STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EMPOWER THOSE THAT NEED IT THE MOST

2023
ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD 18 APRIL 2024

BRIDGE DAREBIN IS THE TRADING NAME OF
PRESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC.
ABN 66 801 857 062

Bridge Darebin

WE ARE PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE OF THE KULIN NATION AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH BRIDGE DAREBIN IS LOCATED. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURES, AND TO ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE OF ALL ABORIGINAL PEOPLE.

CONTENTS

2 Our Mission Statement

3 Chairperson's message

4 CEO message

6 Timeline

8 Projects

11 Departments

16 Organisational Chart

18 Treasurer's Statement

19 Financial Report

20 Partners & Supporters

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WE STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EMPOWER THOSE THAT NEED IT MOST.

OUR PILLARS

PILLAR ONE
Stability & Resilience

PILLAR TWO
Responsiveness & Relevance

PILLAR THREE
Advocacy & Influence

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health & Wellbeing
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water & Sanitation
7. Affordable & Clean Energy
8. Decent Work & Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequality
11. Sustainable Cities & Communities
12. Responsible Consumption & Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace & Justice Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships to achieve the Goal

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States developed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an urgent global call to action.

Bridge Darebin commits to both reflection and action to all relevant SDGs and continued measurement against these goals as part of their strategic plan.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

I AM HONOURED TO TABLE THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023 ON BEHALF OF BRIDGE DAREBIN

This year marked a renewed confidence in Bridge Darebin's ability to navigate into the future. The adoption of a new 3-year strategic plan refocused the organisation on addressing the complex needs of the community it aims to support, one grappling with a very real cost-of-living crisis, shifts in work and employment culture, heightened competition in the social enterprise landscape, and downward pressure from all funding sources.

I am particularly proud of our achievements, as we consistently maintain our status as an integral and inclusive space for communities. While it is essential to embed these concepts in policy and commit to them in strategic thinking, witnessing our dedicated team deliver programs such as Bridge Queer Gathering, the Community Network Project, support for the Aboriginal grandmothers' group, food relief efforts, and continued advocacy for students with diverse support needs, reaffirms how policy and practice should always work together to achieve the best outcomes. The Board would like to extend their congratulations to all staff and volunteers who have contributed to creating these outcomes throughout the year.

My thanks to dedicated CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Chris Lombardo and her senior management team, general managers Catriona Herz and Ramona Barry who continue to lead with energy and a passion that is evident across Bridge Darebin. Inspired leadership in the community sector is critical as the challenges of the community become the work of the organisation. The Board thanks this dedicated team for their continued commitment.

It was a pleasure to welcome our new Board member, Emma Geier, who joined as a co-opted member. Emma's robust background in policy, strategy, and law makes her a fantastic resource to support Bridge Darebin.

Each board member brings not only a wealth of experience, industry knowledge, and specialist skills, but also a genuine passion for supporting the community. Our continued focus on providing governance support across HR, finance, business development, policy and risk created a durable foundation for innovation to flourish. As Chairperson, I want to express my gratitude to this dynamic and committed group for their ongoing support and dedication.

The Board looks forward to future years of supporting Bridge Darebin to continue providing innovative programs and services that meets the needs of our local community.

John Sheen
Chairperson Board of Management

CEO MESSAGE

2023 WAS A YEAR MARKED BY ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION. AS BRIDGE DAREBIN HAS GROWN IN SIZE AND REPUTATION, WE HAVE GREATER ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKERS.

We engaged in conversations with all levels of government to advocate for critical legislative and funding changes to strive for more equitable and inclusive opportunities for our community.

Understanding our value and mission proved critical in all stakeholder conversations. The launch of our 2023-2025 strategic plan laid out a roadmap that was both concise and community-centred. With a simple but poignant core mission of strengthening our community. It resulted from 18 months of collaborative effort as a team to develop a sensible, aspirational, and achievable strategy.

It was gratifying to witness the Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing aligning funding with indexation and for the Department of Education and Training to enter into conversations about access to pre-accredited training for vulnerable secondary students. Visits from Hon. Harriet Shing, Minister for Water, Regional Development, and Equality, provided an opportunity to amplify our Bridge Queer Gathering project. Additionally, Hon. Natalie Suleyman, State Minister for Youth, made a special visit to Moon Rabbit to meet our hospitality students.

While it is common knowledge that Moon Rabbit is a social enterprise, this is true for all of Bridge Darebin's operations. This allows us to make the most of the growth in social procurement, embraced not only by government agencies and councils but also by businesses and corporations committed to social impact and change. Clublinks is one such business. As the managers of the newly opened Northcote Aquatic and Recreational Centre, Clublinks prioritised collaborating with a social enterprise to increase social outcomes for the Darebin community.

Licensing this service in the current climate of Childcare staff shortages was challenging, considering that much of the year was devoted to addressing staffing shortages, embedding the new child safety standards, and advocating for greater recognition and reinstatement of funding for occasional care before it's too late. Despite the high-profile support for kindergarten services, occasional care remains unfunded and misunderstood. More than 90% of our families utilise our Thornbury service to continue or return to work, underscoring its crucial role in our community.

