

Maryborough Community House Inc. Annual Report 2023/24



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Maryborough Community House Inc.

Annual General Meeting

5:15 pm 28th October 2024

Agenda

Welcome

Acknowledgement to Dja Dja Wurrung and elders past and present as the original custodians of the land.

Apologies

Minutes of previous AGM- attached

Annual Reports-attached

Chairperson

Co-ordinator

Treasurer

Financials/Auditor (Attachment 1, 15 pages)

Ask for the MCH and MVRC volunteers to stand and be acknowledged.

Election of Committee of Management:

Chair

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Election of Ordinary Committee Members

General Business

Designation of Authority (Bank Signatories)

Appoint Auditor

Set Association membership fee for the following financial year

Close of Meeting.

Our Statement of Purpose as a Neighbourhood and Community House

Community Ownership:

To set, manage and control the direction, resources, decision-making and processes of the Maryborough Community House.

Community Participation:

To recognise that everyone has a valuable contribution to make and to facilitate community members to join in at any level.

Empowerment:

To put into practice a process which respects, values and enhances people's ability to have control of their lives.

Access and Equity:

To ensure equitable access for people of all abilities. To promote fairer access and distribution of economic resources and power between people.

Lifelong Learning:

To develop the value of Lifelong Learning by building and supporting the personal skills, knowledge and abilities of people.

Inclusion:

To accept and value the diverse contributions that people make and to be sensitive to their individual needs and culture.

Networking:

To link, form partnerships, collaborate and work with individuals, groups, other agencies, government, business and charitable organisations.

Advocacy:

To act with and on behalf of community members to ensure that their individual or group needs are met.

Self Help:

To come together in a supportive group environment to share information, knowledge, skills and life experiences in order that each participant can develop their full potential.

Present Committee of Management 2023-2024

President: Anthony Gibson
Vice President: Martin Mackay
Secretary: Carolyn Eldridge
Treasurer: John Lelean

General Committee Members:

Angela (Angie) Browne, Deb Conybear,
James Normington, Jean Gibson

Staff, non-voting privileges: Jeannie Clark

Staff of House:

Coordinator: Jeannie Clark
Bookkeeper: Rosanne Stevens
Cleaner: Vivien Price

With thanks to past / retiring Committee Members

Angie Browne, Deb Conybear and Jean Gibson

10 Years of Service

Bernie and Amanda Crameri

5 years of Service

Jean Gibson
Tony Gibson

WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING

All the people who come through our doors, to the groups and organisations that utilise our venue and services. The many dedicated volunteers and staff who generously give of their time, their skills and knowledge to assist other residents in the community.

FUNDING and GRANTS

Funding received and ongoing support from Bendigo and District Aboriginal Coop (BDAC), Bendigo Bank (Community Bank Avoca Maryborough and St Arnaud), City of Greater Bendigo together with RANCH, Highways and Byways, National Indigenous Australians Agency,

The Victoria State Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH House Coordination), Central Goldfields Shire Council, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).



Maryborough Community House Volunteers 2023 / 2024

The Committee of Management and Maryborough Community House Staff would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for all their hard work over the past year.

Angela Browne, Barb Stewart, Binny Malins, Cameron Taylor, Carolyn Eldridge, Carol Jones, Cecilia Lelean, Craige Binder, Jeni Melton, Geoff Hardwick, Graham Walker, Jacko Jones, James Normington, Jan Duncan, Jo Carter, John Lelean, Kate Humphrey, Leanne Westwood, Mandy Cramer, Maree Hardwick, Maria Hall, Maurice Robe, Peta Clarkson, Trish Compt, Sue Culley, Sue Miller, Tracey Smith.




Long serving members

Maurice Robe, Jeff Hooper, Jeni Melton, Lorraine O'Dal.

The House would also like to thank everyone for their fantastic donations through this year in both goods, money and services to our house. We are grateful for all donations whether they are large or small, as they give us the chance to share them with our local community.

Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre (MVRC)

Jeff Hooper, Tony Macer, Debbie Macer, Faye Pyke, Helen Ritchie, Lyn Curry, Martin Mackay, Patti Brown, Rachel Nagy, Sue Culley.

