

Annual Report 2018



Key people

Our board

John Sheen
Chair

Clifford Moss
Vice-chair

Shane Murphy
Treasurer

Ana Ibanez
Secretary

Nagia Centurion

Bo Li

Brooke Dellavedova

Senior management

Chris Lombardo
Executive Officer

Catriona Herz
Operations Manager

Lamia Dib
Children's Services Manager

Larry Lee
Training & Program Manager

Ramona Barry
Office Manager

Chairperson's message



After a number of years of significant growth, the board's priorities in 2018 were to support the Executive Officer to develop a new organisational structure to strengthen staff capability and capacity, and to consolidate our programs and services and ensure that we continue to do what we do well.

For 2018, I am pleased to report another financial surplus, a great achievement given the changing environment in the training and children's-services sectors. It is gratifying to see the organisation deliver quality and affordable programs despite the challenging environment — always focused on the needs of the communities we serve.

On behalf of the board, I express my gratitude to Executive Officer Chris Lombardo for her outstanding leadership in 2018, and to staff and volunteers for their work and commitment. Thank you to our partners, stakeholders and supporters, and to my fellow board members for their commitment and ongoing support.

The Bridge is a vibrant, not-for-profit community organisation based in Preston and Thornbury that provides social, educational and support programs to meet community needs. We offer a wide range of services across multiple sites, including adult education, child care, community programs, venue hire and our social enterprise café.

Training

Thank you to our participants, tutors, staff, volunteers, community members and stakeholders for your invaluable support, as we closed 2018 with record numbers yet again in ACFE student contact hours, with a total of 22,108 hours (up from 21,490 in 2017).

This was due to stronger enrolments: 1,113 enrolments in 127 ACFE and fee-for-service programs in 2018, up from 1,042 enrolments and 120 programs in 2017.

Our programs have been successful in meeting the wide-ranging needs of our diverse community in Darebin.

Pottery continued to gain huge popularity and averaged a total of 80 students per term in the 8 classes in 2018. We remain optimistic that this trend will continue.

Further research will be conducted to identify activities and programs to engage even more people in Thornbury.

In 2018 :	
22,108	ACFE student contact hours
1,113	Enrolments
127	Education programs

Venue hire

Over the course of an average week 57 community groups, not-for-profits and local businesses run ongoing activities and programs from our many spaces in Preston and Thornbury.

“ 3,104 guests a week come through the doors ”

Children’s Services

2018 was another fantastic year for Children’s Services, with the 3-year-old kinder program in Preston continuing to be the most popular.

The dedicated educators at the Bridge represent 11 different cultural backgrounds and enjoy sharing their knowledge and experiences with the children and their families. They provided a varied indoor/outdoor program throughout 2018, based on the individual interests of the children and parental consultation.

We celebrated many special events throughout the year, including Diversity Week, Harmony Day, Teddy bear’s picnic, Red Nose Day, Mother’s Day morning tea, Father’s Day breakfast and the Christmas party in December.

In 2018 :	
1,480	Childcare contact hours
93	Children cared for during an average week in Preston
40	Children cared for during an average week in Thornbury
11	Outstanding qualified staff

These partnerships serve as a vital link for participants to engage with the Bridge, creating valuable pathways and greater community engagement. The Bridge is available to the local community 7 days a week from 8am until 9pm.

Community

The Bridge continues to involve the community across a number of suburbs in the north, which is demonstrated by continued engagement in community and social activities and the development of new activities and programs.

We have increased recruitment of volunteers at the Bridge across multiple departments and have provided training opportunities for them to upskill and in some cases prepare for employment.

Laneway Lunches increased its engagement in 2018 with up to 65 people being fed per week. Our Laneway Activities continued to be successful, including craft activities, iPad activities and a health kiosk run in partnership with DIVRS and La Trobe University.

We saw big growth in Makers Market Thornbury, with stallholders increasing from 24 to 50. Around 300-350 people attended each market.

Twilight Cinemas were once again successful, run in partnership with Friends of Mayer Park and McGrath Northcote. Approximately 2,000 people attended the four cinema events.

In 2018 :	
11,548	Volunteer hours contributed
3,300	Laneway Lunches cooked and served to our community members
80	Volunteers recruited and supported
4	Thornbury Makers Markets
4	Twilight Cinema sessions

Moon Rabbit

In 2018 we launched Moon Rabbit – an environmentally sustainable cafe, social enterprise and training site all in one – at the front of the Bridge Preston.

We also launched our innovative vocational program Tiered Training & Transition (TTT), which trains young people with additional learning needs in customer service, food prep and coffee-making at Moon Rabbit. In 2018 we trained 17 students; many have gone on to gain meaningful employment or study.

