

# BALLARAT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



ANNUAL  
IMPACT  
REPORT  
2026



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In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





## Our Vision

resilient connected neighbourhoods

## Our Mission

to enrich our community by providing opportunities to connect, participate and learn

## Our Values

We take a person-centred approach to:

- Equity: creating opportunities with fairness and consideration of each individual's needs.
- Empowerment: Enhancing individuals' capacity to have control of their own lives.
- Inclusion: Embracing diversity in a respectful, safe and welcoming environment.
- Collaboration: Working together to achieve common goals.

## Our Commitment to the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Our Learn Local Adult, Community and Further Education courses ensure everyone has access to **QUALITY EDUCATION**, can build skills to get **DECENT WORK** and enjoy in **ECONOMIC GROWTH**. With our community we work together to build a world with **NO POVERTY** and **ZERO HUNGER**, where we can all enjoy **GOOD HEALTH and WELLBEING**.



Living in our **SUSTAINABLE CITIES and COMMUNITIES**, we will be kind to the environment taking **CLIMATE ACTION** and leading the way with **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION and PRODUCTION** in our organisation and our programs.



We are committed to **GENDER EQUALITY** and **REDUCING INEQUALITIES**, working with other like minded organisations, we promote **PEACE and JUSTICE** through **STRONG INSTITUTIONS** and long-term **PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**.

# From the Chair

As we reflect on 2025, it is impossible to ignore the continued pressures facing our communities. While there have been encouraging signs that inflation has begun to stabilise, many individuals and families continue to experience significant financial hardship.

The ongoing cost of living crisis remains one of the defining challenges of our time, with increasing numbers of people turning to Neighbourhood Houses not only for practical support, but also for connection, belonging and hope.

The impact of these pressures extends far beyond financial hardship alone. We continue to witness increasing levels of social isolation, housing insecurity, declining mental wellbeing and growing demand for services that strengthen resilience within our communities. Every day our staff and volunteers see first-hand the difference that welcoming, inclusive community spaces can make to people's lives.

Throughout 2025 our commitment to lifelong learning has remained at the heart of everything we do. Whether through digital literacy, employment preparation, cooking programs, community gardens, craft groups or volunteer opportunities, our Houses continue to empower people with the skills, confidence and connections needed to improve their quality of life. Every participant who gains employment, develops new skills or simply rediscovers their confidence reminds us why Neighbourhood Houses remain such an essential part of community life.

Food relief has also continued to play an important role across both Houses. Through the generosity of our community partners, local businesses, food rescue organisations and dedicated volunteers, we have continued to provide meaningful support to those experiencing hardship. Equally important has been our focus on food education, enabling participants to prepare nutritious meals, reduce household expenses and minimise food waste.



