

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Annual Report 2016 - 2017

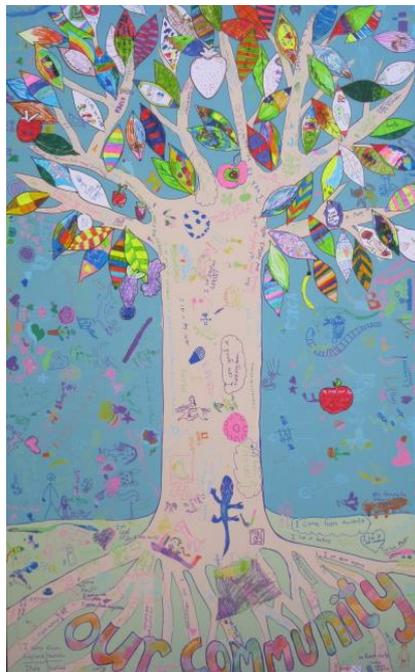


Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc. (BANC)

ABN 83 058 109 149

BANC acknowledges the Gundungurra
and Darug peoples as the traditional owners of the land.

For assistance with funding, BANC acknowledges:
NSW Department of Family and Community Services, NSW Office of Fair Trading; Dept. of Social Services;
NSW Treasury Community Building Partnership Program;
Blue Mountains City Council; Good Shepherd Micro Finance; Dept. Education & Training; Dept. of Health &
Ageing; NSW Premier's Dept.



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*Serving the communities of the Upper Blue Mountains
Blackheath, Medlow Bath, Megalong, Shipley, Bell, Mount Victoria and Mount Irvine, Mount Wilson and
Mount Tomah as well as the broader area for some services.*

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Introduction to BANC

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre (BANC) is a not-for-profit community based organisation that is based in Blackheath and serves local communities, principally in the Upper Blue Mountains of NSW but also more broadly.

BANC supports activities and services that enhance its communities, provides programs that empower people to improve the quality of their life and realise their potential, and works to build a community that supports its members.

We seek to be inclusive, help people connect, and build community resilience.

BANC's MISSION

Connecting people with communities

Creating opportunities for inclusion

Contributing to resilience of people and place

BANC exists to serve our community. We believe that a strong, vibrant community holds its members, supporting each person to meet their potential and to live constructive, meaningful and participatory lives. BANC holds that a neighbourhood centre is a hub within the community for organising activities that allow people to meet one another, build skills, align interests and work together.

BANC will ensure that sustainability and resilience inform its decisions. Wherever possible we will select green, recyclable, local options, always mindful that BANC's area of operation is in the heart of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

BANC is committed to social justice, access and equity for all through a working methodology of community development. BANC is managed by a voluntary Management Committee.

BANC values

- Inclusion
- Sustainability
- Equity
- Social Justice

Management Committee 2016-2017

Adrienne Kailofer	President
Kathleen Chirgwin	Vice-President
Chris Arnott	Treasurer
Sandra Hoot	Secretary
Chris Livanos	Member
Gareth Williams	Member
Geoff Brehaut	Member
James McKid	Member



BANC Staff

Working from the Neighbourhood Centre (the Vault)

Executive Officer	Jo Ridley
Finance Manager	Dot Allen
Payroll/HR	Barbra McCauley
Community Resilience Worker	Deborah Allen
Community Development Worker	Jo Davies
Administration Assistant	Peter Karsten
HUFF Project Officer	Mina Howard
Cyber_Shed Coordinator	Simon Hare
Information Technology (IT)	Nick Wilson
Cleaner	Michael Clarke

BOOSH - Before and After School and Vacation Care

Co-ordinator	Anne Parker
Permanent Part-Time Staff	Alison Rodrigo
	Nicole Roxburgh

Plus Valued Casual Staff, throughout the year.

Community Access Service

Recreation Project, Community Based Activities, NDIS & Individual Programs

CAS Manager	Sue Johnston
Team Leader	Jane Byers
Intake and Support Coordinator	Helen Beeby
CAS Administration	Caroline Mitchell

Permanent Part-Time Staff	Andrea Bower
	Trent Kennaugh
	Samara Reinsch
	Mandy Richards
	Hilary Thomson

Casual Staff:

Alicia Owyng	Joanne Felton	Paula Havey
Cathy Blanchflower	Juliet Macken	Rick Webb
Claire Havey	Masina Lualua	Rika Kristall
Colleen Roche	Nicole Toms	Sarah Molineaux
Helen Lawrence	Patrick Moylan	Vivian Georgiou

Volunteers @ BANC

Alyson Clucas	Reception & CAS
Alyson Tyler	Jewellery Club (CAS)
Bronwen Stinson	Cyber_Shed Office Manager
Bryn Town	NILS Committee
Carol Crowther	Community Reader
Carol Kettlehohn	Community Reader
Cathy Rood	Reception
Chris Arnott	NILS Committee
Diana Reffold	Community Reader
Di Jones	Moove 'n' Groove Activity (CAS)
Fran Reid	Reception
Gabrielle Byrne	Jewellery Club (CAS)
Gail Stephenson	Reception
Gordon Watson	School for Seniors
Helen Boza	Morning Melodies Activity (CAS)
Helen Marsh	Playgroup
Howard Barton	Community Reader
Ian Gilchrist	Blackheath Walkers
Ian McGreal	BOOSH
Jocelyn Munster	Reception
Ken Bromilow	Radio Blue Mountains Host
Liz Bond	Reception
Lois Horton-James	Community Reader
Maggie Williams	Croquet Activity (CAS)
Margaret Egan	Community Reader
Margaret Gough	Community Reader
Mike Chirgwin	Cyber_Shed Tutor
Murray Reid	Radio Blue Mountains host
Octavia O'Brien	Reception
Peter Karsten	Projects, Reception & Administration Assistant
Phil Irvine	Reception
Simon Hare	Cyber_Shed
Snez & Stuart	Sing Cares Away Activity (CAS)
Truus Schotanus	Reception



Simon Hare (impatient) is texting Murray, wondering when Mr. Music is coming to entertain BANC staff at their Christmas Party?



Meanwhile, Terry tries his best at tickling the ivories, to entertain the troops.

President's Report



Adrienne Kailofer

“BLACKHEATH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (BANC) IS FAST APPROACHING 25 YEARS OF EXISTENCE”

This is no mean feat and is a testament to all the people associated with BANC and its Mission of *“connecting people with communities, creating opportunities for inclusion and contributing to resilience of people and place”* that it has continued to exist as a caring organisation to the present day!

I begin this year's report by thanking everyone involved with BANC. They are the volunteers across all programs, members, staff and the management committee. *Without your commitment to the organisation* the many challenges that emerged in 2016/17 would have been very difficult to meet, and there are many further challenges emerging for the future!

I say in particular a sincere thank you to Chris Arnott our retiring Treasurer, a position held since 2013, Sandra Hoot the Secretary/past President and Chris Livanos a committee member. Thank you for your tireless work and commitment. I also say many, many thanks to the remaining committee members of 2016/17- Kath Chirgwin (Vice President) Gareth Williams, Geoff Brehaut and James McKid – a great team to work with.

On the operational side of the organisation a tremendous thank you to Jo Ridley our Executive Officer (EO), Barbra McCauley Finance & Payroll Officer and later Dot Allen the Finance Manager, and to the many program managers and staff.

I sincerely, acknowledge the valuable contribution from all the volunteers assisting with all BANC programs – where would BANC be without you? I encourage you to take the time to read all the reports contained in this document to fully understand and appreciate the staff contributions and the many issues that have arisen over the past year.

The last paragraph of my previous report indicated that 2016/17 would be a challenge! Indeed, this proved to be prophetic and BANC really did need to make some very hard operating decisions. It was a year of challenges, changes and uncertainty which are all still happening. BANC has been confronted with both internal and external challenges!

Starting with the many *internal challenges* arising from a large deficit forecast for 2016/17. BANC needed to review its finances, its income sources, and the traditional manner in which government grants had previously been provided and then how to remedy such a major problem. While the draft budget for 2016/17 presented a bleak outlook, in mid-June 2016 management met on a freezing cold / ice and snow evening to agree on what processes it should initiate in an attempt to rein it in. This really illustrated commitment - it was the quickest committee meeting ever held!

Management was faced with a draft budget blowout of massive proportions –but after all the reforms and restructuring were implemented BANC managed to achieve a small surplus for 2016/17!!

The restructure processes including the strategic plan for 2016 onwards

The management committee, and indeed all involved, were forced to make some very hard and uncomfortable decisions in an attempt to rein in the deficit. Identified was the need for a dedicated finance committee to be established (formalised in Feb 2017) to undertake the in-depth work of reviewing BANC income/expenditure, and where savings could be made. The finance committee directed the EO to review BANC finances and provide a range of scenarios in order to reduce the deficit.

