

Annual Report 2020

MILANG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN: 69 623 040 557

MILANG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.





*Yunti Ngopun Ngami ; Together We Walk
Artwork by Allan Sumner*

We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people on whose land we meet and we pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

Ngarrindjeri Vision for Country: Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan (Listen to what Ngarrindjeri people have to say)

“Our Lands, Our Waters, Our People, All Living Things are connected. We implore people to respect our Ruwe (Country) as it was created in the Kaldowinyeri (the Creation). We long for sparkling, clean waters, healthy land and people and all living things. We long for the Yarlumar-Ruwe (Sea Country) of our ancestors. Our vision is all people Caring, Sharing, Knowing and Respecting the lands, the waters and all living things.” - From Ngarrindjeri Nation Yarlumar-ruwe plan 2006

Strategic Plan

OUR VISION

Healthy Communities Sustainable Habitats

We Value:

- Honesty and Fairness
- Teamwork, Mutual Respect and Diversity
- Reliability and Responsibility
- Ethical Service Provision and Commitment to Quality
- Care for the People and the Environment
- Equality and Inclusivity

Our Purpose:

- Foster the importance of social diversity, community spirit and community relationships
- Value and protect the peace and natural beauty of our environment
- Acknowledging the Ngarrindjeri people as the spiritual custodians of this land
- Ensuring that local communities are listened to and are actively involved in decision making that will affect them
- To respond to both individual and community needs
- Building capacity by empowering groups and fostering resilience
- Provide services and activities which meet those needs
- Adopt and promote ecological sustainability
- Commit to working together to achieve goals

MADCA

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



- President: John Whyte
 - Vice President: Alan Beaumont
 - Acting Treasurer: Mike Linscott
 - Secretary: Annie Whyte
 - Don McInness
 - Robyn Shearer
 - Gordy Rollins
 - Denise McGrice
 - Richard Prusa
- Ex Officio Members:
- MADCA Manager: Stuart Jones
 - Alexandrina Council Representative: Cllr Karyn Bradford

Stuart Jones, MADCA Manager

Colleen Whyte, GLC Program Manager

Gordy Rollins, GLC Liaison Officer & MOSHCC Admin Assistant

Annie Whyte, Lakes Home Care Coordinator

Andrew Ball, Community Care Officer

Cheryl Butlin, Lakes Home Care Admin

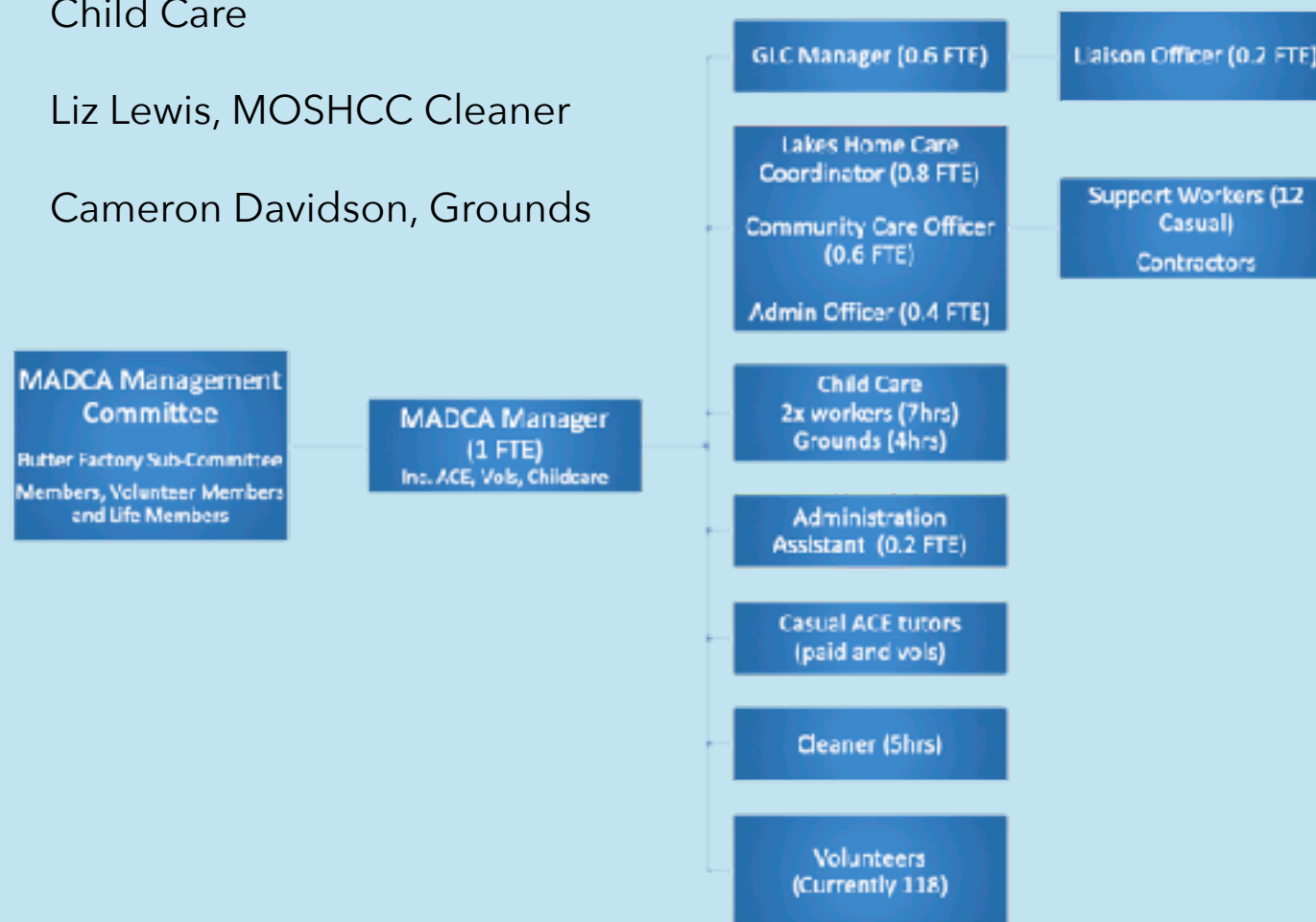
Prue Turner, Marketing and Media Project Officer

Rosemary Evans, Child Care Coordinator

Britteny Fleming, Glenis Foster & Sue Suisted, Casual
Child Care

Liz Lewis, MOSHCC Cleaner

Cameron Davidson, Grounds



STAFF

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I started my term as president with a few difficulties, after 3 weeks rest away in Bali, and yes, we could travel then, I got to work.