We were proud to serve as the site for pre-voting in the 2023 referendum to recognise the First People of Australia. While the results of the vote divided many in the community, it also underscored the ongoing need for work as allies and community leaders in creating spaces for honest debate and discussion on such crucial issues. We take pride in our Reconciliation Action Plan and remain committed to collaborating with our local Aboriginal community and the organisations that support them.

The Community Network Project, funded by the Westpac Innovation Fund, was a key achievement. It offered women over 35, particularly single parents, the chance to upskill, network, and access childcare while participating in paid community service placements. This holistic program provided comprehensive support, removed all retraining obstacles and empowered women to regain control of their lives. All participants progressed to employment or further training. Despite its significant impact and superior outcomes compared to traditional government-funded training, securing ongoing funding for such projects remains challenging.

WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION, BRIDGE DAREBIN WILL OPEN OUR OCCASIONAL CARE CENTRE AT NARC IN 2024.

Bridge Darebin's commitment to sustainability leadership continued in education, outreach, and practice with behind-the-scenes measures. With the support of Darebin Council, we upgraded appliances to replace gas with electricity where possible, offered zero-waste catering as an option, and continued to develop meaningful partnerships with our Paperloop and Enrich 360 initiatives. The Darebin Neighbourhood House Network successfully received a grant to fund a project leader to further our collective work on Climate Resilience within Darebin. The network remains united in our continued focus on climate action.

The heart of Bridge Darebin is undoubtedly our staff and volunteers. They embody what I describe as 'good people,' tirelessly working to deliver programs and services to a diverse and ever-changing Darebin community. Reflecting on their achievements, it's evident that they all serve as community development workers regardless of their stated roles. Everyone is dedicated to outreach and support, facilitating conversations that spark ideas, completing numerous grant applications, assisting each other, helping a neighbour apply for a power-saving bonus, or even serving coffee with a smile. I thank each of them for their invaluable contribution in 2023.

Bridge Darebin is fortunate to have a dynamic and engaged Board of Management under the leadership of John Sheen. Their guidance and commitment continue to be unwavering. I thank them for their incredible support of myself and the organisation.
Thank you to the North East Neighbourhood House Network, our Darebin Neighbourhood House Network colleagues, and our peak body, NHVic. We continue to prove the adage that we are stronger than the sum of our parts. To our local State and Federal members, Ged, Kat, and Nathan, for always being open to tough conversations and providing support wherever possible.

To our colleagues and collaborators within Darebin City Council, on behalf of all of us at Bridge Darebin, I thank you. We remain committed to aligning our goals and aspirations for Darebin and working towards equity and opportunity for all. We recognise that a relationship forged over 40 years can have its challenges. Still, we also recognise the unique value of working so closely with our local government for the betterment of our community.

The community sector faces genuine challenges across all fronts. Staff shortages, funding cuts, and heightened pressure in the grant landscape have

necessitated our openness to change and to actively pursue opportunities. The reality is that traditional funding streams do not adequately meet the demands placed on our sector. While we are frequently acknowledged as critical to vulnerable locals and deeply appreciated, it would be more beneficial if that goodwill could translate into increased funding and support from both the public and private sectors. The burnout in the NFP space is at an all-time high, and while overheads continue to rise, so does the demand for our services.

You need only read this annual report to grasp the depth and breadth of our work and how well we engage with our community. We actively listen to identify skill gaps and opportunities for co-design and to identify cohorts requiring additional support, consistently seeking to meet our community halfway. We aim to sustain this effort well into the future. However, this will only be feasible with long-term willingness and commitment embedded into funding, understanding and policy, which acknowledge outcomes only grassroots organisations like Bridge Darebin can achieve.

As a Neighbourhood House, social enterprise, Learn Local organisation, Occasional Care provider, and community support charity, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our Darebin community, resolute in our commitment to building a fairer society.

Chris Lombardo
Chief Executive Officer

TIMELINE

Bridge Queer Gathering

JANUARY

Awarded 50K Vic Health Jump Start Grant to support Bridge Queer Gathering

Partnered with early education providers across Darebin and Merri-bek to design a professional development opportunity for educators: A Pathway to Your Own Pedagogy

Launch of Term 1 with almost full enrolments at pre covid levels

MARCH

AGM with CEO Keir Paterson from Neighbourhood Houses Victoria as our Guest Speaker.

Pride Makers Market

Welcomed back Nurses from La Trobe University to support our laneway lunches attendees

OVER $14,000 IN CHARITABLE SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2023

MAY

Continued our commitment to zero and low waste by installing Milk on Tap System in Moon Rabbit Cafe

Welcomed students for their first days of a hospitality all-rounder program. Job seekers attending will receive over 50 hours of hospitality training

QUEST PRESTON

FEBRUARY

Quest Preston generously commit to 5K sponsorship of Laneway Lunches

Awarded 5k grant from SteetSmart to support student placement on Mondays in Moon Rabbit

10k commitment by Amanda Rishworth MP to support childcare playground upgrades

STREETSMART ACTION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

APRIL

Family Jams Darebin is presented by Riot Baby and Charlie Woods, in partnership with Bridge Darebin at Thornbury Bowls Club

