



span 2016

ANNUAL REPORT



It's your house

About us

Span Community House is a dynamic hub of community and adult learning in the heart of Thornbury, providing access and community development activities.

We offer a diverse range of programs covering areas from cooking to trade skills, health and wellbeing to gardening. We offer skill development, pathways to further study or employment, support services and activities for fun and information.

Staff, volunteers, tutors and facilitators are skilled and qualified, and many volunteers and tutors have been with Span for many years.

Thanks and acknowledgements

- Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board
- Bunnings Northland
- City of Darebin
- Clyde Street Kindergarten / Portland House
- Darebin Council Community Support Program
- Darebin Council Building Services staff
- Darebin Neighbourhood House Network
- Department of Health
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
- North East Neighbourhood House Network
- Reservoir Neighbourhood House
- Second Bite
- Thornbury Horticulture and Design
- Tim Beacham, Computer Solutions

Sensitive Santa donors and supporters

- Fantastic Furniture, Preston
- Celebrating Christmas, Thornbury
- Harvey Norman Computers, Preston
- Grip Equip
- Officeworks, Preston
- Stephen Fox
- Anna Ryan
- Sharon Crabb
- Margot Sharman
- Joe Conte
- Yu Sun

Thanks to Chiara Zeta and Rozie Horvat for the design of this report.

Cover art by Jill Watkinson, Art for All Abilities.



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Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies Tai Chi class



Span Volunteer Lunch

Our House

Our mission

Span Community House is a place to call home for our community, with everyone being supported equally. We foster lifelong learning through a diverse offering of programs focussed on what our community wants.

Span is welcoming and supports all community members, including diverse groups, and our facilities are accessible for all.

We would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri people, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We would also like to pay our respect to the Elders, both past and present of the Kulin Nation and to extend that respect to all Indigenous Australians.

Experience

*Is trying new things
Being in the moment
Being willing to take
a risk*

*Try new things
Get a taste of what's
different
This is what an
experience
is*

By Bernadette Carroll,
SPEAK & SPAN Thornbury Writers' Workshop
Anthology 2016



Our people

Staff

Colleen Duggan
Sarah McNamee
Karen Washfold
Rozie Horvat

Board

Jacinta Agostinelli
Devika Fernando
Elisa Grassa
Janette Kodaih (retired)
Della O'Brien
Linda O'Connor
Sean Pickard (retired)
Rae Kingsbury
Kristina Sarcevic
Yu Sun

Volunteers

Angela	Sean
Guiomar	Mark
Barbara C	Deanna
Garry	Roweena
David B	Peter
Wendy	Meg
Barbara S	Emily
Sid	Cephas
Antoine	Stephen
Margaret	Sharon
Judi	Anna
David J	Margot
Averil	

Tutors/Facilitators

Danielle Afif	Giampietro Pascasi
David Burt	Theo Kitchener
Gerry Kruyer	Gina Kolobaric
Jane Murphy	Alex Machin
Judi Herkes	Cody Van Aalst
Katie Roberts	Stacy Anderson
Mileta Rien	Meredith Lewis
Paulie Daniele	Hayden Dewar
Penny Sara	Naabi Methe
Perri Campbell	Angie Chong
Rani Hughes	Carla DeSilva
Sheena Mathieson	Tessa Hughes
Sudaya Elmhirst	Monique McNamarra
Tim Beacham	Natural Autism Solutions
Kaz Mackay	Natalie Craig-Vassilidas
Mark Kromodimoeljo	



Sarah, Volunteer

Chairperson's report

Our board recently undertook a strategy planning session focussing on the Span 2020 strategy, and in this session the question was posed about what differentiates Span from other community houses. Overwhelmingly, we agreed that Span is a community house that is open to everyone. We have diverse offerings through ACFE, HACC, free and fee for service courses, and are open to all members of our community, as well as those outside our community. This focus is also true of the results that we have seen for 2016.

