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MILANG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

President	Mr Mike Linscott
Secretary	Mrs Carole Linscott
Vice President	Ms Pamela Francis
Treasurer	Mrs Susan Loveday
Committee Members:	Ms June Dolling, Mr Alwyn Hopgood, Ms Judy Hutson-Smith, Mr Gerry Thompson, Ms Katherine Stanley Murray.

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THANKS

We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people on whose land we meet and we pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

Ngarrindjeri Vision for Country

Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan (Listen to what Ngarrindjeri people have to say)

“Our Lands, Our Waters, Our People, All Living Things are connected. We implore people to respect our Ruwe (Country) as it was created in the Kaldowinyeri (the Creation). We long for sparkling, clean waters, healthy land and people and all living things. We long for the Yarlular-Ruwe (Sea Country) of our ancestors. Our vision is all people Caring, Sharing, Knowing and Respecting the lands, the waters and all living things.” - *From Ngarrindjeri Nation Yarlular-ruwe plan 2006*

The Milang and District Community Association Inc. is only here today thanks to the skills, talents, and generous financial support of our volunteers, our corporate partners, community groups and clubs, local councils and government.

It is an honour to work together with you all to strengthen individuals, our communities and our precious environment.

ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL

EASTERN FLEURIEU SCHOOL

GOOLWA AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES & SOCIAL INCLUSION

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COORONG COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

MILANG POST OFFICE

STRATH NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC

GOOLWA TO WELLINGTON LOCAL ACTION PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC

COORONG COUNCIL



Yunti Ngopun Ngami ; Together We Walk
Art Work by Allan Sumner

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY CENTRES SA

COMMUNITY BENEFIT SA

STRATHALBYN COMMUNITY SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COUNTRY LIFE COMPASSION

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL

CLASS

MILANG COMMUNITY PHARMACY

DEPARTMENT OF WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HIGHLIGHTS

Our EO
Commended for
Women Hold Up
Half the Sky
Australia Day
Award



276

Adult Learners



36230

Kilometres of
community
transport provided



79

Local people
employed in casual
and permanent jobs



109

Active volunteers
working to make our
place better for all



187

People supported
by Growing Life
Connections



50+30

Adults and children
connecting through
weekly Friday Feasts

7979
Volunteer hours



65000
Native Plants
grown in the
Shoreline Nursery



CONGRATULATIONS
ALEX STONE
Seniors Card
Community
Individual Award



120
Older people
supported to remain
in their own homes



12
Families supported
by quality childcare
through crèche



40
Through Shoreline
Community Social
Enterprise



540
People receive the
Lakes Hub Bulletin



250
Come through the
Old School House
doors each week

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again we have faced a challenging year with a variety of issues to be dealt with. The Milang Old School House Community Centre continues to thrive thanks to an energetic and enthusiastic staff and the many volunteers who support all the programs that we offer to the community. The list seems to be endless but you must remember that each one of these programs, whether it is the HACC or running the crèche, requires a great deal of work to set up, run and provide training and to monitor the programs viability.



All the programs we offer are funded outside the community and we get a great deal of support from the Commonwealth Government, State Government, and Alexandrina Council. The funding we receive takes the pressure off the community and allows us to expand our services. What we offer is the envy of many communities and we get a number of enquiries and visits from people who simply want to know how we do it all.

The year was marked by the committee's negotiations with Bob Sim who is the owner of the Butter Factory. Bob advised us that he wanted to sell the house and factory and would like the community to own it. We agreed that it would be a wonderful opportunity to acquire a community asset but, on investigation we were confronted with a number of issues which commenced with a need to have an Environmental Impact study carried out by a consultant as there is an old fuel tank underground in the front of the main building. The Consultant would prepare a report to be submitted to the Environmental Protection Board. This proved to be a very expensive exercise and Mr Sim was not prepared to proceed. The main building is also listed under the Heritage Act and therefore any work on it must comply with the regulations under that Act. Estimates made on the anticipated costs were in the region of \$1 million.

The negotiations have been on going but at this stage Mr Sim has withdrawn from talks and we are waiting to see whether he will reconsider the offers we have made.

We all hope that he is successful in finding a suitable buyer who will restore the building to its former glory.

We are working towards the end of the funding that has supported the community Nurseries and the Hub's information centres at Milang and Meningie. It has been a very worthwhile program and has been instrumental in providing training and work for a great many people. By this time next year we will be on our own as the funding has come to an end. We have worked to set up our own community business "Shoreline Community." This is an independently run community project which will specialise in Nursery plant propagation and environmental projects and garden maintenance. I am pleased to say that this year it has shown a very worthwhile profit. We believe that with support from the community this business will have a prosperous future. All profits will come back to the Milang and District community.

The year was also marked by the moving ceremony in the Park celebrating Anzac Day, it was very well attended and it was wonderful to see children from the school there. Funding has been received from Veterans Affairs to have the WW1 Memorial repaired and the names on the facing repaired. This should happen with the next few weeks. I would like to thank Pamela Francis and her committee for all the work they did to make this a special occasion.

We continually work with the Council and it is great to see some work being completed around the town. The kerbing along Daranda Terrace is a big improvement, we just want more of it.

The Vision Milang continues to meet and have an input into the town and its surrounds. Quite often it is just a small group but from time to time we get interest groups who come along to have their say. The most outstanding those this year were representatives from the Chillaxin youth group. We had a delegation of young people who came to put a case for a Skate Park. It was well presented and underlined the need for more youth orientated activity areas around the township. We have submitted their proposal to the Council to be included in the foreshore plan.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of Milang & District Community Association, whether you are employed or are a volunteer, you have all put a great deal into our success as a community organisation. Thank you very much.

I would lastly like to thank Karyn Bradford and Stuart Jones for their support and dedication to their duties and wonderful initiatives.

Mike Linscott

President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

When I was a child, a year was an interminable wait, first for my birthday, and then Christmas. The days were long, the weeks longer, and the end of the year was almost impossible to visualise. How things have changed! When I sat down to write this report, I read last year's July minutes, and I thought I'd got my dates wrong, because the events recorded there only happened yesterday!

But no, the date was correct, and yet another year has flashed by — I'm sure many of you will know the feeling.

Last year the water towers were down, and we were discussing how to gather a suitable amount of memorabilia to use as a commemoration of the iconic old towers. We were having discussions about possibly getting a retirement facility built, and the initiative to use the old butter factory in such a way as to acknowledge its unique history. These are all still being worked through.

The Milang sign near the railway station was being redesigned, the little Corellas were giving us strife, and someone had rolled over the "cliff" near the railway station, so we were finding ways to address the hazard for parking cars.



As we progressed through the year, issues came and went. The stairs were finally finished in the Institute, and we can once again safely use the balcony. Ever aware that the lake is potentially a killer, we entered an agreement with Victor Harbor Sea Rescue, and three volunteers have been trained to assist in rescues on the lake, as first responders, until the other emergency services arrive.

