

THE

Heart

Of

Community



ANNUAL
REPORT
2024-2025



Our

About Us

Northern Suburbs Community Centre is a not-for-profit, community-based organization.

The goals of Northern Suburbs Community Centre are to Connect Community; Support People; Create Opportunity and Local Leadership

- We connect our community through providing a diverse range of activities.
- We support our people ensuring access to supports and services.
- We bring our community together to look at gaps and then work together to create opportunities and solutions to those identified needs.
- We are governed by a volunteer management committee who live or work in our community supporting our aim to develop Local Leadership.

Management Committee 2024/2025

Northern Suburbs Community Centre is governed by a volunteer Committee:-

- Hugh McKenzie, President
- Greg Mallett, Vice President
- Syed Raza, Treasurer
- Stephen Jones, Secretary and Public Officer
- Leanne Newson, Committee Member
- Kathy Adkins, Committee Member
- Irene Olsen, Committee Member
- Jan Chaplin, Committee Member
- Dom Geraghty, Committee Member
- David Hirst, Committee Member
- John Streeter, Committee Member

Our Staff 2024-2025

The day to day running of Northern Suburbs Community Centre is overseen by experienced, skilled and supportive staff who are passionate about their work and enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge and ideas.

General Manager	Trish O’Duffy
Assistant Manager	Mary Challis
Finance Officer	Trudi Youl
FAR Program	Deepa Bartoula, Grace Bye & Barbara Donaldson
Casual Reception	Jodie Taylor
Meenah Neenah Program	Tegan Murray Chris Flood
Community Family Worker Program	Deb Clark (Mowbray) Caz Bellis (Newnham)
Family Support Worker	Kylie Pike
L2P Program	Mani Rai
26TEN Program	Taylor Bouvy Sharon Wagner
The FaRM Project	Fran Kneeves Jay Dunn
	Tristan Skerratt (resigned October 2024) Shaveta Soni (from April 2025)
Community Connect Program	Shaveta Soni (until April 2025) Caz Bellis (from January 2025)
Community Program Worker	Con Souliotis Carl Britton
Shed Project Officer	Jay Dunn (until December 2024) Carl Britton (from January 2025)



Northern Suburbs Community Centre

Strategic plan 2024-2030



Mission Statement



Through collaboration we strive to provide a safe environment that all people feel welcome, valued and included.

Our Vision



For an informed thriving community, driving its own direction.

Our Values



Respect, Ethical, Integrity, Accountability, Leadership, Belonging.

Overarching Goals



As part of the funded neighbourhood house network through Department of Premier and Cabinet each House works towards the following four program goals:

Strategy focus Areas



To address barriers and achieve these goals, the Board has identified five key strategic areas. These are:

- Mitigate under-resourcing.
- Establish and strengthen partnership with businesses.
- Establish school-based mentoring program
- Review and increase focus of volunteer recruitment strategy.
- Learning and Development

01

Build, connect and support community networks of inclusiveness, involvement, trust and cooperation to improve community spirit, cohesion and wellbeing.

Connect
Community

02

Support the development of the personal skills, knowledge, abilities and resilience of people to improve the health and wellbeing of themselves and their communities.

Support People

03

Support skills development, life-long learning, training and employment readiness opportunities to improve people's social engagement and economic opportunities.

Create
Opportunity

04

Be a community operated organisation, led by a Board of Governance consisting of volunteers living or working in the local community.

Local Leadership





Hugh McKenzie, President

Living our Vision

It is with great pleasure I present my final presidents report as I will be stepping down (not out) at this year's annual general meeting. It has been a great pleasure to represent the NSCC as your president and I am so very proud of what we have achieved during my tenure. I have to say this is not what I did but what we have done very much as a team from the board through to management, staff and volunteers.

We will be in very safe hands with our President elect Greg Mallet, who has contributed in so many ways to the Centre (by this I am referring to all three locations), mainly through his role at the Shed but also as Vice President and a member of our Finance Audit and Risk Committee.

Most small organisations rise and fall on the strength of their governance, I am pleased to say we have a very strong board with a range of backgrounds and skills that have forged the strategic direction of the Centre, whilst ensuring at the very heart of our thinking is the community we serve.

