



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Richmond Community
Learning Centre



RICHMOND COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTRE

Spaces for Everyone

A WORD FROM OUR MANAGER AND CHAIRPERSON

After the disruptions and uncertainties of the previous years, it was great to begin the year with an increased **optimistic outlook** and planning approach. As a result, Richmond Community Learning Centre, RCLC, was able to deliver more activities, services, workshops, and events over the year. We also **established and strengthened partnerships** with other key local stakeholders and groups and were **successful with new grant applications**.

Our vision for 2022 was to **reconnect the community and improve well-being**, especially among women, who research, and anecdotal evidence suggested were most impacted by recent lockdowns.

We kicked off 2022 with the bang of **Chinese Drums** in the courtyard of Studio 9 to welcome the Chinese New Year. A celebration that included a bit of Zumba to warm up, a blessing from the Chinese dragons and some fun activities for the kids to join in the new year celebration.

It heralded the start of a strong and very **successful partnership with Lincoln Emersley** and the team at Ardency Place. This began **several free collaborative events** with our neighbours at Ardency.



OUR FREE ACTIVITIES COLLABORATING WITH ARDENCY PLACE

during 2022 established new friendships and encouraged participants to join our regular classes

These included a **Zumba Gold series** to mark Senior's week, an introduction to **Bollywood dance**, and short introductory **Mobility Matters series**.

In 2022 we auspiced the **Mums in Yarra (MiY)** team, who successfully received a City of Yarra Community grant to run various workshops to support the well-being of mothers and their children.

These sessions came at an important time after the **repeated lockdowns and increased isolation** that many mothers and their children had experienced. RCLC worked with Mums in Yarra and provided in-house support during Studio 1 and The Stables workshops. Many of these events had 10-20 mothers and their infants attend. The feedback was extremely positive, with mothers embracing session themes and a relaxed, inclusive environment.

Due to the **strong demand for further sessions and topics**, one of MiY's founders, Madlen Toumbourou, applied successfully for a new grant to see the workshops continue across 2023. RCLC looks forward to continuing to auspice and support the Mums in Yarra workshop series.

Our **long-standing partnership with U3A** with Bruce Townsend and Mary Walker has been resumed post-lockdowns. The stables provided a great space for U3A creatives to return to face-to-face activities and mosaic together, and rebuild friendships.

Our Mums in Yarra partnership has provided additional support opportunities and connections for new Yarra mums.



RCLC GRANTS

Children's Week & Sustainability Victoria

RCLC received a Children's Week grant that allowed them to conduct three **Bush playtime** sessions at Burnley Park. Susanna De Leijer, an expert in Bush kinder, organized a Welcome to Country, set up a mud kitchen, and created a clay space. **Children enjoyed playing in the natural habitat of Burnley Park**, surrounded by long grass, fallen logs, and trees. Parents enjoyed exploring Burnley Park's beauty with their children while all experienced the mental and physical health benefits of being in nature.

In late 2022, RCLC received news that **Sustainability Victoria** had granted them funds to launch a **new initiative - Yarra Repair Popups**. This project will operate across Alphington Community Centre, North Carlton Railway House, and RCLC, benefiting and strengthening all houses' efforts to **encourage** the community to **reuse and repair items** instead of discarding them.



Bush Playtime at Burnley Park
A great turnout, given the miserable conditions

MORE LEARN LOCAL (ACFE) courses for our community

We continued to deliver our **Learn Local** courses during 2022. Our student numbers were lower than expected early in the year. However, in term 4, a range of new courses were run. These boosted student numbers so that **we exceeded our ACFE delivery hours** over previous years.

In 2023 our focus is on further increasing our delivery, early in the year to demonstrate our capacity and need for additional funds. This will allow us to continue to deliver programs that meet our community's needs and interests.



The Welded Crab - ahhh!

OUR FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS

WE LOVE WHAT YOU DO

Volunteering across the **Richmond Repair Corner, Gardening group, Cheeky Chook Crew**, continued in stronger numbers over the past year.

We also assisted in setting up **new groups (Richmond Grandies)** and continued our support of established groups, including **Richmond Record Club and Richmond & Burnley Historical Society**.

