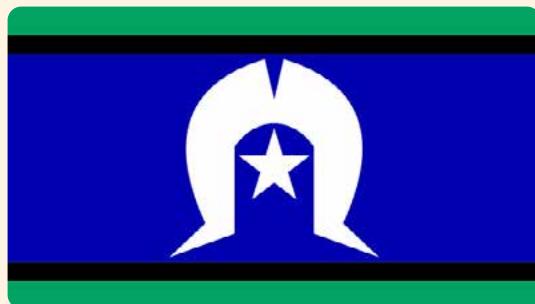




Notting Hill Neighbourhood House

Annual Report 2025





The Notting Hill Neighborhood House acknowledges the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, gather, learn and play.

We pay our respects to First Nation Elders and community members - past and present.

Sovereignty was never ceded.

Always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

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About Us

Notting Hill is a suburb rich in history and community spirit. Since the early days, neighbours here have always come together to build a supportive and welcoming community.

This sense of unity truly began in 2002 with the formation of the Notting Hill Community Association, an advocacy group dedicated to ensuring that residents had a voice in the social, political, and environmental changes shaping the area.

As the community evolved, so did its needs. Residents began to envision a dedicated space where people could gather, connect, and support one another. This dream became a reality in 2007 with the opening of the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House (NHNH).

Today, Notting Hill is home to a diverse population of over 2,900 residents, representing ancestries from across the globe, including Chinese, English, Australian, Indian, Sri Lankan, and Iranian communities. This rich diversity is reflected in everything we do at NHNH, from our staff and volunteer team to the events and programs we run throughout the year.

At NHNH, we are more than just a community space—we are a place where everyone is welcomed, valued, and encouraged to belong. Whether it's through our cultural celebrations, educational workshops, or social gatherings, we continue to embrace the ever-growing diversity of our neighbourhood, ensuring that every voice and story has a place in our shared community.



Vision

To create connections and opportunities for the Notting Hill community.

Mission

The Notting Hill Neighbourhood House enriches the lives of our community by providing a vibrant and inclusive space where people can connect, learn, and grow.



Our People

The Notting Hill Neighbourhood is a not-for-profit (registered with the ACNC) that relies on the dedication of its volunteers, staff, and donors to operate successfully throughout the year.

Committee of Management

NHNN is governed by a Committee of Management (COM) that meets every month to deliberate on different aspects of governing the House.

Their role is essential in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the House. They oversee governance, ensure financial sustainability, and support the staff as they grow and develop programs that benefit our community.

This year the COM led with fresh energy and focus, thanks in part to our new President, Kate Sykes, whose vision and strategic direction have sharpened our path.

A few standout steps from the COM this year include:

- Refreshed our organisational direction by developing a new vision, mission, and values that guide what we do.
- Commissioned the rebranding of Notting Hill Neighbourhood House to better reflect who we are.
- Welcomed two new Committee members: Deb and Caitlin have brought fresh insight and experience to the team.

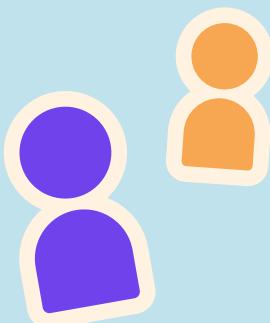
Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heart of NHNN. Their dedication and passion help bring our programs and events to life, making the House a vibrant and welcoming space. Whether assisting with community lunches, starting new programs, or working behind the scenes, they truly embody the spirit of community and generosity. With every hour they give, our volunteers help make NHNN a true reflection of community collaboration and support.

Staff

Our Staff Team and Tutors are key to driving community engagement and development. The Staff Team manage the day-to-day programs and events, ensuring a welcoming and organised environment for all.

Our Tutors play an essential role in offering workshops and classes that foster personal growth and learning. They help participants connect, share, and build skills that strengthen our community.



Committee of Management



Kate Sykes

She/Her
President

Kate has been a part of the local community for over a decade and joined the NHNH COM to put her professional expertise to work for the community. With her experience in marketing, business development, and human resources, Kate brings a creative and strategic approach to expanding NHNH's reach.



Joseph Natoli

He/Him
Vice-President

Retired teacher, environmental educator, and small business owner, Joseph Natoli has been a key member of the NHNH COM since 2015. Joe enjoys helping the team develop strategies that address the evolving needs of our community and ensure the House continues to thrive.



Minelle Croner

She/Her
Secretary

Minelle Croner brings her extensive background in Treasury and Finance to her role as COM Secretary. As a Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA) and Treasury & Risk Analyst for a national logistics and infrastructure company. Deeply connected to the Notting Hill community through her local church, Minelle applies her passion and expertise to support NHNH's growth.



Deb Kuch

She/Her
Treasurer

We welcomed Deb this year as our Treasurer. Deb brings extensive experience in finance, including roles in Risk Management, Compliance, Operations, and Sales. A Mt Waverley resident, she connected with the Notting Hill community through local businesses and markets. Deb has officially completed a "hat trick," having previously served as Treasurer for Pinewood Kindergarten and Pinewood Netball Club.



Caitlin Morrows

She/Her
Ordinary Member

Caitlin brings a strong background in stakeholder engagement, regulation, and governance to her role on the COM. As an Assistant Director in the public sector, she has extensive experience navigating complex policy environments and ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks. Caitlin joined the COM in 2024, with a desire to support inclusive, community-led initiatives and contribute to the strategic direction of NHNH.



Joseph Braverman

He/Him
Ordinary Member

Joseph Braverman, a Senior Associate with William Roberts Lawyers, joined the NHNH COM in 2023. With a passion for community development, Joseph brings his legal expertise to the table, helping guide NHNH in its mission to serve the local area.

Staff team



Bre Wilkinson
She/Her
Manager

Bre leads the NHNH team with a creative vision, overseeing all operations and staffing to ensure everything runs smoothly. Bre drives our program growth, and secures the necessary funding to support new initiatives. She is dedicated to empowering staff and volunteers to reach their full potential. Her leadership is grounded in her passion for enriching others, by fostering meaningful connections and aligning with the diverse needs of the NHNH community.



Rahul Pradhan
He/Him
**Administration
and Events Officer**

Rahul is the heart behind the scenes at NHNH, ensuring everything runs smoothly. He skilfully manages both administration and events, overseeing all our programs and events. Rahul consistently goes above and beyond to create opportunities for volunteers and community members, making NHNH a vibrant and welcoming space.



Joanne Devlin
She/Her
**Community
Development Worker**

Joanne is the driving force behind the Community Strengthening Program and our weekly Community Lunches. Her focus is on bridging social isolation and providing support for those experiencing loneliness. She is deeply involved in organising seniors' activities and is a passionate advocate for LGBTQIA+ inclusion. Joanne's dedication continues to positively impact the well-being of the NHNH community.



Jamie Yam
She/Her
Graphic Designer

Jamie has recently joined our team as our Graphic Designer. Jamie brings a wealth of experience from freelancing and working as a Designer in the Tertiary education sector. She is excited to refresh the NHNH branding and breathe new life into our visuals. Her creativity and vision can be seen throughout promotional materials, our soon to launch website, and this very report!



Naomi Lim
She/Her
Senior Finance Officer

With a specialisation in accounts and bookkeeping, Naomi is key to NHNH's financial management. Her dedication to keeping our finances on track reflects her passion for community development. Naomi's expertise and insights extends beyond NHNH, as she works with several community organisations throughout the week.



Xiaoyan Chen
She/Her
Cleaning Staff

Yan plays an essential role in keeping NHNH clean and welcoming for all who gather here. Her attention to detail and commitment to maintaining a safe and tidy environment ensures that our space is always ready for the community to use throughout the year.



Vincent Lim
He/Him
Communication and Design Intern

This year we welcomed Vincent to NHNH as our Communication and Design Intern. A recent graduate of RMIT's Bachelor of Design, Vincent brings creativity and design skills to support our team and the local community. His role has included contributing to visual communications, assisting with promotional materials, and learning alongside our dedicated staff team!



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



In this section

- School Holiday Program
- Pride in Community
- Singapore National Day
- Dumpling Festival
- Holi
- Cooking with Neighbours
- Sinhalese and Tamil New Year Celebration
- Diwali
- Morning Mingle
- Trick or Treat at NHHN
- Christmas





School Holiday Program

In 2024, we introduced something special for the youngest members in our community: a four-day School Holiday Program!

This vision came from our House Manager, Bre, who saw a real need in the community: families who hadn't yet connected with the House, and parents struggling to juggle work and care during school holidays. So, together with local community member Clare, they set out to create a space where kids could build friendships across school grades and social circles...all while giving parents a moment to breathe during the chaos of school holidays.

The program quickly became a highlight for families. From hands-on animal encounters with Animals of Oz, to creative art sessions with Jamie from Humble Studio and Merindah Gunya, to LEGO building with Bricks for Kids, every day was packed with fun and laughter. We even welcomed Christina from Little Caravan to spark imaginations with mini world creating and sun prints! After our first program many of the kids were asking are you doing this again next holidays!



It's so refreshing to see something local that doesn't rely on screens my kids came home buzzing every single day.



For parents, the program meant peace of mind; knowing their kids were engaged and building friendships.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible efforts of Clare, who co-led and helped design the program, our volunteers from Sent Collective, and all the facilitators who shared their time and talents. Your generosity made the program such a success.

Looking ahead, we'd love to continue offering both summer and winter programs but we'll need volunteers and helping hands to make it happen! If you're keen to be part of the team or register your child for the next one in January 2025, get in touch. Programs like this remind us how much joy comes from simply bringing kids together to have fun at NHHN.



“Are you doing this again next holidays?” Was the question echoing through the House before the week was even over.



Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Annual Report 2025





**FINALLY there's stuff
happening for families in
our local community.**



Pride in Community

This year, our Pride celebrations returned with even more colour and fun than ever before. It was a full-day celebration!

We kicked things off with Rainbow Storytime, led by the delightful Esther Rix, who had the crowd giggling, dancing, and belting out favourites from The Little Mermaid and Wicked. Little Athena's Creative Play brought the sparkle with face painting.

