

Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative Ltd

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





Our Vision

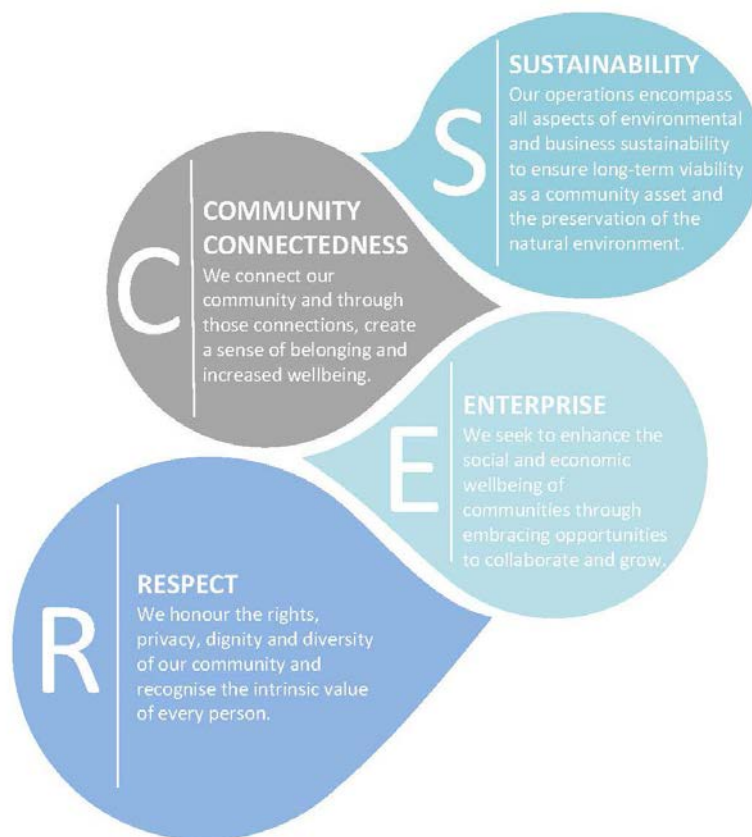
We believe communities in Hobsons Bay will be interconnected, vibrant, resilient and will express their creativity and culture through the arts.

Our Purpose

Through partnerships with Council, artists and the community, we deliver a vibrant arts and cultural program that supports community wellbeing. We are committed to providing an accessible and inclusive space — including a public gallery — with an environment for connection, creative exploration, experimentation, presentation and opportunities for social enterprise

Our Values

We operate in accordance with **four** key values that define all aspects of our work and our approach. We demonstrate these values in our work with each other, the way in which we work with the community, and the way in which we govern our organisation.



Our History

The Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre is on the site of the old Altona Hospital which was closed by the then State Government in 1996. The community rallied to form the Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative Ltd who purchased the hospital and redeveloped the site to house a community centre, art gallery and activity rooms. Named after Dr Louis Joel, first doctor at the Altona Hospital, the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre was opened in November 2005.



Board of Management & Staff 2020-2021

Chair	Maree Duffield OAM
Deputy Chair	Catherine Curtain
Secretary	Rebekah Townsend (ceased May 2021) Anna Cooshna (commenced May 2021)
Treasurer	Terry Heazlewood OAM (ceased August 2021) Richard Hansen (commenced August 2021)
Members	Carol Franklyn James Bush
Centre Manager	Kim Reilly
Administration Officers	Lyn Hunt Danielle Whelan

Funding Bodies, Corporate Sponsors and Partners

The Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative Ltd would like to thank the following Funding Bodies for their financial support, corporations for their valued sponsorship, State and Federal Government departments for project grants and project partners:

Hobsons Bay City Council	Sidney Myer Foundation
Department of Families Fairness & Housing (DFFH)	Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres
Mobil Altona Refinery	Australian Communities Foundation
Department of Industry, Innovation and Science	Hobsons Bay Community Fund
Ryk Eksteen, Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd	Victorian State Government
Mulcahy Butera Property Managers	Australia Post
Victorian State Government	Bendigo Bank



We acknowledge that we are on traditional lands of the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung people and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present, and, through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.





Message from the Chair

The past 12 months mark a unique period in all our lives, we have not only had to live local but, for many of us, also work or educate from home. In doing so, many Hobsons Bay residents have discovered a renewed sense of community, an appreciation and awareness of what our community offers. For some it has been a challenging period of loss and hardship, for others a chance to stop and reevaluate what is important.

The Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre (LJACC) will play a pivotal role in rebuilding resilience, well-being and capacity in the Hobsons Bay community through its arts and community development programs.

In March the Board of Management underwent preparation for its 2021-24 Strategic Plan, we are thrilled with the direction that it gives both the Board and Centre over the next three years. It reflects our ambitions for expansion, innovation and diversification of partnerships while maintaining long-term financial and environmental viability and sustainability. The plan is located on the LJACC website:

[LJACC Strategic Plan 2021-24](#)

Despite restrictions due to COVID-19 and current interruptions to service delivery, LJACC has delivered wonderful programs such as:

- Visual Arts programs for NDIS funded participants
- Culture In Cafes program delivered through the Hobsons Bay Make It Happen grants program
- Exhibitions by textile arts groups and the Hobsons Bay Arts Society.

Friendship, health and wellbeing are paramount and fostered in the Boys Only BBQ and the Kings of the Kitchen Programs. The July lockdown closed the Centre again and all activity was suspended. We are looking forward to opening the doors, welcoming our community and commencing programs very soon. Where face to face programming has not been possible, our talented staff have managed to create stunning and innovative online courses and exhibitions, as well as regular newsletters to keep our community engaged and connected.

I would like to thank our wonderful staff and committed volunteers for their hard work and innovation over the past twelve months.

Thank you to: our manager, Kim Reilly, who has maintained morale throughout this period and continued to drive innovation and creativity; our brilliant and resilient administration employees, Danielle Whelan and Lyn Hunt, who have tirelessly supported Kim and the Board with their invaluable knowledge of community development, systems and procedures that enable community engagement; our many volunteers who maintain or support services in and around the Centre and whose work often frees capacity for staff to do their essential tasks.

Thank you to our stakeholders and funders:

- Hobsons Bay City Council (HBCC)
- Victorian State Government (DFFH)
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
- Hobsons Bay Arts Society and U3A, our local community, and the arts community.

Recurrent funding from HBCC and DFFH assists the activities of the LJACC. We also acknowledge facility grants from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in 2020-21 that have enabled significant renovations and repairs. Local industry supporters such as Mobil and Bunnings are also acknowledged for their partnerships and contributions to innovative programs.

The Board has seen a few changes in 2020/21 with the resignation of Terry Heazlewood our Treasurer and Board member for 12 years. Terry's kindness, commitment and wisdom will be missed. Terry steered the Board through major auditing and compliance changes with patience and skill. Rebekah Townsend was our secretary for three years and also resigned to move interstate. Rebekah was a skilled insurance and risk management practitioner and the Board certainly valued her ability to whiz through onerous documentation and make sense of it.

To the rest of the Board, you are an amazing and talented group of people who selflessly volunteer your time and professional skills to the organisation and LJACC. It has been a pleasure being your Chair



for the past three years. Catherine Curtain will be the incoming Chair and I wish her all the best in steering the Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative through its next exciting period of growth and development.

Our Centre Manager, Kim Reilly, is retiring October 2021. We have been extremely privileged to have such a creative, intelligent and inclusive manager for the past six years. In this period, Kim has overseen significant changes to the LJACC. She has risen to every challenge that the Board has presented and exceeded expectations. Being a manager of a community arts centre is no mean feat — it requires exceptional management and small business skills as well as arts management abilities, creativity and vision. Her professional approach to programing is apparent in quality curated gallery exhibitions, diverse program opportunities, accessing experienced presenters and promoting marketing and stakeholder development. Kim's professional and skilled approach to networking and relationship building with employees, volunteers and stakeholders is well recognised by her industry peers.

In conjunction with the Board, Kim conducted a systematic overhaul of the Centre's policies and procedures, computer systems, security systems

and building maintenance programs. Through the commitment and strength of our Centre Manager, LJACC is a well-oiled machine. The Board and employees are confident in its processes and direction forward because of the legacy Kim has left. We wish Kim all the best in her retirement and also thank her family for being so supportive to both Kim and the LJACC family.

