



Annual Report 2015/2016



The Sorrento Community Centre Inc

Our Vision

A healthy, connected and vibrant community

Our Mission

Sorrento Community Centre aims to bring people together to connect, to learn, to grow and to strengthen by: -

- Responding to, supporting and engaging the community using community development processes such as
 - Community consultation;
 - Working in partnerships to build sustainable funding bases;
 - Facilitating and evaluating responses to identified needs and priorities.

- Supporting diversity; promoting community participation and inclusion

- Supporting lifelong learning opportunities to improve people's training and employment pathways and community participation

Sorrento Community Centre aims to do this through social, educational, recreation and support activities.



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Board members 2015/2016

Chairperson	Helen Gleeson
Vice Chairperson	Haydn Park
Secretary/ Public officer	Vivienne Clarke (retiring)
Treasurer	Ros Morris (Retiring)
General Committee	David Rasmussen (retiring)
	Judy Dunn (retiring)
	Lino Tarquinio
	Inez Dussuyer
	Stephen Brown (retiring)
	Marilyn Cunnington (retiring).





Sorrento Community Centre - Registered Members

630 participants are registered at the Centre this year and an additional 86 families are registered and are actively engaged in our community and early learning programs on site and around the community.

Regular hirers of the Centre include:

AA

Nepean Rate Payers Association

Nepean Coalition

Sorrento Ladies' Probus Club

New Year's Eve Steering Committee

Sorrento Netball Club

Sorrento Football Club

The Rotary Club of Sorrento



The following programs are held off site:

Tai Chi

Yoga

Gone Gardening

Sorrento Savvy Socials

Café Catch up

Team 2015/2016

Manager	Tracey Trueman
Enrolment and Promotion	Caroline Taylor
Enrolments Early Learning	Jemmah Gregory
Book keeper	Lynette Reid
Administration support	Glenice White, Val Woodman, Pauline Downes, Sarah Chen, Nanneke Levy, Gary Naughton, Margot Brinkworth, Clare O'Shaughnessy and Brian Douglas
Early Learning Coordinator	Carolyn Tucker
Early Learning Team	Jemmah Gregory, Pam Wilkinson, Jackie Rulach, Donna Caspar, Mel Mc Fayden, Sarah Chen, Tara Borthwick and Belinda Dawn
Early Learning Working Group	Judy Dunn
Students on placement	Nicholas Long - Chisholm
Cleaning	Darren Leah and Dearne Hall
IT support	Gary Naughton, and Patrick Enright
Security	Coastcom Security
Savvy Newsletter	Gail Hood and Judy Munro
Savvy Walking Group	Kathy and Jim Moorehouse
Café Catch up Coordinators	Pauline Downes and Margot Brinkworth
Fundraising Golf 2015	Lino Tarquinio, Denise Offenber, Ros Morris, David Rasmussen, Gail Hood and Brian Douglas
Fundraising Golf 2016	Lino Tarquinio, Denise Offenber, Ros Morris, David Rasmussen, Gail Hood, Pat Kee, Marilyn Cunnington, Haydn Park, Graeme Hill and Helen Gleeson
Peninsula Wig Centre	Kate Smith
Quilts for others/ Caps for Kate	Marie Lee

Tai Chi	Coral Barrand
Apple Mac pre accredited training	Julie Forrester - Bizassist
Social Media	Nikki Fisher and Kate Lowe
Volunteer training	Sarah Chen
Workplace training	Kerry Keys
First Aid Training	Healthguard
Health and fitness	Coral Barrand, Cameron Williams, Joanne Hafey, Liz Addison and Kathy Fisher
Holiday programs	Joe del Vechio, Annie Penmagic, Belinda Dawn, Yvonne Watson, Gerard Hillier -Peninsula Sharks, Annie Bennfield , Cameron Williams, Jodie Griffiths, Beatrice Manakian, "Mitch" – Craig Mitchell
Children's Art	Annie Bennfield
French	Inez Dusseyer
Art	Jos Law
Blogging	Nikki Fisher
Creative Writing	June Loves
Maternal Child Health	Sheryl Harrop – MCH nurse
Podiatry	Kate Burnell
Sorrento Connected Garden	Tracey Trueman, Frances Cook, Annie Bennfield, Vicki Szabo, Kerry Keys, Brian Douglas, Denise Offenbergl, Adam Westaway, Brian Douglas, children, young people and the wider community Sue Reynoldson – Place making MPSC
Sorrento Youth Space	James Oakley, Sue Hannah and MPYAS Team
Building and maintenance volunteers	Gary Naughton, Brian Douglas and Terry Phippen
Shed project volunteers	Judy Dunn, Jim Morris, Lino Tarquinio, Terry Phippen, Gary Naughton, John Dunn, Haydn Park, Shane Mc Mahon, Nick Kollovics - 6 Degrees Building