When the sun went down, the House transformed into a dazzling Rainbow Party, with our unforgettable queen Matilda Mercury leading drag trivia and live performances that had the crowd in stitches and dancing on their feet.

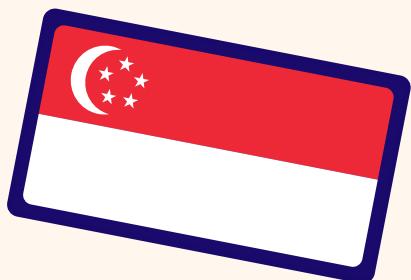
For some who came along, it was the first time they'd ever been to an LGBTQIA+ celebration in the local community. For others, it was a chance to bring their kids into a space where everyone felt safe to be exactly who they are.

Thanks to the passion of community champions like Jess, Clare, Persephone, Matt, Joanne, Bre, Rahul, and our performers Matilda Mercury and Esther Rix the day was a huge success.

A special thank you to Community Bank Pinewood (Bendigo Bank) for sponsoring our performances!

We can't wait to see what the next year brings. If you'd like to be involved in planning, performing, or supporting our Pride in Community gatherings, we'd love to hear from you.





Singapore National Day

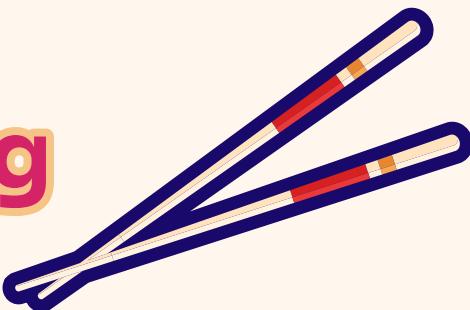
In celebration of Singapore's 59th year of independence, our neighbourhood came alive with colour and culture! Thanks to the leadership of local legend Jenny Chua (Cooking with Jenny) and a team of dedicated volunteers, the event was a beautiful showcase of Singaporean spirit.

Guests were treated to an afternoon of traditional storytelling by Dee, live Peranakan singing and dancing, a sponsored lucky draw, and an unforgettable Singaporean feast.

If you haven't seen it before, the Peranakan dance blends graceful Chinese-style hand movements with Malay and Indonesian influenced footwork and rhythm, it pays tribute to one of Singapore's oldest and most distinct cultural groups. These performances are more than entertainment; they are a living tradition passed down through generations.

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, this event has inspired others to approach us about hosting their own cultural festivals at the House, helping us become a true hub for multicultural celebration.

Dumpling Festival



Back by popular demand, our Dumpling Festival returned, and it was just as delicious as ever!

The idea for the festival first came to life in 2023 when community members asked for more ways to connect over food. Over two weeks, a dedicated team of volunteers lovingly prepared hundreds of handmade dumplings! We sold over 120 plates and together raised \$600, offering families an affordable, tasty dinner and a reason to come together.

Around 60 people joined the festivities, catching up with old friends, meeting new faces, and celebrating the rich tapestry of our neighbourhood's food traditions.

Huge thanks to our dumpling dream team Yan, Deyun, Sally, Chua, Janice, Albert, Linda, and Chami, who together served up over 30 volunteer hours! Your generosity and cooking magic made it all happen!



Holi

There's nothing quite like watching our park erupt in colour! Hands full of bright powder, smiles beaming from ear to ear, laughter in the air, and neighbours from all different backgrounds and cultures celebrating the Festival of Colour.

In many cultures, Holi marks the start of new beginnings and the triumph of light over darkness, so we set out to create a fun, family-friendly space to learn and experience this beautiful tradition together.

As we headed outside, clouds of colour lifted into the air. People gently (and a few very enthusiastically!) dabbed neon powder on faces, foreheads, and arms. Within minutes we were all covered head to toe. Around 70 people came along, and together we raised \$350.

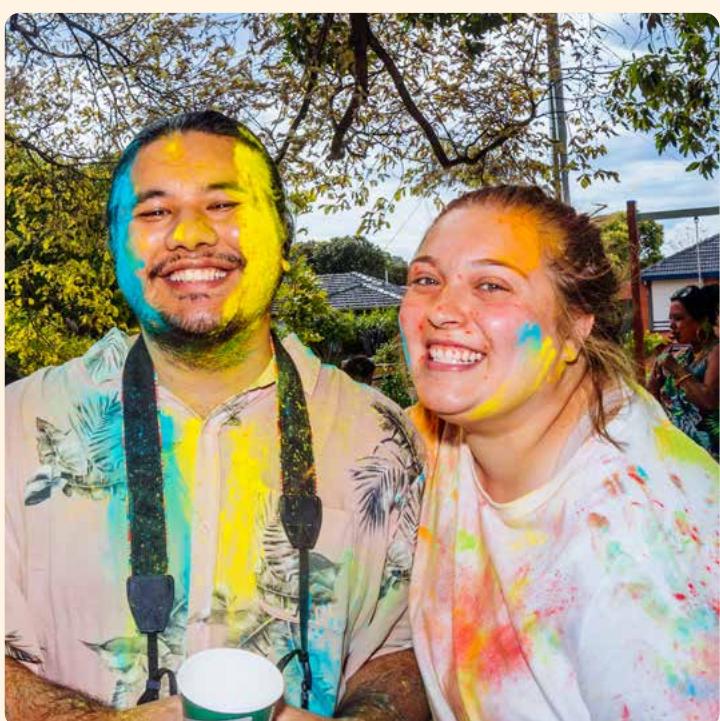
A big thank you to our wonderful leaders and volunteers Debolina, Kirthana, Bageswari, and Dharmishta for bringing this celebration to life.

We're excited to support more community-led cultural celebrations. If you'd like to help plan the next festival or bring your own tradition to life at NHH speak to a team member today!



We set out to create a fun, family-friendly space to learn and experience this beautiful tradition together.





Cooking with Neighbours

Now in its third year, our Cooking with Neighbours classes continue to bring the community together through the shared love of food.

Every second Friday, one of our neighbours takes charge of a cooking class, teaching a small group how to prepare a favourite family dish.

This year, we were fortunate to have community chefs like Gary, Jennifer, Mahshid, Giulia, Rahul and Jenny share their culinary heritage. Together they guided participants through recipes like Vietnamese Cờn Tấm, lemongrass chicken and prawn rice paper rolls, banana fritters, zucchini and ricotta fritters, and hearty mushroom and leek pasta. And thanks to the generosity of our community, extra meals were packaged and gifted to families in need.

Thanks to the Monash Community Grants Program, we've expanded this initiative, continuing to strengthen the bonds within our community through the joy of cooking and connection.

We're so grateful to every cook who has taken the time to teach and to those who joined us to learn, we can't wait to see (and smell!) what's next.

“

[We are] continuing to strengthen the bonds within our community through the joy of cooking and connection.

”





Sinhalese and Tamil New Year Celebration

This celebration began when members of our local Sinhalese community approached Rahul with a vision to mark their New Year at NHHN. They brought all the ideas and together we shaped a welcoming, community-led event that brought people together to share food and tradition.

The night itself was filled with joy: graceful performances by Ama Dance Academy, the irresistible aroma of fresh hoppers thanks to Desha Catering, and lively traditional games. Outside, neighbours of all ages jumped into tug-of-war, laughed through “pin the tail on the elephant,” and cheered on the crowd-pleasing donut-eating contest. With over 70 people joining in, the House was buzzing!

Several neighbours told us the evening brought “a little piece of home” to Notting Hill, a chance to celebrate their culture proudly and invite others to share in it.

This evening wouldn’t have happened without our amazing volunteers: Ramona, Menik, Pasi, Poorna, Hema, and Minoli; thank you for your dedication and leadership. Our gratitude also goes to Ama Dance Academy and Desha Catering, and to Monash Council for their financial support through the Quick Response Grant program.

Events like this remind us why NHHN exists to make space for culture to be shared. If you’d like to help plan the next celebration we would love to hear from you!

Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Annual Report 2025



Diwali

Diwali is the festival of lights celebrated by over a billion people across the globe! This year, our Diwali celebrations brought together families, friends, and first-timers to learn and celebrate together.

Across October, we ran a series of events and workshops that built toward the big night, from dance classes and a laddoo demonstration to a diya-making workshop and a Diwali-themed laneway artwork.

On celebration night, the hall came alive with two performances by Shakya Kala Dance Group and a beautiful set by Gitanjali's group. Rangoli by Gitanjali, Iti, and Ignita welcomed guests at the door, our wonderful henna artist made sure everyone had something beautiful on their hands and of course we closed with a diya and sparkler lighting that filled the neighbourhood with light.

Thank you to the Victorian State Government's Multicultural Festivals and Events Program for funding these events, and to Kunal Batavia (Search Party Property) for his donation.

And a heartfelt thanks to our organising committee, leaders, performers and key volunteers for bringing this celebration to life; Mounika, Dee, Gitanjali, Zeba, Awnit, Iti, Ignita, Kirthana, Dharmishta, Debolina, and Subha.

Diwali at NHNH is exactly what we love most; culture shared generously, and light carried forward together.



Diya and Laddoo making workshop

A diya is a small clay oil lamp lit during Diwali to symbolize light over darkness, often placed at doorways and windows to welcome guests and good fortune. Guided by our talented neighbour Subha, families learned the meaning behind diyas then moulded and painted their own to take home and light with loved ones. Subha also led a sweet masterclass on Laddoos; little bite-sized Indian treats made with roasted flour, ghee, and sugar, rolled into little balls. Everyone left with a simple recipe and a homemade treat.

Dance classes

Over six weeks, Mounika welcomed dancers of all ages and abilities to learn simple choreography and explore storytelling through movement. The classes were as much about connection as memorising steps. Each session helped build confidence within our community and sparked new friendships. By the Diwali celebration night, many first-time performers took the stage and we were all treated to a wonderful performance.

Morning Mingle

When our much-loved local café closed, neighbours told us they missed a friendly place to start the day. Morning Mingle grew out of those conversations; a simple, community-focused initiative that offers a yummy start to the day while encouraging social interactions. At its heart, it's about meeting people where they are and rebuilding everyday connection.