2016 has seen outstanding growth and consolidation at Span and we have concluded our three year strategic plan with many great initiatives completed and more than 1000 programs and activities run out of Span in the year.

We have *strong governance and organisational health*. Our financial position has provided Span with the ability to be a sustainable organisation for our members - we even participated in our first sausage sizzle fundraising activity. Our board's diverse skill set have allowed us to focus on policy, compliance and partnerships. We also confirmed our marketing plan to underpin future activities to retain our current members and attract new members.

We have a large focus on *Inclusion*. 2016 saw Span receive National Disability Insurance Scheme provider accreditation which is a testament to our staff members and the programs that we run focussing on our community. Again, we ran the Sensitive Santa program which was successful with print media coverage, and one of the new programs that was introduced was the 'pizza night for Dad's with kids on the spectrum' activity.

We have continued our focus on *Health and Wellbeing*, with in excess of 400 programs being run out of Span in 2016.

Our agreed goals, to set the Span 2020 strategy are:

1. Deliver community and client focussed activities
2. Promote wellbeing and environmental sustainability
3. Empower our people
4. Build a sustainable financial position
5. Strong and diverse governance
6. Lead partnerships and collaboration



Kristina Sarcevic, Chairperson

We look forward to working in collaboration with our members to achieving our goals over the next 3 years.

We thank our manager, Colleen Duggan, for her dedication and strong leadership, and our talented staff, tutors and volunteers for bringing us to this position. I would like to thank my peer board members for volunteering their skills and knowledge and being like-minded individuals. I would like to thank Sean Pickard and Janette Kodiah who retired as Board members in 2016 for their contributions to the Span board.

Manager's report

The last 12 months have flown by, which I say every year. Span has had another successful year, strengthening our ongoing activities and developing new ideas.

It is always difficult to pinpoint exactly what the community needs and wants. We continually encourage community members to give feedback on our current activities and suggest new ideas. With the good reputation Span has, we attract a continuous stream of tutors and facilitators suggesting new and exciting activities, which are then developed by Span staff and put into motion.

Span's good reputation in the community is not only achieved by the variety of activities we offer, but how those activities are administered and run in a professional supportive manner. Not only are our staff and volunteers a credit to the organisation, our tutors and facilitators are skilled, experienced and work exceptionally well in a community setting.

"... You already go above and beyond. All the people at Span offer such amazing support to mum (and the community!) it's such a lifeline for us..."

We have increased the delivery of health, wellbeing and mindfulness programs, which has fulfilled a need in the community for programs which are locally delivered and have value for money, and are held in a supportive, comfortable and relaxed space. We continue with our ACFE (Adult Community and Further Education) and HACC (Home and Community Care) programs and have

now added CHSP (Commonwealth Home Support Program). We have registered as a NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) provider, and our partnerships with other service organisations offer Span a bright future in the implementation of NDIS to assist those eligible community members.

Span also pride themselves on the assistance we give to local small businesses in Darebin. We offer them excellent facilities to run their activities and support them in developing their services. We also engage small business operators to run Span activities.



Colleen Duggan, Manager

Unfortunately we lost two staff members during the year. Karen Washfold joined us in April as the administration officer and then left us in August. Karen moved to our peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, offering them her skills, many years of experience in the sector and her dependable work ethic which was well matched with enthusiasm. Jane Murphy, our HACC and ACFE cooking tutor, left us in December. Jane brought with her many years' experience in the hospitality and community sector. Jane's students learnt some helpful lifestyle and education skills which were delivered with humour, in a supportive relaxed learning environment. Both Jane and Karen are missed.

Catherine Donnelley and Rozie Horvat have joined us. We look forward to working with both Catherine, as the HACC and ACFE cooking tutor, and Rozie as our administration officer, putting their skills and dedication to good use.

