

# Annual Report 2007 - 2008



Association of Neighbourhood Houses  
& Learning Centres Inc.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres would like to thank the following organisations for their support:



The Department of Planning and Community Development



The Adult Community and Further Education Board



Guild Insurance and Financial Services Limited



The ANHLC membership: Victorian Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres and Neighbourhood House Networks



# Annual Report 2007 - 2008

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## President's Report

Taking on the role of president of ANHLC 12 months ago was initially very daunting, but as is the practice in our sector, I've been supported, encouraged, nurtured and mentored as I've grown into the role. A number of our most experienced Board members came to the end of their terms last year, their talent and experience allowed for a smooth handover and their hard work has provided a strong foundation in a number of significant areas of Sector development.

Our planning day in February allowed the Board to prioritise the goals and actions for 2008 from our strategic plan. Our strong working group structure and hard working staff and Board have allowed much progress to be achieved.

2008 has seen much work take place in our quest for Deductible Gift Recipient status for Neighbourhood Houses. We have taken this issue into the federal arena and it is heartening that the value of supporting *preventative* approaches to alleviating disadvantage and strengthening communities is now acknowledged by the Federal Government's Social Inclusion Agenda.

We were granted funding from the state Government to analyse our previous research on the state of Occasional Childcare across our sector. This important project will assist us to articulate the importance of this unique resource in our communities and strengthen our argument for increased recognition and support.

Once again our Conference was deemed a resounding success in the evaluations of participants. The rural City of Bendigo welcomed us with a civic reception, Minister Richard Wynne opened the conference, and Guild insurance sponsored the Conference dinner, but most importantly the variety and quality of learning and sharing opportunities this conference provides allowed participants to return to their communities inspired, supported and invigorated.

The State Governments Skills Reform has changed the way Adult Community Education will be supported by ACFE funding. ANHLC has been working closely with ACE VIC to ensure a sector position is developed and is clearly and loudly articulated throughout this process of change.

The Outcomes of Investment project currently being undertaken is designed to provide a clear picture of the Governments investment in Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres, Neighbourhood House Networks and ANHLC through the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP). It will also be an important tool in the review of our funding guidelines in 2009.

This is a small snapshot of the depth and breadth of work undertaken by ANHLC during 2007/2008. In order to ensure the organisation has the resources to remain proactive across all areas we welcomed an additional staff member to ANHLC during the year. James Wilson was employed as Policy and Advocacy Officer and came to the role with extensive experience and expertise.

Any organisation is only as good as its people and at ANHLC we are lucky to have a team of committed and enthusiastic staff members. Clare, Liz, James, Bernadette and our Executive Officer Merial Clark add immeasurably to ANHLC as an organisation, and the capacity of the whole sector across the state. I thank them on behalf of the Board and extend our appreciation for their continued dedication.

Like Boards and Committees across the sector, the Board of ANHLC all dedicate much time and energy. I thank ANHLC Board members for taking on the responsibility to actively contribute their expertise and knowledge in decision making and working parties. I would like to acknowledge the time this important role takes them away from their own organisations. I extend my thanks to the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres who support their people to take up positions on the Board for the benefit of the whole sector.

The past 12 months have been a time of consolidating and positioning the sector as leaders in the practice of Community Development. I look forward with anticipation to the next 12 months as we move further towards the goals of our strategic plan.



Kylie Pollock

## Executive Officer's Report

Each page of this Annual Report contains the achievements and celebrations of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres (ANHLC) and the NH&LC Sector. Of particular note is the significant increase in the areas of advocacy work and number of projects & partnerships that ANHLC is involved in.

The pages illustrate that we operate in an increasingly complex policy environment where change is the only constant. This change can be seen as both a challenge and an opportunity. Within this context, ANHLC's capacity to support, lead, and lobby for our Sector remains absolutely critical.

One of the key strategies we, as a Sector, employ is collaboration, which is necessary to maximise increased community participation and is therefore key to achieving the aims of the NH&LC Sector. The three tier structure of the sector is a reflection of the way we work collaboratively and collectively and is essential to how and what we do. The NH&LC Sector structure epitomises our community development framework, our six step community development process and our style of practice which is facilitative, developmental, inclusive and hence dynamic.

As part of formalising these practices, late 2007 saw the start of a much closer collaboration between the ANHLC Board of Management and the 16 regional NH Networks. A protocol for working collectively has been developed with a key aim to strengthen the whole NH&LC Sector through the synergies created by bringing together the ANHLC Board and Combined NH Networks. The two will meet four times a year with the primary aim of working collectively on the strategic planning processes for the NH&LC Sector.

The development of this style of formal collaborative practices with NH Networks and individual Houses & Centres means that ANHLC is well positioned to ensure NHs&LCs can operate at a community based level while also being part of a wider, well coordinated effort to advocate to government on policy areas while also being able to implement a range of government policy initiatives.

As well as within the Sector, ANHLC has continued to collaborate closely with the broader community services and not-for-profit sectors. This has been through advocating in partnership, making submissions to Government, developing and implementing funded projects and participating on a huge range of working parties and reference groups. Additionally, ANHLC has continued to work at a National level with the other State neighbourhood house & centre peaks to ensure involvement in the new Federal Government's social inclusion agenda.

The development, production and distribution of a number of new NH&LC Sector specific resources to support increased capacity in Houses and Centres has been another highlight of the last year. Details of these publications can be found on page 6.

This breadth and depth of work can only happen with the commitment and dedication of an extended network of professionals who work with and for ANHLC and the NH&LC Sector. This includes a strong ANHLC Board working with their renewed governance structure of working parties; the NH Networkers and NH Network Committees who work collaboratively with the ANHLC Board; and also the staff, volunteers & participants in the nearly 400 Houses & Centres across Victoria.

It is my privilege to especially acknowledge and applaud the skills and competence of the members the ANHLC Board - your commitment continues to inspire goodwill and positive results. I would like to extend particular recognition to Kylie Pollock in her first year as President of ANHLC.

