

# Annual Report 2022



**It's Your House!**

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# 1



## About Us

Span Community House is a dynamic hub of community support, adult learning and sustainability in the heart of Thornbury.

We offer skills development, pathways to further study or employment, creative activities, support services, activities for fun and a thriving community garden and composting program.

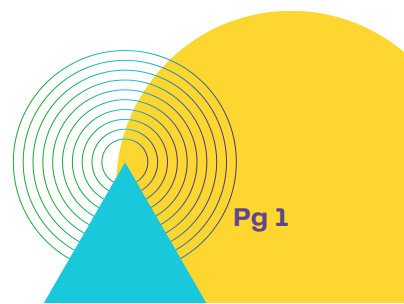
Our range of programs is very diverse, covering areas from digital literacy to creative, health and wellbeing, to gardening, sustainability and special events.

Our facilities are accessible for all, and we welcome all members of the community.



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, who are the traditional custodians of the unceded land where Span is based.

We also pay our respect to Wurundjeri Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.





## Thanks & Acknowledgements

Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) board and staff  
 Art Stretchers – Northcote  
 Butterworth Bookkeeping  
 Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and staff  
 Darebin City Council, councillors and staff  
 Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes (DHRH)  
 Darebin Neighbourhood House Network  
 Darebin Presbyterian Church  
 Department of Education and Training  
 Department of Families, Fairness and Housing  
 Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions  
 East Preston Community Centre  
 Fairshare  
 Fantastic Furniture – Preston  
 Grip Equip Pty Ltd  
 Home and Community Care Program for Younger People  
 Nathan – Officeworks  
 Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP)  
 North East Neighbourhood House Network  
 Office of Hon Ged Kearney MP and staff  
 Office of Kat Theophanous MP and staff  
 OM:NI (Older Men: New Ideas)  
 Parks Victoria  
 Party Corp – Alphington  
 RMIT University  
 Second Bite  
 Sustainability Victoria  
 The Festive Shop – Coburg  
 Transition Darebin  
 Volunteers for Sensitive Santa  
 Woman-Made  
 Yarra Valley Water – staff





# 2

# Our House

## VISION

Empowering people to create an inclusive, healthy and sustainable community.

## MISSION

Span Community House will develop and support the local community through educational, social inclusion and recreational activities:

- Community development and connectedness
- Sustainability
- Empowerment of marginalised groups and those experiencing economic disadvantage
- Health and wellbeing
- Social justice
- Education and knowledge



# 2



## VALUES

Span provides programs and services underpinned by the following values:

**Inclusiveness** – We welcome and embrace diversity of culture, sexuality, religious beliefs and all abilities.

**Quality** – We are committed to operating our organisation with a high degree of competency and professionalism.

**Empowerment** – We are committed to supporting and upskilling our community members so they can improve their own circumstances and contribute to the creation of an inclusive, healthy and sustainable community.

**Responsiveness** – We are proactive in identifying the needs of our community and providing timely programs and services to respond to its needs.

**Equity** – We will treat everybody fairly and ensure access, opportunity and empowerment for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.

**Integrity** – We operate our organisation and treat people with respect, honesty and fairness. Our decision making, and our processes aim to be transparent.

**Sustainability** – We adopt and model practices that contribute to the sustainability of our planet as well as providing education and projects that empower our community in these practices.

We are also committed to the financial sustainability of our organisation by ensuring we comply with our funding bodies criteria and by proactively seeking and managing a variety of income streams.



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## Our people

### STAFF

Colleen Duggan  
Julie O'Brien  
Katrina Forstner  
Leana Maloney  
Nicola Loyer  
Sarah Finlay

### TUTORS / FACILITATORS

Bruce Hatfield  
Catherine Donnelley  
Danielle Afif  
David Westlake  
Marina Clark  
Paulie Daniel  
Rani Hughes  
Russell Lennox  
Sheena Mathieson  
Tania Chandler

### BOARD

Wennie van Riet  
Linda O'Connor  
Natasha Maugueret  
Renee Daniele  
Yu Sun  
Freya Shaw  
Jennifer Nathan  
David Westlake  
Militsa Toskovska  
Bronwen Jennings

### VOLUNTEERS

#### Art for All Abilities

Meg  
Julian  
Kim  
Leanne

#### Community Lunch

Zini  
Lyn

#### Composting

Jo  
Tyson

#### General Support

Sean

#### Food Relief

Eamon

#### Office

Barbara  
Judi  
Leanne

#### Sensitive Santa

Sharon  
Stephen  
Therese  
Lyn  
Laura

#### High Tea

Carmen  
Lyn  
Jennifer

#### Tax Help

Garry

#### Website

Judi

# 3

## GARDENING TEAM

Andrew  
Anton  
Grace  
Cedrick  
David  
Dom  
Fabian  
Josh  
Eris  
Judi C  
Gabby

Kathleen  
May  
Nerys  
Nora  
Peter  
Saumane  
Stephen F  
Stephen H  
Ben  
Anthony  
Eric



# 4



## Chair's report

In 2022 Span has successfully maintained its focus on empowering people to create an inclusive, healthy and sustainable community. It was the first year where Span was able to keep its doors open to our community the whole year round since the COVID pandemic. However, the impact of Covid remained significant on both Span and our community as people are only slowly returning as community members, participants or volunteers which is a recurring trend across the sector. However, the renewed vigour and energy from Span staff and volunteers has been infectious and people are returning slowly but surely.

Span's ongoing work and leadership in the sustainability sector has been wonderful to see. Events such as the ReLOVE pop-up shop during hard rubbish collection season and the reLove Community Garage Sale were incredibly well attended. They continue to extend the excellent work Span is already doing with the RRR (repair, reuse, recycle) hub projects. Throughout this project we diverted no less than 11,116 kg of waste from landfill! We will continue this great work in 2023, together with our ongoing food waste and composting program and our very good bugs garden crew in Span's community garden.