## Chair's report continued

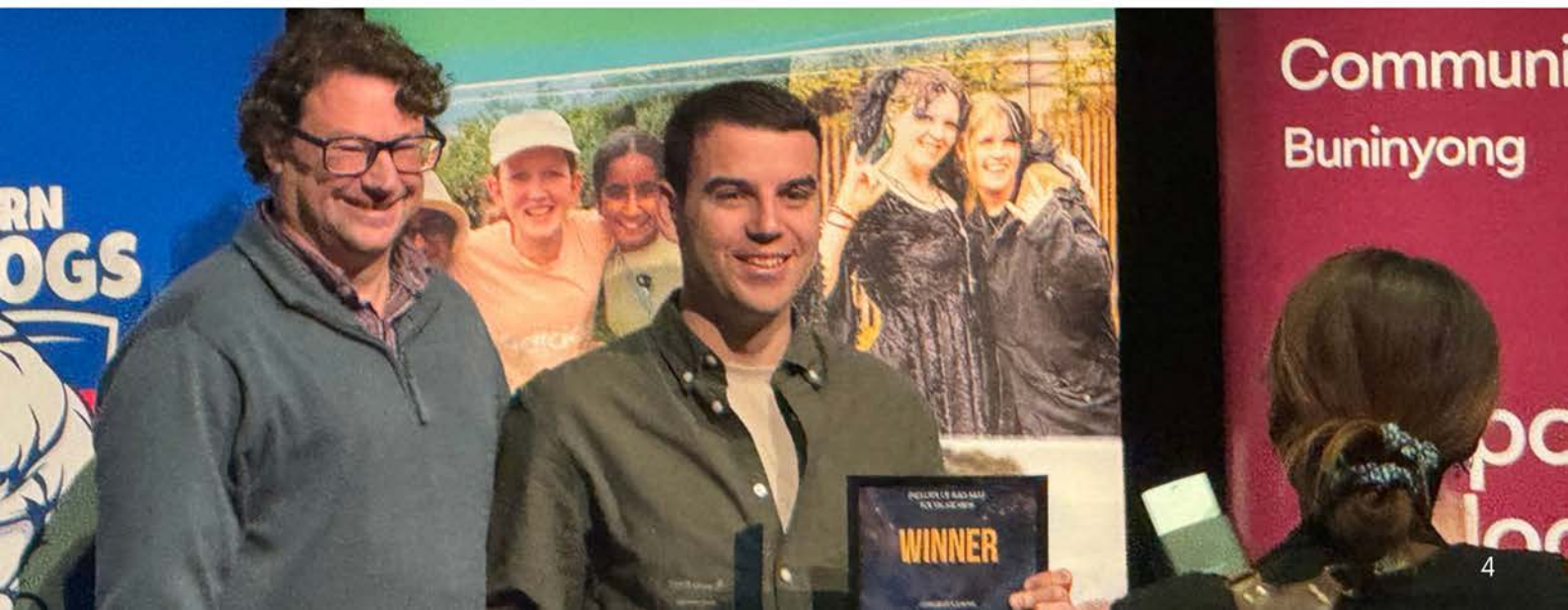
This year has also seen our organisation strengthen its commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable members of our community. A comprehensive Vulnerable People Policy was developed and adopted across both Ballarat and Wendouree Neighbourhood Centres, embedding best practice into our governance framework and reinforcing our commitment to providing safe, inclusive and respectful environments for everyone who accesses our services.

Like many community organisations, we have not been immune from the changing funding landscape. The loss of several funding streams during the year resulted in difficult decisions and changes to our staffing structure. These decisions are never taken lightly and have undoubtedly been among the most challenging aspects of the year. Despite these setbacks, our staff have continued to demonstrate extraordinary professionalism, flexibility and commitment, ensuring our communities have continued to receive high-quality services with minimal disruption.

One of the year's most significant achievements was the successful adoption of the NHACE 2024 Enterprise Agreement. This important milestone recognises the professionalism and value of our workforce while providing greater certainty for both employees and the organisation as we continue to build a sustainable future.

2025 has also been a year of growth and transition. We proudly celebrated the opening of the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Our Kitchen Social Café, an initiative that has quickly become much more than a place to enjoy coffee. It has created new opportunities for community connection, skill development, volunteering and social inclusion, becoming another welcoming space where relationships and community can flourish.

At Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre, the relocation of the Men's Shed to its new purpose-built facility created an exciting opportunity to reimagine the use of our existing space.



## Chair's report continued

The establishment of the Women's Shed has already generated enormous enthusiasm and represents another example of our ability to adapt to changing community needs while creating new opportunities for participation and empowerment

Another significant milestone this year has been supporting Ballarat East Neighbourhood House as it transitions from the Joint Committee of Management to become an independent incorporated organisation. While this marks the end of an important chapter in our shared history, it also represents the strength and maturity of the organisation. We congratulate the Ballarat East team and look forward to continuing a strong and collaborative relationship into the future.

No organisation succeeds without strong governance, and I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our Committee of Management throughout the year. In particular, I extend my sincere thanks to Alan Lebas, Brad Smith and Glenn Crompton, who concluded their service following the 2025 Annual General Meeting. Each has made a valuable contribution to our organisation over many years.

A special acknowledgement must be made to Glenn Crompton, whose long-standing leadership as Chair of the Joint Committee has helped guide the organisation through periods of significant growth, change and challenge. His unwavering commitment to community development, sound governance and the Neighbourhood House movement has left a lasting legacy, and on behalf of the organisation I offer my sincere gratitude for his years of dedicated service.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Manya during her time as Manager of Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre. Her dedication, leadership and commitment to the community have helped shape the Centre into the vibrant and welcoming place it is today. We thank Manya for her years of service and wish her every success in the future.



## Chair's report continued

As always, none of what we achieve would be possible without the remarkable people who choose to give their time in service of others. Our volunteers continue to demonstrate extraordinary generosity, compassion and commitment.