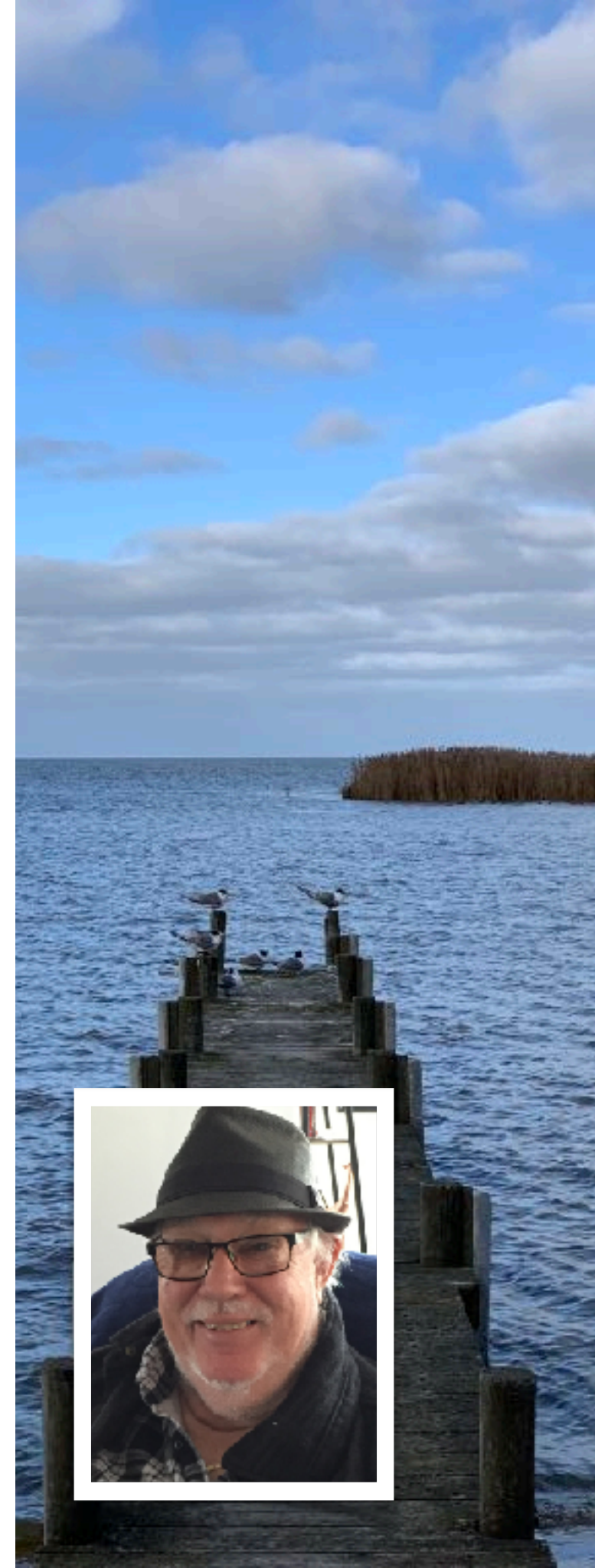
Lakes Home Care was undergoing some major issues and required some immediate attention. The software for both CHSP & LHC clients was outdated and was causing some major concerns and delaying reporting and client invoice/statements. This coupled with issues with the Audit was causing some major concerns within the department.

After the departure of some of the LHC staff in early January 2020 we underwent a quick review with both Stuart and Alan Beaumont, who then appointed Annie with the support of the Committee to revamp and organise Lakes Home Care.

I am happy to report that she has just about completed her task and the results show department is making a reasonable profit and increased efficiency.

A new Community Care Officer is about to be appointed which will balance our staffing requirements for the department, both Annie and Cheryl will continue in their roles.

We encountered some problems with our accounting package this was not showing our correct figures and our balance sheet was incorrect. Mike Linscott took over as treasurer part way through the term, and we engaged a firm of accountants to assist and review our accounts. This was a truly exhausting task, and one that I thank Carol Linscott, Shannon Granger and Mike Linscott, for the many hours spent on reconciling our accounts. During that took on the review of our debtors and set about collecting any old outstanding monies owed to us.



I am pleased to report that our accounts are all fixed and now represent a true correct position of the business.

The Butter Factory has commenced restoration, and whilst not much looks to have changed from the street, foundations and stonework is now being restored. We recently missed out on a grant which would have provided additional funding for us. Whilst this was disappointing, I personally thank Chris Bagley for the many hours he spent on not only this grant but all our grant applications. It is a hard task, and a job that involves many aspects to report on.

We are now going to register as a charity which will open more areas of philanthropy donations from a large variety of foundations. Mike Linscott has now finalised our application and we await the answer from the relevant department.

Our next stage for the Butter Factory is to develop a detailed business plan that sets out all the displays and costings of what it will cost us along with estimations of revenue it will return.

The most important aspect is that the Butter Factory must be self-sustainable and return enough income to employ staff. We need it to be a draw card to the region.

Some of the suggestions are a Gin Distillery, Butter Manufacturing, Indigenous displays, Wine displays and sales from the Langhorne Creek region., Historical Artefacts and other interesting artefacts.

We have also identified that an updated web site of Milang and region is required. To those ends we have appointed Prue Turner as a part-time trainee under a grant to rebuild and develop this Web site.

We are planning to derive enough income to continue her employment as we sign up new businesses to the site.

On my commencement as President I came across a phone system stored in the Butter Factory that had been gifted to us from Summit Health. I did some enquiring and found out that it was an almost new system and could be fitted to our phone connection for a reasonable sum. We commenced having them installed through the Centre.

