can't reach, making it easier and safer for us to bring people into our care from small tight homes. Abby's name is embroidered on the stretcher, forever a reminder of her.

Art's Project Update

The Tender Sewing Circle and Choir continue to meet regularly. The sewing circle have completed the Sage and Sunflower quilt that they have created together as well as some continuing to sew the bunting to decorate the Our Community Remembers event. Each flag represents something meaningful to it's creator. The choir have waited out the covid restrictions and come together to add more songs to their repertoire. Our staff enjoying hearing them practise here in the evening

Front Garden revival by Ruth Harvey

Local permaculturalist Ruth Harvey worked with our volunteers to revive the garden at the front of Tender's Fire Station. It is now a thriving garden of natives and flowers welcoming families who come to our door.

*In our 5 years
of operation we
have supported
977 families.*





Tenders Funerals Australia



Jenny Briscoe-Hough
General Manager
Tender Funerals Australia

This year has seen exponential growth and development with Tender Funerals Australia and the Network achieving significant milestones despite the challenges for all of us living with a pandemic. There have been many highlights but suffice it to say that each of these achievements have meant many people putting in many, many hours of discussion, debating, negotiating, collaboration, testing new ideas in practice, reengineering and embracing technological change and new ways of working.

Tender Funerals Network

The Network model is going from strength to strength. Monthly network meetings are attended by board members and workers (if they have them) of sites. These meetings provide opportunities to share experiences and skills, to build community and culture and values alignment and to share resources. Members of the network report that they find these meetings inspiring and motivating. Each community has the opportunity to chair the meeting.

Franchise Model and agreement in a social franchise context

In collaboration with the sites, SVA and Freehills, Lawyers, TFA and John Corker, we finalised the innovative Franchise Agreement, a first off franchise agreement in a social franchise context for Australia. This was a collaborative process, much thanks to John Corker who was instrumental in disseminating the information and assisting with the facilitation of the process both to the network, staff and the Board.

We re-imagined the way the franchise could be paid for to remove payment as an obstacle for set up. Many thanks to Pam Thornton for her flexibility, skill and imagination with business modelling.

Thanks to Emily Adams and SVA for providing access to Freehills and KWM who made it all happen.

This whole process was one in which we sought to replicate the values of the Tender Funerals model. I feel we have delivered as close as possible to a clear transparent and very fair documents which will steer the Network into the future, I think we all should be proud of it.

I am very pleased and proud to say we have our first two franchise agreements signed. The first with Tender Funerals Illawarra and Sydney and the second with Tender Mid North Coast. This is the culmination of extensive discussion, cooperation, and hard work. Thanks to all for this.

The Tenders Funerals Australia Franchise (TFA) Manual

The TFA Manual has been finalised. This has been a massive piece of work and we are really thrilled that it is complete. It has been a complex and thorough piece of work and is a comprehensive manual to inform franchisees how to successfully implement the model. The manual took longer than we imagined to finalise as there was more policies to

write and to update than we had planned. The format of clarifying what was not negotiable and what was a guide was a thoughtful and thorough process and will inform the way the manual is able to be updated into the future.

PBI Status

We have been successful in achieving Public Benevolent Institution status after many months of reworking our model to include a funeral benevolent fund. The model has been received warmly by TFI patrons on all levels.

The sites can now all pursue their PBI with KWM support

Financial Modelling for Sites

This work is the key to laying the right foundations for the establishment of a new site and the TFA Business Manager continues to provide a high level of support to all the sites to build their financial models.

Crowdfunding Campaigns

TFA has supported Mid North Coast, Canberra and Tasmania in their crowdfunding campaigns. Each site raised around \$25,000- \$30,000. These have all occurred during COVID. The crowd funding has greatly assisted in building awareness and raising the profile of Tender in their areas. All sites reported community education was a main focus for them and has had the most impact.

Mid North Coast Tender Funerals

TFA has been successful in advocating with Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF) for set-up funding for Mid North Coast Tender of \$450,000 and a loan from SEFA \$775,000. Their build is underway and is expected to be complete mid 2022.

The funding of the first replication of the Tender Funerals model in Australia by VFFF is significant as they funded the original set up of Tender Illawarra.

Canberra and it's Regions Tender Funerals

We have continued to work with Canberra with their negotiations with the Snow Foundation. Catherine Bell, Canberra Tender Chair was successful in achieving the prospect of further funding in the next financial year from the Snow Foundation.