		
IGA volunteer survey promotion	Carisbrook floods volunteer	Newspaper promotion

Donation of Foods, Services and Monies or Time:

Businesses and Community Organisations

Asteria, ASURIA, Ayam Australia, Carer Gateway, Carisbrook Bakery, Central Highlands Water, CFA Maryborough, Coles, Church of Christ Maryborough, Colgate, Cramer's Mitre 10, 4Me Gluten Free, Fiorini's Red Star Super-Save Store, Food Share Bendigo, Great Temptations, Heart Foundation, Highview College, IGA Maryborough, Kmart Maryborough, KR Castlemaine, Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, Lollies2go, Maryborough Ambulance Service, Maryborough District Health Service (MDHS), Maryborough Education Centre (MEC), Maryborough Highland Society, Maryborough PCs, Murray Valley Rail Revival Project, NBN Co, Parkview Bakery, PJ Hardware, Pyrenees Historic Vehicle Club Inc, Pyrenees Smash Repairs, Rinoldi Pasta, Rustorations, Salvation Army, Scanlon Foundation, Senza Gluten Free Foods, St Vincent de Paul, Shar Gluten Free, Shepparton Cannery Surplus, Simply Wize, Superyard Online Pty Ltd, The Happy Snack Company, True Foods, Women's Health Loddon Mallee, Woolworths.

Private Donations

Alla Kroitor, Allan Gell, Angie Browne, Barbara Stewart, Barry Lacey (In Memory), Bendigo Bank Maryborough staff, Binny Malins, Brian Healand, Bronwen Heywood, Carolyn Eldridge, Cecilia Lelean, Centrelink Maryborough staff, Ernie Ollington, Gail Hendrickson, Geoffrey Gair, George Milford (ATO Tax Help), Graham Bilson, Greg Stevens, Helen Wayth, Jan Duncan, Jeannie Clark, Jeff Hooper, Jenny Bleechmore, Jo Carter, John Kernot, John Lelean, Jonathan Kaplan, Kate Humphrey, Kath Raeck, Kay Hawkins, Kristy Compt, Liz Albanese, Lisa Renato, Lorraine Bernard, Maree Emmett, Martin Mackay, Maureen Woodall, Max Berry, MCH Art Craft Group, Naomi Greenwood, Peg Payne, Peta Clarkson, Pete Duncan, Peter Freeland, Peter Frizzell, Raelene Williams, Robyn Kosidio, Rodney Carter (CEO of Dja Dja Wurrung), Ron Firman, Ron Walhouse, Rosie Stevens, Thelma Herbertson, Tony Gibson, Tony Macer, Tracey Smith, Waneta Cox.

Contributors to the Walk for Mental Health:

Tracey Smith, Bendigo Bank (Avoca Maryborough), Central Goldfields Shire Council, Goldfields Music Club, Maryborough CFA, Maryborough District Health Service, Highview College, Lions Club Maryborough, Victorian Police.

Network Alliances

Ballarat Community Health, Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, Be Collective, Bendigo Sustainability Group, Carisbrook Lions Club, Central Goldfields Food Network, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Committee for Maryborough, Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Grampians Community Health, Grampians Pyrenees Goldfields Food Alliance, Justice Connect, Kaizen Synergy Legal Practice, Kids safe Victoria, Maryborough District Health Service, Maryborough Lions Club, Maryborough Sustainability Group, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic), Rotary Club of Maryborough, Salvation Army Maryborough Branch, Regional Association of Neighbourhood Houses (RANCH), University of Melbourne.

Maryborough Community House Inc.
Annual General Meeting Minutes

17th October 2023 Meeting opened 1:33pm

Welcome – Acknowledgement to Dja Dja Wurrung and elders past and present as the original custodians of the land.

Present in person:

Angela Browne, Anthony Gibson, Carolyn Eldridge, Deb Conybear, Deb Macer, Jan Duncan, James Normington, Jean Gibson, Jeannie Clark, Jeff Hooper, John Lelean, Martin MacKay, Rosanne Stevens, Tony Macer, Sue Culley, Tineka Greenwood.