As we move into 2022, the Board is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Centre Manager, Gina Kennedy. Gina comes to us with a strong arts management and business background. We look forward to working with Gina as we roll out our 2021-24 Strategic Plan over the next three years

Hold onto your seats everyone, we are in for exciting times ahead as we deliver on our vision:

We believe communities in Hobsons Bay will be interconnected, vibrant, resilient and will express their creativity and culture through the arts.

Maree Duffield
Hobsons Bay Community Advancement
Co-operative Ltd



Artwork created by Nikki in the Culture in Cafes program.



Finance Report

During the 2021 fiscal year we have seen COVID-19 continue to challenge the lives and livelihoods of everyone including the Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative Ltd (the Co-operative) and the Louis Joel Arts Centre (the Centre).

The forced closure of the physical building has had a knock-on impact forcing a flexible approach to the attainment of the Centre's mission to deliver meaningful programs that benefit the community. This has seen the Centre branch out and tap into the digital revolution using this medium to reach out to the community and provide much needed distractions to the pressures of the world.

The uncertainty created by the pandemic and the closure of the Centre's buildings has had an influence on the activities of both the Co-operative and the Centre, and evidence of this can be seen through the financial results for 2021.

The 2021 Financial Year

The 2021 financial year saw the Co-operative realise a net surplus which is a great result. However, understanding why is vital especially when we as members of the Co-operative are planning for the future.

In fact, while the Co-operative saw a large surplus in the 2021 financial year, this was earned in a time when the Co-operatives traditional revenues fell. This was not unexpected. The forced closure of the Centre meant that people and groups were denied access, which in turn saw a drop in venue lease, hire and program revenues.

The surplus was achieved for two reasons:

1. the correlated drop in expenditure, the forced closure of the Centre saw variable costs such as utility bills, program expenses and cleaning expense fall; and
2. the financial assistance provided by the State and Federal Governments.

It must be noted that without the financial assistance provided by the State and Federal Governments the Co-operative would have struggled to achieve a surplus even with the 'belt tightening' measures that were put in place by the Board.

The 2022 Financial Year

This leads us into a few comments on the coming financial year. As I write this, Victoria has passed 200 days of lockdown, with an end date still to be determined.

Every day the Centre remains closed will further impact revenues. In addition, in the first part of the financial year we have also seen a drop in Government financial assistance, despite the Centre being unable to open.

These hits to Co-operative revenue will make the achievement of a surplus in current financial year difficult. Fortunately, while not ideal, the Co-operatives current financial health will be able to cover any deficit realised in the 2022 financial year.

The Board Response

This is not a position any successful organisation wants to be in. Therefore, the Board are already looking at measures to make sure this does not become a reoccurring theme.

One way of doing this will be to expand the revenue earning activities of the Centre. During the next financial year, a focus on increasing revenues via additional grants and program income via online activities will be occurring.

This is in line with the long-term vision of the Board which will see the Centre move towards a model whereby it is able to be self-sustained. This will allow the Co-operative to concentrate, not only on activities aimed on the long-term stability of the Centre, but also towards the growth and the reach of Co-operative for the benefit of the community.

The second measure will see the Co-operative finally pay off the mortgage taken out on the redevelopment of the Centre way back in 1997. This will be a momentous occasion, which is occurring ahead of schedule, and is a tribute to HBCAC Boards past and present who have all contributed to make sure that the Co-operative, and the Centre, have remained a 'going concern'.

Going forward this will give the Co-operative greater financial flexibility, freeing up additional funds that



can be reinvested back into the community through growth activities or through the day-to-day operation of the Centre.

Finally, to ensure the long-term viability of the Centre, the creation of what we on the Board like to term the 'rainy day — future development fund' is currently being investigated. We believe the creation of this fund will provide the following benefits:

- i) Segregate surplus cash from the operating cash of the Centre;
- ii) Earn a greater returns, than what would be earned from bank interest;
- iii) Become the first step towards future development activities of the Co-operative; and
- iv) Act as a safeguard, an insurance against for any future "rainy days".

To ensure this is done correctly, the Board has committed itself to complete the necessary due diligence actions, ensuring that any decision is well thought out and made for the benefit of the Co-operative and in turn the community.

Final Comments

We as a Board believe these actions will put the Co-operative into a financial position that is stronger than it has ever been before.

It is the hope that this strength will allow the Co-operative and the Centre grow and provide an even bigger footprint in the community.

Richard Hansen
B:Bus (Acc), CPA, MSCI
Hobsons Bay Community Advancement
Co-operative Ltd



▼ Cupcake Diplomacy

It was a lovely December day last year and everyone was excited and full of anticipation. Christmas was just around the corner; we were out of lockdown and the Louis Joel Centre could host a small Christmas function for its volunteers. We all arrived with name tags in place and an amazing spread on the table highlighted by the most stunning and elaborate handmade Christmas wreaths, beautiful food and amazing Christmas cupcakes.

As the initial chatter subsided Kim stood up and recognised each volunteer individually by name and contribution. Every introduction was accompanied with a personal story or anecdote and acknowledgement of their individual impact. Afterwards one of the volunteers commented on how “chuffed” she was that Kim had taken the time to notice her contribution as a volunteer and that it was held in equal esteem to everyone else. No one had done that before. She felt valued and appreciated.

This is the essence of Kim. It is seen in her ability to be inclusive, to make everyone feel respected and important whatever their contribution to the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre. Every gesture of

appreciation is given with authenticity and care, it is personalised or stamped with Kim’s trademark of hospitality and respect (and often good food!).

As a long-term member of the Board of Management and more recently Chair, I regard this is the essence of a good manager. That is: one who values her staff and the many colleagues around her and that enables the day to day business to run seemingly smoothly, when in fact, it is many hands working together with purpose and with great leadership from the top, that actually creates this.

Kim we all thank you — and will miss your scones and cupcakes.

Kim is a true Altona Community Icon.

I look forward to seeing what other community endeavors Kim will find herself involved in when she “retires” from the Centre.

Maree Duffield
Hobsons Bay Community Advancement
Co-operative Ltd



Carol, Desma and Kim at the Volunteers Christmas Party.

▼ Centre Manager's Report

It's time to say goodbye to the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre after six years in the Manager's role (and nine years before that in the administration role). It has been the absolutely the best time and it is so difficult to step away from something I have thoroughly enjoyed doing. The years of projects, new programs, the amazing events. And of course, the people — the community who make the Centre the busy, buzzing place it is.

The Centre has expanded its reach in the past few years — trying new programs, responding to changing needs in the community and supporting artists and creatives in any way possible. It has been an exciting era to be a part of and to significantly contribute to. As with all forms of growth, it needs steady guidance and nurturing to maintain a continuous journey of improvement and new phases of growth need varying forms of energy and input. I am so excited to see the continued growth of the Centre with the expertise and intuitive intelligence of the new Manager, Gina Kennedy.

There are so many people to thank for making the years at the Louis Joel Centre memorable. It's a big and bold statement to say that I couldn't have achieved what I have without the support of my family, but there it is — I simply couldn't have. My husband Graeme has been a constant support — from listening to the good and the bad to the never-ending willingness to do what needed to be done at the Centre — mending, maintaining, advising, gardening, attending and mentoring. He has supported me, the staff, the volunteers and the Board — whenever he was needed, he would be there.

Our children (Georgia and Nick) have essentially spent their teenage years growing up at the Louis Joel Centre. They know the building as well as we do and have also worked and volunteered at the Centre. Whenever it was 'all hands-on deck' — the family were there. Georgia has volunteered with Kings of the Kitchen, teaching patchwork classes, catering functions and is an important part of the volunteer group. Our Board has recognised the 'package' that was me and the Reilly family — but that is the nature working in a community space — we all do whatever we can to help the vision and mission of the organisation.



Kim and Georgia during evening patchwork classes.



Kim and Tania at the launch of Tania's exhibition *Stitched & Framed 'Mindful Meanderings'*

As importantly, the biggest of thank yous has to go to the incredible administration team members, Lyn and Danielle (and their predecessor, Robert). Any management role relies on having capable and talented staff. Robert started in the role as the administration officer in 2015 and he sadly resigned when he moved to Geelong in 2017. At that time, the Board agreed for an increase in the number of administration hours for the Centre and Lyn and Danielle were employed on two separate time frames with an overlap on Wednesdays. With the assistance of these amazing women, we have been able to expand on our programs and the number of projects we deliver. They are simply wonderful and I'm forever grateful for their constant support, their skills and growing confidence and their readiness to always laugh with me.



