

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Inc. No. A0028651L ABN27675966331



2025 Annual Report

Presented at the
Annual General Meeting
Monday 24th November 2025



*Bennettswood Neighbourhood House
Annual General Meeting
Monday 24th November 2025*



Light lunch served at 12.30pm

AGM at 1pm

MEETING AGENDA

- Opening and Welcome*
- Acknowledgement of Country*
- Apologies Received*
- Confirmation of AGM 2024 Minutes*
- Presentation of Annual Reports*
- Presentation of Audited Financial Statement*
- Appointment of Auditor for 2025/2026*
- Resolution to decide how many Ordinary Members
to hold office for 2025/2026*
- Election of Committee of Governance 2025/2026*
- Welcome to 2025/26 committee*

About Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House
Annual Report 2025

Our Vision

A friendly neighbourhood house where a diverse community has opportunities to develop supportive social connections through participation and community engagement.

Our Mission Statement

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House aims to be a welcoming place that offers opportunities for learning and social connection in response to community needs.

Our Volunteers

We acknowledge and thank our volunteers in 2024/25. Thank you for your valuable contributions on the Committee of Governance and assisting with House activities and contributing to Knitting for Melbourne's Needy charity.

George Ansell
Margaret Crichton
Steven Edward
Linda Howie
Hilda O'Connor
Lyn Robinson
Livia Rushworth
Julie Short
Sandy Willis

Lyn Ansell
Angela Del Brocco
Jacquie Goodhead
MaryAnne Mahoney
Sharon Panesar
Vanntha Ros
Rowena Sannang
Shirley Short

Ben Cole-de Witt
Judith Dougal
Luke Haites
Enio Orlandi
Jasna Pivac
Sandy Rumble
Maggie Shipley
Neeraja Voleti

Our Funding

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House gratefully acknowledges recurrent funding and in-kind support from the:

**Victorian Government - Department of Families, Fairness & Housing (DFFH)
Neighbourhood Houses Coordination Program (NHCP) Grant**
City of Whitehorse - Community Partnership Grant



Committee of Governance 2024/2025

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House
Annual Report 2025

Executive Members



Vanntha Ros
President



Ben Cole-de Witt
Vice President



Enio Orlandi
Secretary



MaryAnne Mahoney
Treasurer

Ordinary Members



Sandy Willis



Neeraja Voleti



Linda Howie (16/6 – 21/10/25)

Ex-officio Member Julie Melia (Manager)



Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 25th November, 2024 at 12pm

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Attendance:

Tom Fagernes, Julie Melia, Vendulka Sekker, Sally Zhang, Enio Orlandi, Vanntha Ros, Sandy Willis, Neredah Burns, Vicki Price, Mike Reincastle, Ben Cole-de Witt, Hilda O'Connor, Michael Crichton, Bryan Nitz, Bich Yohe, Maree Vines, Barbara Holah, Lily Kovacevic (NIECH Networker), Jane Main, Lyn Robinson, Russell Green, Patricia Green, Nicole Roper, Angela Del Brocco, Helen Petrie, Jacquie Goodhead, Harry Goodhead, Brian Little, Douglas Evans, Keir Paterson (CEO NHVic), Paul Hamer MP (Member for Box Hill)

Welcome: To those in attendance and special guests - Russell Green (1995 Steering Committee establishing Bennettswood NH), Paul Hamer MP (Member for Box Hill), Bryan Nitz (former President BeNH), Barbara Holah (1995 Steering Committee establishing Bennettswood NH), Michael Crichton (former President BeNH), Lily Kovacevic (NIECH Networker), Keir Paterson (CEO NHVic)

Acknowledgement of Country:

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and we pay our respect and gratitude to Elders past, present and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

Apologies:

Dr Carina Garland MP (Member for Chisholm), Cr Andrew Davenport (Mayor, City of Whitehorse), MaryAnne Mahoney (Treasurer), George Ansell, Lyn Ansell, Marcia Barry, Gary Faul, Steven Edward, Lyndell Duncombe

Meeting opened at: 12pm

Confirmation of previous minutes:

The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting were distributed to those present and accordingly, a motion for their acceptance was moved.