To help launch Morning Mingle, we applied to the Community Bank Pinewood (Bendigo Bank) Pitch It grants program. We were thrilled to be selected to pitch our idea and even more delighted to be named in the top three on the night. Bre and Gary shared the story of NHHN and why a simple breakfast can change someone's day.

Morning Mingle now runs two mornings a week, offering free or low-cost breakfasts and a genuinely welcoming table for all ages.



A word of thanks!

Huge thanks to Community Bank Pinewood and their funding partners for backing community-led ideas, and to Bre and Gary for representing the House so well at Pitch It.

We also want to acknowledge Monica and Gary, who not only helped create and launch Morning Mingle but have quietly kept it running contributing over 210 unpaid volunteer hours to set-up, cooking toasties and croissants, shopping, cleaning, and pack-down. They've led this program from day one with minimal staff involvement, on top of full-time work. We can't thank you both enough.

“

My family and I have been attending Morning Mingle this year and have absolutely loved it. As a single mother with three children, being able to get a delicious hot breakfast twice a week is such a wonderful treat! Monica is friendly and welcoming and our family love being able to spend that time together and with other local families. It has greatly helped me feel less isolated and increased our social connections, for which we are forever grateful.

”

Trick or Treat at NHNH

Halloween was a fun chance for the neighbourhood house to dress up and encounter the families in our area. We turned the House into a cheerful trick-or-treat hub, the perfect first stop for families who want to visit somewhere familiar before heading out.

There were lots of smiles, silliness and sweet treats to share, and some fantastic and creative costumes. Families gathered for photos, compared chocolate, filled their bags with lollies, and then set off together around the neighbourhood.

Huge shout-out to Bre, Clare, and Issy for dressing up, posing for photos and making every child feel welcome. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and to all the locals who left lollies out...the kids absolutely loved it.

Same time next year? We'll have the treats ready.



There were lots of smiles, silliness and sweet treats to share.





Christmas

Our 2024 Christmas festivities brought the Notting Hill community together in true holiday spirit!

Community Christmas celebration

Last year's Christmas celebration brought the neighbourhood together for an afternoon of music and memory-making with around 70 people filling the House.

The standout was our photo booth, beautifully set up by Rahul! Families and friends lined up to put on silly props and festive hats for festive keepsake photo. The kids' craft and painting tables burst with colour, the BBQ kept everyone fuelled, the book table was a constant favourite, and the raffle tree built a lovely buzz as prizes were drawn.

Adding to the magic, the wonderful team from Hope Community Church filled the space with live Christmas carols. Our friends at As You Whisk ran a decorate-your-own cupcake tree (not a single cupcake left!), and Heeki Face Painting & Fun made sure everyone had a little sparkle. A full face designs for the keen ones and elegant hand art for those who preferred something subtle.

In the lead-up, locals donated kids' books, raffle items, wine and hampers, photo-booth props, craft supplies, candles, and vouchers from supportive businesses...thank you for the generosity. Together we raised \$160, with every dollar helping go toward our next Christmas celebration.

On the day, our volunteers and staff made it all happen! From setting up stalls, running the BBQ, guiding crafts, to selling tickets, and packing down with smiles. Andhika, Caitlin and Dylan, Danielle, Decem, Freedy, Kate, Pansy Foo, Ruth, Shinta, Yan we're so grateful for the time and care you brought.

We'd love to grow this tradition next year. If you'd like to help; donate a prize, run a stall, sponsor the BBQ, or volunteer on the day please reach out.





Christmas lunch

There's nothing like a room full of neighbours sharing a festive meal and the Community Christmas Lunch did just that. We welcomed 85 community members, creating a joy filled space for everyone to enjoy good food, great company, and a whole lot of Christmas cheer.

The Players band brought the music and the smiles and before long, tables were pushed aside and the hall turned into a dance floor. Carols, classics, and a few crowd requests had everyone up for a twirl.

Special thanks to Sally, Deyun, Kim, Linda, Janice, Chua and our amazing staff team for their amazing kitchen work! Together we raised \$800 to go toward staff hours and training for the year ahead.

Christmas trivia

We had six teams battle it out at our Holly Jolly Christmas Trivia night.

Masterfully hosted by our local trivia whiz Claire, who kept the energy high and the questions accessible for all ages! Together we raised \$400 to support NHHN programs, proof that a little friendly competition can make a big difference.

Missed it? Play along here:

Can you finish the lyric: "Dashing through the snow, in a one-horse ____"?

And how fast can you name three of Santa's reindeer that start with 'D'?

Thank you to Claire for bringing the cheer and to everyone who formed a team, donated prizes, and joined in you made the night a joyful one!



COMMUNITY IMPACT



In this section

- Fundraisers
- Community Lunch
- More than a Meal
- Caring Together
- Spring Market
- Community Laneway





Fundraisers

Fundraising is vital to Notting Hill Neighbourhood House: it allows us to pay our amazing, dedicated staff and sustain the programs that don't receive grant funding. This ensures that the House continues to grow and make a lasting impact in our community. Donate today or get in touch if you want to help us raise funds or sponsor a project.

Bunnings BBQ

This was the first year we only held ONE Bunnings BBQ! It was a sizzling success, raising an impressive \$1930!

These days always take a lot of volunteer hours so a massive thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it happen. Your support makes a world of difference! Thank you; Caitlin, Dylan, Michael F, Danielle, Bre, Rahul, Joanne, Kate, Monica, Lorina, Maitas, Michelle, Judd, Minelle, Ninad, Michael, Judy, Yan and Suet li!

And thank you to all the community members that came by to say hello, encouraged the team and bought a sausage.





Mango fundraiser

Our Mango Fundraiser was a sweet success, raising \$1062.62 in support of our programs. Thank you to everyone who purchased a box and helped us make this fundraiser a fruitful one!

NHH bus trips

Once a term, we hire a bus from WaveCare and set off on a community adventure! So far this year, we've ventured to Dandenong Market and Jells Park. These trips create opportunities for older adults and those living alone to travel safely and affordably beyond their usual routines. We've seen instant friendships form, shared coffees and laughter outside the House.



Trivia night

Hosted not once but twice by our local trivia whiz Claire, these fun-filled evenings brought together 10 enthusiastic teams each time and plenty of laughs. Claire's incredible knack for crafting creative, accessible questions for all ages made these nights a huge hit for our community.

We're so grateful to Claire for generously sharing her time and talent, she helped us raise \$516.47 for the House.



CDS bake sale, and Tighten + Tunes + Treats

This year, our wonderful community baked up a storm...twice! At the Mulgrave Container Deposit Centre, volunteers served up delicious homemade treats to help raise \$253.62 funds as well as get the House known in the local community.

Then at NHNH, Tights, Tunes & Treats brought live music from The Players, and number plate tightening (thanks to donated screws from Daniel Coynle), and, of course, more tasty goodies.

With over \$320 raised, we're so incredibly grateful to Bake Nerd, Bre, Joanne, Menik, Caroline, Clare, Liz, Katrina, Albert, Lucas, Geoff and every baker, maker, dancer, and helper who made it sweet!



Fundraising with a paintbrush

This year, we were lucky to have the incredible Jamie from Humble Paint Studio lead three vibrant painting sessions at NHNH. For Book Week's Reading is Magic theme, the kids brought their imaginations to life through colourful artworks. Later in the year our young people painted stunning koi ponds, and the adults got creative with stencil art in a relaxed evening workshop.

We're so grateful to Jamie for volunteering her time to run these sessions and we're thrilled to now have her as part of the NHNH staff team! Together, her creative magic helped raise \$500!



A night at the movies

We are so grateful to the team at Showbiz Waverley Cinemas for generously hosting not one but two movie night fundraisers for NHNH! With 40 community members gathering across our Inside Out 2 and Wicked screenings, we managed to raise \$584.



Community Lunch

Bridging loneliness through shared meals



Before receiving funding, our lunches were a simple meal of just soup and bread. Over the last 12 months we have been able to offer a wider range of food that better reflect our CALD community including dumplings, rice, noodles and pasta.

Over the past year, we've served more than 1,500 meals, with attendance steadily growing. Weekly numbers have averaged around 35 people, climbing to over 80 guests during special events like our Christmas Lunch and Seniors Festival Flavours of the World Day. Our guests have ranged in age from 5 to 97 years old, and represent rich cultural diversity.

For us, these lunches offer more than a plate of food, they're an open door. Many participants shared that they'd seen each other in the neighbourhood but had never spoken before. Now they greet each other with warmth and familiarity, strengthening community ties and fostering a sense of safety within our community.

Throughout the year, our lunches became a platform for important community conversations and celebrations:

- Guest talks from Victoria Police, Suburban Rail Loop, City of Monash, nutritionists, and the Carers Network.

- Celebrating special days including Wear it Purple, R U OK Day, Biggest Morning Tea, and Women's Health Week.
- Live music from the beloved band Players (formerly Travelling Wannabees), made up of talented U3A musicians.
- Seniors Paint Workshops, in collaboration with Monash's Social Inclusion Team.

Community lunches have created a ripple of engagement throughout NHNH. Many guests have joined other programs like English classes, Friendship Circle, Mandarin classes, and Line Dancing.

These lunches are often a neighbour's first step into community life and a reminder that they are not alone.



The lunch is an opportunity to connect with others.





I love that we as a community get together and I meet people from different cultures, ages and abilities. Having conversations and sharing experiences, even just a hello makes my day.



Huge thanks to...

To our incredible volunteers who tirelessly support our community lunches in many ways we give our heartfelt gratitude (especially our dishwashers Hema & Zoe).

To our MasterChef Rahul! Rahul took over the meal planning and kitchen supervision from Tim and has expanded our menu with a range of delicious dishes and always makes sure we have enough to feed everyone

To our guest presenters and performers; Dr Anika Kibra, Constable Cai Ding from Victoria Police, Carers Network, Monash Council, SRLA our Nutrisiontist Dhana Laxmi and the all the current and past members of the Players and the Travelling Wannabees.

To everyone who came along whether once or weekly thanks for making our lunches feel like family!



I am cooking for one now and don't really bother much. At the lunches I know that I am going to get a healthy meal with lots of veggies.





