

# ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2023/2024

## CONNECTING WARRANTYTE



Warrandyte  
**Neighbourhood House**

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We also acknowledge numerous peoples from around the globe and those born here that have added great diversity to our community. We particularly acknowledge the members of Warrandyte Neighbourhood House who over the years have provided a wonderful place of learning, connection, and fun. We welcome and respect the great diversity of our community and the strength and agility it provides us.

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# WELCOME TO WARRANDYTE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

## OUR VISION "CONNECTING TO YOUR COMMUNITY"

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is a vital community hub, providing an environment where people in the community can connect. We foster relationships in our local area by encouraging individuals and groups to come together for learning and play, in welcoming, supportive, and friendly surroundings.

## OUR MISSION THE PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE:

- The House is a not for profit association which provides a range of services developed from the expressed needs of our diverse community. The services will continue to reflect these needs as they change over time
- To promote community connection
- To provide opportunities for education in its broadest sense
- To provide opportunities for individuals and the community to improve their health and well being
- To provide opportunities for the Warrandyte community to connect to the global community

## OUR CONTACT

Visit us at Level 1, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte VIC 3113  
Monday - Thursday 9am to 4pm  
Call us on 03 9844 1839  
Email us on [info@wnh.org.au](mailto:info@wnh.org.au)  
Find more information on our website  
[www.WarrandyteNeighbourhoodHouse.org.au](http://www.WarrandyteNeighbourhoodHouse.org.au)

## GET TO KNOW US

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House has been servicing the needs of the local community for over 30 years. We are a not for profit community organisation run by a volunteer Board of Governance and a small number of part time staff. Professional tutors run our courses, whilst our clubs are often run by volunteers. We offer a variety of low cost courses, clubs, workshops and talks in supportive and friendly surroundings.

### OUR BOARD - WARRANDYTE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Sandra Miller    | President               |
| Linda Marshall   | Secretary (outgoing)    |
| Colin Hall       | Treasurer (outgoing)    |
| Andrea McMahon   | Board Member            |
| David Hoppner    | Board Member (outgoing) |
| Don Hughes       | Board Member            |
| Jason Patton     | Board Member (outgoing) |
| Natalie Rinehart | Board Member            |

### OUR STAFF

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Vanessa Virgato | Manager                     |
| Emma Harris     | Administration and Finance  |
| Jennifer Plane  | Administration and Programs |

### OUR CLUBS

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 500 Club                 | Warrandyte Film Society |
| Book Club                | Mah Jong Club           |
| Busy Needles             | Warrandyte Walkers      |
| French Club              | Warrandyte Trippers     |
| Wood Carving & Whittling |                         |



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024



Warrandyte Neighbourhood House continues to be a home for learning, for creativity, for connection and for health, for the people of Warrandyte.

As with any home, family members come and go, and we have discovered this year, that some people find that it is time to move on, and others come in to fill their place.

This was my first year as President, after serving with Christine and Rafx as Vice President for several years, and I hope I have kept a steady hand on the tiller (sorry mixing my metaphors there). I would like to thank and acknowledge Andrea McMahon for acting as President while I spent some time overseas recently, and also for her work during the year in going the extra mile in her fabulous work on shoring up some of the House's policies and procedures; and indeed for stepping up to fill the role of Secretary for the last few weeks.

We have seen new members step back from the Board recently, and some new members step up. So I would like to thank Linda Marshall for her 20 years of service on the board, most recently as Secretary — and font of all wisdom — and to Colin Hall, who is stepping down from the Treasurer role, but we are lucky enough to see him re-nominate for the Board. So thank you to both of you for your stellar service on the Board Executive. And thanks to Jason Patton and David Hoppner for giving your time on the board for this last year.

We welcomed new board members in Don Hughes and Natalie Rineheart to the board this time last year, and they have both quickly become an asset to the governance of the house.

We saw our Manager Vanessa Virgato come into the role last year, and she has very much made herself at home, establishing some wonderful new programs and making connections with the broader community, which is something that the Board had prioritised in our strategic plan.

Again following our strategic plan, we have further forged relationships with Carenet and other organisations, which has enable us to care for the disadvantaged in our community and deliver food relief, dignity products, or referrals to specialist services organisations, to those who need it most.

We are delighted that our office staff have been a rock in this time of change, Program Officer Jennifer Plane and Finance and Admin Assistant Emma Harris. They have carried the house through changes in Management, and even when we did not have a manager for some time.

I would also like to thank our many tutors and volunteers who are the heart of the House, helping run programs or helping out in the office. You are a cherished part of the house, and we could not exist without you. A particular mention to Kevin who has been a great help to the House over many years.