Moved: Sandy Willis
Seconded: Vicki Price

Carried

Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 25th November, 2024

at 12pm

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Annual Reports:

President:

Adoption of report presented:

Moved: Tom Fagernes

Seconded: Michael Crichton

Carried

Finance:

Adoption of report presented:

Moved: Julie Melia

Seconded: Ben Cole-de Witt

Carried

Manager:

Adoption of report presented:

Moved: Julie Melia

Seconded: Enio Orlandi

Carried

Acceptance of audited Financial Statement

Moved: Julie Melia

Seconded: Enio Orlandi

Carried

Auditor:

The independent Auditor, Stephen J Nolan, has carried out the audit of the accounts and his report is attached. It was moved that he continues to be the auditor of the Bennettswood Neighbourhood House for 2024/2025.

Moved: Sandy Willis

Seconded: Michael Crichton

Carried

Election of office bearers for 2024/2025:

Officers elected separately:

President: Vanntha Ros

Vice President: Ben Cole-de Witt

Treasurer: MaryAnne Mahoney

Secretary: Enio Orlandi

Election of Ordinary Members: The AGM must decide by resolution the number of ordinary members of the COG it wishes to hold office for the next year.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 25th November, 2024 at 12pm

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Motion: That the number of ordinary members allowed for 2024-25 is four.

Moved: Neredah Burns

Seconded: Hilda O'Connor

Carried

Ordinary (General) Committee Members:

Sandra Willis

3 vacancies

Ex-Officio: Julie Melia

The nominations for each position were presented by Michael Crichton

As there were no further nominations, all nominees were duly elected.

Michael Crichton welcomed and congratulated the newly elected Executive and ordinary committee members.

Meeting closed at: 12.45pm

President's Report

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Annual Report 2025

As I come to the end of my first year as President, I've been reflecting on what an incredible journey it has been. The time has flown by, filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with people who care deeply about making a difference. It has truly been an honour to represent Bennettswood Neighbourhood House and to witness the positive impact it continues to have on the lives of so many.

I've seen our Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, offering more programs, supporting new partnerships, and welcoming members into our community. Each initiative, no matter how big or small, has helped build a stronger, more connected community. The passion and teamwork that everyone brings to this house are what make it so special.

I had the opportunity to attend the Whitehorse Spring Festival this year, and it was an inspiring experience. Seeing so many positive and active community groups working to improve wellbeing and connection, reminded me that we are part of something much bigger; a shared effort to build healthier, more inclusive communities. It was wonderful to see how our Neighbourhood House aligns with and contributes to that same vision.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our committee team for their ongoing support, dedication, and energy throughout the year. Every member has played an important role in overseeing the governance of the House and ensuring that our programs meet the needs of the community.

Most importantly, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible staff Julie, Vendulka and Sally, who truly are the heart of Bennettswood Neighbourhood House. Their commitment, warmth, and tireless efforts make a difference every single day, whether they're welcoming new members, running programs (including the dumpling class I very enviously missed), or supporting our participants and volunteers.

As we look toward 2026, filled with optimism and excitement, we hope to capture more feedback to inform our strategic planning, introduce new events, and reach an even larger more diverse community. With the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our members, I'm confident the coming year will be both successful and inspiring. Here's to another year of connection and community spirit and to all the wonderful people who make Bennettswood Neighbourhood House such a truly special place to belong as we continue building a more connected community.

Vanntha Ros

President

Finance Report

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Annual Report 2024 / 2025

The Committee of Governance has determined that the accounting policies and processes used for the preparation of the financial statements of Bennettswood Neighbourhood House are appropriate to meet the needs of the annual financial reporting.

The income of Bennettswood Neighbourhood House for the year was \$198,000.25, an increase of \$3,265.33 on the previous year. The year's expenses totalled \$202,692.77, which is \$1,939.40 more than the last financial year.

The deficit for the 2024-2025 year is \$4,692.52.

The Committee of Governance regularly reviews detailed financial reports comparing actual income and expenses and the budget is approved and reviewed yearly.