Finally, I would like to give a standing ovation to the loyalty, hard work and team spirit of the staff of ANHLC - Clare, Bernadette & Liz - an extremely cohesive and long serving team.

As always I personally thank you every one of you for your support and care throughout the year.

*Merial Clark*

Merial Clark

## ANHLC Strategic Plan 2007—2010 In Action

### **New Governance Structure for ANHLC Board**

ANHLC's Strategic Plan 2007-2010 outlines a new governance structure to address the fundamental problem of under resourcing to the sector as a whole and the peak body in particular. This new structure was established in August 2007.

Board Working Parties are a key element of this governance structure. Reflective of sector community development practice, the Working Groups are consultative and broadly representative. They provide a means whereby the Board can draw on the expertise and practical experience of a wide range of Sector members. Conversely, working parties offer Sector members the opportunity to work on areas of interest at a state wide level and be involved in leading a strong and vibrant Sector.

**Strategic Co ordination Group:** The purpose of this recently established group is to maintain a strategic leadership focus for ANHLC and the sector. It oversees the co ordination of the other working groups

The Board Working Groups can be broadly divided into two types. The Advocacy Working Groups which develop and implement funding and policy campaigns in partnership with the Sector, and the Project and Action Working Groups which develop policy, support project work and focus on specific areas.

### **The Current ANHLC Working Groups:**

#### **The ACFE and the NHCP Working Groups:**

The purpose of both these groups is to continue to advocate for improved funding and accountability processes along with increased funding and resourcing levels for the whole NH&LC Sector.

**Industrial Relations Working Group:** The IR Working Group was formed to investigate the impact of the federal Government's WorkChoices legislation on the NH&LC Sector. It has worked with key union and employer body representatives to create the NH&LC Collective Agreement 07 and the NHACE Collective Agreement 08 to protect the pay and conditions of staff in our sector.

**Quality Houses:** The purpose of the QH working group is to develop strategies for the delivery of the ANHLC QH Self Assessment System as widely as possible throughout the NH&LC Sector.

**Childcare:** The aim of this group is to develop and advocate for a set of appropriate minimum standards and viable funding for Neighbourhood House Occasional Care (NHOCC).

**Men's Sheds:** The Men's Sheds Working Group was established to map the development of Men's Sheds in Neighbourhood Houses, monitor current men's Sheds research and the ways in which NH men's Sheds fit into the bigger picture of the men's Sheds movement. It also aims to co ordinate policy recommendations State Government.

**Marketing:** The purpose of the marketing group is to promote consistency in the use of both sector and ANHLC promotional items. It also seeks out promotional opportunities for the whole sector.

**DGR:** The DGR Working Group oversees and acts as a reference group for the DGR project. The project aims to develop and implement strategies to increase the sector's very limited access to the DGR tax status and thereby increase access to valuable philanthropic trust funding.

## Working Parties, Partnerships and Projects

### DGR Research and Advocacy Project Stage 2

*Project Worker: Kaz MacKay*

Issues of taxation status have been of concern to the Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre (NH&LC) Sector for many years. As few as 5% of Victorian Houses & Centres have Deductible Gift Reciprocity (DGR) endorsement at present, and only 7% have endorsement nationally.

ANHLC established a Working Party in 2003 with the aim of developing a project which would assist Houses & Centres gain DGR endorsement. However, following a successful submission to the Reichstein Foundation (auspiced by Bendigo Neighbourhood House in partnership with ANHLC) it was soon realised that the best way to increase Houses & Centres' eligibility for DGR was to advocate for changes to the DGR criteria itself. This was never going to be easy, but in the long term, it would bring about a much easier application process – one which recognises the capacity of Houses & Centres to prevent disadvantage through social inclusion and community strengthening.

**Stage 1** of the project produced a comprehensive report together with a key recommendation that the ATO introduce amendments to the DGR eligibility criteria, which effectively recognises the *preventative* approach that Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres adopt to address disadvantage.

**Stage 2** further developed an advocacy strategy and process and broadened the scope to include all Houses & Centres around Australia. It developed a strong social and economic case for the proposed amendments and garnered support from a wide range of key community sector agencies, such as Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS).

The project is about to enter **Stage 3**, aimed at highlighting the project recommendations with key government bureaucrats and decision-makers and working with them to bring about the necessary legislative and/or Australian Tax Office changes to the criteria. It also aims to provide information and

advice to Houses & Centres seeking to gain DGR – with or without these changes.

Whether or not the project's recommendations for changes to the criteria are ultimately successful, the project has, over the course of its term, managed to gain the attention of key government decision-makers, many of whom had little understanding about the Neighbourhood House sector beforehand, particularly at the Federal level. It has also helped raise the profile of ANHLC as a major advocate for the sector.

### Human Rights Project

*Project Worker: Jay Chubb*

ANHLC established the project to promote human rights in Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres in April 2008. The ANHLC Human Rights Project was made possible using seed funding from RMIT University. The project is a partnership between ANHLC and the new Australian Centre for Human Rights Education (ACHRE) at RMIT.

The 3 year project aims to promote the new Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities as relevant to the everyday lives of communities in Victoria through programs and curriculum in NH&LCs. The project will involve consulting extensively with the sector, exploring the role of human rights in community development practice, and offering training in human rights and community development.

## Working Parties, Partnerships and Projects

### Occupational Health and Safety Project

*Project Worker: Clare Corbet*

ANHLC successfully applied for funding from WorkSafe in late 2007 to establish a sector specific OH&S Assistance Service project. The 3 year project offers a health and safety consultancy service to all Houses, Centres and the Networks enabling them to access 3 hours of free health and safety advice and assistance.

Eight independent OH&S consultants have been contracted by ANHLC. The consultants are based throughout Victoria, ensuring that the service can be offered to all regardless of location. The service commenced in September 08.