Partnerships and funding

Sorrento Community Centre is supported by: -

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 The Department of Health and Human Services - Victorian Government
 The Department of Human Services – Commonwealth
 The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
 Mornington Peninsula Youth and Family Services
 Learn Local - Adult Community Education
 Rye & District Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank
 The Cluster Mornington Peninsula Neighbourhood Houses
 Learn Local Mornington Peninsula
 Broadband for seniors
 The Sorrento Portsea Chamber of Commerce
 Beachside Tourism and Visitor Centre
 The Sorrento Activities Centre
 Coastcom Security
 6 Degrees Building
 Briggs and Shaw Real Estate
 David Mc Farlan Reserve LMSG
 The Continental Hotel
 Seaswell
 Jack n Andy's Opportunity Shop
 Stringer Stores
 The Sorrento Portsea RSL
 The Sorrento Netball Club
 The Rotary Club of Sorrento,
 The Sorrento Portsea RSL,
 The Sorrento Primary School
 St Josephs Primary School



Sorrento Community Centre supports: -

The Mornington Peninsula Wig Centre and BCNA AA
 Nepean Friends of Hospice Auxiliary,
 Snuggly quilts for kids - Royal Children's Hospital,
 The Sorrento Ladies Probus Club,
 The Rotary Club of Sorrento,
 The Nepean Coalition Group,
 The David Mc Farlan LMSG ,
 The Mornington Peninsula Shire Library
 Mornington Peninsula Volunteering
 University of the third age
 The Sorrento Portsea Chamber of Commerce,
 The Sorrento Netball Club – Net Set GO



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27th October 2016

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Attendance and signing of Register
- 3 Apologies
- 4 Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 22 October 2015
- 5 Business arising from the Minutes
- 6 Adoption of Reports
 - a. Chairperson's Report
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - c. Manager's Report
- 7 Election of Board of Directors 2016- 2017
- 9 General Business
- 10 Appointment of Auditor
11. Guest Speaker- Mr Carl Cowie, CEO, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
- 12 Close of Meeting and invitation to refreshment

Minutes Annual General Meeting 22 October 2015

The SCC Annual Report, which contains various reports referred to in the Minutes below, was distributed before the meeting.

Minutes of The AGM, held Thursday, October 22 at 1pm

1. Welcome:

Helen Gleeson (Chairperson) welcomed all attendees.

Present

As per register

1. Apologies

Mitzi Watson, Christine Healy, Kerrie Jones, Emma Robinson, Jenny Nixon, Cindy Hill, Cathie McMahon, Chas Cosgriff, Jan Cosgriff, Franz Boss, Anneke Bos, Shane McMahon, Susan Phippen

2. Minutes of the previous AGM, held October 23, 2014

Resolved

Since the Minutes of the 2014 AGM were distributed before the meeting they were taken as read and accepted (David Rasmussen/Lino Tarquinio)

3. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Adoption of Reports

Chairperson's Report

Copies of the Chairperson's Report were distributed before the meeting.

The main points are:

- Review and update of the Strategic Plan for 2015-2018
- Renovation of the building
- Ever expanding importance of the social networking function of the Centre
- Early Learning Centre storage shed project
- Golf Day continues to be a highly successful means of fundraising

Thanks expressed to:

- The Board of Management, in particular to retiring members Denise Offenberg and Cindy Hill
- The Manager (Tracey Trueman)
- The SCC staff including Childcare staff
- The volunteers
- The tutors

Resolved

That the Chairperson's Report be accepted (Helen Gleeson/David Rasmussen)

There was no business arising from the Chairperson's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Resolved

That the Treasurer's Report be accepted (Ros Morris/Denise Offenberg)

There was no business arising from the Treasurer's Report.