If you head to our web page you will find our strategic plan 2024-2030 and you will see our mission is “through collaboration we strive to provide a safe environment that all people feel welcome, valued and included” which is something we strive to do every day. It starts with the meet and greeting at the front counter and flows through all our wonderful people who engage in a vast array of activities with all people who enter our very welcoming spaces. A significant achievement this year has been seeing real progress against our ambitious Strategic Plan. We set ourselves some big goals, and it has been rewarding to see them come to life – from providing training to build skills in areas where we are under-resourced, to successfully securing a grant to support our mentoring program with East Tamar Primary School. These achievements create lasting opportunities for the young people and community members we work alongside.

The Centre has been the busiest it has ever been, and I must thank our wonderful staff so well led by our General Manager Trish O'Duffy along with her irrepressible Assistant Manager Mary Challis. Whenever you walk into the Centre you feel welcome and have a real sense of belonging (even if it is your first time). We also know we couldn't do what we do without our great band of volunteers who are the cornerstone of any well-functioning neighbourhood house.

While mentioning volunteers, we are always interested in more people joining as there are always more activities, we want to do but can't physically stretch our available resources. One of our strategic goals is to increase our focus on volunteer recruitment, so, if you have a couple of spare hours in a week, we would love to see you and I think you will be surprised how much you might get out of it in return. We have an easy induction program that will help you feel comfortable straight away and there is always someone there to help.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who makes my job easy, from my Board to Trish and all the staff and volunteers. I look forward to seeing where we go from here.

Hugh McKenzie
President
Northern Suburbs Community Centre

Treasurer's Report

The 2024-25 NSCC audited financial statements shows the continuous hard work and the pure commitment of the Management Committee ensuring that NSCC achieve its strategic goals not only in a fiscally possible way but also handling the inflationary challenges in an effective and efficient manner.

With an ongoing economic challenges, keeping a right balance between delivering quality programs with a close check on the monetary side requires a careful financial oversight and our Treasurer, General Manager, and Finance Officer with continuous support of NSCC board ensured that strategic goals are met in a best possible way. Their efforts in deploying and managing available resources in an efficient manner without compromising on delivering quality programs and services to the community has been a standout feature.

NSCC operations relies heavily on Department of Premier and Cabinet for its core funding and other grants received during the financial year ending 2024-25, to cover its day to day operations and also managing the human resource to achieve the NSCC objectives without any compromise on its core values of respect, integrity, accountability, ethics and leadership. The combined and meaningful efforts of NSCC staff's sheer support, dedication, and commitment in ensuring the wellbeing of the community have been another highlight for the year.

Syed Raza,
Treasurer, Northern Suburbs Community Centre.