More than a Meal

State gov local food relief grant

Thanks to support from the State Government's Local Food Relief Grant, we have continued to address food insecurity through a layered, community-based approach.

Key initiatives under this grant include:

- Weekly food parcel distribution to over 30 households.
- Fortnightly culturally diverse community dinners (150 meals per week)
- Fortnightly Seniors Breakfast Packs (120 recipients per week).
- Weekly access to fresh vegetables and fruits (over 30 Households weekly).

The impact goes beyond filling a pantry, so many of our participants have shared how saving on groceries really helps them redirect funds to essential bills. Many live alone and say the warm smiles and care they receive each week reminds them that there are people who care.



**The heart behind
our food program is
simple...that no one
in our neighbourhood
should go without.**



Global Foods, Local Plates

This arm of the program celebrates cultural diversity through shared meals and meaningful connection. Every second Friday, 80–150 meals are served at our community dinners...welcoming anyone, whether they're doing it tough or simply wanting to share dinner with others.

The ever-changing global menu: Paratha & Veg Curry, Chinese Stir Fry Noodles, Chicken Jambalaya, Yellow Rice with Curry, Spaghetti Bolognese is all cooked fresh by our amazing volunteers.

With support from Grace Baptist Community Church, Hope Christian Church, and community champions like Lucas, Chami, Danielle, Evan, Albert, Minoli, Launa, Poorna, Owen, Varun and Yan, these nights have become a buzzing space for neighbours to connect and eat together.



Community Pantry

In just one year our Pantry has made over 7,000kg of fresh fruit and vegetables to our community. Open every Wednesday afternoon, the pantry welcomes anyone who might be doing it tough or if you need a top-up of fresh produce to get through the week.

We've put little things in place to make sure there's enough to go around, in a way that's fair and accessible to all. This wouldn't be possible without the incredible efforts of our Foodbank drivers, sorters, and volunteers who collect, set up, and distribute food with care each week.

This pantry runs on people power, so thank you to everyone who carves out a few hours to pick up, sort, and share food with care each week. To our drivers Lucas, Albert, Ming, Geoff, Evan, Kaye, Kym, Awnit, Jonny, our volunteers; Sally, Deyun, Janice, Anika, Stephanie and community contributors MAZON Australia and Mr Shashi we so appreciate each of you!

18,303.13kg of produce collected from Foodbank
34,945 Meals Distributed



Project Food Assistance

Behind the scenes, Project Food Assistance creates made-to-need food parcels for neighbours doing it tough.

We collect and redistribute food from our local partners: Woolworths, Baker's Delight, Nando's, Foodbank, and Coles. After a simple registration, our intake team chats with each person to understand family size, dietary needs, cultural preferences, and cooking capacity. On pick-up days, volunteers pack the right mix of staples, fresh fruit and veg, proteins, and baked goods.

Lucas, Paul, Peng, Boey Wan, Cyril, Meng, Ming, Linda, Jessica, Albert and the Hope Christian Church community manage intake and packing, making sure people have enough and know they can reach out if circumstances change. Because it's run by volunteers and donation-supported, the program saves thousands in costs, helping sustain our broader food relief work.

We also acknowledge Clayton Church of Christ's Love Loud Meals for providing a complementary cooked-meal option for some of the same households.

Whether you need a hand for a few months or just until you find your feet, please reach out to our Food Assistance team. We're here to help!

Seniors Breakfast Program

For many older residents, getting out and about especially for breakfast isn't always easy. Our Seniors Breakfast Program provides weekly packs for up to 120 seniors, with cereal, milk, oats and spreads to help start the day well. As folks pop in to collect their packs, there's always a delicious morning tea waiting for them.

Heartfelt thanks to our packers and greeters; Linda C, Poh E, Deyun, Sally, Jonny Y and Jessica. Thank you for keeping the shelves stocked and the kettle on. You make it all possible.



A message from our community partner

Hope Melbourne has been serving the Monash community for more than 35 years, building faith, friendships, and a spirit of togetherness across generations.

Hope Melbourne is proud to have supported the Food Assistance Project and various community projects, helping provide practical care and encouragement to those in need. We celebrate this partnership and look forward to many more years of serving our community with love and hope.



Sir John Monash Award: Lucas Yong

Our food relief work simply wouldn't exist at this scale without Lucas's drive and passion. He rebuilt the food relief team from the ground up, cultivated donors, and brought community organisations together to donate and invest in the program. Week after week, Lucas coordinates pickups, mentors volunteers, and ensures parcels are tailored to each person's needs. He's the first to arrive, the last to leave.

We're deeply grateful and proud that his impact was recognised as a 2024 Volunteer of the Year finalist (High Commendation). Thank you, Lucas, for the countless ways you selflessly help our community flourish.



Caring Together

The Caring Together Hub was established to expand our existing carers program to better address the growing needs of carers within our community. We kept meeting neighbours quietly doing the heavy lifting of care; supporting a partner after surgery, walking alongside a child with additional needs, checking in daily on an ageing parent or making sure their neighbour was safe at home.

When Carers Victoria opened the Connecting Carers in their Community grant, it gave us an opportunity to grow what was already taking shape. Our heart is to create moments of rest and connection, to reduce isolation, build belonging, offer affordable access to wellbeing activities, and support personal and work-readiness goals.

For this program, a carer is anyone providing unpaid assistance and support to a family member, friend, or neighbour who has a disability, mental illness, a chronic or terminal condition, an alcohol or other drug issue, or who is frail aged.

Carers told us they needed a space to connect with others and do something for themselves; so we wanted to create exactly that. Small, supportive gatherings became core to our Hub.

We made sure we had time of:

Creative respite – Painting with Humble Studios; polymer-clay earrings with Gorgeous You; Canva card-making with Jenny Woang Creative; sewing and scrapbooking.

Gentle wellbeing – Walks for Carers; Yoga with Janie; Breath work with Tahmina; links to WaveCare and Carers Victoria info.



I really enjoy the carers group and being around people who understand. Having just a couple of hours for me has made a huge difference in my own wellbeing.



Culture & story – A First Nations art workshop with renowned artist Merindah Gunya that sparked conversation and understanding.

Practical supports – Service pop-ups and warm referrals with Carers Gateway, Uniting, WaveCare and Carers Network connected carers to funded supports and counselling when ready.

Behind every workshop is a story of relief. One carer described the long shift from independence to full-time caring for her mum and the quiet question that crept in: "Is this all there is?" Caring Together reminded her she still matters and that she's allowed time to breathe and be herself. "Feeling connected and understood is so important."

Another carer, a single mother of three, two with chronic health issues found creative respite and pathways to support. "I have very little support in Victoria and life has felt very isolating for a very long time. Since attending the group, I have expanded my social circle and found a space where I feel supported and understood."

Through the Caring Together Hub she was able to get her daughter an iPad so she could attend an online weekly peer support with Little Dreamers as well as have access to funded therapy. "It has made a huge difference to her life... and I'm very grateful to the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House for this program that has helped me discover these wonderful services."

We learned to keep everything we did "carer led". Not every pre-planned activity resonated, so we listened and prioritised what our wonderful carers genuinely wanted to do.

The Caring Together Hub isn't just a program; it's a promise from the neighbourhood to those who carry so much: you are not alone. If you're a carer: You're welcome! Whether you've called yourself a carer for years or never have before, we would love for you to connect with us!

Thank you to: Carers Victoria, Carers Gateway, Uniting Care, Aus Career Coach, Humble Paint Studio, Jenny Woang Creative, Merdinah Gunyah, Mother Nurture Aroma Therapy, Shanta Studios, Janie and Walks for Carers.

Funded by the State of Victoria through Carers Victoria's Connecting Carers in their Community grant. Thank you to every carer, facilitator and partner who made this year possible.

Work ready program

Thanks to the amazing Michelle from Aus Career Coach, we were able to help carers take steps toward becoming work-ready beyond their caring responsibilities. Through a six-week Work Readiness Program, participants built contemporary résumés and cover letters, identified transferable skills, practised interviews, and grew supportive networks. All 12 participants finished with a job-ready pack (résumé + cover-letter template) and a certificate. Follow-up check-ins extended support beyond the classroom... because the next step is easier when someone walks beside you.

Spring Market

On 9 November, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House was buzzing! Music playing, yummy cakes and drinks to go, freshly pressed apple juice in hand and our hall packed with handcrafted goodies for early Christmas shopping.

Thanks to our community's support, we raised over \$825 through the BBQ, succulent sales, and our freshly pressed apple juice directly helping keep our programs low-cost and accessible.

Huge thanks to our stallholders, including: Margaret, Jes, Katrina, Carolyn, As You Whisk, Crafted by Clare, Itishree, Bake Nerd, What-Nots for Tiny Tots, Maxine, Michelle, Monica, Kean, Lucas, Deyun, Janice, Chua, Charlotte, Grace, Maeve, Hayley, Nyah, Zoe, Monami, and Allies Zed. Your creativity made the market shine.

A special shout-out to our incredible young people; Charlotte, Grace, Maeve, Hayley, Nyah, and Zoe who ran the fresh apple juice stall and raised funds for the House. You are all absolute stars!

And cheers to our BBQ crew and helpers who kept the snags sizzling and the day running smoothly: Caitlin, Dylan, Danielle, Debolina, Geoff, Jenny, Joanne, Judd, Kate, Michael, Michelle, Sharon, Will, Xiaoyan, and Yash.

It was a gorgeous snapshot of locals creating, supporting small businesses, and coming together on a beautiful spring day! We love it!





It was a gorgeous snapshot of locals creating, supporting small businesses, and coming together on a beautiful spring day!



The Community Laneway

Community Laneway Story

The Notting Hill Community Laneways is the first outdoor community art gallery in the City of Monash.

Inspired by the Carnegie Community Laneways, local neighbour Jenny imagined transforming the very ordinary pedestrian path into a vibrant gallery. With the NHHN team and an army of volunteers, that vision took shape bringing colour and creativity to the heart of our neighbourhood.

From February 2023 to December 2024, artists of all ages and skill levels were invited to contribute art. NHHN distributed hundreds of artboards and brought the community together through a series of 'Art in the Park' community painting sessions, and collaborative artworks created across various community events at the neighbourhood house. The community project united the artistic talents of hundreds of local residents, and extended to other City of Monash neighbourhood houses, local art schools, local churches, and First Nations artists.