Met with Victorian Minister for Equality Harriet Shing with Member for Preston and Reservoir Nathan Lambert and Member for Northcote Kat Theophanous about the future of our Bridge Queer Gathering Project

JUNE

Childcare deck custom built by Bridge Darebin facilities team

Launched Moon Rabbit Mondays to support our hospitality students past and present

JULY

Launched successful Teen Barista course, who gained skills in specialty coffee making and a Beginner Food Safety Certificate. Students also helped at Laneway Lunch with food prep, baking and making coffee for attendees

Introduction of the Seniors Card for discounts across all our courses and Moon Rabbit

Paper Loop project on show at the Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes pop up

AUGUST

Bridge Queer Gathering zine workshop

Enter into partnernership with Clublinks to deliver child care services at Northcote Aquatic and Recreational Centre

Awarded Covid-19 community Grant from the Department of Health to support information sharing about health matters for disadvantaged community members

SEPTEMBER

Partnering with ***Your Community Health*** to provide the latest Pfizer Covid-19 Booster 2023 dose with a series of on site clinics.

Student exhibition Spring Salon: Pieces of Darebin

Awarded Melbourne Airport Grants of 10k each for both Preston and Thornbury to support social connection projects

OCTOBER

Awarded 35k grant from Carers Victoria funded by the Victorian Government for the Connecting Carers in their Community Grant Program. We are using the funding to work further with local Aboriginal Grandmothers who are full-time carers of their grandchildren and other family members, providing self-determined health & wellbeing activities/support

Morning Tea to celebrate Volunteer Week

Polling site for 2023 Referendum

NOVEMBER

Heart of Thornbury Christmas Makers Market

Awarded 70k grant through ACFE to collaborate with Brunswick Industries to create training and job pathways for people living with a disability

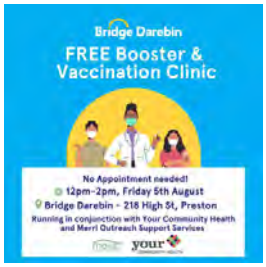
DECEMBER

Community Network Project (CNP) shortlisted as a finalist in the Gender Equity category for NHVIC awards 2023

Laneway Lunches end of year celebration

More that 250 hampers distributed

PROJECTS



Meet Your Neighbour
Moon Rabbit became a community hub as we launched a Women's Career group, Family Playgroup and Seniors Morning Tea program to invite community members for free coffee and support where needed. These programs were designed to create a safe space for people to get to know each other in an informal environment while our community development team could identify any need for further support and services.

Community Covid Clinics
Through a DFFH (Department of Families, Fairness & Housing) Covid-19 Community Grant, Darebin collaborated with Your Community Health to deliver 12 pop-up vaccination and health check clinics. Your Community Health facilitated health chats with our priority populations and provided vital COVID-19 information, immunisation history checks and COVID-19 boosters, conducted health checks and supported referrals into local health services.

Food Relief
Our food relief efforts continued in 2023 as we remained the central distribution point for weekly FareShare meal delivery in Darebin. We were grateful recipients of 5k sponsorship from Quest Serviced Apartments in Preston which allowed us to continue our Laneway Lunches program, feeding up to 70 people each week.

RAP
Our reflective Reconciliation Action Plan proved a useful tool for programming and internal training for staff and volunteers. Marking significant days in the calendar with a mix of both public and internal events that examined everything from the referendum, reconciliation and how to best support our First Nation cohort through collaboration and co-design.

CNP
As recipients of the Westpac Innovation Fund, we were thrilled to launch our Community Network Project (CNP). This supportive, innovative, and unique training and paid work placement opportunity was designed by us for female-identifying people aged 35+ interested in the community sector as an employment pathway. With an almost 100% success rate this was a stellar launch to this two-year program.

DIGITAL LITERACY at EPCC
Thanks to corporate sponsor Stopline we were able to continue our vital community program based at East Preston Community Centre. This project supports disadvantaged older residents of East Preston and East Reservoir, primarily living in and around public housing estates. The program increased access to information and online services, improved communication and social connection.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Bridge Darebin continues to provide high-quality and targeted pre-accredited training as a Learn Local organisation. With 23,835 hours of service delivery, it is an important challenge to understand our community's education needs while seeking innovation and engaging skilled facilitators across the courses.

The new strategic plan recentred education and training as core business and this focus was reflected in healthy enrolment numbers from the outset.

Hospitality continues to be a specialty training area for Bridge Darebin. The organisation designed and delivered a hospitality program to 16 participants through the Local Jobs Recovery Fund. We delivered a highly successful Teen Barista course and a Food Literacy and cooking course for Dardi Munwurro Aboriginal Men's Program, all of which had fantastic outcomes and high participation rates. Our Community Networking Program, developed inhouse, in consultation with local women's support groups, aimed at women over 35 re-entering the workforce was a highlight of the year.

Collaboration and co-design continued to be important throughout 2023. We delivered a Microbusiness for Makers in Arabic in partnership with AMWCHR (Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights), a Cybersecurity Course at Preston Community Centre, and advanced computer courses at Melbourne Polytechnic, all serving to extend our reach and support of the Darebin community.