The following recommendations were adopted by the management committee:

- Reduce the EO's hours to 30 per week.
- Deletion of a small number of staff positions.

With the loss of the "back office" functions, except for all financial aspects, other administration tasks were now spread across project staff and volunteers

BANC really needed to become "leaner" BUT NOT MEANER.

At the same time the financial management of BANC was certainly becoming more difficult and complex. The engagement of Dot Allen, in Dec 2016, as the Finance Manager led to the reorganisation of our accounts and reporting formats, by drawing on her extensive accounting experience. No longer could BANC and other similar organisations have the luxury of government grant funds being secure or staying in the lump sum state as had happened over many years. The insecurity of the FACS Community Builders funding, the reforms introduced by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and its take up by our Community Access Service, the review of the NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme) program - changes to these three major income sources contributed to an uncomfortable financial outlook for BANC's future.

BOOSH (Blackheath Out Of School Hour's child care) CYBER Shed, the Welcome Table and HUFF (Heads up for Fire) programs are all part of the many services BANC offers to its community. The hard work undertaken by all involved with these, albeit within tight budgetary constraints, emphasises that all are to be congratulated for their continuing provision of services to the local Blackheath community.

Strategic working group

Following on from the last BANC strategic plan concluding June 2017, a working party of 3 management members and Jo Ridley, BANC's EO, met to analyse the current and projected situation; plan as to its relevance to the present and the identified priority areas of the time. It determined the four major objectives of the last plan were still very relevant - namely viability, preparedness, services and space in that order. However, nothing stays the same and the clearly identified need for brand recognition (marketing) by BANC as well as attention to space and resources needed to be added as high priority objectives.

It is hoped the simple SWOT analysis undertaken in conjunction with the major consultation to many BANC focus groups by a consultant will give some very clear indications as to where the next strategic plan should concentrate. With the cuts to and the uncertainty of program funding continuing, our need for an independent discretionary income source was identified by the strategic working group. This could take the form of a social enterprise or some fund raising activities.



As a start a simple book sale is planned - allowing this group to raise some working capital, and, as well, assist with the cost of the fence placement for BOOSH. Also the starting of a “Friends of BANC” to undertake continuing fundraising and brand recognition activities has commenced.

External Threats regarding our service delivery

2016/17 has been a year of change regarding BANCs major income streams; namely:

FACS (Family and Community Services) is undertaking a major review of its community development funding over the next 3 years. This the funding for BANC’s Community Development program, the core of the neighbourhood centre’s activities. While this funding is purportedly guaranteed at the present level for the next 3 years continuation of this is questionable given that services will most likely begin transition to a FACS target area during this 3 year period.

A major impact on the income stream of the Community Access Service (CAS) has occurred with the commencement of the National Disability Insurance Scheme NDIS. As CAS no longer receives most funds as per quarterly income amounts, (or block funding) CAS now needs to attract individual clients to it to provide specific requested services for a client to purchase. This very important service has needed to review its activities, and its staff suitability to meet its new requirements

The NILS program- No Interest Loan Scheme is offered by BANC to low income families and individuals for safe, fair and affordable loans with no fees/interest. This jointly funded program, is being reviewed by the Good Shepherd Microfinance agency in conjunction with Fair Trading NSW

External environment, problems, future directions and concerns

One of the main challenges facing BANC in the future is competition from larger not for profit agencies, similar not for profits, and for profit organisations all competing for government funds.

The uncertainty and limited range of government funding now prevalent, with the lack of associated income reliability, means BANC will have to either provide services that can be cost recovering and /or generate additional discretionary revenue that can be ploughed into our charitable/non funded endeavours. As a consequence BANC will now need to change its ethos and become more business orientated – but still as a very big hearted organisation, never forgetting BANC’s mission statement.

Keeping in touch with our community

The BANC quarterly newsletter “BANC News” is now incorporated into the much larger and wider scope “The Big Fix” magazine and is a great source of information about BANC happenings. Participation in the Blackheath Alliance and the various planning efforts initiated by BMCC, as well as some new thinking by the strategic planning group will all assist in keeping BANC focussed on local happenings

In conclusion

I’m confident that BANC will not only celebrate its 25th year but many more years to come. Perhaps not in its present form but always to address the needs of its local community. While ever there are so many committed people in the community BANC activities will remain an essential local service.

Adrienne Kailofer

President

Executive Officer's Report



Jo Ridley

"May you live in interesting times" is often attributed to be a Chinese saying, and life is nothing if not interesting in the community sector at this time.

Here at BANC, the number and variety of projects and programs we operate have increased over the year in response to our community's needs and requests. Changes to the way in which we are funded is also certainly "interesting", with movement in all areas of BANC. From a management perspective, our task has been to ensure we understand these changes and to be in a position to respond in a positive manner.

You will read in the reports that follow that we are now operating in a post National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) world, the regulations regarding Out of School Hours services are being updated, introduction of the National Broadband Network (NBN) has impacted on the requests for our assistance, and funding for several core Neighbourhood Centre operations is being restructured.

So, there are many opportunities to re-examine what we do, how we do it and what changes or additions could be valuable for our communities. We greatly value the work done by various groups and individuals who help us to deliver community programs either as part of BANC or in an auspice arrangement:

School for Seniors continues to provide fortnightly bus trips and outings for seniors in the upper mountains. This wonderful project has been running for several years now and has increased the variety of destinations and entertainments available. For example, in the last year there have been trips to Bathurst and Sofala, Mt Wilson and Mt Tomah, Warragamba Dam and Nepean River among many more. The Daffodil Festival at Rydal is always a favourite, as is the Christmas in July celebration.

While the current funding for this project comes to an end in June 2018, we are very hopeful of a further grant to keep this wonderful opportunity for activities, friendship and social inclusion for seniors continuing beyond that date. BANC's overall mission is to connect people with their community, create opportunities for inclusion and to contribute to people's resilience. The School for Seniors certainly embodies that mission, so we see it as an important part of our overall support for the community.

The Welcome Table has made its mark on Blackheath and is admired across the Mountains and beyond as an excellent example of innovation in creating community integration and social inclusion. It is not a club or formal group, but an informal opportunity to get together to meet and enjoy the company of fellow locals in a warm and accepting atmosphere. During the year the Welcome Table has grown to be a place which truly embodies its name.

There are regulars who come every week, arriving to meet their friends and acquaintances for a good conversation. There are those who come when they can, due to work or other commitments. They feel a sense of relief and warmth when they manage to catch up with familiar faces. Then there are those who arrive at the Welcome Table a week or two after moving to the Blackheath area from Sydney or further afield. These people also look relieved, as they walk across the room to see faces smiling at them.



Now there are so many members of the table who are familiar with welcoming, they quickly invite the newcomer to join in. Before the facilitator gets a chance to meet them, the participants are already engaging in conversation and sharing information about our community. The deep discussions, the playfulness, laughter and pleasure of the group is astounding. People bring questions, suggestions, offer support and ask for support. They bring articles from home to give away, such as accessories, jewellery, books, scarves, fabric, etc.

Frequently someone either invites others to their home afterwards, or suggests dinner at a restaurant. That extends the fun and connection. The book club continues with a regular group of 8 people, meeting about 6 times a year for about 3 hours at a participant's home, to share food and refreshments and discuss the books. The book club has serious discussions, but it does not take itself seriously. It is a warm, friendly gentle evening of discussion around topics that the books evoke.

Most of all, the Welcome Table just works. A new participant, who attended just 2 weeks after moving to the area, told me this, after attending the Table for 3 weeks, "I ran into Mary (not her real name) this week in Blackheath and we had a coffee, and a chat. Then I ran into Jenny (not real name) the next day and we had a coffee together. It was so lovely to see familiar faces who want to stop and engage. I lived in Cremorne for 10 years and no one said hello or smiled in the street. I felt alone the whole time I was there".

The 'Heathens Choir is Blackheath's very own community choir and is open to anyone who enjoys singing in a group. There are 58 current members, with 40-50 regularly attending Wednesday afternoon rehearsals.

August 2016 was the biannual Blackheath Choir Festival, always a busy time for the 'Heathens. Christine Wheeler, the 'Heathens music director, was invited to direct the inaugural combined folk music choir, alongside the regular combined classical music choir. Both these choirs present an opportunity for all choristers participating in the festival to sing together in the final concert of the weekend. The 'Heathens learned all the music and swelled the numbers in the combined choir, making it look and sound great for its first year.

Following the choir festival, term 3 and 4 have become busy over the past few years with recurring commitments including Rydal Daffodil Festival, Blackheath Horticultural Society Show, Blackheath Rhododendron Festival, local nursing homes, and our shared Christmas concert with the Blue Mountains City Band. We made our first appearance at Leura Garden Festival, and have been invited back to all the above events for next year.