We saw the proposed Foreshore Development Plan, which includes various activities on the Common, walking trails leading through Milang to the shack area, and a marina for small boats to safely moor off the reedy island which is already used informally by Yachties. We made a number of suggestions, and now await Council to finalise the draft plans, approve the development, and then we can divide it into small projects, attract funding, and get to work. The Chillaxin' group asked to have a skate park included in the design, and this is being explored.

We have formed connections with a number of community groups, and we exchange minutes and other information from time to time. Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day were well attended, and we have added two veterans to our working party, headed by Pamela Francis, so these two important occasions will continue to be honoured.

To our great surprise, we won an award that we hadn't even entered! Milang Soldiers Memorial Gardens received a Judges Discretionary Award for its ongoing development and improvement. Apparently the judging panel visit Milang every year to judge what used to be the Tidy Town Award, and have noticed the Gardens, and so even though it was not a formal entry, it gained this recognition!

MOSHCC continues to thrive, and is negotiating to continue supplying care packages to eligible clients. We have had signs erected to ensure that disabled or elderly people can be dropped off close to the facility. Our volunteer pool continues to be above 100, and they are all needed, for we have many projects that require volunteer input.

Shoreline Community, the Lakes Hubs, the Institute, and Vision Milang are all going well. We made a successful bid to have the funding for the Hubs co-ordinators extended to end at the same time as the Hubs Funding in 2016, which allow us to employ some local people for longer, and ensures a smoother transition when the end comes.

We are negotiating with the Work for the Dole Scheme to receive accreditation to employ people. If successful, it will ensure more work for local people, and will get some much-needed repair work done around the district. CFS is running a "Fiery Women" course which teaches women skills and strategies to manage when a bushfire threatens their homes.

This will be my last Secretary's Report for MDCA, as I am relinquishing the position as of the AGM. I would like to express my gratitude for the privilege of doing this work for the past few years. Thanks to committee members past and present, Alexandrina Council staff and members, and especially Clr Katherine Stanley-Murray, Karyn Bradford and my lovely husband Mike for their support and encouragement.

I know that the organisation will go from strength to strength in the future, as long as there are people of integrity and goodwill, such as we have worked with in the past, and who are going to come into our lives at some time in the future.

Carole Linscott

Secretary

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

John F Kenedy said *“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”* This year has been one of coming to grips with large government structural changes that will affect a number of the programs and activities of the Centre.



The Home and Community Care Program is transitioning to the Commonwealth Home Support Program on the 1st July 2015. The new program benefits frail older people and carers through a centralised, streamlined access to entry-level support services through My Aged Care and an increased focus on supporting wellness and reablement. Staff have been working to ensure that the transition is a smooth one for our clients and that information has been shared broadly about the changes.

We have undertaken two streams of Foundation Skills Adult Community Education over the year, accredited and non-accredited. The accredited program has proved challenging to deliver with the constraints imposed by the Government that impacted our ability to be flexible and responsive to the communities learning needs. We decided to discontinue Foundation Skills accredited training for the next year. We will be keeping an eye out to see what full training courses might be available such as the Certificate III in Community Services Work provided in conjunction with TAFE SA this year. We will however continue to provide exciting and innovative non-accredited programs including those that improve the community's knowledge of Information technology, health and well-being, creativity, innovation and culture.

The Lakes Hub has also been working on a transition plan as the Coorong Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Program will end in June 2016. There is no doubt of the value that this program has brought to this region environmentally and economically. This program enabled us to develop the Shoreline Community social enterprise which has this year provided employment to 40 people and made a profit of \$106,000 which is returned to the community through employment and environmental projects.

We continue to build and strengthen our networks across the region and the Growing Life Connections Program has assisted in this area. This program, which empowers local communities to support local people who are at risk or vulnerable, has worked across the district including Strathalbyn, Langhorne Creek, Milang, Finniss and Clayton Bay, supporting 187 people to get the help they need. Excitingly we have secured a further 3 years of funding for this program through the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion.

MDCA is committed to providing a safe working environment for all our workers, volunteers and visitors and so this year a key undertaking has been to upgrade all of our Work Health and Safety and procedures and policies. For this task we have had the support of Al Murray, a volunteer

from Corporates for Communities, who has been working with our Administration Assistant Shannon Granger.

This organisation can not achieve all that it does without the support of wonderful volunteers and dedicated staff. They are a team that I am privileged to work with, bringing a great deal into my life and the life of the community. Thank you so much.

I look forward to another exciting year and prepare myself to embrace change.

Karyn Bradford

MILANG OLD SCHOOL HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

In August of 2014 I began my new role as Manager of the Milang Old School House Community Centre, taking up the co-ordinator position from Karyn Bradford.

This change came just as I was about to reach ten years working in various positions within Milang & District Community Association, and gave me an opportunity to focus my efforts and support all the programs running through MOSHCC.

This year has been one of uncertainty around some of the Programs running at MOSHCC, from the changes to Home and Community Care to the new Commonwealth Home Support Program, our decision not to run an accredited ACE program in 2015-16 and the changes to childcare announced in the federal budget affecting the future of the crèche service.



QUICK STATS

463 likes on Facebook

40 followers on Twitter

4063 visits to
moshcc.com.au

110 Volunteer Hours per
week on average

Each of these brings with it its own set of challenges particularly as we learn how new funding models will be applied, look at sustainability and staying relevant to the needs of the community all while providing continuity and quality of service. Our work is cut out for us for 2015-16!

I would like to thank our dedicated team of Staff and Volunteers without whom we could not do all that we do!

Stuart Jones

Manager, Milang Old School House Community Centre

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

FOUNDATION SKILLS ACCREDITED

Learning opportunities that have been offered as part of the Foundation Skills accredited project have enabled us to deliver a broad range of courses to encourage participation in lifelong learning. The courses have been linked to a unit from the Certificate I Education and Skills Development and have provided participants with pathways to work and volunteering opportunities and valuable connections to the broader community.

Attendance at our courses has been from people throughout the district including Milang, Clayton Bay, Finnis, Langhorne Creek, Strathalbyn, Goolwa and Victor Harbor.

We have delivered a wide diversity of courses including Creative Writing, Get that Job, Wood Oven Building, Work Essentials, Building Bat Boxes, Recycle into Art, Revegetation Prepare to Plant, Excel, Feeling the Pinch, Blogging, iPads, Sort Your Photos, Word the Next Step, Facebook, Set for Success, Working in the Community, Your Computer Get Sorted. Some of these courses ran more than once and in more than place.

We continue to build connections with the local community and have used resources such as the Lakeside Men's Shed, Shoreline Community Nursery and Growing Life Connections.

Whilst Foundation Skills accredited has provided many opportunities, changes to the direction of the funding criteria have meant that for the 15-16 financial year we are no longer offering courses in this area.

FOUNDATION SKILLS NON ACCREDITED

The Centre recognizes the value of non-accredited learning opportunities through a wide range of activities that enable participants to transition through to accredited studies, employment, and most importantly a passion for life-long learning.

The non-accredited training program provides opportunities for those in the community who may be looking to learn new skills as a pathway to further education, employment, volunteering or to pursue a topic for personal interest or self-development.