This area has also seen some change with some of our long-time tutors moving on, but some fabulous new tutors joining the house to deliver some excellent classes and clubs.

We also have some long running clubs and classes continuing to thrive, and we hope that they will continue into the future.

This time of change, while not unexpected, and even somewhat cyclical, has given the house a robustness and resilience that I hope will see it prosper into the future for the benefit of our members and the broader community.

Last year we talked about our strategic plan, which has set us up well to deliver the services that our community wants and needs now and in the future.

We have long been seen as been a centre our senior residents, and we proudly continue to be, but following our strategic plan, we are reaching out to a younger demographic to truly be a house, and a home, for the whole family.

Rafx said last year we were in a chrysalis phase, I think we are now emerging as the butterfly that we are.

Sandi Miller  
President

## MANAGER'S REPORT 2024



Hi everyone and thanks for your involvement in and support of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House.

As you read this, I will be cruising the South Pacific.

I'm incredibly proud of the work we have done in the past twelve months and take this opportunity to share some of our highlights with you.

We were successful in securing funding through Manningham City Council's Neighbourhood Houses grant process for the next two years. Our theme is "Growth through Local Connection". We will continue to explore innovative ways to support our local community and provide opportunities for connection, inclusion and wellbeing.

We continue our partnership with CareNet in two ways. The most important is through our provisions and maintenance of the satellite food pantry. Due to the rising cost of living, we have noted a significant increase in people experiencing food insecurity and we are struggling to meet demand. A huge thanks to the generous House members and locals who regularly donate and a shout out to the local ALP branch for their ongoing generosity. The second program we are involved in is CareNet's annual Reverse Advent Calendar. This invites community members and groups to fill boxes with food essentials that are donated to families in need at Christmas time. I would encourage anyone who is able, to speak with us about filling a box come October.

The Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is an active member of Manningham Learns. Members of Manningham Learns consists of the five Manningham Neighbourhood Houses. Manningham Learns has successfully secured Manningham City Council funding to roll out a series of activities that will identify and support Carers in our community. Warrandyte Neighbourhood House will be partnering with MY Time. Our thanks to Warrandyte Lions for funding us to facilitate a Carers Pottery workshop with support from the Warrandyte Pottery Studio.

In response to local requests, Warrandyte Neighbourhood House initiated a River Safety Forum. We partnered with Manningham City Council, the SES, Life Saving Victoria, Victoria Police and local kayaker Kane. This forum has commenced ongoing work around community education and advocacy with regards to river and water safety.

We have wrapped up our Warrandyte Big Lunch series and again, thanks to Council for their financial support of this initiative. We also acknowledge and thank our supporters in Victoria Police, Warrandyte Lions, Warrandyte Rotary, Access Health and Community, JobCo and the Men's Shed.

With thanks to our funders at Access Health and Community, we were able to host a series of Sunday Sessions. Vic Health supported an initiative to reduce harmful consumption of alcohol by supporting local communities to become physically active and engaged on a Sunday morning. Our tutor Elke facilitated four Sunday Sessions of Breathwork, attracting 54 participants over four weeks.

We continue to enjoy hosting our quarterly Community Morning Teas. An absolute highlight was the presentation from Kellie Wishart from CareNet about Food Sustainability and Waste. Many thanks Kellie.

The Warrandyte Festival is an annual community highlight. This year we marched in the Parade to the theme of River Creatures. The weather was on our side as we were proudly led by the fabulous ladies from our Busy Needles Club who were joined by staff and Board members. We were so thrilled to see our very own Board member Don Hughes as one of the three Monarchs this year and recognise Don, Chris "Chewy" Padgham and Andrew Yen as inspirational leaders in Warrandyte.

I am a strong believer in the benefits of intergenerational connection and look back with pride and love at the wonderful relationship I shared with my own Nana. With this in mind, I was thrilled to support The Human Library, Intergenerational Project that was funded and facilitated by Manningham Youth Services. Hosted at the House, the 'older' generation was represented by some of our members and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Much to our excitement, we hosted a film crew for a few days. The Netflix series Apple Cider Vinegar was filmed in our very own neighbourhood.

Clubs and classes continue to grow, and numbers are again up on previous years. With the addition of a new tutor and some new additions such as Express Cardio and Dance Fitness, we expect participation to flourish.

Some of the more unique offerings this year have included Paint'n'Sip, Adult Drawing, Kids Therapeutic Polymer Clay Earring Creation and Introduction to Digital Media and Canva. Our environmentally themed school holiday activities have also proven to be very popular.