The forthcoming concert with the Sydney Jewish Choir will be the first time the choir has ventured to Sydney to perform. We're pleased that it is a cross-cultural experience and raising funds for a good cause, the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group.

During Christine's absence in terms 2-3, Kathy Ferguson took over as choir director and did a fabulous job in keeping things running and keeping the choir on track for the August concert. The choir remains a happy place to be on a Wednesday afternoon and obviously continues to serve a valuable function in the lives of regular members.



BANC on Air is the Blackheath Hour on Radio Blue Mountains broadcasting at 10am every Thursday. Murray Reid and Ken Bromilow continue as our volunteer presenters and they are always keen to present news, views and ideas from Blackheath residents or groups. Discussions also include general subjects which may be of interest to 'Blackheathens', such as local musicians playing around town or upcoming festivals, music, arts and performances. Innovation is all part of the BANC on Air team ethos. So in the coming weeks they are arranging the ability to conduct telephone interviews directly to air and will also be able to record interviews outside the regular Thursday 10am time slot in order to accommodate those who cannot attend the studio for whatever reason. Radio Blue Mountains has moved to new facilities in Waratah Street Katoomba which has created many more opportunities for promoting activities and events happening in the upper mountains, so if you'd like to contact BANC on Air, just call the office on 4787 7770.

The Neighbourhood Centre is always busy with locals or visitors and offers many services such as free use of computers, scanning and Wi-Fi, low cost printing, photocopying and laminating, plus we have a meeting room that can be hired for a small fee. There is abundant community information available, access to No Interest Loans and generally we can refer you to various services you might want. And you can always call in for a cuppa and chat!

Our meeting room is in regular use by various University of the Third Age classes, plus Shakespeare readers, creative writers, an audio group, photography and French classes. For more "crafty" types, there are fibre arts (sewing, knitting and weaving) and a quilting group. Occasional users can book the space for weekdays, evenings or weekends. We also manage the booking process for the Blackheath Community Centre halls on behalf of Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC).

Our community involvement extends to encouragement and support for smaller community groups such as Friends of Blackheath Pool and Memorial Park, Blackheath Walkers, Permaculture Blue Mountains, One in Five Creative Arts, among others. BANC maintains the secretariat for Blackheath Area Community Alliance which continues to work with BMCC on issues of importance to Blackheath and surrounding areas, sharing information between local community organisations and providing advocacy for the upper mountains villages. This year we have also commenced a new partnership with The Big Fix in order to bring you an updated and improved BANC Newsletter.

I have appreciated our ongoing membership of the Blue Mountains Lithgow Integrated Neighbourhood Network (BLINN) and have found the collaboration of this group very supportive during the year. BLINN has worked together with other organisations, BMCC and our local State and Federal parliamentary representatives to advocate for the community regarding various issues currently presenting difficulties for the sector across the region. I thank my fellow Neighbourhood Centre managers for sharing their knowledge, skills and experience over the year.

Finally, my greatest thanks go to the Management Committee, staff and especially the volunteers who are the engine room of BANC. This is truly a remarkable group of people undertaking an amazing range of activities and programs in support of their local community. They have done this with great humour and forbearance in sometimes very difficult conditions and I have appreciated their support, advice and wise counsel over the year. I look forward to working with them into the future as we face the many challenges and joys that will no doubt be our lot in 2017/18.

Jo Ridley
Executive Officer

Community Access Service (CAS)

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Community Access Service (BANC CAS) has been in operation for over 20 years historically delivering a day program and recreation supports for people with a disability and people with a mental health diagnosis. For the last several years BANC CAS has been preparing for the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), whereby all NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Homecare funding ceases and supports for people with a disability and mental health diagnosis transitioned to be funded by the Commonwealth NDIS scheme.

We do this so people can live the lives they want in their community.

The full National Disability Insurance Scheme launched on July 1, 2016 and all of our service participants have transitioned to the scheme in this reporting period, apart from those over the age of 65, who transitioned to the Commonwealth Continuity of Support program. The NDIS scheme has been designed to provide people with a disability more choice and control about the types of supports they receive.

In response to the introduction of the NDIS and in close consultation with people with a disability, other service providers and the broader community, BANC Community Access has transformed to diversify the supports we offer. At the time of this report, BANC CAS delivers National Disability Insurance Scheme supports to adults and children living in the mid-upper Blue mountains and Continuity of Support program supports (for people over 65 years of age who were ineligible for the NDIS).

We deliver:

- Supports to assist with daily life – in home and in the community
- Social and community participation with individuals and in small groups
- Skills development – travel training, budgeting, cooking and digital skills support
- Support Coordination
- Transport Support
- Supports to volunteer or seek employment or further education
- Assistance with transport
- Art Therapy
- Seniors Activities for older people with a disability or mental health diagnosis

Of particular note is our unique approach to working closely with individuals to deliver supports which engage their interests and aspirations – from supports to assist with everyday life, to drama classes, bush adventure activities, support to volunteer and access educational pursuits, our dedicated art studio facilitated by a professional practicing artist and our dedicated highly personalised support coordination – we genuinely work with individuals to support them to direct their lives.



BANC & CAS at the Mountains Support Expo at Katoomba

Major Activities

Through 16/17 BANC Community Access delivered 23,633 hours of supports to adults and children with a disability and/or mental health diagnoses in the Blue Mountains Region. In order to deliver this amount of support to people in the Upper Blue Mountains area we focused on delivering goals derived from business planning in the prior reporting period:

- We grew our footprint in the community as a boutique provider of NDIS supports to adults and children with a disability and mental health diagnoses. We continue to do this by placing a significant focus on person centred support as people engage with the NDIS system.
- We transitioned to deliver the Continuity of Support Program through the Department of Health and Ageing, to people over the age of 65 who were not eligible for the NDIS, to ensure they could continue to receive continuation of services they engaged in prior to the introduction of the NDIS.
- We further integrated our digital client management system with financial operations, digitalised our record keeping and increased the capacity of our team to document service delivery digitally.
- We worked on quality assurance through preparing for external accreditation (Third Party Verification).
- We embarked upon growing business through the provision of support coordination under the NDIS. This remains a strong growth area for us at the time of writing of this report.
- We continued the development of unique arts access opportunities for people with and without disability in the community through our Art Studio space, and by engaging professional practitioners to facilitate music and drama experiences
- We have undertaken market analysis and development of new promotional opportunities and materials through the delivery of an NDIS transition grant through the NSW Government's Transition Assistance Program.
- We placed great emphasis on communicating with the whole of the staff team through the rapid changes in service provision we inevitably experienced (and continue to experience) as part of the NDIS and Continuity of Support landscapes.

Activities of note include

- A significant increase in the delivery of supports to children and young people.
- Our registration to deliver Art Therapy as an NDIS provider delivered by professionally certified therapists.



CAS Bingo & Nepean
Disability Expo

- The completion of the Fundability funded accessible children's drama and creative program with special partnership projects delivered in conjunction with Mid-Mountains Neighbourhood Centre and Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre
- BANC Community Access exhibited at the Nepean Disability Expo, the Mid-Mountains Neighbourhood Centre Build Friendships, Reach life Goals mini-expo



Donna & ducks on a 1to1 support at Wentworth Falls lake

The Team

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Community Access is fortunate to have a track record of working with remarkable people. Firstly thank you to BANC EO Jo Ridley for steering the organisation at a time when there is constant change throughout the whole of the community sector, and particularly for her active support of BANC Community Access during a time of uncertainty and transition. Thanks also to the whole team over at BANC, and special mention to Dot Allen for all her financial expertise as we have unit costed to the cent!

In this reporting period BANC Community Access farewelled a number of staff who had worked with the service for significant periods of time:

Sharon Kemp formerly Individual Programs Coordinator, left our service after almost 15 years to move interstate. Sharon's contribution to the positioning of this service for the NDIS is very much appreciated, and the expertise she brought to her work with people remains of influence on us - thank you Sharon! We also farewelled some long term support staff members in this period – Hilary Thompson who retired after many years' service, and Mandy Richards, Andrea Bower and Samara Reinsch. We thank them for their contribution and commitment to supporting participants through the programs at BANC Community Access.

We welcomed some new support staff to our service - Rick, Joanne, Juliet, Sarah, Peter and Alicia, and are delighted to work with them. The small senior team at BANC Community Access comprises of a service delivery team leader, manager, support coordinator and an administration officer. The team have worked intensively to transition the service to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Continuity of Support program and their performance has been outstanding:

Jane Byers leads cohesive service delivery through coordinating group and individual supports, rostering, programming and developing activities and leading the team's approach to service delivery. Jane's work has been remarkable in what has been a year of constant change in supports, team members and requests for services. We are fortunate to have her in a key role with our service.

