



Brunswick Junction

Community Resource Centre

Your local connection

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Welcome to our Annual Report 2022 - 2023.

When I introduced our Annual Report last year, I mentioned that we were facing multiple crises on a global scale. The severe shortage of affordable housing in our state and the steady increase in the cost of purchased goods led to an unwelcome rise in the general cost of living. This inflationary situation has not been seen since the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Unfortunately, little seems to have changed since then.

In 2023, significant events occurred worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic improved, resulting in the World Health Organization revoking its global health emergency status in May. The United Kingdom had a grand coronation ceremony for King Charles III. Unfortunately, the Russian invasion of Ukraine continued, oppressive regimes were still a concern, and several African nations experienced coups. In October, Israel declared war against the Gaza Strip following a surprise attack by the militant group Hamas. Despite strong measures taken by authorities to contain the financial sector turmoil in the US and Switzerland, numerous American regional banks collapsed and so the price of food, fuel, and housing costs continued to rise. The risk of continuing high inflation remains.

This year, massive earthquakes, extreme weather events, and ferocious bushfires have ravaged numerous counties. Australia has suffered from floods and other natural disasters in all but one state and territory, resulting in a loss of A\$5 billion. The damage to infrastructure and crops has been extensive, and the mining and construction industries have been significantly impacted. In January, ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie caused severe flooding in the Kimberley and northern parts of Western Australia, damaging the bridge across the Fitzroy River beyond repair and people from several communities had to be evacuated due to the worst flooding ever seen in the state. Wildfires destroyed vast areas of plantations and farmland near Noggerup and Donnybrook in January, while in February, a firefighting air tanker crashed while dropping retardant on a bushfire in the Fitzgerald River National Park in southern Western Australia. Moreover, Australia experienced its driest and third-warmest September on record, while global average temperatures reached their highest levels ever recorded in the same month.

In February a few events caught the attention of the nation. The Perth Scorchers emerged victorious in the 2022-23 Big Bash League season, while the Matildas captured the hearts of the people by progressing to the semi-finals of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. On April 20th, thousands gathered in Exmouth to witness a rare total solar eclipse and on May 29th, the sun set on the political career of the Premier of Western Australia, Mark McGowan. He was succeeded by Roger Cook, who soon faced a political crisis related to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021. This Act was later repealed, and the 1972 Act was reinstated. In October we were all able to appreciate our democratic freedom as we exercised our right to vote in the Local Government elections and the 2023 National Constitutional Referendum.

It can be challenging to come across positive news amidst the negativity surrounding us. However, our community newsletter, *The Moospaper*, along with encouraging posts and comments on our social media pages, is filled with reports and stories about how the people in our town and nearby areas rise up to adversities and respond with community spirit and incredible generosity. It is also evident that not-for-profit organizations and networks, like ours, have become more crucial than ever before.

SERVICES

**Government access
Federal, State and
local
information and
support**

**Print/Scan
WIFI
Design Services
Free Job Seeker
and student
access and
support**

**Op-shop
Food Bank referrals
& advocacy support**

**Library
Be Connected
Program**

**Passport Application
Preparation for
lodgement**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - CONTINUED

DIPIRD and the Shire of Harvey, our key funding partners have shown an unwavering commitment to our cause. Their generosity and support have encouraged us to remain optimistic about our ability to provide high-quality services and develop programs that promote growth and engagement within the Brunswick Junction community. We are truly grateful for their continued support.

Our Resource Centre has fulfilled its mission to support the development of the Brunswick Junction and Districts region. We have a steady flow of visitors, a busy calendar of events and a healthy financial situation. Our CRC is highly regarded in Brunswick and across the wider community, thanks to the hard work of our visionary Centre Manager, Tina Wallis, and our energetic Client Services Officer, Chevonne Greenhalgh. Our trainees, Ben Jauncey (2022) and Narelle Read (2023), as well as our Youth Program Coordinator, Jamay Sullivan, have also made significant contributions. Additionally, our selfless volunteers have been instrumental in ensuring that we continue to provide quality services to our community members and visitors.

Your Brunswick Junction CRC relies heavily on the tireless efforts of dedicated volunteers, including the Management Committee. Without their generous contributions of time and expertise, we would not be able to operate successfully. However, most of our volunteers are well into their senior years which is why our Succession Plan aims to encourage younger members of the Brunswick community to step forward and take their place. So, if you are interested in serving your community and supporting our mission as a progressive organization, come and join us- we welcome everyone who wants to champion our cause and make a positive impact for everybody, everywhere.

The Management Committee is incredibly proud of all our people and we are immensely grateful to our enthusiastic staff and volunteers who have all made a significant difference to the community. They embody the philosophy of an anonymous writer who said, "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else."