Covid-19 has been a huge challenge for all Australians. I feel the results of this pandemic are going to be with us for a long time to come. It has had a devastating effect on our programs with the scrapping of outings and other social activities. I trust a vaccine is developed soon so life can start returning to some sort of normal.

Whilst this has had a huge hit on our economy, I feel some good will come out of it. Next year I believe the government will introduce incentives to develop businesses and offer grants for their establishments. This is an opportunity for MADCA to look at how we can apply for some of these grants and expand our business. We will need to be vigilant, and ready to take up the challenge.

This year we have achieved so much, and I want to thank all the staff, many volunteers for their dedicated effort throughout 2020, I also wish to thank my management committee for putting up with my sometimes-eccentric ways, and a few undisciplined long meetings.

John Whyte

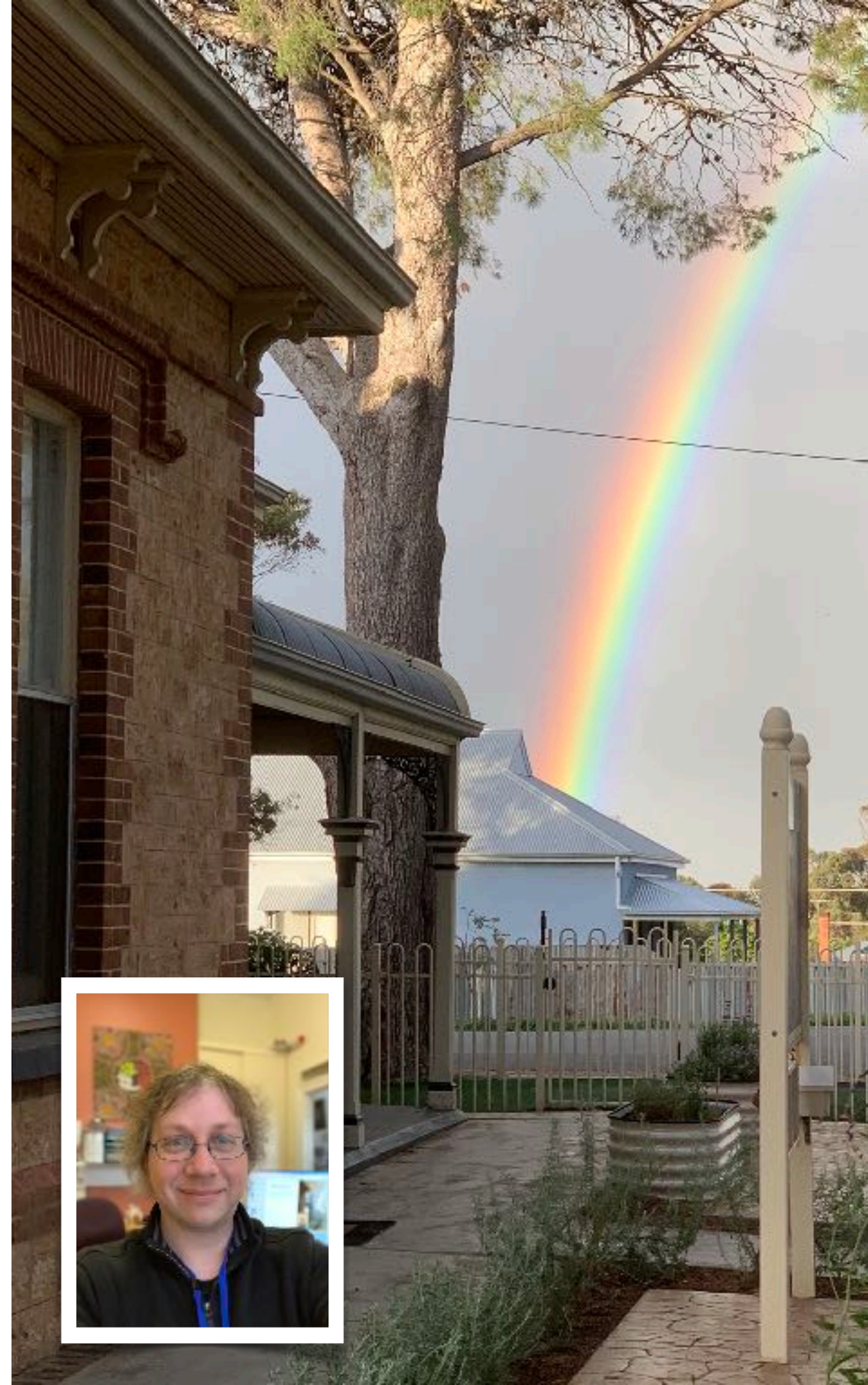
MANAGER'S REPORT

In last years' Annual Report our organisation had gone through some pretty huge changes. We'd begun a painful process of turning our financial situation around, and we were able to report that we had turned a corner. We saw a return to volunteering and a banding together and a real determination to turn things around.

I'm really happy to say that this has continued this year. I'm so proud of the work our staff and volunteers have put into the association to make sure our work continues, and that we provide essential services to the community.

One of the hard losses we have sustained is grant funding for Emergency Relief. We had funding rolling over for ER for quite a number of years, however the Federal Government made changes to the program, some big cuts, and we were unsuccessful in our application to continue to provide this in our region. Grants were extended until December, and State Government topped-up our ER until December as well, but this year we came in with no funding to start with.

With this in mind, and considering the impact of COVID-19 we decided that keeping the food pantry at MOSHCC is critical and



that we would see how it went with donations.

Particularly since the onset of the pandemic, we have seen donations from many people wanting to help out our most vulnerable community members. Wanting to give back, some have given part of their Economic Support Payment as a donation, some have brought in essential supplies on a regular basis to keep our pantry stocked with essentials.

Fundraising has been impacted for the Butter Factory, last year we had a fantastic program of Country Music shows and a fantastic quiz night. We certainly hope we can get back to running events like these that have been so popular, and that help with our running costs (ie water, rates, electricity etc) which are paid outside of grant funding.