A special thank you to Jordyn — who started as a volunteer in the Gallery and who is now a part-time project worker looking after a lot of the Gallery processes. I've known Jordyn since she was 10 years old as a Girl Guide (I was once a leader of Girl Guides in Altona) but lost contact with her until she popped up one day as a young adult wanting to volunteer in the Gallery. Jordyn's flair for curating exhibitions is incredible — and she has supported and helped many artists over the years she has been with us. I was very pleased the day we could offer Jordyn a part-time Gallery Administration role and it has been a privilege to see her confidence and aptitude increase over the years.

My employer is the Co-op and I report to the Board of Management. This is a group of volunteers who come together to lead the organisation towards achieving the vision and mission. As a group and individually, they have provided a great deal of support over the years and a wealth of advice, guidance and mentoring, and I offer special thanks to Maree Duffield. Maree has been on the Board longer than the Centre has been open and the history of the Centre sits with Maree. She has been a constant mentor and supporter for all staff over the years and I thank her wholeheartedly for her support of me over the past six years.

I must also thank Terry Heazlewood — also a Board member until August this year. Terry's support as Treasurer was invaluable. He came into the Centre every two weeks to work with me and the bookkeeper, Cathy, to keep the Centre and Co-op's finances on track and under control. Terry taught me a great deal about budgets and how to read finance reports — all with the gentle good humour that endeared Terry to the staff and volunteers alike. Terry is deserving of a complete rest from this aspect of volunteering, but he is looking forward to keeping in contact with the Centre through the Kings of Kitchen program — Terry is keen to join the boys for a Wednesday cooking and chat session! A big thank you to Terry and a shout out to Cathy, our bookkeeper. Cathy may consider working with us as an exercise in hide and seek (we don't intentionally hide the receipts or forget to tell her what the specific expenditure was for) and we always found the information but it made our Wednesdays a fun time! Thank you, Cathy, for bringing your unique humour and your teaching and support of me in the Manager's role.



Kim and Jordyn with Louis Joel's Little Library.

Thank you to Ryk Eksteen, our Auditor — what started out as a tension laden period of time has moved over the years into a competent inquiry and reporting on the Co-op's finances for the year. Thank you Ryk for helping our financial maturation process.

Another group of supporters have been the Louis Joel volunteers — people from all backgrounds and each with their own rationale for volunteering, have helped keep the Centre vibrant and well cared for — many of whom have become friends over the years. I'm looking forward to loads of volunteering in my retirement phase — not just for other organisations but for the Louis Joel Centre too — to give back to the organisation that has given me so much over the years.

The Louis Joel Centre has a close and ongoing relationship with the family of Dr Louis Joel through grandson, Craig Joel and family. Craig has continued the relationship with us after the death of his father, Jack Joel, and I want to thank him personally for continuing the relationship and for being very admiring of the works we have done, with the family's support, to upgrade the Centre and to commemorate Jack's legacy.

I have worked closely with the other managers of the Neighbourhood Houses in Hobsons Bay and offer my thanks to them for support and guidance over the years. Networks are incredibly important in the community sector and to have that network functioning well within Hobsons Bay has helped us all to not only connect but to generate a



collaborative process. The network that looks after 55+ Neighbourhood Houses in the western suburbs is Network West and the network worker, Sandy Joffe is a constant source of inspiration and support — not only to me and the Louis Joel Centre but to so many others as well. Thank you, Sandy, you kept my enthusiasm going with our in-depth chats about our precious community and always looking at the way forward. A thank you also to Louise Atherton from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) — Louise is Senior Adviser for the West Division and I must say that Louise provides a human and personal connection to a department that can sometimes feel inaccessible. Thank you, Louise, for listening, providing answers and for being a really nice human being!

There are so many wonderful staff members from Hobsons Bay Council I have worked with over the many years at the Centre and in particular over the past six years. Janet Dawes from Hobsons Bay Council — thank you for your unwavering support of me and the Louis Joel Centre. Ben Pollard — for wisdom

and experience. Michelle Lawrence — for community connections. Cathy Miles and Mary Marcina in the grants team — always there with information and support for many of our ambitious ideas. Amber Cassidy — many thanks for your intelligent insight and kindness — and for the coffee catch ups. Tania Blackwell and Cat Holden in the arts area — great working with such incredibly talented professionals. Hazel Finnie in events (and Ilona, Marcus, Garth and team) — always open to new (and sometimes challenging) ideas. Other departments we work with include business and tourism (thank you to the amazing Shirlee Campbell) and the Hobsons Bay Library network and in particular, Altona Library — always happy to partner and support.

Local connections with businesses include Bunnings Altona North (a huge thank you and shout out to Maria Ebejer and her team for their generous and ongoing support) and Mobil Refinery (with the talented Nikki Calcraft). Altona Village Traders Association with Sharon and Kim Walsh and the new team that includes my local coffee hotspot (Birdcage in Harrington Square, in case anyone wants to catch up with me for a coffee), Adrian Davey.





Thank you to the many groups (Hobsons Bay Arts Society, Altona U3A, Altona Seniors, Vietnamese Association of Hobsons Bay to name a very few) who have supported the Centre and me as Manager. Community connections are the foundation of who we are as a Community Centre and I thank all those groups and their wonderful committees (and members) for their ongoing support.

I know I have forgotten to thank many people and I hope you will understand if I haven't specifically mentioned you — it makes everyone's contribution no less important and my defence is the addling of the brain that we now associate with lockdown fatigue! Please forgive me.

I have met thousands of people over the years through the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre — people who may have needed us for only a short while or they have been constant visitors, participants, supporters or allies. Thank you to you all — for whatever reason you came into the Centre, you have made my experience all the richer and I thank you for that.

I had decided my date for retirement well before the pandemic hit and it has been a tempestuous journey and a half over the past 18 months to navigate our way through — a journey that sometimes had me thinking I should stay for longer to 'see it through' but at other times thinking that the pandemic has highlighted the need for a different set of creative responses to the recovery and rejuvenation phases. Conversations in my head were very much around 'it is time' and I am beyond delighted to be able to hand over to a very creative and capable Gina Kennedy. I am so excited (and a little envious) for the time ahead for the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre and I look forward to seeing wonderful achievements.

In the meantime, I will continue my volunteering and community work and I will see you all at some event, at some time in the very near future.

From the philosophical and timeless words of Winnie the Pooh, 'How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard'.

Kim Reilly
Centre Manager



The Seabreeze Lockdown 2.0 Quilt.

▼ Terry Heazelwood OAM

Colin Terence Heazlewood, known as Terry for as long as he can remember, is a man who counts his blessings. Among them wife, Coral, his three children, James, Fleur and Scott, granddaughter Issy, two goddaughters, Audrey and Elise, and a recent addition to the family, Zoe, a 7-month spoodle.

Beyond that, he's grateful for the many friends and acquaintances he's made over an academic career spanning 45 years and an involvement in community service organisations that has consumed 47 years (and still counting).

This year will see Terry lightening his load. He's stepping down from his role as treasurer of The Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative (or the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, as it is well known) after ten years.

Terry was co-opted to the Board by the brother-in-law of a good friend after he and Coral retired to Williamstown from Wagga Wagga. He initially saw his role as 'helping to rectify the gender balance' by doubling the number of males. The twinkle in his eye is unmistakable as he says this — a window to the quiet sense of humour that bubbles beneath an unassuming demeanour.

He's proud of being part of the team that has guided the evolution and development of the Centre and taking care of the 'nuts and bolt figures.' Asked about his legacy as treasurer, he parries this with a platitude about leaving the organisation in a more robust financial state than when he joined and 'in good hands'.

Dig a little deeper and it's clear that he's proud that under his stewardship, the Co-operative will make its final mortgage repayment next year — a decade earlier than anticipated. And unlike the succession plans of at least two Victorian AFL clubs — thankfully not his beloved Essendon — he is very comfortable that the necessary accounting and financial acumen exist to ensure the centre's continuity and ongoing ability to serve the community.