Whether welcoming visitors, supporting programs, preparing meals, maintaining gardens or sharing their skills, they are the heartbeat of our organisation. Their contribution cannot be measured simply in volunteer hours; it is reflected in every life touched, every friendship formed and every opportunity created.

To our staff, thank you for your resilience, professionalism and unwavering commitment during what has been another challenging year. To our Committee members, thank you for your governance, strategic guidance and countless volunteer hours.

To our funding partners, community organisations and supporters, thank you for continuing to believe in the important role Neighbourhood Houses play in building stronger, healthier and more connected communities.

While the challenges before us remain significant, I remain optimistic about the future. The resilience, innovation and compassion demonstrated across both Ballarat and Wendouree Neighbourhood Centres continue to inspire me every day. Together, we will continue to adapt, evolve and ensure our Houses remain places where every person feels welcomed, valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

## Cameron Duthie

Chair, Joint Committee of Management  
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre & Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre





# Committee of Management as at 31st December 2025

On behalf of everyone at the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre we take this opportunity to thank the COM members for their ongoing support and recognise how fortunate we are to have such a fabulous group of community minded people leading the organisation.

We would also like to acknowledge Glen Crompton, Alan Labas and Brad Smith who resigned during 2025 and thank them for their time and commitment over many years to our organisation.

**Chair** Cameron Duthie

**Deputy Chair** Annie de Jong

**Secretary** Laura Le Marshall

**Treasurer** Jane Jens

**General Members** Vacant

**Executive Officer/ Public Officer** Vicki Coltman



# From the Treasurer



Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre (BNC) had a net deficit of \$628 in 2025 compared to a net deficit of \$346,653 in 2024. There was a small decrease of total member's funds to \$100,431 compared to \$101,059 in 2024.

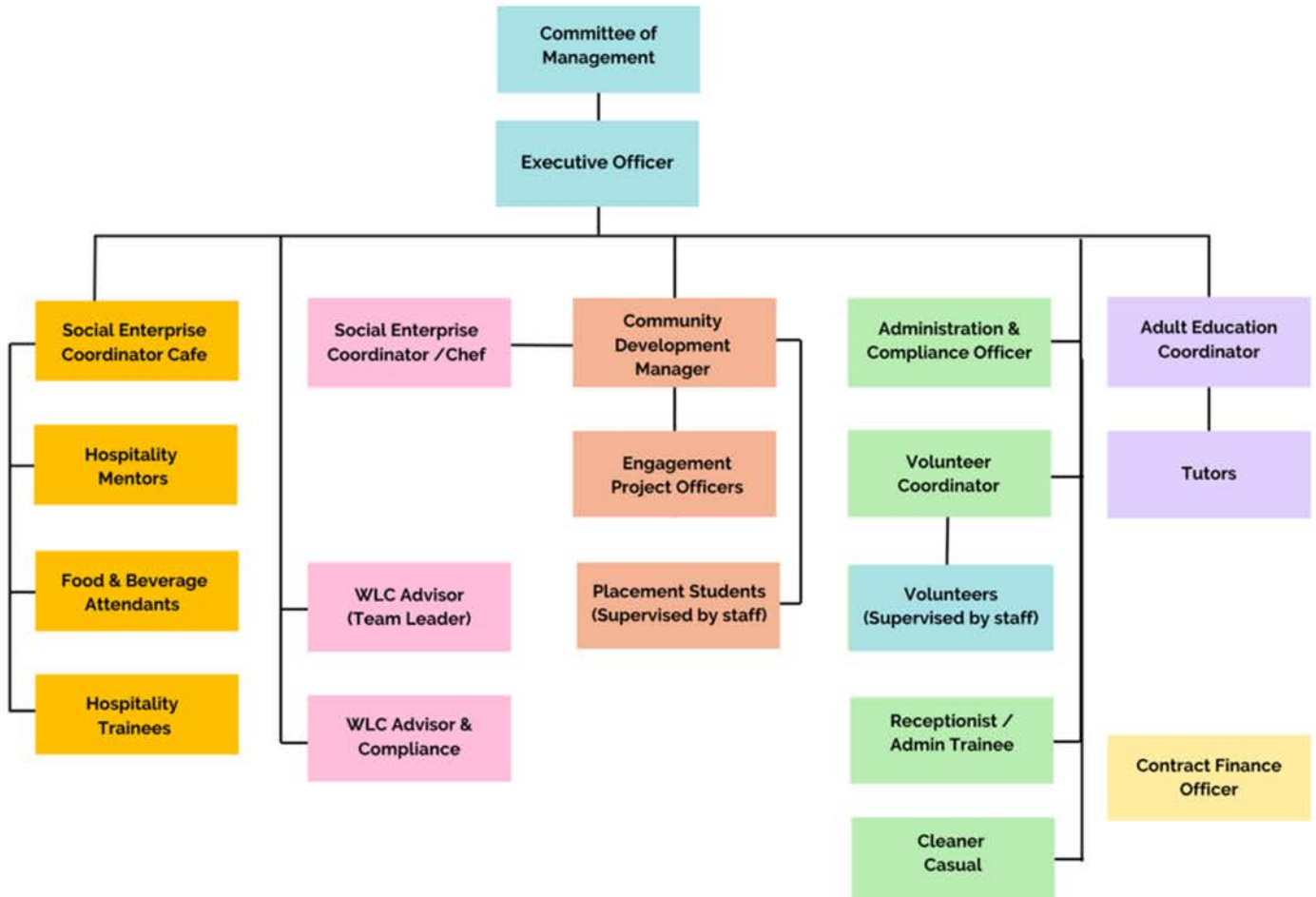
This result reflects the final Spotlight on Sebastopol project acquittals in 2024 and a focus on the return to financial sustainability.