I would like to thank John Toshach who is stepping down as Caretaker for the Milang Institute. John has kept an eye on the Institute and put in many hours on upkeep around the building, I'm in awe of his painstaking work on hands and knees looking after the wooden floors in the main hall!

John and his wife Kaye have been working/volunteering with the organisation for many years, Kaye has been part of the Friday Feast team (I think since it started! 17 years?), we will miss them greatly and we wish them the very best for the future.

Another victim of Corona virus is the Friday Feast, we can't get people together and provide the same food service in such a risky time, however our funding through Commonwealth Home Support

Programs enables us to at least help those who would like help in this time to get access to pre-made meals, and staff can deliver. We have been doing these in batches, and can continue until that funding runs out.

While I speak of Friday Feast, I have another thank you and farewell, for Denise Quinn who has been one of our Head Cooks for a number of years, who will not be returning when we finally do come out of restrictions. Denise has provided meals over the last 10 years and shared her knowledge and passion with our amazing bunch of volunteers.

Friday Feast provides a two course sit-down meal each Friday at the Community Centre, but is currently on hold during the restrictions.

Over at the Butter Factory, some very exciting sights and sounds are happening! Work on the footings has happened over the last few weeks and this week the stone masons have begun their work. Very important internal work, that can't be seen from the road has also been happening over the last few months with the carpenters and structural engineers working on the internal structure. I've put a few photos in with Mike Galea's report, and you can see more on Facebook as we continue.

Many thanks to John Bradford who took on the role of Site Supervisor, and undertook HSR training to keep us compliant with Work Health and Safety requirements, and orient new workers on site.

Stuart Jones

MILANG LAKESIDE BUTTER FACTORY

Mike Galea, Project Manager

The Butter Factory is progressing well and I have been regularly reporting to the MADCA Project Committee. The curved roof's new structural timbers and tie-downs are now up to engineering specifications and the basement structural supporting foundations are complete. Foundations for the new entrance plus newly required strip footings across the rear and down one side of the structure to support external walls (where none previously existed, or did exist but were structurally inadequate) are now complete. Significant timber wall frame supports and other roofing timber strengthening and tie-downs are also almost complete. Replacement of all wall and roofing galvanised iron will be happening soon.

A team of 5-6 stone masons have just started, and should be completed in about 2 weeks. They will be instructing any interested volunteers in the art of lime washing which will be needed for all internal and external stone walls. An upgrade of the electrical systems has also started.

We have maintained an excellent relationship with the State Heritage Officer which has assisted us gain approval on





modifications as the project has evolved.

JB is doing an outstanding job as our health and safety site supervisor, and he, together with all the volunteers continue to be outstanding.

We have been using local contractors and suppliers for the majority of the works which helps in the overall community ownership of the project. Michael Tobin from the Nine Mile Rd and his team of carpenters have done above and beyond so far, as has Mick Falzon with his steelwork and Tim Roberts with his Earth Works. Everyone including the MADCA Building Committee have been working together as an effective team. A special thanks goes to Chris Bagley for his efforts in trying to get grant funds. It is a very hard job, and I know how disheartening it can be when we 'lose out' on some grant funds.



I am trying to carefully watch every penny, however more funds will be required to see the project to full completion. The administrative support from Stuart Jones has been invaluable and John Whyte has been enthusiastic in creative ways of gaining more funds to finish off the project.

Mike Galea
Project Manager

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Stuart Jones

This year's ACE Program was the second year of a three-year funded program from the South Australian Department of Innovation and Skills.

The program aims to increase participants skills in various areas including Language Literacy and Numeracy, Core Skills for Work and Digital Literacy.

This year our program was cut short by the Coronavirus, however the Department supported projects by paying out contracts in full. This meant our budget was not affected by the loss of ability to undertake programs during closures.

During lockdown our Ukulele group took to Zoom to continue to meet each week to support each other, and keep up their practice!

