

**CASTLEMAINE
COMMUNITY
HOUSE**



2024 -2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A background image of a dense cluster of purple flowers, likely bush tucker, with green leaves. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, some fully open and some as buds. The lighting is bright, creating a vibrant purple hue.

ACKNOWLEDGING DJA DJA WURRUNG

Castlemaine Community House acknowledges & pays respects to the Dja Dja Wurrung people, Traditional Custodians of this land, and to their Elders, past and present. CCH has been operating on beautiful Djaara Country for almost 40 years.

We acknowledge Uncle Rick Nelson and Aunty Kerri Douglas for their leadership and guidance.

This land has never been ceded

The images of Bush Tucker featured in this Annual Report were taken on Murnong Mumma's Bushfoods Farm on Djaara Country at the base of Liyanganuk.

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JUNIOR
TECHNICAL SCHOOL
CASTLEMAINE

1916



CASTLEMAINE
COMMUNITY
HOUSE

ABOUT US

In the 1970s, Neighbourhood Houses began emerging across Victoria, and the Castlemaine community actively campaigned for one in their area.

Castlemaine Community House was officially established in 1985, supported by a \$3,255 community grant from Family and Community Services. Initially called the Castlemaine Community Drop-In Centre, its mission was to *'provide an easily accessible meeting point for all people in the local or broader Castlemaine area.'*

Since opening its doors to the public on 4 July 1985, Castlemaine Community House has grown significantly, offering a wide range of programs and services. It also remains actively engaged in the growth of Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria and the region through its affiliations with Neighbourhood House Victoria and the Loddon Mallee-based Regional Association of Neighbourhood & Community Houses (RANCH).

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

Rani Kerin, Chair
Ron Moore, Vice Chair
Digby Bradenburg, Treasurer
Sandy Joffe, Secretary
Bronwen Machin, Ordinary Member
Geoff Nunn, Ordinary Member
Bronwyn Grieve, Ordinary Member



CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE STAFF & OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Mahira Sobral, Executive Officer
Kelsey, Office Coordinator
Julie, Services Australia Agent
Rhonda, Services Australia Agent
Kirrily, Services Australia Agent and Projects Officer
Ella, Education Administrator
Isis, Education Administrator and Get Connected Community Connector
Kez, Community Development Manager
Kyan, Youth Project Officer
Duang, Community Lunch Coordinator
Ira, Murnong Mummas Coordinator
Grace, Murnong Mummas
Eli, Reception Volunteer
Allison, NILS Volunteer
Leanne, NILS Volunteer
John, NILS Volunteer

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

**...the turnaround has been
nothing short of remarkable..."**

When our outgoing chair, Toby Heydon, was appointed to local council in November last year, we all hoped he'd continue as chair of CCH's Committee of Management (CoM), but—his plate overflowing—he reluctantly relinquished the role. Toby was a wonderful, community-minded chair and we feel very fortunate to have him on council. Another long-serving CoM member, Janet Phillips, resigned at the same time. They both gave generously of their time during a period in which the House faced serious financial challenges. Their dedication, thoughtfulness and care helped to steer the House into calmer waters.

Finances occupied much of the CoM's time during 2024–25. Under the watchful eyes of our dedicated treasurers, Bronwen Machin and Digby Brandberg, every decision was carefully considered in terms of affordability. Cost-saving initiatives were ramped up while new sources of income were hunted out and acquired, leaving us in a much better financial position than last year. Indeed, the turnaround has been nothing short of remarkable—all thanks to the tireless work of our amazing Executive Officer, Mahira Sobral, and her indomitable team.

Neighbourhood Houses take many forms depending on the needs of the communities they serve. In 2024, at the suggestion of Kerry Anderson, then president of the Rotary Club of Castlemaine, we considered expanding our services to the community to include a comfort station for people experiencing homelessness. The idea was to turn the 'Cube'—the small brick building in the bottom corner of our garden—into a bathroom and laundry space. After lengthy consultations with council and other stakeholders, visits to other community houses with similar facilities, research, contemplation and discussion, we decided not to go ahead.

It was a difficult decision, made partly for financial reasons, but also because the CoM decided that CCH was not the right organisation to run a comfort station.

“Our volunteers are vital and much-loved members of the CCH family ... we simply couldn't and wouldn't exist without them.”

I mention this for several reasons: first, because the need for such a facility still exists in our community and it would be great to see another organisation take it on; second, because the prospect of using the Cube in such a way turned our attention to it as an underutilised space.

Not turning the Cube into a comfort station provided an opportunity to use it for other purposes. Once a storage room whose wide veranda functioned as an unofficial hangout space for teenagers, the Cube, in 2025, has been transformed into an intentional youth-focused space—a place for meeting, learning and sharing. Recognising the need for more programs for young people in our community, Mahira and the team secured a grant from Vic Health that enabled CCH to hire a part-time youth project officer, Kyan Laslett O'Brien, whose down-to-earth approach and genuine commitment to listening to and learning from the young people he works with has produced amazing results.

