

8.12. North Sydney Community Centre - Joint Strategic Plan Review 2019/20

AUTHOR: Rebecca Aukim, Acting Director Community & Library Services

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Review of the Joint Strategic Plan 2019/20 [**8.12.1** - 4 pages]
2. Annual Report 2019/20 [**8.12.2** - 18 pages]

PURPOSE:

To report on the 2019/20 review of the North Sydney Community Centre's Joint Strategic Plan with Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

North Sydney Community Centre (NSCC) is an independent, not for profit organisation that receives support from Council.

The governance and strategic direction of the organisation is delivered by a Volunteer Management Committee with operational matters delivered by the Centre Director and staff.

NSCC provide a diverse range of programs and services for the North Sydney community. These include: Classes and workshops for adults; Music & Movement classes for children; The Northside Produce Markets; After School Care; Explorers Playgroup; community events and venue hire.

Under a COVID-19 Public Health Order, NSCC was required to close in March 2020. The Centre reopened June 2020. Despite the closure, the Centre was able to complete all their objective in the Joint Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

For the 2019/20 financial year Council provided NSC with a grant of \$82,057. The NSCC facility is provided at a peppercorn rent.

Although they received JobKeeper assistance (\$141,000) due to COVID-19, NSCC finished 2019/20 with a deficit of \$77,205.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the 2019/20 review of the North Sydney Community Centre's Joint Strategic Plan be noted.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

4. Our Social Vitality

4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe

4.2 North Sydney is creative and home to popular events

4.3 North Sydney supports lifelong learning

BACKGROUND

NSCC was established in 1972 by local women and children and in 1975 it became an independent organisation, known as the North Sydney Leisure Centre. The current centre was built in 2006 and is now known as the North Sydney Community Centre.

Council has provided the premises and financial assistance since 1975. The majority of the Centre's income is raised through the Northside Produce markets, programs and workshops and venue hire.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

DETAIL

The North Sydney Community Centre's Review of the Joint Strategic Plan and Annual Report are attached and provide an update on activities over the year. Some of the highlights are:

Mental Health Month (Oct 2019) in which NSCC, along with Council and support from local businesses, hosted an evening workshop for men which focused on breaking down common stereotypes of masculinity.

In November 2019, NSCC launched the annual Student & Tutor Exhibition which showcased the work and creativity of students and tutors across the NSCC Creative Activities Program. The exhibition was held in a Pop-Up Shop on Miller Street and on display were works from the photography, pottery, watercolours, expressive painting, life drawing and print media classes.

In January with Mama Creatives and Animal Rescue Craft Guild, NSCC opened the Centre for a day of crafting much needed supplies for animals rescued from the bushfires.

In March 2020, a COVID-19 Public Health Order required NSCC to close the Centre. During this period, NSCC moved many of their classes online, this included Yoga, Pilates, languages, choir, bread baking and sound healing.

NSCC were able to reopen the Centre and the After School Care program in June 2020 after completing a COVID-19 Safe Plan, updating risk management plans and implementing new policies. In August, NSCC was able to resume face to face courses and workshops as well as the Explorers Playgroup.

The Northside Produce Market was deemed an essential service and allowed to remain operational. NSCC introduced COVID-19 safe practices which included fencing the perimeter and completing regular head counts. During April and May when the number of COVID-19 infections increased, NSCC closed the market and created a Virtual Northside Produce Market online. The market was able to reopen on 6 June.

NSCC received JobKeeper assistance as well as the annual childcare benefit payment from the Department of Health & Family Services for After School Care.

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North Sydney Community Centre**Review of the Joint Strategic Plan 2019-20**

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	Complies?	Comments by Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to manage the centre for community use in accordance with the overall objectives of the Community Strategic Plan 	Y	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to manage the centre in accordance with the North Sydney Community Centre Strategic Plan 2017-2021 	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating strategies to remain financially viable and sustainable while maintaining our service levels and programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to manage the centre in accordance with the aims and objectives of Council's Community Centres Policy 	Y	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide and maintain a high quality community centre which meets the needs of the local and wider community 	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to play a pivotal role in facilitating community connectedness, social viability and ensuring an active and healthy community Continuing to attract people of all ages, socio economic and cultural backgrounds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to cater for people with disabilities within the physical constraints of the centre 	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programming is always mindful of inclusiveness and enables participation of people with disabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide for public safety 	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staggered reopening after lockdown, programs and services not all rolled out at once Adhering to our Covid-19 Safety Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ensure the Plan of Management is flexible and able to evolve with changing community attitudes 	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan is reassessed annually and adjusted accordingly

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be prepared to look beyond the Centre's immediate locality, through maximising existing resources, to enable delivery of outreach services where appropriate and needed 	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to investigate offsite locations and alternate spaces for adult classes and workshops
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North Sydney Community Centre