Throughout the year with the coming and going of an administration officer, and a continually increasing workload, the support of Sarah McNamee, our programs coordinator, has been never failing. Not only is Sarah a great support to me, she also joins me in laughing at ourselves during stressful moments. Along with Sarah, is the wonderful support given to me and the organisation by our volunteers and board of directors. Without these people coming in each week and using their skills and experience to assist Span becoming financially and operationally sustainable, they also offer excellent service and support to the community. Without our volunteers, Span could not function at the high level that it does. Volunteers assist Span across all the activities we offer as well as back of house operations. The board oversees our strategic direction setting plans in place to ensure the ongoing success of Span. Along with the staff, the

board has worked hard to direct Span in a financially sustainable direction. As well as being financially stable Span undertakes a high level of compliance and works within ethical standards.



Colleen and Sarah

I wish to thank our funders. I also wish to thank our staff, volunteers, the board of directors, our tutors and facilitators who make Span the special place that it is. I enjoy working with them through each up and down and I look forward to 2017 which will again be another amazing year full of endless possibilities.



Span Board of Directors

Program Coordinator's report

It gives me great pleasure to report on the ongoing success of the social inclusion and health and wellbeing programs that thrive at Span. Supported by Department of Health and Human Services HACC funding, we continue to engage a diverse breath of community members who are seeking an avenue and place to be connected.

Our dedicated facilitators provide such joy to our participants and our volunteers contribute tirelessly to supporting all our activities - without them the limited funding could not support the range of programs we offer.

Sheena Mathieson demonstrated her passion for supporting our community by adding a series of creative session for family carers. *Family Carers Take time to be Creative* provides a valuable opportunity for unpaid carers to take a break from their caring role and share in creative exploration. Sheena enables carers to feel supported whilst enjoying the fun and freedom of experimenting using various mediums. We were able to offer this with funding through 2015/2016 Darebin Community Support Program.

I am especially pleased with the ever growing referrals and word of mouth enquiries all

supported by the promotional and marketing work of our volunteer Deanna Veneer. Deanna's professional edge has lifted our image to a new level and it all helps in attracting local community and new referrals to the house.

Our frequent volunteer applications are also a testament to a dynamic and vibrant house that people are wanting to be a part of. This keeps our programs viable and fun with new and interesting faces joining Span. Long termers and new supporters are keen to contribute to projects and events.

Building partnerships and collaborations, and seeking funding to support projects and initiatives is an ongoing adjunct to our work along with building confidence in the community members who are reluctant to venture out.

We collaborated with MOSS - Merri Outreach Support Service to build confidence in the older persons high rise community, by conducting a pilot of resident based activities run by Span facilitators: gentle exercise and seasonal cooking. Both attracted residents and we hope the connection will encourage residents to seek connections at Span.



Sarah McNamee, Programs Coordinator and volunteers

A successful application to the Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank; Community Bank Community Gardens Grants Program, has provided our garden with a voucher to redeem at Northcote Nursery. The gardeners are excited to have additional resources to boost the fantastic work that our volunteers undertake in the garden.

Our house is embracing diversity, seeing more participants identifying with a disability or illness taking part in non-disability specific groups and activities. We are also pleased that Span is a space our LGBTI community seek to engage in. Diversity best practice is a significant goal.

Whilst the funding is taking on a new model, we continue to deliver a supportive service without disruption to our current participants.

On 1 July 2016 the funding and management of Home and Community Care (HACC) program services changed significantly. Access to these services is now based on age. Services for older people (people aged 65 and over and Aboriginal people aged 50 and over) are now funded and managed by the Commonwealth Department of Health through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP). The CHSP provides similar types of services that were provided by the HACC program.

Services for younger people (people aged under 65 and Aboriginal people aged under 50) remain funded and managed by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services under the HACC Program for Younger People (HACC PYP). Some of 'younger' cohort will transfer to the National

Disability Insurance Scheme as it rolls out in Victoria over 2016 – 2019.

There can never be enough gratitude and thanks given, shown or documented on the dedication and support the Span volunteer team provide to staff and the community.