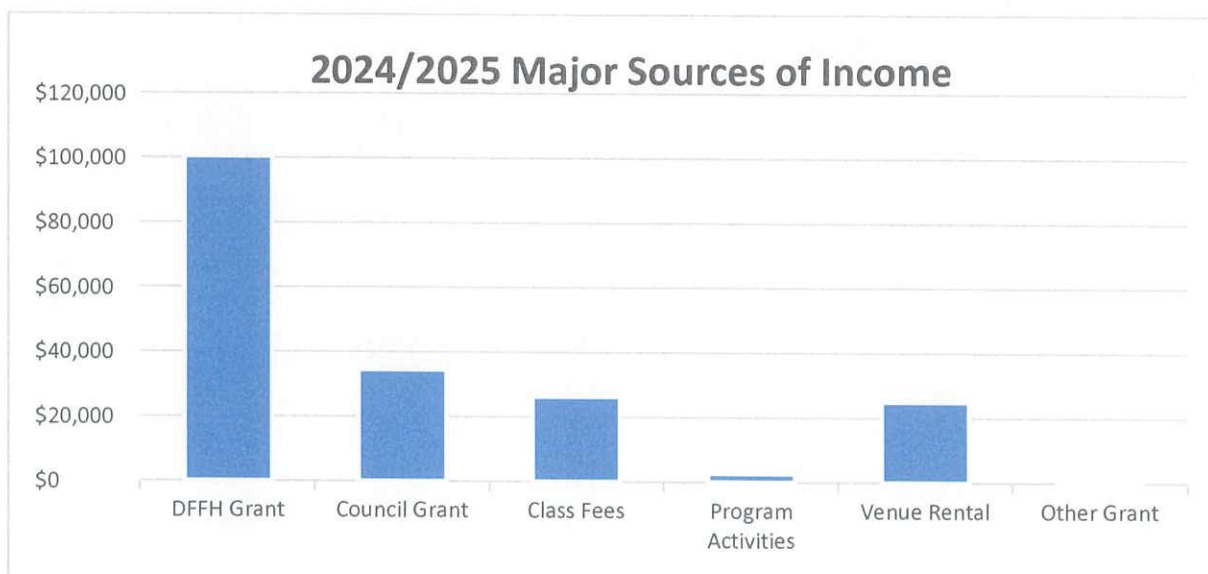
The financial accounts have been audited by Stephen Nolan and the audit report is included.

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House remains in a sound financial position with funds of \$241,402.94 cash in reserve at 30 June 2025.

The 2024 -2025 DFFH grant had an additional 3.56% increase from January 2025. The assets of Bennettswood Neighbourhood House for the 2024-2025 year have been updated with the new policy that only items valued at more or equal to \$400 are to be added onto the Asset Register and Depreciation.

Sally Zhang
Finance/Administration Officer

MaryAnne Mahoney
Treasurer



Profit & Loss Statement

July 2024 To June 2025

ABN: 27 675 966 331

Email: finance@bennettswoodnh.org.au

Income		
Class Fees		\$26,235.51
Council Grant		\$34,424.86
DFFH Grant		\$100,334.00
Donations		\$47.10
Fundraising		\$147.55
Programmed Activities		\$2,564.10
Interest Received		\$8,796.13
Venue Rental		\$24,865.00
Sundry Income		\$636.00
Total Income		\$198,050.25
Total Cost of Sales		\$0.00
Gross Profit		\$198,050.25
Expenses		
Audit Fees		\$600.00
Bank Charges		\$630.27
Technology Expenses		\$486.00
Memberships & Subscriptions		\$6,951.81
Programmed Activities Expenses		\$243.87
Insurance		\$700.52
Office Expenses		\$494.62
Sundry Expenses		\$2,043.03
Professional Development		\$611.10
Equipment		-\$88.07
Postage		\$27.28
Tutors		\$17,847.00
Employment Expenses		
Superannuation	\$18,113.08	
Wages & Salaries	\$141,832.19	
Workcover	\$2,286.13	
Portable Long Service Scheme	\$2,377.63	
Telephone & Internet		\$1,409.03
Cleaning		\$2,250.00
Electricity		\$1,078.76
Gas		\$611.80
Water		\$1,030.60
GST rounding & adjustments		-\$0.02
Total Expenses		\$201,536.63
Operating Profit		-\$3,486.38
Total Other Income		\$0.00
Other Expenses		
Depreciation		\$280.29
Staff Entitlements (Prov'n)		\$925.85
Total Other Expenses		\$1,206.14
Net Profit/(Loss)		-\$4,692.52