Chris Pollock (Upper Loddon and Avoca Land Care Network), Adrian Masterman-Smith (Mill House)

Apologies:

Jo Cox, Amanda Crameri, Bernie Crameri, Geoff Harwick, Maree Hardwick, Jean Bovell, Trish Compte, Maurice Robe, Cameron Taylor, Binny Malins, Graham Walker, Jeni Melton.

Minutes of the previous AGM meeting

Minutes were read by Carolyn Eldridge.

Motion to accept these minutes were moved by James Normington and seconded by John Lelean.

Business Arising – No business arising from previous minutes.

Annual Reports – included in AGM Report Document

President – Anthony Gibson – presented his report and welcomed our new bookkeeper – Rosanne Stevens.

Coordinator – Jeannie Clark – presented her report.

Treasurer – John Lelean presented his financial report.

MVRC – Tony Macer presented their report. Will be holding a forum in early 2024 on Volunteering.

Reports were accepted, moved by Jean Gibson, and seconded by Jan Duncan

Anthony: Thank you to Amanda Crameri (outgoing Vice President) for all the work that has been voluntarily contributed to the house over the years. Also thank you to Bernie Crameri for all support in many ways, to our House. Thank you to all committee members for their work over the past year.

Anthony Gibson dissolved current Committee positions and declared all positions vacant.

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Election of Committee of Management and Committee members

– Statement read by Chris Pollock.

Nominee	Nominat- ed by	Seconded by	Nominated Position	Elected Position
Anthony Gibson	John Lelean	Carolyn Eldridge	President	President
Carolyn Eldridge	Maria Hall	Carolyn Jones	Secretary	Secretary
John Lelean	Cameron Taylor	Jan Duncan	Treasurer	Treasurer
None			Vice President	Vacant
Deborah Conybear	Jeannie Clark	Jean Gibson	Committee	Ordinary Member
James Normington	Anthony Gibson	John Lelean	Committee	Ordinary Member
Angela Browne	Anthony Gibson	Jean Gibson	Committee	Ordinary Member
Jean Gibson	Anthony Gibson	Carolyn Eldridge	Committee	Committee
Tineka Greenwood	Anthony Gibson	Carolyn Eldridge	Committee/ Secretary	Committee/Assistant Secretary

General Business:

Financials – Designation of Authority for 2023-2024 Financial Year (Bank Signatories) Anthony Gibson, Rosanne Stevens, John Lelean and Jeannie Clark.

Appointment of Auditor, it was decided that Shane Bicknell (RSM) would continue as the Accountant/Auditor to prepare Financial Statement.

Association membership was set at \$2 for the 2023/24 financial year.

Motion to accept all general business

Moved: James Normington Seconded: Jo Cox

Thank you for attending. Meeting closed 2.17 pm

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MCH Inc. 2024 AGM Report— Presidents Report



There is a lot going on in a Community House throughout a year. Some routine, some out of the ordinary but one thing that is certain is that it is never dull.

Recent events have underlined how much we need some new younger & enthusiastic volunteers. This year several members (too many by far) have been hammered with illness, some of it quite serious. This as well as harming themselves has put a lot of strain on the remaining members, (sometimes not in the best of health themselves). This can lead to compassion fatigue & burn-out.

Your fantastic team here, as always, has punched through it all & shone like the superstars they are. I am so proud & honoured to work with these people, who put so much of themselves into making our community a better place, If you feel you could contribute, or know someone who might be interested please let us know.

A big disappointment this year was our inability to secure the lease on an unused building in town. This would have enabled us to expand the scope & target age of our programs, to give better access for people who have trouble with transport & expand our ability to hire space with the potential to bring more trade into town & somewhere for youngsters to put their mind to good use. Unfortunately, it was not to be. However, thanks to State Member for Ripon, Martha Haylett's work on getting Government funding for us, we are in a position to at least fulfil some of these aspirations. With the addition of a demountable room to be sited at the front of the House, we can do more groups/ classes, & also let the space to local & visiting groups running programs to benefit the community.