Our volunteers strengthen our capacity, which is greatly appreciated; The work they do is varied and provides many valued community benefits the community. We thank them for their efforts and commitment during the year.

Volunteers also benefit from their experience through the well-being outcomes of contributing to their local community.



CHANGES AHEAD

Goodbye to Coworking and Level 1 at Studio 1

During the year, The City of Yarra indicated that the South Richmond **Maternal Child and Health Service would relocate to Studio 1** due to their current facilities at the Richmond Library no longer being fit for purpose. **RCLC will maintain management for the ground floor at Studio 1**, including the Wominjeka room, from January 2023.

The change means our popular **coworking program and support** we offered via our community **venue hire on Level 1 will no longer be available.**

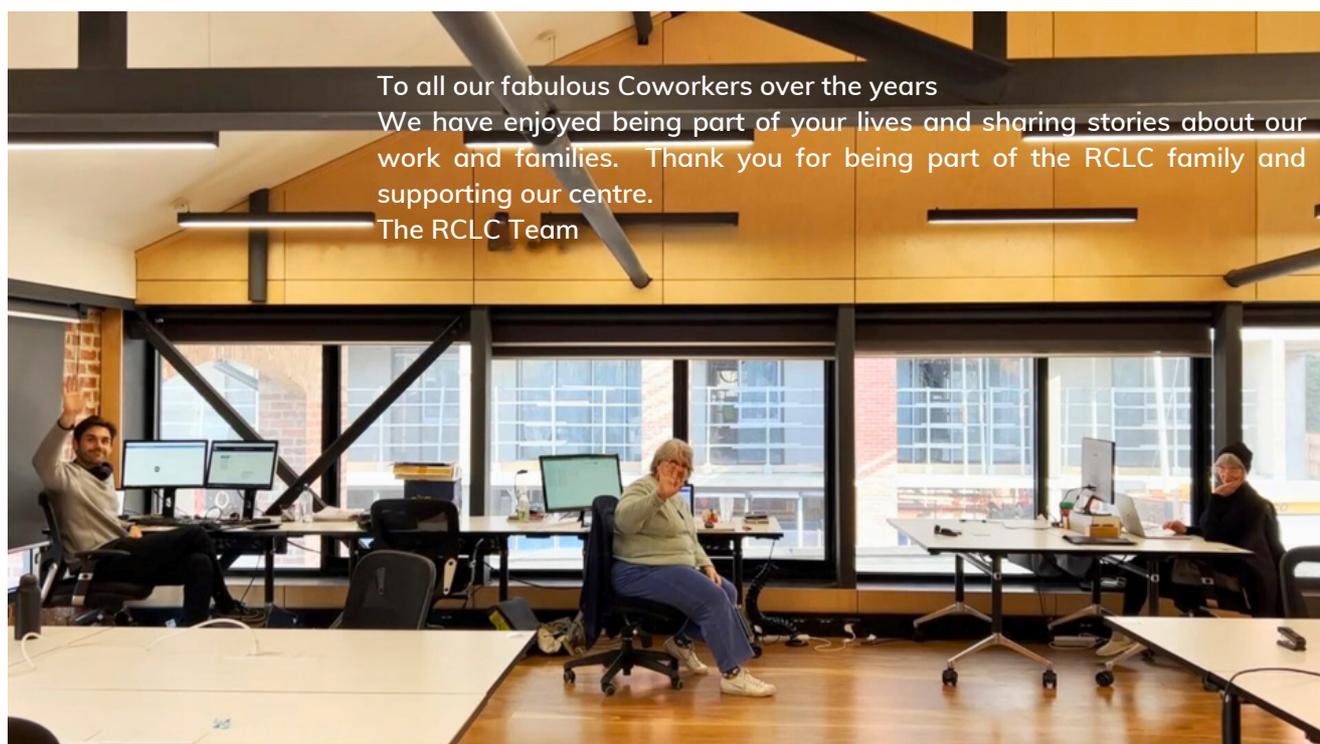
From a financial perspective, this will be a **significant loss of our self-generating income** that will require ongoing budgetary adjustments moving forward.