TFA has been advocating with Canberra with the Bendigo bank for funding. They were successful and were granted the amount of \$50,000. TFA has also advocated for Canberra for funding from Hands Across Canberra, a peak community group and were successful in getting \$50,000.

Canberra has been given an in- principle agreement for a low cost loan from Social Enterprise Funding Australia (SEFA) of \$880,000 for their building,

Illawarra and Sydney Tender Funerals

Illawarra Tender has been successful in achieving \$347,000 for building renovation for Illawarra from the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund funded by then NSW government. This funding will be used to upgrade facilities to enable a better environment for training for TFA and

to facilitate the increased workload of the Illawarra Tender. Illawarra Tender still needs a further \$100,000 to complete the whole of the scope of works.

Tasmania

Tasmania Tender has received a letter of offer from SEFA for Loan of \$535,000 towards the purchase and renovation of a building and site and vehicle. TFA have assisted Tasmania to find a building in their price range and which will serve their demographic, they are investigating this option with their board.

New Staff: building a TFA Team

TFA has been able to move in leaps and bounds in certain areas that were underdone but very necessary. This is because we have employed two new staff to cover those critical pieces of work (network management and administration and setting up digital systems and communications and community education).

Network Manager and Administrator: Sam Clowes, our network manager, and administrator, is doing an excellent job of setting up and streamlining administrative systems that can be utilised by the network pertaining to the administrative obligations for the franchise agreement. As well, Sam has oversight of the development and the implementation of Tender's web platform. It has been a great relief and asset having him on the team.

Communication and Community Education: Rivkah Nissam is developing and managing the rollout of our community education resources and our communication and media resources. Rivkah works with the sites on their marketing and media strategies. Rivkah has brought a depth of experience, skill and networks to TFA and is a wonderful addition to the team.

Marketing, Communication and Shared Online Platform

The digital platform which will provide a shared online workspace for the network that can manage reporting and data, staffing, volunteers, scheduling, Tender franchise documentation and has capability to have more functionality added as the sites develop. This platform is currently being trialled by Tender Illawarra and Sydney.

TFA has commissioned and completed videos for all sites to use in the crowdfunding campaign and we have also developed a video for potential national funding bodies, public or private. Much gratitude to Mick O'Donnell for delivering above and beyond on this project.

We also commissioned and delivered an Aboriginal Wills video with assistance of Mick O'Donnell, Prue Vines, Phil Duncan, Bobby Murray, John Corker and Rivkah Nissam. This project will roll out next year.

The Website has been rebuilt to update the look and feel and to allow for sites to access and update their information.

We have commenced work with Australian Story to deliver a program based around Amy and myself and Tender and TFA.

Collaborative Partnerships

We 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.

We have continued to build on our existing relationship with

SEFA. They have committed to working with the network to provide loans to the franchisees. The full due diligence is carried out leading up to the signing of the paperwork for the loan.

Funding

With the assistance of Social Ventures Australia and Philanthropy Australia we were successful in gaining a further \$350,000 funding from the AMP foundation TFA.

Strategic Planning

SVA (Emily Adams) continues to assist Tender Funerals Australia to amend their dynamic Strategic Plan, to ensure it is fit for purpose as developments evolve, and change.

Funeral Saver Fund and Hardship Trust

John Corker has taken on the Role of chair of the advisory board TFA has worked with SVA to identify and commit key external stakeholders to Advisory Council. Advisory council members include Bobby Murray, Peter Kell and Fiona Guthrie. This is a national program with an established fund of \$350,000 rolled out over 3 years. Alongside SVA and John Corker TFA we have developed the program framework, policy and guidelines for operation and allocation of funds. Key was lifting the amount from \$4000 to \$5000. The way that we will disseminate the information will be via community groups particularly aboriginal community across Australia.

Once the savings product has been activated in the community it will assist Tender to be able to provide more affordable funerals for disadvantaged people.

I feel proud of what has been achieved this year. We are co-creating new funeral services in communities from scratch and making anything worthwhile takes time, sometimes more time than is imagined. I am happy to say that we are learning all the time and some of these learnings are astounding for example, the funeral benevolent fund was something that I had such a resistance to in the beginning. However, it is a great success and families love to be able to contribute where they can to help others. We are creating a model which reflects the culture of Tender as stated in our credo. It is our culture and it is being built by people with like minds and so many different skills.