Review of the Joint Strategic Plan 2019-20

Specific Goals	Complies?	Comments by Centre
<p>Goal 1 Remaining Sustainable, Relevant and Independent</p> <p>Objective 1 Funding streams are maintained through strong relationships and promotion of our independent identity</p> <p>Objective 2 Business and philanthropic partnerships build community connection and sustainable relationships</p> <p>Objective 3 Staff capacity is supported by an expanded volunteer program</p> <p>Objective 4 Institutional knowledge and legacy is protected</p>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing our participation in BBP and membership with Business Australia Continuing the long-standing legacy of many of our services and programmes (i.e. ASC and Playgroup, over 40 yrs)
<p>Goal 2 Inspire Connection</p> <p>Objective 1 Increase social connection and create a sense of belonging through targeted activities</p> <p>Objective 2 Increase collaboration and connection between NSCC staff, volunteers and committee</p>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue building strong relationships, supporting and formulating trust among our students, tutors, families and stall holders
<p>Goal 3 Respond to Changing Community Needs</p> <p>Objective 1 Needs of the community shapes our programs and services</p> <p>Objective 2 Monitoring and evaluation informs organisational development</p>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation - pricing structures, while adhering to the COVID-19 restrictions; current restrictions are impacting our revenue streams thus we are exploring

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Objective 3 Organisational flexibility and responsiveness adapts programs and services to changing needs		<p>how we can stay connected in person and online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth and expansion - look to other areas for additional revenue i.e. new adult classes (run classes/workshops offsite) • Evaluation forms for students and tutors are administered each term • Surveys sent to Playgroup database members and all After School Care families • Weekly Enews invites regular feedback via email/phone/in person
<p>Goal 4 Innovation and Creativity in Service Objective 1 Customer service and audience reach utilise available technology Objective 2 Creativity and new ideas are valued and open to experimentation</p>	Y	
<p>Goal 5 Remaining Sustainable, Relevant and Independent Objective 1 Respecting our environment by reducing waste, increasing awareness and acknowledging our green spaces Objective 2 Respecting our community by listening to them and connecting them with community resources Objective 3 Respecting our heritage by informing our decisions on our values</p>	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining support - funding and grants are less achievable (i.e. highly competitive) and/or available - put events on hold and keep wages in check by recruiting more volunteers • Continuing to closely watch expenses and business costs and reducing all unnecessary spending • Using best available estimates of key budget parameters to inform planning

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North Sydney Community Centre

Review of the Joint Strategic Plan 2019-20

NOTES ON FINANCES					
Grants	NSC	Other			
	\$82,057	\$212,865 (includes Cash Flow Boost + Dept. Health & Family Services)			
Turnover	Year	Income	Expenditure		
	2019/20	\$1,499,763	\$1,576,968		
Sustainability	Year	Result	Reserves (Equity)	Funded liabilities	
	2015/16	\$42,697 surplus	\$344,905		
	2016/17	\$44,912 surplus	\$389,817		
	2017/18	\$39,836 surplus	\$429,653		\$120,945
	2018/19	\$11,672 deficit	\$417,981		\$119,084
	2019/20	\$77,205 deficit	\$340,776		\$120,166



NORTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
2019-2020
ANNUAL REPORT



OUR VISION

We encourage a collaborative, connected, caring and creative community



OUR MISSION

We nurture the present and promote a sustainable future

We engage, explore, inspire and enrich

We are a catalyst for grassroots initiatives

We respect our environment and heritage

We curate a creative social hub

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

GENIA MCCAFFERY

Well it started out as a normal year. We were facing change as our long-standing Director, Joanna Goodwin, went on a year's sabbatical at the beginning of March. Michelle Worthley, our Playgroup Coordinator was preparing to act as Director for the year.

Then COVID-19 hit and like the rest of the world, we went into lockdown, and nothing has been the same since.

I would really like to thank everyone in our wonderful Centre for their ongoing work to continue to provide our Programmes and services. We have ensured that our ties to our community, are maintained while providing a safe environment for everyone. Sounds easy but I can assure you it's been anything but.

As we moved our courses and workshops online in Term 2, we discovered that digital platforms for courses weren't possible for some tutors and many students! The COVID-19 crisis made us adapt and I was thrilled to see how willing and able we were to respond to the challenges faced and continue to face.

The Centre's highest priority is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of children and their families, students, tutors, staff and volunteers at the Centre.

Unfortunately, the lock down in March closed our doors and placed many Programmes on hold. This greatly affected our finances despite offering online courses. We are very aware COVID-19 is placing immense financial pressures on our community so we're taking measures to protect our cashflow. Like so many businesses in our community, we are working hard to remain financially sustainable and closely monitoring our expenses.

And, yes, we have had other changes too!

Our marvellous and devoted Music and Movement Coordinator, Jane Boyd, retired this year after an extraordinary 28 years at the Centre. Thanks so much Jane for your dedication to our Centre. We are very lucky to have Simona Green step into the role as she has worked with Jane for many years and was an employee at the Centre as well.