Over 45 volunteers supported the house in 2016 in the areas of: office support, reception and administration, house management, garden, marketing and design, Tai Chi , technical assistance, tax help, cooking and catering, all abilities programs, craft, board of management, sensitive Santa, special projects and the community garden shelter project. Wow what a contribution! So much support.

Thank you everyone!



Judi and Barb, office volunteers

“We fed 178 mouths at our monthly lunches from February to November, with 55 guests attending our end of year community lunch.”

Volunteers at Span

OMNI @ Span

The group has evolved from a group of older men with widely varying life experiences, who once were hesitant to share them with others. However they are now, a more open and relaxed group of men, who enjoy the opportunity to be able to share their thoughts and views, on a wide variety of topics.

It is very interesting to see how being part of the group has allowed the members to achieve this. The group enjoys meeting at Span and using the fantastic meeting space, as well as the support they are given by staff and volunteers.

Sensitive Santa

Another wonderfully successful year. Quotes from volunteers and parents.

"I always look forward to the Sensitive Santa program - it's such a wonderful service. The staff at Span are so dedicated to making the experience a truly memorable one for each child."

Anna Ryan: Anna Ryan Photography



"Such a rewarding experience, I look forward to it every year. It feels great to be able to volunteer doing something I love. The amount of satisfaction I get back far outweighs the time I put in."

Sharon Crabb, Photographer

"Thank you so much for your kindness. We really appreciate this. Yes, they will be really excited to get a special gift from Santa! We just have had to cut back on so many things as our daughter has run out of any kind of funding and we are still awaiting NDIS. So currently, we are paying for all her therapy ourselves which is a big financial burden at the moment. Thank you again for your kindness"

Carers High Tea



Carers High Tea

"I'm glad everyone enjoyed it, it was my pleasure to be involved with such a wonderful event" Naomi, volunteer chef

Span Craft Group

During 2016 we had a warm, friendly and diverse group that made a variety of items to sell at our Open Day and also for the charity kogo (knit one give one). We had a lovely couple of hours each fortnight, laughing and telling each other stories of our past and present, either crocheting, knitting or embroidering.

"On behalf of kogo I would like to pass on our thanks to the members of the Span Community House Craft Group for their extremely kind and generous donation of gifts."



Volunteers with Hon David Feeney MP

Cob and Bush Pole Garden Shelter

Span has run Introduction to Trade Skills classes for two years. The aim is to foster skills and confidence as well as resourcefulness and sustainability through teaching basic woodwork and natural building, and our cob and bush pole garden shelter is one of the major projects. It is envisioned as being a place where gardening volunteers will shelter from the elements and store tools, where people will meet, hold small community events and also just sit in quiet contemplation of the garden.

We held a number of natural building workshops and had the help of many volunteers and staff, materials donations, and the generous loaning of bulk tools from our local Tool Library in Brunswick. It was a delight and honour to host Bec McGuire (*Mudgirls Natural Building Collective, Mudmob*) as co-facilitator for the first workshop we ran. She brought a wealth of experience and grounded teaching.

The Design

The garden shelter has a curved wall with seating built in to it, a large window sill, also for seating, shelving for a book exchange and hooks at the side



for hanging up garden tools. The walls are curved for structural reasons but also to appear like an embrace. The structure is north facing – letting in light and warmth. The west wall and roof angle protect against the harsh afternoon sun in summer while letting sun in in winter through the large glass window.

The drystack foundation is made of bluestone, sourced from a dismantled 120 year old shed in Footscray, and an old road in Greensborough. Clay for the cob walls came from up the road in Reservoir from an excavation for a pool. Bottles forming a decorative seating alcove, small timbers for shelving, lintels and our window frame, pavers for the floor and rags were all recycled and donated. The bush poles for the frame were the hardest part of the materials to source ethically, and the remaining timbers ethically harvested. Homemade beeswax and linseed oil polish were used to finish the timbers.