Our continued focus is to facilitate the replication of the Tender Model around Australia. What we know is that it is possible to change the culture via one Tender funeral experience.

I want to thank and acknowledge SVA and Emily Adams who continues to support this project with her beautiful brilliance. We would not be where we are without her.

Thank you to Pam our Business manager who has been working with the communities and myself on the business model and makes huge difference all the time.

Thank you to Sam and Rivkah who have made an enormous difference in a very short amount of time and are both a pleasure to work alongside.

Thank you to TFI and Amy and Belinda Brooks working with TFA to get the manual done.

Thank you to the board for their continued support and ongoing commitment to changing the culture of funerals around the country, it is very life affirming and it's a privilege to work alongside of all the communities and their communities.

*This year has
seen exponential
growth and
development with
Tender Funerals
Australia*

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Photo Credits:
Mid North Coast
Tender Funerals



OCP Community Development Statement

Although Covid had a big impact on most of last year the OCP community development function worked to support new projects, build on its own projects, and contributed to overall organisational development. A lot of work was done across these areas, and we saw some great momentum and a reflection of this hard work in the annual winter event.

Department of Communities and Justice

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

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

We have progressed our contractual requirements with DJC which ensure the security of our initial 3-year contract. We have developed a program logic and we are finally set-up and reporting in the data exchange.

DCJ Social Sector Transformation Fund

This year OCP was eligible for a direct grant payment from the \$50 million Social Sector Transformation Fund (SSTF). Due to the size of our organisation, we received a \$40 000.00 grant. The SSTF provides grants to small and medium-sized charities and not-for-profits working in health and social service to help them modernise their operations.

The SSTF supports organisations on capacity building, better digital service delivery, remote working capabilities and improving business strategies.

We were also able to apply for a grant through the open application process. We were successful in our application for \$50 000.00 which will go towards organisational capacity building and online engagement.

The SSTF grants help organisations invest in their operations, fostering innovation to ensure they remain efficient, effective, and viable into the future.

Annual Christmas Feast

Sadly, due to Covid OCP decided not to proceed with the Annual Christmas Feast. The nature of the event would have made it difficult to comply with the Covid requirements at that time.

Port Grocer

The Port Grocer was a big focus for community development.

Support provided to the grocer included:

- Volunteer Recruitment and Management
- Staff Recruitment
- Participating on the Management Team
- Facilitating strategic planning
- Facilitating complying development certificates
- Supporting the closure process

Hall Refurbishment and Clean Up Day

The refurbishment of our hall commenced this year. The upgrade includes a new bigger kitchen and a whole lot more storage. To get ready for the refurbishment we held a big community clean up and clean out. The men's group, the sewing groups, the baking group and OCP staff came together and emptied every cupboard and sorted out all the items in the hall. We got rid of a lot of old stuff and packed up the good stuff up to be stored until the hall re-opens. The hall should be set to re-open in September 2020.

Southern Suburbs Taskforce

The Southern Suburbs Taskforce finally re-grouped early 2020 after not meeting for most of 2019 due to Covid. The group had been planning to develop some strategic actions around community concerns that could provide a focus for the Southern Suburbs activities.

Early this year the group decided and agreed to make their focus domestic violence as it is an issue that effects everybody and everything. As a starting point we sought to gain a better understanding of the picture of domestic violence and the way it presents in the southern suburbs. We initially hosted Michelle Glasgow and Catherine Limon from the Illawarra Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service [IWDVCAS]. They shared information about their service and data, as well as highlighting some of the bigger issues that play out in addressing and preventing violence against women. Next, we hosted Sergeant Paul Brody from the Lake Illawarra Local Area Command who gave us a comprehensive overview of the updates and changes that have been made to police response to domestic violence.

Although we hadn't got to the point of developing any of our own actions regarding domestic violence it became apparent that having these conversations and gaining an awareness of what services are doing what about domestic violence are extremely important. The group will reconvene and refocus once the current Covid restrictions are lifted.

Winter Event



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Our joyful winter lantern parade was held for the second time this year. With a welcome to country, magical lanterns, music, stories, minestrone, hot chocolate, community & friends and so much more it was such a success.

This year we continued to work with the Kind Art Ed and the Port Kembla Primary school so the students could all make lanterns to bring on the day. We also invited our friends at Coomaditchie to become involved in this year's event and we held several workshops at the Coomaditchie Hall.