**Being
Fiscally
Responsible**

**“Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to
become a man of value” -
Albert Einstein**



Syed Raza, Treasurer

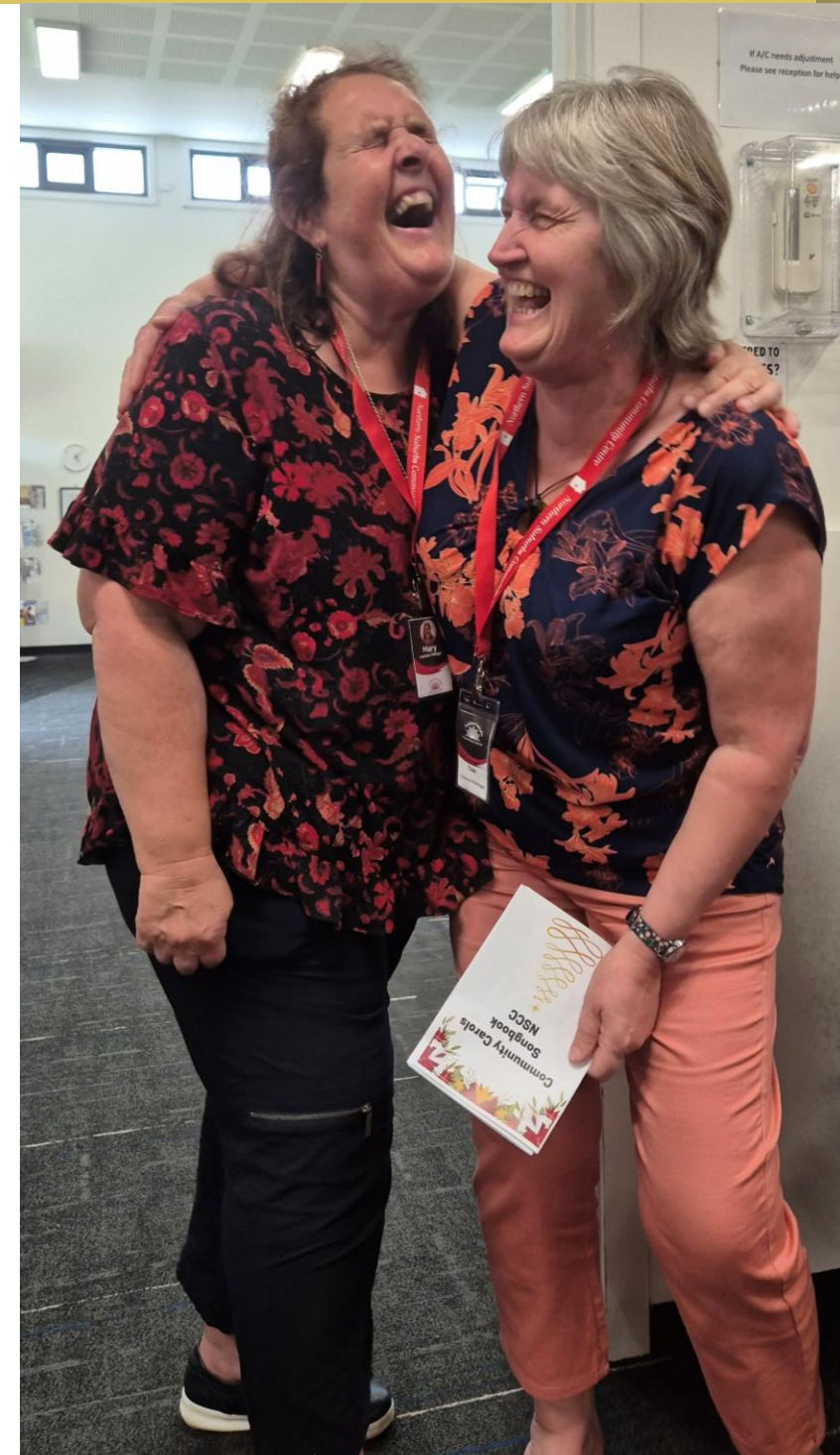
General Manager's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present my 5th Annual Report as General Manager of the Northern Suburbs Community Centre (NSCC). In a nutshell - the past financial year has been one of growth and connection. And I believe it's fair to say Tasmania wide a test to everyone's resilience. As I reflect on the last 12 months, I feel incredibly proud of what our mighty team of board, volunteers and staff have achieved together.

NSCC operates across three vibrant sites Mowbray and Newnham (funded by Dept of Premier and Cabinet), and our self-funded Community Shed at Rocherlea. Each centre, like the communities they serve, has its own unique heartbeat. However, all are united by our shared vision: to create safe, welcoming, and supportive spaces where people can connect, learn, and thrive. Every week at NSCC, hundreds of individuals and families take part in programs and activities that provide education, social connection, health and wellbeing, creative expression, and community building.

Now more than ever, Neighbourhood Houses like NSCC are sanctuaries. When we look at what is happening in the broader world – rising costs, uncertainty, and increasing pressures on families – our Houses remain places of welcome, safety, and connection. They are spaces where people can come as they are, be heard, share a meal, learn a skill, or simply find company. That sense of belonging is not just comforting; it is vital for individual and community wellbeing. And this theme came across very strongly the past year. With 18 dedicated staff and around 140+ incredible volunteers, it is safe to say that NSCC is powered by people. Call me biased but anyone who spends time at any of our centres would agree that we have a team with such generosity of spirit – whether it's welcoming someone at the door, leading a group, helping with admin, or simply making a cup of tea. From cultural celebrations to local markets, over 60 community events have brought people together, while more than 2,500 food parcels and relief items were distributed to families in need. More than 31,000 in-person visits were recorded across our sites (this number excludes connections through social media, phone and emails).