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2024 To June 2025

ABN: 27 675 966 331

Email: finance@bennettswoodnh.org.au

	This Year	Last Year	\$ Difference	% Difference
Income				
Class Fees	\$26,235.51	\$38,758.97	-\$12,523.46	(32.3)%
Council Grant	\$34,424.86	\$34,060.25	\$364.61	1.1%
DFFH Grant	\$100,334.00	\$96,889.00	\$3,445.00	3.6%
Donations	\$47.10	\$31.80	\$15.30	48.1%
Fundraising	\$147.55	\$507.45	-\$359.90	(70.9)%
Programmed Activities	\$2,564.10	\$1,986.75	\$577.35	29.1%
Interest Received	\$8,796.13	\$7,530.12	\$1,266.01	16.8%
Venue Rental	\$24,865.00	\$9,795.00	\$15,070.00	153.9%
Sundry Income	\$636.00	\$1,675.58	-\$1,039.58	(62.0)%
Other Grant	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	-\$3,500.00	(100.0)%
Total Income	\$198,050.25	\$194,734.92	\$3,315.33	1.7%
Total Cost of Sales	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	NA
Gross Profit	\$198,050.25	\$194,734.92	\$3,315.33	1.7%
Expenses				
Audit Fees	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Bank Charges	\$630.27	\$733.85	-\$103.58	(14.1)%
Technology Expenses	\$486.00	\$291.82	\$194.18	66.5%
Memberships & Subscriptions	\$6,951.81	\$4,643.56	\$2,308.25	49.7%
Fundraising Expenses	\$0.00	\$51.80	-\$51.80	(100.0)%
Programmed Activities Expenses	\$243.87	\$631.19	-\$387.32	(61.4)%
Insurance	\$700.52	\$918.59	-\$218.07	(23.7)%
Office Expenses	\$494.62	\$647.60	-\$152.98	(23.6)%
Sundry Expenses	\$2,043.03	\$1,981.93	\$61.10	3.1%
Professional Development	\$611.10	\$140.00	\$471.10	336.5%
Repairs & Maintenance	\$0.00	\$238.42	-\$238.42	(100.0)%
Equipment	-\$88.07	\$0.00	-\$88.07	NA
Postage	\$27.28	\$13.64	\$13.64	100.0%
Tutors	\$17,847.00	\$22,165.95	-\$4,318.95	(19.5)%
Employment Expenses				
Superannuation	\$18,113.08	\$17,493.26	\$619.82	3.5%
Wages & Salaries	\$141,832.19	\$133,735.66	\$8,096.53	6.1%
Workcover	\$2,286.13	\$2,232.68	\$53.45	2.4%
Portable Long Service Scheme	\$2,377.63	\$2,245.58	\$132.05	5.9%
Telephone & Internet	\$1,409.03	\$1,387.81	\$21.22	1.5%
Cleaning	\$2,250.00	\$3,690.00	-\$1,440.00	(39.0)%
Electricity	\$1,078.76	\$774.48	\$304.28	39.3%
Gas	\$611.80	\$708.27	-\$96.47	(13.6)%
Water	\$1,030.60	\$942.72	\$87.88	9.3%
GST rounding & adjustments	-\$0.02	\$1.56	-\$1.58	(101.3)%
Total Expenses	\$201,536.63	\$196,270.37	\$5,266.26	2.7%
Operating Profit	-\$3,486.38	-\$1,535.45	-\$1,950.93	(127.1)%
Total Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	NA
Other Expenses				
Depreciation	\$280.29	\$1,185.74	-\$905.45	(76.4)%
Staff Entitlements (Prov'n)	\$925.85	\$3,297.26	-\$2,371.41	(71.9)%
Total Other Expenses	\$1,206.14	\$4,483.00	-\$3,276.86	(73.1)%

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

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Bennettswood Neighbourhood House INC.