The importance of community and connections are threads that are woven strongly through Terry's life stories. Born into a hardworking family — his father was part of the original San Remo fishing collective, and his mother left school aged 12 to



work at Myers—he credits his early involvement overseeing the local Methodist Church Youth Club for understanding the value of fellowship.

This was only strengthened at university with his club participation in Australian Rules, table tennis and other intra and intervarsity activities. Terry recalls he even captained the university golf club at Metropolitan, even though he rarely played. Of table tennis, his favourite memory is beating Johnny Famechon, Australia's featherweight world boxing champion. 'But only at table tennis,' he is quick to add.

Academia, first as a student, then tutor and later a lecturer and foundational professor, proved to be the natural home for his love of arithmetic — allowing him the perfect marriage of accounting theory and practical application. As a young child, he admits to having 'enjoyed learning my times tables ... And the accounting just fitted in. You had to match the debits and the credits, and it was all logical.'

His career took him from universities and colleges in Victoria to New South Wales, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. His final academic role, before retiring to Williamstown in 2010, was in International Operations — embedding and quality assuring



Australian accounting education programmes in overseas institutions in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, China and the United Kingdom.

The Vice-Chancellor of Charles Sturt University, in Terry's words, was 'a great entrepreneur. But someone had to come behind the great entrepreneur and make it work.' And that was my role. It was no doubt one of the many contributions that saw him awarded the Order of Australia medal in 2017 for service to higher education.

Alongside academia, the Lions Club has been an important part of Terry and his family's community life since 1974. It's 'a great way to get to know people' and it's clear he loves the varied activities — from Bunnings barbecues, to chopping and delivering firewood to pensioners, to bottling wine from barrels. 'Always something going on ...'

He held the role of District Governor twice — once in New South Wales, and then again when 'he retired back here for a quiet life.' Today he and wife Coral maintain an involvement in the Lions Club of Sunshine where Terry is assistant treasurer.

Retiring as the co-operative's treasurer does not mean retiring from life. He has plenty of things to do. Travel is on the cards — to the battlefields of the Western Front and a trip on The Ghan railway. He's the incoming president of the Wallaby Walking Club, the oldest walking club in Australia, which was established in 1894. Terry is looking forward to being presented with the gold walking stick, a cherished

totem of the club inscribed with the name of past presidents starting from 1901.

He also keeps up his accounting professional network through an active involvement in the CPA's Third Age Network 'to encourage the guys who've retired to keep contact with ... [their] professional colleagues.' Terry has come a long way from the teenager who sold drinks, peanuts and lollies at the opening ceremony of the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne.

And is he intending to maintain his contact with the Louis Joel community? Absolutely. He loves keeping an eye on the ever-changing art exhibitions, doing 'a little bit of gardening ... [pulling] the odd weed out [and picking] the papers up that fly around ... little things.'

But most of all, Terry is looking forward to Wednesdays. He's joining one of Louis Joel's longest running and popular initiatives, Kings of the Kitchen, to learn the basics of cooking, to share what he prepares and enjoy the company of a group of like-minded men.

Bon appétit Terry!

Vicki Milliken

Vicki Milliken is a freelance writer and author who is pursuing her passion to write after more than 30 years working in multinational organisations from oil to beer. She's recently joined LJAC as a volunteer and loves the opportunity it gives her to communicate the ideas, opinions and lives of others to words.



Kings of the Kitchen.

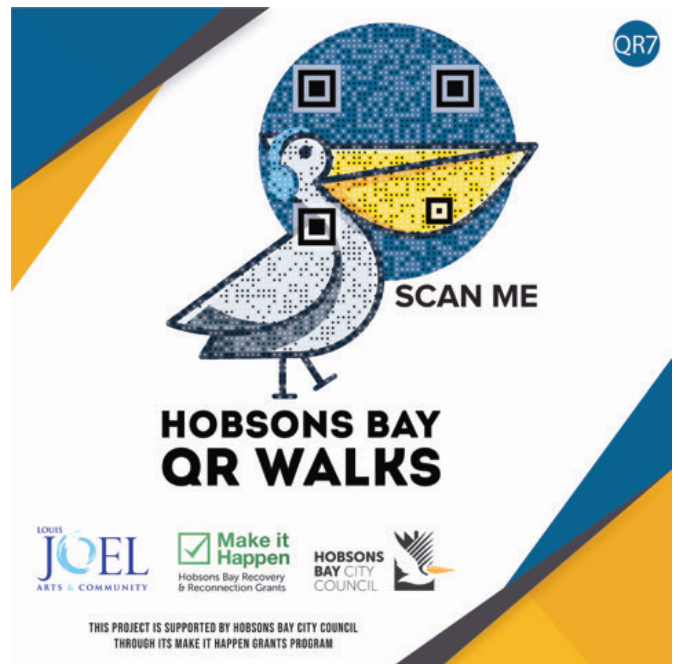
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The next 12 months

I am fortunate to be taking over the role of Centre Manager of the LJAC from Kim Reilly who has been instrumental in growing the Centre into the welcoming, friendly and innovative community arts hub it is today. I have deep respect and admiration for what Kim, the Board of Management and Hobsons Bay Council have achieved together over the past decade to nurture and grow such a valuable asset for so many in our community. I'm looking forward to building on those strengths as we move into 2022.

One of Kim's greatest gifts to the Centre was employing Danielle and Lyn. A highly skilled and dedicated team who have fought through the challenges of planning and cancelling programs over a long period of time to deliver innovative digital programming and support to artists to move their exhibitions online where possible, all while overcoming the barriers of isolation and working from home. They can't wait to be back in the Centre and connecting with everyone in person again and I'm very much looking forward to joining them.

It is challenging to predict what the next 12 months will look like because the needs of our community are changing so fast. As I write this message, Victoria is in its sixth and most challenging COVID19 lockdown so far and case numbers have hit an all-time Australian high. The doors to our vibrant Centre remain closed. Our exhibitions are on hold. Our local traders and our treasured arts community are hurting. Many in our community are experiencing mental health challenges from isolation and loss of income, or conversely, anxiety at the thought of opening back up when the virus is still so prevalent. So much that was familiar and normal is now a distant memory. We are living in a time when everything has to be improvised.

The Louis Joel Centre has an important role to play over the next 12 months in supporting our communities (our artists, local communities, networks and partners) to improvise our way through this uncertain time. We will support them by focusing on being an inspiring and resilient partner and making their success our priority. We do this with our social prescribing programs for community and artists; through our arts and community project-based internships; with our gallery curation support; by exploring new pathways for artists to reach new audiences; through activating





our artists register; and we will build on our long-term connections and regular programming by being ever ready to build on new ideas or improvise with new partners.

When we reopen to the public, our venue and programming will continue to be a source of resilience for our community. A place of wellness, optimism and creativity. Until then, we are keeping that spirit alive with our digital programs and by taking the extra step to connect and engage with all our communities.

Our theme for the next 12 months at Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre is Discovery and Resilience. It will be a thread that flows through to our business goals, our community engagement and connection strategies, and our arts and community programming. It is also a time when we will discover ways to define our excellent cultural and arts programming and test frameworks that can measure and demonstrate its value to the wellbeing of our communities.

Although improvising requires taking some risks, good improvisors are also able to keep an eye on the bigger picture and look after the story. Our values of Respect, Enterprise, Community Connectedness, and Sustainability will guide the direction we travel in to achieve our strategic goals. While times are so uncertain, and our assumptions and routines are so

interrupted, our values will orient us back to what is important.

I'm looking forward to welcoming all our partners, volunteers, participants, artists, staff, and local residents back into our wonderful Centre and resuming Louis Joel's regular live programming and the new programs we develop. Please enjoy and share our online workshops and get in touch with us by any means if you'd like to be connected to our social prescribing programs or are looking for ways to get involved. I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone in person.

Gina Kennedy
Incoming Centre Manager

About Gina

Gina Kennedy is an Australian pioneer of Applied Improvisation with a background in sociology, theatre and drama, and business management. For the last 20 years she has been experimenting with the role that art can play in cultural development, mental health and making connections. As an independent Creative Consultant, Gina worked on large and often long-term projects that involved cultural change, leadership development, emotional intelligence training, community engagement, business development, innovation and celebration.



At the recording studio in Newport: Libby and Gina..