We created a dedicated Support Coordination and Intake role in order to offer a personalised Support Coordination service to NDIS participants. Helen Beeby (Bee) commenced in this role in December 2016 and has navigated the emerging NDIS service system with professionalism, creativity and a meaningful person centred approach to the clients she works with, resulting in significant outcomes for participants and their families. Thank you, Bee.



Caroline Mitchell is the administration officer for BANC CAS and her work is invaluable, administrating the complexity of the NDIS system, data collection and reporting on the Continuity of Support program, developing billing processes and lending a hand right throughout the service. We do not know what we would have done without you this last year Caroline!

Staff engaged in a number of development opportunities over the year including: An NDIS in-service; digital skills training; Disability Essentials In Practice training including positive behaviour support; Driver training; a programs and activities in-service; a Coping with Change training, NDIS Support Coordination training and staff also attended various forums, briefings and sector events. Some of these development opportunities have been possible through our agencies participation in a sector wide training initiative – People for People Training, an ADHC funded program supporting local NGO's to build capacity amongst their staff, in order to achieve best outcomes for service participants.

Future Directions

Sustainability

The coming year is critical for BANC Community Access to ensure our sustainability into the future. There remains concern throughout the sector that NDIS pricing is inadequate, and this is especially evident for the delivery of short supports, and supports which involve travel for support staff to the location of support delivery. We are interested to see the results of the Independent Review into NDIS pricing currently being conducted by McKinsey and Co. Similarly we expect in the coming reporting period to hear of future plans for the Continuity of Support program and funding for the period beyond 2018.

Third Party Verification

We are deep in preparation for our external accreditation. This is the second time we will undergo this process which ensures we deliver services in line with the National Disability Standards. Thank you to our consultant Wendy Dentler for her work on reviewing our policies as part of this process.

Service Development

We will continue to seek opportunities to develop our programs in response to community needs and interests: diversifying activities and opportunities with participants, programs for carers, supports for children and families, further expansion into the provision of therapies and continuation of our arts access programs.

In conclusion

Thanks to the support of participants, staff, volunteers and the BANC Management Committee we are well positioned to enter what will be a critical year ahead. While there will be many challenges, we are excited by the possibilities.

Sue Johnson

BANC Community Access Manager.

BANC Community Access Team Leader Report

Throughout the last year BANC's Community Access Day and Recreation Program and 1:1 supports have continued to create many opportunities for people with disabilities and mental health diagnosis in the upper Blue Mountains to connect with their community, partake in daily living and engage in meaningful recreational and leisure opportunities.



The supports we provide to participants here at Community Access include assistance with daily living, transport, increased social and community participation, improved health and well-being, improved learning opportunities, improved relationships and improved life choices all of which contributes to meeting individuals goals and aspiration's as identified in their NDIS plans.

Some of the group favourites have included attending entertaining Morning Melodies live music programs at the Joan in Penrith and Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub in Springwood. Men's Sports Group and in particular Gateball (or 'Croquet' as the guys who attend refer to it) at Lithgow Croquet Club has been a much looked forward to activity where the group has progressed their Gateball playing skills and interactions with the wider community. Our themed monthly Bingo and fortnightly BBQ's have also been immensely enjoyed by a large group of participants which increases participant's opportunities to socialise and have some fun. We have also attended a number of local events such as the Daffodil Festival at Blue Mountains Botanic gardens at Mt Tomah and exhibitions at Katoomba Cultural Centre.

Group highlights this year have included outings to:

Muri Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural and Education Centre in Castlereagh which is designed to educate and re-educate the wider community in Aboriginal Culture, Tradition and Heritage. Participants and staff from Community Access Services engaged in a number of activities including a Cultural talk, Bush Tucker walk, painting Workshop, Boomerang Throwing and Dreamtime Stories. The group also enjoyed a morning tea of Native Hibiscus lemonade and Damper and native jams.

Calmsley City Farm, a farm based attraction in Fairfield was also a highpoint of the year for clients at Community Access who enjoyed and engaged in a variety of shows and exhibits such as the sheep shearing and working dog show. In particular the group really enjoyed the opportunity to feed some of the farm animals.

Hosting a Biggest Morning Tea at the cottage was also well received where staff and clients alike enjoyed tea and cake and were able to support and make a donation to the Cancer Council. We look forward to partaking in these wonderful activities again and engaging in other exciting activities and programs in 2016/17.

Jane Byers

BANC Community Access Team Leader.

Thank You

BANC Community access works in partnership with a broad range of service providers and stakeholders in the community.

We thank our residential partners for their genuine engagement with us as we provide services and support to their residents: Kirinari Community Services, Ageing Disability and Home Care, Sylvanvale Foundation and Civic Community Services.

We thank Balance Healthcare, whose provision of a lease enables our service to have a secure home base.

We would like to acknowledge the support and collaboration of: Maggie Williams for her work with our Men's sports group at Lithgow Croquet Club, the Edge Cinema, Mount Vic Flicks, Springwood Community Hub, Blue Mountains Food Services, Blue Mountains City Council, Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre, Katoomba Aquatic Centre, Blackheath Baptist Church, Pru Hardgrove from Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre, Blue Mountains Drama, The Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare, Fundability, Mountain High Pies, and National Disability Services Australia.

We also wish to thank the creative people from the local community who engage with our services through sharing their skills - Gabrielle Byrne and Alyson Clucas (Beading Group), Di Jones (Movement) and musicians Stuart and Snez from Soundshed studios.

Thanks especially to the management Committee of Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre for your commitment to supporting a diversity of people throughout the community.



CAS Biggest Morning Tea

CAS client Art Work



Moving Mountains

An exhibition by artists working in the upper Blue Mountains who draw their inspiration from the natural world. *Moving Mountains* features works on paper and canvas which explore the artists' fascination with landscape, plants and animals. Also on display are handcrafted jewellery pieces by the Blackheath Beading group.

Participants in this exhibition attend BANC's Community Access programs.

Thursday 30th June - Saturday 2nd July
11am-5pm

VIRGIN WALLS GALLERY
251a Great Western Highway
Blackheath NSW 2765

Blackheath Out Of School Hours (BOOSH)

This year has seen the continual development and improvement of all three programs: Before School; After School and Vacation Care which our local schools, families and community enjoy judging by the positive feedback which we receive.

Before School program

This is now offered not only to Blackheath Public School, but to Mt Victoria Public and the Christian College. A school bus route has been identified for both schools and potential arrangements have been made so that this program is available when needed. We escort children on and off these buses to ensure safety.



Anne Parker

After School Program

Three new families from the Christian College have now joined us and we meet their bus in the afternoons. With the diversity of our session groups, we invite the children to organise their own activities through their current interests. This is something which provides opportunities for our children to take control of themselves and their decision making and empowers them with greater feelings of ownership and belonging. As per our philosophy, we encourage the children to develop respectful relationships with us all, displaying appropriate behaviour and supporting enhancement of important life skills and values. Given their responding opinions, I think that this is working well.

Vacation Care

Programs which include more outside presenters and excursions appear to continue to be popular. With this in mind, the programs that I have been developing tend to feature more 'incursions/excursions'. Even though this is a greater expense for families, there has been a lot of positive feedback from parents who state that they find it exciting. Excitement, challenge and stimulation is what it's all about.

The Inclusion Support Program

Continues to provide funding for children with diagnosed needs of which we have many. This funding enables us to employ a third educator for a couple of hours during After School, eight hours during Vacation Care, if numbers exceed fifteen. This is a very valuable asset and essential to have this continued. This is reviewed and applied for annually.

Communications

Through Hubworks, I am able to get in touch with all families, sending out newsletters and memos when required. Very effective and beneficial.

Staffing/Professional Development

We have three permanent part-time educators with the rest of the team being made up of casuals. I have extended the amount of Supervisors as per need and am happy with the calibre of my team. I am always on the lookout for additional members as I like to have a largish pool. Professional development opportunities are identified through Staff Appraisals and general conversation and events are organised when required. This year to date we have undergone our annual CPR training and first aid for those who needed to re-new.

This is a compliance issue, so comes out of our budget. I attended part of the annual OOSH Network Conference held in Manly this year, but would like to attend the whole weekend with a colleague next year as it was very beneficial.

National Quality Standard

Together as a team we evaluated the 2016 Quality Improvement Plan and created our 2017 plan which is complete and achievable.

WHS

Identified issues are reported and dealt with when required. Fence and drainage issues are a work in progress. Alison is our WHS rep and attends regular meetings with BANC, reporting any issues which need attention.

I would like to take this opportunity to heartily thank my team of staff for all of their support, endeavours, commitment and professionalism, without these wonderful values, we couldn't operate. I would also like to thank the Board, Jo Ridley, Jo Davies, Barbra McCauley, Dot Allen, Jade Hudson, Peter Karsten and the BANC volunteers for their help and guidance over this year.