In September 2019, we said farewell to Rachel Bangoura, our Programming and Events Coordinator and were very fortunate to welcome Anna Gray to the team. At the beginning of the year we farewelled Maeve O'Donnell and welcomed Rosalynde Gray onboard as our Venue Hire and Programmes Administrator.

A big thank you to Michelle Worthley who has not only stepped into the Director's role with extraordinary ease but, in this year of all years, has been amazing. Ably assisted, I must say, by our fabulous Assistant to Director, Michelle Nixon.

And last but certainly not least, we were thrilled to welcome Vivek Samdarshi to our Management Committee. Vivek brings a background in Strategy and Finance, with over 15 years' experience in the commercial sector and he's also a Chartered Accountant.

A big thank you to our dedicated Management Committee. COVID-19 has challenged us in more ways than I could possibly describe and our Committee has worked incredibly hard to meet those challenges.

I also acknowledge and thank North Sydney Council for their annual operating grant and their support.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MICHELLE WORTHLEY

This year has seen some changes. The COVID-19 situation is unprecedented and full of uncertainty. I am proud of how our admin team came together with great collegiality and support, going above and beyond, to meet the needs of the community and make the best of what was a very tough situation. We had to change our whole way of operating within a very short time. It created a necessity for NSCC to re-evaluate Programmes, activities and events, update policies and procedures and scrutinise finances to get through this very difficult period and recover after four months of lockdown.

I came in as Acting Director at a time when the Centre was about to face COVID-19 and lockdown. Obviously, this was an enormous disruption in our Programming. In our very-loved Centre I felt an urgency to continue people's sense of connection and community while our doors were closed. We achieved this and were able to maintain people's connections with the Centre, and their sense of community, via our enews, social media and offering courses online. We have all explored what it means to deal with change, and I'm grateful to be part of a community that responds with resilience.

After a busy time of implementing contracts, new policies and updated risk management plans, we re-opened our Produce Market and After School Care Programme and resumed face to face courses, workshops and Playgroup as soon as possible, and NSCC was quickly back to its buzzing hub of activity. The team has worked extremely hard to adapt and produce classes, services and markets that are safely managed and enjoyable. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Committee, Michelle Nixon, the admin team and all of the staff. I believe the Centre contributes to the North Sydney population in such a meaningful way.

The saying "the whole is greater than the individual parts" is one I appreciate and feel fits NSCC. There is such a strong sense of belonging for people who attend our Programmes and services and I'm particularly pleased to hear fitness class participants say "it's just as good for my mental health as my physical health". The Centre is a place for people to connect with others, take time to learn, be creative, become fit and socialise as an essential part of their wellbeing. For some the Centre is also a lifeline and the importance of our role in the community is apparent. It is one I am very pleased to be part of.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Genia McCaffery - President

Genia joined the Committee in 2017. She has lived in North Sydney since the 1970s and says the Centre has been part of her life since then. She's done yoga and meditation here, her two kids went to Playgroup and to After School Care. She loves the Centre's markets, events and courses. She brings experience in local government, community development and her tenure as the mayor of North Sydney for 17 years. She's thrilled to be part of 'such a vibrant, compassionate Centre in our community'.

Lynn Oswald - Vice President

Lynn joined the committee in 2005 and was elected Vice President in 2013. Lynn was a market stallholder for many years and regularly volunteers at the NSCC Info Stall at the markets. Lynn spent two years volunteering in Tanzania at the School of St Jude where she enjoyed exploring her passion for all things African, including her love of animals. Lynn is a great supporter of Centre events and fundraisers.

Trish Cutler – Treasurer

Trish joined the committee during 2018. She has lived in the area since migrating from South Africa in 2000. She currently runs her own small business, providing bookkeeping, BAS Agent and software consulting services. She has a B Comm from South Africa and is a member of the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA). She has always loved the Saturday markets and enthusiastically attends various adult classes.

Beate Reinhardt - Secretary

Beate joined the committee in 2009 and brings skills from her professional background in administration, HR and accounting. In addition to being Centre Secretary and on the Finance Sub-Committee, Beate is a frequent student at the Centre, participating in latino dance, Zumba and drawing classes. Beate supports the Centre by volunteering at the Info Stall at the markets as well as at numerous events throughout the year where her warmth and energy are appreciated.

Barbara DeGraff

Barbara rejoined the committee in 2015. Her involvement with the Centre began when her sons attended After School Care from the mid 1990's through the mid 2000's. They loved their time at 'Leisure'. Barbara has over 30 years of marketing experience and is passionate about online marketing. She was raised in Albany, New York but considers herself a happy transplant. Barbara loves the sense of community the Centre offers and is a regular volunteer at the produce market.