Manager's Report

The Manager of the SCC Inc. thanked people for attending the AGM as well as all those who had participated in activities at the Centre in the last 12 months.

Resolved

That the Manager's Report be accepted (Glenice White/Haydn Park)

There was no business arising from the Manager's Report.

5. Retiring members

Helen Gleeson presented gifts to Denise Offenberg and Cindy Hill (in absentia) who were not standing again for the Board, and asked that a sincere vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes.

David Rasmussen had advised that he was not renominating as Secretary, a position he has held for the last 4 years. Helen gave a warm vote of thanks for the reliable and meticulous manner in which he has carried out the role.

6. Election of Board Members

For the purposes of conducting an election for the new 2015/2016 Board of Directors, Helen Gleeson handed the Chair over to Linda Wimatel (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council).

Nominations for the Board had been received as follows:

Helen Gleeson (Chair)

Vivienne Clarke	(Secretary)
Ros Morris	(Treasurer)
David Rasmussen	(General Member)
Judy Dunn	(General Member)
Marilyn Cunnington	(General Member)
Lino Tarquinio	(General Member)
Stephen Brown	(General Member)
Haydn Park	(General Member)

Since the positions to be filled were equal to the number of nominees, no election was necessary. Linda Wimetal declared the election valid and Helen Gleeson resumed the Chair.

7. General Business

Since no notice of any General Business was received, in writing, before the meeting, there was no General Business.

8. Appointment of an Auditor

Ros Morris proposed that Brian Payne be appointed as auditor for the SCC Inc. Accounts for 2015/2016.

Resolved

That Brian Payne Accountancy firm be appointed Auditors for all SCC Inc. for 2015/2016 (Ros Morris/ Haydn Park)

9. Guest Speaker, Ian Predl

Helen Gleeson introduced Ian Predl as the guest speaker. Ian has had a distinguished career as an educator in particular in the TAFE sector. Currently he is Chairman of Southern Mornington Peninsula Connect. Connect is a grassroots organisation partnering with The Chisholm Institute of TAFE and the Caroline Chisholm Educational Foundation, businesses and community organisation and networks.

It provides vocational training scholarships for Southern Peninsula youth and adults who experience hardship and are educationally disadvantaged. It is a circuit breaker providing opportunities for motivated individuals to improve their health, social and general well being and so to reduce their dependence on welfare.

Ian described:

- The need that exists on the Peninsula particularly in the lower socio-economic areas.
- The success the group is having providing scholarships and opportunities to motivated individuals

- The future challenges for SMP Connect.

Ian finished by taking questions after which Helen thanked him for his thought provoking speech.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2:00 pm

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: Thursday, October 22 at 2.30 pm

Signed as a current record:

Chair 

Date 13 November 2015



Nominations for Board 2016/2017

As nominations received according to the constitution of the Sorrento Community Centre do not exceed places available on the Board, no further nominations will be taken from the floor

Nominations received are duly elected

Chairperson	Haydn Park
Vice Chairperson	To be appointed from the general members
Secretary	Doug McLaine
Treasurer	Chris Malkin
General:	Helen Gleeson, Lino Tarquinio, Inez Dusseyer, Kate Smith, and Shane McMahon



This is my fifth and final report to you as Chair of the Board of Management of the Sorrento Community Centre – although upon reflection, Board of Management is something of a misnomer as management of the Centre is in the capable hands of Tracey Trueman and we should more properly be known as the Board of Governance/Directors – however I will leave it to my successor to sort out the nomenclature!

In my five years in this role it has been very important to me to make clear the lines between management and governance. These lines can become easily blurred with the result that trust between management and Board can become damaged - and trust is essential for the successful operation of an organization such as this.

So just what is it for which the Board is responsible and about which I should be reporting to you, our stakeholders?