Perri and crew tamping down the base

How it all went

One of the reasons Perri loves teaching at Span is the inclusive nature of the community centre. All people are welcomed there, and Perri was keen to create a similar openness at the workshops.

In terms of sustainability of relationships, the building process as well as the building itself has generated a lot of positive spirit and community connections.

“...thank you for the great social outlet you provide for us...”

Art for All Abilities

This is a fun group of adults with a disability and/or an experience of mental illness who meet up every Monday during term time.

The group is facilitated by practising artist Sheena Mathieson and volunteers. Sheena has lived an experience of disability, caring for someone with an intellectual disability, and is a firm believer that we are all artists! She is interested in participant ideas and moulds the program in accordance.

The group has a great time making art and every second Monday heads out and about to view and enjoy art (in the broadest sense of the word).

Activities over the past 12 months have included still life drawing and painting, photocopy collage, painting the mural on the fence that borders the Span community garden, exploring Darebin, La Trobe University, the city and its hidden gems, coffee, painting and loads more.

Carers are welcome to come along and join in, make art and share the fun.

“Volunteering in the art for all abilities group was a fantastic experience, ... helping create a fun and supportive group environment for the participants ... the group became really close and it was a highlight of my week to come in and make art with friends”



Sheena, volunteers and class, out and about

Thornbury Writers' Workshop

Thornbury Writers' Workshop celebrated a very successful year with the launch of *SPEAK & SPAN*, our latest biennial collection of students' work, at Span's Christmas community lunch. It was a valuable opportunity for our writers to share their achievements with the wider Span community. Some brave authors read their work aloud: Rudi, ShirI, Bernadette, Alycia and Tony.

Rudi, our resident philosopher, is still thinking hard about humanity and our place in the universe, without losing sight of life's small, significant moments, the latter embodied in his charming poem, 'Lost Flower', which he performed to great appreciation.

ShirI's lively humour, curiosity about human beings, and sensitivity to nature are ever-present in her writing, nowhere more than in her poem 'Lighthouse in the Sand' which she shared at the Christmas party.

Bernadette continues to inspire with poems about hope in the face of adversity, and the importance of human connection, qualities she also demonstrates with gusto in her contributions to class discussion.

Alycia's rendition of her wistful poem 'Paradise' was a highlight of the reading. She will leave the group to pursue further education, but we hope to see her back at Span after she graduates.

Alycia has shared with us her personal story in this edition of the Annual Report.

Last year we welcomed Tony back to the group after a long absence. His darkly funny poem 'Schoolyard Memories' was a big hit with the audience.



Mileta and Bernadette

Other newcomers last year included Alex and Glenda. Alex is already shaping up as a promising poet, whose bleak worldview is shot through with gleams of hope. Glenda writes a great deal in class, but has been somewhat reticent about sharing her work. It's great to have some samples in our collection, and I look forward to reading more evidence of her observant eye.

It is a privilege to teach this class and to edit their work. I hope we will continue to encourage and challenge each other for a long time to come.

Mileta Rien, Tutor
Thornbury Writer's Workshop



Shirley reading her work from the latest anthology

Alycia

After having fled from Brisbane in late 2014 due to a spate of domestic violence and episodic mental health issues, I was lost in a state of psychological distress and emotional turmoil as I faced relative complex issues. Disconnected from my wonderful ex work colleagues, friends and estranged family members, I lacked direction and had low self-worth. Needless to say, my life spiralled out of control.

Near homeless, couch surfing, I was untrusting and at times over-trusting of others to the point of self-deprecation. Not knowing or understanding the idea of 'community,' I mixed with the 'wrong' sort. I struggled to put food on the table, top up my myki and travel on public transport.

Thinking about studying, finding or maintaining a job was far from my mind at this point and was not my priority. Instead my energy was focused on getting by; that is, day to day and week to week. The system (it seemed at that time), had failed me and as much as I wanted to persist and move forward, I couldn't see any way out.