Rosemary Garrett

Rosemary joined the committee in 2014. Rosemary's creative and graphic design background was a wonderful asset to Playgroup where she worked for 17 years until her retirement in 2014. Rosemary has attended classes at the Centre for over 10 years and volunteers at the markets. She sees the Centre as a great place of warmth, fun, inspiration, education and friendship and enjoys being a voice for Playgroup and After School Care.



Corinne Madden

Corinne joined the committee in 2017. Corinne, originally from France, coordinated Playgroup for 10 years and got to know the dedicated people working at the Centre and loved being creative and providing a warm, fun and safe environment for Playgroup. After retiring from Playgroup, Corinne has pursued her lifelong passion to teach French as a second language and maintains her special bond with Centre by belonging to the committee and contributing to the various events held by the Centre.

Jane Aellig

Jane joined the committee in 2018. She brings with her a strong background in finance gained over 10 years in the commercial and professional services sectors in addition to her qualification as a Chartered Accountant. Jane was excited and enthusiastic to join the committee being a local north shore resident and markets attendee and assists the Centre through volunteering at events and applying her professional qualifications.

Vivek Samdarshi

Vivek joined the committee in 2019. He brings a background in Strategy and Finance with over 15 years' experience in the commercial sector in addition to his qualification as a Chartered Accountant. He is involved in initiatives to optimise Centre performance and looks to provide a long-term lens on Centre sustainability. Vivek enjoys giving back to community and was drawn to join the committee for this particular reason. He is interested in issues around economic wellbeing, social welfare, fine arts and enjoys collaborating with people.

STAFF



Director: Joanna Goodwin / Michelle Worthley

Asst. to Director: Michelle Nixon

Programme & Events Coordinator: Rachel Bangoura / Anna Gray

Marketing Coordinator: Georgina Franklin

Venue Hire & Programmes Administrator: Maeve O'Donnell / Asha Dsouza / Rosalynde Gray

Market Coordinator: Lisa MacDonald

After School Care Coordinator: Joanne Parry

Playgroup Coordinator: Gill Alborough

ASC Staff:

Elsa Jara, Sneh Villanova, James Eriksson, Callum Boyd, Harry Monson, Mia Kidis, Sue Barnes, Eliza Nicholls, Nina David, Brodie Guppy, Nugent Wade-Brown, Francisco Cortez, Natasha Villanova, Sean McCracken

Our Volunteers:

Nathalie Suet, Glenda Gow, Pauline White, Noriko Sano, Christine Gleitzman, Lorne Macarthur, Renata Tacadena and Janet Watson

High School Volunteers:

Jessica, Brigitte, Georgie, Oscar, Jack, Emily, Nell, Alice, Pratham, William, Isbella, Hannah, Georgina, Liv and Tilly.

Playgroup Staff:

Gill Alborough, Debra Rifai, Jessica Brown, Louise Tully, Roopa Jambur, Nina David, Rani Young

Special Thanks:

Designer: Ben Gleitzman

Photographer: Zara King

Podcasting: Blair Greenberg

Market Tours: Tawnya Bahr

Caretaker: Johnny Pitt

Cleaner: Maya Kantar

Handyman: Eric Tang

Market Crew:

Deepali Jadav, Angela Colby-Rinker, Brodie Guppy, Lyla Encarnacion, Alexandra Noble, Gabriele Kisaragi, Pooja Gupta

PROGRAMMING

ANNA GRAY



Student & Tutor Exhibition November 2019

The annual Student & Tutor Exhibition was a festive weekend to celebrate and showcase the work and creativity of students and tutors across our Creative Activities Programme. The Pop-Up Shop on Miller Street added an exciting additional venue that housed the Photography exhibition, with Pottery, Watercolours, Expressive Painting, Life Drawing and Print Media on display in the main building. It was a proud event for everyone involved, as we admired the great breadth of skill, enthusiasm and friendship fostered amongst our creative community.



Mental Health Month October 2019

For Mental Health Month, with support from local businesses, WayAhead, Gotcha4Life and North Sydney Council, we hosted Tomorrow Man facilitating A Night For The Blokes - Breaking the Man Code. Although the workshop was for men only, the effects can have significant impact on families and the wider community. The group focused on breaking down common stereotypes of masculinity, to encourage an open and honest conversation about how men can effectively manage their own mental health and wellbeing.



PROGRAMMING

CONTINUED

In Conversation Events 2020

We held two In Conversation Events in February 2020, the first was part of Seniors' Week, and featured outgoing Australian Children's Laureate, young adult author and grandfather, Morris Gleitzman, in conversation with radio broadcaster and author Sarah McDonald. The two spoke about teenagers, writing, the power of imagination, 'dangerous' ideas, and about Gleitzman's life and work.