We are required to endorse the strategic and policy framework of the Centre

To that end, this year we have reviewed our **Strategic Plan** and brought it up to date. It will guide the activities of Board and Management until 2018 when it next comes up for review. The requirements of this plan are measures against which we check our progress at Board meetings. Our Strategic Plan document is a public one and available to anyone to view.

Policies are the responsibility of the Board whose role covers governance of the Centre and includes identifying, with the Manager, policy needs. The Manager may be delegated the task to draft relevant policies for consideration and then have them edited/ratified by the Board.

Procedures are the responsibility of the Manager as delegated by the Board. The Manager develops procedures for the management of the Centre and these are derived from the policies. They are for staff and volunteers to use as a guide in day to day operations, comply with the policies, and are accessible in hard copy and electronic form.

Policy review by the Board is an ongoing process, however this year we have begun a major overhaul of policies which will continue into next year.

We are required to ensure financial viability.

The final responsibility for overseeing our finances lies with the Treasurer however she has a finance committee of the Board to support her in this. Their regular meetings ensure that the finances are thoroughly scrutinized and detailed reports are presented to the Board. At the end of the Financial Year our finances are audited and the auditor's report is included in this document.

Our major income is through Government grants for which we are accountable and our major expenses are salaries and wages. A new award is about to come into effect, which will impact on us. Other income is from fees and registrations which the Board now reviews each

year – while we are mindful of the difficulty this presents, fees may have to rise as expenses rise.

We appreciate the generosity of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, our landlords, as we do that of our various sponsors whose names you will find elsewhere in this document. We endorse various fundraising efforts in an attempt to close the gap between income and expenditure, and the more money raised in this manner the less we will need to raise fees. Overall, the SCC is in a sound financial position.

We are required to ensure compliance with all legislative, statutory and contractual duties and obligations

As a not for profit organization we are accountable to our members for our actions and decisions. We aim to achieve our objectives with and through the people we serve. We are required to act in accordance with our Constitution which is based on the Model Rules issued under the Associations Incorporation Act 2012

As recipients of Government funding there are a number of compliance issues with which we must abide ranging from such basic ones impacting on the Early Learning facility as keeping Working With Children certification up to date, to ensuring that all documentation required by the various funding bodies is completed when required.

Among our other responsibilities are compliance with OH&S laws and attention to Risk Management. Each of these has a regular spot on our Agenda to ensure they are monitored. Regular inspections of the building occur in order to keep on top of potential OH&S issues. There are times when we need to alert the Shire officers to problems for which they are responsible, at other times issues can be dealt with in house.

The Chair and Vice Chair attended a very informative conference on Risk Management recently and the Board is about to incorporate some of the techniques learned into our regular program.

This year's innovation has been to put together a calendar of due dates – checked at each meeting - for various requirements, to ensure we are prepared to address them in a timely manner

We are required to maintain ethical standards

To this end declarations of Conflict of Interest are sought at the beginning of each Board meeting. We have a Code of Conduct and are also bound to abide by the various requirements of privacy regulations and Board confidentiality in our interactions with members of the wider community.

I have chosen to retire as Chair of the Board this year because of my strong belief that there comes a time for every organization when new ideas and new ways of doing things are required. I will continue on the Board in order to provide some continuity but am otherwise looking forward to returning to 'feather duster' status.

I have been ably supported this year by our Vice Chair, Hayden Park. He has brought a wealth of experience to the position, not just from his working life but also from his many years of involvement in community activities. He has spent this year becoming familiar with the workings of the SCC and the sector, and I am delighted that he has nominated for the role of Chair.

When I somewhat naively took on this role five years ago, the Board I chaired comprised a lot of talent, but inexperience in the sector. Almost a year was wasted with us 'learning the ropes'. Consequently, some sort of **succession plan** was a priority. Given we are all volunteers this cannot be mandatory but it has been part of our thinking and planning for the future. As a result we have put some time and effort into ensuring a mix of continuity and change and in this we have thus far been successful.

Another of my priorities was to ensure there existed **trust** between the Board and the Manager. This requires us to recognize which are Board responsibilities and which rightly belong to the Manager, and to resist the temptation to micromanage. Regular, open communication between Chair and Manager are of the utmost importance. I think there exists now a high level of trust between Manager and Board, a situation that can only be good for the SCC in the long term.