The OH&S consultancy service outlines simple and effective ways for staff and committees to provide and maintain a safe environment in their Houses & Centres and achieve compliance with the OH&S Act, 2004. The service includes:

- assisting Houses, Centres & Networks to identify practical solutions to problems already known or identified by the OH&S consultant during a site visit;
- providing Houses, Centres & Networks ideas on how to establish a simple and systematic approach to health and safety that can be integrated into everyday activities;
- providing Houses, Centres & Networks with a completed Safety Action Plan.

Consultants will meet regularly to feedback on OH&S themes emerging from the consultations so information can be shared across the Sector. ANHLC will ensure “learnings” gained from the consultants’ visits and feedback sessions are widely disseminated through the production of an OH&S info sheet which will be included with the ANHLC News. OH&S workshops will also be held at the annual ANHLC conferences and at NH Network meetings.

### The Eco Living Grants and the ANHLC Environmental Working Group

**Banksia Gardens Community Centre** and the **North East Neighbourhood House Network** (NENHN) were both successful in winning one of 7 eco living grants awarded in Jan 2008. At \$300,000 and \$299,677 respectively, these are amongst the biggest project grants to be secured in our sector.

As community concern regarding environmental sustainability increases, the NH&LC sector has responded by searching for ways to become energy and resource efficient and provide community based environmental education. Along with the sector’s long standing involvement in adult learning and childcare, local environmental sustainability projects and environmental education are now an important part of many House and Centre programs.

The Eco Living Grants will enable Banksia Gardens and the Houses of the NE Network to consolidate the sector’s role in local environmental education and activism.

ANHLC is a partner in the North East project and a supporter of the Banksia Gardens project. At the request of both projects the ANHLC Board Environmental Working Group was established.

The purpose of the Working Group is two fold:

- to have a process for our sector to deal with issues around the environment and sustainability at both a policy level and a practical level;
- to provide a formal connection between the two projects currently funded by DSE and facilitate the development of a State wide NH&LC sector environmental education strategy based on a framework from both projects.

## Working Parties, Partnerships and Projects

### Key Resource Development

**Neighbourhood House Networks** A reference booklet that briefly profiles each of the 16 Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre Networks and broadly outlines the network style of practice.

**Moving In Together - A Co Location Guide for Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres** The resource document outlines four case studies detailing the opportunities and constraints of the co location process and provides the necessary information to enable an organisation considering embarking on the process to make informed decisions.

**Navigating the Maze - Understanding and Managing Accountability and Compliance.** A guide to understanding and managing a range of compliance and accountability requirements that are typical for most Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres for staff and committee members. Navigating the Maze is accompanied by a spreadsheet accountability and compliance tool. The tool can be tailored to individual House and Centre circumstances. The Accountability tool then helps committees and staff members to understand, anticipate and meet funding and legislative requirements and deadlines.

### ANHLC Policy and Advocacy Officer

ANHLC created a part-time Policy and Advocacy Officer for a 12 month fixed term contract to begin July 2008.

The prime purpose of the position is to assist the Executive Officer in the policy and advocacy work of the organisation. The position focuses on policy and research, policy development and submission writing. The Officer is also be required to support the development of specific projects to further the policy and advocacy work of ANHLC.

### The Sector Collective Agreement

The Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Workplace Agreement 2007 or the sector collective agreement came into effect December 4th 2007. For organisations that did not sign on to the 07 Agreement there was another opportunity to do so in April 2008.

A new 2008 Agreement, titled the Neighbourhood Houses and Adult Community Education Centres (NHACE) Collective Agreement 2008 was lodged with the Workplace Authority in July and authorised in August 08.

The new 2008 Agreement is essentially identical to the 2007 Agreement with some small adjustments to the existing agreement document to iron out some anomalies, clarify wording in some clauses and refining the layout.

The changes that appear in the 2008 Agreement ensure consistency with entitlements in the 2007 agreement. This means that the organisations that sign on to the 2008 Agreement will be basically brought up to the standards that apply in the organisations that are already covered by the 2007 Agreement. Those that are respondents the 2007 Agreement should already be compliant with the new version of the agreement.

36 Houses and Centre committees resolved to offer the 2008 Collective agreement to their staff for approval. This means that 260 Houses and Centres in total are now signed on to the Agreement which is approximately 70% of the sector.

## ANHLC Conference 2008

### **Community Development is Growing Collectively** **ANHLC's 20th Annual Conference**

The ANHLC annual Conference, this year titled *Community Development is Growing Collectively*, was held at the All Seasons in Bendigo on the 5th, 6th and 7th of March 2008. The evaluation forms revealed a high level of satisfaction with the conference as a whole. Most people found the workshop program stimulating and enjoyable.

As usual the delegates greatly valued the opportunity to network and catch up with friends and colleagues. There were quite a few suggestions for some 'self-care' workshops for next year and for more free time to do yet more networking!

Minister Richard Wynne, Minister for Local Government, opened the conference. He acknowledged the important role Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres have in the community – referring to Houses & Centres as the social glue holding communities together and spoke of some of the strategic opportunities for the NH&LC Sector including the Federal Government's Social Inclusion agenda

A highlight of the Conference was the launch of Carolyn Landon's latest book, 'Cups with No Handles' (Carolyn is the author of 'Jackson's Track'). 'Cups with No Handles' is the story of Bette Boyanton who was one of the early activists of the Neighbourhood House movement.

Professor Sue Kenny, the Director of the Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights at Deakin University was the conference key note speaker. Her address, *Opportunities and Challenges for Community Development Today*, was very thought provoking and provided an academic '*backdrop*' of community development theory for Carolyn's vivid description of Bette's story.

ANHLC was also pleased to welcome Department of Planning & Community Development (DPCD) staff—Sandy Forbes (General Manager ACFE) and Damian Ferrie (Executive Director, Community Programs) who jointly presented a session entitled *In-*

*dividual and community development through learning.*

ANHLC would like to thank **Guild Insurance**, the ANHLC 'preferred provider' for contents and building insurance for Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres, **DPCD**, **the City of Greater Bendigo** and **Watsonia Publishing** for a range of valuable conference sponsorship contributions.