It was with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to our Community Education Manager, Mahira, who made her tree change permanent in late 2023. Mahira had been instrumental in redefining Education and Training at Bridge Darebin, ensuring that all decisions were made through a community development lens. Mahira contributed enormously to our partnership-building and grant-writing space and gently ushered this vital department through the Covid crisis.

We welcomed new manager Nancy and project coordinator Conor into the team, who both bring with them a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience in this space.

MOON RABBIT

2023 was marked by a renewed commitment to students in our social enterprise cafe. Every dollar spent at Moon Rabbit supports training for vulnerable students, scholarships for adult education and the continuation of our food security programs.

We bid farewell to valued staff members Jack and Laura, while extending a warm welcome to Chef Casey, and the fantastic additions of Mia, Nami, and Yosuke to our team.

Students and sustainability lie at the core of Moon Rabbit's new business plan, established for 2023-2025. Despite the persistent challenges posed by operating in a post-COVID environment and the community's enduring struggles with high living costs, there exists a renewed sense of optimism. By creating a community hub environment in the space, engagement slowly and steadily increased throughout 2023.

Under the adept leadership of Manager Santos and Chef Casey, the catering division experienced remarkable growth. We successfully attracted high profile new clients, including Mercedes Benz, Elk, the Department of Families Fairness and Housing, and Yarra Trams, while nurturing enduring partnerships with repeat clients such as Darebin Council, VACCA, Your Community Health, and Quest Serviced Apartments Preston.

Notably, Quest Preston continued to use Moon Rabbit as their preferred caterer and became a major sponsor for Bridge Darebin's Laneway Lunches program.

Heartfelt thanks to our student superstars Hannah, Sam, Emily, Ali, LaToya, Jamie, Sofia, Best, Layla, and Brian, as well as to the extraordinary mentorship provided by Amelia and Santos.

CHILDCARE

With an emphasis on inclusion and diversity, Bridge Darebin's policy of creating safe and inspiring spaces for our youngest participants was a priority throughout 2023.

The nationwide childcare staffing crisis proved to be an ongoing challenge for Bridge Darebin, as the priority was to provide the exceptional care our long-standing reputation is built on. Conversely, demand for places was higher than ever before, with families prioritising work in seeking placements.

The new year was ushered in by acting manager Ivanka, who nurtured our educators, both long-standing and new, to come together for the absolute best outcomes for children and families. Our incredible administrative volunteer, Rhonda, continued to be an invaluable support to this wonderful team. Bridge Darebin was thrilled to appoint a new centre coordinator Jules who proved to be both an inspiring and innovative leader.

Improvements to the yard and ongoing maintenance of the spaces were a priority throughout the year, and our small but beautiful centre finished the year with a completed mural in the entrance corridor by artist Mia Freeman and an outdoor performance space created by facilities team member John.

Bridge Darebin was thrilled to begin negotiations with Clublinks to operate the childcare facility at the newly opened Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre. With decades of childcare experience and the benefits of being a social enterprise, it presents a fantastic opportunity for Bridge Darebin to continue to grow and serve more Darebin families, supporting their health and wellbeing outcomes.

EVENTS

Bridge Darebin's Events Calendar highlighted the vibrancy of young people, students, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

The year commenced and concluded with two Makers Markets: one dedicated to our Bridge Queer Gathering community in March, followed by our annual Christmas Market concluding the busy year with a celebration. These events have become highly anticipated highlights on the Darebin calendar.

In 2023, we elevated our market offerings by aligning them with existing projects or themes, aiming to foster community development and outreach. This involved integrating workshops and live music, providing support and development opportunities for stallholders, and enhancing accessibility, including a commitment to offering free stalls for First Nation makers as part of our reconciliation action plan.

We remained steadfast in our support for young community members by establishing special youth precincts at both market events, encouraging makers as young as 12 to participate and explore their talents within a safe and nurturing environment. These young makers were warmly embraced by event attendees and will continue to be highlighted at future events.

The Spring Student Salon, held over five dynamic days at our Preston site, featured an impressive exhibition highlighting the artistic endeavors of our students across various mediums such as fine art and pottery. The event was a resounding success, drawing near capacity crowds during the opening weekend.

Each of these events served as a celebration of lifelong learning and community engagement, offering activities that promote the health and wellbeing of both participants and the wider community.

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STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

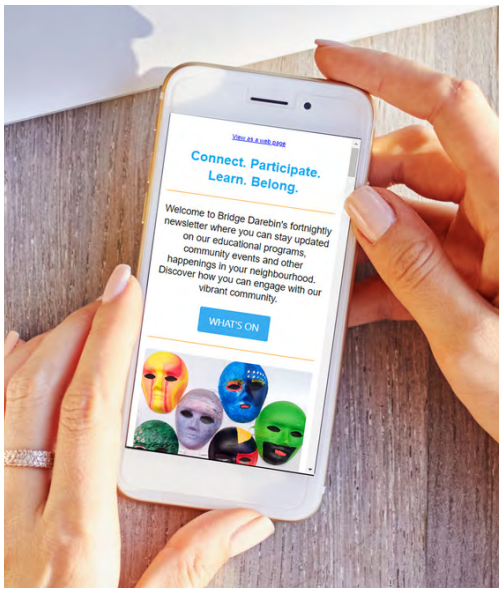
In 2023, our staff underwent significant changes, prompting a refinement of our organizational structure. Mahira, who joined Bridge Darebin as a community development officer in 2019, transitioned to the role of Community Education Manager before relocating to regional Victoria. Nancy has since taken on this pivotal role, joined by Conor as program officer, forming a dynamic education and training team with community development as its core focus.