This year, once again we worked closely with local schools, service providers, businesses, and government agencies, extending our reach and strengthening our impact. Partnerships are at the heart of everything we do at NSCC, they help us build new opportunities and respond more effectively to community needs. Alongside the program reports that follow, it is important to recognise the breadth of workshops and training opportunities delivered throughout the past year. These include certified training programs, placements for four social work students completing their Master's degrees at UTas, and support for eight students undertaking Certificate IV in Community Services and Individual Support (through E-Learning). With our Employer's Grant through Dept of Education Children and Young People we were able to further invest in staff and volunteer training focusing on building people's confidence and skills. These opportunities not only strengthen the skills and confidence of participants but also build the future workforce for our community sector. Our collaboration with OzHarvest has continued to be a lifeline through their regular food donations, enabling us to provide fresh, nutritious food to those who need it most. Food is more than nourishment – it is dignity, comfort, and care – and we are grateful for the generosity that makes this possible. Another highlight has been our involvement in the Peace Festival and working alongside Rotary Club of Tamar Sunrise, Australian Bhutanese Society of Northern Tasmania, Red Cross Connecting Women, TasTafe and individual community members for the creation of the Garden of Peace and Reflection at Newnham Centre. This beautiful space is a symbol of hope, healing, and unity. Whilst it is still very much a work in progress, what has been achieved so far will provide a lasting place for the community to gather, reflect, and connect. Being part of this initiative has been both humbling and inspiring, reminding us of the strength that comes from shared values and collective action.



General Manager's Report cont/d.



A standout initiative this year has been our Gear4Life program. After a highly successful pilot – where 20 community members participated and three went on to gain employment – NSCC in partnership with Starting Point Neighbourhood House (SPNH) lobbied the Minister for State Growth about the prohibitive costs of motorcycle licences for people on low or no incomes. The cost is a significant barrier and can lead to risky behaviours such as speeding when riding unlicensed for fear of being stopped by Police. As a result of our advocacy, we are incredibly grateful to have received funding from the Department of State Growth and the Cape Hope Foundation to run two 12-week programs. Each week combined practical skills with literacy, mental and physical health, and a focus on safety and the impact of risky behaviours on families and communities. Both programs were completed successfully, and we are finalising evaluations to present back to government as part of ongoing campaigning for broader reform on motor cycle licences.

During the floods, NSCC also stepped up to provide practical and immediate support. We opened our doors for people to access showers, laundry facilities, device charging, warm food, tea, coffee, and a safe place to gather and get important information and updates. This response reflects NSCC's ability to pivot quickly when needed, while keeping our focus firmly on the wellbeing of community members.

As a non-government, non-religious, and a-political organisation, NSCC has a responsibility to advocate strongly for our community. This year we continued to lobby for increased core funding – a pressing need if we are to sustain the current level of support we provide in the face of rising costs and increased demand. We also advocated for affordable community access to the Mowbray Recreation Hub, which is nearing completion. While our lobbying was not successful in securing the access we hoped for, we are proud of the respectful and constructive way we engaged with decision-makers, and we remain committed to working alongside the Department of State Growth to foster collaboration and engagement by our community where possible. Additionally, we also lobbied for more car parking space. This remains a significant challenge as participation grows at our Newnham and Mowbray centres especially. And many of you reading this report at our AGM will understand how this lack of adequate parking impacts participation. There are many more areas we lobbied and advocated on behalf of our community in response to their raised concerns. In my experience advocacy can sometimes feel like walking a tightrope – yet I found that our values of respect, integrity, accountability and leadership helped guide us through this process. These are not just words to us – they are lived values, shaping every conversation and every action that our team undertakes.

One of the true highlights of the year was hosting our “Meet the Candidates” forum ahead of the state election. The strong turnout from our community showed just how engaged and passionate our community is. It was a powerful reminder of the unique role Neighbourhood Houses play in giving people a voice – creating a safe and respectful space where concerns can be shared directly with decision-makers, and where conversations can focus on solutions. For me, it was one of those moments that truly captured the spirit of NSCC – community-led, respectful, and deeply connected.