Creative Women In Conversation presented a full Programme of speakers, featuring Karen Black & Hannah James, Ursula Yovich & Kate Smith, Sasha Titchkosky & Lisa Cahill, Pia Jane Bijkerk & Shona Smith, Jessica Dettmann & Sacha Horler, Jade Oakley & Rebecca Townsend. The day was deftly MC'd by Cynthia Sciberras. With great generosity and honesty, these women came to North Sydney to present their creative journeys and the triumphs and tribulations that have shaped them. As personal stories were told, there were echoes of shared experiences with parenting, rejection, breakthrough and failure, while the unique insights from each journey illustrated the diversity of creative experience and pathways.

Bushfires, COVID-19 & Community

2020 was a year that rocked us all. From the February bushfires and smoke haze across the City, to the lockdown and continuing effects of COVID-19.

NSSC Programming and marketing has continued to facilitate projects to keep our community connected and engaged throughout these disasters. In January, with Mama Creatives and the Animal Rescue Craft Guild, we opened the Centre for a day of crafting much needed supplies for animals that were being rescued from the bushfires. Attendees and fabric donors found connection through a sense of shared purpose on the day, and hundreds from our community embraced a chance to do something to help.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, we moved as many of our classes as possible to online formats to help combat isolation and keep students and tutors connected and engaged in shared learning. Yoga, Pilates, Languages, Choirs, Bread Baking and Sound Healing, and several of our free community talks successfully transferred into virtual classrooms using Zoom. Fitness classes for over 50s and those with limited mobility continued with videos on facebook, filmed on an iPhone in the empty Centre and uploaded by students for a time that suits them

Our staff and volunteers worked around the clock to facilitate access and troubleshooting advice. We were overwhelmed by the flexibility and generosity of our tutors who embraced the new technology and re-designed for the new formats to break through the restrictions. They each did so with the wellbeing of their students in mind. We were also grateful for the patience and kindness of our community of students who worked with us to access their classes.

A highlight of the end of isolation was the busy enrolment day, when hundreds of our students contacted us to book into classes opening back on-site in Term 3. That our community stayed with us through isolation and closure is a testament to the strong bonds between our tutor and student community and the hard work of our administration and marketing team. The rush to rejoin us on-site demonstrates the value of the social Programmes and opportunities run by the Centre, to our North Sydney community.

Thank you to North Sydney Council for financially supporting:

- + A Night For The Blokes
- + The Seniors Behind the Scenes Produce Market Tour
- + Bicycle Maintenance

We also acknowledge the special support provided by:

- + The Department of Family and Community Services NSW for Grandparent's Day 2019 & Seniors' Week 2020 In Conversation with Morris Gleitzman
- + Gotcha 4 Life and WayAhead for A Night for the Blokes
- + The North Sydney businesses and services who contributed to our Free Community Talks Programme
- + Olive & Moss for their continued support of NSSC events
- + Johnny Bird Crows Nest & Flat Rock Brew Cafe for support of A Night for the Blokes
- + Anna Kellerman of Mama Creatives for co-organising Sewing, Knitting & Crochet for Animals Injured in Bushfires



NORTHSIDE PRODUCE MARKET

LISA MACDONALD

In July 2019, little did we know that the effects of the drought would worsen and some stallholders would then be protecting their and neighbouring properties from bushfires in November.

Northside Produce Market officially celebrated its 20th year at the September 21st market with stallholders donating \$1600 worth of vouchers for customers to enjoy. Despite suffering drought stallholders were very generous.

Our wonderful market tour guide Tawnya Bahr with help from volunteers and staff, treated stallholders and guests to a fabulous feast from the Market as a thank you for making the Market what it is – A lovely market set in the relaxing Ted Mack Civic Park where we shop for exceptional produce and artisan goods from the people who grow it and make it and who are passionate and dedicated to it. It's a place of connection - to the food we eat and by engaging with the farmers and the food artisans, we discover how the food comes to us and what is involved.

In November we began fundraising at the Market for farmers suffering from the drought and by mid-November we were also collecting funds for the bushfire appeal. Rain was never more needed and when it eventually came, we all felt such relief.



Then COVID-19 hit. As businesses were forced to close, the Market operated deemed as an essential service. By March 21st, markets and outdoor events of more than 500 people were no longer permitted. We had to fence the perimeter and do head counts in and out for crowd capacity. We introduced COVID-19 safety practices to make the Market as safe a place as possible.

With the number of COVID-19 cases rising, North Sydney Community Centre (NSCC) Committee closed the Market for April and May. To support our stallholders while closed, we created a virtual Northside Produce Market online for trade. To further support our stallholders and to keep our public connected and engaged, we created a social media campaign 'Behind Closed Stalls' featuring stallholders on their farm and in their place of production. We kept connected with the Market's social media and NSCC's e-newsletter and social media, so reopening on June 6th was well advertised and well supported with comments including how much it was missed and how happy to be back. We know how important the market is to our community and the social connection it provides is a key ingredient to its success.

I would like to thank all of the NSCC staff, volunteers and Committee members who support the Market and whose efforts are much appreciated especially during this Corona time.