WELCOME TO CITY OF YARRA Maternal Child & Health Service

We look forward to Maternal and Child Health moving into the space in 2023. Since moving to Studio 1, we have worked closely with the City of Yarra Maternal Child and Health (MCH) service concerning parental playgroups and immunisation sessions.

The **move will bring both synergies and community development opportunities** for RCLC.



THANK YOU to all our Supporters

We want to acknowledge the ongoing support of our **funding bodies**, the **City of Yarra, Learn Local, and DFFH**, which provides a financial foundation to support our operations as a Neighbourhood House.

We **thank all our participants, hirers and volunteers** who continue to support us. We strive to make you all feel welcome when you are at our sites and activities.

To our small team of staff, contractors, and facilitators, **your contributions are all valued** and ensure the community can continue to access activities they enjoy that support their well-being and connection to others.

During the year, we said **farewell to the fabulous Lisa**, who had been on maternity leave. With two growing children and a move across town, she was able to find work closer to home. In August, we were all excited to see the **safe arrival of Laura's son Astra**, another baby for the RCLC team to dote on. Laura is currently on Maternity leave, but we hope to see her back in 2023.



Our funders



"Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much."

Helen Keller

A special thank you to **Cathy, Oren, Laura and Susan** for your **ongoing commitment and flexibility** to ride with our changing environment.

Likewise, to our long-standing members of our Committee, **Nick, Michael, Judy and Liliana**. It is, as always, great to have your **support and guidance** as we continue to learn from our challenges, build on our strengths and navigate a path toward a stronger future.

We look forward to your continued support in 2023.

Simone Gardiner (Manager) and Nicolas Cody (Chairperson)

OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Playgroups

Our BYO Bubs at Burnley Backyard and Messy Play at the Stables continues to be hugely popular with local families and some from further afield. We often have up to 15 or more families at both sessions, with often more than one child per family, so sessions are often fabulously hectic and great fun for everyone.

BYO Bubs.

Mondays are spent playing outside, doing 'hard work' with diggers and spades, making play dough, attacking the crafts table with gusto, playing with mum and dad in the baby's corner in the ball pit and, of course, SNACK TIME! As we all know, Snacks are Life, and Cathy always rises to the pressure to meet snack demands.

So much to be learnt, taking turns to add ingredients, waiting for treats to be ready, sitting as a group with shared plates, taking one of something and waiting till you are finished before you have another. Seems simple.... Mama Cath's pasta restaurant was a hit; children chose their sauce (meat or veg) toppings and then sat together for a feast.

First-time parents loved the notion of hidden vegetables and the enjoyment of being part of the process of preparing food.

Messy Play

Su's enthusiasm and preparedness to get messy have made Wednesday mornings a regular go-to for parents looking for something to stimulate their little ones in a fun and welcoming environment, regardless of the weather. Parents and children love the enclosed space, crawling, exploring organically, crawling and toddling about without worrying about 'escaping' or outside influences. Another great opportunity for parents and carers to connect in a relaxed environment over a cuppa (usually cold by the time they get to it)

Everybody's welcome

We have a variety of ages attending, from months-old babies whose parents are looking for a safe place to meet other parents and debrief and be assured what is normal to kinder-aged children with their smaller siblings who love being the big kids and helping with cleaning up!



LOTS OF FREE special events for the little ones



Lunar New Year

Lend Lease provided the noise, fun and live entertainment, and RCLC provided the craft, face painting and activities. So much fun to be had, the feedback from parents was fantastic, and the turnout was great for all ages!

Bush Play Time

Despite picking the worst week of weather to hold our first Bush Playtime, the turnout was fantastic, and the feedback was so positive. Susannah led the group through Welcome to Country, read stories, played with nature in the mud kitchen, and walked through the 'bush' collecting branches and other treasures.

Parents and children both loved the outdoor element and not needing toys to have fun.



Christmas Party

We had a huge turnout for our annual Children's Christmas party at Studio 1! Working with Lend Lease, the children visited Santa in the Ardency display unit.