- Fibre Art
- Writing & Poetry
- One-to-one computing
- Ukulele
- Family History

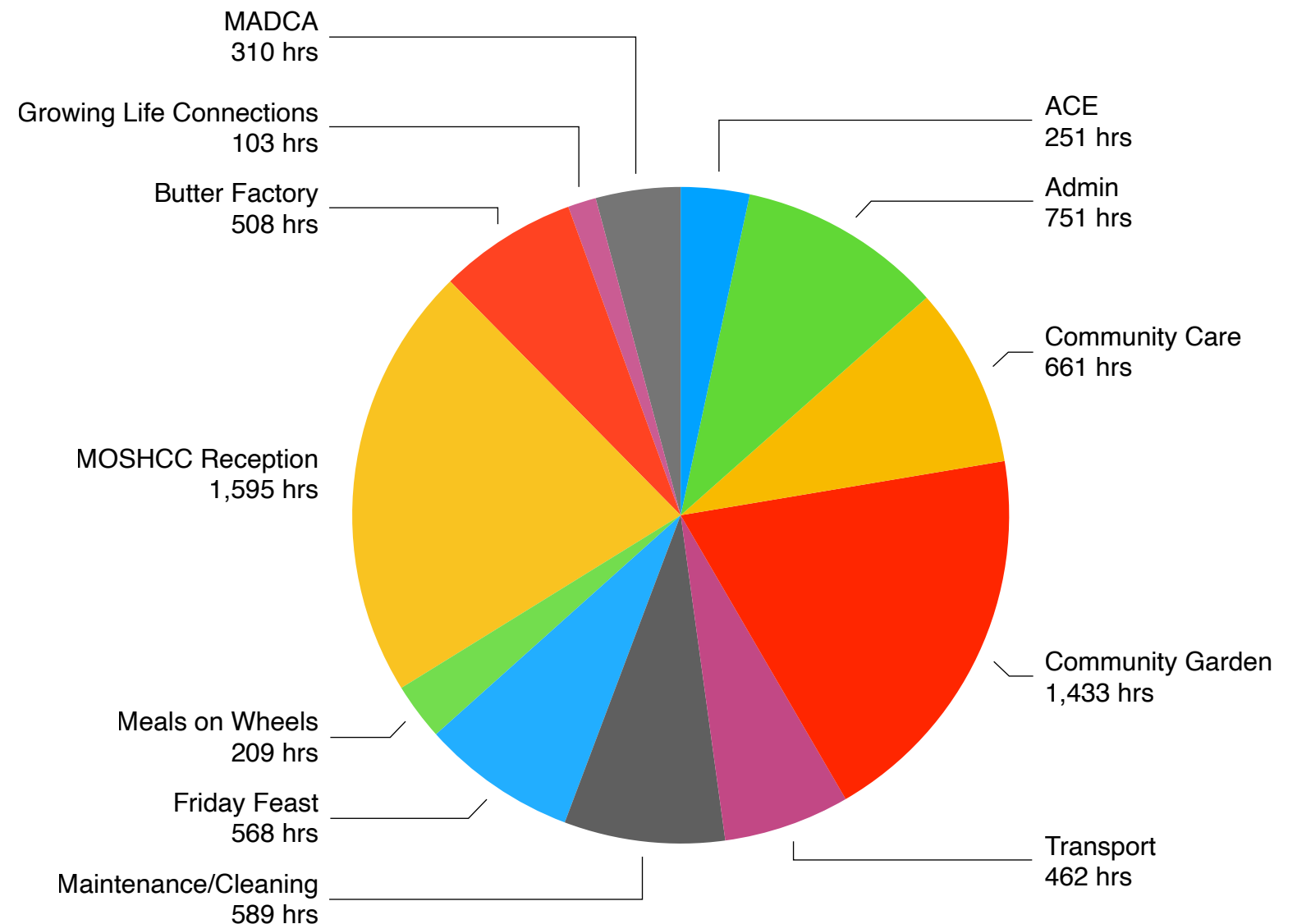


VOLUNTEERS

Our organisation runs on the work of 118 volunteers across all our programs.

This is a snapshot of the work put in by our volunteers, and I'm sure for every hour that gets captured on a sign in sheet there are many more that go into planning for programs and events, meetings and work that happens in the background to support our organisation and our Community. On record our volunteers put in 7441 hours to the overall work of MADCA.

We thank all our volunteers for their commitment and their passion for the Community



LAKES HOME CARE

Annie Whyte & Cheryl Butlin

Milang & District Community Association as a provider for Community Home Support Program & Lakes Home Care currently are providing services for around 136 aged care consumers, and 26 Home Care Packages from Level 1 through to Level 4.

During the past 8 months we have worked through the processes, with the support of Stuart, Mike Linscott and the Committee, throughout this period we have been able to steady the ship and have certainly gained a lot more positive vibes within the community.

I certainly acknowledge that Lakes Home Care was developed on rocky foundations, I have been extremely grateful of the knowledge of Aged Care that Stuart and Alan Beaumont, has assisted me with, to enable me to proceed and move forward and determine some great outcomes.

We have now put into place a complete overview of CHSP where we are tracking both with our funding and our level of service up to June 2020. We have undertaken Brokerage Clients from Community Connect run through the Alexandrina Council, and



have successfully negotiated some 500 hours of Home Garden & Maintenance that we are Broker through Community Connect also.

We have had to make some modifications due to COVID-19 when we had to shut the doors to the community centre. COVID-19 has certainly brought some challenges particularly around liaising with staff members and bring everyone together and being able to keep everyone informed of our progress. We introduced a social call out to all our clients throughout that period and introduced a shopping service within the community. We found a lot of our clients had family members in place that could assist them in this however we do have a regular group who have taken up this service and appreciate it.

CHSP is extremely easier to manage it does work itself once all processes and required recording of data are kept up to date. With the Support and knowledge of Jen Engelhardt we have been able to complete our care plans and bring them into line, over the past few months. This will now see us being more compliant, we successfully completed our last audit, with a positive outcome. Jen has now moved on from the role we set about advertising for a new Community Care Officer and have appointed Andrew Ball into that role, he comes with nursing experience and a wealth of other knowledge that will enhance the department as we move forward. So, when you in the Community Centre please make yourself known to him, he commenced with us yesterday 31st of August, 2020 and will be working out of the Lakes Home Care Office.

Lakes Home Care has increased from 16-26 clients. There appears to be lot more positivity around the community, and this is

heartening to hear, we as a team both our support workers and our office staff have worked to maintain a good level of communication within the community, and to respond more efficiently and effectively to their needs.

Whilst most areas of both CHSP/LHC remain positive, I must agree with the Management Committee and some direction provided by Henson Lloyd Accountants, that we need to keep our costs down to continue moving forward. I will continue work together with Stuart on how best to address staffing levels within this area and to maintain a steady level of profit without going into deficit moving forward.

Annie Whyte

GROWING LIFE CONNECTIONS

Colleen White & Gordy Rollins

GLC is managing well although COVID 19 has worked its best to shut us down. Gordy and I decided we would contact all our clients during the lockdown. We phoned many and some we organised to catch up on DUO (similar to FaceTime) where we could see community and have either a serious chat or a laugh. We were able to continue with our groups using this app and many were surprised at how easy it was to install and how fantastic it was to see each other. Some members chose not to connect on DUO but were always happy for a phone call. Gordy and I became acutely aware of how many people live alone and when in lockdown we may be the only voice or face they see for that day.

This year will never be forgotten as we continue to recall prior to COVID 19 - then Lockdown and now in somewhat of a lull, hoping we can stay safe to continue our community outreach.

Since our last report GLC held a very successful EXPO - called "We Are Here". We held the EXPO in the Strathalbyn Show Hall and 30 services displayed all they offer to the community. The ICC (one of GLC's partners - Inter-church Council) supplied a free lunch and afternoon tea which was very much appreciated. Approximately 200 community members wandered through and collected pamphlets and asked questions. All services who attended





requested information about the next one.

GLC also has been involved with the ADF (Alcohol and Drug Foundation) both Gordy and I head up a team of people to outreach to the community bringing awareness about local issues regarding drugs and alcohol abuse in our region. More information from Gordy's report.