We took a chance and changed up the lantern parade route and the way we run the event. We started at the beautiful Coomaditchie Lagoon where we had a Welcome to Country, performers, food, and storytelling. Then the lantern parade made its way from Coomaditchie Lagoon along the Ngaraba-aan walking track to King George Oval where we had stilt walkers, performers hot chocolate, biscuits, and heaters.

We engaged and worked with several people and groups to pull off this event and some of the people we would like to thank are:

- Uncle G for the Welcome to Country
- Gerardo Montoya for performing at Coomaditchie
- Matilda & friends for the music at King George
- Honora Jenkins the amazing MC and lantern inspirer
- Sharon Purcell for holding down at King George and the community lantern making
- Uncle Gee & Lillian Rodrigues-Pang for stories
- The Port Kembla Primary P&C for the BBQ and soup
- Matt the drummer who helped Honora lead the parade
- Geoff from the Men's group for handling logistics on the day
- Circus Wow and the amazing stilt walking performers

With community & friends and so much more, it was such a success.



Street Trees and Urban Greening

Our community greening efforts continued this year in partnership with the local community and Wollongong City Council. This was mainly achieved through the Communities Environment Project with a focus at King George oval. Three large areas were planted and a planting day with the Port Kembla Primary School students, Wollongong City Council and local contractors was held in March 2021 for one of the sections. The project was also able to lend support to the Coomaditchie Ngaramura project by providing them with some funding for PPE for the students and purchasing some plants for the restoration work they will be doing at Coomaditchie Lagoon.

We finished and acquitted our grant funded community tree planting project and would like to acknowledge the contributions of everyone involved. This grant funded project was initiated by Adam PK and delivered with the support of Jess Whittaker and Adrienne Talbot-Thomson.

Over 60 volunteers helped put plants in the ground and the majority of those were students from Port Kembla Primary School. Plants were funded by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, while Wollongong City Council generously donated toward site preparation, planting, and watering. The project led to valuable new connections between individuals and community groups as well as the creation of the new Perkins Beach Dune Care group.

Thank you for your contributions: Adam PK, Jess Whittaker, Perkins Beach Dune care, King George Bushcare, Transition Town Port Kembla, Wollongong City Council, Department of Industry Science Energy and Resources, Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation, Illawarra District Weeds Authority, Port Kembla Primary School, Elemental Permaculture Bushcare.