Needless to say, this created great excitement for the kids as they could sit individually with Santa and tell him exactly what they wanted for Xmas, while mum and dad could snap away to get the perfect annual Christmas photo.

Needless to say, Santa was a HUGE hit with everyone. Lots of fun Christmas activities followed the Santa visit at Studio 1.



FUN TIMES

at BYO Bubs & Messy Play

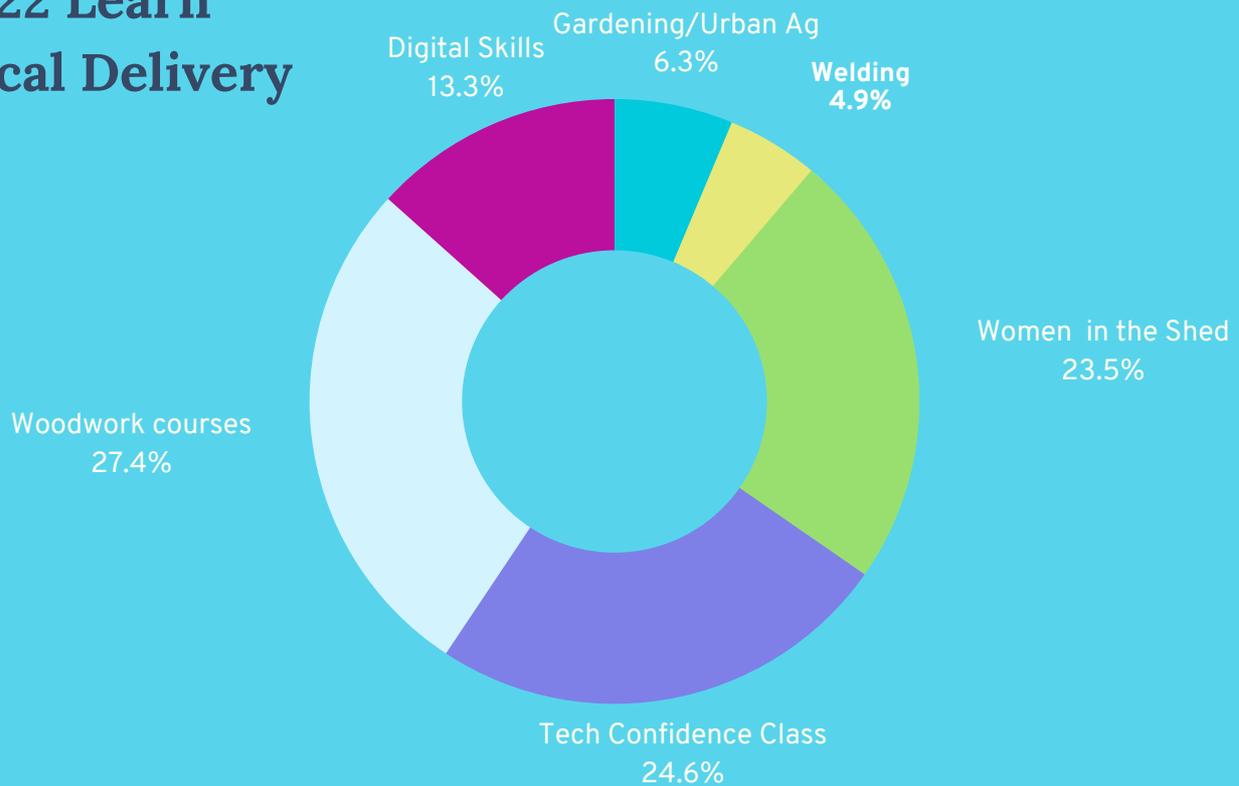


"Cathy is so lovely and all the activities set up for the kids were great." - Sophie

"My little man loved exploring lots of new toys and activities, we will be back for sure :-)"
Holly

"The messy play was great! So well organised, lovely organisers, a great way to meet other mums and something different to do with my almost 2 year old" - Jaime

2022 Learn Local Delivery



LEARN LOCAL

RCLC has delivered significantly more Learn Local training hours in 2022, with 2828 training hours delivered across the various courses and workshops. This represents over a 40% increase in delivery from prior years.