In September 2019 we organised 42 bins in our region to collect food to fill the four pantries within our GLC partnership. Since MOSHCC missed out on the grant for Emergency Relief this year our collection in September 2020 will be vital, so if you see a bin around please place some food in it.

Many would be aware that GLC Partners along with extras in our region applied for a grant from the Faye Fuller Foundation - this was a very lengthy process but so enjoyable and encouraging to meet with such innovating people within our community. In November we had a day of training with TASCI (The Australian Centre of Social Innovation) the day deposited enthusiasm and excitement with ideas, possibilities and hope for the future of our region. Unfortunately, we missed out on that grant but have connected again with these organisations, also DHS and have recently applied for another grant - still waiting for a reply.

Packing Christmas hampers was an event last year as many not only received their hamper but also a handbag full of goodies. Milang Mermaids began to collect handbags during the year then fill them with special gifts for the lady of the home. Some



recipients cried when they received their gift – this is what Christmas is about.

GLC organised a Christmas Day lunch in Strathalbyn – 58 community members came – the food was great – the community even better! We had music and so much chat – one couple sat with a family and through conversation found out they lived across the road from each other!

January (Prior to COVID 19) GLC was all sorted for the year, Gordy worked hard to fill out our calendar with several dates of events and Group outings. None of them have come to pass but Milang Mermaids are looking forward to our annual bonfire early next month. During COVID 19 lockdown was an extremely busy time, as the Department of Human Services decided that perhaps some staff might be bored at home so they organised training at least once per week – both Stuart and I learnt heaps among the busyness.

Since coming back after lockdown I have decided to work from home one day per week, this may change in the future but right now it is working well.

GLC writes two reports per year for the DHS (Department of Human Services). I have noticed our numbers have been down slightly in the last year, but we are still extremely busy working to support community in our large region. During COVID Lockdown we were offered a \$5000 grant from the DHS to assist community who are isolated. GLC bought 10 iPads (Thanks Stuart) they are set up and

people can borrow them to continue to connect with FaceTime or DUO.

In recent weeks four people have come for assistance who are currently homeless – this has been difficult for staff to face – but our wonderful community gives so well. I have continued to support these people, and some have found refuge at the Motel and caravan park. I urge you to continue to reach out to those who struggle because as most of us are aware life has many twists and turns, ups and downs – this is called the journey of life. My passion to continue to serve community has not waned so both Gordy and I will continue to support through the avenue of Growing Life Connections. I want to thank the many volunteers who help to pull things together and make our job easier.

Colleen Whyte

Growing Life Connections

Program Manager

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Stuart Jones

The emergency relief program which runs out of the Milang Old School House Community Centre is a vital part of our service to the community.

Until January this year, we have been able to assist clients who are struggling with making ends meet, by providing a food parcel or voucher, fuel, assistance with a part of a bill, or in other practical ways to support clients to get that little bit ahead and reduce the stress which come from unexpected bills or medical expenses.

Grant funding ceased as of January and the MOSHCC Pantry has continued by way of donations over the last 8 months.



CHILD CARE

Rosemary Evans & Britteny Fleming

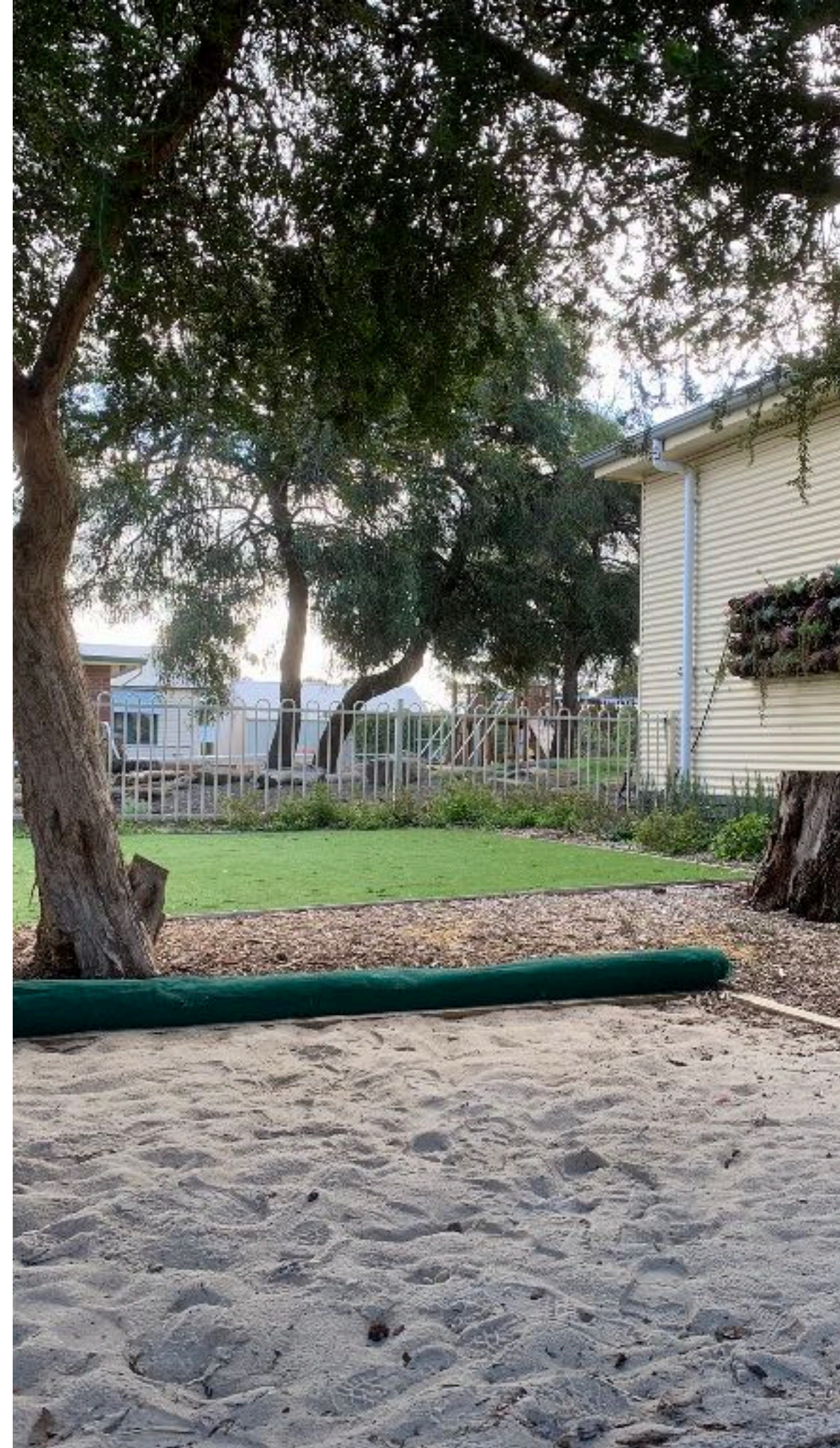
Our Child Care program is funded by the federal government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, through the Community Child Care Fund.