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre received \$324,936 in ACFE Grants and \$569,502 in other Government Grants, which is significantly lower than the previous year due to the changes in the Work & Learning Centre funding.

A full copy of the 2025 Financial Statements can be downloaded from the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre's website or contact the Executive Officer for a copy.

Jane Jens

## Organisational Chart



# From the Executive Officer



Early in 2025, I attended a forum with local neighbourhood house staff and volunteers to discuss the everyday challenges and opportunities we face. From a place-based perspective, neighbourhood houses simply get on with supporting their communities, often with limited resources and strong community backing.

However, this does not make the situation acceptable. In late 2025, the sector launched the 'Keep our Doors Open' campaign, calling for increased and sustainable funding. After years of gender-based underpayment and limited recognition from successive state governments, Learn Local and Neighbourhood House funding does not reflect the true cost of employing teachers and community development staff. Across the sector, unpaid hours, unrealistic work expectations, staff health concerns and growing deficits continue to affect organisations.

Balancing funding with community demand and expectations has become a constant juggling act as we work to provide safe, welcoming spaces and deliver the programs and services people need. Despite these pressures, Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre saw a significant increase in visitors and participants this year, largely due to its strong connections and person-centred approach.

In March, in response to reduced government and philanthropic funding and the need to generate more of our own income, we opened Our Kitchen Social Café. This workforce-integration social enterprise earns income through social-purpose catering and offers new hospitality activities aligned with our education and employment focus. While it is not yet revenue positive, it continues to grow steadily and is well regarded by the Barkly Square community.

Always interested in exploring new opportunities, we welcomed a collaboration with Health Futures Australia and Phoenix P-12 Community College to feed healthy lunches to primary school students.



# Executive Officer Report Continued



Taking a key role in the kitchen for the Ballarat Healthy Kitchen project we trialled weekly sit-down lunches for Year 5/6 students and supported healthy Prep lunches throughout the year. We will continue to support this much needed program in 2026. programs, employment services and Learn Local classes.

The Connecting Sebastopol Newsletter is well supported, and it was wonderful to see the community come together in November for the Sebastopol Showcase. Supported by the City of Ballarat, local community organisations and businesses, this free event was vibrant and well attended, demonstrating the impact of community development when people are given a voice in their own community.

After being impacted by Covid delays, it was also a relief mid-year to have the Sebastopol Big Garden permits approved and finalised, officially allowing activities to take place in the facilities. The first stage, Fruity Forest, is complete, and plans for the Greenhouse installation are progressing. In 2026, the garden is set to become an important local community asset.