We delivered five **Working with Timber** courses, two **Welding** workshops and a new **Furniture Refurbishment** for Women from our **Burnley Backyard workshed** in 2022. These courses are popular with our community and always fill up quickly.

Our **new woodworking facilitator, Glenn Wimetal**, has brought further energy, commitment and vision to the workshed. RCLC invested significantly in the space, and with Glenn and another new facilitator Hayley Williams the workshed has become a more active space. We would also like to **thank our former facilitator Anj** who initiated our Working with Timber courses and finished halfway through the year.



"Great woodwork course. I learnt so many new skills. Glenn is great at explaining what to do, is very supportive and very good at problem solving. I highly recommend this course and really enjoyed it."

Sharon



"I had such a fantastic weekend with Jen and the other students learning to weld. I have so many ideas and can't wait to do more!"
Vair

Learn Local and Other Programs

We saw a partnership developed with **Finbar Neighbourhood House** to run a new technology-based course called **Digital Skills**. Finbar did not have a similar program running, and the collaboration allowed us to offer a learning opportunity to the broader community members with minimal digital skills. Feedback from participants has been very positive, increasing their confidence living in a digital world.

We continued running our popular Introduction to **Permaculture and Urban Farming** program again in 2022, and we also added a shorter course for the 'time poor' called **Organic Gardening**. Both courses saw participants getting their hands dirty at the same time as expanding their gardening knowledge. A great connection was made between participants of Urban Farming, where a working group was formed to practice the course's teaching in participants' backyards.



"I really enjoyed the course. My expectations were met above the level expected. Richard was a great trainer and was very helpful at every count. Thank you all."
Betty (digital skills)

The **Technology Confidence** remained strong, with a core group of learners enjoying the activity throughout the year. 2023 has seen this group transition to a HACC-supported program. Moving this group from Learn Local enabled us to apply for new shorter digital skills courses to increase digital learning access to the broader community.

As part of our continued partnership with **Alphington Neighbourhood House**, they delivered their hands-on woodworking course, Women in the Shed, each term from their facility, with over 20 people participating in these courses over the year.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Something for everyone

A **collaboration with Ardency** in October which involved a month-long free Zumba Gold classes as well as special free **Bollywood Dancing** classes, was met with great support from the community. The high attendance numbers and a follow on effect, which saw our ongoing **Zumba Gold** class attendance levels increase. Morning tea followed these events in the Ardency display suite providing a great opportunity for friendships to develop.

Our other 'Health and Fitness' related **Yin Yoga and Qigong programs** have seen an increase in attendance as the year progressed. Both programs saw a strong group of participants enjoying the weekly sessions throughout the year.

Later in the year, we joined with Andrea Gaze to run a free series of **Mobility Matters sessions**.

The **Yarra Songbirds choir** has enjoyed a full year of face-to-face activity, together with some new voices joining the choir. The community enjoyed listening to their harmonious voices at our RCLC Christmas Party.

This year we were able to run our Christmas Wreath Making workshop in person for the first time rather than online. After running this workshop (twice) online during the Covid lockdown period, it was nice to offer a face-to-face version of the workshop and feedback from participants showed they enjoyed it.



What our users are saying.....

"I really enjoyed the course. My expectations were met above the level expected. Richard was a great trainer and was very helpful at every count. Thank you all."
Betty

"Fantastic music event!" - Oli

"We went to the Richmond Industrial Heritage info presentation at RCLC; it was great to see all the old photos and hear the stories. The food after was an added bonus"
Phil

Amazing place and very friendly environment and people. Will come back ❤️ - Sania

"I love the weekly Qigong class with Emma, it has set me in a good rhythm for the week and I look forward to the class each week"
Meredith

"Loved the yin yoga on Sunday nights with Tracey- blissful and well planned sessions"
Christine