This past year we have also had the pleasure to return to onsite delivery of classes, offering a diverse range of programs covering areas from digital literacy to art, health and wellbeing to gardening. However, we have also learned from the Covid pandemic the great ways we can connect online and the benefits this brings as you do not need to find transport to Span and can enjoy our activities from the comfort of your own home. That's why Span has decided to continue our blended learning sessions using zoom and onsite delivery in a range of activities. Though it's also been great to see the increasing number during our important face-to-face social connectors such as Span's community lunches, the family carers' events and Sensitive Santa.

None of this would be possible without Span's amazing staff and volunteers. A huge thank you to Colleen, Julie, Sarah, Leana, Nicola and Katrina and our tireless admin volunteers Barb and Judi. Sadly, Barb has retired from volunteering this year, and I would like to use this opportunity to thank Barb once again for her 12 years of volunteer support to Span – you will be missed! Others who are being missed are our former board members Linda and Natasha who supported Span for many years, as well as Bronwen who sadly was only able to commit to Span for a short amount of time. And thank you too to my current volunteer board members: Yu, Freya, Renee, Militsa, Jennifer and David who have shown a tremendous dedication to Span over the past year.

Finally, thank you to our members and community for your ongoing engagement, enthusiasm and contribution to Span. It is a space for and by you and I cannot wait to see what we can do together as a community in 2023!

Wennie van Riet

# 5

# Manager's report



2022 turned out to be a year that neither disappointed, nor surprised us, but the months certainly kept us on our toes.

We were able to return face to face to Span, but still maintained a blended delivery of onsite and via zoom. We welcomed our community back in to Span with open arms hoping that this year would be different from the many lockdowns we had experienced over the previous two years.

It is not often that people realise that there are many different faces at Span due to part time hours or sessional delivery. Those many faces include our tutors who we thank for welcoming their students and participants into the activities. The tutors, who are sometimes supported by volunteers, maintain the connectiveness and interests of their participants.

A highlight of the year was continuing the development and operation of the sustainability program (RRR) which enabled us to maintain the recycling hub and continue our strong partnerships with other environmental and climate action groups. A benefit of this great program was the engagement with many new and different community members.

We said farewell to Katrina, our lovely garden coordinator, but welcomed Nicola to the team. Then we said farewell to Nicola at the end of the year. They both continued to work with the garden volunteers in developing and maintaining the community garden.

Span have a highly skilled and devoted team of staff members. I would like to thank Sarah, Julie, Leana, Nicola and Katrina for their support and hard work throughout the year. A special edition to this team is our wonderful office volunteers Judi and Barb. Unfortunately, Barb decided to retire after many years of service to Span and the community but she still volunteers in helping with the community lunch each month.

Thank you to our funders, tutors, facilitators, volunteers, the board and participants. We all worked together, managed to move through 2022, and now look forward to a great 2023.

Colleen Duggan





# 6

# Community Development



## Community Development in Action

### Introduction

With the lockdowns of 2021 behind us and a return to on-site or hybrid activities becoming the norm again in 2022, community development activities were largely focused on listening and finding ways to support people to re-engage or newly join activities at Span.

This brought a return to life and new energy back to our spaces which we were all really grateful to be able to create and experience.



Covid was still obviously active in the community so there were challenges that remained in dealing with this reality, but we did our best to support staff, tutors, volunteers and participants to engage at a pace and in ways that suited them.

In a practical sense this meant upgrading systems, procedures and equipment to support hybrid and in person activities, and to create efficiencies to free staff and volunteers up to be more present and engaged with participants.

# 6



## RRR Hub

Having secured funding through the Recycling Victoria Communities Fund to deliver a 12 month project that we kick started in October 2021, the majority of activities were delivered in 2022.



The specifics of the success of the activities delivered will be covered in the sustainability section of this report, but in terms of community development we will share some of the approaches we took to informing the development and delivery of the program here.

We will also focus on a specific element of the project that saw Span work closely with one of it's key project partners to develop and deliver an innovative solution to 'hard waste' avoidance and reuse for the broader community.

## Building Partnerships



In developing the funding application for the RRR Hub, we knew that partnerships would be key to the success of the project.

We approached Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes (DHRH) and Transition Darebin (TD) to be key partners from the outset, but with a range of material types and potential repair, reuse and recycling activities in our sights, we wanted to identify and work with many new people and organisations near and far.



On the one hand, we were trying to solve environmental issues with the program of activities we were developing, but we could also see there was lots of opportunity to achieve social good at the same time.

Some of the successes of these are explored below...

# 6



## Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs

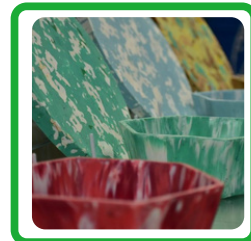
We became an official collection hub in Melbourne for ABTfW, collecting plastic bread tags to support their fabulous work.

ABTfW are based in South Australia, but they support the collection of bread tags from all over the country. The program has a few steps but basically is centred around them providing the collected bread tags to a local business – Transmutation, that recycles the plastic to make beautiful products including bowls and platters. A portion of the sales of these products is then shared back to ABTfW who support the purchase of wheelchairs for people in need in South Africa.

What an amazing chain of events!

To date, Span has provided over 35 collection boxes to organisations across the community and taken collections from many more individuals as well. During 2022, this resulted in 167 kg of bread tags being diverted from landfill to support the work of Aussie Bread Tags.

Result!



## Team Jake



With shared goals and values of helping others to connect and lead fulfilling lives, Span has become a collection hub for Team Jake.

Team Jake meet their goals by supporting Jake's work in the community, where he gets to meet new people and help different charitable organisations along the way.

Jake loves caring for animals and collects unwanted linen to share with local animal rescue shelters and wildlife centres. For Jake, the biggest reward is spending time with others and meeting new people in the community.

Through the collection at Span, there have been over 100 kgs of linen/towels diverted for reuse in animal rescues. This is in addition to the many other places they collect from and represents a great achievement with positive social and environmental outcomes across our northern suburbs.

# 6



## reLOVE Pop-Up Shop

Having delivered two successful market based events in November 2021 and March 2022 with Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes and their amazing volunteers, we were focusing on delivering the next event in May when we learned more about The Green Shed in Canberra.

The approach and success of this initiative got us thinking... Could we pull off a pilot of a similar activity to align with the upcoming Hard Rubbish 'season' in Darebin?