It's important to mention that without our Board's dedication and the huge responsibility they take on we would not exist. I am privileged to work alongside a board that live their values. Our current strategic plan demonstrates their commitment to acting with purpose and focusing on making real and meaningful change such as we have seen over the past year. I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Hugh, who is stepping down as Chair. Hugh's leadership and generosity of spirit know no bounds. His guidance, encouragement, and wisdom have been a steady anchor for me over the past 4+ years. A mention here also to celebrate Frank Madill, our much-loved Patron, who each year chairs our AGM with warmth and passion. Frank is a true community hero, and his ongoing support is something we treasure deeply.

General Manager's Report cont/d...

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of NSCC. They are the friendly faces who greet people at the door, the steady hands that guide a workshop, the quiet helpers who make the tea, and the generous spirits who give their time, skills, and kindness without asking for anything in return. Their contribution is immeasurable – not just in the hours they give, but in the warmth, connection, and hope they bring into our spaces every single day. At a time when so many are doing it tough, our volunteers remind us of the strength of community and the power of people helping people. Quite simply, NSCC could not do what we do without them, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment and care. So to our amazing volunteers – thank you for your time, skills, and generosity, which remain the heartbeat of our Centres.



To our staff – thank you for the energy, passion, and care you bring every day. You are absolutely an amazing, dedicated team of people who go above and beyond, and I am so proud to work with you all and incredibly grateful for the support and care you give me. And to Mary, (Pary Met) my right hand and the glue that keeps us all together. Thank you for your unwavering support – I couldn't do this without you and the belly laughs we share daily.

The following pages contain more detail about partnerships, supporters, programs and activities that have taken place across our sites over the past year. Looking ahead, we remain optimistic. Through the strength of our partnerships, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the resilience of our community, we will continue to find creative ways to meet demand and stretch our resources further. We will keep advocating for sustainable funding and building collaborations that ensure NSCC remains a trusted, responsive, and welcoming place for all.

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Trish O'Duffy,
General Manager



Assistant Manager's Report

It is with great pleasure that I submit this Annual report. As I sit at my desk to write it and reflect on the past 12 months, I am amazed at the breadth of programs delivered by our dynamic NSCC team. This report will not capture them all but hopefully allows you a small glimpse of what makes Northern Suburbs Community Centre the place to be!

There has been a myriad of programs and activities that have helped community build connections with one another and with NSCC throughout the past year. At our Newnham site these included Community Lunches, Goldies Group and Micro lunches just to name a few. For several who participate in these programs this is the only time in their week that they have had a face-to-face connection with someone else and the opportunity to share a friendly conversation and a laugh over a nutritious meal. At our Mowbray site the ever-popular Taichi, Art Programs and weekly Mahjong sessions are all strongly supported. Cooking with Allan program each Friday allows participants the opportunity to plan meals, share recipes, prepare and cook a delicious lunch to share together. The conversations and connections formed within this group is evident in the commitment from each one, returning each week with a smile on their face eager to share ideas, tips and hints for the upcoming session.



Many programs this past year across our sites have created space for participants to share knowledge with one another, as well as seizing opportunities for personal growth and development. Programs such as All Stitched Up, Boomerang Bags, Craft, Macrame, Grow Mental Wellbeing and Therapeutic Gardening Program are just a few of the programs that have empowered participants to want to learn more about themselves and their areas of personal growth.

A more recent program at Newnham site is Gentle Exercise group. This program was established as a follow on from Active Launceston Active Armchairs which was only an 8-week program. Participants who attended were eager to continue and spoke with us, offering to pay a small weekly fee to help facilitate the hire of a fitness consultant. It has been so rewarding to witness the growth of this Gentle Exercise programs. Participants have told us how beneficial is not only for their physical health but also how the connections formed have assisted them in combating anxiety, also how much they look forward each week to the social aspect as well as a great workout.

Assistant Manager's Report cont/d....