On behalf of NSCC, I thank North Sydney Council for:

- + their ongoing support of the market in providing the free 'Behind the Scenes' market tours and free 'Check In & Tune Up' bicycle service.
- + providing promotional support of the market.
- + providing support during this pandemic and willingness to assist the market when asked.

I feel privileged to coordinate the Northside Produce Market, and one of the lessons COVID-19 has taught and reminded me is not to take anything for granted.



AFTER SCHOOL CARE

JOANNE PARRY

We are fortunate to have staff who have been with the After School Care Programme for many years. Our Educational Leader Elsa Jara, with input from the children, ensures that there are physical, creative and challenging activities for the children to enjoy. Homework Club provides supervised homework with access to computers for 20 minute sessions.

All our staff go to great lengths to ensure that each child has a safe, rewarding and pleasant experience in After School Care.

Our staff offer a terrific assortment of activities:

- Elsa Jara:** pottery, mosaics, sewing and knitting.
 - Callum Boyd:** science experiments, technology challenges and movie club, arranges Centre set ups and and is always willing to help when needed.
 - James Eriksson:** sport coaching the fine skills of cricket and football and cooking.
 - Sneh Villanova:** dodge ball and craft and arranges all medical kits and medical action plans.
- We farewellled Rani Young, Harry Monson, Brodie Guppy, Sean McCracken, Deepali Jadhav, Natasha Villanova and Mia Kidis.



We welcomed Eliza Nicholls with her drama background and experience as an OOSH supervisor.

One of this year's highlights was having Fizzics Education visit to do science experiments during Science Week. The children were fascinated as liquid Nitrogen caused a tennis ball to freeze and then got smashed by a hammer. The incursion ended with ice cream, made from cream and the children were delighted.

It was a great start to the year, with our numbers very strong, in total 11733 children attending with Tuesday and Thursday being the busiest days (averaging 76 children daily). COVID-19 closed the Centre and our After School Care Programme at the end of March.

COVID-19 caused the Centre to review health and safety and more steps were put in place prior to reopening. We reopened 20th July for children of essential workers for three weeks before the school holidays. As more parents return to workplaces, we saw our numbers slowly increase. Parents have been very understanding and cooperative about new protocols, such as not entering the Centre to collect their child. After School Care is successful because of all the staff at the Centre. The staff in the office help with newsletters, marketing, walking children from school and taking the children's temperatures. As the Year 6 students move on, we look forward to welcoming new families to the After School Care Programme.

Average Attendance:

	1.7.18 - 3.6.19	1.7.19 - 3.6.20
Monday	84	76
Tuesday	98	89
Wednesday	97	89
Thursday	91	90
Friday	83	86

EXPLORERS PLAYGROUP

MICHELLE WORTHLEY/GILL ALBOROUGH

It's times like these that the essence of what is good about North Sydney Community Centre become apparent, all our services link together to create a sense of belonging. Explorers Playgroup is a part of fostering this generosity of spirit. How it came to be and why it has remained a popular place for parents, grandparents and carers to bring their young children from 0 – 5 years old to delight in the freedom of play, is key to what makes Explorers Playgroup so special.

2019-2020 has been a year of wonderful events and many challenges to keep us focused on why we ensure Playgroup remains an integral part of the Centre.

We were delighted by the response to the Book Sale and Raffle which enabled us to buy new mats, big blocks and a new trampoline, the latter being a big favourite for our young Explorers. Our special events included Grandparents' Day where we acquired funding to host Pistachio Entertainment's performance, 'The Lion and The Mouse'. This was well attended with grandparents and children enchanted by the show. The theme of Animalia for the Children's festival was a great success with staff providing support to ensure the day was a success. Ben from 'What's the Racquet' delighted children with a free tennis workshop during Playgroup.

We have struggled with maintaining consistent attendance and our average over the year is 62. Pricing and expensive parking have been the big factors affecting attendance. We were grateful for the additional Ridge St parking discount and also introduced a 3-tier pricing system that was well received.

This year has also been a time where staff have left to return to their previous professions: Rani Young returned to law, Jessica Brown to teaching and our coordinator Michelle Worthley, taking on the role of NSCC Acting Director.

In March 2020, like all business in Australia, Playgroup closed due to the COVID-19 virus. During this time Jessica left and Gill Alborough became Coordinator. Roll forward four months and a survey to Playgroup received an overwhelming 227 responses.

Key points:

- + 75% missing social engagement
- + 65% missing outdoor play equipment

What was apparent is parents, grandparents, carers are really missing Playgroup. We are gearing up to opening on 1 September. We have approached the Stanton Library to do a collaborative story time guest appearance using our stage outside. We aim to introduce online booking and paying. We plan to ensure that Playgroup will be the same but different with reduced numbers, less toys. We hope to create a space where carers and their children can relax and have an enjoyable morning of fun in a safe environment.