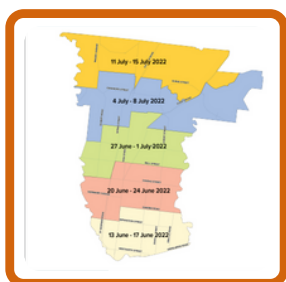
The basic idea was to give people the opportunity to extend the life of their items by providing a reuse shop as an alternative to potential rescue from the nature strip or the ultimate destination of the crusher truck.

What we wanted to explore and learn included:

- Would this approach appeal to people?
- Would it be successful in diverting materials for reuse?
- What would it take to resource it?
- What could apply to the business model of a potential future endeavour?



And so, a pop-up shop on High St, Thornbury was born!



# 6

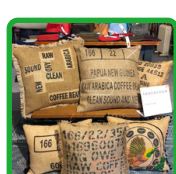
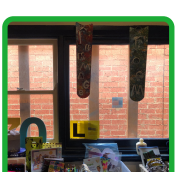
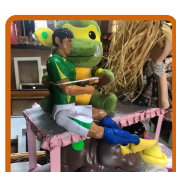
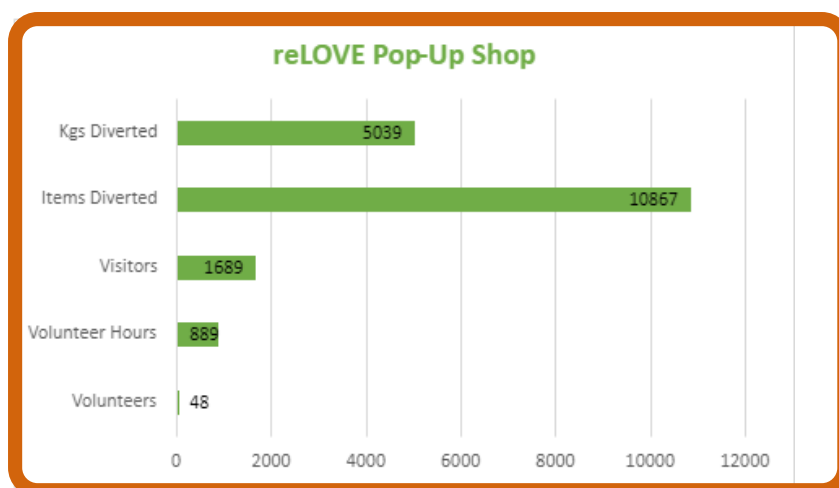


From the first day of opening, people were engaged and enthusiastic about the shop and what we were trying to achieve.

Lots of people brought their items to us rather than putting them out on the nature strip. Many learned for the first time, that beyond some specific waste streams, a lot of what they were putting out was going directly to landfill via the crusher truck. People were invested in understanding the value of weight and items diverted data we were collecting and lot of parents of young children embraced the opportunity to educate them about valuable materials being reused rather than wasted.

The high level results presented here demonstrate the value of the activity in terms of the amount and weight of items diverted from landfill to new homes.

The combination of low priced and free items was a winner, with something for everyone and we had many repeat customers.



Although, the pilot generated some revenue to pay the bills and support the ongoing work of Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes, it would not have been possible to run the shop without the 48 volunteers that contributed almost 900 hours to make it all work.

This is one of the main learnings underpinning how DHRH are seeking to develop an ongoing model.





### What the community had to say...

"I loved the pop-up shop. It represented everything that a caring and sustainable community should be. I used it to pick up much-needed donations for homeless clients and wildlife shelters. I even bought some amazing items for myself there.

I met so many lovely locals that I have connected with as a result. The way it brought the community together to look after and care for each other was amazing. The emphasis on sustainable living, connecting and caring for your community and the planet, and reducing landfill was inspiring."

"The pop up shop was the BEST!!! We went probably 6 times.

I dropped off all the great things I saved from hard rubbish that I didn't need myself but were too good to be thrown into landfill.

I found lots of great things at the shop that I needed and saved heaps of money compared to buying them new. And my kids got a living demonstration of genuine sustainability and community action."

"This shop needs to be permanent, as it is making such a big change in the way we think about waste and is accessible for all."

Span Community House is very proud to have been part of this fantastic pilot with Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes, demonstrating the value of the idea for the wider community.

We are pleased that as a legacy of this initiative, DHRH are now pursuing an ongoing funding and operating model to make this viable for the long term.

Go Heroes!



# 6



## New projects ahoy...

As the year progressed and we settled back into things, new ideas and opportunities emerged and we set about trying to make them a reality.

One was based at the House itself, and one was about getting our participants and the wider community engaged in other volunteering opportunities to support local biodiversity.

With these ideas in mind we kept our eyes and ears open for suitable funding opportunities and were successful in receiving support from two separate State government organisations. The funding received enabled us to get planning and started in late 2022, with main activities to be delivered in 2023.

### ExSPANsive in Nature

With funding received from Parks Victoria, we are taking inspiration from our Good Bugs Garden Group and have set up a project that will get some of them and others in the community actively engaged in habitat restoration and biodiversity enhancement works around Darebin.

We will also be taking some of our best loved Span activities out into the wilds with art and tai chi classes to be delivered in places of natural beauty such as Darebin Creek and the Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary at La Trobe Uni in Bundoora.

### Span Sustainability & Biodiversity Hub

Building on the work of our RRR Hub, we started with the idea of making the access to our external collection hub in the Span front garden a safer, easier experience for all. Also mindful of ongoing covid impacts, we were keen on developing an external meeting space option. Upgrading the front garden also represented the opportunity to improve the overall aesthetic and amenity for the broader community.

With all this in mind, we opted to integrate principles of accessibility and biodiversity to build our new indigenous garden and with support from the Living Local Fund, we will be bringing this vision to life in early 2023.

As always, we are grateful for the community being so open in various ways in telling us about what they want to see more of here at Span.

We are very keen to hear new ideas and to see what we might be able to deliver together with or for the community.

Please email [cd@spanhouse.org](mailto:cd@spanhouse.org) if you have anything you would like to discuss or suggest.