*Over 60 volunteers helped
put plants in the ground.*



Wonderwalls and Mural Lighting

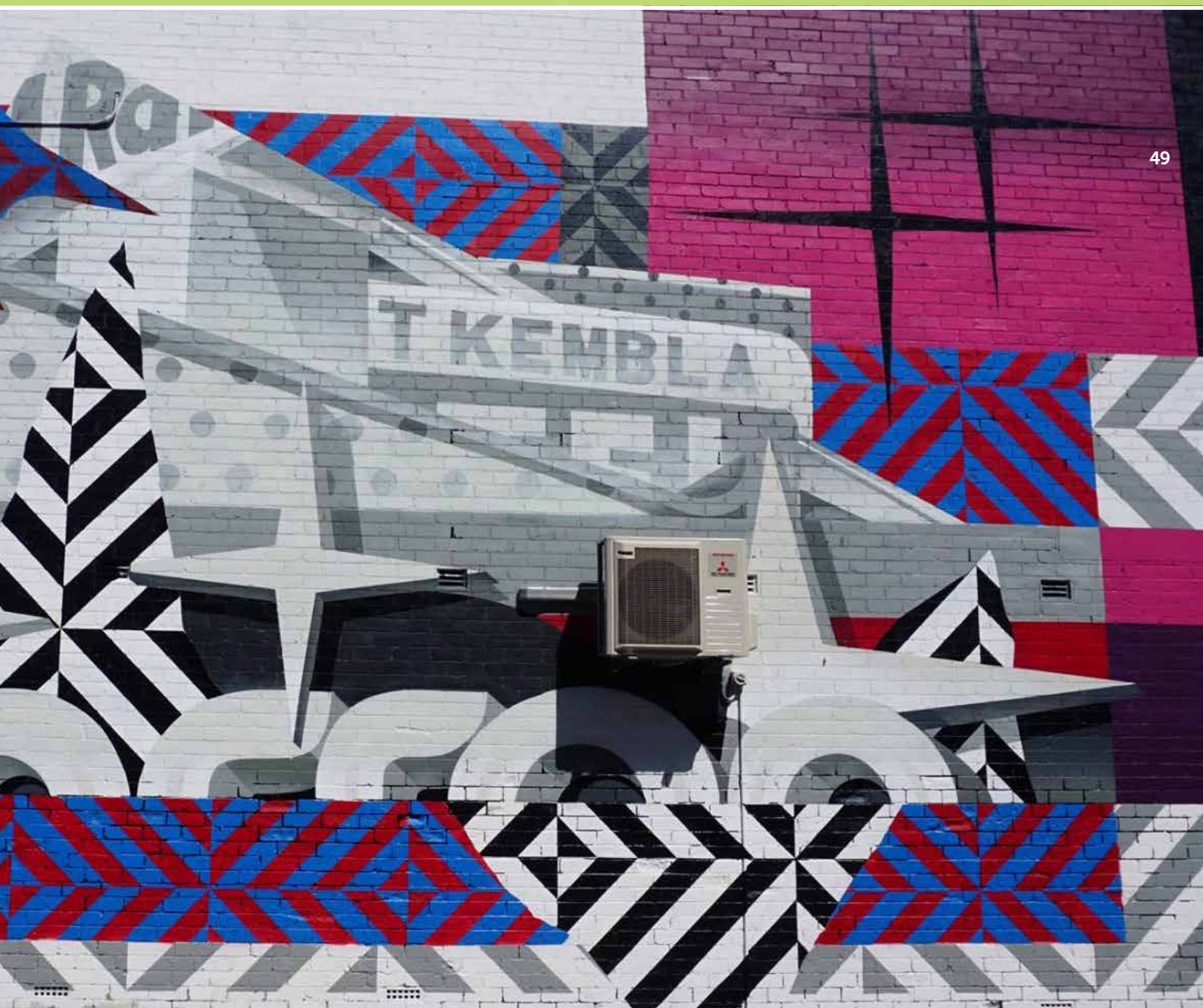
After the great success of Wonderwalls in 2019 Our Community Project is so excited that Beyond Empathy will be auspicing the next instalment of Wonderwalls through funding from the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund and will be delivering the project in partnership with Verb Syndicate.

Big congratulations to Beyond Empathy and verb Syndicate for the continuation of this highly valuable project.

OCP worked with Endeavour Energy to audit the murals in Port Kembla and determine which murals were suitably located to increase their ambient lighting. Endeavour have been lighting up a number of the murals including one this community favourite.



Big congratulations to Beyond Empathy and verb Syndicate for the continuation of this highly valuable project.



Verge Garden

Wollongong City Council chose our community centre as the site of a demonstration verge garden. Wollongong City Council undertook the design and construction of the garden. The purpose is to encourage residents to plant their own verge gardens.



The purpose is to encourage residents to plant their own verge gardens.





Student Placement Reports

University of Wollongong Social Work Student Placement

Every year our community development sections hosts student placements. This year we had Ebygail Aurellia who spent the duration of her placement (the later part of 2020) at the Port Grocer. And then we had Hannah Rochester who spent her time at the Grocer and OCP.

Our Community Project works closely with the UOW to ensure the right fit between the placements and our organisation. We like to ensure that our students have the capacity to take on tasks and projects, so they get as much out of the experience as we do.

OCP Student Placement Statement



Hannah Rochester
January – July 2021

My placement at Our Community Project (OCP) helped me understand this field of work and how to operate within it. I was given a broad range of opportunities to learn, observe, grow and contribute. I was given good instruction, guidance and help so I knew what to do and how to do it. I gained both a broad and in depth exposure to OCP and its programs and initiatives.

From placement I learnt about how organisations and workplaces function. I gained awareness about what challenges/pressures are present in this field of work, e.g. funding. I observed that being flexible, responsive, proactive and adaptive were qualities staff members utilised to accomplish their individual roles and work effectively as a team.

I learnt a range of practical skills at the Grocer, e.g. rostering, retail practices, admin, managing volunteers, time management. I was given opportunity to practice, develop and share the skills and knowledge I have gained from my degree.

It was really helpful to be able to shadow Adrienne in her role. This gave me opportunity to see what the community development field is like, what qualities/skills are an asset to the role, and what the day to day tasks involve. I enjoyed helping organise the Lantern Parade, networking, and being part of the community event.