Another priority was to ensure that there existed **unity of purpose** on the Board. This doesn't mean that we all agree all the time, but it does mean that when a decision is reached it is accepted and that a united front is presented to the community. It is for others to judge how successful we have been, although I have been gratified by the number of people who have mentioned to me that the SCC is a very happy place to be around, not possible without a sense of unity from the top.

.....

My association with the Community Centre has been most rewarding and I readily acknowledge that I will miss the role of Chair. The Board work has provided me with intellectual stimulation - indeed, I have had the opportunity to learn so much about a sector of which I had little previous experience. When one reaches senior status it is rewarding to discover that the experience, knowledge and skills developed over a lifetime are still useful to the wider community. And also to find that there is much left to learn. As with all volunteer work, I think I have gained more than I have contributed. What I will most cherish about my association with the Sorrento Community Centre will always be the wonderful people with whom it has brought me into contact – many of whom I may never have met otherwise. How lucky we are to live where we live – and I don't just mean the matchless environment, but also those who live in it.

I will close this somewhat lengthy report by thanking my fellow Board members for their support and enthusiasm over the past five years. All of them have contributed their talents and time for the benefit of the local community and Tracey and I are probably the only ones who realize the extent to which each has, in his or her own way, done so.

Each year we have some retirees and this year we have our long standing member, David Rasmussen, retiring. David served as secretary for some time only retiring when he complained he couldn't hear me any more!! He has also been a willing fundraiser with the Golf Carnival.

Also, we are sad to lose Judy Dunn who is spending more time in town with her grandchildren. Judy is highly qualified and experienced in Early Learning and we have gained enormously from her input – much more than just a shed. Said experience provided us with our very own episode of *Utopia*. Navigating her way through the byzantine workings of the Shire bureaucracy almost brought her undone!

Our current secretary, Vivienne Clarke, is also leaving to indulge her passion for travel. We will miss not only her secretarial skills but also her wise advice derived from her vast experience in education and in running a Centre similar to this.

Also for reasons of travel, we will farewell Ros Morris, our reluctant Treasurer who performed the role much better than she realizes. As well, Ros has been a driving force in the background of the Golf Carnival fundraiser.

Marilyn Cunningham is also retiring but has put up her hand to organize fundraising events in 2017. We are much appreciative of her offer.

And finally, Stephen Brown is retiring. I suspect the demands of work do not allow a lot of time for other activities. Although he has only been with us a short time, he has certainly made his mark, attracting sponsors through his impressive networking. I trust he will retain his interest in the Centre.

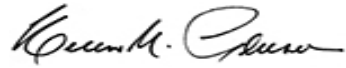
I would also like to thank all members of staff, tutors and volunteers who have contributed to the successful running of the Sorrento Community Centre throughout the five years of my association with it. While the staff and tutors are necessary, hardworking and important, I would like to make a special mention of the volunteers without whom this place would collapse. Many of you probably do not realize that most of those behind the desk, many of whom have been there for years, are volunteers; many of our programs are coordinated by volunteers; some of our classes are taken by volunteers; fundraising is carried out by volunteers; special projects are undertaken by volunteers and last but not least, our Board members are volunteers. Volunteering is alive and well in Sorrento!

I have spent some time thinking about my final thank you – to our Manager, Tracey. When I commenced as Chair I had known Tracey only as the smiling and welcoming face behind the desk when I first came into the Centre a lot of years ago looking for something to take my mind off recent retirement, a temporarily absent husband and a major flare up of my rheumatoid arthritis. She introduced me to the Sorrento Social Savvys and it literally changed my outlook on life.

Over the last five years I have come to know her as a lot more than a smiling face. I marvel at her patience at being confronted by a new Chair and Board and having to guide us through

the intricacies of the sector – there must have been times when she gritted her teeth! While Tracey's and my approach and modus operandi may have at times differed, our ultimate goal was always the same – the welfare of the Centre and community it serves. Thus we were always able to work together. I have come to respect her initiative – always full of ideas for new programs; her knowledge of the sector locally and more broadly; her grasp of industrial matters affecting the Centre; her keen eye on the finance, and last but by no means least, her networking. She is a networker par excellence.