In recent years, the traditional model of people coming to the neighbourhood house has shifted, with communities increasingly expecting us to come to them. In 2025, the Tuppen Drive Hub remained our main site, while we also delivered activities at the Sebastopol Community Garden in Spencer Street; Ballarat Community Health; City of Ballarat hubs in Alfredton and Lucas; Delacombe Community Hub and Doug Dean Stadium; Barkly Square Café; and through Connecting Sebastopol meetings held across the suburb.

As the year ended, we remained focused on the Delacombe Community Hub, with a vision to reinstate the Delacombe Neighbourhood Centre by late 2027. To increase activity in Delacombe, and in response to the growing use of the Sebastopol Hub, the Work & Learning team relocated to the Delacombe Community Hub early in 2025. The Hub is now the base for our employment-focused support and services, activated five days per week with community programs, employment services and Learn Local classes.

Finally, thank you to the BNC team. We could not achieve a fraction of what we do without our wonderful Committee of Management members, staff, volunteers and supporters. Your compassion and dedication to supporting our most disadvantaged community members changes lives every day. A special thank you to Glen Crompton, who retired from the Committee in April. His unwavering support over eight years helped shape the remarkable organisation Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre has become.

As you read the reflections on the following pages, it is clear our purpose for people to 'Connect, Participate and Learn' is embedded into everything we do.

## Vicki Coltman



# Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre 2025 Reflection

Our activities continue to be place-based across the city, with two new locations added for program delivery this year: Our Kitchen Social Cafe and activation of the Delacombe Neighbourhood Centre. In the coming years we aim to see Delacombe become the future home of a standalone neighbourhood house.

Our BNC Social Impact was \$8.71 in community value for every \$1 of funding, up from \$34.87 in 2024. Overall our activities contributed \$7,367.661 in community value almost 22% higher than 2024. With a focus on community needs we increased food relief, ACFE training and supported the Ballarat Healthy Kitchen project.

During the year we maintained high visitor numbers and room hire grew with many community groups now using our facilities. Our social connection activities contributed significantly to reducing social isolation.

## In 2025 we had:

- 1200 visitors use the Hub in an average week, with half attending BNC delivered activities and programs
- 1359 activities delivered annually from training to chatty cafe sessions
- 20 different types of volunteer roles: garden, office, social enterprise & classes
- 70+ organisational supporters, partners and sponsors of our programs
- 40 different organisations used the facility for meetings, training and activities
- 800 hours of facility usage in an average month from community members and organisations



**115**  
volunteers

**7000+**  
volunteer  
hours

**55,000+**  
visitors





# Delacombe Neighbourhood Centre 2025 Reflection

BNC has long held the Delacombe DFFH Neighbourhood House Coordination funding, delivering a range of activities at Doug Dean Reserve over the years. After taking over the Delacombe Community Hub in 2023, we have gradually added programs to the facility as we work to establish the Hub as another local house.

During the year the Work & Learning Centre team relocated to DNC. Operating four days per week they joined Parent Pathways and GForce staff working from the Delacombe hub. The community garden is now only maintained, as we work to reestablish this as a community activity. Our focus remains on securing more funding to ensure other social connection activities can operate from the hub and surrounding community assets.

This year our calculated Delacombe Social Impact for every \$1 of neighbourhood house funding was \$2.75 in community value. Overall our activities contributed \$251,000 in community value.

## In 2025 we had:

- 100 visitors use the Hub in an average week
- 16 volunteers giving 7 hours a week to support programs and activities
- Activities include Crafting and Playgroup (Mondays), Employment Support (Tuesdays), Art (Wednesdays), Walking and Chatty Cafe (Thursdays), and ACFE on Fridays



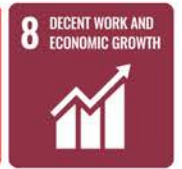
**16**  
volunteers

**300+**  
volunteer  
hours

**5,000+**  
visitors



# Work & Learning Centre Ballarat



After initially receiving confirmation the Work and Learning Centre Ballarat would continue beyond June, BNC was advised in late September the Ballarat funding was being redirected to other programs because additional funding had not been provided. This led to staff redundancies and reduced our capacity to support approximately 200 long-term unemployed clients. Needless to say, it also had a significant impact on the BNC finances and year end result.

At the conclusion of the 2023 -2025 contract we had supported 134 new participants, with 48% finding employment and achieved 143 training placement outcomes (both accredited and pre-accredited).