Julie O'Brien  
Community Development Coordinator

# 7

## Program Coordination and activities



# 7

## Program Coordination



As we have all navigated the roller-coaster of life post-Covid lockdowns in 2022, Span has been an anchor point for many in our community. Providing a place to start connecting with others in-person once again, building the confidence to get out and about, resuming activities or exploring something new, finding information and resources, having a chat and a cuppa, or enjoying the peace and quiet of the Community Garden.

2022 often called on us to be flexible. Many of our programs transitioned from online to face-to-face, as well as been hybrid, expanding the options for people to participate if they were experiencing health challenges or lived beyond our local community, had transport issues or were away on holidays. Frequently members of our community were also experiencing challenges and changes in their work circumstances and personal situations which impacted on their participation in activities and volunteering.

Our highly skilled and committed tutors and talented and dedicated volunteers, along with technology, were essential to making this happen. Encouraging and supporting one another, listening to our community, reflecting, learning, and adjusting and adapting along the way.

Volunteers are a vital part of Span; we thank our long-term volunteers and welcome those who have recently joined our community. Span would not exist without your generous, diverse and skilled contributions, we rely on you to keep the doors open and get things done, to better understand who our community is and what people need and want. Our volunteers currently range from the community gardeners; reception and administration folk; support for activities and programs such as Art for All Abilities, Community Lunch, Carers High Tea, Food Relief, Sensitive Santa and Tax Help; website and computer support; the composters; and board members.

Of course, we also thank our tutors who bring their specialist knowledge and expertise to enthusiastically and skillfully share with program participants. The smiles, chatter and return of loyal participants each term speaks for itself.

Span has continued to provide and grow programs and activities that cater for the needs of community members with NDIS Plans. These included: Art for All Abilities, Cooking for All Abilities, Thornbury Writers Workshop, Tai Chi for Healthy Minds and Bodies, Computer Skills, Good Bugs Gardening Group and Sewing. As part of our philosophy Span challenges the traditional concept of 'All Abilities', offering opportunities for the whole community, not only 'those with disabilities', recognising we all have 'abilities' and are likely to experience 'disability' during our lives.

# 7



## **Art for All Abilities**

A highlight for the Art for All Abilities artists in 2022 was exhibiting their works in the Kaleidoscopic Upcycling Exhibition @ the Glimpse Art Space, a small exhibition space on High Street in Northcote. Fifteen artists created collages and paintings using upcycled green suspension files, acrylic paint, wooden cheese wheels and other upcycled materials. A great opportunity for a wider audience to enjoy the artists' work, and for the artists to experience the excitement, challenges and processes of exhibiting.

Span's Art for All Abilities program continues to flourish with the expert facilitation of artist Sheena Mathieson and the support of dedicated volunteers and support workers. Artists are encouraged and challenged to explore and express their unique creativity. Each session artists create in response to selected themes and materials, and often materials are recycled or upcycled.

Visitors to Span enjoy changing displays of the artists' works in all the spaces we can possibly co-opt. During 2022 this included exhibitions titled: Tea Bag Art, If I were a Flower, Oil Pastels, Face Time, Monotypes, Dot Play, Soft Sculpture and Cube – Negative & Positive Space. (The Cube is a metre cubed portable timber white box for the display of artwork, a play on the notion of the typical gallery white box exhibition space.)

## **Carers High Tea**

Span celebrated National Carers Week in October with Carers High Tea. After a two-year break, due to the Covid lockdowns, it was wonderful to see over twenty carers from our community come together to enjoy the High Tea. Our fabulous volunteers, led by chef Carmen, created a delicious spread featuring freshly baked scones and ribbon sandwiches, all served on elegant china.

This popular annual event has now been held at Span for over ten years, beginning in 2012, a great opportunity to acknowledge and support the vital role that carers play and for carers to connect with one another and receive some well-deserved TLC.





# 7

## Community Lunches

Span's monthly Community Lunches were able to resume in 2022 and as always were very popular. For many it was their first step in reconnecting with community after the Covid lockdowns and developing the confidence to once again enjoy participating in face-to-face activities.

The year culminated with a 'huge' traditional Christmas Lunch enjoyed by seventy-five community members. A big thank you to Catherine, our wonderful cook who leads the creation of the delicious heathy lunches, and the team of fantastic hard-working volunteers who make sure it all happens.

## Online Qigong Plus for Connection & Wellbeing

Span collaborated with RMIT University to research the effectiveness of online Qigong programs for older adults who were qigong beginners. Volunteers were invited to participate in Online Qigong Plus for Connection and Wellbeing, a free 6-week program, and two pilot programs were offered during 2022. Participants experienced many benefits from the program and provided valuable feedback. RMIT University are planning further research to build on the outcomes of this project and Span is keen to be involved.



# 7

## Sensitive Santa

It's the most wonderful time of the year and a popular holiday tradition to meet Santa and his helpers while having photos taken. However, for children with special needs, who are neuro-diverse and/or with developmental disabilities (including autism, ADHD, down syndrome, intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy etc.) meeting Santa can be a sensory-overloading experience due to long lines, crowds, loud music, and bright camera flashes.

This is why Span is so thrilled have been able to host yet another successful Sensitive Santa program in 2022.

Our delightful Santa, Stephen and his elves all have extensive experience working with these children and their family's, many of whom have been coming along for years. This year we were thrilled to welcome three new families to the program.

We were able to create a wonderful experience around the children's unique needs, ensuring each session ran as smoothly as possible for the entire family and the odd pet or two! Children were able to meet Santa in ½ hour time slots in a sensory-friendly and calm environment.

At the conclusion of each session, the family was presented with a USB stick full of photos to treasure.

It's with enormous gratitude that we would like to acknowledge the team of volunteers and local businesses that continue to support Span's Sensitive Santa Program.

- Fantastic Furniture, Thomastown
- Party Corp, Alphington
- The Festive Store, Coburg
- Darebin Presbyterian Church
- Sharon Crabb Photography
- Grip Equip Pty Ltd

Leana Maloney





# 7

## Cooking for All Abilities



### Reflections of Tutor – Catherine Donnelly

The Cooking for All Abilities group were buzzy and excited to be cooking together once again in 2022, after the isolation and challenges of being on Zoom during the lockdowns. New members joined the group and numbers increased to bursting point, everyone enjoying the opportunity to connect or re-connect.