Other members of the community now use the Cube too. Castlemaine Pride hosted an afternoon tea there for Transgender Day of Visibility, and the whole garden area was transformed into the Pride Stage for the opening night of the Castlemaine Fringe Festival. All these events and initiatives take countless hours of planning, including significant unpaid volunteer hours, for which we are extremely grateful. Our volunteers are vital and much-loved members of the CCH family: from front-of-house administration to working behind the bar at Spring Ball, we simply couldn't and wouldn't exist without them.

In 2024–25 CCH has continued to run its much-loved community programs, including Community Lunch, Community Christmas Lunch and Seniors Month, generously supported by local businesses and organisations and run with the help of volunteers. The food pantry we started in 2023 has grown from a small operation stocking mainly non-perishable food items into a much larger concern, with fresh and frozen food now available, along with some essential household products. We are tremendously grateful for all the donations that enable us to keep this free service operating.



In June 2025, CCH's CoM and staff attended a strategic planning session. The resulting document, to be released later this year, integrates our values with our key focus areas and foundations, and will guide CCH for the next 10 years. Earlier, with the assistance of CoM members Geoff Nunn and Bronwen Machin, we commenced a policy review that included writing a new risk management plan, the central tenants of which undergird our new strategic plan, making it a strong and resilient plan for sustainable growth into the future.

As I write this report, plans are underway for CCH's 40th birthday party, a modest celebration acknowledging the organisation's many achievements, staff and volunteers. Such occasions provide more than an opportunity to look backwards; they are also about looking forwards.

In 2000, CCH looked something like this:



In 2025, CCH looks something like this:



Each year CCH grows in new and exciting ways, forging new partnerships, piloting new programs, testing new ideas, while at the same time keeping up with our tried and tested programs and courses. In 2000, the then manager of CCH, Ron Moore, current CoM member and vice chair, drew a diagram of all the programs and courses emanating from the House. It's a delightful reminder of how much things have changed and how much they've stayed the same—of how important both continuity and change are to an organisation's success. CCH exists for the community and because of the community. It both reflects and enhances our wonderful town.

So, to the community of Castlemaine and the wider Mount Alexander Shire, I say 'thank you'!

Rani Kerin
Chair, Committee of Management

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REVIEW

What an incredible year it has been for Castlemaine Community House. Our focus this year was to strengthen our financial foundations so that we could move into the future with confidence, ready to take thoughtful risks, expand meaningful partnerships, explore new programs, and continue building on our successes. I'm proud to say that we've made significant progress toward this goal.

Through a range of successful grants, we've been able to deliver an extraordinary amount of programming and support to our community, as outlined throughout this Annual Report.

The relentless commitment of our staff and volunteers continues to be at the core of this organisation. Their tireless work to deliver programs and services for our diverse and ever-changing Castlemaine community is truly inspiring.

Every single person at CCH steps up, no matter the task, working together with compassion, problem solving with immense creativity, and dedication to support everyone who walks through our doors. You see this in action when our food relief deliveries arrive from Bendigo Foodshare or Woolworths, and everyone stops whatever they are doing to help. Whether it's answering the phone, welcoming someone at reception, restocking the pantry, or tackling an unexpected challenge, our team consistently shares the load, solves problems together, and supports one another with generosity and care.

I sincerely thank each of them for their invaluable contribution over the past year. We would not be in such a stable and optimistic position without our staff and volunteers.

...ready to take thoughtful risks, expand meaningful partnerships, explore new programs, and continue building on our successes...”

Our volunteers are central to so much of what we do, from those who bring Castlemaine Pride to life to create welcoming spaces LGBTIQA+ community members to gather and celebrate, to the Spring Ball team who put on one of the most fabulous nights on Castlemaine’s calendar and raise vital funds for our work. From our weekly Community Lunch and Christmas Lunch to our NILS program, Growing Abundance, the Community Garden, and education initiatives like Cooking for Blokes, every effort from our volunteers contributes to the impact and heartbeat of the house.

We are also fortunate to have had a dynamic and engaged Committee of Management this year led by our dedicated chair, Rani Kerin. The Committee’s guidance, expertise, and commitment to strengthening our governance—and ensuring we move into the future from a position of strength—has been immensely supportive in my role as manager. Together, we developed a new Strategic Plan, updated key policies and procedures, and implemented a Risk Management Framework to further reinforce our governance.

To our collaborators and champions at Mount Alexander Shire Council—thank you. Your ongoing partnership and shared commitment to building a more equitable, inclusive, and thriving Shire are deeply appreciated. We look forward to continuing to align our efforts and work together.

I am deeply proud of the work we do at Castlemaine Community House. This year, we have forged partnerships that have created meaningful impact—delivering education programs at Tarrengower Prison for Women, expanding our Learn Local programs into Maryborough, and strengthening our engagement with multicultural communities. I’m especially proud of the incredible progress in our youth programs and the outstanding achievements of Kyan and the team. A heartfelt thank you also goes to Kez, Isis, and the Get Connected Working Group for your partnership with Dhelkaya Health. Our collaboration with the hospital has been particularly meaningful and continues to grow.