Fortunately, push came to shove and with the guidance of an excellent psychologist through a GP's mental health care plan, I was linked into a professional support network who met with me, worked hard collaboratively and as part of my recovery, introduced me to Span Community House, Thornbury.

I recall my first impression of Span. I opened the door to the 'house' and was greeted by a warm, welcoming and wonderful reception of staff, volunteers and students. Not to mention, the exotic rich aroma of vegetable curry from the community lunch wafted through the main office area as a lovely staff member by the name of 'Sarah' and I chatted.

I was then invited in for lunch and nearly cried. I

had in my possession: no money, nor food at home in the fridge and no idea about the potential opportunities that awaited. As I sat down in the kitchen and lunch was served, my cold exterior (like that of my harsh interior) lifted.

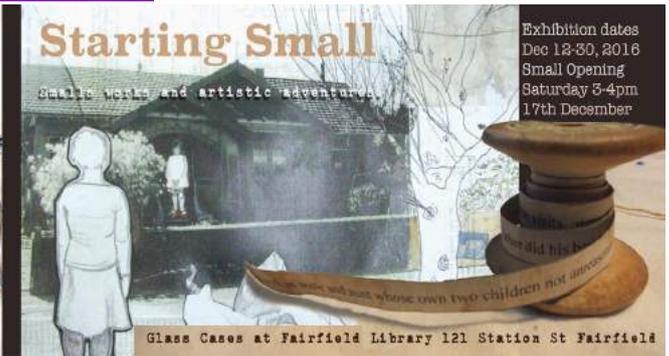
I chatted and networked with several people, ate and then drank a coffee. On my way out I was



offered dessert and accepted the apple strudel with a program brochure. Three weeks later and through the assistance of my care team, I enrolled in 'Cooking for Healthy Minds' and subsequently 'Thornbury Writers Workshop'. I have met some lovely people and exceptional tutors. All those involved have been helpful in their approach and have always encouraged me to further challenge myself in pursuing my passions.

Today, I have completed cooking and am continuing with yet another term of writing in Span's Thornbury Writers Workshop. My future is bright. I have participated in Span's open day and made priceless friendships with fellow neighbours at my local Neighbourhood House, Span. I work, I plan to study tertiary level and am writing a memoir. My story does not end here. Watch this space!

Art of Adventure



Katie's Art Classes

Art is amazingly powerful; it entices, delights and terrifies students in almost equal measure.

In every class I try to extend people's experience to stretch them outside of their comfort zone and lay down a path for them to reach 'where the magic happens', some times we hit the panic zone along the way, but ultimately it is very rewarding.

The Tutored Life Drawing class is more challenging than most. Which is why it is testimony to the strength of character of all those that attend, none more so than Dan who came to the classes with some degree of uncertainty. Determined to make art in a serious art class and try his hand at life drawing, Dan has a unique vision and talent, he has extra abilities and challenges too, due to living with Autism. Dedicated to the task, he attended every class of life drawing for over a year and met the challenges of time restraints, new mediums, situations and methods. He produced some brilliant and inspiring artwork and at the end of each class my students and I were in awe of his creations. We

all look forward to seeing what he produces in the future, I hope one day perhaps with his own studio and exhibitions.

Last year I invited the previous Artistic Development students to participate in a student exhibition called *Starting Small* at the Fairfield Library. A dozen students included work in the show, which was bursting with journals, artists' books, embroidery, collage, print-making, paper-making, drawing and more. It was very brave for students to allow themselves to reveal their hearts like this. Because that is what art so often is, an extension of the most personal parts of ourselves. To show their work pushes the boundaries of even the bravest student. To move out of your comfort zone takes courage, but once done, the safety zone extends further than before. By making and sharing our art, the world opens up, into a wider one in which each of us can be safe expressing ourselves.