I valued that staff shared their expertise with me, gave me helpful feedback and encouragement. Having an equal mix of observing and doing tasks helped me grow in confidence. I was trusted and given autonomy to carry out tasks, be proactive and contribute to the daily activities. I was given responsibilities equal to my level of expertise and ability. The staff allowed me to work to my interests and explore new tasks, while also giving opportunity for me to go outside my comfort zone and try things a little more challenging. As a placement student the staff and volunteers made me feel like a valued and equal member of the team. I was well supported throughout my placement.

Tender Student Placement Statement



Pepper-lily Baumgaertner
May 2021 – September 2021

Coming to the end of my placement at Tender, I am leaving with the highest regard for the funeral home, the staff and the volunteers that enter the building each day. The past six months have expanded my understanding surrounding death and dying dramatically. I feel extraordinarily privileged to have become so comfortable facilitating conversations about what comes before, during, and after death.

During this time, I have worked in the mortuary, in the office learning everything from how to care for a deceased individual with dignity, to ensure that their life and their families feel cared for and respected. Having Nadine, as my supervisor has been helpful in a plethora of ways, she has been a fantastic teacher, offering significant insight into how to work with families in a calm and collected manner that leaves them feeling supported but empowered as well. Furthermore, how to meet the needs and wants of families, with the health requirements, and one's own personal capacity.

Moving forward with my degree I feel significantly more prepared to go into social work and I would implore anybody curious about conversations around death to volunteer, or stay in touch with Tender as they grow.

Business and Financials Report



Pam Thorton
Business Manager
Our Community Project

During the financial year ended 30 June 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected, amongst other things, economic conditions, employment markets, equity markets, governmental action, regulatory policy, quarantining, self-isolations and travel restrictions. Whilst the pandemic has not impacted the Our Community Project (OCP) financial position significantly, like many other organisations it did have an effect on availability of our volunteer workforce and impacted our delivery of core objectives to activate our community. OCP did receive welcome assistance from both State and Federal Government offered under the various stimulus packages made available to not for profit and for-profit organisations.

OCP handled this rare impact; in particular the loss of Hall activation, the pivot to digital for the Jam n Bread program including an international link, volunteer absence for Tender Funerals bringing increased staffing cost and NILS successfully moving to remote client meetings.

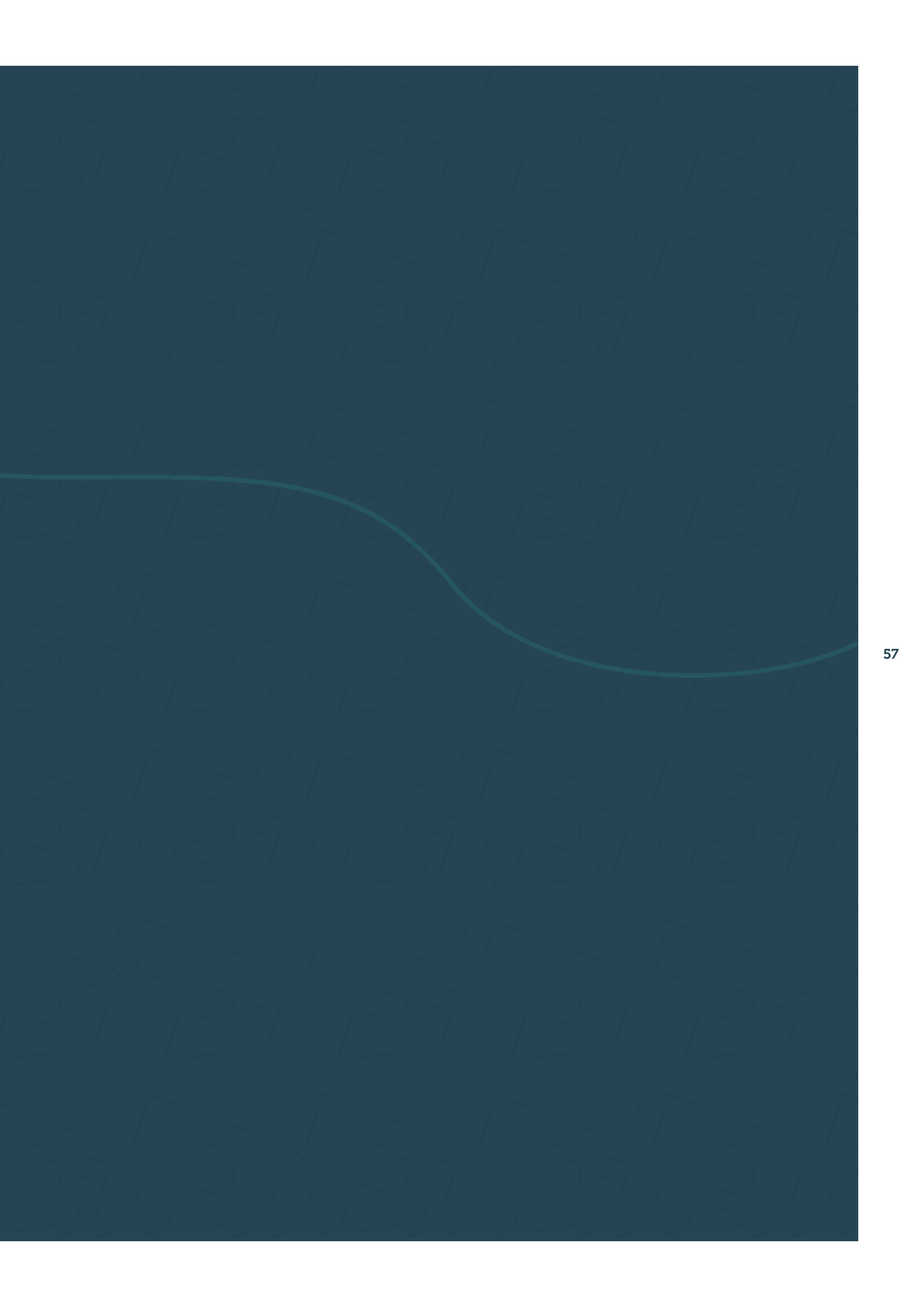
This financial year 2020/21 OCP continued with turnover for the 12 months being \$2.7 million, including with continued growth, Tender Funerals revenue of \$1.2 million delivering 278 funerals to the community and Partnerships of \$509,221 associated with Tender Funerals Australia.