Today, it proudly features over 600 artworks created by more than 500 individuals from the local neighbourhood, the City of Monash, and across Melbourne.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers and the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House team who made this project possible. This initiative was entirely volunteer-run, with the material funding thanks to the Monash Council Community Grants Program, Bunnings Notting Hill and Pinewood Community Bank Bendigo Bank over the years.

A special thank you to our dedicated returning laneway volunteers: Lucas, Albert, Trac, Johnny, Ting, Will, Ron, Deyun, Zeba, Kiet, Averil, Wilson, Sandy, Yan, Rahul, Joanne, Nandini and Jenny. We also extend our gratitude to the community groups who assisted at our working bees: Grace Baptist Community Church, Monash Mens Shed, and Brentwood Secondary College.

Over 50 wonderful volunteers contributed their time and energy across various stages - from painting and repairing fences, preparing artboards, varnishing completed artworks, to installing the hundreds of pieces.





Community Laneway Celebration

On 18 January, we came together to celebrate something special, the completion of our incredible community laneway.

We opened with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony led by Uncle Josh West with his son, Danny West. Uncle Josh is a Traditional Custodian, a direct descendant of the Burin'yong Bulluk clan (Bunurong) and the Trawoolway clan, Palawa/Pakana of north-east Lutrawita (Tasmania). His welcome formally invited us onto Bunurong Country and this set a generous, reflective tone for the day.

Uncle Josh reminded us that story, song, dance, and art have carried First Nations culture for countless generations, and that creativity is a living connection to Country and to each other. He shared family stories and encouraged us to keep leaning in: to listen, learn, tell the truth, show respect, and walk together toward reconciliation.

His presentation was a powerful invitation to carry our community values into everything we do.

Following the ceremony, Jenny W shared the laneway's story and vision. Place Maker Karena Johnson (Monash Council) launched the new neighbourhood walking-loop decals and invited everyone to explore. A "find the painting" scavenger hunt had kids (and quite a few adults) racing up and down the laneway to spot iconic pieces. We wrapped up back at NHHN with classic summer festivities: sausage sizzle, face painting, games, raffles, and a final collaborative "3168" artwork. Thank you to our on the day volunteers; Caitlin and Dylan, Charles, Joanne, Joseph, Monica, Naomi, Sharon, Trang and Yan.

This project happened because of incredible volunteers, our NHHN staff team, and every community member who painted a board, swung a hammer, painted a fence, varnish an artwork or cheered us on. Special thanks to Cr Stuart James, Karena Johnson, and Deputy Mayor Cr Brian Little for their support.



A message from our community partner

Growing up in this neighbourhood, I've walked this laneway countless times - from my way to kindergarten to working at the neighbourhood house. It has been truly magical to witness, and an incredible honour to lead this community project as the blank fences transformed into the flourishing colourful gallery we see today.

-Jenny W







LEARNING TOGETHER



In this section

- Learning Together
- Scam Awareness Workshops
- Rescue Ready
- Stitch and Sew with Joanne
- Friday Friendship Circle
- Conversational English Class
- Homework Club





Learning Together



At Notting Hill Neighbourhood House, we offer a wide range of fun classes and programs for the whole community to enjoy! On top of all the programs on our termly timetable we also offer workshops and demonstrations throughout the year.

Some of our favourite workshops and sessions from this year included:

- Art in the Park Sessions
- Saturday Fitness Class
- Games Nights with Sent Collective
- Tai-Chi
- Friday Friendship Group
- Table Tennis
- Conversational English and Mandarin Classes
- 1 on 1 Tech Support
- Playgroup
- Dance Exercise
- Crafternoons
- Latin Style Line Dancing



Scam Awareness Workshops

In partnership with Community Bank Pinewood (Bendigo Bank), we delivered free Scam Awareness workshops; five at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House and one outreach at a local primary school. We welcomed community members, Bendigo customers, and members of Rotary and local bowls clubs. Together we unpacked real-world examples (delivery-fee links, "Hi Mum" texts, overdue bill emails, and investment pitches) using Bendigo's STOP-THINK-PROTECT framework. These workshops were also a space to say, "you're not alone." Fraud and scams affect us all. Today, one in three Australians have either been scammed or know someone who

has, an alarming figure that highlights why awareness matters. Education empowers our community to stay safe and confident, making it harder for scammers to take advantage of us.

At the school session, families completed a Family Safety Plan (code word, verifying new payment details by phone, device settings), and across all our workshops participants reported feeling more confident spotting red flags and knowing where to get help! The program not only raised awareness but also helped build practical cyber-safety habits across our community.



Rescue Ready

Each October, Monash Council's Community Safety Month reminds us that we all have a role to play in creating a safer, more resilient neighbourhood. We joined the campaign by hosting an educational Community Expo Day!

We welcomed special guests from Remedy First Aid and the State Emergency Services (SES Monash), who provided engaging demonstrations and conversations about how we can all be better prepared for emergencies. From first aid tips and CPR awareness to learning how to respond to natural disasters and stay safe during storms, the day was packed with helpful and practical knowledge.

We're so grateful to our partners at Monash Council, SES, and Remedy First Aid for sharing their expertise and for helping make safety a shared community value. If you'd like to partner with us or have ideas for next year's Community Safety Month, get in touch!

Community partner message



We were proud to be part of the 2024 Rescue Ready Community Safety Event, where we demonstrated CPR and defibrillator use, with kids jumping in to learn too- because sharing these lifesaving skills empowers people of all ages to act in an emergency and keep our community safe.

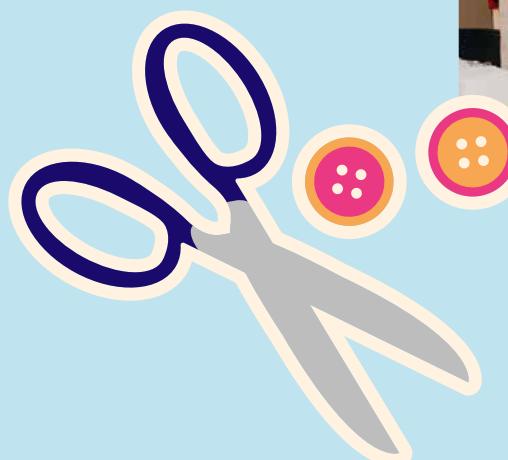
- Hayley Meeking,
Remedy First Aid Training

Stitch and Sew with Joanne

Our weekly, sewing community has continued to gather this year. We welcome a wide range of experiences, with a selection of beginner projects, or the more experienced sewer can choose their own adventure!

Alongside the sewing class we have a small but dedicated group of knitters. These lovely ladies freely give their time to teach others to knit or crochet, solve knitting problems and knit squares for community knitting project. They can also be counted on for a sympathetic ear and kindness. Thank you particularly to Carolyn and Katrina for your expertise, for Katrina's endless supply of tea and biscuits. And thank you to Geraldine for always inspiring others to participate.

This class brings together people of all ages and unites them with a common bond. The class is so much more than just learning or sharing a skill. It is a safe welcoming space that fosters connection alongside creativity. The bonds that we stitch together in each class create beautiful and lasting friendships.



Friday Friendship Circle

The Friday Friendship Circle has become a vibrant hub of connection and activity at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House. This group brings together people from all walks of life representing various ethnicities, cultures, and age groups.

Across the year we mixed wellbeing (meditation, tai chi, reflexology, nutrition, ageing well), skills & life hacks (hemming and clothing repair with Susi, gardening with Peter; orchids, what to plant this season), and food & culture (poori making, Persian and Chinese noodle cooking demos). We also made time for celebrations (Chinese New Year, Diwali, an international Christmas gathering, Valentine's floral arranging), games & trivia, and a sunny picnic at Jells Park. Each

“

The Friday Friendship Circle is that place to be to meet new friends and feel at home.

”

Friday offered something new and exciting to do with others.

These activities not only promote health and well-being but also introduce participants to new skills and interests.

This circle has been lovingly shaped by Subha, Hema, Cat, and Rani, with Anisa and Florence sparking the original vision and guiding it so well. In June 2025, the leadership team chose to step back and want to acknowledge the legacy that they've left behind. We are deeply grateful for all you've given.

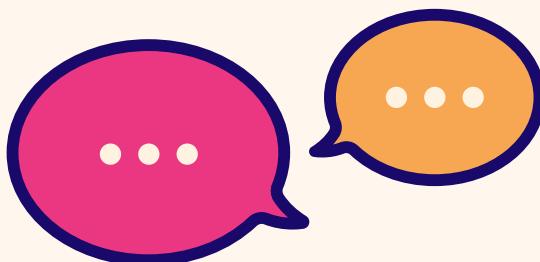
We're excited that Albert will lead the group into the new financial year, keeping Fridays welcoming and fun! If you'd like to join or lend a hand, there's a seat in the circle for you.



Conversational English Class

The NHHN Team want to acknowledge every participant who joins in these classes to learn English. It takes courage to engage in a new language and culture, and we're grateful to those who are connecting with us across language barriers!

Linda, Hema, Lim, Geok and Janice you are all so wonderful! Thank you for taking the time to share your teaching skills with our community. Linda, we are also grateful for your leadership and how you've inspired others like John and Albert to help cover the class when our regular teachers go on holidays.



A message from Linda

In 2024, the class has increased to an average of 35 students; with three levels (beginner, medium, and advanced) to accommodate the different English proficiencies.

In 2025, attendance has stayed steady, with a lovely stream of short-term visitors from overseas who join us for 2–3 months. Most of the students are aged between 60 and 80 years old. Students are very keen to learn English and they have shown some progress in learning everyday conversational Aussie basics; like “How are you going?”, “I’m fine, thank you”, “No worries”! Classes are held in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to stimulate conversations in English. Huge thanks to our patient teachers and helpers for creating such a welcoming space.

-Linda Lee Yong



Confidence grew, learning felt hands-on, and kids left proud of what they made.