Katie Roberts
Artist and Tutor



Norma's Thyme Garden

Norma's Thyme community garden is flourishing. The Good Bugs volunteers continue to come every Wednesday to weed, prune, plant and plan in the garden. We have some familiar and some new faces toiling away. The natural building shelter has made a change in the landscape, we all look forward to its completion so we can enjoy a cup of tea under a roof on a hot or damp day.

The banana tree is still flourishing, but no bananas – yet. The fruit trees on the garden perimeter were just saplings last year, now they are higher than the fence. We had good crops of peaches this year, the kaffir lime is flourishing (come and pick some leaves for your curry), and the orange tree is laden with fruit. Berries are doing well – it's a race with the birds, lucky the berry canes are so productive, we have plenty to go around. The strawberry patch is producing so well, thanks to the new watering system, our strawberries always feature on a cake in the cooking class.

David Jacobson of Thornbury Horticulture and Design, installed an automatic watering system with assistance from the Good Bugs volunteers. Installation involved digging trenches for the water pipes; drilling through the garden walls to insert pipe; laying the drip pipes on the garden beds; installing a timer; filling and levelling the trenches.



Ben and Annie

With the watering system we get consistent moisture to the growing vegetables and fruit during the hot weather. We are still enjoying generous crops of beans, tomatoes, lettuce, kale, cucumber, pumpkin, beets and herbs. The watering system gives our resident water sprite, Sean, more



Antoine, Barb and Annie

time to water surrounding garden beds and spend more time pottering in the veggie garden with the Good Bugs.

Future plans for the garden include setting up a small propagating area to grow our own plants from seed and cuttings, sharing these with our neighbours, and enlisting more good bugs to come and be a part of Norma's Thyme Garden.

Treasurer's report

For the financial year ended at December 2016, Span Community House finances are in an overall improved position. Thanks to Eugene Odachowski of J. P. Hardwick and Associates, the auditor of Span, the financial records have been found compliant. Thanks also to our bookkeeper, Evan Butterworth, for his dedicated service. It should be noted that comparison with our last year's financial report cannot be easily made as the board and management have changed the reporting system from financial year to annual.

Span's income for 2016 financial year has been increased steadily and is more diversified. The state recurrent funding still remains as the primary income source, but takes up a lower percentage of the total income. Thanks to Colleen Duggan and staff's dedicated work, there is also a continuing upward trend on small local grants and course fee income.

Small grants are obtained which enable Span to offer programs that specifically target those community members who are living with a disability or mental illness, and family carers who need an opportunity for a break from their daily responsibilities. HACC funding from DHHS enables us to offer programs that not only teach lifestyle skills, exercise and relaxation but also allow the opportunity to connect and socialise at Span. It is important that we are able to continue to offer these supported programs which can lead to participants enrolling in other programs and activities. With limited funding Span also offer purely enjoyable opportunities for social connection through community lunch, High Tea for Carers and spending time in the community garden.

Span managed to control the expenses in a reasonable level. Due to the changeover of staff in our administration position, the salaries for employees remained stable in 2016; while the

salaries for contractors have surged accordingly since more course fee income has been received and more programs have been provided by Span. Overall, the salaries and wages are the major outgoings of Span.

Span is in a sound financial position in 2016 with a surplus of \$60,607 comparing to a loss of \$16,346 in last financial year. Span's cash at bank is \$116,693, up 29.2 per cent as at 31 December 2016. Net assets were \$117,977, doubled throughout the year due to the continuing fall of the liabilities. This improved financial position gives Span more security and is full of possibility for future strategic development to provide better services and programs to our neighborhood community.



Yu Sun, Treasurer

Thank you to Span's Board of Directors, volunteers, manager and staff for making this a successful year at Span Community House.

Independent Auditors report

To the members of Span Community House Inc.