The benefits of the non-accredited program are in the support of learners not ready for assessment in accredited programs, and for those participating in programs designed to support community members in making their first step into learning at the Community Centre.

QUICK STATS

1942 hours of training were delivered

4 people became volunteers

11 people became employed

There were 105 course participants

The 2013/14 project included the following subject areas:

HEALTH & WELLBEING Which aims to assist people to adopt healthy recreational activities that are suitable and achievable.

Activity examples: Keep Fit, Stepping On, Zumba, Yoga

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION & CULTURE

Which provides experiences in a range of social, recreational & educational programs, to assist people to gain knowledge of the concept of community and the value of friends, and provide social support for those who are isolated. (In partnership with HACC programs)

Activities: Wow – Women’s Group, Sticky Beak – Men’s Group - Lakeliners’ Writers Group

COMPUTING A-Z

The Computing A-Z program supports 1 to 1 learning with a tutor and support within a class where there are both accredited and non-accredited learners. In classes, students are able to benefit from other students who can assist less confident learners to progress.

Numbers in non-accredited computing were low this year as we offered more accredited computing programs, and other one-to-one learners were supported by the “Broadband for Seniors” program.

QUICK STATS 2015

159 Total Enrolments

Enrolments

- 9 attended Computing 1 to 1 as ACE participants
- 54 attended Health & Wellbeing Classes
- 22 attended Creativity, Innovation and Culture Courses



CERTIFICATE III COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK

12 students, from Milang, Strathalbyn, Goolwa, Pt Sturt and Ashbourne have gained their Certificate III Community Services Work.

This TAFE accredited course offered weekly workshops and study circles over a 6 month period at the Milang Old School House Community Centre, which supported participants to develop their knowledge and skills for work in the community sector. The course built on participant's prior knowledge, valuing their previous work and life experiences. They were involved in workshop discussions, scenarios, completed written tasks as well as using online learning. They have also had the opportunity to engage with people from the community services sector including Growing Life Connections and Milang Home and Community Care.

Our continuing strong relationship with TAFE has enabled this accredited course to be delivered in our supportive community setting. The funding for this training came through Small Regional Communities Vocational Education Training.

Quick Stats

Funding through Small Regional Communities VET

12 Certificate III Community Services Work certificates achieved

Program Coordinator



CHILLAXIN' YOUTH GROUP

Milang youth group, (Chillaxin) have been meeting one or twice per month, usually on fortnightly Friday nights, and sometimes in the School holidays.

They have been meeting up and going on regular outings to fun and new places, and sometimes just 'hanging out', for catch ups at their home headquarters at the MOSHCC Ace Space.



There are currently about 20 members, and on average about 10 members attend on any one evening. The group currently consists of mostly boys, all of high school age, and have enjoyed doing activities, and have formed great friendships and trust with each other.

I am proud to accompany them to any public space, knowing that their manners and attitudes are most respectful.

Just recently, we welcomed Barbie Cakebread as a second Youth Worker, who is one of our parents and also happens to be a social worker with much experience with Young people and a passion for community. Barbie has been an energetic and positive support person to the group and Jo. To follow are some highlights from this past year of meeting up.



- The Opening of Strathalbyn skate Park.
- Ice Skating at the ICEARENA, Thebarton.
- Amusement Worx
- Wood Oven Pizza Making at MOSHCC
- Bounce
- Indoor Rock climbing Gym. Thebarton.
- Victor Harbor School holidays
- Tye Dying in the MOSHCC Shed
- West Beach Skate Park
- Strathalbyn Skate Event

The group is very excited to hear the possibility of a skate park being built at the Milang foreshore, and are keen to be involved any way possible.

The group is planning to fix and build more jumps at the Milang BMX track and are currently thinking of ways to improve it.

The group are keen to do some fundraising in the coming warmer months, and are looking at making and selling Pizza from the Old school house Pizza oven.



Jo Scott

Youth Worker, Milang Old School House Community Centre

CRECHE

The MOSHCC crèche operates on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30, during school term.

During Term 1 and 2 we also provided extra hours on Mondays for parents completing their Cert III in Community Services Work.

The number of children attending crèche this year has increased with some days reaching our maximum number of 10 children. The age group ranges from 6 months to 5 years.

The MOSHCC crèche provides an opportunity for children to engage in early learning activities in a community disadvantaged by a lack of public transport and access to childcare.

Children are provided with a daily program of activities that include:

- Craft work
- Outdoor play
- Social activities
- Music and movement
- Literacy and language through games, songs and toys

The children at crèche have really enjoyed tending the garden beds and learning about plants, growing your own food and flowers.

A complete re-vamp of the garden beds is scheduled for term 3. We have been limited with outside activities this term due to our long and hostile winter weather.

Quick Stats

Federal Funding from the Department of Social Services

\$31,450.30 for 2014/15

3 Mornings a week

12 Families

Average of 17-20 children per week

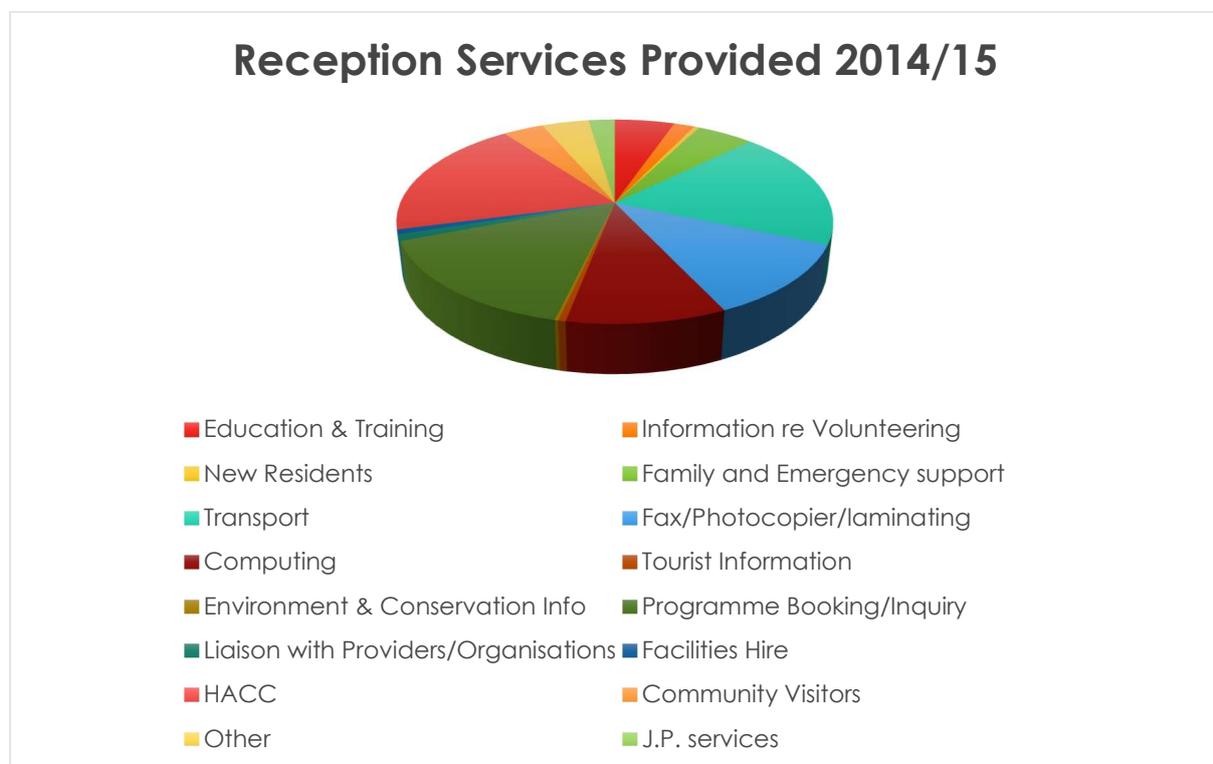
The Community Centre has been fortunate to have received a grant to establish a nature play area at the rear of the Old School House building. The crèche will be using this area to introduce a greater range of activities for the benefit of the children:

- Physical activities climbing, running, digging, building.
- Weaving
- Water play
- Social and environment

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

In the past year there have been 126 requests for emergency assistance. People have been supported with food, vouchers, fuel, payment of utilities account, housing and pharmacy expenses.

People have sought information on a diverse range of topics over the year and the receptionists and staff do an amazing job keeping their finger on the pulse and being able to set people in the right direction.

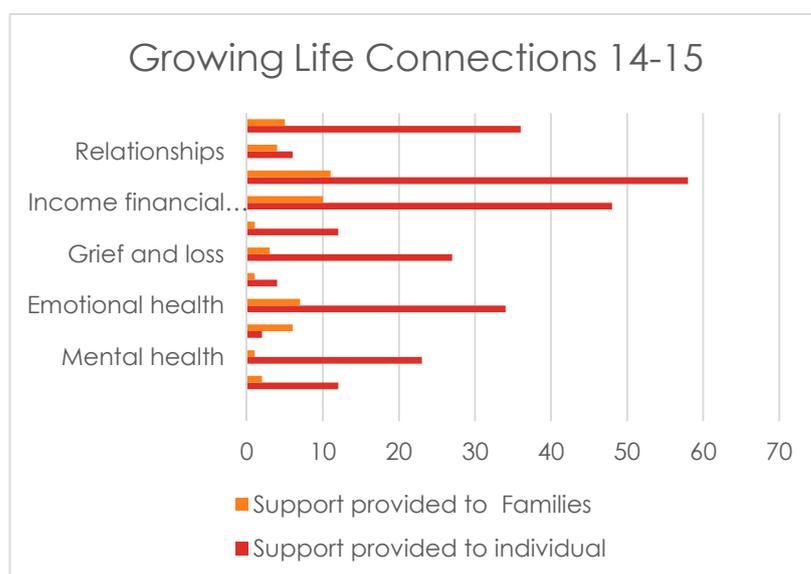


GROWING LIFE CONNECTIONS

Growing Life Connections supports individuals and families within the Strathalbyn Statistical Local Area who are socially isolated, are unemployed or underemployed, have poor mental health, lack resilience are disengaged from school and family. Funding for this program was received from the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion and is supported by seven community organisations, Strath Neighbourhood Centre, Langhorne Creek Old School, Clayton Bay Community Association, Strath Combined Churches, Strathalbyn Community Suicide Prevention Network, Country Life Compassion and MDCA. Alexandrina Council is also a supporter.

The project also recruits and trains community volunteers, to build capacity within the community to address social issues and disadvantage.

Through using a number of methods of engagement including one on one support, group work and social activities the project has successfully built capacity in several areas. An example is the participant's willingness to actively be involved in supporting health promotion and information to the region.



This was achieved by conducting healthy eating and healthy living group activities, information days and community forums that involved large scale consultation and feedback within the client group and the community at large.



Community Development Outcomes:

- Participants from across the region have built strong social relationships (perhaps best exemplified through the informal barbeques that the group holds).

- Participants have a sense of accomplishment through making decorations for their own use, for other community groups and for sale.
- Participants share skills and ideas with each other through informal peer support during group activities.

The GLC project has attempted to identify effects and emerging impacts of the different activities accomplished by the project qualitatively based on suggestions of the consortium, the stakeholder group and also own observations and understandings.

It is important to notice that with any new project there is a considerable amount of time that goes into recruitment and documents/tools. In saying this many of the activities in the beginning provided a forum for relationship building with the client group and promotion within the community.

One of the most significant areas that the project was successful in was to provide targeted support that in the past was limited or not available. GLC was able to facilitate individual counselling and support in combination with group programs which addressed areas such as mental health, drug and alcohol and family violence.

CLIENT FEEDBACK
“After attending the group for living with depression I now see a future outside the cloud, something that I have not experienced in many years”.

Clients of GLC have provided feedback that clearly indicates the satisfaction with the project and some participants have commenced volunteering within the project and within other services. Participants have also shown interest in going further education in the field such as mental health and

community services.

Participants also reported that the ongoing relationship with the service as part of the Project had enabled them to take on roles as peer educators/support and develop their own skills and confidence in this area. It was clear that the involvement of participants in the project will achieve both educational and community development outcomes over time.

A number of participants in the project reported that GLC worked very effectively to achieve practical outcomes for the community. Things like the coffee club activity days and the Strathalbyn food drive.

CLIENT FEEDBACK
“As a single dad living with a young daughter who is growing into a young lady, I find the men’s group great. Looking at fathering in a whole new light, THANKS!!”

CLIENT FEEDBACK
“I have been to a lot of meetings/groups where it’s all talk or someone has an idea but it goes nowhere. The worker at GLC always seemed to follow through. He makes things happen and connect people together to get

Another outcome of the project was the development of strong working relationships with local services such as Alexandrina Council.

GLC's partnership approach has enabled the external organizations to share experiences, and has enhanced the sense of positive participation among the members and the project.

The Project provides a credible and trusted local forum for bringing people together from various groups to address particular issues or engage in ongoing communication and collaboration.

CLIENT FEEDBACK

Participants were asked "What was the reason you decided to come to the Growing Life Connections program? And what did you hope to get out of it?"

Response Client 1

I had tried a few things in the past and they have all worked to some degree so I thought I would give this a go.

Depression has been a major part of my life for some years and at times find it very difficult to get on with the day.

When I first came to see the worker I didn't really know what to expect and was very nervous to share my story yet again with someone else.

The program helped me see what other services were available for me to go to and the worker supported me to get there.

I also attend the therapy groups run by the program this has never been here before this type of help.

I have been attending the men's group and the living with depression group and this has enabled me to move on with my life.

Meeting other who are dealing with very similar issues as me is a great help. As I said I went to other supports before and this is different. I now look forward to the groups and am seeing things very differently now.

I have become a community person not a self-person. I want to help others and show them that you are not alone.

I truly believe that my life is now so better than it was before, yes I still live with depression but I can now manage it. I have built up resilience and I am strong.