This year we also welcomed Castlemaine Institute as a resident of Castlemaine Community House. It has been wonderful having them, along with Nalderun Aboriginal Education Corporation, working under the same roof. Both these organisations' dedication to creating opportunities for everyone in our community to participate fully and to building a sustainable future is truly valued.

Throughout the year, CCH has been regularly featured in the local and regional news, received generous community donations for our food pantry, had over 1,000 people walk through our doors, supported hundreds through our education programs, and worked in partnership with many local organisations. Every grant, every donation, every volunteer hour has helped us not just survive, but truly thrive.

This Annual Report offers a glimpse into the wide-reaching impact of our work and the many ways we connect with and respond to our community. Continuing this work into the future will rely on secure, long-term investment, along with State policies and understanding that truly value the essential role grassroots organisations, like neighbourhood houses, play in creating meaningful change.

As we head into the next financial year, we remain mindful of the funding challenges that affect our entire sector. While uncertainty persists, we face the future from a position of strength, confidence, and optimism.

At our 2025 AGM, we'll be celebrating 40 years and launching our Friends of Castlemaine Community House initiative—a way for community members to join us in sustaining and celebrating the work we do together. We invite you to be part of our journey as we continue to build a connected, inclusive, and resilient community.

Thank you for being part of the Castlemaine Community House story.

Mahira Sobral
Executive Officer



TREASURERS NOTES

The 2024–2025 financial year has been a year of consolidation for Castlemaine Community House.

We made a tidy surplus (\$144,560) that has allowed us confidence in our organisation. After two years of losses this has been a welcome change. This has given the bank balance a nice boost and allowed us to put some money aside for the future.

The significant income improvements were in a generous \$25,000 donation, an increase in grants, ongoing and casual venue hire and growth in fee-for-service education programs. Expenses also declined, primarily due to reduced operational costs and the transition of contractors to employee roles.

CCH is continuing to seek Deductible Gift Recipient status; this will enable donations made to our organisation to be tax deductible, while also reflecting our standing in the community for all the important community work we undertake.

Well done to Executive Officer, Mahira Sobral, and her team, for the improvements in this year's finances. They have worked hard to achieve a very successful financial year.

Digby Brandenburg
Treasurer



FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

- Are-Able
- Bakers Delight
- Cantwell Real Estate
- Castlemaine IGA
- Castlemaine Documentary Festival
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Commonwealth Bank
- Community Bank Maldon & District
- Department of Families, Fairness & Housing
- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
- Department of Premier & Cabinet
- Dhelkaya Health
- Good Shepherd No Interest Loans
- Green Goes the Grocer
- Grist Bakery
- Harcourt CWA
- Harvest
- Hull Projects
- Jellis Craig
- Lisa Chesters
- Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services
- Love Shack
- Main FM
- Maxi IGA
- Midsumma
- Moon Massage
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Mt Alexander Community Enterprise
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
- Phoenix Chewton CWA
- Rapid Relief Australia
- Real Strength
- Reconnect - Bendigo Tafe
- Rotary Castlemaine
- Services Australia
- Shedshaker
- Street Smart
- Vic Health
- Woolworths
- Workforce Australia

And, of course, the kind, generous and supportive community of Mount Alexander Shire. Your continual contributions of time, energy, food, donations and care mean the world to us, and the community you share with through us.

We truly are YOUR Community House.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

In mid-2025, the Committee of Management, staff and volunteers came together to draft our new Strategic Plan, which will guide us from 2026 to 2031. We updated our values to ensure they reflect our foundations while also evolving alongside our organisation and the ever-changing needs of our community.

Life Long Learning

To strengthen community capacity by delivering meaningful lifelong learning opportunities that enhance skills, knowledge, self-efficacy, social connection, wellbeing, and build a positive experience of learning and education.

Community Development

To foster an inclusive and socially connected community where all individuals—regardless of race, age, gender identity, ability, or economic background—feel an increased sense of wellbeing, belonging, are empowered to participate, and are supported to embrace opportunities and thrive within our Shire.

Service delivery

To connect community members to services and offer practical supports that maintain and improve physical and mental health, and overall wellbeing.

Partnerships

To increase our impact, leverage shared resources and collaborate with others on initiatives that create long-term change and reduce systemic barriers for community members to participate and thrive within our Shire.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Our education programs help people cope with our fast-changing world, give everyone greater access to employment and a living wage, and enrich people's lives through creativity, community and self-development.

With funding from the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industries and Regions, we deliver a range of pre-accredited training programs at subsidised rates, ensuring everyone has access to lifelong learning. Our programs support people seeking work, developing new skills for employment, volunteering, or pursuing further study.

Over the past year, 262 students participated in courses such as digital workplace skills, gardening, writing, cooking, podcasting, and small business. As a Learn Local provider, we design training to address literacy, numeracy, digital, and workplace skill gaps, evidenced by the strong demand for courses like Basic Computer Skills and Machine Sewing.

This year, we also expanded our education programs through new partnerships. With Tarrengower Women's Prison, we delivered vocational training in hospitality, sewing and alterations, and event management. We also partnered with the Mill House Community House in Maryborough and Maryborough Neighbourhood House to offer hospitality and digital literacy courses. Through a partnership with Reconnect we've been able to provide over 30 local community members with valuable hands-on learning opportunities.