All registered job seekers were assessed against the new eligibility criteria, with the vast majority of participants no longer eligible for support. To continue supporting these job seekers a new referral and registration process was introduced, requiring all participants to complete an ACFE-funded pre-employment training and assessment day. This work-ready training day helps participants build their job readiness, apply for work and for their WLC eligibility and ongoing support needs to be assessed.

BNC remains committed to providing employment support to those in our community who experience intersectional challenges and require additional supports. In October, the next twelve month WLC contract commenced. The current contract is to support 55 job seekers with 10 registered participants commencing before December 2025.



Brotherhood  
of St Laurence

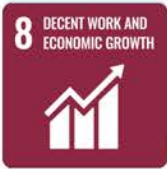
Working for an Australia free of poverty

**134**  
clients

**64**  
employment  
placements

**106**  
training  
placements





# Finding a Job can be hard

Alice has been registered with the Ballarat Work & Learning Centre since 2016. She arrived in Ballarat as a South Sudanese refugee. Alice engaged with the Work & Learning Centre periodically for many years before moving to the Northern Territory in 2019. Alice worked in the Northern Territory until late 2024 when she was forced to move back to Ballarat to assist her son who was in prison awaiting trial.

She re-engaged with the WLC when she arrived back in Ballarat in 2024 as she was desperate to work so she could pay mounting bills, in addition to supporting her family. Alice was staying at a friend's house in Ballarat while she looked for a job.

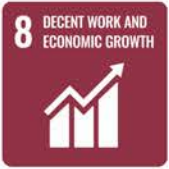
Alice's WLC advisor reviewed and updated Alice's resume and assisted her to apply for jobs. They also enrolled Alice in the Independent Living Skills – Computers class, and the Digital Sisters program at the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre to help Alice improve her digital literacy.

One of the jobs that they applied for was a Food Services position with Grampians Health. Alice was quickly contacted for an interview and had two interviews in a week. Shortly after, Grampians Health sent Alice an electronic form to complete with her referees. Alice's advisor helped her to complete the form and return it to Grampians Health. Alice then entered the onboarding phase of Grampians Health and her WLC advisor assisted Alice to fill in, scan and email forms, obtain a police check and a safe food handling certificate, and book an appointment to update her immunisations. Alice commenced work with Grampians Health. She is relieved she will have an income again so that she can assist her son and look for her own place to live.

\* Name has been changed to protect privacy

Read more stories on our website: <https://www.ballaratnc.org.au/about-m/testimonials>





# Learn Local Adult Education & Training

Our Adult, Community & Further Education (ACFE) courses continue to grow each year attracting learners from diverse backgrounds and those looking for employment. In the Centre one way we celebrate diversity is with a flag wall representing the many countries our learners were born in, this now numbers 65 flags. Over the past 10 years our Learning strategic mission has focused on creating flexible micro skills courses where over several terms learners complete multiple courses to build their entry level employment skills. For this reason, we continue to see Business Administration, Digital Literacy, Sewing and Hospitality courses well attended. In 2025 we completed 26,188 hours of pre-accredited training with 544 learners.

We know many of our learners face systemic barriers, long term unemployment and have low literacy and numeracy skills. We offer a safe and inclusive space for them to thrive and have many stories of how our wrap around approach has changed lives. You can find these stories [on our website](#).

## Overall we achieved:

- Increased delivery hours from 22,476 in 2024 to 26,188 in 2025
- 980 enrolments for 544 unique students
- 140 courses were delivered, covering 43 different course topics
- Courses were delivered across 7 sites and 2 Local Government Areas (LGAs)
- Learners identified as 61% women, 56% over 40 years old, 2.5% as ATSI
- 22% of students were born overseas, coming from 40 different countries
- 18% of learners live outside of Ballarat, in 16 other Local Government Areas
- 26% of learners were looking for employment



**44%**  
students  
under 40yo

**26,188**  
student  
contact  
hours

**980**  
course  
enrolments



# Our Kitchen Social Cafe



Our Kitchen Social Cafe (OKSC) is a Workforce Integration Social Enterprise (WISE) with a primary purpose to provide pre-employment training and prepare people to enter the workforce. With a hospitality focus, the Ready for Hospitality: Cafe Skills pre-accredited employability course underpins this training. Working with experienced hospitality staff and mentors, all students and trainees gain practical hands on cafe training in front and back off house operations.