CHAIRPERSON

Ron Exelby

Ron Exelby



Minister for Regional Development
The Hon Don Punch
MLA



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



SHIRE OF
HARVEY



BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Antique Fair & Auction

Pub Quizzes

Car Boot Sale

One-on-one training

Sundowners

Job seeker support

Traineeship support

Return to work and online inductions

Community website:
brunswickwa.com

Our CRC has been closely monitoring the use of generative AI models and it's worth noting that this Annual Report has been generated and improved using this technology.

MANAGER'S REPORT

“We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” Walt Disney. While not quite on the scale of the famous film-maker, a healthy curiosity has been a guiding force in my life since childhood, leading me down countless new paths, a habit that continues to this day.

Sustaining a healthy dose of curiosity has been responsible for exploring a variety of new activities over the past 12 months. Kickstarting the year with an Antiques Fair and Auction, the event piqued the interest of the community members and the trade representatives. With the support of dedicated volunteers and staff, the event took a week in preparation and attracted buyers who secured some ‘treasures’ at favourable prices. It also stimulated conversations amongst the locals, with requests for a repeat community auction in the future.

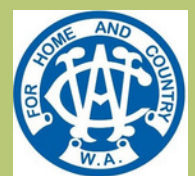
Another new development was the revitalisation of our Youth Program. Here, we increased the frequency of Late-Night sessions from fortnightly to weekly. This recognised the need to foster regular interactions among the town's teenagers to help counter the growing influence of digital media platforms and devices. Thanks to our devoted Youth Coordinator, Jamay 'Sully' Ieraci, who continually works to build and maintain positive relationships with both teenagers and primary school children. For the younger children, we also embraced a novel approach, offering an after-school club with activities that provide a personalised focus to nurture self-confidence and promote independence and personal growth. For 2022/2023 we also introduced a school holiday program with activities such as Paint, Sip, and Crunch workshops, which have gained immense popularity, consistently reaching full capacity. The Youth Programs at the CRC are made possible through the newly approved Partnership Grant from the Shire of Harvey, who have assured their continued support with funding over the coming years.

Curiosity aside, it is important for operations to be adaptable and to make necessary adjustments when CRC activities do not yield expected. In late 2022, the decision to step down from our role as Residential Manager of Brunswick River Cottages was agreed. After holding the position for five years and being part of the growth of the enterprise, it was time to hand over the reins. We look back on this experience, appreciating the opportunities it afforded, not least, for our 2021/2022 trainee, Ben Jauncey.

We bid farewell to Ben, who successfully completed his 12-month traineeship, achieving a qualification in Property Management and securing employment in his chosen course of career, rental management. Our connection with Ben, however has not ended as he now manages our IT equipment and services contract.



SUPPORTERS AND MEMBERS OF



MANAGER'S REPORT CONT.

As one traineeship chapter closed, we welcomed our current trainee, Narelle Read, who is pursuing a course of study in Tourism. Leveraging on the knowledge and experience to provide guidance at the CRC, the traineeship is supported through work placements in tourism with both the Australind Artisan Collective and Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre. Securing traineeships is not a given, as the competitive application process involves 100 other CRCs in WA. We are, therefore fortunate for the opportunity to mentor and guide candidates towards gainful employment and integration into the local workforce. Brunswick CRC has established an impressive track record, having met the intended targets for our trainees over the past five years - a testament to our ongoing commitment to strengthening the economic development of the local workforce.

Curiosity opened doors on a personal level as we said farewell to our bookkeeper, Leni Mosne, at the close of 2022. Embracing the challenge of taking on the role has been an enriching experience. Increasing my knowledge of best practices of accounting and related processes, I have gained a deeper insight into the management of the CRC's financials. On behalf of the CRC, I'd like to acknowledge the invaluable support and service provided by Leni over the years and wish her continued success, both in her work and in supporting her family.

Further professional development was on offer when both the manager and the CSO attended the bi-annual Linkwest Conference in April 2023. The two-day event was brimmed with valuable information to help enhance our services and offered a platform to connect with staff from other CRCs, as well as the incoming Minister for Regional Development, The Hon Don Punch MLA. Meeting members of our key funding body provides opportunities to enable face-to-face communication and updates on our progress in meeting the contracted KPIs. We welcomed further visits to Brunswick CRC during 2022/2023 to celebrate our work and share it with the broader community.