Moving forward, we look to continue growth through local partnerships, continued conversations and consultation with community and ongoing provision of responsive and targeted programming. We are always open to your ideas and feedback and look forward to sitting down for a cuppa and a chat.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal and committed community who continue to support the House. I'd also like to recognise the enormous efforts of our volunteers, some of which have been with us for 15 years (I'm looking at you Robyn Upfield). Our Clubs simply could not operate without volunteers, and I pass on my gratitude to Michael Meehan, Julie Roy, Ray Hodgson, Catherine Veque, Agnes Stuyfbergen, Stella Leone, Gail Plowman, Robin Atkinson, Vicki Comrie, Sybille Ims, Peter Trim, Michele and Barry Aumann, Neil Oldfield, Kevin Jones, Chris "Chewy" Padgham, Eddy Oelmann, Karen Jane, Jess Bourke and Mat Virgato.

We could not function without the support of our funding bodies, DFFH, Manningham City Council, Department of Education (ACFE), Bendigo Bank and local charitable agencies. I thank Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and NEICH for their leadership and support.

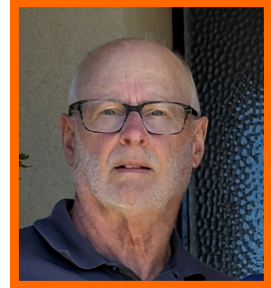
An organisation is only as good as its leadership so it's only fitting that I pay respect to the tireless work done by our Board of Management. To Sandi Miller, Colin Hall, Andrea McMahon, Linda Marshall, Natalie Rinehart, Don Hughes, David Hoppner and Jason Patton, I appreciate your vision and strategic governance.

Finally, the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House would not be what it is without my two dedicated, professional and all-round wonderful colleagues Jen Plane and Emma Harris. As a small team of three, we approach each day with a genuine desire to produce quality offerings and supports for our community. There is also a lot of laughs along the way.

Vanessa Virgato  
Manager

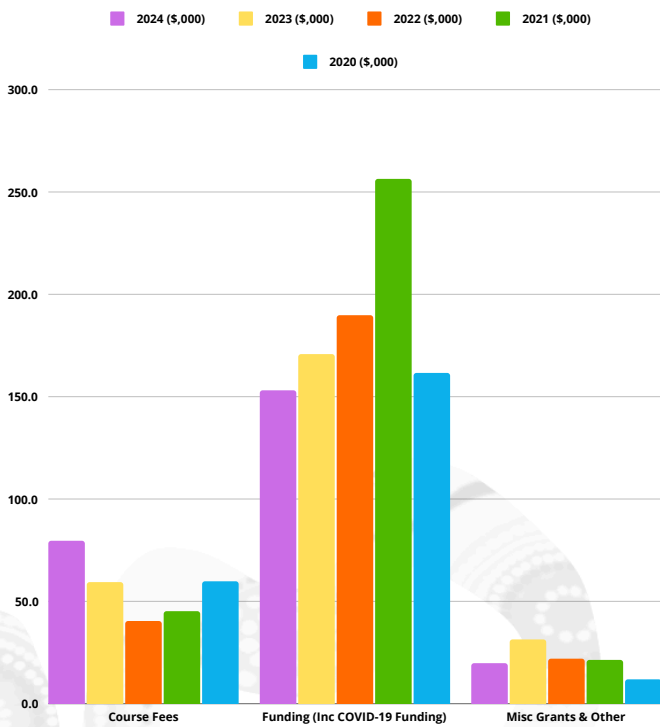


# TREASURER'S REPORT 2024

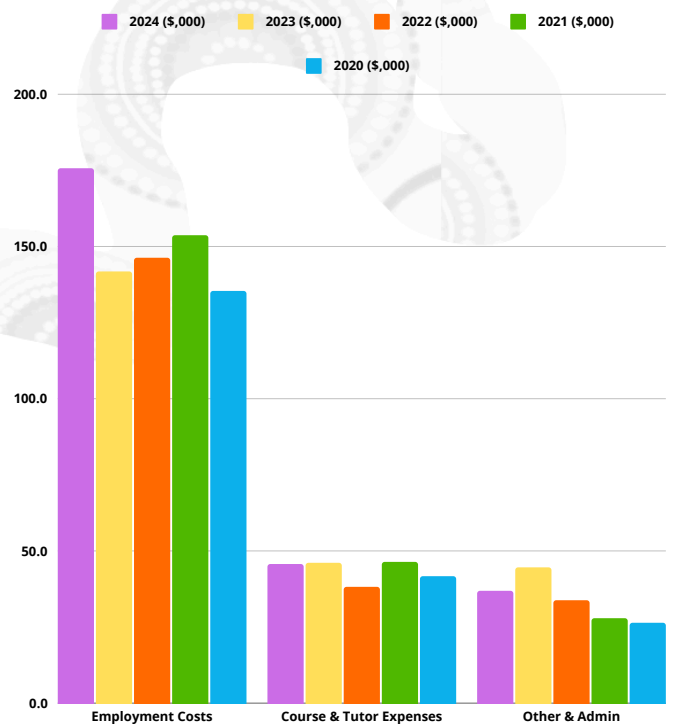


The Financial Report of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House (WNH) for the year ending 30 June 2024 reports an operating deficit of (\$5,772) compared to our budgeted deficit of (\$17,990). After three years of COVID impact, course fees and numbers continue to improve.