We also supported the delivery of the Castlemaine Careers Fair, hosted in partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council, Workforce Australia and Goldfields LLEN.

Access to lifelong learning remains at the heart of what we do. By offering low-cost, community-based training, we help people gain skills, confidence, and pathways into further education, work, and participation in community life.



WELLBEING PROGRAMS

We also run a broad range of fee-for-service courses and workshops, engaging the community in art, creativity and movement. Like our pre-accredited training, they bring people together for shared learning in a safe and supportive environment. This year we delivered Drawing Projects, Qigong, Yoga, Feldenkrais, Painting and so much more. Like much of the work we do here at CCH, our courses address issues of mental well-being, isolation and equality.

YOUTH PROGRAM

With funding from VicHealth, we employed a Youth Project Officer to run a youth engagement program supporting young people who were disengaged with school, along with their families. In a Shire with limited youth services, this allowed us to fill gaps in accessible, alternative education for those experiencing school refusal, and to establish a parents' support group.

The program, led by Kyan, has been highly successful. In his first three months, he connected with over 40 young people through garden-based outreach, building trust and lasting relationships.

We also formed strong partnerships with Castlemaine Secondary College and the Mount Alexander Shire Council youth team, whose support has strengthened the program. This work demonstrates the power of collaboration, meaningful connections, and safe spaces for young people to grow and thrive.

As part of our youth program, we delivered an eight-week hospitality course for CSC students who were previously disengaged with school, where they learned practical skills and then put them into action by running their very own pop-up café, "Doofe". The students served more than 100 coffees and 60 toasties! The project was a huge success, with The Castlemaine Mail covering the event and celebrating the students as "a town asset."



“



**“Art skills fulfilled!
Community better than
expected. Happiness –
added bonus!”**

Art Pathways student, December 2024

**“The best course I have
had so far.”**

Intro to Canva student, April 2025



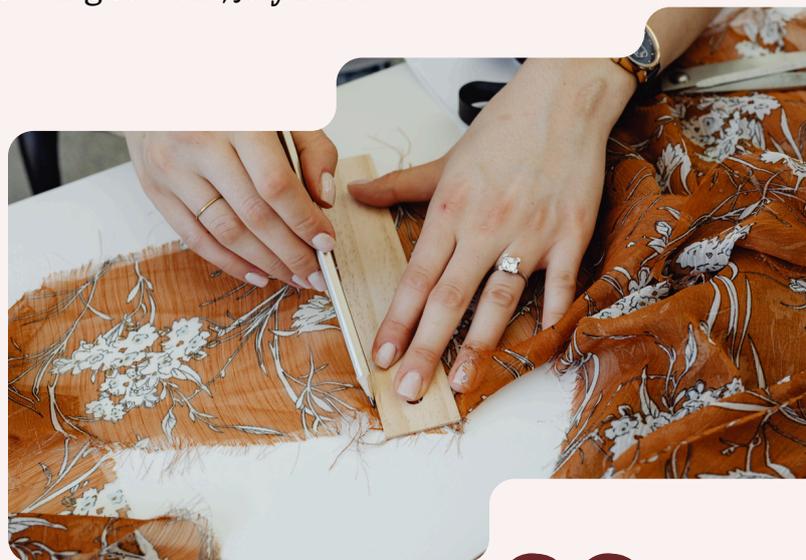
**“It was better than
expected, learnt everything
I wanted to know and
more.”**

Essential Hand Sewing student, July 2024



**“I plan to apply for jobs
in hospitality and apply
my newly acquired
skills in the workplace.”**

Cafe Skills student, July 2025



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Through a range of programs and activities our programs empower people to work together to identify issues and create local solutions. This process aims to build stronger, more connected communities and address isolation and exclusion. Community development is about collective action, building community capacity and fostering participation.

CASTLEMAINE PRIDE

This year, Castlemaine Pride truly hit its stride, receiving over \$20,000 in grant funding from Midsumma and the Pride Events and Festivals Fund.

Our inaugural Queer Cakes and Butch Bakes Castlemaine Pride Bake-Off, supported by Midsumma, was a standout success—surpassing all expectations. From the under-18s “This Cake is Brat” category to “The Gayest Cake” and “Beyond the Binary”, creativity and talent were on full display. With over 60 entries and engagement from more than 15 partner organisations, local businesses, and media outlets, the event was both a celebration of identity and a testament to community spirit. Alongside the Bake-Off, we produced a series of short video interviews highlighting local LGBTQIA+ community members and organisations.

This year also marked a shift from a two-week Pride festival model to year-round events, allowing us to reach more people and offer diverse activities for all interests. Highlights included Queer Crochet and Lawn Bowls, Rainbow Bird Walks in partnership with BirdLife, Memoir Writing Sessions during the Seniors Festival, and a Pride Stage at the Fringe Street Party, featuring diverse LGBTQIA+ DJs. The Pride Stage took place in the Castlemaine Community House Garden.



MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS

We established a meaningful partnership with Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services to host a Summer BBQ at the Chewton Pool for multicultural community members, creating an opportunity for people to connect and access information on staying cool and safe during extreme heat.