Anne Parker

BOOSH Co-ordinator.



No Interest Loans (NILS)

What is NILS?

NILS provides individuals and families on a low income, access to safe, fair and affordable credit with no fees, no charges and no interest.

The maximum loan is \$1,200 for essential goods and services. Once applications are approved, repayments are set up at an affordable amount usually over a 12 month period. With NILS, no credit checks are made as this is a program based on trust and respect.

What are the loans for?

Loans are generally available for the purchase of essential goods and services. These may include:

- household items like fridges, freezers, washing machines, stoves, clothes dryers and some furniture
- some medical and dental services
- educational essentials such as computers and text books
- car repairs
- other items as requested



Deborah Allen



With manageable repayments, NILS works through a process of circular community credit. When a borrower makes a repayment to NILS, funds are then available to someone else in the community. Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre's No Interest Loan Scheme, approved over ninety loans to people living on low incomes in the upper Blue Mountains during the financial year.

Loans were provided for car registration and repairs, whitegoods including refrigerators and washing machines; dental and medical purposes; computers; outdoor equipment; furniture; musical instruments; training and education.

Good Shepherd Microfinance accredits NILS@BANC and all other NILS programs across Australia. There is a strong focus on improving opportunities for women and girls, with women representing 67 per cent of NILS clients across Australia. NILS programs are committed to reconciliation and closing the gap which is highlighted by the 22 per cent of clients that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

Research shows that four out of five NILS clients are moving away from crisis and hardship towards stability and resilience – achieving economic mobility. In addition, four out of five clients who have used payday lenders in the past have stopped using them since accessing NILS.

NILS@BANC and NILS programs across Australia are supported by the Australian Government as part of its five year, \$33.3 million investment in microfinance. NILS@BANC is also supported by the NSW Office of Fair Trading.

Many thanks to volunteers Bryn Town, Chris Arnott, Kath Chirgwin and Cathy Rood for their hard work and participation this year.

Deborah Allen

Community Resilience Worker

Community Development



Jo Davies

It's hard to believe that another year has gone past. Here is an outline of some of the work that has occurred through the community development portfolio over the past year:

Blackheath Day

We had another fabulous community day on May 13th 2017, with so many people coming together to celebrate our community - and there is much to celebrate in this wonderful village. Thanks to our partner, the Blackheath and District Chamber of Commerce, all the volunteers, performers and our community members who continue to make this day one to remember.



Children from Blackheath Public School doing the Rosella dance



Lana with her grandfather Peter Hunt, cutting the cake on Blackheath Day

Senior's Events

For Senior's week this year we had a French inspired film screening and delicious morning tea. The residents of Morvern Gardens performed their reciprocal play to some stage 3 children from Blackheath Public School, which was an incredible experience for those involved.



Students from Blackheath Public School at Morvern Gardens Nursing Home ready to watch the reciprocal performance from the residents



Blue Shorts trophy made by the wonderful Murray Reid



Local screenwriter, Stephen Davis, the Blue Shorts MC

Blue Shorts

Blue Shorts returned to the Blue Mountains for the second time in 2016. This was given some financial support from the wonderful Bendigo Bank and was undertaken in partnership with Mt Vic Flicks and many local independent film makers, who worked together on a largely voluntary basis to hold this event again. The number of entrants was high and the overall standard incredible. We are fortunate to have so many talented and creative people in the mountains. We have managed to secure a small BMCC cultural arts grant for a future event in 2018.

Road Safety Film project

We were also fortunate to obtain a small grant that allowed us to make some road safety adverts aimed at Senior pedestrians in the Blue Mountains, who statistics show are currently the people most likely to be injured on our roads. This was created in conjunction with students from Mt Victoria Public School, Lithgow High School and BANC. We were fortunate to have a couple of local star actors available to shoot this with us. Look out for this shortly.



Sean O'Keefe with Lithgow High Students



Ali, Megumi, Daisy and Ella and crew on set

Get Ready Week

BANC partnered with Blackheath Public School and the Blackheath/Mt Victoria brigade to bring an information session and fire truck to the school in September. The children enjoyed learning important bushfire safety information and had a climb on the truck/ spray of the hose.



Local RFS volunteers John Pettit, Mina Howard, Jack Peterson and Sharyn McIntosh

Partnerships with TAFE

In 2016/ 2017 we were delighted to be able to partner with TAFE Outreach to provide 3 Triple R courses and a Business Course. The Triple R course supports people who are keen to learn, improve or just simply have some time to up-skill and up-cycle objects that might otherwise be thrown away. The business course enabled people to learn how to run a business, with a particular focus with online selling.

Summer Solstice celebration

We held a Summer Solstice event this year with the support of Murray, Braden and Narelle, which occurred in The Gardens towards the end of 2016. This was a heart-warming and beautiful event attended by families and other community members in The Gardens, having picnics and dancing to music as the daylight faded.



Children from Blackheath Public School having a climb on the fire truck

The Stronger Family Alliance

"The Blue Mountains City Council and the Stronger Families Alliance (SFA) share a vision of vibrant communities where child and family services work together with one aim – maximising the wellbeing and resilience of children, young people and their families" (Child and Family Plan, 2012). BANC is part of this alliance of government, non-government, community and voluntary organisations.

There is a shift in the target group of these organisations as young people up to the age of 21 are also included in this next iteration of the Child, Youth and Family Plan. The SFA is also working hard to work out the best way to evaluate the programs and projects undertaken in the community in order to ensure that we are doing the best job that we can.

The Hub At The Top

The Hub at The Top (HATT) group is another way that BANC is supporting the SFA initiative, by bringing together the children and families of Blackheath, Mount Victoria and other local groups and communities. There are regular meetings of the HATT committee group comprising of representatives from the local library, schools, pre-schools, playgroups and government and non-government organisations. Any member of the community is welcome to attend these sessions which occur quarterly, so please feel free to contact me for further information.



Decorations for the Summer Solstice event

Hub Playgroups

There were Hub Playgroups in operation in Blackheath (Mondays in the school hall during term-time from 9am – 11am) and Mount Victoria (Wednesdays in the library during term-time from 9.00am – 11.00am). Both playgroups were facilitated by trained family worker from Blue Mountains Family Support Service as well as wonderful volunteers with additional support from BANC. The Mt Victoria playgroup is due to be replaced by some parenting programs over the upcoming months.

Blue Mountains Lithgow Integrated Neighbourhood Network (BLINN)

This year we are continuing to work with the Blue Mountains Lithgow Integrated Neighbourhood Network (BLINN) and have started the process of Harwood Community Consultations. Consulting with the community of the Upper Mountains via Community Conversations and “ASK” exercises is being undertaken in order to capture the authentic voices of our community and its aspirations. Thank you to those who have already participated in a Conversation or Ask exercise. This is an ongoing piece of work, so expect to see more of it in the upcoming months.

Community Readers

Literacy is one of the most fundamental foundations for success in school and life and has many benefits for children, their families, the community and society as a whole. We are proud to continue our support of the Community Readers Program at Mount Victoria Public School. We are so grateful to the volunteers who attend the school once a week for about an hour and listen to the children read and undertake other word-based activities. This scheme is great fun. Please contact me if you would like more information about this project.

Other opportunities

It has been my pleasure this year to attend the International Women’s Day breakfast in Springwood, to curate the Blue Fringe Art Exhibition which is an opportunity for people with a lived experience of a mental health issue to show their art work, and also to be a judge for the BMCC Project Now Youth Awards. We have also had the privilege of sponsoring the Blackheath Public School cookbook, Nourish.



Many of the events and activities above just would not be possible without the generosity of the volunteers in this community, in ideas, time and resources. Thank you again for your contributions in making this part of the Upper Mountains such a remarkable place to live, work and visit.

References and other useful contacts

Blue Mountains Child and Family Plan (2010) Blue Mountains City Council, Australia.
For information about the Stronger Families Alliance please contact: www.strongerfamilies.com
To participate in the Hub At The Top or the Community Readers project please contact: com.development@banc.org.au

Volunteers

Senior's Week:

Robin Bell
Fran Reid

Community Consultations:

Greer Knight
Cathy Rood

Morvern Gardens Project:

Narelda Joy

Blue Shorts:

Jonathan Bowman-Yeend
Leigh Bramall
Ken Bromilow
Sophie Clement
Stephen Davis
Sara Dynes
Leah Godfrey
Anneke Godfrey
Simon Hare
Mina Howard
Norman Yeend

Larry Howard
Sean O'Keefe
Peta Khan
Tiriela Mora
Melissa Opie
Grace Opie
Jaime Quezada
Murray Reid
Samara Reinsch
Colin Shearston

Thanks to all those who submitted films into the event in 2016.