Annual Attendance:

Mondays	1779
Tuesdays	1739
Wednesdays	1691
Thursdays	1627
	6836

Daily Average	62
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MUSIC & MOVEMENT

JANE BOYD

As I write my last M&M report for the North Sydney Community Centre in the midst of such a difficult year for all, I am reflecting on the extraordinary contribution that the centre has made in keeping the legacy of Dr Doreen Bridges' Music and Movement classes alive.

In a time, when we are really struggling for children to have access to good music education in the pre-school years and when it has all but vanished in teacher training, the NSCC has kept that window open for discerning parents who understand its value. For that I am truly grateful.

I am also grateful for all the assistance that everyone has provided over the 28 years that have I carried the candle for Dee. What a privilege that has been. It is wonderful that the Programme remains in the good hands of Simona Green who has now been with Bridges to Music for the past 8 years and doing great work.

The NSCC has been part of my life now for over 40 years as a playgroup Mum, Committee member, Playgroup leader and of course M&M teacher. I look forward to many more happy years of connection in my retirement and wish everyone safe and keeping and warmest wishes.



VENUE HIRE

ROSALYNDE GRAY

North Sydney Community Centre boasts four spacious rooms of various sizes with easy access to a beautiful fun filled playground, a modern semi-commercial kitchen, two meeting rooms and an art room (with pottery wheels).

A thriving hub in Ted Mack Civic Park, only a small walk from North Sydney CBD, North Sydney Community Centre, with its perfect location, is a popular choice for our local community.

Kids' parties, a meeting place for local business and not-for-profit groups (at a discounted rate or even sometimes free), we try to provide facilities to meet all needs.

Venue Hire, along with our Adult classes and our Produce Market (on two Saturdays each month) keeps our Centre a go-to place on weekends.

Kids' Parties were held on almost every weekend and many parents were introduced to our Venue Hire facilities through Playgroup or After School Care, sometimes through attending other kids' parties at the Centre.

We are honoured and lucky that many families come back year after year to hold their parties at the Centre.

In 2019 and early 2020 our Venue Hire facilities were an intrinsic part of our Community Centre and all revenue generated contributed to the overall running and sustainability of the Centre. North Sydney Community Centre had 156 Venue Hires in the 2019-2020 financial year.

We are proud to say we provided free/discounted facilities for the following not-for-profit groups:

- + Dying with Dignity
- + Australian Parents for Climate Action
- + Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
- + Lower North Shore Multiple Birth Association
- + Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research, Inc
- + Zonta
- + Arthritis NSW
- + Creating Wellbeing
- + The Cerebral Palsy Alliance



Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions and for the safety of our community and staff, we had to cease our Venue Hire service in March 2020 until further notice.

Although we were closed, we were not idle. We took the opportunity to paint the Centre, clean every window and do a deep clean of all nooks and crannies. We also produced a strict cleaning and tracing protocol in accordance to NSW Health for when COVID-19 restrictions ease and we are able to reopen our Venue Hire services.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TRISH CUTLER



After a successful start to the financial year, the final quarter of the fiscal year was challenging for the Centre with a forced shutdown in March due to COVID-19. Despite the tight fiscal management Government Grants and JobKeeper, a financial loss was inevitable.

Total income was 6% down compared to the previous year at \$1,499,763, (2019: \$1,592,894). The final deficit for the year was \$77,205 (2019 deficit: \$11,672), due to the impact of COVID-19 and the collapse of income streams from March to June 2020. During this period the Centre was propped up by Government Subsidies (\$191,000 received to June) and an additional grant from Council during that period, providing total support of \$82,057 from Council for the year.

Cash reserves were reduced by 15% with \$440,653 available at year end. The Centre's total equity was \$340,776, still representing an adequate reserve (see Note 2 of the Financial Statements). Staff and tutor costs comprise approximately 77% of the Centre's total expenses. The access to JobKeeper for most positions, was very welcome.

COVID-19 impacted the delivery and profitability of all our services and activities.



After School Care

After School Care was on track for a successful year up to the closure in March, but only and re-opened again in mid-June on a limited scale. Enrolments are down in the final quarter. Income for the full year was \$412,321 (2019: \$474,373). This includes the childcare subsidy received for eligible ASC families.

Explorers Playgroup

Explorers Playgroup is renowned for its vibrant, creative and welcoming atmosphere. It was closed for more than 3 months, resulting in annual income of \$63,309 (2019: \$116,786).

Classes and Events

Classes and Events are a major part of the life and activities of the Centre, usually contributing significantly to the income and operating surplus of the Centre. The staff and tutors ran some classes online through Zoom during Term 2, for which the community participants were very grateful. (Income 2019: \$558,674).

Northside Produce Market

The markets are an important part of the local community. Although closed for April and May, the two produce markets per month provided a gross income of \$233,663. (2019: \$284,777).

Venue Hire

Venue Hire has been closed since March, due to the difficulties managing venue hire within a COVID-19-safe environment (2020: \$35,088; 2018: \$68,613). The Centre hopes to offer these facilities again within a few months soon, should it be safe to do so.