In collaboration with LCMS and the Anglican Church, we also delivered a basic bike safety and maintenance program for PALM scheme workers, supporting both practical skills and community inclusion.



CULTURAL CONNECTS

Our Cultural Connects program aimed to highlight the cultural diversity in Mount Alexander Shire, through four family-friendly, hands-on workshops that celebrated cultures through their cuisine. From tacos, to dumplings, to turkish salad and dosas, we learnt about diverse culture and traditions through food.

Supported by the Victorian Government's Multicultural Events and Festival Fund.



COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN

In the past year, the garden has really flourished. It's been nurtured and accessed by many parts of our community for a wide variety of reasons. We so appreciate the time, energy and care our volunteers give to the garden.

We love how the connections between the garden and community lunch have expanded and strengthened. Each week, Community Kitchen Garden volunteers share abundant herbs and vegetables with the Community Lunch crew and often join in for lunch too.

What a treat it is to taste the flavours of community, from the growing, to the cooking and serving!

MURNONG MUMMAS

This year has been a year of solidifying the aims and values of Murnong Mummas, creating a comprehensive road map that ensures that cultural values are at the centre of the work that we do, measurable ways to see whether the aims are being met and the work undertaken is in line with our lived cultural values and beliefs.

We've expanded our social media and website to ensure it aligns with branding and has First Nations values, stories and culture embedded within it. With support of Harcourt Farming Co-operative we have continued to expand facilities on-farm to increase capacity of hosting community centred events, programs and offerings with the building of an outdoor cooking space and yarning circle with fire pit.

Efforts to create habitat on the farm has resulted in a noticeable increase of animal life amongst the bushfoods plot, including but not limited to solitary elderly kangaroos seeking shelter from the heat, birds like Superb Fairy Wrens building nests and finding refuge amongst plants, ravens watching as we work and seeking water on hot days, frogs that have laid eggs in our pond that have gone on to grow to maturity, solitary wasps hunting for insects, Blue Banded Bees collecting pollen from Vanilla Lillie and Preying Mantis laying eggs.

Engagement Highlights

- On-farm: 250+ visitors to the Bushfoods Plot
- Schools: 300+ students participated in workshops
- Presentations: 70+ people heard our story
- Organisations engaged: Djaara, BDAC, Nalderun, Parliament of Victoria, Agriculture Victoria, Dhelkaya Health, La Trobe University & Art Institute, Melbourne University, CERES, Healthy Loddon Campaspe, AFSA, Permaculture Korea, Ishiharaya Farm (Japan)
- Products: 30+ kg of Murnong Mummas salt, curry and dukkah sold; products now available in 4 locations

On-Farm Highlights

- Strong community support through fundraising and volunteer days
- Second generation of Meakitch plants grown from seeds collected on farm, now adapting and reseeded for future generations
- Medicinal plants dormant during La Niña returning as conditions dried
- Native Lemongrass thriving and self-seeding, boosting habitat for wildlife
- School-built pond now home to frogs and a vital water source for bees, dragonflies, birds and kangaroos
- Successful collaboration with The Orchard Keepers producing River Mint & Pear/Apple juice—sold out in 30 minutes
- First big cook-up on the new yarning circle fire pit using produce and meat from the farm and local producers



Murnong Mummas is an Indigenous enterprise based on Dja Dja Wurrung Country that supports local First Nations people to further skills through connecting with and sharing culture



GROWING ABUNDANCE

In late 2024, the Growing Abundance (GA) project became part of Castlemaine Community House (CCH) to strengthen its sustainability and long-term viability. GA had already been partnering with CCH, supplying fresh local fruit to the Community Pantry and Community Lunch. These strong connections ensured a smooth transition and opened new opportunities for growth.

Now, Growing Abundance serves as the umbrella for all CCH food and sustainability programs, including the Community Pantry, Kitchen Garden, Community Lunch, GA Harvest, and sustainability-focused courses and workshops. We thank all staff and volunteers who supported this transition—especially Thea, whose passion for food systems and community helped embed GA within CCH. Early 2025 saw volunteers harvesting produce from generous locals and distributing it to community groups and food relief services across Mount Alexander Shire, including Bendigo Food Share.

Looking ahead, we're excited to expand to year-round harvesting and sharing across local food relief points. Our new mantra, "Give what you can, take what you need," celebrates both community generosity and the shared experience of giving and receiving support.



FREE FOOD PANTRY

Over 400 people access our free food pantry each month—more than 4,500 annually—highlighting the growing need for food support in our community. Rising living and rental costs continue to place many regional families under financial strain. The pantry offers fresh, packaged, refrigerated, and frozen foods, made possible through the generosity of local businesses, organisations, and community members who donate produce, non-perishables, and funds.

A big thank you to Bendigo Food Share's Cooking for Change program for preparing delicious frozen meals in the Castlemaine Secondary College kitchen—now available through our pantry. This initiative is proudly supported by Healthy Loddon Campaspe, Mount Alexander Shire Council, and Bendigo City of Gastronomy.