## Neighbourhood House Network Reports

### The Neighbourhood House Networks

Victoria is divided into 16 Neighbourhood House Networks, there are 10 Networks in the rural and regional areas and 6 in the metropolitan areas.

The 16 NH Networks provide governance and operational support to their member Houses and Centres. NH Networks also have a facilitative role, enabling their members to participate in broader community development strategies by providing capacity building and effective linkages with and between Neighbourhood Houses and other community organisations at the local and regional level.

They play a key role in representing the views and needs of members and act as an interface between members and ANHLC, local government and state governments, other organisations and the broader community.

The NH Networks are managed by volunteer committees, or collective management groups drawn from local Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre sector staff or volunteers. Generally, the committees and collective management groups are responsible for the financial management, employment issues and governance of the Network. They guide the development and strategic directions of the Network, and support and supervise the Networker.

NH Networks receive recurrent funding from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) through the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program. Funds are allocated on the basis of the number of NHCP funded Houses or Centres in the Network. In some cases NH Networks also receive recurrent funding from local government. Many Networks also access a variety of other sources for diverse project funding. Membership numbers, geographical size and number of hours funded vary widely, ranging from 10 to 53 staff hours or the equivalent per week and a membership of 7 to 70 Houses/Centres.

This year a protocol *Defining Ways of Work-*

*ing Together* was developed after extensive consultation with the Networks facilitated by Shirley Young, Networker for the North West Network. The purpose of the protocol is to guide the procedures for communication, accountability and decision-making between the Networks, their members and the ANHLC. The protocol accompanies the *Practice Framework* developed last year. It is designed for internal use within the sector. Its purpose is to describe the relationship between Networks and the ANHLC and Networks with each other, the values brought to the relationship and how it works in practice.

### Barwon Network of Neighbourhood Centres

**Networker:** Kylie Pollock

**Membership:** 21 Houses and Centres in the City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast and Colac Otway Shires and the Borough of Queenscliff

#### Highlights 07-08:

Strategic Planning – facilitated by network members who attended facilitators training session in 2007. Clear directions have been set for the next 3 years.

2 days of professional development for Staff and Committee members on a range of governance and management issues.

Monster Petition Project – to commemorate 100 years of women's right to vote petition banners travelled around to every Barwon Network member. Members hosted a variety of creative, community events to remember and celebrate original signatories and women of today.

#### Plans 2009:

28 people from throughout the Network and colleagues from the South West Network will undertake the Community Business Management Program. Participants will meet once a month for 10 months at Houses around the network to learn together as they achieve this practical "hands on" qualification.

## Neighbourhood House Network Reports

### **CHAOS—Community Houses Association of Outer Eastern Suburbs**

**Networker:** Maureen McConnell

**Membership:** 31 Houses and Centres in the Shire of Yarra Ranges, and Cities of Manningham, Whitehorse Maroondah and Knox

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Launch and distribution of the Research into volunteers within the CHAOS Network

Presentation of awards (by nomination) to seventeen volunteers within the network

Project with the Houses in the City of Knox to create a profile on each House and an overview of future needs.

#### **Plans 2009:**

Ensure that members are supported and kept informed, with relevant and up to date resources to meet the challenges that lie ahead, especially for organisations in receipt of ACFE funding.

### **NIECH—Network of Inner East Community Houses**

**Networker:** Anne Gedye

**Membership:** 26 Houses and Centres in the Cities of Boroondara, Monash, Manningham and Whitehorse

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Launch of the NIECH website

Development of the NIECH Network Charter, to clarify mutual expectations of the members and the network

Development of Disability Awareness training for staff and volunteers

Development of governance training for Neighbourhood Houses in partnership with Local Government

#### **Plans 2009:**

Revisit the network strategic plan.

Continuous improvement of policies and procedures.

### **CHN—Community House Network of the Southern and Westernport Regions**

**Networker:** Bob Weber till September 08

**Membership:** 70 Houses and Centres in the Cities of Port Phillip; Bayside; Stonnington; Glen Eira; Kingston; Dandenong; Casey; Frankston; Cardinia and Mornington Peninsula

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

A committee governance workshop held

Co-ordinators' induction manual completed.

Network website developed

#### **Plans 2009:**

Restructuring of Networker position

Two new networkers and a finance worker to be appointed.

The co ordinators' manual launched.

### **EGNNH East Gippsland Network of Neighbourhood Houses**

**Networker:** Caroline Liston

**Membership:** 16 Houses and Centres in Shires of East Gippsland and Wellington

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Opening of East Bairnsdale NH Outreach.

Lakes Entrance NH received a Community Access Grant - only one of two in Gippsland.

Orbost received a DPCD Images of Age grant - one of eight across the state.

#### **Plans 2009:**

In the coming year EGNNH is looking forward to building improved communication between its members via various sources and to restructure its meeting protocol in order to encourage more participation by those in remote locations.

Network Days will be held to bring members together to share information and skills which will lead to a stronger and more cohesive Network, which will be of greater benefit to the community.

## Neighbourhood House Network Reports

### **GNEACC—Goulburn North East Association of Community Centres**

**President:** Madeleine Finnigan

**Networker:** Dawn Cooper

**Membership:** 23 Houses and Centres in the City of Greater Shepparton, and Shires of Murrindindi, Mitchell, Strathbogie, Benalla, Mansfield and Moira.

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Project with Houses/Centres in Shepparton area to develop and present an very effective information package to Greater Shepparton City Council.

Completion of the Diploma of Community Development/Diploma of Community Education for coordinators.

Increasing cooperation/involvement between Network and local government, DPCD and ACFE.

#### **Plans 2009:**

Network (bi-annual) conference for coordinators and committee members.

Roll out council presentation package to other local councils in the area.

Review and update Network manuals.

### **Mallee Network of Neighbourhood Houses**

**Networker:** Lea Johnson

**Membership:** 14 Houses and Centres in the Shires of Buloke and Gannawarra and the Rural City Councils of Swan Hill and Mildura

#### **Highlights 06-07:**

Completion and adoption of Strategic Plan

Establishment of executive committee group for Network membership

Identification of training needs and schedule of delivery for membership

#### **Plans 2009:**

With the establishment of an executive group the Mallee Network is looking forward to revisiting our Strategic Plan and implementing training and support needs as identified within the plan.