In 2018 Moon Rabbit catered more than 10 events and ran three successful pop-ups at Makers Market Thornbury.

We were featured in the news extensively, with articles in The Age (twice), Preston Leader (three times), Broadsheet Melbourne and SBS Food.

Moon Rabbit does not provide disposable takeaway coffee cups; in 2018 we effectively prevented 10,256 coffee cups from ending up in landfill. And we educated the public and other cafes about environmentally responsible alternatives, such as reusable takeaway cups, ceramic mugs and glass jam jars (donated by community members).

In 2018 :	
10,783	Moon Rabbit customer transactions
10,256	Disposable coffee cups not provided (prevented from becoming landfill)
1,432	Slices and biscuits sold, baked by volunteers
17	Students trained through the TTT vocational program

Financials

The Bridge finished the 2017 financial year in a sound position.

Members are welcome to view the full audited statements at our registered office at 218 High St, Preston. Please make an appointment with the Executive Officer.

Accounting Period:
1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

Income	\$1,348,471
Expenditure	\$1,313,289
Surplus	\$35,181

PRESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.
STATEMENT BY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

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 of the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Management Committee of Preston Neighbourhood House Inc.

- The accompanying Income Statement and Cash Flow Statement are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the result and cash flow of Preston Neighbourhood House Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2018;
- The accompanying Balance sheet and Statement of Changes in Equity is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs for Preston Neighbourhood House Inc. as at 31 December 2018, and
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Preston Neighbourhood House Inc. is able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee and is signed for and behalf of the Committee by:

Name: John Smeeth Signature: [Signature] Date: 23/12/2019
(Chair)
Preston Neighbourhood House Inc.

Name: Sharon Murphy Signature: [Signature] Date: 23/12/2019
(Treasurer)
Preston Neighbourhood House Inc.

Executive Officer's statement

2018 has been a pivotal year for the Bridge; the hard work of the previous three years has finally come to fruition.

In 2018 the Bridge:

- Welcomed 3,104 visitors per week
- Increased income by 11%
- Opened a social enterprise café
- Redeveloped the Preston site
- Launched an innovative vocational training program (TTT)
- Exceeded 100 participants per week at our Thornbury Arts Hub
- Took over the lease of the Leinster Grove Community Hall and increased community participation by 300%
- Grew Makers Market Thornbury to 50+ stallholders, sold out by October
- Underwent an organisational restructure to better reflect our needs
- Delivered a record number of ACFE hours
- Served 3,300 Laneway Lunches
- Became registered for the Child Care Subsidy at both childcare centres

With community-development principles underpinning all our decision-making, we create an atmosphere of inclusion. You only have to walk through the doors in Preston or Thornbury and you will be met with a smile and a feeling of belonging. We are blessed with wonderful, dedicated staff

and volunteers at the Bridge who embrace this culture of relaxed acceptance.

From occasional child care, weekly Laneway Lunches, adult education programs, leisure and recreation classes, art and ceramics, venue hire, skill sharing to our flagship social enterprise café – Moon Rabbit – there is something for everyone at the Bridge.

Informing the community about all the opportunities available at the Bridge has always been a challenge for us but not anymore. Thanks to Erin, our Communications & Marketing Coordinator, we are finally on the map, and in the papers, radio and social media.

We are all proud of the achievements of Moon Rabbit and thrilled with the community support. TTT has proven to be a beneficial program to disadvantaged learners and is changing lives. Well done to Sam, Sabrina and their teams.

I would like to single out the support that the City of Darebin has provided in a variety of ways this year, including the use of three council facilities. There has been a great recognition of our services and open collaboration between us, which allows our community to be better served.

Thank you to our board of management and senior managers who all contributed enormously to the success of the year. In the last quarter Boyd and Cate moved on to new challenges and Larry Lee joined the team as Training & Program Manager.

As we look forward to another brilliant year ahead, I reflect on how fortunate I am to belong to a workplace where we truly create social capital.

Chris Lombardo – Executive Officer

Thank you for your support

Bunnings Northland

City of Darebin

Foodbank

GoGet

Inner North Community Foundation

McGrath Northcote

Northcote Bakeshop

Northway Honda

Office of Ged Kearney MP

Preston Connected Community

Victorian Government – Department of Education & Training

Victorian Government – Department of Health and Human Services

Partners

Campbell Page

Darebin Neighbourhood House Network

DIVRS

Melbourne Polytechnic

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria

North East Neighbourhood House Network

Northern Support Services

United Minds

Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Your Community Health

Contact details

Preston Neighbourhood House Inc.

(the Bridge)

218 High St, Preston

T: 03 9484 5806

www.bridge.org.au