"Loving the Zumba classes and Lisa is such a great teacher"
Jane

RCLC GROUPS AND COLLABORATION

Richmond & Burnley Historical Society

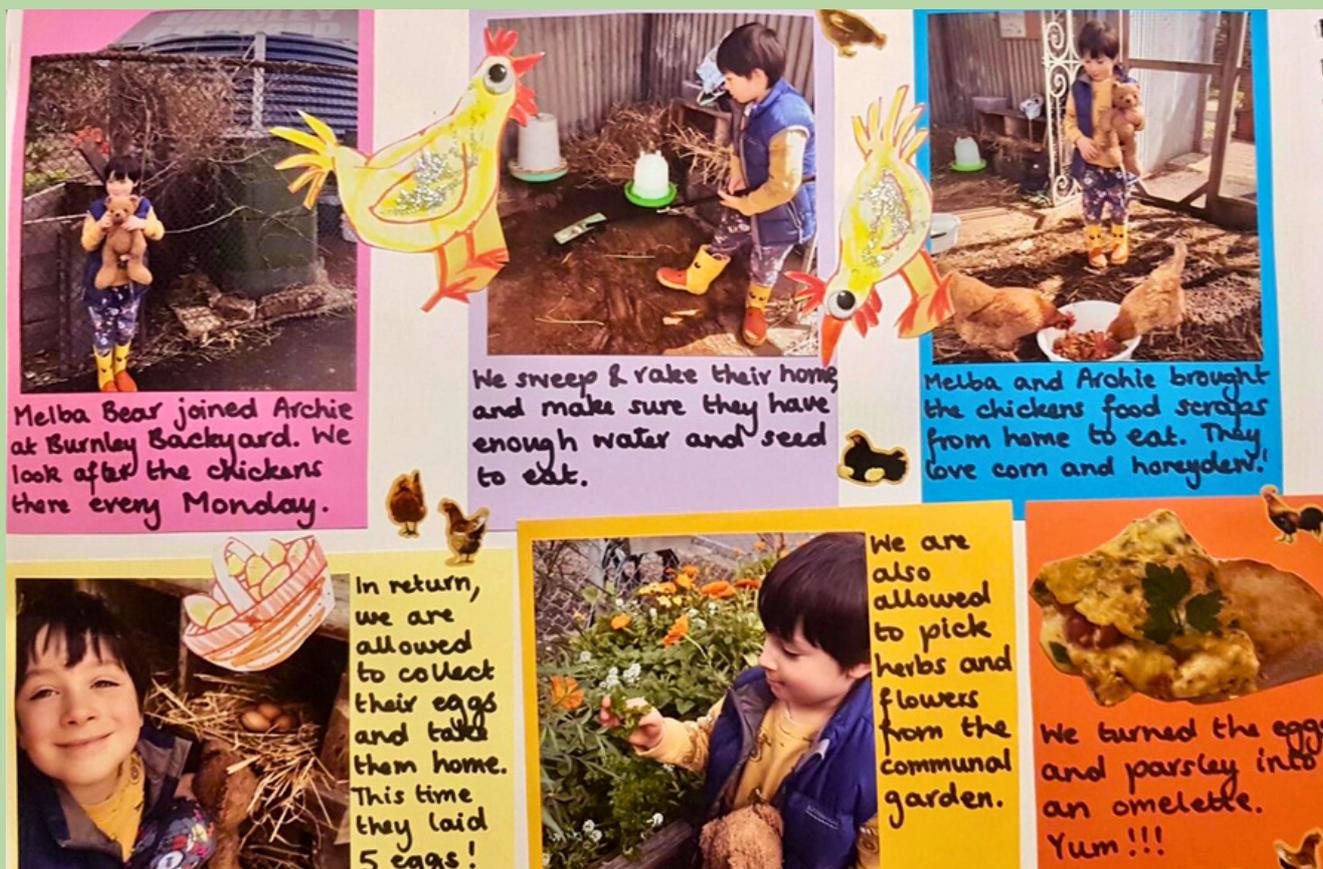
Collaborating with The Richmond & Burnley Historical Society saw 6 'History talk' events run at Studio 1 throughout 2022. Events ranged from a history walk along the Yarra, to discussion around books describing early 20th-century life in Richmond, to Nick Cadd's exploration of Melbourne's ghost signs. The topics always entertain; afterwards, everyone enjoys a catch-up and sharing stories over afternoon tea.