We are delighted to welcome Jules as our Childcare Coordinator, succeeding Ivanka, who provided stability and growth in this vital role during the first half of the year. Fond farewells were bid to our original Moon Rabbit staff member Jack, who embarked on new challenges after five years with us. However, we continue to thrive with an exceptional team including Chef Casey, Mia, Laura, Nami, and Yosuke, under the leadership of Moon Rabbit Manager Santos.

Our volunteer program, led by Community Development Officer Amelia, flourished in 2023, attracting outstanding student interns and new volunteers while retaining long-term volunteers, a testament to the strength of our program. Programs such as Laneway Lunches, Digital Literacy, Bridge Queer Gathering and Paperloop would not be possible without the support of our volunteers.

Many thanks to Jackie, Jennie, Julie, Margaret, Marg, Maureen, Rhonda, Helen, Sam, Emmanuel, Phil, Chris, Norman, Isobel, Cecily, Karen, Elizabeth, Leonard, Pina, Ruby, Sarah, Janine, Linda, Olivia, Lexi, Hannah, Jenny, Colleen, Mich, Anan, Katherine, Evie and May.

COMMS AND MARKETING



A pivotal element contributing to the prosperity of a burgeoning community organization lies in its management and strategic approach to branding. Often, this occurs reactively in response to ongoing events or programs, or in alignment with the core objectives necessitating promotion. In 2023, General Manager Ramona dedicated efforts to assess the potency of the brand and identify potential vulnerabilities. Consequently, decisions were made with greater deliberation concerning the optimal practices for Bridge Darebin's portrayal both internally and externally, as well as strategies to leverage our constrained resources effectively.

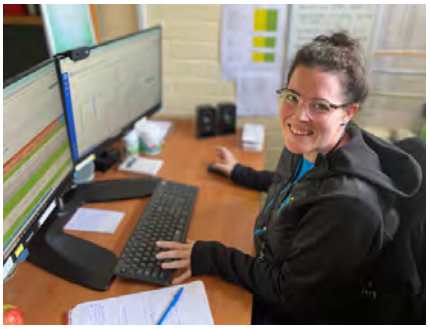
Collaborative endeavors engaged every team within the organization. Walkthroughs of each venue alongside Facilities Manager Carli revealed the need for standardised signage to enhance wayfinding and elevate the visual appeal across our five sites.

Innovative approaches were adopted to promote our training courses, website enhancements were implemented to refine the user experience for students, and targeted marketing collateral was employed to reduce reliance on social media for dissemination.

The transition away from social media as the primary marketing channel was particularly evident for Moon Rabbit Cafe and Catering. While social media retained its significance, direct marketing tactics assumed greater prominence within the overall strategy.

The Darebin community has warmly embraced our newsletter, resulting in a notable surge in subscriptions and an exceptional open rate nearing 50%, surpassing the industry standard of 28%. This remarkable achievement underscores the diligent efforts of Coordinator Lisa, who has worked on expanding Bridge Darebin's outreach.