We have also been fortunate in welcoming and collaborating with other services and organisations who have used our sites to deliver programs that community have had the opportunity to connect with. These include amongst others, Red Cross Connected Women's Program, Moreton Medical Group, Family Group Conferences, Autism Speech Pathologist, Baptcare Caring Dad's, BAPS, Cake Decorators Association, Soroptimists International, Yemaya, Bahai Community, Care 2 Serve, MRC, PCYC, Catholic Care Multicultural programs and of course Launceston Community Legal Centre.

NSCC is still an active delivery partner for NILS No Interest Loan Scheme. Our dedicated volunteer loans officers have supported hundreds of community members with applications for a myriad of goods and services. Information on NSCC programs /services are always shared with applicants and several have commenced participation in programs because of this.

We also continue to support and connect community with the management of the hire of Rocherlea Community Hall and of course the programs, activities provided at 'The Shed'. As always, an integral part of any Neighborhood House are the connections made through the many community events and celebrations. This past year was no exception as we laughed, chatted, danced, and celebrated our vibrant community together. Events included, NSCC peace festival, Community Carols, International Women's Day, Seniors Week, Volunteer Week and we even held our inaugural Jane Austin Festival which was a huge hit with all who participated in the opportunity to step back in time.

NSCC could not function without the dedication of the many volunteers who contribute their valuable time, skills and generosity of spirit to every aspect of life here at NSCC. A huge thankyou to all these remarkable community stars for all that you do in making NSCC shine. Thanks also of course, to our dedicated board of management for all that you contribute not only with governance but also support in so many other volunteer areas. It is so rewarding to be part of such a dynamic team of staff who are so dedicated and passionate about their programs and all that they do to support and empower others. We always have time for each other and share a laugh each day.

Last but by no means least my heartfelt thanks to our fearless leader Trish. Your door is always open, and I know that I can call on you for help with anything. The warmth, energy and authenticity that you bring to each interaction is immeasurable. I truly value the support and gentle guidance that you provide.

As another year of being a part of life here at NSCC starts I look forward to the daily interactions with all who walk through our doors. It really is a privilege to be a part of such an inspiring and vibrant community organisation.

Mary Challis
Assistant Manager

26TEN Program Report



26ten across the northern suburbs of Launceston have had an eventful financial year! Taylor, Sharon and Hayley have each been using their strengths and skills to support our community with their life learning journey. Over the 2024–2025 financial year, the 26TEN team collectively delivered an impressive 358.25 hours of one-on-one support to community, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to building skills, confidence, and opportunity through adult literacy support.

Hayley at Ravenswood have been focused on supporting the daily needs of the community with her 26Ten day each week. She has been supporting people with banking, Centrelink, forms and those daily admin things that can make life stressful if you don't have the skills to get the job done. Hayley represented the 26Ten team in Neighbourhood House Week by holding a stall and sharing the great work we do, along with one of her Skills to Thrive participants Jessie!

Sharon has been working hard at Newnham and Mowbray, providing 1-1 literacy tutoring to community and supporting the local people to gain their driver's licence. L2P program is organised through the Northern Suburbs Community Centre to support low-income people in the local area to develop practical driving skills and experience. Many of the learner drivers coming from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds that participate in this program have limited English skills, which can impact their capacity to understand explanations provided by their driving mentors, thereby resulting in safety concerns. Therefore, Sharon has partnered with the L2P Co-Ordinator to ensure that learner drivers who can benefit from a Driver Theory Training Workshop can participate prior to undertaking practical driving lessons. Utilising simple diagrams and power points targeted specifically to each group of learners, these workshops provide learner drivers with an opportunity to learn English vocabulary related to cars and driving, such as 'blind spot' and 'intersection', as well as about road rules. In addition, Sharon offers one-on-one support for learner drivers who need more intensive ongoing support to understand driving-related English terminology.



26TEN Program Report cont/d.....

Sharon is an exceptionally skilled and valued member of the 26TEN team. She independently delivers literacy support to a wide range of community members across both Mowbray and Newnham, through her work at the Northern Suburbs Community Centre.