### **GRNHG—Gippsland Regional Neighbourhood Houses Group**

**Networker:** Lin Chandler

**Membership:** 20 Houses and Centres in the Shires of Bass Coast, Baw Baw, South Gippsland, part of Wellington and the City of Latrobe

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Launch of a new five-year Strategic Plan .

Collaborative design and production of promotional tools and publications for use in Houses, Centres, and the wider community.

Maintenance of a close relationship with ANHLC and the other Neighbourhood House Networks to respond to emerging issues, support strategic planning processes, and strengthen the whole NH&LC Sector.

#### **Plans 2009:**

Continue to offer on-site training and support for individual member Houses/Centres and research other professional development required.

Develop strong relationships between Network and local government;

Consult members on the 'Network Charter' to clarify mutual expectations and understandings;

Produce a Succession Planning Policy & Procedure for Network personnel..

### **CHCHN-Central Highlands Community House Network**

**Networker:** Pam Hicks

**Membership:** 14 Houses and Centres in the Shires of Hepburn, Golden Plains, Pyrenees, Moorabool and Ballarat City Council

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Appointment of part-time networker.

Adoption of rolling three year planning process.

Adoption of new logo and branding

Dealing with the challenges of structural changes in sector and workload demands on both Network and Houses.

#### **Plans 2009:**

Development of network-wide training structure.

## Neighbourhood House Network Reports

### Network West

**Networker:** Tracey Oliver (till March 08) Matilda Langley (from July 08)

**Membership:** 40 Houses and Centres in the Cities of Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Wyndham, Hobsons Bay, Melbourne and the Shire of Melton

#### Highlights 07-08:

'Setting Up A Governance Structure' Project with City of Brimbank

Transition between LGAs of a number of houses and fostering a new cluster group.

Working with the Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood Association to establish a Neighbourhood House, with City of Maribyrnong, DPCD, ACFE and Melbourne Citymission

Develop Western Region local council representative network

More Houses granted NHCP funding and , a number of houses received the foundation grant.

#### Plans 2009:

Developing communications systems including our website, community governance models (including a project with a local LGA) as well as moving forward on workforce issues (student placement coordination, succession planning and the upcoming collective agreement).

### NENHN North East Neighbourhood House Network

**Networker:** Mary Robb

**Membership:** 33 Houses and Centres in Darebin, Yarra, Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea

#### Highlights 07-08:

Funded for the 'Greener Houses Growing Greener Neighbourhoods' environmental community development and education project

Introduction of NENHN Bus Tours enabling House staff or volunteers to visit other houses in the region and network.

Banyule Neighbourhood House network in conjunction with NENHN successfully lobbied the Banyule City Council for co-ordination funding for the first time.

9 out of 11 house received funding under the Modernising Neighbourhood House Program grants.

Partner in the establishment of Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre.

#### Plans 2009:

Commence the Greener Houses Growing Greener Neighbourhoods Project and the development of 5 eco-demonstration Neighbourhood Houses in the North East.

Exploration of training program and resources to build the capacity of Houses and Learning Centres in the North East.

### Wimmera West Grampians Neighbourhood House Network Collective (WWG)

**Networker:** Tamara Peachey

**Membership:** 12 Houses and Centres in the Shires of Hindmarsh, West Wimmera, Northern Grampians, Yarriambiack and Ararat and Horsham Rural Cities.

#### Highlights 07-08:

Members of the WWG Network participated in the Community Learning Partnership: Wimmera Financial Literacy Project

Staff members from several houses have undertaken a Community Business Management Course

#### Plans 2009:

WWG Network will be holding a training conference in Nhill, for staff and Committees of Management within the Network in November.

## Neighbourhood House Network Reports

### UMRNHN—Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network

**Network Representative & Chair:** Heather Kelly

**Membership:** 13 Houses and Centres in the Shires of Indigo, Wodonga, Moira, Alpine, Towong and Wangaratta Rural City

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Conducted an independent review of network operations

Extensive update of Network policies and procedures.

Several new coordinators welcomed to the network.

#### **Plans 2009:**

A number of professional development opportunities planned, including a 2 day overnighter.

We look forward to getting to know the new coordinators and working together closely with them

Investigate establishing informal clusters of Houses and Centres within the Network and sharing resources to plan and run courses.

### North West Neighbourhood House Network

**Networker:** Shirley Young till September 08

**Membership:** 19 Houses and Centres in the cities of Hume and Moreland

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Sunbury Neighbourhood House became independent and moved to its own premises.

Conducted a forum and professional development session for committees of management.

The Hume Houses signed an MOU with local government.

#### **Plans 2009:**

Appoint the new Networker.

Develop a strategic framework to work with LGAs.

Continue to develop training opportunities for committees of management.

### RANCH—Regional Association of Neighbourhood and Community Houses

**Networker:** David Perry

**Membership:** 26 Houses and Centres in the Shires of Loddon, Mt. Alexander, Campaspe, Macedon Ranges, Central Goldfields, Buloke and the City of Greater Bendigo

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Support to Houses particularly in the area of governance

An improved, efficient & effective Network as result of establishment of the networkers position.

Web site Development

#### **Plans 2009:**

To continue to respond to members' needs and support the strengthening of processes that underpin our Sector.

### South West Neighbourhood House Network

**Network Contact:** Debra King

**Membership:** 7 Houses and Centres in the Shires of Moyne, Warrnambool, Corangamite, Glenelg and Southern Grampians

#### **Highlights 07-08:**

Annual coordinator and committee professional development gathering including review of strategic plan.

Development of LGA./NH checklist of ways of working together to promote closer working relationships

Round table meeting with LGAs in the Network attended by 3 of the 5 LGAs

Network members continue to meet bi monthly with consistent high attendance including the DPCD local team member.