FACILITIES AND VENUE HIRE



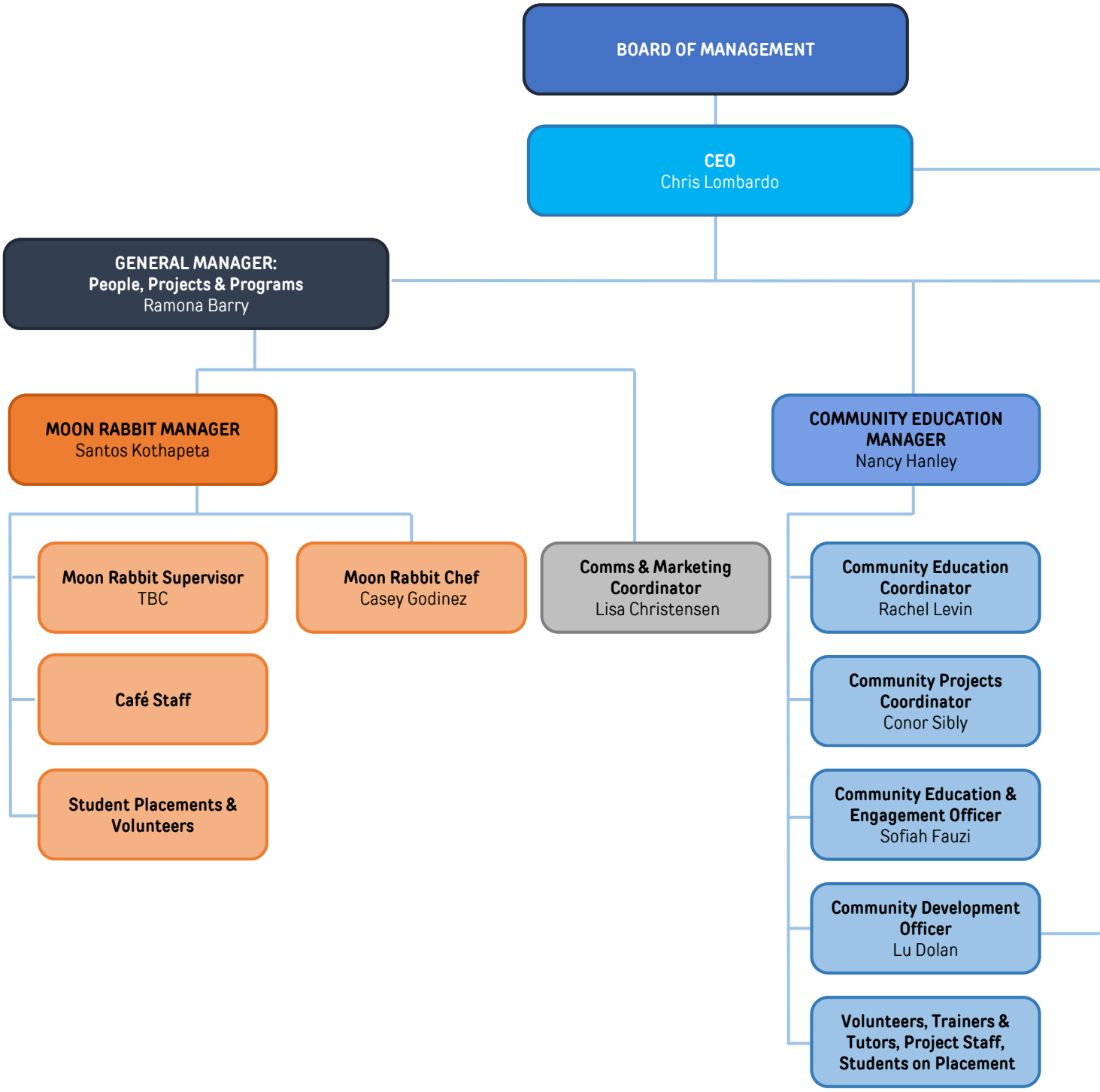
At Bridge Darebin, we take considerable pride in the presentation of our buildings, Whether council-owned or commercially leased, these spaces serve as vital hubs for staff, volunteers, venue hirers, and community members. They offer comfortable, well-maintained environments conducive to learning, collaboration, social connection and personal growth.

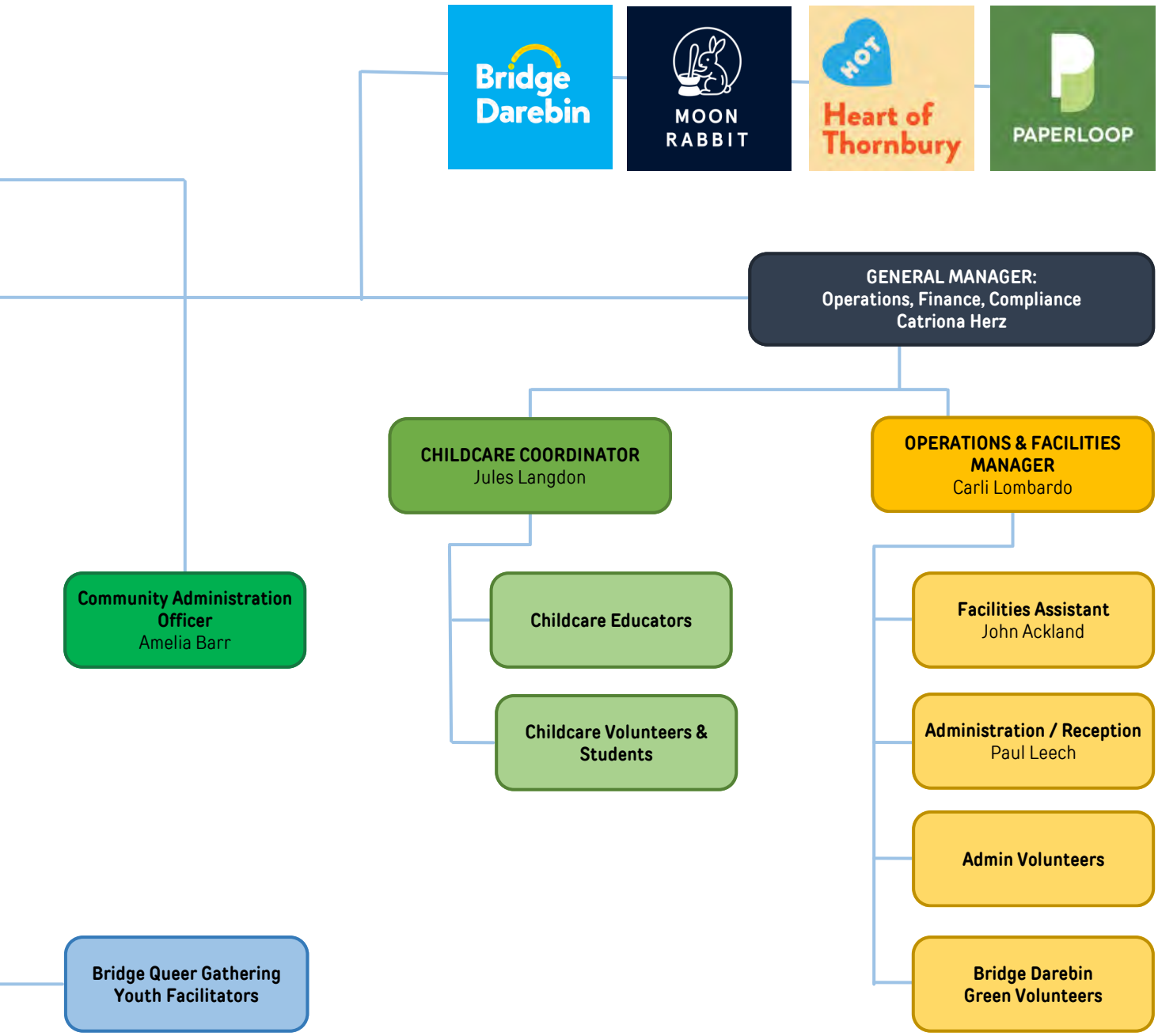
Throughout 2023, our dedication to this endeavour remained unwavering. With two dedicated cleaning crews, the diligent efforts of our maintenance person John, and the expertise of Facilities and Venues Manager Carli, alongside a team of committed volunteers, our facilities were consistently maintained to impeccable standards. From tending to garden boxes fronting Moon Rabbit to the meticulous upkeep of our halls, toilet blocks, classrooms, and numerous office spaces and meeting rooms and the painting of vast halls, their work was tireless and vital to the smooth operations of the organisation.