7 Greenwood Street
Burwood 3125

ABN: 27 675 966 331

Email: finance@bennettswoodnh.org.au

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2024 To June 2025

	This Year	Last Year	\$ Difference	% Difference
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$4,692.52	-\$6,018.45	\$1,325.93	22.0%

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet

As of June 2025

Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash On Hand		
Bendigo Bank Business Everyday Account		\$12,858.74
Bendigo Bank Debit Card Account		\$351.13
Petty Cash		\$95.34
Cash Float		\$100.00
(Bendigo) Reserve Account		\$3,252.01
(Bendigo) Staff Entitlements Account		\$24,745.72
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Account		\$200,000.00
Total Cash On Hand		\$241,402.94
Debtors		\$55.00
GST Assets		\$474.13
GST Paid		
Total GST Assets		\$474.13
Total Current Assets		\$241,932.07
Fixed Assets		
Equipment		
Equipment at Cost		\$30,272.20
Equipment Accum Dep'n		-\$30,272.20
Total Equipment		\$0.00
Building Improvements		
Building Improvements at Cost		\$2,242.00
Building Improve Accum Dep'n		-\$2,242.00
Total Building Improvements		\$0.00
Total Fixed Assets		\$0.00
Total Assets		\$241,932.07
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected		\$5,023.97
Total GST Liabilities		\$5,023.97
Payroll Liabilities		
PAYG Tax Payable		\$3,840.00
Superannuation Payable		\$5,008.61
Total Payroll Liabilities		\$8,848.61
Total Current Liabilities		\$13,872.58
Long-Term Liabilities		
Provision - Staff Entitlements		
Provision-Replacement of staff		\$20,718.36
Total Long-Term Liabilities		\$10,000.00
Total Liabilities		\$30,718.36
Net Assets		\$44,590.94
Equity		
Retained Earnings		
Current Year Surplus/Deficit		\$202,033.65
Total Equity		\$197,341.13

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Statement of Cash Flows at 30 June 2025

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Receipts from Government Grants	\$	134,758.86
Other Receipts	\$	54,445.26
Payments to suppliers & employees	-\$	202,522.99
Interest Received	\$	8,796.13
Net Cash provided by operating activities	-\$	4,522.74

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Payments for purchase of property & equipment	\$	-
Net cash provided by investing activities	\$	-

Net increase (decrease) in cash held	-\$	4,522.74
Cash at the beginning of the year	\$	245,925.68
Cash at the end of the year	\$	241,402.94

J STEPHEN NOLAN

Public Accountants

ABN 19 352 985 820

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of the Bennettswood Neighbourhood House Incorporated:

I have audited the financial statements of the Bennettswood Neighbourhood House Incorporated, as set out in the pages attached hereto, for the period 1st July 2024 to 30 June 2025, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

As an audit procedure, it was not practicable to extend my examination of subscriptions, fund raising activities and other receipts beyond accounting for amounts received as shown in the records of the Corporation.

In my opinion, subject to the foregoing reservation, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Bennettswood Neighbourhood House Incorporated as at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

In my opinion the rules relating to the administration of the funds of the Corporation have been observed and I have obtained all information required to conduct my audit.



Joseph S Nolan

Auditor

Burwood Vic 31st October 2025

Liability limited by a scheme approved under

Professional Standards Legislation

Manager's Report

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Annual Report 2024 / 2025

Looking Forward: Building a Resilient Future

It is with pleasure and optimism that I present my twelfth annual report for Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, covering the period of July 2024 to June 2025. This past year is defined by our unwavering commitment to community connection and our mission to develop opportunities for social connection and learning through creativity.

A true highlight was the celebration of our 30th Anniversary at the Annual General Meeting in November 2024, marking three decades as a responsive and thriving not-for-profit organisation. In our 31st year, we continue to serve a rapidly diversifying community, and our programs are evolving to match this vastly changing local landscape. The resilience and dedication demonstrated by our community of staff, tutors, committee, volunteers and participants ensure we remain a vital service, delivering exceptional value to the Whitehorse and broader community every day.