COMMUNITY LUNCH

Duang and her wonderful team of volunteers served more than 4,200 plates of mouth-watering deliciousness, offering a new menu each week with a colourful assortment of hearty, healthy meals.

Throughout the year, we hosted a number of special lunches. In October, our Seniors Festival lunch featured the annual expo showcasing local organisations. We also teamed up with Arcare for a special sing-along session and enjoyed some timeless classics together. In May, we celebrated National Volunteers Week — always one of our busiest lunches of the year — and hosted a special morning tea to honour our hardworking team.

A big shout-out to Yvonne for taking up the big spoon while Duang returned to Thailand for a couple of months.

We'd also like to give special mention to our dear friend and long-serving volunteer, Austin Crocker, who sadly passed away unexpectedly in February. The Community Lunch kitchen isn't the same without you.

Finally, thank you to all our wonderful sponsors and suppliers — including Mount Alexander Shire Council, Jellis Craig, and Wesley Hill Bakery — Grist, Harvest and food Garden — for their ongoing support.



SPRING BALL – SATURN RETURNS

With Spring Ball turning 30 in 2024, Saturn Returns was the perfect theme for a stellar celebration—and it delivered! Over 350 guests turned out in truly out-of-this-world costumes, with MCs Teresa and Emma facing the tough job of choosing “best dressed.”

Local bands M79 and Aplegate rocked the hall, while DJs Toby Heydon and Sach McFee kept the dance floor buzzing. Jim Coad’s dazzling light show and performances by Hot Moves No Pressure’s Magic Book Boogie and Udder Ones & the Milky Way added to the cosmic fun.

The raffle was a hit and commemorative tea towels remain available for anyone keen! Volunteers provided supper, Domino’s donated pizzas, and the Castlemaine Fringe cocktail bar sold out early. Local drinks came courtesy of Harcourt Valley, Shedshaker, Love Shack, and Little Red Apple.



Photographer Leonie Van Eyk captured the night beautifully (photos on Facebook) and Cantwell sponsored the photobooth for take-home memories. A standout feature was a 2x4m spaceship and hanging planet crafted by local artist Ewin Wood—his generosity truly lifted the event’s cosmic vibe.

The 2024 Spring Ball Committee was smaller than previous years, comprising just Mahira Sobral, Josephine Bodno, Georgina Heydon and Rani Kerin, but lots of volunteers helped in the days leading up to the ball and on the night, assisting with decorations, cooking, cleaning, and running the bar. Special thanks to Sam and Fiona, Phil and Mary, the Blenders (Wendy, Carolyn, Julie, Jo and Katherine), Nicole, Kate, Liza, Katrina, Chrissy, Gary, Rosemary and Lynn.

SERVICE DELIVERY

Access to services in small regional towns is limited and affects people's ability to obtain essential support and information. Co-location of services at Castlemaine Community House helps ensure that those who need these services most can find them in a welcoming, safe space and get the assistance they require.

SERVICES AUSTRALIA

This year we celebrate 13 years of operating a Services Australia Agency here at Castlemaine Community House.

For regional communities it is vital these points of information and support are available locally, this is evidenced by the almost 2,700 visits our Services Australia Agency received over the year.

FREE TAX HELP

Over 27 locals popped in to see our resident tax guru George Milford, who provided a free and friendly service to people navigating the complexities of their tax returns. George retired this year after five years in this voluntary role and we wish him all the best for a happy retirement!

WINTER PACKS

We received a grant from StreetSmart to provide winter packs containing camp stoves, cooking utensils, and other essential items for people sleeping rough. These packs made a meaningful difference, expanding what people could cook from the pantry during the coldest times of the year.

NO INTEREST LOANS

The Good Shepherd Microfinance No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) is there to assist you with unexpected expenses.

Across the year NILS supported 53 people to take out small loans for a wide variety of items and needs.

The NILS program at CCH is run by amazing team of volunteers. Allison, John and our newest NILS volunteer, Kirsty. We said farewell to long-term NILS volunteer Leanne this year: thank you for your dedication and support!

THE GOOD COAT DRIVE

We partnered with Community Bank Maldon & District, The Good Op Shop, and Sac of Suds to distribute winter coats and blankets to people needing some extra warmth this winter. Thank you to everyone who donated.

We were also able to distribute more than 30 hot water bottles thanks to a partnership with Bendigo TAFE whose VCE students sewed hot water bottle covers using recycled fabric and pillowcases.

PARTNERSHIPS

We have a long track record of working in partnership with all levels of government, community organisations, local business, groups and individuals. Through these partnerships we are so much more than any of us are alone – increasing our support to community and creating a vibrant community house.

SENIORS FESTIVAL

The 2024 Victorian Seniors Festival theme, Explore. Engage. Evolve., encouraged older Victorians to stay curious, connected, and open to new experiences. Guided by community consultation, more than 20 events showcased local services and offered free programs, entertainment, and information sessions for older community members.

In partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council and with Victorian Government support, the festival celebrated diversity through collaborations with Uncle Rick Nelson's Waaman Tours, Castlemaine Pride, and the Silver Rainbow Social Club. The flagship mini-expo and community lunch brought people together to connect with local services over a free meal. Nearly 700 participants joined Seniors Festival activities in October 2024—a wonderful achievement for our team and volunteers!