▼ Tribute to Kim Reilly

I met Kim when I first started working at the Mobil Altona Refinery. She was one of the first people I met and I have to say she was a tough act for every other community member I met afterwards to follow.

Her warmth and community spirit shines through from her infectious smile. I was astounded by the amount community groups she and her family are involved in.

Her collaborative style and vision to establish programs that worked within the Refinery's stringent corporate contribution guidelines ensured they were always appropriate and innovative.

I always looked forward to our meetings that sometimes deviated from the topic into solving the problems of the world and giggling over a cup of coffee.

Kim is a true Altona Community Icon.

I look forward to seeing what other community endeavors Kim will find herself involved in when she 'retires' from the Centre.

Nikki Calcraft
Mobil Altona Refinery



The industry / art display we put together for the Motorcars and memorabilia event we had at the gallery as part of the the Mobil Altona Refinery 70 th Anniversary Celebration.



Kim is an active member of our Community Liaison Committee. She is always a friendly face amongst the crowd.



Mobil Night at the Opera event - Williamstown Town Hall VIP event.





In addition to everything else that she did well, Kim added real value to building and nurturing sister city relationships for Hobsons Bay, and most especially the Buloke Shire and Hobsons Bay relationship.

Conceptualising expos and exhibitions, leveraging and looking for new opportunities that would benefit residents, rural and metropolitan, was something that Kim excelled at and is very much appreciated for. She was really good at getting people to do things for the cause, whether that was Mark Remnant from Buloke Shire driving to Altona on a Friday afternoon with a boot or van full of crafts and objects to set up in the Joel Gallery or working out a plan with me to land large quantities of the 'world famous' Birchip vanilla slices (award winners, Sharp's Bakery Birchip) to on sell to Council staff and also people who loved cakes.

I was lucky enough to go to Buloke with Kim one time, a highlight being us setting off to visit one of our favourite jam makers/preservers in Charlton, who also happened to have a beautiful rambling garden.

Environment, food, history, community, connection, culture and her curiosity about people and life. How good!

Janet Dawes
Manager, Arts, Culture and Community
Hobsons Bay City Council

With the founding of the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre, Hobsons Bay Art Society found a home-base and a magnificent display space, not to mention a valuable partner in celebrating and promoting the visual arts. This partnership has developed and strengthened greatly since then, most especially since Kim Reilly became manager.

We want to thank Kim for her ongoing support of our group and for her boundless energy in building bridges to make us an integral part of the Centre and to create linkages with other groups, Hobsons Bay City Council, and the wider public. She has reorganised and revamped the centre and



Kim Reilly formally opening the HBAS 40th Anniversary Exhibition.

its facilities so that the gallery is now a wonderful exhibition space regularly used by us and the community.

As a member of another community group, I have also greatly appreciated Kim's organisational skill and unlimited helpfulness. When the Centre offered gallery space to Westgate Refugee Support to host a special art exhibition to raise much need funds for educational materials for Burmese Refugee Learning Centres in Malaysia, Kim was there to help and advise on a thousand things including curating, publicity and payments.

Thank you, Kim, for everything you do to make this Centre the hub of the community!

We wish Kim all the best in her retirement and hope many adventures and enjoyable pursuits await her and Graeme.

Gaye Pereira-Jackson
President, HBAS



Kim welcomed me with open arms when I was looking to volunteer, she said I have the perfect job for you: Kings of the Kitchen. They all loved to cook and show off their skills to Kim and the others at the Centre by taking over some treats we had made; especially when the Kings would make special dishes and cakes for parties at the Centre.

The other task I had was to try and be creative and crafty, she would ask some of the volunteers to go into a craft class demo and participate in whatever they were making.

I think deep down Kim knew craft work wasn't me. When they were in need of a gardener I jumped at the chance, give me weeds and flowers over arts and crafts any day.

I have really enjoyed working alongside Kim, she will be truly missed by all of us.

Marlene Nguyen
LJAC Volunteer

When I first started as admin at LJACC I would go home and tell my family that Kim is the type of manager we all dream of — supportive, kind, encouraging and patient (mostly).

I no longer tell my family those things, I now say Kim is the kind of friend that we all dream of — supportive, kind, nurturing, fun to be around, and mostly the reason I haven't gone insane over the last 18 months. I'll miss having you as my boss but look forward to keeping you as my friend.

Lyn Hunt
Administration Officer

One of Kim's superpowers is her ability to find the right opportunity for each person who walks through the door — the opportunity that offers them the space to belong and to thrive. Like many others, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside Kim and I wish her the very best with new projects and adventures.

Danielle Whelan
Administration Officer



Marlene and Tom.



Lyn, Kim and Danielle.



Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria

The Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre is classified as a Neighbourhood House and receives funding under the Victorian State Government's Department of Health and Human Services Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Program as well as coordination funding from Hobsons Bay City Council. We operate under two service agreements and deliver an extensive, multi-faceted program. Our staffing consists of a full-time Manager and two part-time administration staff, a part-time gallery project worker, as well as a contract bookkeeper.

Additional revenue is generally raised by the Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative (HBCAC) and the Centre through room hire, whole venue hire for private functions, the leasing of office space and through income generated by a commercial lease.

As a result of extended lockdowns, the income that is usually generated by the programs and activities of the Louis Joel Centre has effectively ceased. Our reliance on the income generated by the commercial lease and office space leases (the occupancy has fortunately continued through the year) has been unprecedented with much consideration given to the extent to which this situation of financial inequity can continue.

We are blessed with a team of volunteers who assist with the running of the Centre. Administration support, specific project management, gardening, gallery sitting, program facilitation and many other tasks have had the support of volunteers — to further grow our reach into addressing the needs of our community.

The Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre is governed by a Board of Management (HBCAC) — all are volunteers who give of their time and expertise to ensure good governance, sound financial viability and to forge the strategic direction of the organisation.

Neighbourhood Houses bring people together to connect, learn and participate in their local communities through social, educational, recreational and support activities, using a unique community development approach. The Louis Joel

Arts & Community Centre includes arts — specifically community arts into our programming as a response to a demonstrated need within our community. It has long been known and recognised that the recovery and resilience of a community can be best supported and facilitated by our creative outlets — that is, all forms of art and craft. Creativity fosters creative responses — our artists and creatives will lead the way.

Community development is enabling communities to identify and address their own needs. It starts from the assumption that communities have existing strengths and assets that make them part of the solution. Community development practice is about doing with, rather than doing for. Neighbourhood Houses welcome people from all walks of life. This inclusive approach creates opportunities for individuals and groups to enrich their lives through connections they might not otherwise make.

'If you've been to one Neighbourhood House, you've been to one Neighbourhood House.'
(Neighbourhood Houses Victoria — website)

There are around 400 Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria. There are nine centres or houses within Hobsons Bay who respond to locally identified needs and priorities. The program at each Neighbourhood House in Hobsons Bay can be quite different from each other — increasing the range of opportunities by limiting the degree of duplication.





Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre 2020-2021

The utilisation of spaces at the Centre has the purpose of providing a program of workshops and events as well as promoting community arts to the Hobsons Bay community.

In 2019-2020, a diverse range of programs were offered at Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre and our connection with local groups has grown.

ART & CRAFT

- Artful Dabblers (HBAS)
- Drawing Skills & Techniques
- Monthly Activity Night (HBAS)
- Pastel/Oil/Acrylics with Bill Kerr (HBAS)
- On Location Sketching with Nancy (HBAS)
- Social Painting Group (HBAS)
- Watercolour & Acrylics with Caroline Brett (HBAS)
- Watercolour with Ted Dansey (HBAS)

TEXTILES

- Introduction to Sewing
- Patchwork Classes
- Patchwork — Modern and Traditional
- Sit 'n' Sew

WRITING & LANGUAGES

- Creative Writing Workshops
- French for Francophiles

HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Creative Arts Therapy
- Visual Arts Together

MENS GROUPS

- B.O.B Group — Boys Only Barbecue
- Kings of the Kitchen

BUSINESS

- Social Media Marketing
- Facebook & Instagram for Small Business



Cafe Author session; Culture in Cafes project.