We have audited the Financial Statements, being the Statement by Committee, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to and forming part of the financial statements for 31st December 2016. The Association's Committee is responsible for the financial statements. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the member of the Association.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures included have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association and economic entity's financial position, the results of their operations and their cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the Financial Statements of Span Community House Inc are properly drawn up: so as to give a true and fair view of:

the financial position as at 31st December 2016, and the results of its performance and cash flows for the year ended 31st December 2016; *and*
and

In accordance with the provisions of Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

In accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Dated at Melbourne this 14th day of March, 2017.

EUGENE ODACHOWSKI

REGISTERED COMPANY AUDITOR (Reg No: 9182)

Unit 7, 617-643 Spencer Street, West Melbourne VIC 3003

Telephone No: (03) 9376 3455

Facsimile No: (03) 9329 5747

Notes to the Financial Statement

For the Period Ended 31 December, 2016

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The members have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

Basis of Preparation

The report has been prepared in accordance with the following applicable Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group Interpretations:

AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements

AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements

AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

AASB 1031: Materiality

AASB 1048: Interpretation and Application Standards

No other Australian Accounting Standards, International Accounting Standards Urgent Issues Group Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Board have been applied.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the presentation of the financial reports. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

The Association is a “not for profit” entity and is not subject to income tax.

(b) Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset’s employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluations are credited to the revaluation reserve in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against fair value reserves directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the income statement. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the assets original cost is transferred from the revaluation reserve to retained earnings.

(c) Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, is depreciated on a diminishing value basis over their useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated carrying amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks or financial institutions, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short term borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

(e) Change to Financial Reporting Period

The Association changed its Financial Reporting Period to 31 December. As a result, the Financial Statements have been prepared for an 18 Month Period ending 31 December 2016.



David rolling out the irrigation pipe

Statement of Financial Performance

For year ended 31 December 2016

Income	2016	2015**
	\$	\$
State Recurrent Grants	139,167	173,909
State Capital Grants	2,500	2,500
ACFE Delivery	16,011	13,049
ACFE Capital Equipment Grant	5,000	8,000
Local Recurrent Grants	37,809	61,277
Local Non-recurrent Grants	10,470	15,836
Local Capital Grants	20,800	0
Course Fees	39,563	60,396
Fundraising	2,334	2,362
Other Income	19,644	22,679
Total Income	293,296	360,008
Expenses		
Audit & Accounting	1,200	1,100
Advertising & Promotions	9,106	11,245
Assets Purchased under \$5000		285
Bank Charges	582	
Bookkeeping Fees	5,400	
Governance Expenses	2,169	1,683
Cleaning Expenses	5,526	6,421
Course Resources	5,071	13,778
Computer Expenses	3,674	6,587
Depreciation	2,943	5,319
Fees & Permits		2,648
House Supplies	4,202	
Insurance	3,474	3,996
Memberships	1,180	
Postage & Freight		1,487
Printing, Stationery & Copying	2,449	3,478
Project Expenses	4,952	
Venue Hire		2,227
Maintenance & Repairs	289	551
Salaries & Wages – Contractors	35,320	37,981
Salaries & Wages – Employees	141,023	248,058
Staff Training & Travel	1,259	3,346
Internet & Telephone	2,871	4,290
Staff Training		235
Travel & Accommodation		923
Sundry Expenses		374
Volunteer Costs		342
Total Expenses	232,689	356,355

Net Profit (Loss) – before extraordinary	60,607	3,654
Extraordinary Items		
Correction to 2014 Income		-20,000
Net Profit (Loss) – after extraordinary	60,607	-16,346
Add		
Retained Earnings B/F	57,105	73,451
Retained Earnings – C/B	117,712	57,105

** Note (1) – 2015 figures are for a 18 month period: 1/7/14 – 31/12/15

** Note (2) – Expense categories adjusted due to new bookkeeping system



Sensitive Santa with Board members



Become a member of Span

Why?

By becoming a member you will show your support to our organisation and the work we do within the community. You will receive news on what's happening at Span, and vote on any change to Span's constitution. You will also receive an early bird discount at any stage when paying for a course.

Please ask a staff member for a membership form.



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