Lots of large events were tackled this year. Such as The Biggest Morning Tea which outshone last year's attempt & will be an ongoing, & improving event.

Harmony Day was a huge success, with a packed hall & many different cultural foods on offer. It was great to see people from many different cultures laughing and joking together whilst sampling the delicious food.

MCH Inc. 2024 AGM Report— Presidents Report

Cont..

Then came NAIDOC week & we really felt that we would like to participate. Luckily, having a proud 1st Nations woman on the staff she took charge and, with other volunteers, a bush tucker garden was laid out and planted, which is now thriving. Look out for Bush tucker scones coming out of the kitchen in the future. A yarnning circle was constructed. On the day the event was well attended by many stall holders, local radio, the Police & Ambulance services & live reptiles to meet. There was also Bush Tucker available, like Muffins & Cooked Roo, Croc & Emu. The Yarning Circle was opened by members of the Dja Dja Wurrung with a welcome to country & smoking ceremony. The Mayor gave a good speech about our need to work together & what had been achieved so far.

For Mental Health Week a promotional walk was organised through Maryborough. This was very well attended and helped to underline the widespread and debilitating disease.

I think that in hindsight the number of projects taken on was too much for the workforce available, yet still, they were pulled off.

You may see that I have omitted naming individuals in this report. Sometimes people stand out and need to be noticed, but this year everyone has stepped up. Some had bigger projects than others but big or small everyone has put their all into what they were doing and I thought it only fair to treat them all equally.

As well as all the special events taking place the core business of the house has still been ongoing. We are still running regular groups and hosting outside entities. A perpetual need of the community is food relief which is addressed daily at the house with no reduction, and in some cases recently, there has been an increase as cost of living angst hits more people.

Mandy & Bernie Crameri have been staunch supporters of the MCH for many years. They have both served on the Committee & I think Mandy has filled all the positions at some time or the other & is a fountain of knowledge. Many don't realise the extent of upfront & covert financial & in-kind donations they have made to the House. Also, Bernie, has provided many hours of work for the House, using his own paid man-power. We are very grateful for their support & as a mark of their esteem, the Committee unanimously agreed to make Bernie & Mandy Honorary Lifelong members of Maryborough Community House Inc.

Overall, we have ended the year financially stable and with an expanding volunteer base.

If you are members of Maryborough Community House Inc. thank you. Without you we could not continue doing the good work. If not please consider becoming a member.

I must apologise for the rather scant report this year. It was written from my hospital bed on the backs of menus.

Be safe, be healthy, be happy

Anthony Gibson

President

Maryborough Community House Inc.

Email: president@mchvic.org.au

MCH Inc. 2024 AGM Report – MCH Inc. Co-ordinator



Another year has passed at Maryborough Community House (MCH Inc.), with further layers unfolding of new events, programs, projects and many new faces welcomed amongst us. It has been a year where recovery still played its part in drawing people to the house for service assistance. MCH Inc. with a solid organisational history of over 40 years, continues to strengthen its presence and capacity in responsively meeting local resident needs for

those within its immediate neighbourhood and local surrounds. This year, the house added greater focus of orientation to its portfolio with community development styled projects such as volunteer led events, with these being an important preventative measure to complement relief and recovery services.

A major project the MCH Inc. Activity Hub Project got underway to provide additional venue space for extending on program and services. Project activities to secure venue space have been extensive and delivered activities in interim community space once earlier identified venues were no longer available. Efforts then were redirected towards an onsite portable at Primrose St. Maryborough to co-locate with existing onsite activities and ease of administration. (A separate report has been provided by the MCH Inc. Activity Hub Project Officer about the space activities activation and engagement through this period.)

New events were developed and delivered through MCH Inc. volunteer led projects, such as the MCH Inc. Walk for Well-Being event and MCH Inc. NAIDOC Week event. Events have brought about a lot of local front-page media coverage. These project events were substantial undertakings for our staff and volunteers, with immersion style project skills development, proving highly engaging with our local community. A new MCH Inc. Garage Sale was held, attracting local residents over a weekend. Not only did this clear some room for better facility access, it also provided a new fundraising effort for the house. The MCH Inc. Harmony Day was launched under the Taste of Harmony Day sharing international meals and resulted in offers from local residents to assist in catering for the following year to share Filipino cuisine and learnings about their culture.