Richmond Record Club

Richmond Record Club continued in 2022 under our volunteers James and Rob's leadership. The program presented some great sessions, and much thought and planning were dedicated to each meeting by Rob and James. Sadly due to other commitments, James has had to reduce his involvement in the program. However, Yordan from within the club will continue working with Rob to plan and manage each session.

Craft Group

Whilst numbers have dwindled due to the health conditions of some members, the enthusiasm and passion of the remaining crafters are as high as ever! Under the knowledgeable eye of our long-standing volunteer Merrill, the groups have been working on projects such as quilting, cushion making and using different mediums for art creations. Friday mornings also always involve a cuppa, a sweet treat and hugs from our effervescent Scottie!



CHEEKY CHOOK CREW UPDATE



The Cheeky Chook volunteer program was coordinated by Vaughn (a volunteer) for most of the year and enjoyed the involvement of many families and individuals who could once again come in regularly when Covid restrictions eased.

Looking after hens is an extraordinary activity not many in Richmond can enjoy, and we were often reminded of this by our dedicated crew members.

The poster above was prepared by Archie for his kinder class to let them all know, what they need today and how much fun it is looking after the chickens at Burnley Backyard.

We have really loved our time with the Chooks and hope to stay connected with Burnley Backyard and the brilliant activities and communities it fosters" - Eliza.



Richmond Repair Corner

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid period, the Richmond Repair Corner has returned to action. Following our first session in May 2022, the program slowly but surely built great momentum, which saw new volunteers joining the crew and more and more community members coming in with their items.

We were lucky to have Susannah Whitty join us as the new Volunteer Coordinator in August 2022. Susannah's enthusiasm, planning, coordination, and people skills greatly benefitted the program. Attendees of the program are often grateful when their item has been fixed or even when a fix isn't possible.

Although Oscar could not fix my toaster, the detailed effort he put into trying was greatly appreciated. He did diagnose the problem, which was very helpful. A wonderful set-up, very professional and organised, and a lovely community vibe with everyone wanting to avoid adding to our massive landfill problem. I would recommend the service and use it again!"

Catherine

7 sessions

Repair sessions run in 2022

17 volunteers

Volunteers involved in the sessions throughout the year

107 people

came to our sessions with items to fix

103 items

FIXED

360 KILOGRAMS

Of useable items that are not going to landfill

Overall Result

RCLC recorded a profit of \$7,666, a 23% increase over our prior year's result of \$5,851.

Income

On the income side, RCLC grant income increased by 7% or \$23k from 2021. The increase was largely due to receiving outstanding HACC funding in 2021. Improved delivery of Learn Local courses also led to additional ACFE funding. CPI increases across the board played a small part in the funding movement.

Our programming income of \$124,807 increased by \$50,000 (65%) over the previous year due to removing Covid restrictions creating additional demand across all our income streams.

With so many local families unable to celebrate their children's birthdays during Covid, there was high demand for party hire at Burnley Backyard. Small meeting room hires also experienced significant demand increases, with local small businesses preferring to utilise these spaces as an alternative to office space.

2022 saw our Coworking program end to allow for the relocation of Maternal Child and Health to Level 1 at Studio 1. We had a dedicated group that had used the facility for several years that continued to support the program through to the end. We will miss our coworkers' presence and friendship at Studio 1.

Expenses

Wages continued to be our main expenditure item experiencing a 5% increase during the current period due to wage increases and additional programming staff. Significant cost increases occurred in facility and programming expenses, reflecting a full year of programming and facility costs.