Our service is primarily funded by the CCCF grant, however as a CCS approved provider, we must charge at least a small fee. (Currently \$6) This fee can then be further subsidised by parents who are eligible through Centrelink for the subsidy.

We would like to thank Brittany Jackson who had been with us for a number of years, who has moved on, and we wish her well for the future. Her caring nature and creativity with the children was appreciated by staff, parents and all the children she worked with!

We welcome Britteny Fleming this year who has stepped into the role to support Rosemary, and we have two fantastic casual staff, Glenis Foster and Sue Suisted who fill in when needed.

Our service provides quality care by two child care workers two mornings a week, Monday and Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm.



MILANG COMMUNITY GARDEN

Christine Elliott

The last twelve months has certainly been eventful.

The community garden was again entered in the Strathalbyn and Districts garden competition, and we were awarded the Champion Community Garden. Well done to all of the volunteers involved.

The money received from the Alexandrina Donations Program was used to purchase new vegetable beds which are now being put to good use.

Sale of produce has declined because of people being unsure if the garden was still open to the public due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

I would personally like to thank all of the volunteers involved, past and present for their constant efforts in maintaining the garden so that we can produce fresh fruit and vegetables for the community. I would also like to thank those members of the community that support us through donations and the purchase of produce.

Christine Elliott



TREASURER'S REPORT

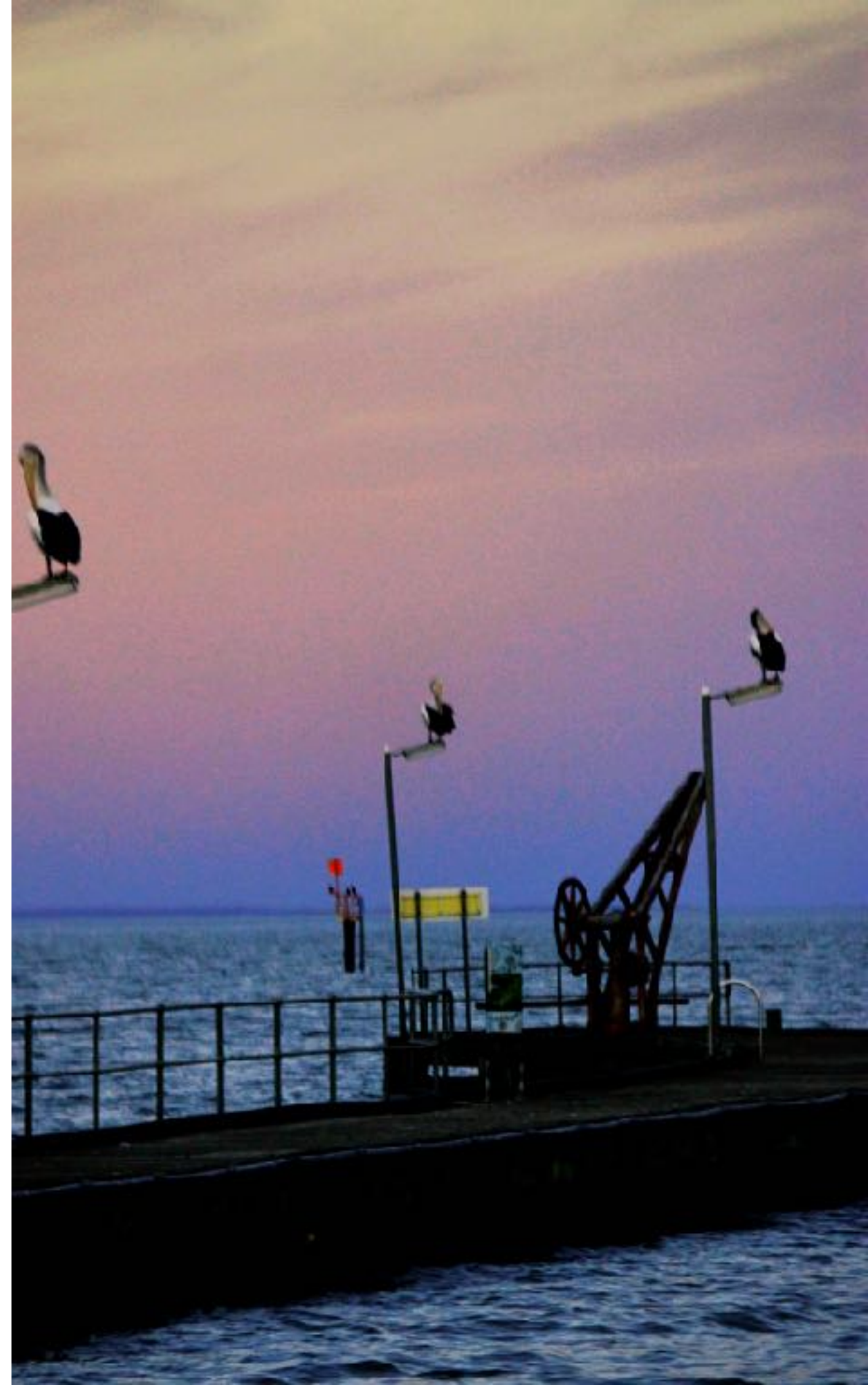
I took over the role as acting Treasurer earlier this year. John Williams had moved from the district and had resigned his position. I was asked by John Whyte, the Chairman of the Management Committee to fill in the role as Acting Treasurer until this AGM.