The running of events acted also to build up a growing range of partnering activities of the house with community, business, government and government intermediary organisations through their delivery.

Together with our local community, we raised money and resources for others, such as a Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser with a Bric-a-Brac and Craft stall, towards the Cancer Council Victoria's work for people impacted by cancer. Our annual end of year MCH Inc. Christmas Hampers for families experiencing hardship, accompanied by distribution of Bags of Joy from MEC, was a fabulous effort, and backed by businesses and the community far and wide, including metro and rural regional assistance. Behind the scenes a development project to attain charitable Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for the House got underway to set-up a further channel to strengthen access to philanthropic assistance for projects of the house.

.MCH Inc. 2024 AGM Report – MCH Inc. Co-ordinator

The house's administration saw through implementation and upgrades of new IT systems including a new financial accounting system, Xero. The appointment of our new bookkeeper brought in new practices to complement this. Administration needs and associated activities grew rapidly with the increasing breadth of activities and projects underway.

Our regular programs continued to provide ongoing ways for locals to come along, connect with others, seek support and learn new skills. Activities covered Art, Tai Chi, volunteering, IT services, singing with Serendipity Choir, Chatty Café, cooking for Food Relief, including catering to hirers activities and the house's general programs. These were complemented with workshops and activities that came through from room hirers and new rounds of activities from the MCH Activity Hub project such as Drama, Hospitality training and an adventurous new Bus trip to Op Shops in Bendigo which was extremely popular.

Our feature Kitchen Garden has been lovingly tended by our volunteers, serving to inspire locals to grow homegrown produce in their own gardens. Participants from ASTERIA came along in late Autumn and began working up wicking beds at our front entranceway. A new indigenous botanical garden area was established through a house project to provide insights about local indigenous bush to bowl ingredients and local fauna attracting species that can be grown local to the area. A new gardening group sprang out of the event projects, assisting with gardens around the house, most eager to see a new Wattle Grove come about to showcase high protein wattle seeds varieties. Through the NAIDOC Week event a Yarning circle together with indigenous plant beds was also setup in adjacent Roscholler Park grounds.

The Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre team's project helped the local community in elevating awareness of the integral role volunteers make to underpin their community. They held forums and volunteer training workshops to strengthen skills and encouraged volunteer referrals across multiple volunteer-based organisations throughout the year.

Looking forward, there is a growing level of excitement anticipating the arrival of extended space on site to better equip and build on the great work which is now going on in Maryborough through Maryborough Community House's growing team who are contributing so much to their community.

I would like to thank all of our staff, volunteers, our board and members of the house and not to mention all those who have put in an extraordinary amount of work and dedication of their time towards this year's numerous achievements. Thank-you also to our funding partners, donors and business sponsors. The help that has come through in so many ways has been greatly appreciated to infuse and enrich all the work that has been undertaken through here. We look forward to the important year that now lies ahead.

Jeannie Clark

Co-ordinator,

Maryborough Community House Inc.

Email: coordinator@mchvic.org.au

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MCH Inc. 2024 AGM Report - Treasurer's report.



Major funding

Following an election commitment by Martha Haylett MP, a grant of \$100,000 towards additional activity space was provided by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Considerable effort has been undertaken towards implementation of this project. In the meantime, storage was improved by the purchase of a second shipping container.

Successfully organised major events have been a highlight for the year.

Thank you to the many people also providing supplementary storage space. Main room storage increased with 16 bay shelving constructed by volunteer Ernie Ollington, using material from SuperYard.