Tracey, it has been a privilege to work with and learn from you.



Helen Gleeson



The Sorrento Community Centre has had another good year with our bottom line somewhat improved on that of 2015, where we made a net loss of \$20,572. We are pleased to say that this year we actually made a net profit. It was only \$597, but a huge turnaround. The surplus is due to better control of our expenditure.

The manager, bookkeeper, treasurer and assistant (Finance Sub-committee) have had monthly discussions to ensure that we remain a viable business and with staff salaries continuously rising we need to set our fees at a level to enable this. It also increases our provisions for staff Long Service leave.

Our cash reserves have been restored to over \$175,000, which is where we were two years ago and previous to last year's loss. Cash reserves are held to ensure that we meet our employee entitlements when they fall due and to meet our liquidity requirements, so it is reassuring that we have that behind us.

At times Grant Income is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, however with the Occasional Care Grant reinstated, we are \$26,529 better off as some of this was back paid for the 2014/2015 financial year, but this year it will go back to approximately \$15,000.

The new NHACE Collective Agreement which will replace awards and older versions of the Agreement (2007, 2008 and 2010) comes into effect in 2017 with salary increases as well as additional entitlements. All this means that we shall have to recover the increased costs by raising fees and/or reducing expenditure. This is a matter of finding a proper balance and trying to maintain our high standards of which we are very proud.

We kicked the Fundraising off with a very profitable golf day which netted over \$9,800. The funds have been used to build a much needed shed which will house outdoor play equipment for our Early Learning Program. With quotations for the shed reaching over \$17,000 we managed to get the cost within budget with the help of several volunteers and working bees with friends and parents at the Centre. We are very grateful for their help and generosity.

Plans for the third annual Sorrento Community Centre Golf Carnival are well under way and we hope that it is as lucrative as last year's.

This is my final report as Treasurer at the Sorrento Community Centre. A big thank you to Haydn, Tracey and Lyn for their assistance during the year and I wish the Centre well in the coming years.

Ros Morris

2016 was off to a great start with support from a hardworking team at the front line led most ably by the Enrolment and Promotion Coordinator, Caroline Taylor. Caroline will not be with us in 2017 as she has commitments in the family business, however she leaves us in a great position with a trained and committed team and new efficient systems in place. Her initiative, "Off the Back and on the Rack" recycled clothing sale, was successful on many fronts and with a great team behind her the day was a success. It was a great day for rekindling past friendships with old friends of the centre. We listened to feedback that will ensure an even better event in 2017.

Sorrento Community Centre staff, tutors and volunteers have provided some exciting new and ongoing programmes and activities. Expanding the delivery in 2017 will be the challenge ahead. A special thank you to Kate Smith, who has enthusiastically supported two new programmes this year, Chat and Go and Chat and Sew as well as being a "Champion" for the Centre.

Successful community projects this past year have ensured that Sorrento Community Centre is a vital place to belong to. The twenty hours per week support from the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program and funding from Mornington Peninsula Shire Council ensures we have coordination time to develop and support new projects.

At SCC we continue to provide support for a wide range of programmes to build a strong community, including community, adult and early education ones. Thank you to Emma Robinson from DHHS, the Community House Network- Wendy Hiam and Cath Darcy, Linda Wimatel from MPSC and our colleagues- the Mornington Peninsula Cluster of Neighbourhood Houses and the Learn Local Network for ongoing and mutual support, sharing of resources and ideas this year.

Providing pre-accredited programmes for "hard to reach learners" has been challenging in 2016, as our community strengthens it is, however, aging. Formal training is changing given the whole world of online options available. In 2017 Sorrento Community Centre will reduce face to face delivery in this area as funding is reduced. Thank you to Robyn Downie, Jeremy Brewer and Jan Aitcheson for sound advice re future planning re local community learning needs.