VOLUNTEERING

The new definition of volunteering as identified by Volunteering Australia is *'Volunteering' is time willingly given for the common good without financial gain'* and MDCA is fortunate to have the contributions of 109 volunteers who do just that! Our volunteers continue to play a vital role in the activities of the association and without their contribution of over 7979 hours in the last 12 months; many of our programs and activities would not be possible.

Our volunteers contribute across the organisation in the Lakes Hub, Community Nursery, Community Garden, Meals on Wheels, Milang Community News and at the MOSHCC in administration, reception, transport, maintenance, adult community education and Milang & District Community Care activities including Friday Feast and Driving.

The Volunteer Voice is being published quarterly and is now a valuable tool to distribute information. It has also enabled volunteers to become more aware of the different people and facets of the organisation.

Our quarterly volunteer get togethers have become a great way for volunteers to connect with each other with social activities and training opportunities. We have held a pizza evening with nominated Alexandrina councillors invited to meet our volunteers and morning teas with training including a session on 'Marketing' run by Stephen Simpson, Growing Life Connections. At our MDCA Christmas celebration we took the opportunity to publicly acknowledge those volunteers who have been with us for 5 and 10 years, with a framed certificate.

Work has been completed on the Work Health and Safety Risk Assessment document to ensure that the risks for volunteers in all areas of the organisation are identified and minimised to ensure a safe working environment.

The Biggest Morning tea was organised by a small group of our volunteers who took on extra tasks to organise a wonderful entertaining morning and raised in excess of \$700 for Cancer Council. They provided a wonderful entertaining morning for such a good cause. Well done.

Also, thank you to June Dolling for her work coordinating the Meals on Wheels program for many years and thank you to Pamela Francis for stepping up to take this role on.

A special mention for Alex Stone, who along with Bev publishes the Milang News each month. Alex was honoured with the Seniors Card Community Individual Award. He and Bev have produced over 150 editions of the news (along with volunteering in other areas of the community). Congratulations Alex.

QUICK STATS

109 active volunteers

23 new volunteers

Over 7979 hours
volunteered for the
organisation

25 volunteers recognised
for 5 years volunteer
service

11 volunteers recognised
for 10 years volunteer

It is an ongoing pleasure to be able to work with all of our volunteers who give so selflessly to the community. We are very privileged to have them as part of our organisation.

Volunteer Coordinator

Gae Thomas

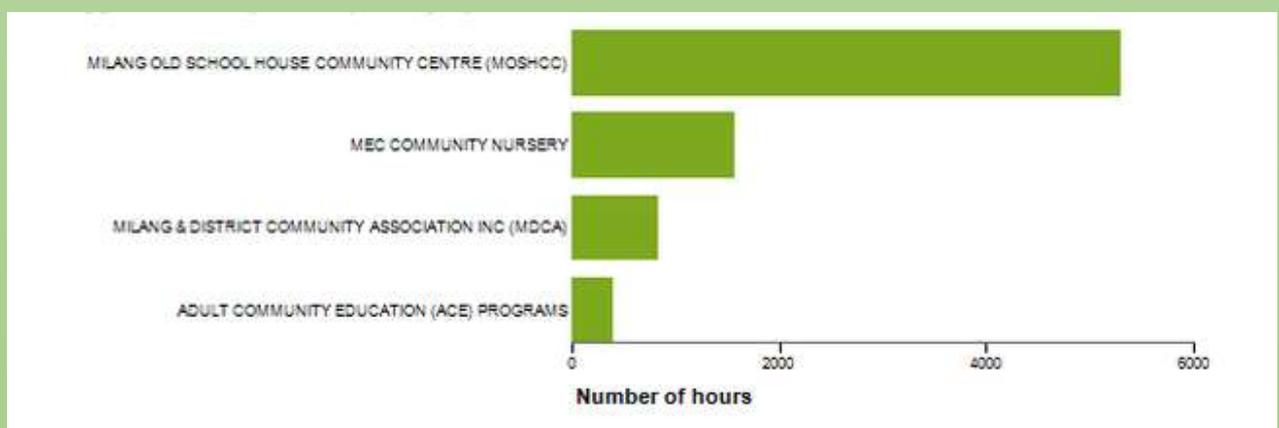
AVERAGE HOURS PER VOLUNTEER PER MONTH



NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS PER MONTH



NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS IN VARIOUS PROGRAMS FOR YEAR



MILANG & DISTRICTS COMMUNITY CARE

The Commonwealth HACC program provides funding for services which support frail older people and their carers, who live in the community and whose capacity for independent living is at risk, or who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long term residential care. Older people are people aged over 65 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People aged 50 years and over.

The Milang and District Community Care Program provides a broad range of HACC services enabling a limited degree of flexibility in meeting the needs of our older population within a limited funding allocation.

This last year has further consolidated our program with minimal staff turnover. The program is supported by 1 Coordinator-5FTE; 1 Admin support - .2FTE, 11 Support Workers- casual; 1 employed gardener- casual; 1 volunteer visitor; 4 contractors plus Shoreline coming on board as a Contractor. High level of client satisfaction continues.

Highlights

Transitioning from HACC to CHSP – Commonwealth Home Support Program.

Set up MDCA CHSP in the My Aged Care (MAC) Portal for promotion of our services to potential clients and the Call Centres, Regional Assessment Service – (RAS) and the Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT) and importantly for receipt of referrals for our services as this will become the only entry point to aged care services from 1st November 2015.

Attendance at regional meetings and watching Webinars to become familiar with the new Aged Care system.

The Consumer Advisory Group has continued to meet on a regular basis with some members of the MDCA members and an increasing number of clients attending. Topics of interest has continued to be the Aged Care Reform with guest speaker Judith Gooddin from the Positive Ageing Task Force presenting at one of the meetings. Meetings are followed by a light lunch which provides for informal feedback on services and social interaction between clients.

Friday Feast

Continues to be popular with an increase in attendances. A few Information sessions following lunch have been arranged and well attended.

Sticky Beaks

Monthly outings for men on the community bus continues to be popular with a few more men coming along and enjoying these trips.

Administrative Support

Admin support has been provided on a 1 day per week and recently increased to 2 days. Support includes data entry, filing, compiling info into the newsletter and mailouts. Reception volunteers

do a great job in provision of printing and similar admin tasks. One volunteer has distributed promotional fliers to selected outlets in Milang.

HACC Newsletter

Another highlight of 2014 is the preparation and mail out of the first HACC Newsletter to all clients in September 2014. These are prepared and sent to all clients 3 months with positive feedback.

TRACCS

The new TRACCS data base (replacing Maisy) was installed and 5 staff trained on how to use it. It is proving very useful though we still need to receive more training on the numerous reporting functions and MYOB compatibility.

Respite Care:

A brokerage agreement, to provide occasional, short term in-home respite care with Carer SA has been negotiated.