FINANCE REPORT

RCLC recorded a profit in 2022, but is facing some challenges over the next two years

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
Income		
Grant Income	311,045	287,520
Programming Income	124,807	75,428
Bank Interest	2,060	3,002
Other Income	33,401	19,354
Total Income	471,313	385,304
Expenses		
Employment Expenses	338,844	321,552
Facility costs	75,621	37,548
Other expenses	49,182	36,253
Total Expenses	463,647	395,353
Surplus/(deficit) before Government Assistance	7,666	(10,049)
Government Covid Assistance	-	15,900
Surplus for the year	7,666	5,851

BALANCE SHEET AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Income and funding to reduce in 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	264,187	302,902
Trade and other receivables	28,350	4,757
Financial Assets	329,577	328,086
Other Assets	9,015	9,015
Total current assets	631,129	644,760
Total Assets	631,129	644,760
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	33,241	67,440
Income in Advance	19,351	10,862
Provisions	69,915	63,363
Total Current Liabilities	122,507	141,665
Non Current Liabilities		
Provisions	2,274	4,413
Total non-current liabilities	2,274	4,413
Total Liabilities	124,781	146,078
Net Assets	506,348	498,682
Equity		
Retained Earnings	498,682	492,831
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	7,666	5,851
Total Equity	506,348	498,682

Balance Sheet

Our balance sheet remains strong; there was a 2% reduction in net assets largely caused by a decrease in accruals in December due to expenses paid before year-end. Our cash balance remains strong, with all existing term deposits still in place. The reduction in liabilities, as highlighted previously, was due to the payment of payroll accruals in December. Staff provisions will continue to increase yearly to recognise increases in both wage rates and leave entitlements under the award.

Outlook

We have recently been notified that City of Yarra's Funding for Studio 1 will reduce by 40% due to our changing role at the centre.

This impact will be in addition to the loss of 30% of the operating income we generated from our Level 1 programs. This is a very significant amount for us, and it will take some time for us to rebuild this level of income.

2023 will require us to focus on balancing community development activities, managing operational costs and seeking new income opportunities through sponsorship, grants, sponsorship, partnership and programming.

Financial Statements

Our prepared financial statements have been prepared and fully audited by DFK Kidsons, with an unqualified audit report issued. A copy of the financial statements will be posted on our website or available by request.

Thanks to all our customers, contractors and staff for their support during the year, particularly when things don't always go to plan.

Finally, thank you to Michael, Nick, Judy and Liliana for all their support and guidance throughout the year.

Susan & Michael

Our Funders:



Families,
Fairness
and Housing



**THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR
SUPPORTERS**

Tutors & Facilitators

Anj Hansen
Emma Adnams
Glenn Wimetal
Isabelle Fouard
Jen Denton
Jenna Stamps
Jordan
Kath Jones

Liliana Cisneros
Lisa Paiman
Melanie Clarke
Merril Pierrot
Richard Scalamera
Su Drewnicki
Susannah De Leijer
Tracey Yogaki

Supporters & Affiliations

Ardency Kennedy Place
U3A
Mums in Yarra
Richmond Record Club
Richmond Historical Society
Richmond Community Garden Group
Mini Maestros
APT Personal Training
Yarra Energy
City of Yarra Sustainability
City of Yarra Children Services
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
Yarra Neighbourhood House Network

Our Volunteers

Repair Corner

Andrea Harper
Anthony Daniele
Callum Hodge
David Strong
Elsa Gladwin
Geoff Golden
Helen Stokes
Jarred Paola
Karin Altmann
Kristian Grayson
Lucy Berera
Madeline Davies
Meredith Holt
Oscar Walsh
Sarah Garry
Susannah Whitty
Tim Ferguson

Chook Crew

Angela Kelly
Carolyn Monod
Cate MacDonald
Clare Harper
Dana
Eliza Dawson
Emma Jeanmaire
Maria Matheas
Meg Crawford
Melanie Clarke
Melissa Bennett
Neville Murray
Trish Elmore
Sara Taylor
Sophie Hart
Vaughn Allan

Other Volunteers

David Langdon - Richmond &
Burnley Historical Society
Erin Strong - Garden Group
James Marples - Record Club
Jemina - Craft Group
Lyndal - Grandies Group
Merril Pierrot - Craft Group
Rob Gray - Record Club
Trevor Randall - Garden
Yordan - Record Club

**Thank you all for your contributions and
for being part of the RCLC community**



RICHMOND COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTRE

Spaces for Everyone

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Other Locations



Burnley Backyard

49 Tudor Street Richmond



The Stables

19 Duke Street Richmond