Expanding Our Reach: Partnerships & Community Engagement

This year, Bennettswood NH has deepened its engagement with a wider, more culturally and linguistically-diverse community through our partnership with the Adult Community Migrant Centre (AMES), which has facilitated accredited English language classes at our centre since August 2024. The AMES program's participants have fully embraced the House, regarding Bennettswood as their own community centre, a wonderful compliment that validates our commitment to social inclusion and cohesion. Following this success, we are seeing increasing numbers of culturally diverse participants potentially attracted to other activities, including a social table tennis group (in 2024) and a Conversation English class facilitated by Jacquie, one of our valued volunteers, for people to practise their skills.

Our commitment to fostering connection and celebrating diversity was evident in key events throughout the year:

- **September 2024:** We hosted a visit from the Minister for Training & Skills Andrew Giles and Carina Garland MP, the Member for Chisholm.
- **March 2025:** Our International Morning Tea celebration of Cultural Diversity and Harmony Week.
- **May 2025:** A delightful Neighbourhood House Week Dumplings demonstration and lunch, thanks to team member Sally for her expert tuition and dumpling cooking.
- **June 2025:** Delivery of a Be Connected Digital Skills training session in Mandarin in partnership with the Network of Inner East Community Houses (NIECH) and the Good Things Foundation digital literacy for older adults program.

Delivering Value: Our Community Impact

The power of the Neighbourhood House model is in its ability to generate high value from every dollar invested. We are proud to confirm that we continue to provide an outstanding return on investment for our community:

Manager's Report

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Annual Report 2024 / 2025

For every dollar of Neighbourhood Houses Coordination Program (NHCP) funding received, the return in community value specific to Bennettswood Neighbourhood House is \$5.23 and for every dollar of actual income we receive from tuition fees and grants the community value is more than doubled. The Community Value Report (CVR) is generated from data reported in the annual compulsory survey to the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic) / Department of Families Fairness & Housing (DFFH). The report summary included in this annual report indicates the true value of funds in terms of community output and powerfully demonstrates that investing in neighbourhood houses is one of the most effective ways state and local governments can support their strategic goals.

A heart-warming story capturing the spirit of community is that of Gary, a long-time resident of Bennettswood / Burwood and teacher at the former Victorian School for the Blind in Burwood Hwy. Gary had lost his wallet at the local shops which was kindly returned to the police by an unidentified person. Gary chose to express his gratitude by donating to his local neighbourhood house and he visited with his guide dog to present us with a generous \$100 donation. This is a reminder of the community connection that we work to nourish and support every day. Thank you Gary.

Strategic Focus: Ensuring Future Sustainability

While our community impact is evident, our operational sustainability presents an opportunity for renewed commitment from our funding partners - Victorian Department of Families, Fairness & Housing and Whitehorse Council. Despite still healthy reserved funds, we have faced a small deficit for the third consecutive year; an indication that current core funding levels are no longer adequately indexed to cover the rising costs of delivering essential services and employing professional staff for sufficient hours in the face of increasing community needs.

To address this financial shortfall we have been forced to reduce staff hours. We are actively participating in the state-wide 'Keep Our Doors Open' post card campaign, leading up to the state budget in 2026, led by the peak body Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic), advocating across the state for restoring the value of the NHCP grant.

The core asks of the campaign, essential for our future resilience are:

- Increase core funding for Neighbourhood Houses by 25%.
- Support 25 Neighbourhood Houses that do not currently receive any ongoing NHCP funding.
- A fund for the establishment of 5 additional Neighbourhood Houses annually in Victoria's growth areas.

While we deeply appreciate the ongoing support from Whitehorse Council, which provides some operational funding and maintains the facilities so they are fit-for-purpose, there has been a noticeable reduction in recent times of once historically provided support. The cessation of services such as Test & Tag of electrical items, casual hire insurance cover and hard rubbish collections is disappointing and transfers additional expense of these services

Manager's Report

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Annual Report 2024 / 2025

to us. Increasing direct competition in the community development space coming from Council programs and venue hire is also impacting on our ability to thrive and turn a profit.