Summer Solstice:

Narelle Johnson
Braden Roberts
Murray Reid

Blackheath Day:

Fran Reid
Tristan Alaba

Plus many other choirs, dancers and stall holders

Jo Davies

Community Development Worker.

Cyber Shed



Simon Hare

Cyber_Shed advocates for community digital inclusion, and teaches digital literacy skills, aiming to close the widening digital divide. We educate & equip people to stay connected with far-flung family, participate in the broader community & stay safe online.

We do this one-to-one, in a friendly no-jargon, non-threatening way. We offer advice on choosing new information & communication technology (ICT) equipment - including laptops, tablets & mobile phones. We also advise on best internet service provider options for the upper mountains.

Our volunteer tutors teach all the three main operating systems: Windows, Android & Apple. We encourage people to bring along their own portable device - tablet or laptop & use our free Wi-Fi - or learn on our big-screen desktop PCs.

Silver Surfers

We offer over-50s six sessions one-to-one digital literacy tuition for free. We also offer fee-for-service tuition & small classes on demand.

2016-17 financial year tuition statistics

During the majority 2016/17 Cyber_Shed opened 2 days each week, offering 8 to 10 teaching hours. A total 36 individual students were assisted in 2016/17, across a total 166 one-hour visits.

This averages to over 4 visits per week, across the 40 weeks of public school terms that Cyber_Shed opens.

Any one student visited between 1 and 15 times across the year. Please note that this total represents our documented/booked formal tuition visits. It does not include unbooked drop-ins requesting general 'digital advice', or phone enquiries. These peaked around initial rollout of the NBN from February 2017 onward.

Staff

We are now able to open an additional day each week, an option offered by the recruitment of additional volunteer staff.

So now Cyber_Shed tutors are here to assist the public on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday each week of NSW public school terms.

Many thanks to our generous volunteers, without whose assistance we would be unable to operate:

- Mike Chirgwin, Apple iPad & iPhone specialist tutor
- Bronwen Stinson, Office Manager



*Cyber_Shed is located at The Principal's Cottage
207 Great western Highway.*



Cyber_Shed is a Blue Mountains TIMEBANKING network member. Timebanking allows volunteers to accrue credits which they may swap with others for services they need themselves. Please see <http://timebanking.com.au/home/Blue%20Mountains>

Cyber_Shed Coordinator & volunteer tutor Simon Hare works a core of 9-3 Tuesday to Thursday each week. 5.5 hours per week paid, remainder volunteer.

Equipment

Cyber_Shed continues to attract significant equipment donations from individuals & peer organisations. Across the reporting year we received five desktop PCs & two laptops. We have made use of these in-house at Cyber_Shed, and distribute across the organisation and re-donate others to students in need.

PRINT from your mobile device

Our recent printer upgrade to a Ricoh MP C307 offers a wider range of options. Amongst other things, we are now able to offer the public colour printing, scanning direct to email etc at BANC standard rates. And as the printer is wi-fi capable we can print direct from your mobile phone or tablet, without requiring a cable connection! Magic (almost). Ask us how. Requires a quick printer app download & set-up on your device, then you're ready to go.

Data Projector

We have purchased a tuition data projector, specifically for Kids Coding purposes, but will be useful in all group tuition scenarios. We acknowledge a grant from Katoomba RSL via BMCC ClubGRANTS for the purchase of a tuition data projector.

We have also purchased a later model Android mobile phone, capable of 'casting' to the projector. An invaluable teaching resource.

Promotion

Cyber_Shed is active on Twitter daily, with a following of approximately 400. Unlike Facebook 'friends', Twitter followings regularly fluctuate depending on the media environment of the day.

Weekly we publish our online newsletter Cyber_Shed digital cottage: digital inclusion | smart work | kids coding | a weekly newsletter curated in the Blue Mountains of NSW Australia

We encourage you to consider subscribing at www.cybershed.org.au

In February, Blackheath Probus Club invited Cyber_Shed to make a presentation to their monthly meeting at Blackheath Golf & Community Club. At this presentation Simon was welcomed by an audience of 70-odd Probus members who listened most attentively for 25 minutes & then engaged in Q&A for another 25 mins. A great profile-raising exercise, for Cyber_Shed's target audience.

NBN Rollout Feedback Coordination

In 2016 our local federal MP Susan Templeman invited the Blackheath Area Community Alliance (BACA) to document experiences as the NBN rolls out.

Cyber_Shed is collating community feedback on behalf of BACA. Rollout began in February, so we've had a few months to begin noting pitfalls etc. We plan to continue documenting the process through to completion of roll out.

Cyber_Shed, Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre & BACA are especially concerned about isolated, older & vulnerable members of our community. And the potential for failure of emergency communications in disaster situations – be it snow, bushfire, or windstorm – we’ve had them all in recent years. This report was delivered to Susan & Shadow Minister for Communications Michelle Rowland recently.

A copy of this interim Cyber_Shed document is available on request.

It is noteworthy that since her visit to Blackheath in August 2017 Shadow Minister Rowland has initiated a national survey of NBN consumer satisfaction.

See <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YourNBNexperience>

Be Prepared Bushfire Season 2017



CYBER_SHED
mobile apps to keep
you BUSHFIRE safe

book a workshop 0458 099 001
cyber_shed@banc.org.au



Apps

Let us guide you in the download & use of a range of mobile apps to keep you up to date ahead of developing disaster scenarios. RFS apps a speciality.

Scan Clinics

Cyber_Shed offers 'Make Copies for Safekeeping'. At these scanning clinics participants are taught to scan critical documents & precious photos to USB sticks using BANC's scanning equipment. Each participant is taught one-to-one, & provided with written step-by-step instructions in use of BANC's own RICOH scanning equipment & given a USB stick to store scans.

We know that nothing can replace precious originals, especially photos. But the knowledge that, should the worst happen, a backup copy is safe, may just lessen the blow.

iPad Tuition

Following our successful 'iPad for Boomers' classes we've recruited Apple specialist tutor Mike Chirgwin.

Ahead of your iPad or iPhone purchase, call us for advice on the best iPad or iPhone for you & your budget. And then come back to learn from Mike how to use it.



Desk Hire Pilot

We have expanded opening of our smart work pilot to five days, Monday to Friday, in hopes this added flexibility will increase the number of interested clients. Hours remain 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

Cyber_Shed digital cottage benefits include high-speed Wi-Fi, multi-function colour printer with scanner, excellent mobile phone reception, a short 5 min walk from Blackheath Station, located 1 minute from Blackheath Public School, which is a boon for working parents.

Kids Coding - Postponed to 2018

We've been forced to postpone the start of our coding for kids project, for want of volunteers to lend a hand on Saturday mornings. It will be a pilot scheme, run out of school hours for local kids in Term 1 of 2018. We hope this may grow into a regular feature in our tuition calendar. There's been quite significant anecdotal interest from locals, & as far as we know there's nothing similar running in the upper Blue Mountains.

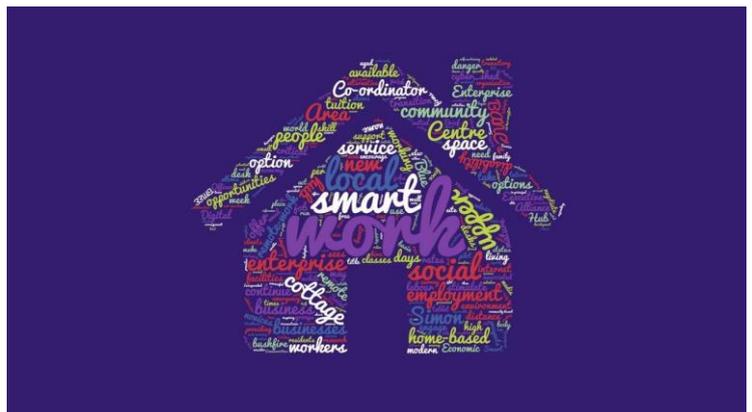
Our co-location with BOOSH already places us on the kids-friendly path. And we have been lucky to secure seed funding from Katoomba RSL Club via ClubGRANTS scheme. We will use this to purchase Arduino kits and other equipment. We will use the Scratch programming language developed specifically to teach children by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

We hope to encourage volunteer tutors to join us.

We have registered Cyber_Shed with CodeClub Australia as a first step towards our planned Kids Coding pilot.