Administration Costs

Net administration costs include the cost of management and administrative staff, coordination and marketing of the Centre and its Programmes and central shared operational costs (eg utilities, accounting etc.) This amounted to \$311,549 for 2020 (2019: \$372,238).

COMMITTEE REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the North Sydney Community Centre for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Genia McCaffery	Barbara DeGraff
Lynn Oswald	Beate Reinhardt
Corinne Madden	Trish Cutler
Rosemary Garrett	Vivek Samdarshi – Joined December 2019
Jane Aellig	

PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES

Providing services to the community such as children's services and adult education.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

OPERATING RESULT

The result for the year amounted to a deficit of \$77,205.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Dated this 23 day of September 2020.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grants & Subsidies		
- North Sydney Council	82,057	69,002
- Dept Health & Family Services	162,865	164,175
- ATO Cashboost	50,000	-
- Jobkeeper	141,000	-
Interest Received	8,449	11,892
After School Care Fees	249,456	310,198
Class and Event Fees	454,922	558,674
Market Income	233,663	284,777
Playgroup Fees	63,309	116,786
Venue Hire	35,088	68,613
Other Income	18,954	8,777
	<u>1,499,763</u>	<u>1,592,894</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Accountancy & Audit	13,696	13,896
Advertising & Promotion	16,998	35,520
Administration expenses	25,516	34,994
Equipment Purchase/Replacement	2,009	30,250
Entertainment & Materials	41,911	48,003
Insurance	25,423	23,851
Produce Market Expenses	78,438	125,231
Repairs & Maintenance	5,235	4,397
Staff expenses	980,521	901,197
Tutors Fees	237,886	246,889
Other expenses	149,335	140,338
	<u>1,576,968</u>	<u>1,604,566</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(77,205)	(11,672)
Retained Profits at the beginning of the Financial Year	417,981	429,653
Retained Profits at the end of the Financial Year	<u>340,776</u>	<u>417,981</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET

BALANCE SHEET AS AT JUNE 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	2	440,653	516,879
Receivables	3	20,289	20,186
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>460,942</u>	<u>537,065</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>460,942</u>	<u>537,065</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	4	26,580	28,818
Provisions	5	57,674	63,296
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>84,254</u>	<u>92,114</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	5	35,912	26,970
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>35,912</u>	<u>26,970</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>120,166</u>	<u>119,084</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>340,776</u>	<u>417,981</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Profits		340,776	417,981
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>340,776</u>	<u>417,981</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2020

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009*. The Committee have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report:

a. Property, Plant and Equipment

Purchases of equipment are expensed in the period of purchase.

b. Recognition of Revenue

Revenue is brought to account on a cash basis.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
NOTE 2 - CASH		
Cash on Hand	66	860
Cash at Bank	240,587	116,019
Term Deposits	200,000	400,000
	<u>440,653</u>	<u>516,879</u>

Attributable to:

Asset replacement	100,000	100,000
Provisions for employee entitlements	93,586	90,266
Emergency response reserves	100,000	100,000
Available to fund operations	147,067	226,613
	<u>440,653</u>	<u>516,879</u>

NOTE 3 - RECEIVABLES

Trade Debtors	15,902	14,661
Prepayments	4,387	5,525
	<u>20,289</u>	<u>20,186</u>

NOTE 4 - PAYABLES

Creditors and Accruals	-	362
Wages and Payroll Deductions Payable	20,048	13,594
GST Payable	6,532	14,862
	<u>26,580</u>	<u>28,818</u>

NOTE 5 - PROVISIONS

CURRENT		
Annual Leave	29,784	36,246
Long Service Leave	27,890	27,050
	<u>57,674</u>	<u>63,296</u>

NON-CURRENT

Long Service Leave	35,912	26,970
	<u>35,912</u>	<u>26,970</u>

Total Provisions	<u>93,586</u>	<u>90,266</u>
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STATEMENT BY MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE

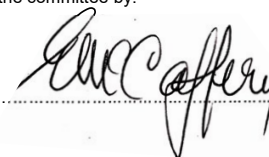
The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of North Sydney Community Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that North Sydney Community Centre Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

President



Treasurer



Dated this 23 day of September 2020



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
NORTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE INCORPORATED**

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of committee.

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated as of 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Basis of Accounting

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 for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting obligations under the *Association Incorporation Act 2009*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

The Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal control as the committee and management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd
Level 16, 1 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box H195
Australia Square NSW 1215
p +61 2 9251 4600
f +61 2 9251 7138
e info@nexiasydney.com.au
w nexia.com.au

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Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd

Brett Hanger
Director

Dated in Sydney this 15th day of October 2020





North Sydney Community Centre

Phone: 02 9922 2299 Email: info@northsydneycentre.com.au

220 Miller Street, North Sydney, 2060

www.northsydneycentre.com.au