CHILDREN

- Kumon
- Werkz Theatre — Dramawerkz
- School Holiday programs

CAFÉ CULTURE

- Café Art
- Café Photography
- Café Chat
- Café Author
- Café Book Club
- Café Writing
- Café Craft
- Café Crochet

REPAIR WORKSHOPS

- Introduction to 3-D Printing
- Love Your Garden Tools
- Bicycle Repair & Maintenance



- DIY Home Repairs
- Shashiko Workshop

COMMUNITY GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

- Altona Leos
- Altona U3A
- Hobsons Bay Arts Society
- Westgate Carers Support Group
- Vietnamese Association of Hobsons Bay
- Seabreeze Quilters
- Altona University of The Third Age (U3A)
- Polynesian Weaving Group

CAFÉ CULTURE

The Café Culture series successfully launched in July with author talks, doodle art, crochet, social chat, writing and photography in local cafes in Hobsons Bay.

Designed to create small, social pockets for people to emerge after the lockdowns of 2020 and early 2021, the café culture series was also about supporting local business. The latest series of lockdowns has meant we've had to pivot and are now running sessions online.

This project is supported by the Hobsons Bay City Council through its Make it Happen Grants Program.

JOEL GARDEN GURUS

The Joel Garden Gurus is a group of volunteer gardeners creating edible, ornamental and native gardens in the grounds of Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre. New members are welcome.

RECYCLING — drop off to the Centre

- Colgate oral care recycling
- toothpaste tubes
- toothbrushes
- floss containers
- electric toothbrush heads
- Printer cartridges
- X-rays
- Mobil phones
- Reading glasses
- Sunglasses
- CD's/DVD's and cases
- Rubber bands
- Store/gift cards
- Milk bottle lids (washed)
- Ring pulls from soft drink cans
- Bread tags
- Batteries
- Medication foil sleeves.





Link to Wellness

Community Wellbeing through Social Prescribing in Hobsons Bay

During the extraordinary events of 2020, which saw life as we know it change in almost every way, Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre identified the need for a social prescribing program to support the community to recover and reconnect. Prior to the pandemic, social isolation and loneliness were already a significant problem for many in our community; rolling lockdowns have had the unintended effect of exacerbating this. Life is just not the same as it was for many in our community due to the ongoing consequences of pandemic. Strengthening and connecting the Hobsons Bay community is one of our core values and Link to Wellness was borne out of our desire to respond to this emerging health crisis.

What is Link to Wellness?

This is a social prescribing initiative addressing social isolation, loneliness and the social determinants of health. Social Prescribing developed in the UK, where it has been widely implemented and shown to deliver significant benefits. Overwhelmingly, participants report improvements in their wellbeing, including feeling more positive, empowered and satisfied with their lives, their community connections, and in managing health conditions.

How it Works

At its core, the program involves the referral of participants to a range of local non-medical services and community groups. It embodies a holistic approach to wellness, with individuals being supported to identify what is important to them. They then work with the Link Worker to co-design a wellness plan that incorporates goals that inform the person's social prescription.

The Link Worker works with participants for as long as necessary and supports them to achieve their goals by providing warm referrals to community groups, classes, activities and services that are identified as being beneficial. Examples include art activities, gardening, cooking classes, walking groups, education or volunteering opportunities. The Link Worker also connects people to services that provide support with housing, food insecurity, unemployment and financial stress.

Successful Establishment of the Program

Although Link to Wellness is a new initiative in Hobsons Bay, the community response has demonstrated the value of a locally based social prescribing program, with community members referring themselves after learning about the program, as well as people being referred through Allied Health and other community organisations. The program is currently supporting participants from across a range of life stages, from young people to seniors, with the Link Worker facilitating a range of connections to community activities as well as to fundamental supports such as housing and financial services.

Navigating the Pandemic

Unfortunately, the Delta variant was not something anyone foresaw, and the latest lockdown has presented some challenges as not all activities and events were able to go online. This made connecting people to new activities and maintaining existing links difficult, while some people faced technological issues or barriers. Despite these challenges, the Link Worker has continued to provide vital social support to program participants while we have waited for face-to-face activities to resume.

The Future

We are now at the stage where Victoria is slowly emerging from the rolling lockdowns, where we're cautiously optimistic about the future and trying to navigate living with covid. Now more than ever, there is a need to support people to connect, or perhaps reconnect, to their community. The impacts of the pandemic will be felt for a long time to come and in many ways, including emotionally and financially. Our hope is that this program will help lighten the load and offer participants the means to connect with others.

The road to recovery is not going to be easy but in the words of renowned psychiatrist, neuroscientist, clinician and researcher Bruce Perry, "connectedness has the power to counterbalance adversity".

We thank Australian Neighbourhood House and Centres Association and the Sidney Myer Foundation for their support of this initiative.

Leanne Misquitta Rajendran,
Community Link Worker
<http://www.ljac.com.au/link-to-wellness>



Not Ready to Say Goodbye

Story by Vicki Milliken

She'd found it in a little shop in Paris, fallen in love with its brightly patterned exterior and carried it home in her suitcase. They'd enjoyed ten good years together and never once had a cross word — Toasty had always delivered. Until now. But Nicki wasn't ready to say goodbye and so made an appointment at the Hobsons Bay Repair Café, in Melbourne's west, to see if Toasty could get its spark back.

What started out as an experiment in 2009 in the Netherlands by Dutch journalist Martine Postma and a group of handy friends, has blossomed into over two thousand registered venues worldwide and close to fifty in Australia, according to Repair Café International.

The idea is simple. Those with an item in need of repair — think furniture, small appliances, clothing, jewellery, toys and other household goods — attend the Repair Café on the advertised day and time. Volunteer repairers are on hand to assess the item and fix it if possible. There is a form to sign, so that owners understand that all repairs are undertaken at their own risk. Broken items cannot be donated or dropped off and picked up later. The experience is as much about community building and education, as the actual repair.

There is a quiet buzz at the Louis Joel Community Centre which hosts the café. Those waiting share a cup of tea and conversation while making connections with other locals. Those whose items are under repair, sit across from the volunteer repairers and immerse themselves in the diagnosis and repair. Many are amazed when they realise how simple the solution is.

Volunteers are inspired by different things, although all share an enjoyment of fixing things. For Mikel, whose interest extends to "electrical items [and] anything mechanical", repairing is something he's done since primary school. He loves seeing items "come to life again".

James, a chemical engineer, was drawn to the Repair Café from an interest in the Right to Repair, that is, the general concept that people should have the right to access and fix the items they own.



Mikel working his magic on 'Toasty' the Parisian toaster.

Grappling with how he could make a difference on such a global issue, James decided the best way for him to "effect change [was by] focusing on his community." As a repairer, he hopes to teach people to "value the things that they have," and to show them an alternative to replacing broken items with new.

Back to Toasty. With its coloured plastic exterior set to one side, its internal bare metal mechanisms are on display. Breadcrumbs litter the table surface as Mikel continues to test and retest the componentry. Nicki is trying not to raise her hopes too high in case the fault can't be diagnosed, and it really is time to say goodbye.

Unfortunately, not everything is repairable, and a dispirited collective sigh follows a broken cuckoo clock and its owner, Sandy, from the room. It had belonged to Sandy's mother, who had passed recently and despite the accumulation of dirt and dust, was a treasured memento.

Across the room, Mikel breaks into a broad grin and gives us a thumbs up. He's found the fault and he's confident that it can be fixed. The mood in the room swings from despondent to upbeat. Half an hour later, fixed, reassembled and tested, Toasty poses for a photograph before leaving for home. Nicki too has a spring in her step and can't thank Mikel enough for what he's done.



Postscript: Sandy has since emailed to say that after “vacuuming all the dust and grit from around the mechanism and [spraying it] with graphite WD 40,” the cuckoo clock is now working with “some fine tuning required to get it to keep time accurately.”

Hobsons Bay Repair Cafe

Launching in February 2021, Repair Café Hobsons Bay provides a space for volunteer repairers to share their skills with the community, opportunities for the community to learn repair skills and a space for community members to get a range of items fixed.

In between lockdowns we managed to deliver five repair cafe sessions, with community members bringing in 75 items for repair. Of these, 63 were successfully repaired, with just over half being electrical items including vacuums, toasters, TVs, fans, record players, coffee machines and lots of lamps! Repairers also fixed and mended lots of non-electrical items such as furniture, garden tools, clothing and lots of other wonderful things.