As part of her ongoing commitment to improving literacy outcomes, Sharon has kindly shared the following story from one of her learners:

"I grew up in Fiji. My family are poor. There are five of us – my Mum and Dad and my two brothers. My Mum and Dad couldn't work, so I left school when I was 11 so that I could go to work and get money for my family. Because I was working, my younger brothers could keep going to school. When I was an adult, I tried to get a better-paid job. However, I couldn't even fill in the forms because I can't read or write in Fijian. I felt so sad that I couldn't go to school and learn about reading and writing. Now I live and work in Australia to help my family. When I did a first aid course at work, the trainer asked me to read out the information, but I couldn't. Later she talked to me, and I told her that I can't read or write in English or in my first language. I thought I would get in trouble, but she said she knew someone who could help me. It is like a dream come true that I can now meet with Sharon and learn how to read and write."

– 26Ten Learner – Northern Suburbs Community Centre



This year, the 26TEN team has worked alongside our community to open doors, remove barriers, and create real opportunities for learning and growth. From helping people get their motorcycle or car licence, to supporting everyday tasks, to building literacy for work, life, and independence, we've seen lives change in powerful ways. Every hour of support, every workshop, and every conversation has helped build confidence, skills, and hope for the future, and we're proud to continue walking this journey with our community for another year!

Taylor Bouvy,
26TEN Program Coordinator SPNH & NSCC

The FaRM Project Report



The FaRM (Food and Resilience Movement) project is a place for the Launceston northern suburb community to connect, learn and thrive; a place to grow fresh produce together, fostering skills in growing, cooking, and sharing healthy and sustainable food. Our mission is to feed, educate and rebuild the bond between food, people, and place, creating social, economic, and environmental resilience for everyone.

By cultivating fresh produce, we boost the community's access to healthy food, enhance skills in sustainable agriculture, and even create small business opportunities through market gardening. Our garden becomes a hub where individuals can learn, grow, and develop skills that are transferable to other areas of life, promoting economic self-sufficiency.

Following the approval of our site lease with the City of Launceston, we have been busy preparing for the design and creation of our new garden in the Dover Street Reserve at Mowbray. The design will support our market gardens and provide additional spaces for our community to enjoy. We will continue to engage with our community to build upon connections and alignment for needs-based design.

Our focus has been planning our garden infrastructure starting with our fence and containers for equipment storage and preparing our soil for crop planting. In addition, we have completed planning for seasonal planting and harvesting and created supporting process for our incredibly dedicated volunteers and participants who are very excited about our new social enterprise.

We are very appreciative of our amazing volunteers who show dedication and passion for our community gardens. This year we said goodbye to our gardener Tristan and offer our sincere thanks for his hard work in creating our NSCC Newnham garden, and for the care he has taken in sharing his extensive knowledge of organic principles with our community. Jay has taken over the reigns of the Newnham garden along with SPNH Ravenswood and new Mowbray FaRM gardens. This change has provided the opportunity to create operational consistency and efficiency across our garden locations.

Our FaRM gardens at Mowbray, Newnham and Ravenswood are flourishing under the care of our volunteers. Our focus upon growing and sharing continues with the hosting of workshops and working bees, mentoring of visiting secondary school and Tas Tafe students. This year we also welcomed a team of dedicated students from Scotch Oakburn who provided a week of volunteering their time to build their understanding of community development. ~~and~~ Our FaRM project continued to receive support community members participating in community projects including Work for the Dole, Community Corrections and Youth Justice activities.

This year our gardens continued to provide fresh produce to support ~~for~~ our Community Lunch, ~~and~~ Micro Lunches and Therapeutic Agriculture programs. These programs form part of our community education program about the healing power of gardening, cooking and eating nutritious food harvested from the garden. To quote our gardener Jay, 'to be out in the garden is a great thing, to garden with others is even greater.'



The FaRM Project Report cont/d....

Key achievements to be noted during the 12 months until 30 June 2025 include:

- The FaRM has hosted or participated within 409 workshops or events with over 1188 participants.
- We have supported 2 community members to participate within formal training and
- We have celebrated the achievements of three of our volunteers who have moved into paid employment within the horticultural industry.