Governance, Staff, and Volunteers: Our success is built on the dedication of our people.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Committee of Governance, whose focus ensures governance oversight and commitment to community development principles. We thank our returning committee members: Van Ros, Ben Cole-de Witt, Sandy Willis, MaryAnne Mahoney, Neeraja Voleti, and Enio Orlandi, who was the very deserving recipient of the 2025 Caroline Chisholm Volunteer Award for over a decade of service, including keeping our grounds immaculate. We also sincerely thank Linda Howie for her short time with us in 2025 and former members who stepped down in November 2024.

Thanks to Neeraja Voleti for her efforts to establish a homework club and Jacquie Goodhead for facilitating our English Conversation group and assisting with the AMES classes. Congratulations to our volunteers, especially the 2024 Caroline Chisholm Volunteer Award recipients: Hilda O'Connor, Livia Rushworth, Shirley Short, Maggie Shipley, and Sandy Rumble for their services to Melbourne's Knitting for the Needy.

Special thanks to our amazing tutors, including Margaret Crichton, Bryan Nitz, Ben Cole-de Witt, Liliana Bosancic, Marcia Barry, and also Anthony Galea and Sandy Walsh who we said goodbye to in 2024-25. We welcome Toshi Handa who commenced October 2025. Finally, thanks to our staff team who go above and beyond. The commitment and passion of our staff are the driving force behind the House. It is vital that future funding models acknowledge the true scope and the increasing complexity of their demanding work roles.

Looking Ahead: Co-Creating a Stronger Future

We embrace the challenges ahead as opportunities to innovate and co-create a more sustainable financial future. Our budget for the 2025-26 financial year is projected to return to a breakeven position, setting the stage for sustainable growth. To maintain this positive momentum, our advocacy for increased support from our two funding bodies is critical.

Through the current *"Keep our doors open – strong communities start here!"* postcard campaign, we call on the Victorian government to restore NHCP funding to its previous value. Among the ten Whitehorse Community Houses, we will be presenting the postcards to our local member Paul Hamer MP, who in turn will deliver the cards in the form of a petition to the Minister, Ros Spence MP. Secondly, we seek to establish a clear, collaboratively agreed upon, structured partnership framework with Whitehorse Council. By working together in a genuine and transparent collaboration, Council and neighbourhood houses can co-create a forward-looking strategy ensuring that we can continue our vital role in delivering on community engagement and connection in the community of Whitehorse.

Julie Melia
Manager

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

2024 - Real Impact. Real Value.

INCOME \$194,735

VALUE \$532,475

This figure includes the value of:

Improved quality of life through social connection:
\$384,365

Volunteer contributions: \$41,032

Services provided: \$107,078

Services value includes:

- Computer/internet usage: \$96
- Facilities use or hire: \$55,200
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: \$9,360
- Fee for service activities: \$42,422

This community value equates to:

\$2.73 for every \$1 of income

\$5.40 for every \$1
of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program
funding

Over \$261.02 for every hour the neighbourhood
house is in use

Employment value 2.2 FTE jobs

including 1.6 direct and 0.6 indirect
Full Time Equivalent positions

These values are produced by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria based on data provided by Bennettswood Neighbourhood House in the 2024 Neighbourhood Houses Survey. Only a limited range of activities where a determinable valuation method exists are included.

Just some of the value to communities from selected Neighbourhood House activities

Basis of calculation

The Bennettswood Neighbourhood House provided in excess of \$532,475 of value to the community for 2024. This is based on data provided through the Neighbourhood House Survey 2024.

Nominations for Committee of Governance 2025/2026

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House
Annual Report 2025

Office Bearers:

President: Van Ros

Vice President: Ben Cole-de Witt

Treasurer: MaryAnne Mahoney

Secretary: Enio Orlandi

Ordinary Members:

Sandy Willis

Neeraja Voleti

Jonathan Tay

Vacant

Ex Officio:

Julie Melia

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House Inc.

extends thanks and appreciation to ~

Our hard-working team members

Julie Melia (Manager - since 2014)

Vendulka Sekker (Admin / Program - since 2016)

Sally Zhang (Admin / Finance - since 2023)

"Thank you to all former and current members of our staff team over the years for your valued contributions to making the House a happy and welcoming place for people to connect and learn" ~

Bennettswood NH community (1994 - 2025)

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

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