Special mentions

- Private donations of goods reached a nominal value exceeding \$12,000.
- The 2023 Victorian Neighbourhood House Survey details our output value in excess of \$1.1 million, from inputs of \$120,000, a tenfold delivery/funding measure
- The MCH Inc. Exception Food Service is funded primarily by the Community House. A \$500 donation was gratefully received from the Pyrenees Historic Car Club.
- MCH raised \$850 from the Biggest Morning Tea and sale of craft items, which was donated to the Cancer Foundation,
- Membership Fees for 2023/24 were held to \$2.00 (below 2015 levels).
- The new Xero accounting system has improved our desktop financial reporting. A huge "thank you" to Rosanne Stevens and Jeannie Clark for facilitating team work.

John Lelean

Treasurer

Maryborough Community House Inc,

Email: Treasurer@mchvic.org.au

ACTIVITY HUB PROJECT

In 2023 Maryborough Community House successfully applied for funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for the Activity Hub Project. The application included the activation of an identified, unused community space, as an additional external campus of the House. Pivotal to this project was increasing the reach of the House, offering additional activities to community members who do not currently use the House. The fact that the House operates with one multi purpose room, three small shared offices and a kitchen, inhibits the capacity to offer an extensive range of activity choices or to respond to community education needs.

I was engaged as the Project Officer, having an extensive background in Adult, Community Education (ACE). Unfortunately the unused community space that we had identified was not available to us. We were offered use of the Railway Station Creative Space by the Central Goldfields Shire, which we were very appreciative of. River Gum Support Services also offered use of their two activity rooms. We also perused possible venue options but were not able to source anything suitable for expanding our operations. During this time we also considered the option of adding a portable building to our existing land space. The funding body agreed to this option and so our grant was updated to include the purchase and fit out of a training building.

The House has not really ventured into the user pay activity space, having limited capacity to do so. Instead they have focussed on providing support to House users and local community members. These supports include hosting support and activity groups, offering information sessions, tax help, energy rebates, food packages, information and referrals to external service providers. The House also has a strong focus on social support in that the “kettle is always on” and you can drop in anytime for a cuppa and a chat.

I was provided with an extensive suggestion list of possible activities and have attempted to work through this progressively. It became apparent that many people were now working as sole traders and were not willing to offer their services at the House as this could compromise their own small businesses. One possible Trainer advised she does not leave her business for the day for under \$1000. Other reasons quoted were the cost of fuel, travel time and the importance of family commitments.

Cont..

MCH Inc. 2024 AGM Report - Activity Hub report.

I hit the streets, talking to the Job Network providers, asking people what they would like to see offered. It became apparent that there is no access/support for people who are studying out of the local area. Adult literacy was mentioned a few times. Jeannie and I met with Brian Gould, Economic Development Officer at the Shire. Brian spoke of the possible establishment of a learning hub in Maryborough to provide education to employment pathways and for skills training for local business. This project has been advertised recently. We also talked about the fact that there is no Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) provider in Maryborough currently. Brian advised us to speak with the regional ACFE office, as regional funds sit with other providers in the Loddon Campaspe region.

In response to the findings I managed to procure a Volunteer who had some experience tutoring, and so the 1-1 Adult Literacy service was born! We signed up with the Reading, Writing Hotline and they will refer people to us who request assistance. They also offer free tutor training and access to resources. We have had quite a few enquiries for this service, demonstrating the need. Some of those who reached out for assistance were referred by Therapists and Job Network Providers. Unfortunately the prospective participants were not quite ready to take the plunge. When they are ready, so will we be. We currently have an ESL student undertaking the 1-1 sessions.

Other activities which were activated include: Heart Foundation Walking Group, Drama Workshops, Food Handling, Responsible Serving of Alcohol, Free Law Information, Financial Literacy, Gambling Harm Awareness and an Op Shop Tour to Bendigo. We are offering two courses in partnership with Castlemaine Community House, Microbusiness for Makers and Job Readiness for Mature Aged Jobseekers.

Most exciting is the news that we have recently procured a building to be situated on the area at the front of the House. We envisage that this will occur before the end of the Project in November, pending all required permits.

The Project has lifted our public profile. We plan to maintain this momentum once the new building is installed. It has been a pleasure to be back at the Maryborough Community House and to be involved in expanding the activity offerings for the community.