#### **Plans 2009:**

Hold another coordinator and committee professional development gathering.

Work towards improving connections with the Network LGAs.

Continue to support Houses and Centres.

## The People of ANHLC

### Board Members

In accordance with the constitution, clause 31 elected board members' terms of office are for a period of two years with a maximum of three consecutive terms allowable.

#### **Kylie Pollock** *President*

Kylie has been the Barwon Network of Neighbourhood Houses Networker for six years. Her involvement in the sector started through student placements at Barwon Houses during her Diploma of Community Development and Welfare Studies course at Gordon TAFE. She is in the 2nd year of her 2nd term.

#### **Anne Learmonth** *Vice President*

Anne is chairperson at Jika Jika Community Centre in Northcote where she has been involved for over 22 years. Anne has wide experience in community arts and workplace skills training. She has a strong commitment to industrial justice and convenes the ANHLC IR working party. Anne has completed the 1st year of her 2nd term.

#### **Kay Vrieze** *Secretary*

Kay has been involved at Narre Community Learning Centre for 26 years. She is currently the Executive Manager Community Development. Kay is an active member of the sector and has extensive community management experience. Kay has completed the 1st year of her 2nd term.

#### **Jenni Bramham** *Treasurer*

Jenni is Manager at Vermont South Community House. She has been involved at Vermont in many different roles since joining a playgroup there in 1987. She was appointed to the Board to fill a casual vacancy in mid 2004. She was first elected to the Board at the AGM in Nov 2004 and is now in the 1st year of her 2nd term.

#### **Jay Chubb**

Jay was the manager at SPAN Community House in Thornbury (resigned late 07) where he has been involved in a variety of roles since 1999. Jay has been a active

member of the ANHLC Campaign Strategy Group and has extensive experience in community development and advocacy work. Jay resigned from the Board in January 08 in the 2nd year of his 1st term.

#### **Yvonne Evans**

Yvonne is currently co ordinator/project manager at Mt Beauty Neighbourhood Centre. She has been involved at the centre for 8 years, initially as secretary. Yvonne has been an active member of diverse community volunteer organisations for over 32 years. She is in the 2nd year of her 2nd term.

#### **Ron Moore**

Ron is the co ordinator at Castlemaine Community House. He has been at Castlemaine for 15 years and has also been president of his local NH Network, RANCH, for 7 years. Ron has extensive experience on governing boards including school council, workers collectives, local agency and local government steering committees. Ron is in the 2nd year of his 1st term.

#### **Jan Simmons**

Jan is CEO at Morrison House in Mt Evelyn. She has been involved in the sector for 31 years and has taken the classic neighbourhood Houses career path of volunteer to Centre CEO in that time. Along the way Jan has worked for the sector at the local, state and national level. Jan is in the 1st year of her 1st term.

#### **Lisa Young**

Lisa has been manager at Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House for 7 years. She is an active member of her regional Neighbourhood House Network, NIECH and of her local House cluster, COWNCH. Lisa has also been involved for many years in the community housing sector. Lisa is in the 1st year of her 1st term.

#### **Glenys McBride**

Glenys has been a Committee of Management member at Heyfield Community resource Centre for the past 5 years and in-

## The People of ANHLC

involved at the centre since late 2000. She has had 35 years of community sector experience in a wide variety of organisations, both as an employee and a committee member. She is currently a member of the steering committee of the Gippsland Regional Neighbourhood House Group (GRNHG) and the council of management of Gippsland Women's Health Service. Glenys is in the 1st year of her 1st term.

### **Sandra Anderson**

Sandra is a Committee of Management member of the Barwon Network and of Norlane Neighbourhood House. She has been involved in Neighbourhood Houses for 21 years, including 7 years as secretary and 10 years as chair at Norlane and more than 10 years as committee member and secretary at the Barwon network. Sandra is in the 1st year of her 1st term.

### **Elain Bakker**

Elain is Co ordinator at Rye Beach Community Centre. She has worked as a tutor at Warragul Community House and been involved in a number of community arts projects. Elain has been involved in a diverse range of community organisations, unions, and peak bodies. Elain is in the 1st year of her 1st term.

### **Paul Sladdin**

Paul is CEO of MACE, a Neighbourhood House and an ACE Centre. He is also a committee member of the Bonnie Doon Community Centre and Vice president of the Goulburn North East Association of Community Centres (GNEACC). Paul has worked in community development for the last 25 years in many roles. He has been involved in education, community arts, the Men's Shed movement and is committed to representing the voice of communities in regional and rural Victoria.

### **Margaret Watt**

Margaret filled the casual vacancy on the board when Jay Chubb resigned in January 08. She has been the co ordinator of Port Fairy Neighbourhood House for the last two

years and has more than 30 years of active rural community involvement. Margaret's roles have included representing her area on a state government community capacity building pilot project, managing the Warrnambool Volunteer Resource Centre and sitting on the board of the state peak body Volunteering Victoria.

## The People of ANHLC

### Staff Members

#### **Merial Clark**

*Executive Officer*

Merial has been ANHLC's executive officer for almost nine years. She works four days a week. The focus of her work this year has been balanced across the three key areas of the ANHLC Strategic Plan:- Advocacy & Partnerships; NH&LC Sector Development & Sustainability; ANHLC Organisational Development & Sustainability. Merial has worked with the Board to strengthen the Governance Structure of ANHLC. She has also continued to write advocacy and funding submissions.

#### **Clare Corbet**

*Information Resource Co ordinator*

Clare has worked at ANHLC for ten years. She works 26 hours a week. Clare edits the monthly ANHLC News and responds to the resourcing and information needs of members. Highlights of this year's work have been working with WorkSafe Victoria to establish and implement the ANHLC OH&S Project, producing the monthly ANHLC News and keeping it as responsive as possible to the needs of the sector.

#### **Karen Mackay**

*DGR Project Worker*

Kaz is contracted to manage the ANHLC DGR research and advocacy project. The project commenced in 2006 and now is entering its 3rd year. Kaz has worked in the NH&LC including at ANHLC and the wider community sector for almost 30 years. She is currently well known by NH&LC people for her varied consultancies and project work in the sector.