Social Enterprise

In the 2014-15 financial year BANC Management Committee voted to establish a Cyber_Shed social enterprise pending success with our seed-funding application. We see this as a vital new direction for BANC – sitting well with the objectives of BANC's Strategic Plan 2015-2017. The vision is to resource Cyber_Shed tuition by charging fee-for-service for hot/remote desk hire. See our ideas in pictures at https://www.pinterest.com/cybershedbanc/cyber_shed-digital-cottage



Social enterprise remains firmly on BANC's agenda, but is currently on the 'back burner'. Stay tuned for news. In the interim we are offering a local remote work option five days a week, 9AM to 3PM. We continue to enjoy both in-kind & actual support from Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise (BMEE), most particularly free online publicity via MTNS MADE brand website at http://mtnsmade.com.au/listing/cyber_shed-digital-cottage

Acknowledgements

Cyber_Shed acknowledges the generous support of Katoomba RSL Club via ClubGrantsNSW, Family First Credit Union Community Support Program, Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation, Westpac Bank Natural Disaster Recovery Fund, & the federal government's Broadband for Seniors program.

Simon Hare

Cyber_Shed Coordinator

Cyber_Shed is a project of Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre (BANC) www.banc.org.au

BANC: connect-create-contribute

Heads Up for Fire (HUFF)



Mina Howard

The Heads Up For Fire and any emergency (HUFF) Program is now into its third year and I am grateful for the continued support of the HUFF Facilitators, BANC and Mount Victoria/Blackheath RFS Brigade. I would like to acknowledge Jo Ridley's efforts in securing a grant to allow me to receive payment for six hours a week this year, testament to BANC's continued commitment to HUFF.

At present we have six facilitators in Mount Victoria, seventy-three in Blackheath and now we have spread to include Medlow Bath where we have six facilitators.

Since the brigade launched the HUFF website in 2016, we have been able to post our newsletters there. This has led to another sub group who, while not actually being facilitators, have asked to receive the newsletters. The more people who are informed the better and hopefully, if these people receive timely information they will naturally share with it their neighbours. We have

also received a request for information and resources from a group on the Central Coast who found HUFF via the website. After presenting at the recent inaugural Blue Mountains Community Engagement Conference, several Blue Mountains RFS brigades have shown an interest in trialling HUFF in their areas so I look forward to assisting them to do this.

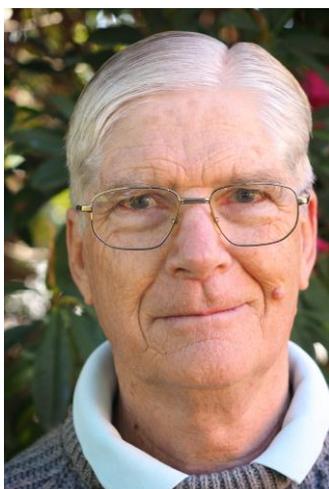
In 2017 I am targeting two community sectors, seniors' groups and school students. I will be presenting emergency preparedness messages to as many seniors groups within our community as are willing to listen and so far, the idea has been well received. I will be presenting sessions to school students in Blackheath and Mount Victoria from Kindergarten to Year 6 to encourage them to be comfortable with talking about bush fires, the idea being that they will learn to understand the risks and deal with them so that it becomes a natural part of their living in the Blue Mountains.

I am also pleased to announce that I was nominated and selected as a state finalist in the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA) for 2017 for my work with HUFF and the RFS. This would not have been possible without the support of BANC and the 107 HUFF Facilitators who volunteered to make their streets more connected, so the honour must be shared with all of you.

Mina Howard
HUFF Project Director



Treasurer's Report on the Audited Accounts



Chris Arnott

As Treasurer, I report on the financial year for Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre (BANC) for the year ended June 2017.

It has been a difficult year with ongoing uncertainty about grants, programs and our future viability. Despite this, staff responded positively and we were able to achieve an excellent financial outcome. On a consolidated basis we have again reported a small surplus, and have a healthy balance sheet. The key reports, excerpts from the Auditor's review, are attached for your information.

Community Access Service, our largest operation, made a small profit aided by some welcome transitional funding from government. The strains have been significant as staff and clients move into the National Disability Insurance Scheme arrangements.

I cannot speak highly enough of the diligence and dedication of CAS management and staff in providing their services, and taking actions to prepare for the future.

Out of School Hours programs, the No Interest Loans Scheme, and the myriad of projects facilitated by a range of staff and volunteers at the Neighbourhood Centre are adequately referred to elsewhere in this report. The staff and programs all contribute enormously to the community's wellbeing; in part because of their closeness to this wonderful upper Blue Mountains community.



Barbra McCauley

There remain headwinds ahead as Governments at all levels and all persuasions seek to shift services to the not-for-profit sector.

This will be my last year as Treasurer of BANC. The 6 years have not been stress free but have given me the opportunity to work with some remarkable people. Judy Finch and Jo Ridley have been wonderful leaders not only for BANC but also in supporting the range of groups and organisations which enrich Blackheath and its surrounding villages. Barbra McCauley and Dot Allen have been a pleasure to work with, and are ultimate professionals as our Finance Managers.



Dot Allen

I strongly believe in the significant role BANC plays, and have welcomed the chance to serve as a member of its Management Committee.

Chris Arnott
Treasurer

Independent Auditor's Report to Members

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc

ABN 83 058 109 149

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2017

Shelley June Rodwell
21 Main Street
P O Box 395
Lithgow 2790

Phone: 0263523152 Fax: 0263513219

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
ABN 83 058 109 149
Committee's Report
For the year ended 30 June 2017

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

Committee Members

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

Adrienne Kailofer - President

Chris Arnott - Treasurer

Kathleen Chirgwin

Sandra Hoot

Gareth Williams

Chris Livanos

Geoffrey Brehaut

James McKid

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: Support Local Community Projects.

Significant Changes

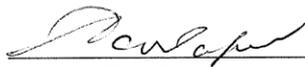
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The profit from ordinary activities:

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2017	30 June 2016
\$	\$
12,238.19	8,974.23

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:



Adrienne Kailofer - President



Chris Arnott - Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
ABN 83 058 109 149
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Bendigo Bank - Main Account		249,087.84	157,847.27
Bendigo Bank - NILS A/C		35,437.33	36,139.69
Bendigo Bank - Cash Account		2,111.33	2,287.21
Commonwealth Bank - Deposits		15,492.14	34,054.07
ING Business Optimiser		359.58	353.72
Term Deposits		261,371.88	260,000.00
		563,860.10	490,681.96
Receivables			
Trade Debtors - NILS		46,148.64	43,914.77
Debtors - BOOSH		10,462.39	4,380.79
Trade Debtors - BANC & Others		12,211.06	26,174.40
Less: Provision doubtful debts		(19,723.49)	(13,974.48)
		49,098.60	60,495.48
Current Tax Assets			
GST payable control account		31,840.68	10,358.47
		31,840.68	10,358.47
Other			
Prepayments, Floats & Misc		15,285.50	2,575.50
		15,285.50	2,575.50
Total Current Assets		660,084.88	564,111.41

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
ABN 83 058 109 149
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Non-Current Assets			
Other Financial Assets			
Shares in other companies		1,000.00	1,000.00
		<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment			
Furniture, Fittings & Equipment		114,035.77	114,622.07
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(102,725.59)	(99,491.00)
Portable Message Board		11,700.00	11,700.00
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(6,615.00)	(1,529.00)
Motor vehicles - at cost		197,247.16	197,247.16
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(180,848.02)	(167,677.00)
		<u>32,794.32</u>	<u>54,872.23</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>33,794.32</u>	<u>55,872.23</u>
Total Assets		<u>693,879.20</u>	<u>619,983.64</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
ABN 83 058 109 149
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
Current Liabilities			
Payables			
Unsecured:			
Trade Creditors & Salary Packaging		53,851.25	37,313.90
Other Creditors			913.00
CAS - Training		4,100.00	7,000.00
HUFF - BM Fire Protection		3,892.95	4,137.50
Fundraising - Part 2 BM Drama		2,493.78	2,493.78
Blackheath Alliance - Mem Gates		10,000.00	10,000.00
ADHC Reimbursement Due		19,357.23	
		93,695.21	61,858.18
Financial Liabilities			
Unsecured:			
TAP Marketing Grant		26,200.00	
BANC - N/C Consortium Donation		1,832.80	2,057.80
Equipment Grant - CAS		46,790.00	46,790.00
Equipment Grant - CAS		2,377.69	3,362.20
NILS Scheme		46,048.18	48,180.86
Provision - BOOSH Shade Structure		2,366.50	2,366.50
		125,615.17	102,757.36
Provisions			
Provisions ICP & RP 2017/18		27,175.56	66,410.98
		27,175.56	66,410.98
Other			
Grants Received In Advance		19,753.22	4,125.03
		19,753.22	4,125.03
Total Current Liabilities		266,239.16	235,151.55

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
ABN 83 058 109 149
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions			
Employees entitlements		226,134.96	188,502.80
Disability W/Chair Bus Unexpired Charges		13,226.54	13,226.54
Portable Message Board Unexpired Charges		7,337.92	12,693.10
Provision - CAS Vehicle Lease		1,707.22	1,707.22
		246,699.42	216,129.66
Total Non-Current Liabilities		246,699.42	216,129.66
Total Liabilities		512,938.58	451,281.21
Net Assets		180,940.62	168,702.43
 Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		180,940.62	168,702.43
Total Members' Funds		180,940.62	168,702.43