As part of the project we also delivered a range of workshops teaching the community how to undertake their own repairs on items including textiles and clothing, garden tools and bicycles, as well as how to do simple home maintenance repairs.

Repairs are sought for a variety reasons: some items are of sentimental value to their owners, some are super comfy; community members also come along seeking to save money and reduce household waste.

Repairing is an important climate action and over the five sessions we calculated CO2e emissions savings equivalent to the emissions generated by return flights from Melbourne to Junín Airport in Argentina or Rørvik Airport in Norway.

Thanks to the fabulous repair cafe volunteers who have donated their Saturday afternoons to make the repair cafe a success: Mikel, Sandy, Ian, James, Dorothy, Stephen, Mandy, Terry, Brendan, Geraldine, Maureen and Roman.

Hobsons Bay Repair Cafe was supported through the Australian Government’s Communities Environment Program.



Ian and Sandy with a newly repaired barometer.



Electrical repairer James rewiring a lamp.



Sandy with completed repairs to a pair of trusty jeans.



Hobsons Bay QR Walks

The idea of Hobsons Bay QR Walks began with a long-term resident named Roger, who loves a good tale. His telling of stories was a great example of how he sparked connections in the local neighbourhood. It was also a prime example of how easy it was to miss out on knowledge of the area if you don't live near storytellers like him. And although technology and pandemics can create so many barriers to sharing stories, they can also inspire opportunities for more to be told.

Making It Happen

Thanks to a Hobsons Bay Make It Happen grant, and a Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre auspice, the Hobsons Bay QR walks site was born. Our platform was built for the community as a site for cultural celebration and to support active participation and increase community skills in using QR code technology. Hobsons Bay QR Walks is now a community-owned platform for many more stories in and about Hobsons Bay to be shared.

Creating Memorable Recordings

The first stories to be added to the site were written and curated by Gina Kennedy who partnered with the Altona Laverton Historical Society to celebrate the diversity, heritage and people of Hobsons Bay. The recordings engaged a broad cross-section of the community, with over 50 people interviewed for the series.

These raw recordings are now a time capsule of Hobsons Bay to be kept by the Historical Society. Hosted by Libby Tanner and sound produced by Alex Amster, the series was inspired to assist in providing free entertainment and community participation. While also showcasing some of the key features of our community and environment, particularly those that are unique to Hobsons Bay and that promote the city's cultural reputation.

Hobsons Bay QR Walks Photo Competition

Congratulations to JP evermore photography for their winning photo in the Hobsons Bay QR Walks Photo Competition (image below).





Tribute to Volunteers

'Victorian volunteers play a vital role in a time of crisis. When an emergency strikes, volunteers boost community resilience and extend the reach of governments. That is why we are encouraging volunteers to register their interest to volunteer and support the recovery of their local community in times of need' — Volunteering Victoria

At the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre, we are incredibly lucky to have the support from volunteers who provide, on average, 100+ hours of volunteering each week.

That significant contribution allows us to extend the reach of our programs and projects; it extends our capacity to provide a beautifully maintained garden and environment; it allows us to apply for more grants (with volunteer support to run projects and programs); and their support allows staff more time to focus on the many other aspects of running a busy Community Centre.

Volunteers help in the Joel Gallery. Yohann packs down exhibitions, ensuring the artworks are carefully packaged for the buyers to collect. He is also assisting with our Midsumma program for 2022. Cecilia is also a Gallery volunteer assisting with the set-up of exhibitions, ensuring labelling and signage are done.

Des volunteers with the 'Boys Only Barbeque' Club (B.O.B Club) and cooks up a storm for them on a Monday. He sees that a good lunch is prepared and that conversation is flowing (he also checks in on the boys to see how they are). On cold or wet days, the boys treat themselves to fish and chips and tease the rest of us with the delicious aroma of hot chips wafting through the Centre.

Marlene and Dorothy (and Julie, when she is needed) have led the Kings of the Kitchen through a difficult year of not having access to the Altona Seniors Centre kitchen (COVID restrictions), yet they created a wonderful program for the Kings. Every Wednesday there was either a menu cooked at the Louis Joel Centre or the group had lunch at a local café or a picnic of fish and chips by the beach. This is a program that would be impossible for us to continue if we didn't have the support of these wonderful volunteers.

Our gardening volunteers, the Joel Garden Gurus have done their very best to keep the gardens weeded during the extended lockdowns. Masked and gloved, they use the weeding of the carpark gardens as their exercise and as restrictions ease, they will do as much as they can to finish their plans for the gardens. New volunteers are joining



Ace gardening team: Ian, Graeme, Marlene & Desma..



the group and with more volunteers comes more opportunity to showcase our beautiful outdoor spaces. Fruit trees, vegetables, flowering plants and trees are carefully selected, or grown from cuttings from our volunteers' own gardens, or as a result of great donations from Bunnings in Altona North.

Special thanks to Ian and Desma who give so freely of their time. Desma volunteers on the days she's not working and Ian will come in to garden with Graeme or to lend a hand with some maintenance or garden design work. Marlene has a fairly regular timeslot when she's not helping to home school her grandsons or helping the Kings of the Kitchen. Marlene also volunteers her time to make the very best zucchini relish we have ever tasted (especially when it's used as the base on wood fired pizzas) and we often say 'we don't know what we would do without Marlene!' Marlene occasionally volunteers her husband, Lee, who helps with the garden or maintenance and is always up for a chat about his remote control helicopter passion.

Volunteer Bill pops in to help with the garden when he can. He runs his own business but still gives us his time for gardening or maintenance. Bill's wife, Dawn, volunteers with our Café Culture program and is willing to contribute in any way she can.

Graeme contributes a lot of his time to the Centre — and he will say it's not just because he is married to the Manager! A big, big thank you to Graeme for all of his volunteering hours — Graeme is always happy to help with whatever needs to be done. He knows what value his volunteering brings to the Louis Joel Centre. We hope he knows how much we appreciate him and we hope he will continue volunteering with us for many years.

Carol and Halcyon are the gardeners who keep the back garden going — they weed and plant and tend to the garden whenever they can. They have missed being in the garden during lockdown but keep planning what can be planted. Annie and Kaylene are new volunteer to the Garden Gurus who are looking forward to lockdown being over so they can get into the garden.

Desiree is a new volunteer this year — she is learning as much as she can about what we do at the Centre so she can help at reception which will free our

staff up to continue managing their ever increasing workload. Desiree is great to chat to and has been a wonderful support to our admin staff.

David has been a volunteer with us for a number of years — helping out with taking excellent photos (David's business is Altona Beach Photography) of the Centre and class participants. He is always smiling and has a 'dad' joke on hand, ready to make someone smile.

Martin hasn't had the chance to be at the Centre yet but when we do return, he has volunteered to video exhibitions, which will expand what we can offer in the world of online exhibitions.

Val also has been with us for a number of years — quietly working in the background, Val keeps us under control when we have busy projects. She is the one who will pack the boxes for our Rainbow Pride in Altona event; she will put together the kits for school holiday workshops; and she is the controller of the bottle lids that are being used in a community art project — efficiently sorting them into colours for the artist.

Rob has been a volunteer with the Centre for a number of years — before and after he was employed as the administration officer (2015-2017). His availability has been limited by distance - Rob travels up from Geelong to volunteer with us so we save all our IT questions for when he comes into the Centre.

We welcomed local author Vicki Milliken to our volunteer team last year and Vicki has been provided much needed support with writing articles and leading a book group for a Café Culture program. Do check her website out (<https://vickimilliken.com/>) her children's books are delightful and if historical romance is your genre, give her books a try.

Tom is a much loved and valued volunteer who has volunteered with us for the past five years. Tom became the all-knowing person who would open the Centre early in the morning, do the opening tasks so staff were free to start work as soon as they got to work and managed many daily functions that allowed staff more time to focus on programs and projects. He was at the Centre five days a week and sometimes he would come in on Saturday to help out. Tom's contribution is greatly valued and it was



with great sadness that we learned of his serious illness that will prevent him from returning to the Centre in the same capacity. He will certainly still be around — to give his view on how things are being handled at the Centre and to catch up with staff and volunteers, some who are now lifelong friends. Tom's experience epitomises the value of belonging, the value of contributing and the value of relationships.