The focus for the group was 'Gaining Confidence in the Kitchen', and so life. Cooking dishes not tried before, following the steps in each recipe with the encouragement and support of the group. Experiencing the taste and smell of new ingredients, broadening food horizons, taking a 'virtual holiday' without actually travelling.

The group often foraged in the Span Community Garden, picking fresh herbs and vegetables and then incorporating these into recipes. An opportunity to appreciate the journey of produce from garden to plate, to eat seasonally and be resourceful and creative, using what's at hand. Making spanakopita with garden greens: spinach, kale, silver beet and herbs, such as parsley and mint; pickling radishes and making tomato chutney; baking blackberry cakes and cheesecakes with freshly picked berries; and creating delicious colourful garden salads with many different lettuces and leafy greens, baby carrots, radishes, beetroot and flowers: borage, marigolds and nasturtiums.

Each month the group contributed to preparing for Span's popular Community Lunch, cooking dishes often with produce from the Community Garden. An opportunity to plan a menu, cook larger quantities and set the tables, featuring the beautiful flowers, herbs and greenery from Span's Garden.

Cooking for All Abilities is all about participants discovering and focusing on their personal food passions, as well as working as a team to cook tasty healthy meals, learn new skills and make great friends.



# 7

## Food relief



2022 saw the need for residents within Darebin seeking emergency food relief almost double that of the previous year.

During CoVID lockdowns Span diversified how we delivered food relief within community and decided to stick with this model. We found it best assisted the residents within our local public housing estate and eliminated the amount of waste, all be it compostable materials that we were able to feed back into our existing systems, it was still utilising our overall people power hours.

Span continued to be linked in with Fare Share, sourcing frozen meals and pastries. When we have additional and/or excess, we have been able to utilise these for our monthly community lunch or offer them as a take home option at the conclusion of the lunch.

Span has continued its ongoing partnership with Second Bite. As with all food relief charities, it works in ebbs and flows and the quality and volume of produce on offer varies greatly from week to week. Although always grateful for what we receive, Second Bite underwent a huge shift of what they were able to access, and therefore offer to us. Many external factors affected the availability of fresh produce and so our weekly allocation saw an enormous decrease of fruit and vegetables on offer, but rather packaged and highly processed goods, many of which fall into “snack food” rather than something that you can prepare a meal with. We saw the introduction of cleaning and hygiene products, which were extremely well received as the prices of these have greatly increased over the past 12 months.

While food relief is something that has and always will be part of the struggles that face our community, we will continue to do our part and explore other revenues, other agencies and food relief networks to greater educate both ourselves and the communities that we support as to what’s available, where and how to access it and even better still, how to grow their own produce to create a more sustainable future. Span is currently working with Darebin Council – Sustainability Team, Your Community Health, DFFH and ACU – Order of Malta within Community to better the lives of those we support and ensure that we do our part to provide food to those in need and eliminate hunger within Darebin.

Span would like to thank Darebin Council, where we were successful in obtaining “2022 End of Year Emergency Relief Grants”, Yarra Valley Water who’s staff personally contributed gift cards to help support the local residents of Darebin, after hearing just how hard people would be travelling during the holiday period with majority of the key support agencies closing over festive season. and lastly Darebin Presbyterian Church whom kindly provided money with which which we purchased gift vouchers and facilitated a Community Christmas Lunch.

# 8



## Sustainability

As outlined in our previous report, new funding received in late 2021 saw us take a significant step forward to expand our sustainability work with the engagement of a part-time Sustainability Coordinator. This was made possible through project funding received from the Sustainability Victoria Recycling Victoria Communities Fund and the majority of the work was completed in 2022.

In delivering these activities, we worked closely with new partners, Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes (DHRH) and Transition Darebin on specific events and workshops to help people repair, reuse and recycle more in the community.



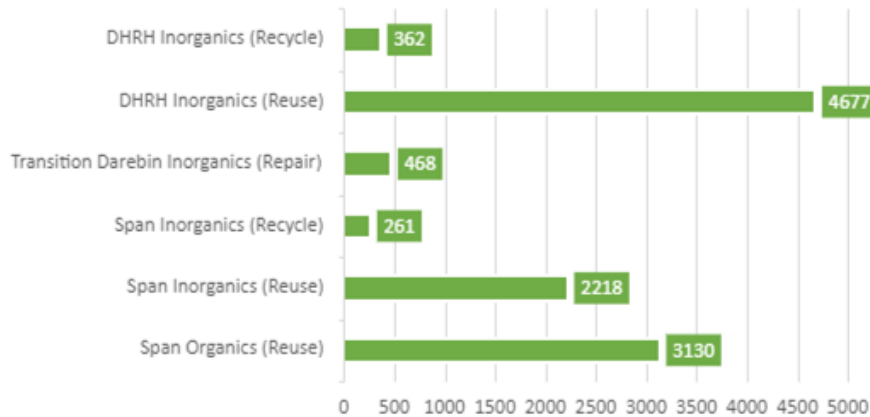
The program, which we dubbed, our RRR Hub (Repair. Reuse. Recycle.) had specific targets around the diversion of waste from landfill which were 2,000 kgs each of inorganic and organic materials to be achieved. We also committed to delivering 20 events / workshops to engage and educate the community.

Having undertaken community development activities to inform the program approach and the funding application, we knew the community was keen to be involved in the type of activities we were targeting, but even we were surprised and delighted by how much we achieved through the project.





### RRR Hub Waste Avoidance Achieved (kgs)



### Diversion

**11,116 kgs**

The results show that we exceeded our 4,000 kgs target by over 7,000 kgs.

That's 178% more than planned!

### Participation **4,679 Interactions**

This was monitored in terms of general enquiries, drops-ins with materials, volunteer participation, event attendees and shop visitors.

This is actually a conservative result given some ongoing activity was averaged and shop visitation was based on actual sales rather than exact foot traffic.

### Workshops & Events

These were many and varied, but all had a focus on viewing 'waste' differently – repairing, rescuing, reusing, upcycling and recycling.