Sue Miller

Project Officer

Maryborough Community House Inc.

Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre

Annual Report 2023/2024 for Maryborough Community House AGM 28/10/24

SUMMARY

The purpose of the MVRC is:

- To strengthen our community through the connectiveness that comes with volunteering.
- To achieve the purpose, the MVRC.
- Aims to promote and reinvigorate volunteering in the Central Goldfields region by providing a visible hub of support for volunteers.
- Will support local organisations and connect them with a pool of volunteers.
- Will offer social connection to those seeking it and opportunities for those with valuable skills to put back' into the community.

Our Vision

A community made more connected, vibrant and vital by volunteers and volunteering.

Our Mission

We will strengthen our community by:

- empowering more people to become connected through volunteering,
- facilitating knowledge, skill and network sharing opportunities for volunteers, organisations and groups.
- taking a proactive stance, fostering change and leading to better outcomes.

2023-2024

2023

Encouraged the community to complete a survey on volunteering designed by the CGSC.

Promotion of volunteer survey through media articles and stand at IGA.

Attended Belinda Pritchard's award for volunteering in girl guides at a local, regional and national level .

Designed and planned the forum in conjunction with the CGSC.

Guest Speaker- 'Revisualizing volunteer futures' with Paul Tero .

Grant writing workshops planned.

Contacted and supplied a volunteer to unpack pallets of food for Lions Food Bank.

Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre Annual Report 2023/2024



2023-2024 Cont....

- Letter of support written for Carisbrook Lions
- Attended the 'Walk for mental health'
- Attended DEECA workshop in Wedderburn on Environmental Volunteering Managers
- Attended Justice Connect zoom meeting on risk assessment.
- Attended a forum in Castlemaine re: environmental volunteering and found that many people are seeking opportunities for working with the environment and animals.
- Wrote a Letter to the editor re: Energy Breakthrough volunteers. 1000 volunteers needed. 17-22 November.
- Jeff and Tony attended a zoom meeting from Volunteer's Managers meeting on standards of volunteering
- Guest speaker – Helen Yorston and Alaister Shaw from BVRC
- Guest speaker -Amy Atkinson: discussed the project that will attempt to embed into the DEECA region, particularly the Environmental Regional Manager, the ability to sustain, value, recognise environmental volunteering.
- Role descriptions – Debbie attended the on-line workshop
- Research about Social Prescribing carried out.

2024

Members helped Rowena Butler from the Maryborough Swimming club who needed volunteers to help with catering.

Social Prescribing meeting (Jeff, Anna B & Carolyn Eldridge).

- Continued planning for the forum which was completed very successfully in March.
- Data from the forum synthesised and analysed.
- Meeting at Castlemaine re: social Prescribing
- Volunteer 'thankyou night' planned with the CGSC and supported by MVRC
- Attended the Sustainability Vic workshop "Understanding Human Behaviour to Influence Community Change."
- Put forward a proposal for funding for training workshops to the Bendigo Bank. After discussion with the Bendigo Bank, decided to postpone the plan until a further date.

Maryborough Volunteer Resource Centre Annual Report 2023/2024

....2024

- Put forward a proposal for funding for training workshops to the Bendigo Bank. After discussion with the Bendigo Bank, decided to postpone the plan until a further date.
- VSG presented to council with information about the forum.
- Talk to the MEC regarding the importance of volunteering.
- Attended the online Victorian Volunteering State conference 19th – 20th • Tony & Terence attended the Club map online workshop/information session.
- Grant writing 'pitch night' planned in conjunction with Anna de Villiers and hosted by Tony Macer
- Tony and Jeff presented a talk on volunteering to Probus.
- Decision made to become an incorporated body.
- Developed a strategic plan for the incorporated body – to be renamed 'Maryborough Volunteer Resource Group inc.'
- Will have a stall at a 'Life and Leisure' expo held at the library.
- Letters of support written for ASTERIA and Committee for Maryborough.

Funding

\$500 from DEECA for the forum – \$300 to the Salvation Army for the use of the hall, \$200 for gifts for guest speakers.

The Forum





Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community