Homework Club

Homework Club began with a simple aim: give local kids a place to do homework with others and make friends across year levels. After school, primary students drop in with readers, maths sheets, spelling lists, oral presentations and “I’m stuck on this bit” moments. NHHN staff and volunteers pull up a chair beside them and break tasks into manageable steps, celebrating the wins, and keeping the vibe encouraging.

One of our favourite parts is the cross-age learning. Older students model how to plan a paragraph or show working in maths; younger ones return the favour with reading practice and quick-fire quiz cards. By the end of term, kids who didn’t know each other are waving at the shops, saying hi at the park, and organising kick-to-kick after club.

During Science Week we had Animals of Oz present a native wildlife, sparking big questions and even bigger smiles, and students followed up with a build-a-habitat activity to design shelters using simple, recycled materials. Confidence grew, learning felt hands-on, and kids left proud of what they made.

Huge thanks to Rahul, Clare, Alice and Anika for showing up every week without fail! For being patient, steady, and the last to leave so the space is packed down and ready for the next day.





REPORTS



In this section

- President's Report
- Financial Snapshot
- Treasurer's Report
- Year in Review
- Financial Audit Report
- Manager's Report
- Volunteer of the Year
- Our Partners





President's Report



Dear Members and Community,

As I reflect on the 12 months to June 30 2025, I am awed by the team's and our volunteers' accomplishments. This year has been a testament to the power of vision, leadership, connection and inclusion, values that exemplify the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.

I'm pleased to report that we concluded the financial year with a small surplus after a forecast deficit, which not only demonstrates our commitment to fiscal responsibility but the hard work of Bre in her grant-application capacity and the ongoing fundraising efforts of the team and community. Of note this year, new initiatives including movie nights, trivia nights, bake sales and 'paint and sip' events have helped move the needle in the House's fundraising capacity. An extraordinary amount of work goes into organising these activities and the staff attend and participate over and above the hours they are paid to do. Deb Kuch will report in her Treasurer's Report in more detail about the financials.

Our activities now number more than 40 distinct events and ongoing weekly programs that serve hundreds of community members. From the beloved Community Lunch every Thursday, to innovative initiatives like the

holiday program and Community Art Laneway project, we have created spaces where neighbors become friends and diversity becomes our greatest strength. The weekly Homework Club continues to support our young community members, while programs like Scam Workshops help protect our more vulnerable residents. Among my favourites to participate are the trivia nights, dumpling festival (my goodness, so many dumplings!), Diwali, movie nights and community lunch.

The past year has also seen a strengthening of our partnerships and collaborations with Monash Council on social inclusion initiatives, particularly through the Caring Together program launch, which exemplifies our commitment to working with key stakeholders to address broader community challenges.

Like many community organisations, we face challenges with having to rely on funding that is not automatically recurring, an increase in demand for services, and finite pool of volunteers. Through strategic planning and community support, the team creatively and tenaciously continue to find solutions and next year will again apply those strengths to continue to guarantee the viability of the terrific programs.

Behind the vibrant programming lies the critical work of strategic planning and governance that ensures our long-term viability. This year, our Committee of Management has focused intensively on developing sustainable revenue streams beyond traditional grant funding, establishing a plan that will see an increase in corporate partnerships, requests for private donations and larger fundraising programs to provide financial stability and longer-term viability of the House.



The NHNH team is caring and genuinely passionate about making a difference.

- Zeba



The contributions of the COM members is wonderful and like all volunteers, they undertake it willingly and with as much energy as capacity allows. I would like to particularly acknowledge Minelle Croner who, after two years as our bright, organised and diligent policy-keeping Secretary, is moving on. And to Joe Natoli who, after just over ten years on the COM, in a range of roles, is focusing his efforts on his local community of Ballarat. I'd like to make special note of Joe's willingness over several years to step into different roles as there have been gaps that needed to be filled. The selflessness required to do this has been invaluable to the continued running of the COM and for that we are grateful to him.

We are well into the new financial year and our strategic priorities remain the same – to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the House, which we intend to do via deliberate collaboration with local businesses, relationship development with donors and larger fundraising efforts. Through the local community group there have also been suggestions for capital improvements to the site and while there are challenges with this because of the nature of the buildings and play area, and the cost involved, we welcome the opportunity to improve areas of the site for those who use the space.

I would like to specifically acknowledge and thank our exceptional staff team led by Bre Wilkinson, whose outstanding communication, energy and leadership come together to lead the team brilliantly. The other members of the staff team are to be commended for their unbelievable passion and dedication to continually delivering more for the people who gather at the House. To our many volunteers who

contributed an innumerable amount of hours this year, thank you and to the dedicated committee members who provide strategic governance and countless volunteer hours, and our community partners, without whose ongoing influence we wouldn't exist.

Most importantly, thank you to every community member who has walked through our doors, participated in our programs, shared a meal with us, or simply called this House their other home. You are the heartbeat of Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.

Together, we continue to fulfill our mission of providing an open and safe place of diversity and inclusion where lifelong learning and connection flourish, making opportunities available to **EVERYONE** in our community without exception.

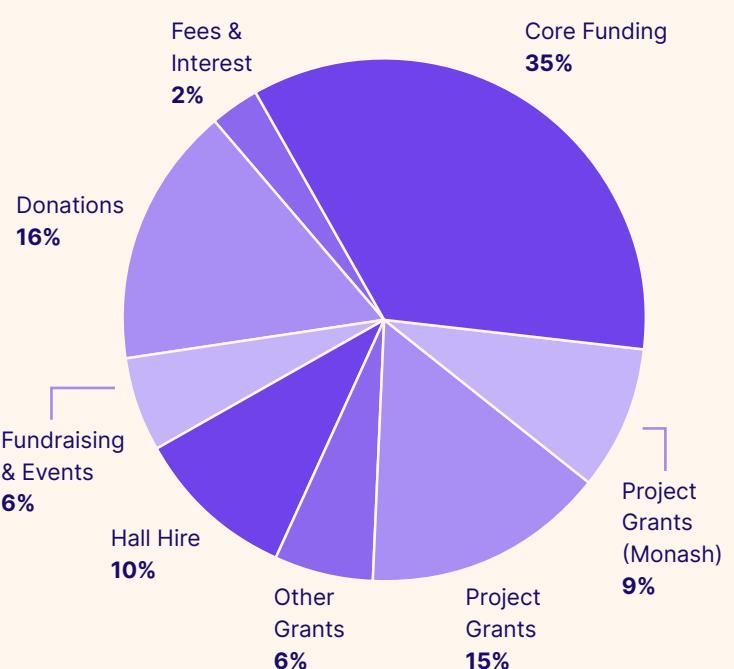
Kate Sykes
President, NHNH



Financial Snapshot

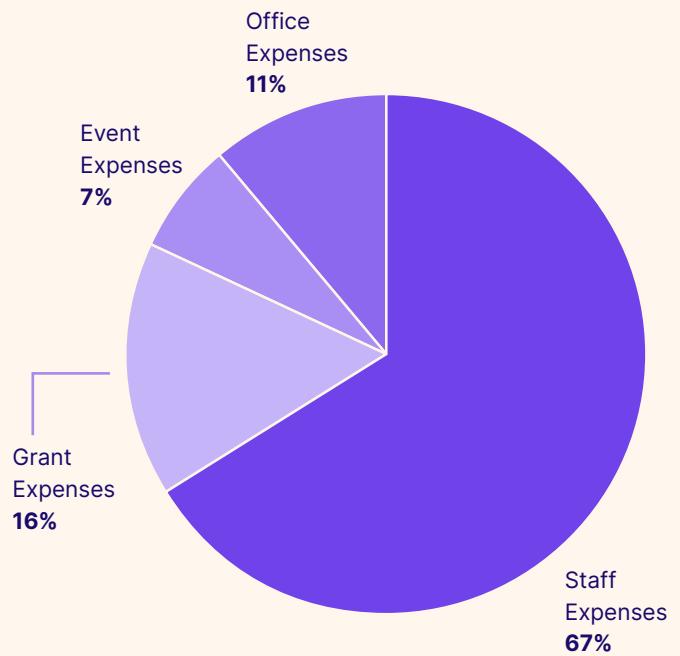
Income

Core Funding	35%	\$100,334
Project Grants (Monash Council)	9%	\$26,200
Project Grants (Other Funders)	15%	\$44,074
Other Grants	6%	\$17,540
Hall Hire	10%	\$29,344
Fundraising & Events	6%	\$18,458
Donations	16%	\$47,286
Fees and Interest	2%	\$6,590
Total Income		\$289,826*



Expenses

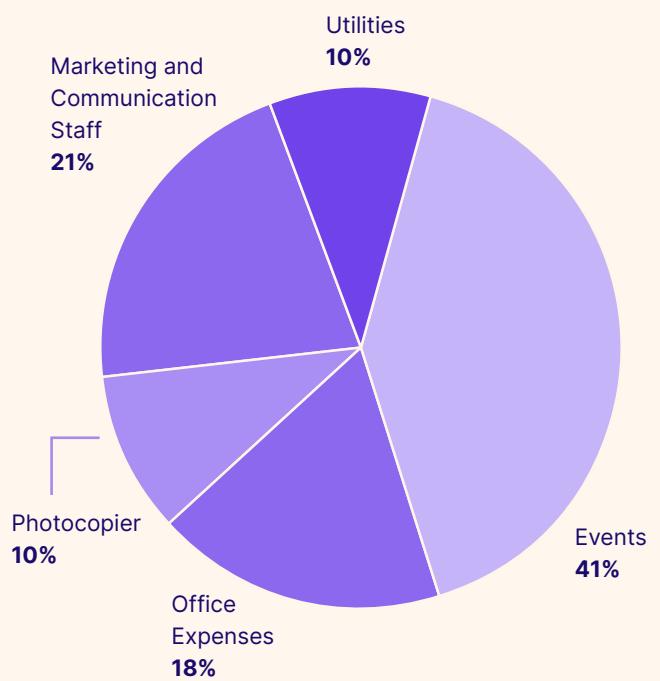
Staff Expenses	67%	\$192,828
Grant expenses	16%	\$45,197
Event expenses	7%	\$19,487
Office Expenses	11%	\$31,654
Total expenses		\$289,166



*Includes end of year adjustments relating to amounts accrued on balance sheet

How we use donations

Utilities	10%	\$4,766
Events	41%	\$19,487
Office Expenses	18%	\$8,354
New photocopier	10%	\$4,850
Marketing and Communications Staff	21%	\$9,828
Total	100%	\$47,286



Three Year Overview

Year	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
Income	196,932	239,709	291,845
Expense	197,416	246,506	289,166
Profit / Loss	-484	-6797	2,679

Treasurer's Report

Notting Hill Community Association Inc (NHCA) is a not for profit organisation that seeks to achieve the purpose of enhancing the wellbeing, health, prosperity, liveability, quality of life and life-long learning of residents of Notting Hill and to undertake community development activities to strengthen the community in these ways.