Regional Networking

Coordinator has regularly attended both the monthly Multi D meetings at Strathalbyn Hospital and the bi-monthly Positive Aging Task Force meetings at Victor Harbor. And the Hills Positive Ageing Task Force. The Coordinator has continues as an active member of the Dementia Friendly Communities Task group and hopes to bring ideas to Milang and District for implementation here. Networking with individual organisations has occurred as client needs demanded. These have mainly referrals to Access2Homecare for ACAT Assessment for referrals for higher level care as clients needs have progressed. Liaising with Home Care Packages providers such as Southern Cross Care and the Buddy Program and Murray Mallee to enable a smooth transition.

Volunteers

The Friday Feast, Meals, Transport Services, Sticky Beaks outings and The WOW group activities success is due to a large degree to the volunteer efforts of so many. These activities have stretched beyond the HACC funding allocation due to the generosity and kindness of the MOSHCC Volunteers.

Work Health and Safety

Improvement in WHS Policies and Procedures due to establishment of organisational WHS Committee and procedures.

Staff have received training in Risk Assessment and Hazard management, Injury reporting and investigation.

One Support Worker sustained an injury which was managed through Workers Compensation. This injury has recurred and worker is currently on very light duties i.e Social Support visits only.

Training

Support Worker Training has included: Worker Wellness, Carer Wellness: and Suicide Prevention Workshops and the Dementia Essential accredited course by most Support Workers.. Staff who attended these workshops, provide feedback on their learnings at Team Meetings.

Looking Forward

- Transitioning from HACC to Commonwealth Home Support Program CHSP:
 - Negotiate a new CHSP Funding and Service Agreement for Nov 2015 – June 2018
 - My Aged Care Service Provider. Establish daily checks of the portal for incoming referrals and other communications
 - New reporting requirements. Change from 1/4ly MDS reporting to ½ yearly DEX reporting
- As from 1st October 2015 employment of a new Coordinator due to Annemieke's retirement increasing the weekly hours to 22.
- Employment of new Office Assistant due to resignation of Shannon
- Assist EO in application for Approved Provider Status
- TRACCS: arrange training for new staff
- Maintaining our current excellent staff, volunteers and contractors
- Revising the HACC policies and Procedures to reflect the transition to the CHSP
- Establishing a Community Quality Improvement System in line with the Community Care Common Standards
- Expanding the Social Support Program – through Home Visiting and couples outings

Annemieke Braund

Coordinator

Milang and District Community Care Program.

Milang & District HACC Program Services

1st July 2014 – 30 June 2015 = 101 clients

Service Type	Funded Hours	Actual Client No	Actual Hours
Centre Based Day Care (SS Grp)	1800	53	2918
Domestic Assistance	1584	37	1033
Home Maintenance	675	45	284
Home Modification	N/A		
Meals	1300 meals	46	916 meals
Personal Care	100	3	28
Social Support (Indiv:7 & Grp 25)	Indiv 1200 Grp 1800	32	1058
Transport (585 instances)	660	38	796

LAKES HUB

The establishment of the Lakes Hubs has sought to build capacity and resilience through partnership, education, involvement and knowledge sharing. The Lakes Hubs have been and remain instrumental in developing strong partnerships and building effective long-term relationships with local stakeholders within the Ramsar or CLLMM region.



The overarching Lakes Hub objectives are to create an informed, supportive and involved community for the future management of the Ramsar site and for local communities who depend on the site to be supported.

Under the guidance of the MDCA, the Lakes Hubs have played a key role in building a stronger relationship between government and community, and have demonstrated the benefit of the increased contribution from the local community can provide. An example of this is building social capital, focusing on employment opportunities, and working with the various communities in the region to improve community connections and networks. These outcomes combined have a marked influence on the capacity and resilience of the Lakes and Coorong communities in the future.

The Lakes Hub objectives directly supports the outcomes of the Commonwealth and State Government CLLMM Recovery Project by utilising a community development framework and a community engagement strategy to build capacity and resilience through partnerships, education, involvement and knowledge sharing.

The objectives of the Lakes Hubs under its current CLLMM Recovery Project funding agreement with the MDCA are:

- Enable community engagement and collaboration in the implementation of the Long-Term Plan for the CLLMM
- Maintain the Lakes Hubs at Milang and Meningie as centres for two way dissemination between the community and the Department, with a move toward a virtual office in the place of one site by the end of the year.
- Continue, and build upon, services and initiatives of the Lakes Hubs as part of the CLLMM Recovery Project
- Provide community education and training opportunities related to the CLLMM Recovery Project to increase community resilience and ability to understand and support the region's environment
- Act as a conduit between the CLLMM CAP and the community through the Lakes Hubs network.

The Lakes Hub Community Engagement Strategy includes a range of indicators that allows monitoring of Lakes Hub community engagement, which is documented through a Results Based Accountability Framework.

During the 2007/09 drought, the urgent need in the community was for access to information about the impacts of the drought upon people's livelihoods and the region's environmental values. The Lakes Hubs provided a nexus for the exchange of information and ideas between the community and government.

Since the end of the drought in 2010 the Lakes Hubs has evolved its approach from emergency response towards enabling actions, such as education, training and capacity building activities. However, in the last six month of the financial year, the Lakes Hub has once again been taking a more active role in urgent issues, from collecting information on Fur Seals in the Coorong through to starting discussions with regard to planning future drought response measures.

The Community Nursery Network Coordinator role ceased due to a lack of funding at the end on the financial year, but not before Carole put in a huge effort toward promoting the nurseries to organisations outside of the traditional CLLMM clients and establishing self-managed communication between the groups. Despite not havign a CNN coordinator, the Hub will organise 3-4 training events for Nurseries Managers over the coming year.

Key achievements during 2014-2015

Recognition

This financial year, the work of the Lakes Hub, Coorong LAP, broader community and the CLLMM project have received considerable public recognition through Meningie's participation in both the State and National Tidy Towns awards. This recognition has primarily been focussed around the sustainability and community partnerships aspects of the Meningie application, including water smart initiatives.

Monitoring

Over the 2014-15 year, the Lakes Hub completed the Show Survey, producing a report that details the current state of community awareness with regard to the Lakes and Coorong Ramsar site.

Planning

The Transition Plan, identifying how the Lakes Hub will best position itself to move forward, beyond CLLMM funding has also been completed.

Funding

CLLMM funding has been secured for the 2015/16 financial year, although in a reduced form from the previous years. This will be the last year of this funding source, with future funding sources uncertain at this stage.

We have been successful in securing funding for a Recreational Fishing Interactive Display, initially for Meningie but with plans to copy it for elsewhere, if we can secure further funding.

Bulletin

Quick stats

- **154** Lakes Hub Face Book Likes
- **106** New likes in 2014
- Maximum audience reach for one post = **1000** people

The lakes Hub Bulletin went down to a fortnightly publication half way through 2014-15, resulting in 30 editions being released over the financial year. It will be a monthly publication in 2015-16.

Over the past year, we have had a reasonably stable subscription rate for the e-bulletin, with 547 subscribers at the end-of-financial-year, in comparison to 540 at the end of the previous financial year. Of these 33% open the email and 15% download the Bulletin, despite having two instances this year, where bulletins have had to be resent.