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH

Our 2024 Community Christmas Lunch was a joyful celebration held at the Castlemaine Town Hall and Senior Citizens Centre, welcoming over 200 guests. Notably, 28% attended alone, making this event a vital opportunity for connection and inclusion—many shared that they formed new community ties on the day.

Two buses provided transport for guests from across Mount Alexander Shire, Melbourne, and Riddells Creek.

This special event depends on the generosity and partnership of local businesses and volunteers—thank you to Harvest, Green Goes the Grocer, Castlemaine Fresh, Blackwood Orchard, Mount Alexander Fruit Garden, Oakwood, Bundarra, Clifford's, Sprout, Grist, Castlemaine Honey, Caboose, Feve, Sellar Dairy, Mulberry's, and all our wonderful volunteers.

GET CONNECTED

Social Prescribing aims to build both the quality of meaningful social interactions and relationships, and the number of social opportunities, roles, interactions and contact in our community. In July 2024 funding was received from Mount Alexander Shire Council and Are Able to continue the program through to December 2024, and the program delivered exceptional results:

- 55% of referred participants attended a Chatty Cafe
- attendance in Chatty Cafe increased by 120% across 12 months.
- participants engaged in a wide range of activities from fitness classes to a dating event, from visiting the museum to bird watching, and from choir to car club.
- participants average loneliness scores decreased over 6 months
- participants average wellbeing scores increased over 3 months.

Early in 2025, Castlemaine Community House and the Get Connected Working Group oversaw the transition of Get Connected into an ongoing program funded through Dhelkaya Health. We are thrilled that the team at Dhelkaya Health has recognised the value of social prescribing for our community and is committed to providing ongoing support to further embed Get Connected within the Mount Alexander Shire health services ecosystem. We look forward to deepening our partnership and continuing to collaborate with Dhelkaya Health.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED

ABN 20 112 806 357

**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members present the special purpose financial report on the entity for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

Committee Members

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

Name	Portfolio	Date of Change
Rani Kerin	Chair	From November 2024
Toby Heydon	Chair	Resigned November 2024
Ron Moore	Vice Chair	Until November 2024
Digby Bradenburg	Treasurer	Appointed November 2024
Bronwen Machin	Treasurer	Until November 2024
Sandy Joffe	Secretary	Appointed November 2024
Rani Kerin	Secretary	Until November 2024
Geoff Nunn	Ordinary Member	
Bronwyn Grieve	Ordinary Member	
Ron Moore	Ordinary Member	From November 2024
Bronwen Machin	Ordinary Member	From November 2024
Janet Phillips	Ordinary Member	Resigned November 2024

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the entity during the financial year were to provides programs and activities contributing to community development and supporting individuals and groups within the local community..

Significant Changes

No significant changes in the entity's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

Operating Results

The surplus for the year attributable to the entity amounted to \$144,560 (2024: \$69,236 - restated deficit).

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the entity's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
COMMITTEE'S REPORT

After Balance Date Events

No matter has evolved since 30 June 2025 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (a) the entity's operations in future financial years, or
- (b) the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- (c) the entity's state of affairs in future financial years.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Chairperson



Rani Kerin

Treasurer



Digby Bradenburg

Dated this Wednesday 26th day of November 2025

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
INCOME		
Adult Community Further Education (ACFE)	143,494	144,819
Department of Family, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)	125,418	96,889
Services Australia (Federal)	71,542	70,690
Mount Alexander Shire Council	5,500	28,250
Course and Program fees	83,250	123,674
Good Shepherd Microfinance	5,250	5,000
Growing Abundance	37,379	765
Community Lunch	26,526	31,450
Murrnong Mammias Catering	44,913	86,523
VicHealth Youth Program	23,094	-
Equipment and room hire	30,130	15,236
Donations and Fundraising	25,305	32,000
Other income and auspices	173,766	107,048
TOTAL INCOME	<u>795,567</u>	<u>742,344</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Staff wages – CCH	336,278	328,672
Education programs	76,342	133,736
No Interest Loans Scheme	-	108
Community Lunch	23,146	21,696
Murrnong Mammias Catering	38,873	82,284
Operational expenses	73,610	130,708
Other programs and auspice	102,758	114,376
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>651,007</u>	<u>811,580</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>144,560</u>	<u>(69,236)</u>

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	144,560	(69,236)
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	<u>144,560</u>	<u>(69,236)</u>

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	335,543	140,433
Trade and other receivables	3	10,090	3,130
Current other assets		3,938	807
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>349,571</u>	<u>144,370</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>349,571</u>	<u>144,370</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other creditors	5	49,365	29,729
Amounts received in advance	6	88,446	50,365
Provisions	7	34,355	26,537
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>172,166</u>	<u>106,631</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	7	-	4,894
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>-</u>	<u>4,894</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>172,166</u>	<u>111,525</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>177,405</u>	<u>32,845</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated funds		177,405	32,845
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>177,405</u>	<u>32,845</u>