Our financial stewardship ensures transparency, accountability, and sustainability in fulfilling this mission.

Financial Overview

NHCA achieved a net profit of \$2,679 for financial year 24/25.

Like all of us, the Neighbourhood House continued to find its 'new normal' during the year, seeking to understand and adapt to the changing needs of the community, and reduced government support in the post-pandemic era.

These efforts have been rewarded with a return to profitability for the first time since the pandemic related funding was withdrawn.

Revenue

Gross revenue of \$289,826 for the year was 39% above budget, and a 20.8% increase on the prior year's revenue of \$239,969.

Key sources of revenue during the year were;

- Grants: \$188,147 (+21.8%)
- Fundraising and Donations: \$56,029 (+13.5%)
- Class Fees: \$2,631 (-39%)
- Hall Hire: \$29,344 (+9.6%)
- Events: \$9,715
- Interest: \$3,959 (-21.1%)

Management and staff are to be commended for their unrelenting efforts in applying for, winning and executing on grant opportunities for the benefit of the Notting Hill community. It is only with the valued support of Monash Council, Department of Families Fairness and Housing, Department of Social Services, Carers Victoria, Pinewood Community Bank, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, Clayton Hotel, Good Things Foundation Australia, Magistrates' Court of Victoria, and Hope Christian Church Melbourne Inc. that the Neighbourhood House is able to provide many of the events and activities that are the lifeblood of this community.

Grants awarded to the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House have provided approximately 65% of the association's revenue in both financial years 2024 & 2025.

Grant funding is however awarded for predetermined projects that have been fully costed. Whilst they provide great benefit to the community, they stretch the limited resources that are available as there is considerable time and effort expended in seeking and applying for grants which generally do not assist with covering the day to day operating expenses of the organisation.

This is why any donation, big or small, and whether in money or in kind, is so valuable.

Expenses

Total expenses for the year were \$289,166, an increase of \$42,660 (+17.3%) on the prior year.

Payroll expenses continue to be the largest expense item totalling \$192,828, an increase of 4.15% on the previous year (\$185,136).

Operating expenses of \$96,338 were incurred during the year, an increase of 57% on the prior year (+\$34,968).

Key operating expenses for the year include;

- Utilities: \$4,766
- Events: \$19,487
- Grant expenditure: \$45,197
- Food pantry: \$3,248
- Office equipment: \$2,659
- Repairs & maintenance: \$1,902
- Registration fees: \$1,683
- Staff amenities & training: \$3,610
- Information technology: \$6,146

Profit

NHCA recorded a modest operating profit of \$660 and net profit of \$2,678.

Financial Position

Total assets at 30 June 2025 were \$189,952

Assets comprise; Cash and Cash Equivalents \$161,503, Receivables \$5,754, Office Equipment \$6,595, Kitchens \$5,562, Furniture & Fittings \$10,538.

Liabilities at 30 June 2025 were \$64,735.

Liabilities comprise; Accounts Payable \$11,789, Income in Advance \$18,112, Superannuation \$5,257, Employee Entitlements \$23,035, Surety for Hall Hire \$6,542.

The organisation had net assets at 30 June 2025 of \$125,217 (+\$2,679).

Audit

The financial statements for the 2025 financial year have been audited by Mr Garry Andrews, CPA RTA.

The year ahead

The budget for the current year (FY26) once again provides the challenge of meeting a shortfall in revenue of \$25,000.

With the support of the staff and committee of management, our manager Bre will continue to apply for (and win!) a number of grants for the benefit of the community. However, as foreshadowed earlier, additional grants are essentially break-even on a stand-alone basis and do not contribute to the overall financial performance of the organisation.

It is integral to the long term sustainability of the organisation that we increase uncommitted revenue from sources such as the 'pay it forward' initiative, donations, fund raising, class fees, hall hire and sponsorship.

In closing

A significant amount of work is undertaken behind the scenes in order to ensure that the organisation's finances are managed in a prudent manner whilst at the same time seeking to offer opportunities to the community and friends of the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.

I would like to thank both Naomi Lim and Bre Wilkinson for their diligent work during the year, and in particular the conscientious and thoughtful oversight that they apply when managing the finances of the organisation on a day to day basis.

On behalf of the committee of management, I extend our gratitude to all of the individuals and organisations that together create and sustain this wonderful community – the staff, volunteers, helpers, donors, benefactors, grantors and friends. Or to put it another way, we thank YOU!

Deb Kuch
Treasurer

Year in Review

Largest Events

- Diwali
- Laneway Celebration
- Spring Market

First Time Events

- Rainbow Families Fun Day
- Bus Trips
- Fundraising with a Paintbrush
- Polymer Clay Workshops

New Programs

- Kids School Holiday Program
- Global Meals, Local Plates Dinners
- Caring Together
- Morning Mingle



The House is a connecting point for the WHOLE community.

-Trac



Financial Audit Report

September 15, 2025

The Manager and Committee of Management,
Notting Hill Community Association Inc.
37 Westerfield Drive
Notting Hill Vic 3168

Garry Andrews,
Accountant, auditor, tax agent
ABN 67526517195

1 Higham Street,
Cheltenham Vic 3192

Phone: (03) 9584 9871, 0409834618
Email: garry.andrews5@gmail.com

Auditor's report for the year ended 30th June, 2025

I report that I have audited the accounts of Notting Hill Community Association Inc. (ABN 19 544 747 650) trading as Notting Hill Neighbourhood House, and in my opinion;

- (a) all the financial reports give a true and fair view of all the transactions for the year, and
- (b) at the date of this report there are most reasonable grounds to believe debts will be paid when they become due, no significant financial issues have arisen since the balance date, and
- (c) the financial records have been properly drawn up as required by the Australian accounting standards.

The finance officer, Naomi Lim has provided the financial statements, hard copy along with use of the computer, further Naomi has answered queries to my complete satisfaction, all the accounting schedules align with the accounts the reports are based on accrual accounting. Further, the manager, Breannon Wilkinson, has provided a positive outlook coupled with realism and aware of challenges.

The Profit or Loss statement has recorded a profit of \$ 2,679 for the year, a significant increase being funds received for Grants,

almost a \$ 34000 increase over the previous year, funds received from Grants account for two thirds in the total income, expenses in line with expectations, payroll a slight increase, fixed asset purchases \$ 14986 all to be depreciated over future years.

The Balance Sheet has recorded a net worth of \$ 125,217. Various schedules have been examined, these include, Income in Advance, The Asset Register, Entitlements (all), Receivables, Other Debtors, Other Current Liabilities, all bank statements have been sighted.

Not for profit organizations are not guaranteed a short or long term ongoing existence, however, this Neighbourhood House is a vibrant active place to be, it exists to enhance the lives and benefit all people in the community and is most importantly led by the right people who are passionate about their responsibilities and ably supported by the many volunteers, they still need to be prepared for upcoming opportunities and changes if required.



Garry Andrews
Certified Practicing Accountant, CPA, RTA.

Profits or Loss Statement

Income	30 Jun 25	30 Jun 24
Grants		
Grants - Monash Neighbourhood House		
Grants - DFFH NHCP	\$10,000	\$10,000
Grants - DFFH Cultural Event	\$100,334	\$96,889
Grants - DFFH Food Relief	\$4,990	\$0
Grants - Others	\$21,828	\$0
Grants - SRL Community Support	\$9,550	\$9,296
Grants - DSS Volunteer Grant	\$0	\$11,255
Grants - Carers Victoria	\$3,000	\$3,500
Grants - Pinewood Community Bank	\$15,746	\$0
Grants - Monash Laneway	\$6,500	\$0
Grants - Monash - Providing First Aid	\$4,800	\$0
Grants - Monash- Com Event Mkt Day	\$0	\$20,000
Grants - Monash Community Strengthening	\$0	\$3,500
Total Grants	\$11,400	\$0
\$188,148	\$154,440	
Operating Income		
Class Fees	\$2,631	\$4,308
Events and Programs Fees	\$9,715	\$0
Donations - General	\$29,496	\$28,322
Donation - Court Fund	\$17,790	\$675
Fundraising	\$8,743	\$20,390
Bank interest	\$3,959	\$5,020
Hall Hire	\$29,344	\$26,774
Misc Income	\$0	\$41
Total Operating Income	\$101,678	\$85,528
Total Income	\$289,826	\$239,969
Expenses	30 Jun 25	30 Jun 24
Operating Expenses		
Audit Fees	\$185	\$150
Advertising & Marketing	\$26	\$0
Bank Fees	\$410	\$763
Bad Debts	\$0	\$48
Cleaning Consumables	\$293	\$645
Electricity	\$1,697	\$1,363
Gas	\$2,481	\$2,457
Water Charges	\$589	\$571
Depreciation & Amortisation	\$5,114	\$2,685
Event Expenditure	\$19,487	\$9,621
Food Pantry Expenses	\$3,248	\$355
Grant Expenditure	\$45,197	\$32,456
Internet Expenses	\$1,124	\$1,190
Office Equipment <1000	\$2,659	\$948
Printing	\$399	\$0
Registration Fees - NIECH	\$80	\$66
Registration Fees - Other	\$1,603	\$815
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,902	\$897
Recruiting Costs	\$0	\$745
Staff Amenities	\$1,282	\$66
Staff Training Expenses	\$2,328	\$1,179
Stationery & Office Supplies	\$875	\$2,318
Software	\$0	\$286
Subscription MYOB	\$1,622	\$1,647
Technical Support	\$3,400	\$99
Misc Expenses	\$0	\$0
Merchant Fees	\$337	\$0
Total Operating Expenses	\$96,338	\$61,370
Payroll Expenses		
Wages & Salaries Expenses	\$155,640	\$162,936
Staff Allowances	\$428	\$195
Long Service Leave Levy	\$2,481	\$2,569
Leave Accruals	\$13,598	(\$2,349)
Work Cover Premiums	\$2,867	\$3,861
Superannuation Expenses	\$17,813	\$17,924
Total Payroll Expenses	\$192,828	\$185,136
Total Expenses	\$289,166	\$246,506
Operating Profit	\$660	(\$6,537)
Other Income		
Reimbursement of Long Svc Leave	\$2,379	(\$260)
Total Other Income	\$2,379	(\$260)
Other Expenses		
Loss on Sale of Assets	\$360	\$0
Total Other Expenses	\$360	\$0
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$2,679	(\$6,797)