## COMPARATIVE INCOME SUMMARY



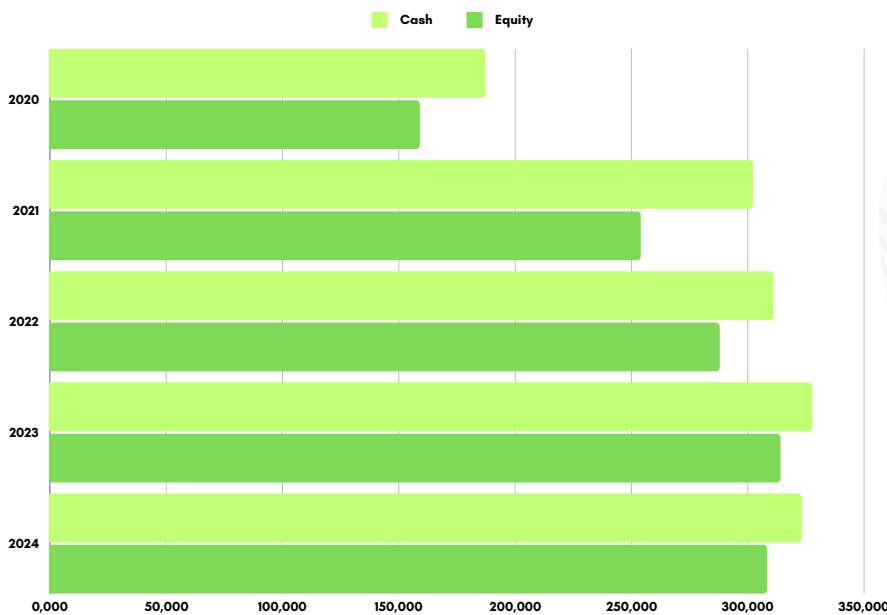
## COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE SUMMARY



The cash position remains strong with \$323,199 in term deposits and operating bank account which is the accumulation of past operating surpluses.

Having a strong cash position contributes positively toward assisting the WNH to be responsive to the community.

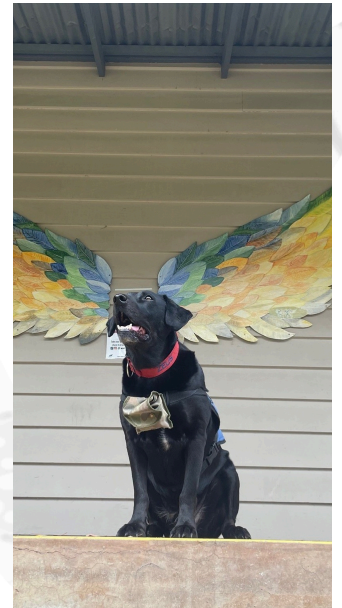
### CASH & EQUITY AS @ 30 JUNE 2024



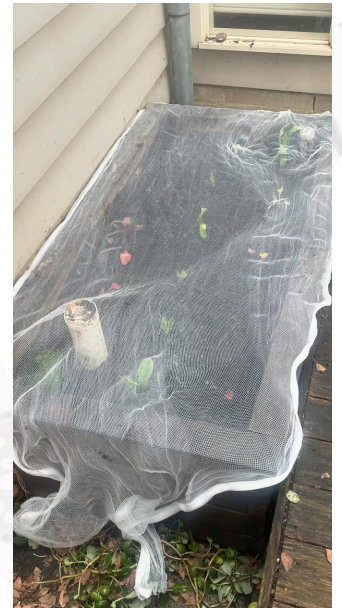
The graphs above covers our COVID position to the current year. A copy of our audited financial accounts is attached. This is my final year as the treasurer of WNH, as I feel that after almost a decade it is time for a refreshment in this role. I want to thank all the individuals who have worked with me over this time. It has been an honour.

Colin Hall  
Treasurer









## GRATEFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Each and every year Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is supported by a number of organisations, these partnerships make it possible for us to help support the needs of our local community. We would like to take the opportunity to thank these organisations for both their past and future support.