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Accumulated funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 June 2023	102,081	102,081
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	(69,236)	(69,236)
Balance as at 30 June 2024	32,845	32,845
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	144,560	144,560
Balance as at 30 June 2025	177,405	177,405

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers and other sources		826,688	726,754
Payments to employees and suppliers		(631,578)	(835,227)
Interest received		-	-
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	(i)	<u>195,110</u>	<u>(108,473)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		-	-
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		195,110	(108,473)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		140,433	248,906
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	(ii)	<u>335,543</u>	<u>140,433</u>

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Note (i). Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities		
Net surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	144,560	(69,236)
Non-cash flow item:		
Depreciation	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other debtors	(6,960)	12,960
- (Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(3,131)	2,147
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payable	19,636	(1,786)
- Increase/(decrease) in amounts received in advance	38,081	(28,550)
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	2,924	(24,008)
	<u>195,110</u>	<u>(108,473)</u>
Note (ii). Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		
Cash at bank	210,343	140,233
Cash on hand	200	200
Cash on deposit	125,000	-
	<u>335,543</u>	<u>140,433</u>

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report includes the financial statements and notes of the Castlemaine Community House Incorporated, an incorporated association, which is incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals accounting basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the general purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

b. Income Tax

The Association is exempt from paying income tax by virtue of Sections 50-50 & 50-52 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. Accordingly, tax effect accounting has not been adopted.

c. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost where applicable, less any accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment was depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

d. Employee Entitlements

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

Provision is made for the Association's liability for long service leave from commencement of employment, not from the 5 year employment period normally accrued as industry practice.

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

e. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

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

f. Impairment of Assets

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

g. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Revenue is brought to account when received and to the extent that it relates to the subsequent period it is disclosed as a liability.

Grant Income

Grant income received, other than for specific purposes, is brought to account over the period to which the grant relates.

Deferred Income

Unspent grant income received in relation to specific projects and events is not brought to account as revenue in the current year but deferred as a liability in the financial statements until spent for the purpose received.

Capital Grants

Grant Income received relating to the purchase of capital items is shown as Unamortised Capital Grant and brought to account over the expected life of the asset in proportion to the related depreciation charge.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Donations

Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

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

h. Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

i. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Note 2. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank	210,343	140,233
Cash on hand	200	200
Cash on deposit	125,000	-
	<u>335,543</u>	<u>140,433</u>
Note 3. Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade debtors	9,493	3,130
Other debtors	597	-
	<u>10,090</u>	<u>3,130</u>
Note 4. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment		
At cost	43,094	43,094
Less accumulated depreciation	(43,094)	(43,094)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Office Furniture		
At cost	53,681	53,681
Less accumulated depreciation	(53,681)	(53,681)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Note 5. Trade and Other Payables		
Trade creditors	2,959	11,830
Sundry creditors & accruals	27,577	7,609
PAYGW payable	(1,814)	(1,594)
Superannuation payable	8,531	8,575
Net GST payable	12,112	3,309
	<u>49,365</u>	<u>29,729</u>
Note 6. Amounts Received in Advance		
Income received in advance	65,728	14,874
Mumong Mamas Auspice Funds	8,200	30,417
Other Auspice Funds	14,518	5,074
	<u>88,446</u>	<u>50,365</u>
	2025 \$	2024 \$
Note 7. Provisions		
Current		
Annual leave	21,534	19,545
Long service leave	12,821	6,992
	<u>34,355</u>	<u>26,537</u>
Non-current		
Long service leave	-	4,894
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,894</u>
Note 8. Related Party Transactions		

The Committee Members act in an honorary capacity and are not paid for their services as Committee Members.

There were no transactions with related parties during the 2025 year.

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

In the opinion of the committee, the financial report as set out on pages 3 to 12, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

- 1 a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and
b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of Castlemaine Community House Incorporated as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Castlemaine Community House Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

Chairperson



Rani Kerin

Treasurer



Digby Bradenburg

Dated this Wednesday 26th day of November 2025

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Castlemaine Community House Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2025, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Board.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Victoria), including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1, the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria).

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Castlemaine Community House Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

Name of Auditor: Frederik R. L. Eksteen

Address: Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd
127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011

Date: 26 November 2025

CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED
ABN 20 112 806 357
CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

I, **Rani Kerin** and I, **Digby Bradenburg** hereby certify that:

- (a) We are members of the committee of the Castlemaine Community House Incorporated.
- (b) We attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 27 November 2025.
- (c) We are authorised by the attached resolution of the committee to sign this certificate.
- (d) This special purpose financial report was submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Chairperson



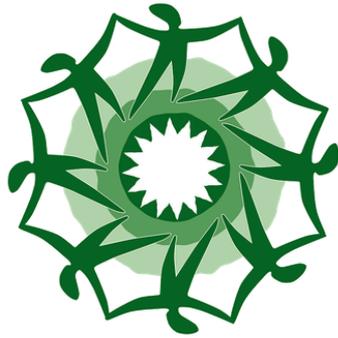
Rani Kerin

Treasurer



Digby Bradenburg

Dated this Wednesday 26th day of November 2025



CASTLEMAINE COMMUNITY HOUSE



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