In the latter parts of this last financial year, the bulletin has increasingly become a volunteer-written publication, with a local volunteer putting two days a week into its production. It is expected that this will continue in the new financial year.

Lakes Hub Facebook

The Lakes Hub Facebook has now been maintained for two years. While not required as part of the CLLMM funding, it is becoming an increasingly important method of engaging with the community, particularly on the Meningie side of the Lakes.

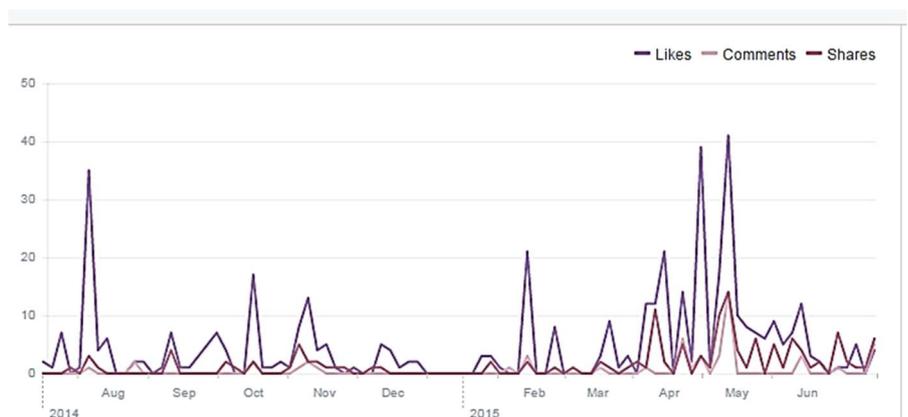
Until recently, the Facebook site has been a relatively minor channel to communicate environmental information regarding the Lakes



and Coorong, however page likes have recently become more than half that of our Bulletin distribution list, with 290 'page likes' at the end of the 2014-15 year, in comparison to 154 at the end of the previous year. The maximum reach of any one post was 4,500, in comparison to 1,000 last financial year. Interestingly, many of the people engaging with us in this way, do not subscribe to the Bulletin. It is also appealing to a slightly younger demographic.

A large number of both page and post likes have been as a result of community members seeking more information

with regard to Long-nosed Fur Seals. We also tried out small amounts of Facebook advertising (around \$75) which was found to be particularly good value for events or to reach a non-traditional community segment.



Lakes Hub web site

The Lakes Hub website continues to be updated at least once per month, with a readership of 800-1000 individuals per month.



The Lakes Hub Bulletins are posted on both the website & Facebook page every week as well as CLLMM Community Updates, Quarterly 'Seeds to Reeds' Community Nurseries Network Newsletters, bi-monthly Community Advisory Panel Communique's as well up-coming events, information produced by the Lakes Hub, CLLMM and other Government projects in the region.

Events

The Lakes Hub ran or assisted with the running of a number of events over the year, including a recycling bus trip, World Wetland Day Environment Forum, World Wetland Day Film Festival, a Feral Fox Workshop, two Dredging forums and a Native Bee Workshop.

Challenges

In December 2014, Megan went on maternity leave, with Faith Coleman filling the role on an interim basis. At the end of the financial year, we said a sad farewell to both Carole Richardson and Robynne Barret, due to cuts in 2015-16 funding.

A number of new issues have become apparent over this last year, including:

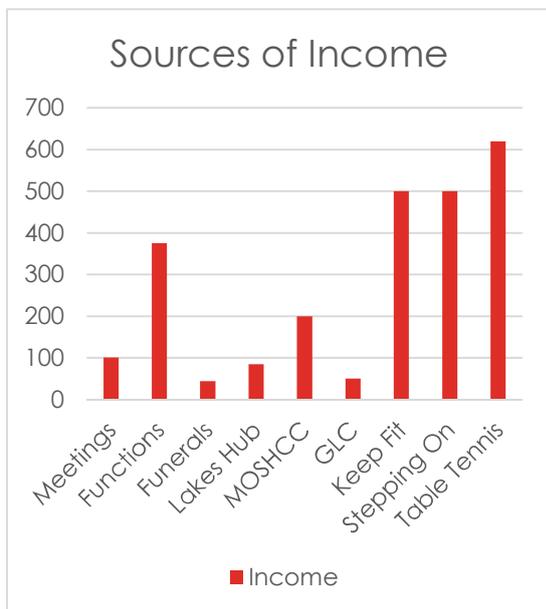
- Recommencement of dredging at the Murray Mouth,
- Concerns with regard to the communities readiness for another drought, given forecasts of another strong El Nino event this summer.
- Ecological, cultural and safety concerns regarding the potential impact of Long-nosed Fur Seals on the Lakes and Coorong, in particular their potential impacts on Pelican breeding colonies.

FACILITIES

MILANG INSTITUTE REPORT 2015

This year the Milang Institute has once again been well used by community groups, individuals and the Community Centre Programs.

This year the Stairs Upgrade was completed from January to May, this resulted in some disruption to activities held at the hall. However, the end result is well worth the inconvenience. This did however result in a drop in bookings for the hall. However the regular use by various 'fitness' activities such as keep fit, table tennis and 'stepping on' carried on regardless. It is great to see that the Library is contributing to the maintenance by the cleaning of the foyer and toilets.



The hall was used for 3 major functions (including the Power Rally function in January), a funeral and 3 meetings as well as for Anzac Day and Remembrance day.

Some highlights of the events were – the Power Rally function held in January and the School holding a snake awareness day with students from Ashbourne and Langhorne Creek attending.

During the year, 187 activities (180 for MADCA and 7 meetings and functions) were held. The average monthly use was 16 for the year with income of \$2475 and expenses of \$3245 leaving a loss of \$780.

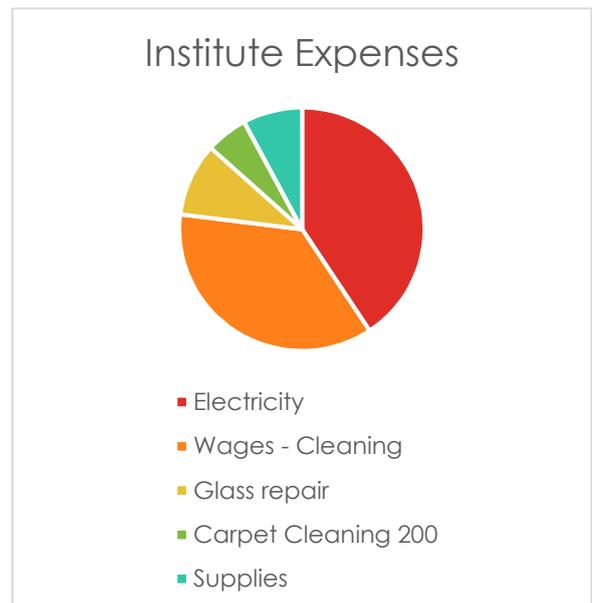
Expenses included repairs to front window (cracked) and

replacement of door closes that contributed to the loss.

Despite this, the upgrade to the foyer has improved the appearance of the Institute for future functions.