Continued expansion of our networking through events and activities, outlined in our annual action plan, has seen a few other 'firsts' through the year e.g., a Brunswick Christmas Lunch for seniors, a Car Boot Sale and hosting the Biggest Morning Tea (BMT) in the neighbouring town of Burekup. With the support of funding from the Shire of Harvey, the Christmas lunch was a resounding success, thanks to the incredible volunteers in our community who generously stepped up at short notice. The Car Boot Sale was supported with help from the Brunswick Men's Shed, with whom we always value working collaboratively. The BMT was equally successful, allowing us to connect with stakeholders and organisations outside of Brunswick. Special thanks go to Burekup's Country Club and the CWA 'River Belles' for co-hosting this event. We look forward to working together with local communities to help enhance the delivery of services.

Lastly, I cannot overlook the essential contributions of the CRC's volunteers and our steadfast committee. Their guidance and strategic planning are greatly valued and it's sometimes challenging to adequately express the gratitude for their devotion of time and energy. Without these individuals' benevolence, the success of Brunswick CRC's service to the community would not be the same. I look forward to continuing this strong partnership and appreciate the fortune of being in this enviable position, it is a privilege to be working alongside such a committed group of people.

Tina Wallis

CENTRE MANAGER



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**



SHIRE OF
HARVEY



CLIENT SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

With a further 12 months in my role as CSO, the job continues to bring many, new exciting and rewarding experiences. Getting to know the local community and working with members and stakeholders has helped to establish broader relationships to support the great work of the CRC.

Coordinating the visits from Bunbury Foodbank has seen the introduction of a new service with a mobile food bank van which we were invited to trial. We gladly accepted the opportunity and have seen the uptake of the service grow significantly over the year. More frequent, fortnightly visits have helped to promote this valuable service with supplies of food and household products available at affordable prices.

In another exciting development, this year we unveiled a new addition to the garden at the CRC, a Purple Bench. A successful grant application provided the funds required to install a cost-effective bench that would identify our support and raise awareness of families affected by domestic violence. Faced with the limitations of a small budget, we decided to approach the Brunswick Men's and Hens' Shed for their support. Their response was a generous offer to donate a bench, allowing us to use the remaining funds for the necessary paint and a plaque, as stipulated in the grant. The bench provides a safe place for reflection on cherished memories and loved ones and also features a helpful helpline number on its plaque for those in need.

This year we have seen further popularity in our Junior Paint and Sip School Holiday program. With classes booked fully booked out, we have welcomed new families as well as the return of some old faces which is a good indicator of the success of the sessions. The kids have enjoyed creating their own masterpieces and we have noticed a growing confidence in painting skills and the development of new friendships too! We often see that parents are quite surprised when they see what their children have achieved.

In line with medium-term plans, our Op Shop has undergone expansion. Earlier in the year the staff and volunteers and staff got together for a busy bee to create more space for Op Shop sales. This extra area has provided a larger space to sell the generously donated items and to not have everything cluttered. It also means that we have increased sales and higher foot traffic which has been noticed with general feedback from the public, commenting on how they are loving the idea of having more choice of items to buy.

In terms of professional development, Tina and I had the privilege of attending a Linkwest conference in Perth, spanning two days. The conference was divided into sessions focused on banking and financial matters, workplace ethics, inclusion, and team-building activities. It was enlightening to hear about the plans and success stories from other centres, as it fueled our motivation and provided us with fresh ideas to implement back at HQ in Brunswick. The conference was well organized and provided us with valuable tools for both centre improvement and personal growth.

Chevonne Greenhalgh

CLIENT SERVICES OFFICER



FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance

Total Assets - \$ 375,291

Total Liabilities - \$47,772

Net Assets - \$327,519

Profit & Loss

Total Income - \$244,353

Total Expenses - \$204,212

Operating Profits - \$16,370

Our strong financial position will support the continuation of delivering valuable services to the community.

Every staff member, committee member and volunteer contributes to reducing costs and increasing income. It is always a small window of sustainable surplus that is earned from year to year because we remain affordable in the service we supply. With our sub-committee focus to investigate social enterprises, our aim remains to develop more sustainability in operations .

FOR THE FULL AUDIT REPORT VISIT BRUNSWICKWA.COM/BJCRC

Impact statement



Total of 1240 volunteer hours to support day-to-day operations and special events

Established support with 25 partner organisations and Stakeholders



Providing services to over 800 people each month (9600 p.a.) and in 2022/2023 ncreased our membership five fold

“Core to the provision of services and activities available through Brunswick Community Resource Centre is only made possible by the funding received by DPIRD and through the Partnership Agreement funds contributed by the Shire of Harvey. Without this valued support and income, the range of events and resources would not be feasible,

EVENTS & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

International Women's Day

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Reconciliation Week

NAIDOC Week

Shire of Harvey Pop-Ups'

R U OK Day

Get Online Week

Children's Week

Walking group
After School Youth Groups
Community Garden



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

SUPPORTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS HAVE BEEN PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