Nowhere was this commitment more apparent than in our Thornbury childcare space. Significant improvements were made to the beautiful garden, including the creation of a custom-built performance area for our youngest attendees. Our team ensured that all sites were well-maintained, overcoming the ongoing challenge of working across multiple sites with exceptional dedication.

Our venues averaged 710 hours of utilisation per month with 29% at discounted rates or free. We take pride in being one of the most accessible and comprehensive community venue providers, offering spaces for a wide range of activities, from social inclusion opportunities, exercise classes, arts sessions, food security programs, pathways to employment, family celebrations to business meetings, religious gatherings, support groups and, in 2023, referendum voting. We are committed to maintaining this level of accessibility for all residents of Darebin.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART 2023




Bridge Darebin
MOON RABBIT
HOT Heart of Thornbury
PAPERLOOP
GENERAL MANAGER:
Operations, Finance, Compliance
Catriona Herz
CHILDCARE COORDINATOR
Jules Langdon
OPERATIONS & FACILITIES MANAGER
Carli Lombardo
Community Administration Officer
Amelia Barr
Childcare Educators
Childcare Volunteers & Students
Facilities Assistant
John Ackland
Administration / Reception
Paul Leech
Admin Volunteers
Bridge Darebin Green Volunteers
Bridge Queer Gathering Youth Facilitators

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

Expenditure	2023	2022
Operations	$1,072,320	$1,240,599
Social Enterprise	$336,128	$314,865
Community Education	$530,223	$470,984
Childrens Services	$344,805	$360,698
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**$2,283,476**	**$2,387,146**

Revenue	2023	2022
Children Services	$449,589	$398,987
Fees and Services	$444,295	$350,820
Social Enterprise	$201,612	$273,992
Grants	$466,728	$503,906
Recurrent Funding	$724,830	$867,192
TOTAL REVENUE	**$2,287,054**	**$2,394,897**

Net surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	**$3578**	**$7751**

Despite the financial challenges encountered by Bridge Darebin in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to report that Bridge Darebin has maintained a surplus position, supported by resilient and secure financial systems. Our diverse funding sources have enabled us to operate without dependency on any single revenue stream, ensuring financial stability.

Effective financial management practices have facilitated a culture of innovation and creativity within Bridge Darebin, strengthening our reputation for consistently delivering impactful programs and services across all facets of the organisation.

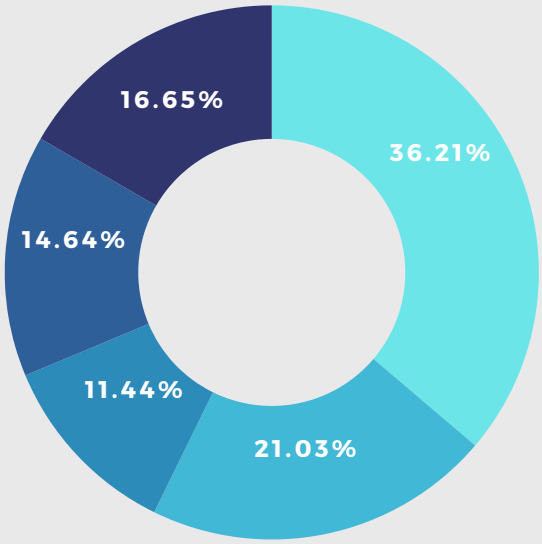
In 2023, Bridge Darebin continued to outsource its financial operations to iCompass. This partnership continues to support the organisation's stability and enhance operational efficiencies. The Board expresses its sincere appreciation to iCompass and the Bridge Darebin Management Team for their invaluable contributions.