Port Grocer was both a challenge and an inspiration throughout the entire Covid experience. The lack of working capital was more than matched by the generosity of community volunteers and the small core staff who endeavoured to keep this 7 day retail operation going for 10 months prior to closure at the end of April 2021. The creation of the grocer that was has become a cherished memory for all of the OCP team.

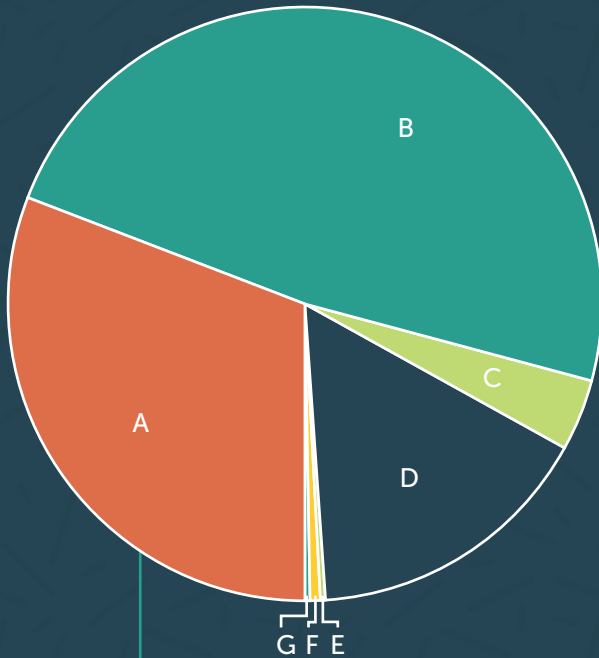
2021-22 continues with operational funding in place, including new project funding for NILS, Jam n Bread, Community Engagement and the Tender Funerals building extension. As well we look forward to the re-opening of the Community Hall in December 2021 providing new opportunities to enhance community recreation, learning and well-being.

With these objectives in place and the contribution of the team working together delivery of annual activities and reporting remains a time challenged consideration while OCP management and administration continues to shape efficient systems, policies & procedures.

I am extremely thankful to be able to work alongside the dedicated OCP staff and in particular the direction provided by our General Manager, Jenny Briscoe-Hough and the close support and diligent working relationship with my Finance Coordinator, Sri Pazstor.