All of these activities help build a local circular economy and it was clear that we have some amazing creatives doing ingenious things with what some people might consider waste.

Many of these micro-businesses featured in our initial Sustainability Fest Upcycling Market in November 2021 and were given another opportunity to shine as part of the reLOVE Pop-up Shop.





**RRR Hub**  
Repair, Reuse, Recycle

*Picking Seeds for the Community!*

The Span RRR Hub project started in Oct-2021, and with the funding period now over, it's time to reflect on our successes...

**1 - Partnering...**  
Span partnered with local legends Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes and Transition Darebin to deliver this project.

**2 - Funding...**  
The project was supported by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government.

**3 - Collecting...**  
We tested multiple new streams for ongoing collection, looking for reuse options where possible.  
Diverted lots of material types...  
• Recycling: 10  
• Reuse: 45

**4 - Events & Activities...**  
• Events Delivered: > 20  
• People Participated: > 4,600 people  
• Local Businesses supported: > 20

**5 - Volunteering...**  
• > 1,500 hours contributed

**6 - Material Success...**  
We found direct community uses for 97% of what we collected!  
• Food waste: > 2,630 kgs collected and composted  
• Repair: 245 items, 468kgs waste avoided  
• Reuse: > 7,000 kgs collected & rehomed  
• Recycling: > 298 kgs collected  
• Donated: > 1,455 kgs of items

**7 - Onward...**  
• Continue building a community of action  
• Set up more reuse partnerships locally  
• Engage Volunteers to help manage materials  
• Seek funding to share learnings, scale up & role out to other neighbourhood houses

**RRR HUB**



## Thank you!

Thanks to everyone that has participated in anyway in this program. We are so proud to have achieved what we did working with others across the community to share and build skills.

The funding for the RRR Hub ended in late 2022, but Span are determined to maintain many of the great activities and services we have developed during this time. If you're keen and able to volunteer to help us make this a reality, we'd love to hear from you!

Julie O'Brien  
Sustainability Coordinator

# 9

## Saying goodbye to Evie Chris Keogh

Chris Keogh is an extremely talented writer in Span's Creative Writing class and one of our biggest procrastinators. She continues to entertain us with her humour and wow us with her prose as she gets closer and closer to finishing her gothic thriller, which I would put money on being a bestseller.

We were surprised it was at the Catholic church — who would have thought she'd bother? You could not have known a more dissolute rager than Evie, but here we are. Everyone mills outside, the ragged bunch of smokers gathering around the corner, on the cobblestoned path. The sun tries to find its way through the dark cloud and old friends emerge amidst the crush of strangers. I say 'friends', but I would never have known them except for Evie, she was the glue. I could still pick the younger versions behind middle-aged paunches, balding heads and sensible jackets. Back then, sun-drenched kitchens with dishes piled in sinks, grimy stoves with pots of vegetarian slush that passed for student food, notes in fridges and lists on doors. How did we survive the shit cooking, never mind the long card games extending into lost weekends with the help of matchbox kif and cheap wine. Today I will see where we have all ended up. Much older, not much wiser.

Her son, Kieran, stands on the top step of the stone entrance, ushering us inside. His hair the same golden blonde, a perpetual grin with big teeth — a vision of Evie. He has inherited her sunny expressions, the easy way of gathering everyone in, Evie's great skill. Her house was where it all happened.

We shuffle in like reluctant schoolkids to the high ceilings of the musty inner suburban parish. Glory days of wealth and worship long gone, now mixed with badly drawn socially aware messaging from the junior school group. Vague memories of the eternal masses on Sunday, bored out of our brains, looking at the dust spiralling in the air, counting our rosary beads, examining the coat fabric on the lady in front. Anything but listen to the fat priest who loved the sound of his own voice, which got louder for latecomers until they had settled into their seats. Every week we missed out on the safe back rows, and had to slink our way to the front. Big Catholic families had too many kids to wrangle and be on time.



# 9

There are the usual prayers, the formal part of a mass. Evie, did you really want us to sit through all the palaver? God, if I didn't need a drink before, I will after this. A work colleague, with long-winded recounting of achievements that most of us don't know about, is mercifully cut short when he drops his notes, changing his mind as they flutter to the floor. Muffled laughs from her mates who whispered that she was here to save us again. Blah blah from the priest who obviously didn't know Evie from the homily. People are straining in their seats, coughing, shifting. Any performer worth their salt would take the hint. Time to move on. One of our old crowd, John, makes his way to the front with his guitar. His huge-knuckled hands gently slide along the frets, long grizzled hair hanging. Kieran stands beside him. They nod.

The guitar starts, sweet and simple. We are all poised on the end of the sound, our attention and devotion to the line between them and us.

'Of all the money that e'er I had, I spent it in good company ...'

Time stops. The sun hits one of the stained-glass windows — this is what the church was designed for, to glorify the poor sinners with those royal colours beaming down, soaring acoustics in the century-old stone. Kieran's hair catches the light, his voice fills the air with the song's regret and love. All the memories, yearning and youthful dreams converge here in this moment. A tear falls onto my lap, I am surprised. Next to me, Daniel — did we really almost get together once? He puts his hand on top of mine. I let it linger.

Oh Evie, are you still getting people together after all this time? There is always an upside to days like this. Ah, there is that sun finding its way through the clouds.



# 10 Treasurer's report



For the financial year ended 31 December 2022, Span has experienced a total loss of \$67,996. This was mainly due to a decrease in government grants income and an increase in salaries due to projects covered by grants received.

Thanks to Michael Adasko of JP Hardwick and Associates, the auditor of Span, the financial records have been found compliant. Thanks also to our bookkeeper, Evan Butterworth from Butterworth Bookkeeping, for his great service.

Span has received a total income of \$385,165 in FY 2022, which is \$55,897 less than the total income in FY 2021 (\$441,062). This was because no government grants (JobKeeper payments and Victorian Government Business Grant) were received in FY2022. The total increase in other funds income (HACC, DFFH and City of Darebin) and courses fees were not able to fill the gap.

It should be noted that the income received from room hire increased from \$12,034 in FY 2021 to \$16,988, a 41% increase in FY 2022.