As we all know this year has been one of turmoil and frustration for all of us. Covid-19 has had an impact on many businesses and MADCA was no exception. We had to cease fund raising and close many of our activities. This had a major impact on our finances.

In 2019 MADCA decided to implement a new accounting system, Xero. This is software which has many advantages and is very versatile and is able to be accessed online, which means that all those dealing with the organisations finances can access and work with the various accounts.

The changeover was made but it soon became apparent that a number of errors had crept into the system as Xero had not correctly received the data from the previous accounting system which was MYOB.

This resulted in months of work to correct the errors and bring the accounts up to date. I would like to commend all those staff and



volunteers who in assisted in this work.

I am pleased to say that the accounts are now all corrected and I must thank our new Auditors Henson Lloyd Accountants who have guided us through an exceedingly difficult period.

I must also thank Shannon Granger our Bookkeeper who has now retired from her position. She put in an immense amount of work and we will miss her.

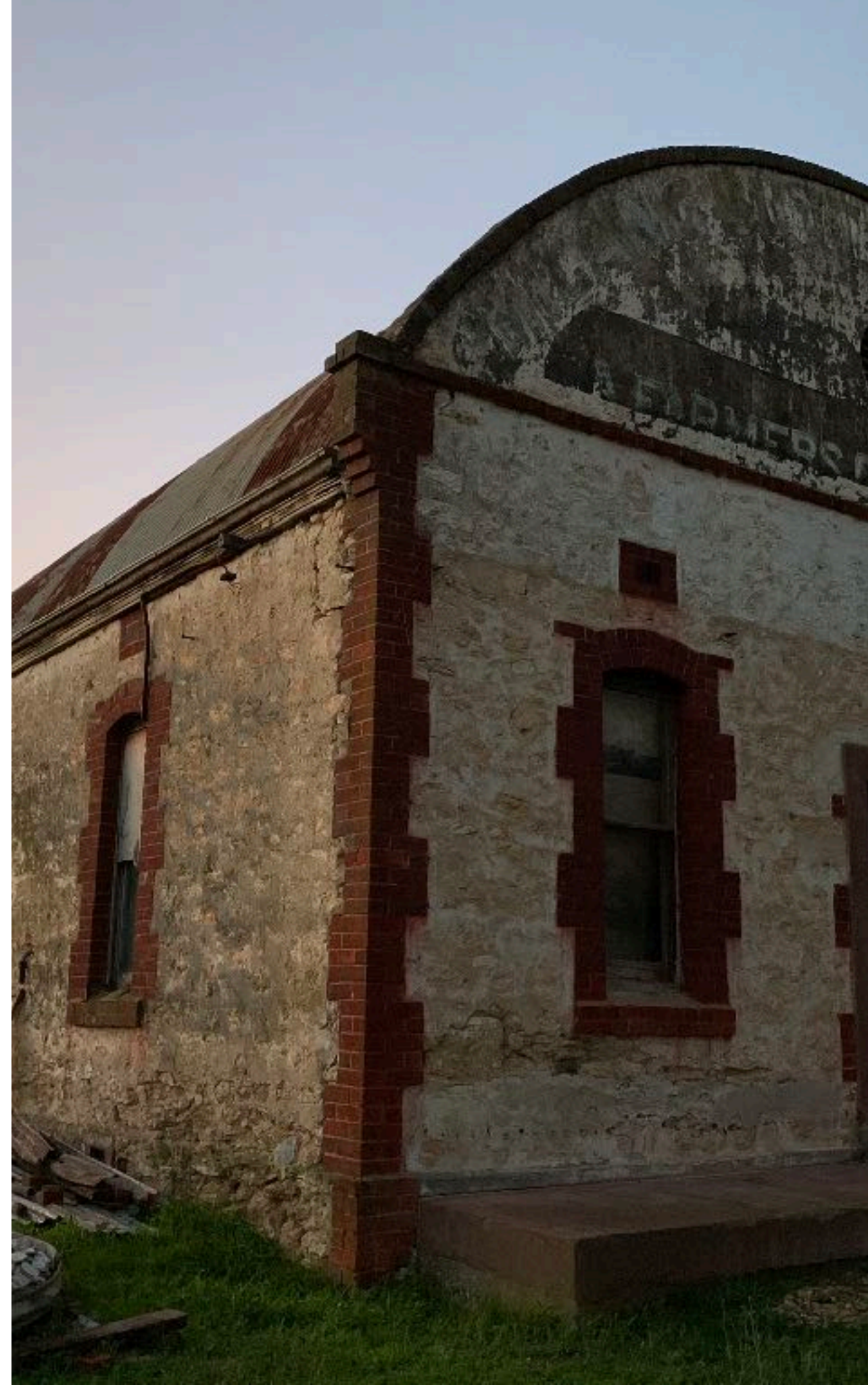
I am pleased to say that the finances have improved since this time last year and we are working to a profitable bottom line. The Covid 19 support we have received from both State and Federal Governments has done much to improve our position and get us through a very tough time. We were eligible for both Job Keeper and Business Grants.

The Federal and State Grants received for the Butter Factory are now being expended as work has commenced. There is no doubt that we will need more support either from Governments Grants or Sponsors to finish the project.

I am pleased to report there has been a decided improvement in our finances. We are now budgeting for an even better financial result in the coming year.

Mike Linscott

Acting Treasurer



Our projects are

**SUPPORTED
BY...**

We thank all our funding bodies for
the support they give to local
projects and programs through
MADCA

Alexandrina Council

Eastern Fleurieu School

SA Department of Innovation and Skills

SA Department of Human Services

SA Department of Premier and Cabinet

**Australian Government Department of Education
Skills and Employment**

Australian Government Department of Health

Australian Government Department of Agriculture