John Toshach

Caretaker



MILANG COMMUNITY NEWS

August 2015

It is now fifteen years since I took over as Editor of the *Community News* and it would not have been possible to fill that position without the support of members of the community who have provided news, photos, stories and articles as well as business people who have been willing to advertise in the *Community News* and the readers who have been willing to pay a modest subscription for each month's issue.

I believe that it is important to maintain a proper balance between advertising and text in the pages of the *Community News*. We have all looked at local newsletters where you have to wade through pages of advertisements before you can find a snippet of news. The continued support of our advertisers together with the increase in the cost per issue to \$2 has enabled us to cover the costs of the present standard of production.

So, as I have done in previous annual reports I again appeal to all local organizations to appoint someone who can be responsible for sending news of your activities, preferably with an appropriate picture, to me each month.

I would also urge you if you want to publicize an event not to just send me a copy of your A4 size poster which will end up looking like just another advertisement, but to write up a little story about it, again with an appropriate picture.

I also invite all our readers with a story to tell, a photograph they have taken or a poem they have written to consider sharing it through the pages of the *Community News*. We have continued to include the monthly calendar with each issue. I hope that the readers find its summary of each day's activities helpful. Please let me know about any obvious omissions.

At present we are printing about 260 copies each month, most of which are sold in Milang through the Post Office, Bakery, Port Milang Café, and Mini Mart. There are also a small number available in Strathalbyn at the Newsagent and Information Centre and a few are posted to subscribers and local members of parliament. Thanks to all those who have helped with the sale of the *Community News*.

Finally, I feel very honoured that my efforts as your Editor were responsible for my receiving a Community Individual award in last year's Brand South Australia Awards for the Hills and Coast Region.

Alex. E. H. Stone



Alex pictured with Beth Casey who presented on behalf of the sponsors, Seniors Card.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY

This year Shoreline undertook a number of contracts for planting and propagation that have provided income and employment for the community.

In this year we have completed commercial planting at five sites and community revegetation at 4 sites across the region. We have also undertaken site maintenance and weed control on a number of sites.

An interesting project undertaken in December 14 was the *Schoenoplectus validus* planting in 30cm to 60 cm deep water in Lake Alexandrina. This planting provides excellent habitat for aquatic plants and animals and lakeshore erosion control.

Over the 2 planting seasons we have employed over 50 casual staff and we employ 2 - 3 permanent part time staff. A total of \$189957 was spent on wages and Shoreline made a profit of \$106,921 which will be returned to the community through employment and community projects.

In a single contract for the planting of 75,000 plants this year thirty-nine people were employed casually for the duration of the planting contract with some coming and goings during the contract. Staff came from across the region in the following distribution:

- Milang 40%
- South Coast (Goolwa/ Victor Harbor) 30%
- Strathalbyn 15%
- Mt Barker, Finniss and Langhorne Creek 5% each

Of these people 88% were unemployed prior to commencing work with us and the other 12% had only irregular part time work or were students.

An additional six people making guards came from Milang and supported the on ground works team.

All staff valued the opportunity to work in the contract, learning new skills, making connections with others in the community, earning income and they took great pride in their ability to do a great job as well as make a difference in their community and for the environment. We provide an inclusive and family friendly workplace and expect that staff will contribute to WHS as well as planning, quality control and continuous improvement.

As Shoreline Community is a social enterprise a large proportion of the income derived from contracts such as this are paid out as wages. Any profits are returned to the community through training, investment in environmental projects that benefit the community and capacity building. Investment such as this then multiplies 5 times as it travels throughout the community in local spending at local shops etc. In a region such as Milang which is in the bottom 20% of the most socially and economically disadvantaged regions in Australia, the benefits of this opportunity for local employment and training creates resilience, hope for the future and community well-being.



SHORELINE COMMUNITY NURSERY

The nursery once again increased its number of plants and species grown. We grew over 60,000 plants 2014/2015, including public plant sales. Once again our number of species increased. The rest of our slowing growing 2yr threatened species plants left the nursery to go into the ground. These were planted in Monarto and Nurragi/Finniss areas.



This year was also a test and we had an additional order for DEWNR who requested that we grow a lot of our species in a hyco containers which are smaller. This proved a bit of a challenge, as sowing of some species was put back a few weeks to slow down growth of plant once it had been tranplanted. Our nursery again this year was extended, thank you to the GWLAP green army, as we were the holding station for aproximately 90,000 plants. These seedlings were planted by Shoreline planting staff on 3 different properties on and close to Lake Alexandrina. This gave seasonal employment to a pool of 20 + casual staff in our local area.

We have already started sowing seeds for next year. I would like to thank our loyal dedicated group of volunteers who I could not manage to do this without. Their input and commitment is most valuable and appreciated. They were given the opportunity to learn skills involved regarding propagation and seed cleaning. Opportunities are in place for school groups to visit the nursery and undertake work experience. Tasks involved seed collection/cleaning, transplanting, weeding and assisting in maintenance. The nursery is able to accommodate private landholders for plant orders and purchases.

We would also like to thank the Milang Environmental Centre for allowing the nursery to share the residence.

Jill Dennis
Shoreline Nursery Manager



QUICK STATISTICS

41,283 plants grown for
CCLLM project - 73
species

16,952 plants grown for
DEWNR - 15 species

555 plants grown for PT
Sturt land care -11 species

NRM threatened species
recovery project 300
plants – 2 species

Volunteer hours 1543

TREASURER'S REPORT

Based on the information provided to me during the 2014-2015 year and together with the Auditor's Report, I present this report for the Annual General Meeting.

The surplus for the 2014/2015 financial year was \$147K. \$60K of this was payment received for works carried out by Shoreline in the 2013/2014 financial year and received in the 2014/2015 year. Therefore, there was an operating surplus for the current financial year of \$87K.

This was made up of a profit for Shoreline of \$107K, and small losses for HACC of \$51, MADCA/MOSHCC of \$4K and Grants of \$16K.

The Net cash position at 30 June 2015 was \$106K with further 2014-2015 income outstanding from sundry debtors and grants of \$247K.

Wages and associated costs continue to be a large proportion of outgoings (67%) and this will need to be closely monitored in future years as the Award increases and the successful provision of programmes to satisfy Grant requirements is very labour intensive.

Leave Liabilities continue to increase and discussions have been held regularly with staff to ensure they take Annual Leave each year and Long Service Leave when it falls due to avoid the Leave Liability increasing exponentially. The current Term Deposit funds are sufficient to cover current Leave Liabilities.

Operational changes:

During the financial year, Shoreline Income and Expenditure was separated from the general report to provide more clarity around Shoreline's activities. Assets still remain combined on the Balance Sheet but are recorded separately in a spreadsheet.

The monthly financial reporting was streamlined by sorting some of the income and expenditure lines in to different categories making the reports easier to read and understand.

The Budget has been provided in spreadsheet form in the past, and work is under way to enter it into MYOB so that it will be possible to provide a Budget V Actual report in the future.

Susan Loveday
Honorary Treasurer 2014-2015
MADCA