On the other hand, our operating expenses decreased from \$70,575 to \$56,714 in FY 2022. The decrease in operating expenses was due to the less board and governance expenses incurred in FY 2022.

Similar to prior income years, salaries and wages has been a major outgoing for Span in FY2022. Span has paid a total of \$340,758 salaries related expenses, including a total superannuation expense of \$29,413, a 13% increase from the total salaries expenses in FY 2021.

As a result, Span has experienced an overall loss of \$67,996, which is a significant drop from prior year's total profit of \$24,771. This loss position was consistent with our FY 2022 budget. The board has acknowledged this deficit position and plans to address it with more effort on salaries control in future income years.

Despite the loss, Span has a sound cash position with a total of \$266,546 cash at bank by the end of FY 2022. The net assets as at 31 December 2022 are \$146,717, providing financial flexibility and security for our future development or potential risk.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers of Span, manager and staff for their great services at Span Community House.

Yu Sun.

# 9

## SPAN COMMUNITY HOUSE INC

### Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

Asset	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	266,546	282,493
Accounts receivable and other debtors	4	31,089	24,063
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>297,635</u>	<u>306,557</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant, equipment	5	32,029	32,340
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>32,029</u>	<u>32,340</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>329,664</u>	<u>338,897</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Income in advance	6	91,756	43,300
Trade creditors and other payables	7	17,391	26,883
Employee Entitlements	8	73,800	52,264
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>182,947</u>	<u>122,446</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Employee Entitlements	8	-	1,737
Long-term borrowings		-	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>1,737</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>182,947</u>	<u>124,183</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>146,717</u>	<u>214,713</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves		265	265
Retained surplus		146,452	214,448
<b>Net worth</b>		<u>146,717</u>	<u>214,713</u>

# 10 Financial Statements



## Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Continuing Operations</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
<b>HACC Income</b>		
HACC Delivery	50,712	46,761
CHSP Funding	7,453	15,620
<b>DHHS Income</b>		
DHHS Supporting Carers	0	17,982
Neighbourhood House Co-Ordinat	92,580	88,898
<b>Total DHHS Income</b>	<u>92,580</u>	<u>106,880</u>
<b>ACFE Income</b>		
ACFE Delivery	18,509	20,545
ACFE Capital Equipment Grants	6,565	5,500
<b>Total ACFE Income</b>	<u>25,074</u>	<u>26,045</u>
<b>City of Darebin Income</b>		
Darebin Neighbourhood House	54,607	53,144
Drebin - Community Grants	21,500	22,500
Grants - Other	52,032	25,546
<b>Total City of Darebin Income</b>	<u>128,139</u>	<u>101,190</u>
<b>Fee Income</b>		
Course Fees - ACFE	3,989	3,155
Course Fees - HACC	9,013	0
Course Fees - FFS	38,784	32,231
<b>Total Fee Income</b>	<u>51,786</u>	<u>35,386</u>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest Received	819	530
Room Hire	16,988	12,034
Fundraising & Donations	2,218	2,059
Job Keeper Received		41,100
Vic Business Grant		50,400
Other/Sundry Income	9,396	3,057
<b>Total</b>	<u>29,421</u>	<u>109,180</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>385,165</u>	<u>441,062</u>



# 10

## Financial Statements continued

### Expenses

Advertising, Promotion & Event	38	175
Audit & Accounting Expenses	1,700	1,600
Bank Charges	445	425
Board & Governance	1,488	11,818
Bookeeping fees	5,740	5,820
Cleaning Expenses	6,104	5,917
Computer Support & Consumables	7,772	2,231
Course Resources & Venue Hire	4,598	4,040
Depreciation	5,685	5,707
Donations	0	300
House Supplies	2,216	1,153
Insurance	4,328	3,205
Memberships & Subscriptions	4,009	3,817
Printing & Stationary	640	786
Project Expenses	5,085	10,083
Repairs & Maintenance	745	5,725
Staff Training & Travel	1,412	3,856
Telephone & Internet	4,661	3,587
Volunteer Expenses	48	330
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,714</b>	<b>70,575</b>

### Salaries & Wages

Salaries & Wages - Office	291,044	276,715
Superannuation - Office	29,413	24,969
Provision for Annual Leave	10,394	7,313
Portable LSL levy	4,793	4,214
Provision for LSL	1,656	-16,620
Tutor Wages - ACFE	2,611	1,476
Tutor Wages - FFS	700	4,000
Tutor - Superannuation	147	43
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>340,758</b>	<b>302,111</b>

### Tutor Contractors

Tutors ACFE Contractors	14,040	8,835
Tutors FFS Contractors	14,000	15,523
Tutors HACC Contractors	19,900	19,248
	<b>47,940</b>	<b>43,605</b>

### Total Expenses

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>445,412</b>	<b>416,291</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>-60,247</b>	<b>24,771</b>
Previous Year Adjustment - LSL Provision	- 7,749	-
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>-67,996</b>	<b>24,771</b>



# 10

## Financial Statements continued

### Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Retained surplus \$	Reserves	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2021	189,677	265	189,942
Surplus / (deficit ) for the year	24,771		24,771
<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>214,448</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>214,713</b>
Balance at 1 January 2022	214,448	265	214,713
Surplus / (deficit ) for the year	-67,996		-67,996
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>146,452</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>146,717</b>

### SPAN COMMUNITY HOUSE INC

### Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Cash from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from governments and customers		475,554	424,642
Payments to suppliers & employees		(486,946)	(438,688)
Interest received		819	530
Net cash provided by operating activities	9(b)	- 10,573	- 13,516
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Net purchases from plant and equipment		(5,374)	-
Net cash provided by investing activities		(5,374)	-
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings		-	-
Repayments of borrowings		-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities		-	-
<b>Net cash outflows (inflows )</b>		<b>- 15,947</b>	<b>- 13,516</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease ) in cash held</b>		<b>- 15,947</b>	<b>- 13,516</b>
Cash at begining of financial year		282,493	296,009
Cash at end of the financial year	9(a)	266,546	282,493



# 10

## Financial Statements continued

### SPAN COMMUNITY HOUSE INC

#### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

#### 1. Statement of significant accounting policies

##### a) Statement of compliance

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 1048	Interpretation of Standards
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures

##### b) Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except where specifically stated.

#### 2. Statement of significant accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

##### c) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

##### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairments losses.