The *Sorrento Connected Garden Project* was very successful and community consultation was ably conducted with Kerry Key's assistance. This was a valuable experience in revisiting and investing in "grass roots" ideas. We learned to yarn bomb without hurting the trees, make sandwiches quickly for hungry kids, plant out garden boxes in windy conditions and share the produce. Andy and Stephen Brown at Briggs and Shaw Real Estate were our first sponsors and Scicluna's Fruit Supply was a very welcome donor. Susan Reynoldson from MPSC was integral in grounding this project.

The second stage, the Community Art Project, is developing and is expected to be completed early in 2017 to coincide with the Sorrento Skate competition and include new partners.

The connected garden space for “engaging, energizing and exhaling,” has increased visitors to the area and is the go to place for passive and active recreation. The young people in our community and families were fortunate to have James Oakley and Sue Hannah from the youth team at MPYAFS visiting us each Wednesday during terms two and three. The Sorrento Youth Space was established, meeting on Wednesdays after school and skate decks were designed with assistance from students on placement from Chisholm including Nicholas.

The Sorrento Skate Park project and the new Sorrento Skate Board Club are currently being re energized by Christine Wouters and Sian Swift along with Mani and the skaters who have successfully coordinated two skate competitions. The aim is to expand the current skate park to meet the demand of multi age use.

The reinstatement of the National Occasional Childcare funding last year has enabled Sorrento Community Centre to sustain the Early Learning Program and fees will remain the same in 2017. We will continue to govern and manage diligently to continue to provide a quality and affordable service. Given imminent increases in overheads as mentioned by the Treasurer, this is essential. A great team of early learning educators supports the families and in the latter part of 2016 we have welcomed some great new members to the team.

The Sorrento Community Playgroup was launched in Term three and is establishing as a community parent based playgroup to be enjoyed by families. Playgroup is a pathway from Maternal Child Health and onto Occasional Childcare. Sheryl Harrop, the MCH nurse, is on duty on Tuesdays during the playgroup sessions so that is an added bonus. In 2017 we need to work closely with MCH to ensure continuity in this vital service in our small township.

I have enjoyed working with a vibrant and hardworking Board this year as we worked through policy and procedure development and reviewed overall organisation structures as well as working towards the shared goals in the strategic plan. Building of the Storage Shed has been commendable thanks to Judy Dunn and all the team.

The Golf fundraising committee is to be commended, led by Lino Tarquinio, it provides a wonderful day of golf as well as being our annual fundraiser. Sincerest thanks to local business for their continued support.

We see a number of Board members retire this year, David Rasmussen, Judy Dunn, Ros Morris, Vivienne Clarke, Stephen Brown and Marilyn Cunningham. All have contributed so much over a collective 14 years and have built a sound skills and knowledge base for SCC. Many have expressed interest in remaining to consult on an ad hoc basis with the Board in their areas of expertise including:- Governance, Early Years Education, Fundraising and Event coordination. This says a lot about the strength of this community.

We are more saddened that our Chairperson, Helen Gleeson, after five years is stepping down, however we retain her on the Board as general member. Helen has been the stalwart and strength of the Board through many challenges over the past five years. Helen has a common sense, and nothing is too hard, approach. Helen’s commitment to the centre is unquestionable and she leaves us in great hands. If you know Helen at all she wants things to happen “yesterday” and so wrote the succession plan and true to her word has “succeeded” in “succession”.

As no one else has nominated for the position, we look forward to working with the new Chairperson, Haydn Park and a strong Board going forward. We are so lucky at Sorrento to have such a professional team and a full representation.

Thank you to Bryan Payne our accountant and bookkeeper Lynne Reid as well as Glenice White who manages the banking with the Rye and District Community Bendigo Bank – another supporter of the centre. Ros Morris our Treasurer is retiring and we must thank her for all the hours involved in ensuring our checks and balances are in order.

Lastly I have to thank all staff, cleaners, tutors and volunteers who have gone the hard yard this year. The volunteers commit to fifty-five plus hours per week, and assist in many roles that strengthen our community and networks. We have a strong volunteer team however will be looking at extending that in 2017.

In 2017 we will build strong and new partnerships with strong and clear vision.

Tracey Trueman



Financial statements and Auditor's report