#### **Bernadette Phillips**

*Finance Officer*

Bernadette has been ANHLC's finance officer for seven and a half years. She works one day a week. Bernadette manages ANHLC's accounts payable and bookkeeping requirements. She also has a key role supporting the Executive Officer in Financial Planning and monitoring the budget.

#### **Liz Richards**

*Office Manager*

Liz took up the office manager position at ANHLC two year ago and is now an indispensable part of the ANHLC team. Amongst a wide range of administrative tasks, Liz has worked to refine the ANHLC membership database. She also took over some of the responsibility for producing ANHLC News and resourcing members whilst Clare was away on long service leave.

#### **Maureen Shaw**

*Cleaner*

Maureen has worked as the ANHLC office cleaner for two and a half years.

#### **Jay Chubb**

*Human Rights Project Worker*

Jay, former ANHLC Board member and manager of SPAN Community House, was the Human Rights project worker for the development phase, which involved project planning, convening a project reference group, and securing further resourcing. Jay worked with Gill Davy at ACHRE.

## Board of Management's Financial Report

The Board of Management of ANHLC submit the financial statements of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

### Principle Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

- ▶ To resource, support and advocate for the Victorian Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre Sector.

### Significant Changes

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

### Operating Result

The operating loss after providing for income tax amounted to \$3,147.

### Statement by Members of the Board of Management

The Board 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 Board the financial statements as set out on pages 17 to 19.

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Inc. and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Kylie Pollock - President



Jenni Bramham - Treasurer

Dated this *twenty seventh day* of *October 2008*.

## Income and Expenditure Statement For The Year Ending 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grant - DPCD		102,500	100,000
Grant - ACFE		26,800	32,000
Grant - Other		18,541	20,569
Membership Fees		75,334	68,227
Workshop Registrations		42,254	37,863
Sponsorship		4,000	4,885
House Brooches		6,614	10,593
Interest received		10,616	9,013
Inserts		1,791	830
Sales - Publications		3,610	1,054
N.H. Week Promotions		1,993	1,049
Sundry Income		8,949	6,491
Donations		1,814	15,052
Loss on Disposal of Asset		(7,914)	
		<u>296,902</u>	<u>307,626</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Accommodation		37,745	35,659
Accounting & Audit		1,450	1,350
Depreciation		3,040	2,581
Facilities & Equipment		4,124	3,366
Management Expenses		7,934	6,177
National Link		948	903
Newsletters		7,824	6,559
Office Administration		10,123	6,016
Project Management & Fees		9,137	24,844
Promotion		8,127	10,231
Salaries and wages		143,631	139,684
Salary on-costs		16,166	21,809
Staff Development		390	370
Telephone		4,053	4,694
Travel		791	1,110
Workshops		44,566	46,851
		<u>300,049</u>	<u>312,204</u>
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax</b>		(3,147)	(4,578)
Income tax expense	2	—	—
<b>Profit from ordinary activities after income tax</b>		(3,147)	(4,578)
<b>Retained Profits at the beginning of the financial year</b>		<u>62,003</u>	<u>66,581</u>
<b>Retained Profits at the end of the financial year</b>		<u>58,856</u>	<u>62,003</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	3	249,723	149,127
Trade and other receivables	4	6,895	585
Inventory		1,545	1,832
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>258,163</u>	<u>151,544</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	21,989	21,243
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>21,989</u>	<u>21,243</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>280,152</u>	<u>172,787</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other creditors	6	26,895	17,973
Amounts received in advance	7	150,586	51,080
Provisions	8	43,815	41,731
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>221,296</u>	<u>110,784</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>221,296</u>	<u>110,784</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>58,856</u>	<u>62,003</u>
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>			
Retained profits		58,856	62,003
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		<u>58,856</u>	<u>62,003</u>

## Statement of Cash Flows as at 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Government Grants (recurrent)		247,347	136,500
Other receipts		140,048	161,891
Payments to suppliers and employees		(285,715)	(309,160)
Interest received		10,616	9,013
Net Cash provided by operating activities	9	<u>112,296</u>	<u>(1,756)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for purchase of property and equipment		(11,700)	(7,146)
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(11,700)</u>	<u>(7,146)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		100,596	(8,902)
Cash at the beginning of the year		149,127	158,029
Cash at the end of the year		<u>249,723</u>	<u>149,127</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

## Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

### Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Vic.). The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic.) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112	Income Taxes
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB 119	Employee Benefits
AASB 137	Provisions
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

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

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

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

#### a. Income Tax

The charge for current income tax expenses is based on profit for the year adjusted for non-assessable or disallowed items. It is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted by the balance sheet date.

The Association is exempt from paying income tax by virtue of Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997. Accordingly, tax effect accounting has not been adopted.

#### b. Fixed Assets

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

#### c. Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Sick Leave is provided for on the balance sheet at the rate of 100% of the actual liability of the Association.

#### d. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

	2008 \$	2007 \$
<b>Note 2: Income Tax Expense</b>		
Prima facie tax payable on operating profit at 30% (2006: 30%)	(944)	(1,373)
Less tax effect of:		
- non-taxable member income arising from principle of mutuality	<u>944</u>	<u>1,373</u>
Income tax expense	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Note 3: Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash on Hand	200	200
Cash at Bank	39,523	38,927
Cash on Deposit	<u>210,000</u>	<u>110,000</u>
	<u>249,723</u>	<u>149,127</u>
<b>Note 4: Trade and other receivables</b>		
Debtors	6,895	157
Prepayments	<u>—</u>	<u>428</u>
	<u>6,895</u>	<u>585</u>

## Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
<b>Note 5: Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Office Equipment - at cost	43,202	45,487
Less accumulated depreciation	(21,213)	(24,244)
	21,989	21,243
<b>Note 6: Trade and other payables</b>		
Sundry Creditors	7,449	7,824
GST payable	11,512	4,255
PAYG Tax payable	7,934	5,894
	26,895	7,973
<b>Note 7: Amounts received in advance</b>		
Grants in Advance	109,735	37,998
Income in Advance	31,826	13,082
Capital in Advance	9,025	—
	150,586	51,080
<b>Note 8: Provisions</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Provision for Staff Entitlements	43,815	41,731
<b>Note 9: Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax</b>		
Profit after income tax	(3,147)	(4,578)
Cash flows excluded from operating profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit		
- Depreciation	3,040	2,581
- Profit/(Loss) on disposal of property and equipment	7,914	—
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade receivables	(6,310)	2,337
- (Increase)/decrease in other current assets	287	—
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	8,922	(8,135)
- Increase/(decrease) in amounts received in advance	99,506	(16,069)
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	2,084	9,026
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	112,296	(14,838)

# Independent Audit Report to the Members of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres Inc.

## Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Association of Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres Inc. which comprises the balance sheet, statement of cash flows as at 30 June 2008, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

## Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is 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 statement, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic 1981) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances

## Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conduct our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing 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 amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating 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.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act (VIC 1981). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

In our opinion:

The financial report of Association of Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria 1981) including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2008 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act (Victoria 1981).



Sean Denham

Dated: 22 September 2008  
Hawthorn VIC 3122

**Sean  
Denham**  
& Associates  
Business Advisors  
and Accountants

## What is ANHLC?

**ANHLC** is the Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres. It was established in the early 1970's as the peak body for Victorian Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres. ANHLC currently has a membership of over 370 organisations, which includes just about all the Houses and Centres in the state.

**Membership** of the ANHLC provides:

- monthly newsletter -ANHLC News, 12 pages of developments and issues, funding opportunities, current discussion with government agencies, resources, industrial information, and reports & ideas from other neighbourhood houses/centres.
- annual residential conference –3 days of professional development & great networking opportunities for 200 neighbourhood house staff and committee members. Members pay reduced registration The conference moves to a different regional location each year to ensure equitable access.
- telephone information service – available for staff and management committee members. We provide information on incorporation, funding, insurance, finances, employment, planning and more. If we can't answer your question, we will put you in contact with someone who can.
- model policies, job descriptions and other resource documents are available by fax, post, or email to staff and management committee members
- website [www.anhlc.asn.au](http://www.anhlc.asn.au) development continues within our staff time and resources
- member forums provide another place to share ideas and network with other houses/centres.
- discounted membership with the employer organisation Jobs Australia; and special bulk purchasing prices with Not for Profit Purchasing.
- access to the Guild Insurance (ANHLC's preferred insurance provider) building

and contents insurance package tailored for NH&LCs.

- eligibility to nominate for the ANHLC Board and actively participate in leading the sector
- The *Quality Houses Self Assessment* tool provides member Neighbourhood Houses with a sector specific Quality Assurance process.
- ANHLC represents members to National Association of Community Development Organisations (NACDO, formerly National Link), linking the 1000 neighbourhood houses around Australia.

### The Vision of ANHLC

The vision of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres is of just and empowered local communities in which our member organisations provide opportunities for people's participation and learning.

### The Mission of ANHLC

The mission of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres is to support and develop the movement of Neighbourhood Houses and Community Learning Centres as individual organisations and as a collective.

### Funding

ANHLC is funded by membership fees, donations and the Department of Planning and Community Development.

# The Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre Sector

## Sector Vision

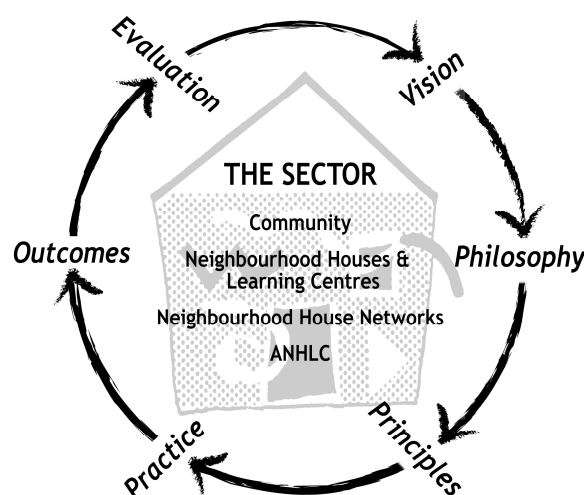
Building community, valuing diversity

## Sector Purpose Statement

Building sustainable community connections with choice, opportunity and flexibility that is responsive to local needs and issues.

## Sector Principles

- Community Ownership
- Community Participation
- Empowerment
- Access and Equity
- Life Long Learning
- Inclusion
- Networking
- Advocacy
- Self Help
- Social Action



## Summary of Sector Outcomes

Individual Outcomes	Community Outcomes
<b>Social Wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional wellbeing;</li> <li>• Physical wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<b>Social</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building and sharing community resources;</li> <li>• Community interaction;</li> <li>• Organisational synergies, connections and partnerships;</li> <li>• Community activism;</li> <li>• Empowerment and inclusion;</li> <li>• Social cohesion.</li> </ul>
<b>Human Capital</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy and language;</li> <li>• New knowledge and skills;</li> <li>• Lifelong learning;</li> <li>• Command over goods and services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Social Capital</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social connections and networks;</li> <li>• Social participation;</li> <li>• Active citizenship.</li> </ul>	<b>Economic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment advocacy, referral and placement;</li> <li>• Innovation and business development;</li> <li>• Savings in health costs;</li> <li>• Savings in social and economic support.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways into further education;</li> <li>• Pathways into employment;</li> <li>• Self-sufficiency;</li> <li>• Income generation</li> </ul>	
	<b>Environmental</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental sustainability;</li> <li>• Savings in environmental costs.</li> </ul>

From *Building Victorian Communities: Outcomes of the Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre Sector*  
 Louise Humpage, Centre for Applied Research RMIT University



**ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES  
& LEARNING CENTRES INC**

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