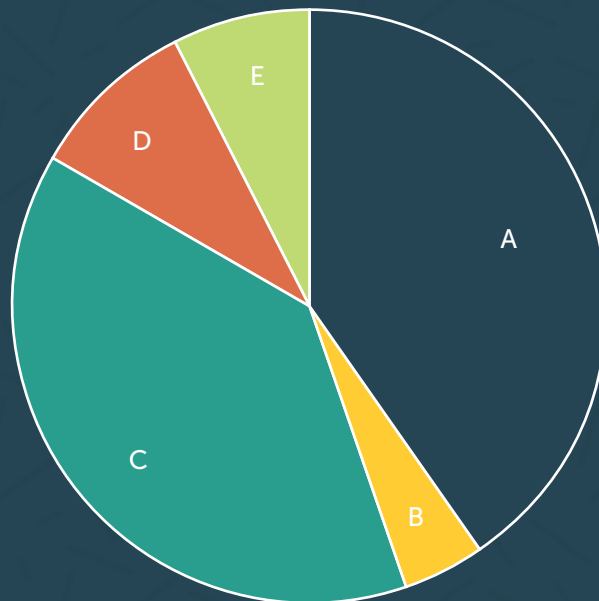
Revenue Source



**OCP Revenue Source
FY 2020-21**

A	Grants (see below)	30.9%
B	Funeral Services	48.5%
C	Donations	3.9%
D	Outsourcing Fees	15.6%
E	Rent	0.4%
F	Interest	0.5%
G	Miscellaneous Income	0.2%

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OCP Grants FY 2020-21

A	Funding NSW	41%
B	Funding Local	4%
C	Philanthropic Funding	39%
D	Federal Funding	9%
E	Federal Funding COVID	7%

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

Statement of Financial Position

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE, 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash		895,490	624,970
Receivables-trade debtors		<u>19,280</u>	<u>14,932</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>914,770</u>	<u>639,902</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	2	<u>549,826</u>	<u>600,289</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>549,826</u>	<u>600,289</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,464,596</u>	<u>1,240,191</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade creditors		191,280	166,159
Loan from Social Enterprise Finance Australia Ltd		27,000	27,000
Provision for employee entitlements		76,860	51,510
Provision for unexpended grants		338,326	398,426
Grants received in advance		<u>107,937</u>	<u>28,135</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>741,403</u>	<u>671,230</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Loan from Social Enterprise Finance Australia Ltd		120,079	170,804
Provision for employee entitlements		<u>60,350</u>	<u>48,535</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>180,429</u>	<u>219,339</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>921,832</u>	<u>890,569</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>542,764</u>	<u>349,622</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		<u>542,764</u>	<u>349,622</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>542,764</u>	<u>349,622</u>

The above statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Statement of Financial Position

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grants - government	431,360	298,171
Interest	397	1,794
Other	<u>2,285,054</u>	<u>1,109,045</u>
	<u>2,716,811</u>	<u>1,409,010</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Audit	6,400	3,900
Depreciation	50,463	13,581
Salaries and on-costs	1,015,789	627,173
Other	<u>1,451,017</u>	<u>764,356</u>
	<u>2,523,669</u>	<u>1,409,010</u>
Profit for the year	193,142	-

The above statement of comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report

Statement of Financial Position

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECT
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Cashflows from operating activities		
Grants - government	428,783	403,799
Interest	397	1,794
Other	2,283,283	1,311,480
Payments to suppliers	<u>(2,391,218)</u>	<u>(1,414,443)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>321,245</u>	<u>302,630</u>
Cashflows from investing activities		
Purchase of equipment	=	<u>(47,887)</u>
Net cash used by investing activities	=	<u>(47,887)</u>
Cashflows from financing activities		
Increase/(repay) borrowings	<u>(50,725)</u>	<u>(50,611)</u>
Net cash used by financing activities	<u>(50,725)</u>	<u>(50,611)</u>
Net increase in cash held	270,520	204,132
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	<u>624,970</u>	<u>420,838</u>
Cash at the end of the financial year	<u>895,490</u>	<u>624,970</u>
Reconciliation of Net cash provided by operating activities to Profit for the year		
Profit for the year	193,142	-
Depreciation	50,463	13,581
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(4,348)	27,215
Increase in payables	25,121	58,973
Increase/(decrease) in provision for employee entitlements	37,165	(19,957)
(Decrease)/increase in provision for unexpended grants	(60,100)	279,047
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	<u>79,802</u>	<u>(56,229)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>321,245</u>	<u>302,630</u>

The above statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes



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