Balance sheet

Assets	30 Jun 25	30 Jun 24
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Bendigo Bank Everyday 1543	\$23,412.16	\$16,127.57
Bendigo Bank Savings 1568	\$48,391.53	\$51,730.29
Bendigo Bank Dr Card 5890	\$281.34	\$1,206.10
Petty Cash	\$122.21	\$122.21
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 1	\$26,538.86	\$25,000.00
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2	\$62,757.35	\$59,911.06
Total Bank Accounts	\$161,503.45	\$154,097.23
Other Current Assets		
Trade Debtors	\$2,717.50	\$1,898.50
Other Debtors	\$3,036.80	\$2,476.86
Total Other Current Assets	\$5,754.30	\$4,375.36
Total Current Assets	\$167,257.75	\$158,472.59
Non-Current Assets		
Office Equipment		
Office Equipment At Cost	\$8,927.00	\$5,427.00
Accum. Depr. Office Equipment	(\$2,332.38)	(\$1,548.96)
Total Office Equipment	\$6,594.62	\$3,878.04
Kitchens		
Kitchens At Cost	\$5,936.32	\$4,689.25
Accum. Depr. Kitchens	(\$374.72)	(\$4,689.25)
Total Kitchens	\$5,561.60	\$0.00
Furniture & Fittings		
Furniture & Fittings At Cost	\$23,452.11	\$19,252.31
Accum. Depr. Furniture & Fitti	(\$12,914.53)	(\$9,948.29)
Total Furniture & Fittings	\$10,537.58	\$9,304.02
Total Non-Current Assets	\$22,693.80	\$13,182.06
Total Assets	\$189,951.55	\$171,654.65
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$234.54	\$0.00
GST Paid	(\$139.41)	\$0.00
Total GST Liabilities	\$95.13	\$0.00
PAYG Withholding Payable	\$9,502.00	\$10,540.00
Other Current Liabilities	\$759.99	\$867.89
Income in advance	\$18,112.13	\$13,125.41
Superannuation Payable	\$5,256.92	\$5,651.49
Trade Creditors	\$1,431.55	\$3,988.92
Annual Leave Liability	\$14,164.36	\$6,744.13
Long Service Leave	\$8,870.44	\$2,692.98
HallHire Bond Receipts/Payment	\$6,542.21	\$5,506.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$64,639.60	\$49,116.82
Total Liabilities	\$64,734.73	\$49,116.82
Net Assets	\$125,216.82	\$122,537.83
Equity		
30 Jun 25		
Retained Earnings	\$122,537.83	\$129,334.56
Current Year Earnings	\$2,678.99	(\$6,796.73)
Total Equity	\$125,216.82	\$122,537.83

Manager's Report



This year felt like a real step up for the House!

My heart was to make NHH a place where people from all walks of life feel they belong. I really wanted us to use this year to widen the table. Launching programs for kids and families, carers and seniors, culturally diverse neighbours, LGBTQIA+ community members, and folks still finding their feet in a new place.

For me it wasn't about cramming our timetable but about finding ways of reaching those who haven't connected with the House before. I've watched generations mix, friendships form across schools and languages, and first-timers settle in like they've always been here.

My hope is that as you read this report, you feel the same joy I've felt seeing ideas become weekly rhythms and events turn into real connections. I'm proud of how far the House has come and I'm sooooo excited for what's next.

This year we delivered 15 grant-funded projects, our biggest year yet and each one each making a real difference for the community. For me, success isn't just winning a grant; it's building programs that outlast their funding, and I'm proud that most are continuing beyond their grant period.

The grants this year helped us open many doors, like meeting families through our School Holiday Program and Science Week wildlife sessions, lifting digital confidence with Get Online Week Canva workshops and scam-awareness sessions. We've been able to celebrate culture and belonging at Sinhalese



So many initiatives that bring the whole community together, and actually make it a community, not just a bunch of individual people who live near each other.

- Kathy





NHNH truly welcomes... its various activities promote multicultural acceptance and inter-generational support. The fact that there are so many volunteers is a testimony to the wonderful staff who so generously give their time and skills.

- Ruth



& Tamil New Year, Pride Party & Rainbow Families Day, and Diwali. We've added colour to our streets by expanding the Community Laneway and publishing Painted Stories. Our community is strengthened through everyday care with Food Relief, Morning Mingle breakfast club, and the Caring Together Hub launch; and we keep neighbours connecting around the stove with Cooking with Neighbours.

All these grants open the door but it's our people that fill it with community

We have had some big changes to our creative team this year. Since 2020, Jenny has been the creative force of NHNH shaping our visuals and lifting our social media presence. She also championed the Notting Hill Community Laneway, bringing artists and neighbours together, turning ideas into artworks, and making the laneway a place where anyone can share their story. Thank you, Jenny, for the creativity and heart you've poured into the House you've left a vibrant legacy painted across our walls.

This year we also welcomed Jamie and Vincent to the team. After two years of volunteering, running painting workshops and designing our annual report, Jamie has stepped in as our Graphic Designer. She has been leading a thoughtful logo refresh that now reflects our vision and values more clearly and we are so excited to share it with you. Vincent joined as our Communications & Design Intern, slotting in seamlessly and bringing fresh creative know-how and great energy.

And of course I would like to acknowledge my incredibly dedicated staff team - Rahul, Naomi, Joanne and Yan for their contributions to the NHNH community. Each of you brings unique skills and passion to the House and we wouldn't be who we are today without you!

As you read this report, you'll see the steady hands of so many volunteers at work. None of it would be possible without their generous in-kind support and the tireless efforts of everyone who gives so generously.

A special shout-out to Kathy ("Dog Nanny"), who has been the key volunteer behind our Container Deposit Scheme. Every couple of months she carts our purple bin to the depot, turning bottles and cans into donations...\$160 this year! It's a simple, sustainable way to reduce waste and fund programs our community loves. Thank you, Kathy, for showing how small actions make a big difference.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our invaluable partners, whose ongoing support has been essential to our success. Kate Bollafi and Karena Johnson from Monash Council, Ellen from Mazon Australia, Shashi from Friends of the Children, and all our friends at Hope Christian Church, Sent Collective, Clayton Church of Christ, Grace Baptist Church and Community Bank Pinewood - Bendigo Bank. Your support has made our dreams possible.

Volunteer of the Year

Each year at our annual meeting we recognise outstanding volunteers whose service exemplifies our values and strengthens our community.

The award is named in honour of Lucas Yong, a volunteer whose initiative, reliability, and generosity continues to significantly shape our programs and culture.

The award acknowledges a volunteer whose commitment, leadership, and innovation have delivered outstanding impact for NHHN and our neighbourhood.

On-going Contribution

Our award winners demonstrate a steady presence for at least eighteen months, active across programs and events, consistently showing up, following through, and representing NHHN with care.

Inspiring Others

Encourages others to participate, transforming ideas into shared action and creating space for volunteers of every age and culture.

Initiative and Innovation

They turn good ideas into practical improvements; launching or strengthening programs, and adding simple fixes that make our spaces and activities work better for everyone.

Volunteers are the fabric of NHHN. You stock the pantry, greet people when they walk in, run the BBQ, tutor kids, wash windows, tend to the garden and notice who needs a hand. This award is our way of saying: we see you, and we're grateful.

2024 Award Winners

Last year we awarded our Volunteer of the Year to Deyun Huang and (Sally) Tang Xiangning. Deyun began in the garden with just a few beds and a watering can to start. Rain, hail or shine, she turned up every day to tend to our veggies. Bit by bit, she expanded the beds, introduced new plants and set up a compost system. Deyun is always first to arrive, last to leave, with a warm smile and a helping hand.

After moving to Notting Hill to be closer to family, Sally crossed paths with Deyun and one simple invitation to "come along and help" sparked a beautiful partnership. She is graceful in the way she greets people; she notices when the staff look overwhelmed and picks up the jobs no one really sees.

Together they've become a picture of what volunteering can look like, committed, kind, and quietly effective. They look out for one another and draw others in too. If something needs doing, chances are they're already doing it...without fuss and always with a smile.

Sally and Deyun have had a hand in almost every corner of NHHN. Growing the garden and keeping our spaces welcoming; leading the dance exercise classes; prepping veggies, serving meals, and washing up after community lunches; unpacking deliveries and setting up for the Community Pantry and bread distribution; setting up and packing down tables and chairs; and rolling dumplings for our annual festival. They invite neighbours to English Class, support the Friday Friendship Circle, and keep the Mandarin-speaking community informed via WeChat. They don't seek out recognition and they never let language be a barrier. Thank you both for giving your time and energy to making the Notting Hill Neighbourhood House a community for all.



Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Annual Report 2025



Our Partners

The Notting Hill Neighbourhood House, its staff, volunteers, and the Committee of Management would like to acknowledge and thank the City of Monash for its co-operation and support, and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for its ongoing financial support.

We are members of:



Organisations that we love partnering with include:



Families,
Fairness
and Housing



A conversation could change a life.





Notting Hill Community Association Inc.

If you wish to support Notting Hill Neighbourhood House (NHNH) through donations, volunteering, or project partnerships, please contact us at:

(03) 9561 0114

nhoffice@nottinghillnh.org.au



nottinghillnh.org.au



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