Rose and Lynda are volunteers who will come in when help is needed for a project or event. Rose provided the connections for us to host a fabulous Jane Austen event a couple of years ago and she is always checking in to see if there's anything she can do to support us. Lynda is happy to be the facilitator for workshops and enjoys any workshop related to cooking and she is known in other circles as the 'scone baker extraordinaire' — we are so looking forward to more workshops with Lynda. In addition to the volunteers who support the

Centre with gardening, maintenance, administration, photography and programs, the members of the Board of Management are also volunteers and contribute an additional 40 volunteer hours per week between them. They are members of our local community, from all occupations and backgrounds, with the skills and expertise to take up the challenges of governance, strategy, financial management and overseeing the operations of the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre. Their role is to guide the Co-operative towards a secure, sustainable and prosperous future.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all of our volunteers — those who come in for a few hours or those who come in for longer, without you there would not be as much of an 'us' — the Louis Joel Centre is built on the contributions of volunteers and volunteers will continue to be the backbone of our Community Centre.





David Lord

Volunteer, musician, photographer

David has volunteered at the Louis Joel Centre for more than six years — offering his skills as a musician and photographer and the constant teller of ‘dad jokes’. David is generous with his time and has supported a large number of people and organisations over many years. During lockdowns, he formed a ‘bubble’ with fellow band member, Mary and they would share a meal and play music together. He has been a volunteer tutor for a number of Sudanese children — some he has known for over 17 years. When David comes into the Centre, his voice booms through the building letting us know he is there but when asked to talk about himself, he is a lot quieter. Below is a snapshot of a fraction of David’s life — and like any good writer, he has finished the piece with us wanting to know more about his quite extraordinary life!

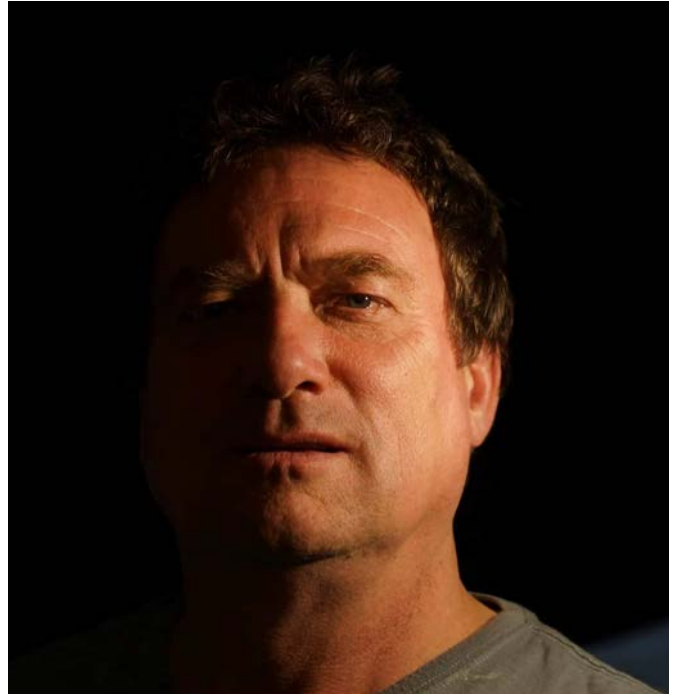
‘It was only ten years ago that I was running a karaoke session at the Immigration Detention Centre in Melbourne, meeting an amazing collection of people from around the world — Fijian fruit pickers, Afghan farmers, Asian karaoke lovers — when I was asked to provide some Saturday night entertainment for the Centre.

It occurred to me that a Bush Band sounded like a good introduction to Australia with a chance to dance the Heel and Toe Polka.

With a few phone calls, the ‘Glenrowan Bush Band’ was formed with Mary on accordion (now 91 years old), Derek on vocals and guitar, Norm on bass and me on tin whistle.

The move to a Bush Band was a long way from studying classical oboe in the 1980’s at the Auckland Conservatorium — studying combined with some busking downtown. I was busking one day when Prince Charles rode by but I didn’t get any feedback from him on my playing!

The Bush Band played on Saturday nights at the Centre for the next 2 years. Many other performances followed including the Tall Ships Festival and the Newport Folk Festival but our happiest moments were Aged Care and Retirement Village concerts with the crowd singing, clapping and tapping their feet.



This culminated in May 2020 with our ‘Back of the Truck’ performance at my mum’s Aged Care facility, St Georges, during the first Covid lockdown. The residents came outside into the garden and we were on the back of a flatbed truck playing so we could be seen over the fence. It was a great success and led to a community grant for a series of concerts in Hobsons Bay. Unfortunately, more lockdowns followed so we have paused all events. Band rehearsals are hopefully starting again in November and we will be getting back on the road again soon after.

So, for a young lad who in 1975 was marching down King William St in Adelaide playing with the SA Police Band, then performing in the Festival Theatre for Princess Anne (having played for the King and Queen of Thailand 2 years earlier), this strange and varied musical journey continues’.

[Altona Beach Photography](#)

For enquiries about Glenrowan Bush Band, contact David on 0412 039 988

Joel Gallery Exhibitions & Events 2019-2020

Rainbow Families in Frame

Midsumma Westside
24 April

This year we celebrated Midsumma Festival in the gallery with a Rainbow Families photo shoot presented by Matto Lucas.

Rainbow families, rainbow family friends and rainbow fur babies were all welcomed into the frame.

Alongside this session, Rainbow Pride in Altona offered rainbow activities, food and fun to celebrate families and love. The best rainbow fun in town!

Stitched & Framed 'Mindful Meanderings'

Tania Tanti
22 May to 6 June

This exhibition of handpainted, quilted works was a truly a bright spot in the year.

When the pandemic hit, photographer Tania made a firm decision to close her photography business and dedicate herself to focus on having an exhibition at her local gallery — Joel Gallery.

Tania's artworks are handpainted and then quilted using free motion quilting techniques and embroidery thread. She works spontaneously creating directly onto fabric without a clear direction of where the paint will take her.

Embroidered Art

Jill Pope
18 June to 1 July

An exhibition of embroidered artworks, many of which were inspired by Port Phillip Bay and its marine life.





Do You See What I See? Creativity Cluster

Creativity Cluster comprises seven women artists, each of whom works in a different medium: Luna-Cameron Parrish, mixed media mosaics; Mardie Whitla, ceramics; Nancy D Lane, found object assemblage; Penny Sharples, oil and cold wax; Lindsay Hussey, mixed media; Pat Duncan, oil painting; and Deidre Ogilvie, oil and mixed media art.

The exhibition presented a variety of objects and images that the Creativity Cluster artists have interpreted in one way, but that viewers might interpret quite differently.

Originally conceived as an interactive exhibition inviting the gallery visitors to share what they 'saw' in some of these artworks and what ideas or feelings they evoked, this exhibition was unable to go ahead face to face and was 'installed' online.

To view the exhibition, go to <https://creativitycluster.com/exhibitions/do-you-see-what-i-see/>.



Events

LJAC Community Open Day
28 January

Crafters Treasure Market
20 March

Wear It Again Market
10 April

International Women's Day
Tai Chi in Logan Reserve
Hanging Basket Workshop with
Altona Bunnings
March 6

Donation Form

The Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre raises funds to help deliver quality programs and projects to the community of Hobsons Bay.

We are partly funded to deliver those programs. However, that funding only goes part way to cover the costs of delivering low-cost programs to those in the community who may not otherwise have access to them. It is for this reason we ask for your help. Every dollar donated to the 'Hobsons Bay Community Arts Activities Fund' is expended on the delivery of our programs with the focus on making them as low cost as possible for those in our community who would most benefit from them. Please consider helping us to help them.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

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I have made the following donation \$ _____

BSB: 013 456

Account Number: 232621885

Name on Account: Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative Ltd

Reference: Your Name

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation
by cheque or money order: \$ _____

Please make cheques or money orders payable to:
Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative Ltd
PO Box 583, Altona or deliver to the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre
5 Sargood St, Altona

A tax receipt will be issued to you as soon as possible. Please note that to claim tax deductibility this financial year (2021-2022), your donation must be received by us by June 30. Your name only will be acknowledged in the Annual Report for your donation - please tick the box below if you would like to keep your donation confidential.

Please keep my donation confidential



Hobsons Bay Community Advancement Co-operative Ltd trading as:

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