As we move forward, Bridge Darebin is committed to upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and sustainability in our financial practices. We remain dedicated to fostering a culture of financial stewardship that supports our mission and vision for the future.

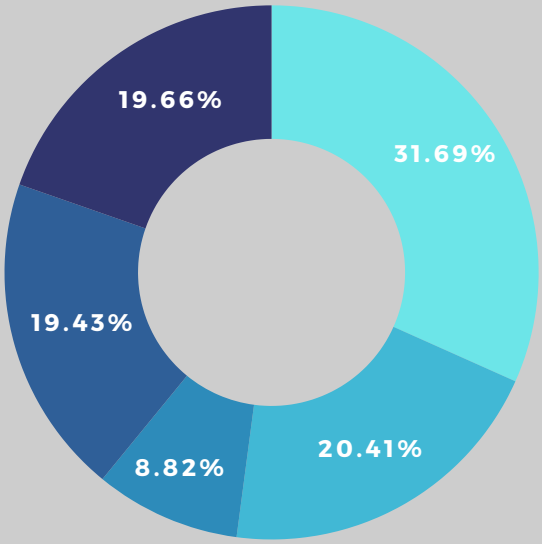
Shane Murphy
Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME
2022

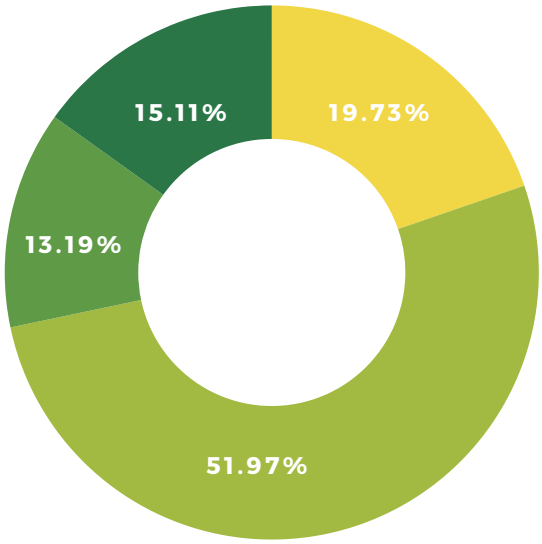


2023

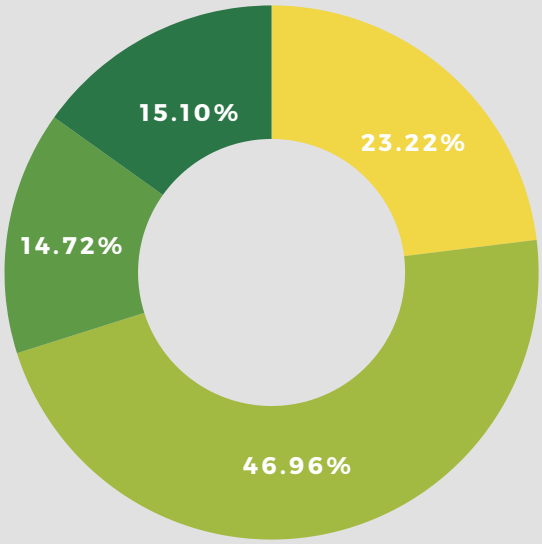


CHILDRENS SERVICES
FEES & SERVICES
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
GRANTS
RECURRENT FUNDING

EXPENSES
2022



2023



OPERATIONS
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
CHILDRENS SERVICES

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Aboriginal Community Elders Services
Australian Government - National Indigenous Australians Agency & Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resource
Australian Neighbourhood House & Centres Assoc.
Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights
Brunswick Industries
Bunnings Northland & Fairfield
Carer's Vic
City of Darebin
Clublinks
Dardi Munwurro
Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes
Darebin Neighbourhood House Network
Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service
FareShare
Feed Appeal
First Peoples Health and Wellbeing
Foundation House
Good Things Foundation
Housing Choices
Inner North Community Foundation
Inner Northern Local Learning & Employment Network
Jesuit Social Services
Jobs Victoria Advocates
Juno
KPMG
McGrath Northcote
Melbourne Food Hub and Sustain
Melbourne Polytechnic
Mitre 10
Neami National
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
Northcote Bakeshop

North East Neighbourhood House Network
Paul Ramsay Foundation
Office of Ged Kearney
Office of Kat Theophanous
Office of Nathan Lambert
Padre Coffee
Parade College
Parents Next
Preston Connected Community
Quest
Reservoir High School
RMIT
Snap Printing and Design Preston
Stopline Pty Ltd
StreetSmart
Sustainability Victoria
The Funding Network
The Salvation Army
The Social Impact Hub
Thornbury Church of Christ
Uniting
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd (VACSAL)
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
Victorian Government Departments: Premier and Cabinet; Education & Training; Health & Human Services; Families, Fairness & Housing; Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Westpac
Your Community Health

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