Opened in March 2025 and Located at Barkly Square, the Cafe is now well established in this community hub with consistent revenue growth and loyal customers. As a certified social enterprise, it is well positioned to service the social purpose procurement catering needs of local government agencies and businesses.

## In 2025 Our Kitchen Social Cafe:

- Employed 10 staff during the year, including several also undertaking further community studies and 3 students who completed Cafe Skills training
- Employed 2 Headstart Trainees (year 11 and year 12 students) undertaking their Certificate 3 in Hospitality
- Delivered Learn Local Cafe Skills course 4 times to 10 students and the Commercial Kitchen Skills Course to 2 students
- Supported Youth National Homelessness Pay it Forward week



**13000+**  
**orders**

**2 Headstart**  
**Trainees**

**12 ACFE**  
**Students**



# Our Kitchen Social Enterprise



Our Kitchen (OKSE) is a Workforce Integration Social Enterprise (WISE) with a primary purpose to provide pre-employment training and prepare people to enter the workforce. With a hospitality focus, 3 pre-accredited employability courses underpin this training: Cooking Up Jobs, Cooking for the Community and Front of House. In 2025, there were 93 enrolments across these three courses plus 67 students completed their Barista training.

Participants in OKSE develop amazing self confidence and pride by producing weekly community lunches for our older community members. Volunteers support the program by helping in the kitchen and with our food relief program. In 2025, through SecondBite, Coles and Aldi, volunteers significantly increased the amount of food we rescued and distributed over what we have done in previous years.

The social enterprise:

- held 30 weekly community lunches, averaging 70 people at each lunch, plus provided 25+ take away meals after each lunch
- rescued over 10,000kg of food from landfill
- donated 7000kg of food to community members
- had 20 volunteers who contributed 1000+ hours of support to the social enterprise
- provided \$438,744 of Emergency Food Relief and \$50,000 in prepared meals



**10,000kg food  
rescued**

**3200+  
meals**

**1000+ hours  
volunteered**



# Ballarat Healthy Lunch Kitchen Pilot



In 2025 we collaborated with Health Futures Australia and Phoenix P12 Community College to support the Ballarat Healthy Kitchen pilot. The BNC facilities, staff and volunteers were all integral in helping to collect rescued food, prepare meals and serve lunches to the children.

On Mondays throughout school terms, the team produced 100 sit down meals for Year 5/6 students. These healthy lunches consisted of 5+ vegetables and were low in sugars, fats and salt. It was extremely rewarding for everyone involved, watching children engage with each other, develop food related activities for the meals and generally improve their behaviour over the year as they became more involved with the project. In addition, the lunch program was expanded to classroom meals to Preps and classroom meal days were added to Year 5/6.

The Ballarat Healthy Lunch Kitchen achieved:

- 18 BNC Volunteer donated 380 hours
- 1 chef employed for the project
- 9000+ meals served to 5-13 year olds
- 11 classes eating fresh lunches twice a week
- 25,000 serves of vegetables
- 120+ kids taking part in holiday cooking programs held at Our Kitchen Social Cafe and BNC Hub



**18  
Volunteers**

**9000+  
meals**

**380 hours  
volunteered**



# Our Kitchen and Community Gardens



Our Kitchen and Community Gardens have in recent years taken on a greater focus as we work with the community and partners to create opportunities for people to connect in our green spaces, participate as volunteers and as learning spaces for ACFE learners. We have also embedded Therapeutic Horticulture (TH) principles in our gardens which are a unique and effective intervention providing tremendous physical, psychological, and emotional benefits for people with a wide range of physical and mental health challenges.

Since 2015 we have developed the small Our Kitchen garden in Tuppen Drive. Originally planted with native plants, the garden was transformed in 2018 into a food production garden for the social enterprise meals program. Today it is a primary location for our gardening activities, providing fresh vegetable and herbs for our cooking programs and the Ballarat Healthy Lunch Kitchen.

In 2021, the state government 'Spotlight on Sebastopol' project funded the establishment of the Sebastopol Big Garden. Located on Phoenix P12 Community College grounds in Spencer Street Sebastopol. We completed the Fruity Forest garden in 2025 and secured funding for the Greenhouse.

The Delacombe Community Garden located in Nandiriog Drive Delacombe is currently a small wildflower garden and our focus is in adding fruit trees to the reserve next to the Delacombe Neighbourhood Centre.