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre - BANC Consolidated
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Income		
CAS ADHC Income	358,785.27	700,392.57
Continuity Of Support - DOH	93,045.00	
BANC FACS	178,501.95	174,797.81
NILS - Grant	45,337.18	43,713.77
BOOSH Grants/Miscellaneous Income	62,231.47	58,724.77
BOOSH Family Pays	78,371.50	79,695.88
BOOSH CCB Childcare	71,628.16	66,358.97
Minor Grants	21,083.69	13,000.94
NSW Ministry Of Police - HUFF		54,936.30
NSW Prem - Mt Vic Strong Bushfire		23,780.18
NSW Prem - Mt Vic Mural Project		9,715.00
ADHC - Recurrent Grants	164,887.60	356,851.53
HACC - KNC Connecting Our Community	25,535.65	26,374.47
ACS - NSW Trans Ass Program	30,000.00	
Donations	7,094.04	19,357.67
BANC Admin Income	11,434.56	12,430.60
B/Heath School For Seniors	2,790.00	3,295.00
Project Admin Fee	115,957.17	167,499.01
Miscellaneous Income	34,643.70	22,726.36
National Disability Insurance Scheme	311,763.82	7,409.53
Interest received	11,886.68	12,090.91
Total income	1,624,977.44	1,853,151.27
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	203,219.72	175,545.24
Bank Fees And Charges	573.57	927.61
Donations		2,506.00
Motor Vehicle Expenses	32,165.62	53,148.19
Operating & Project Expenses	220,689.77	419,829.70
Wages & Salaries Expenses	1,156,090.57	1,192,220.30
Total expenses	1,612,739.25	1,844,177.04
Net profit attributable to the association	12,238.19	8,974.23
Total changes in equity of the association	12,238.19	8,974.23

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc - BANC Administration
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Income		
Project Admin Fee	111,468.77	160,361.98
Telephone & Fax	40.30	110.70
Photocopying	4,522.98	3,423.75
Room Use	6,501.68	7,876.15
Client Donations	118.65	
BMCC Community Donation	1,250.00	
Minor Grants	12,000.00	
General Donations	3,443.12	5,977.33
Miscellaneous	4,388.14	4,483.79
Interest received	10,348.26	11,024.17
Total income	154,081.90	193,257.87
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	86,073.77	90,361.19
Bank Fees And Charges	482.07	559.56
Donations	100.00	2,341.00
Motor Vehicle Expenses		90.01
Operating & Project Expenses	13,231.15	14,330.66
Wages & Salaries Expenses	66,212.52	78,517.20
Total expenses	166,099.51	186,199.62
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(12,017.61)	7,058.25
Total changes in equity of the association	(12,017.61)	7,058.25

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre - Neighbourhood Centre Consolidated
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Income		
BANC FACS	178,501.95	174,797.81
NILS - Grant	45,337.18	43,713.77
Minor Grants	9,083.69	5,170.00
NSW Ministry For Police - HUFF		54,936.30
NSW Prem - Mt Vic Strong Bushfire		23,780.18
NSW Prem - Mt Vic Mural Project		9,715.00
HACC - KNC Connecting Our Community	25,535.65	26,374.47
General Donations	596.87	2,797.34
Miscellaneous Income	11,968.21	15,090.00
B/Heath School For Seniors	2,790.00	3,295.00
Interest received	1,538.42	1,066.74
Total income	275,351.97	360,736.61
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	1,148.86	12,016.75
Bank Fees And Charges	22.50	33.05
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,900.90	5,337.39
Operating & Project Expenses	47,850.88	81,741.06
Wages & Salaries Expenses	230,931.52	265,067.10
Total expenses	281,854.66	364,195.35
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(6,502.69)	(3,458.74)
Total changes in equity of the association	(6,502.69)	(3,458.74)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre - CAS Consolidated
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2017**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Income		
CBA 8446	161,016.99	322,922.39
Recreation 3870	118,998.22	274,596.14
BM Respite Packages 34802	78,770.06	7,594.52
Katoomba CBA 7380		95,279.52
Minor Grants		7,830.94
ADHC - Recurrent Grants	164,887.60	356,851.53
National Disability Insurance Scheme	311,763.82	7,409.53
Donations	4,067.85	10,583.00
Miscellaneous Income	16,170.86	3,518.02
Project Admin Fee	4,488.40	7,137.03
Continuity Of Support - DOH	93,045.00	
ACS- NSW Transition Assistance Program	30,000.00	
Total income	<u>983,208.80</u>	<u>1,093,722.62</u>
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	79,505.80	53,338.15
Bank Fees And Charges	67.00	299.00
Donations		165.00
Marketing Provision	26,200.00	
Motor Vehicle Expenses	29,847.47	46,994.39
Operating & Project Expenses	111,935.83	292,658.65
Wages & Salaries Expenses	702,127.32	684,812.41
Total expenses	<u>949,683.42</u>	<u>1,078,267.60</u>
Net profit attributable to the association	<u>33,525.38</u>	<u>15,455.02</u>
Total changes in equity of the association	<u>33,525.38</u>	<u>15,455.02</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre - BOOSH Consolidated
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2017**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Income		
BOOSH Sustainability Assist	27,370.00	27,020.00
BOOSH FACS Special Needs	12,228.75	9,072.05
Vacation Care - FACS	5,632.72	5,632.72
Vacation Care - BMCC	17,000.00	17,000.00
BOOSH Family Pays	78,371.50	79,695.88
BOOSH CCB Childcare	71,628.16	66,358.97
Miscellaneous Income	103.64	654.55
Total income	<u>212,334.77</u>	<u>205,434.17</u>
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	25,909.63	18,779.33
Bank Fees And Charges	2.00	36.00
Motor Vehicle Expenses	417.25	726.40
Operating & Project Expenses	31,953.57	31,099.33
Wages & Salaries Expenses	156,819.21	163,823.59
Total expenses	<u>215,101.66</u>	<u>214,464.65</u>
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	<u>(2,766.89)</u>	<u>(9,030.48)</u>
Total changes in equity of the association	<u>(2,766.89)</u>	<u>(9,030.48)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
ABN 83 058 109 149
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	1,613,090.76	1,841,060.36
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(1,547,477.11)	(1,885,153.36)
Interest Received	11,886.68	12,090.91
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	77,500.33	(32,002.09)
Cash Flow From Investing Activities		
Payment for:		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(980.00)	(989.00)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	26,786.30	(989.00)
Cash Flow From Financing Activities		
Proceeds of borrowings	(225.00)	(442.20)
Repayment of borrowings	(3,117.19)	(7,328.54)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(3,342.19)	(7,770.74)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	73,178.14	(40,761.83)
Cash at the beginning of the year	490,681.96	531,443.79
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	563,860.10	490,681.96

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
ABN 83 058 109 149
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Note 2. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Net Profit		
Operating profit (loss) after tax	12,238.19	8,974.23
Depreciation	23,057.91	9,787.00
Provision for doubtful debts	5,749.01	(1,901.73)
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	5,647.87	(2,909.47)
(Increase) decrease in prepayments	(12,710.00)	5,288.82
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	16,537.35	25,423.70
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	35,645.66	(65,308.00)
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	37,632.16	1,962.92
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	(46,297.82)	(13,319.56)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>77,500.33</u>	<u>(32,002.09)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc

ABN 83 058 109 149

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2017

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals 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 significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

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

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to 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.

(b) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

(c) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(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 reasonably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc

ABN 83 058 109 149

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2017

(f) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

(h) Investments

Investments held are originally recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at fair value which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

(i) Trade and Other Payables

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

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
ABN 83 058 109 149
Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2017

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

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc as at 30 June 2017 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 will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Adrienne Kailofer - President



Chris Arnott - Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

LITHGOW TAXATION & BOOKKEEPING SERVICES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT • TAX AGENT • BUSINESS ADVISOR

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the responsible committee's declaration.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 of the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the needs of the committee. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Liability limited by a scheme approved
under Professional Standards Legislation

Shelley June Rodwell BA, BEC, FTIA ABN 57 686 592 698

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**Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**

Opinion

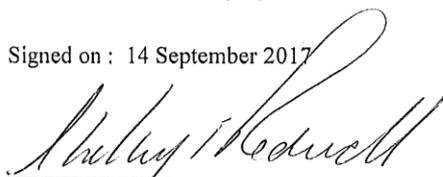
In our opinion, the financial report of Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Signed on : 14 September 2017



Shelley June Rodwell
Chartered Accountant
Member Number: 78555