# 10

## Financial Statements continued

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee members to ensure that 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 assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, excluding freehold land is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready to use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Buildings	2%
Plant and equipment	20%
Motor vehicles	25%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

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

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognised immediately in profit and loss.

When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

#### a) Impairment

At each reporting date the committee assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

#### b) Income tax

The association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under section 50-45 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits, held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities cash within three months.

#### d) Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.



# 10

## Financial Statements continued

### e) Inventory

Inventory held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

### f) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

### g) Trade creditors and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days on recognition of the liability.



# 10

## Financial Statements continued

### SPAN COMMUNITY HOUSE INC

#### Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>3. Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Bendigo Bank account	27,768	11,771
Bendigo Debit Card Account	1,068	3,528
Bendigo Saving 549	214,537	244,078
Bendigo TD - 689	22,873	22,816
Petty cash	300	300
	<u>266,546</u>	<u>282,493</u>
<b>4. Account receivables and other debtors</b>		
Trade receivables	12,727	22,836
Prepayments	18,362	1,227
	<u>31,089</u>	<u>24,063</u>
<b>5. Property, Plant, Equipment</b>		
Furniture & Fittings	80,698	75,324
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	48,669	42,984
	<u>32,029</u>	<u>32,340</u>
 Total Plant & Equipment	 <u>32,029</u>	 <u>32,340</u>
<b>6. Income in Advance</b>		
Fees received in advance	-	-
Grants in Advance	91,756	43,300
	<u>91,756</u>	<u>43,300</u>

# 10

## Financial Statements continued

### 7. Trade and other payables

Trade Creditors and Accruals	3,194	2,943
PAYG Payable	4,428	17,668
GST payable	11,363	6,407
GST Receivable	- 2,738	- 1,292
Accrued Contractor Wages	-	-
Superannuation payable	1,144	1,156
	<u>17,391</u>	<u>26,883</u>

### 8. Employee Entitlements

Provision for Annual Leave	55,451	45,057
Provision for Long Service Leave - current	18,349	7,207
Provision for Long Service Leave - long term	-	-
	<u>73,800</u>	<u>52,264</u>

### 9. Cash flow information

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of financial year as shown in cash flow statement is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position:

Cash and cash equivalents	266,546	282,493
a)	<u>266,546</u>	<u>282,493</u>

### Reconciliation

Surplus from ordinary activities	-67,996	24,771
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### Non-cash flows in profit

Depreciation	5,685	5,707
--------------	-------	-------

### Changes in assets and liabilities:

(Increase)/decrease in receivables	- 7,026	(22,777)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in payables	58,764	(21,217)

<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>b) (10,573)</b>	<b>(13,516)</b>
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# 10

## Financial Statements continued

### 10. Related parties

There were no related party transactions conducted during the year.

### 11. Economic Dependence

The entity is economically dependent on State Government departments for grant funding. If funds are not spent in accordance with grant conditions the departments can suspend future grants or reclaim all or part of the grants.

The entity is dependent on the continued receipt of grants.



# 10

## Financial Statements continued

To the members of Span Community House Inc.:

### Report on the financial report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Span Community House Inc. (the association), which comprises of the balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, the income statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the committee's report.

### Committee's responsibility for the financial report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act). The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.





# 10

## Financial Statements continued

### Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

### Auditor's opinion

In our opinion the financial report of the association has been prepared in accordance with the *Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards as referred to in Note 1 to the financial statements.

### Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Span Community House Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act). As a result the report may not be suitable for another purpose.



---

**Stephen George Le Couilliard**  
ASIC Registered Company Auditor No:8579  
J P Hardwick & Associates  
Unit 7, 617-643 Spencer Street  
West Melbourne Vic 3003  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

# 11

## On the beat

### Barbara Fitzpatrick-Haddy

Another talented writer, Barbara Fitzpatrick-Haddy, has recently joined Creative Writing. Barbara is working on a novel based partly on her family history, interwoven with Irish folklore, and she also writes exquisite poetry.

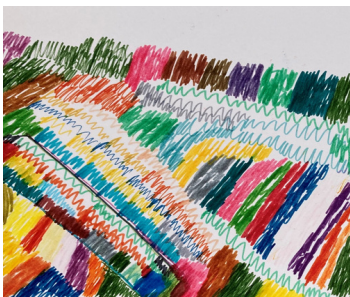
Same footpaths, trees and fences  
same shoes sky  
the path knows my feet

Different talks same talks  
same words different words  
new ideas old ideas

Mask on mask off —

Sit and have a coffee  
mask on coffee breath  
where's the breath of fresh air

Round the blocks  
looping round and round  
down to the creeks and rivers  
surface sparkling in the sun  
while depths murky eroded

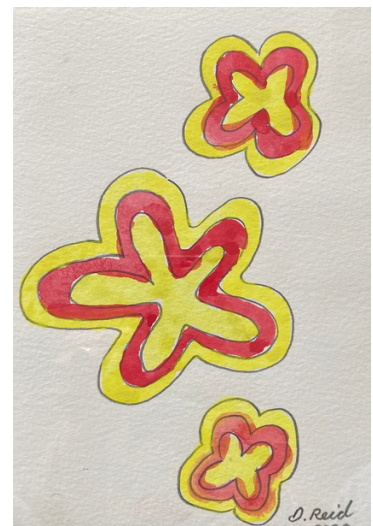


Floating bottles drowned masks

Dogs in the river  
one sole seal down stream  
getting his fill of eels  
showing off to inner city dwellers

Mask on mask off —

One lady swims goggles on  
getting strange looks  
she doesn't care  
she knows what the dogs know  
the rivers free no restrictions  
just go with the flow  
you can breathe it all in  
just don't drink it in





We hope you've learned something interesting about us and what we do to support our local community.

We'd love for you to come join our classes or volunteer to support one of our many programs, so please jump on to our website or call us to learn more about becoming active locally.

Span - it's your house!

## Contact Us

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Scan for More Info