**3 Community Gardens**

**13 Garden Volunteers**

**400+ hours volunteered**





# Strategic Partnership Program

in 2025, Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre received funding to partner with Federation College and Phoenix P12 Community College to deliver a Department of Education Strategic Partnership Program.

Over 7 weeks in terms 2 and 3, year 11/12 Vocational Major (VM) students were introduced to employment opportunities in several industries. They were given hands on skills and knowledge in hospitality, horticulture, creative arts, and job skills including interviews, communication and personal presentation. Place based activities included barista and commercial kitchen skills, administration office skills in the computer lab, and gardening skills in the community garden.

The program is designed around Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre’s successful Adult Education work ready courses. It was adapted to meet the requirements of the vocational major curriculum, addressing 8 nationally recognized employability skills, and the interests of the students.

One additional benefit of the program is introducing the students to our organisation and the not for profit community sector more broadly. By being involved in the community lunch program students learnt about the value of learning new skills and building confidence, and how volunteering can be rewarding and help them find employment.

37 young people successfully completed the program. In 2026, the program received an additional 2 years of funding.



**37**  
**year 11**  
**students**

**6**  
**industry**  
**activities**

**8 VM**  
**job skills**  
**covered**





# Community Development

When we have additional funding we undertake projects out in our community but generally see our facilities as place-based community assets where most of our community development activities take place. Without additional resources in 2025, the majority of our activities were delivered 'in-house' by volunteers and co-designed by our participants.

These included:

- Connecting Sebastopol Newsletter, winner of the best sports report at the Community Newspaper Awards 2025, distributed 4 quarterly Connecting Sebastopol Newsletters (16,200 hard copies) and Convened Connecting Sebastopol Meetups
- Delivered the Sebastopol Showcase - a collaboration of community organisations and local businesses held in November. Read more about it [here](#).
- Delivered community events including a harmony week celebration, International Women's Day morning tea, Sing Australia afternoon tea
- 7 JP's volunteered 640 hours signing documents for 1000+ people
- Supported 20 vocational placement students, 4 who required 500 hours of placement
- Supported the Ballarat Social Sewers, Golden Gal's, Chatty Cafe, Monday Crafters
- Maintained 2000 subscribers to the quarterly BNC Newsletter
- Increased our social media followers to 3500+
- Continued to provide a range of services to the community including free computer access, and help with accessing government services
- Increased food relief by rescuing food from local supermarkets on Mondays and Fridays



**680**  
**JP hours**  
**volunteered**

**16500+**  
**activity**  
**participants**

**20**  
**placement**  
**students**





# Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Partners and Networks

**A very special thank you to our major funding partners for their continued support.**

- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industries and Regions
- Department of Education
- Department of Home Affairs
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Phoenix P12 Community College
- City of Ballarat

**We received philanthropic project grants and project support from:**

- Ballarat Foundation
- McCain Australia
- William Buckland Foundation
- BGT Jobs & Training Ballarat

**We partnered with employment organisations to deliver their services from our hubs:**

- Djerrivarrh Community & Education Services - Parent Pathways
- Asuria
- CVGT Employment
- GForce Employment and Recruitment
- Are-able

**Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre staff convene the following networks:**

- Delacombe Chairs Forum
- Jobs Victoria Work & Learning Centre Local Advisory Panel
- Connecting Sebastopol Meet Ups

**Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre staff are members of the following networks:**

- Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses Committee
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Board
- City of Ballarat Safety Committee
- Food Access Network
- Ballarat Youth Services Network
- Spotlight on Sebastopol Committee
- DET South Western Victoria Regional Engagement Forum
- Volunteer Coordinators Network
- WHG CORE Alliance
- Work & Learning Centre Network
- Social Enterprise Victoria Network (SENVic)
- Ballarat Local Jobs Program

To support our community we rely on many people and organisations to help us with not only the big things but also the little things our community needs. 2025 was no exception and we are grateful to everyone who helps us to support our community.



ABN 79 868 780 589

Ballarat South Community Hub  
11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol. 3356  
PO Box 540W, Ballarat. 3350

Email: [reception@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:reception@ballaratnc.org.au)  
[www.ballaratnc.org.au](http://www.ballaratnc.org.au)

Phone: 5329 3273