We also offer thanks to the South Launceston Rotary Club (SLRC) and its members who installed several raised beds at our Newnham Garden and have provided the materials to support Jay and Community Correction Volunteers to build raised garden beds at MACS FaRM program at Ravenswood. These invaluable resources provide opportunities for all members of our community to access the beds using a system of interconnecting non-slip decking. Each bed contains automated irrigation to ensure that produce is maintained throughout the growing season. These beds form part of the Launceston Propagation Project, comprising of a partnership of SLRC, City Mission, Welcome Cultural Services and Student Works growing food year round for community to access. The nutritious produce is provided free to those in need in our community who would not otherwise be able to afford to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables.



A FOOD & RESILIENCE MOVEMENT

For Community

For Business



Our FaRM website has gone live! The site provides detailed information on the FaRM Project, the supporting community, our team and how people and business can be involved in the project. It hosts our shopping page which offers our product range of vegetable box sales, commercial order sales and merchandise sales. A pilot of vegetable box sales both online and at weekly pop up market gate sales has been completed with excellent feedback received regarding produce quality and size, and ease online purchase.

Donations of goods, cash or participation can also be made via the site. It offers individuals and Business alike to support the FaRM and the community, with all cash donations over \$2 tax deductible.

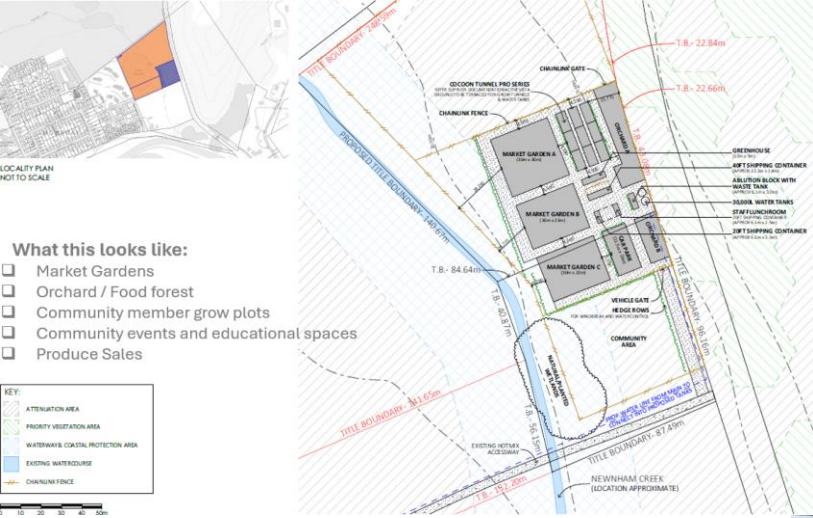
The FaRM Project Report cont/d....

Our achievements have not been without challenges, primarily those of time and cost for the infrastructure requirements of our Mowbray FaRM site. Exponential cost increases for goods and materials, coupled with shortfalls in resourcing has impacted our planned timelines. Availability of volunteers and other labour resources has required some creative problem solving to develop alternative plans. In response, project delivery plans have been broken down into iterative completion based upon priority with increased reliance upon business, community and scheme (Work for the Dole and Community Corrections) support.

Operational planning such as soil and seedling preparation are being completed in line with infrastructure completion. Fallback use of greenhouse facility at NSCC Newnham garden will allow seed germination and seedling growth before transporting to Mowbray FaRM site for planting. This will maximise growth during prime seasonal conditions and reap full produce harvest.

- With last year’s successes comes plans for the new year. The FaRM will:
- Complete the installation of all infrastructure at Mowbray and start planting
 - Launch the FaRM website to promote product sales and donations
 - Promote our Volunteer opportunities
 - Create repeat events to build engagement within the local Mowbray community

Our FaRM project is grateful to our business community including the Tasmanian Community Fund for their funding support, the City of Launceston for the land lease of our new site, the South Launceston Rotary Club for our raised garden beds and decking, Design to Live for their architectural and site planning services, Envision and CVGT for the first phase of fence supply and construction, and to TasWater engagement for our water service provision. There is a special thank you to Launceston Gastronomy for their belief in our work and their supporting generosity. It is the belief in our vision that will ensure its success and sustainability. We are incredibly grateful to our primary partner Starting Point Neighbourhood House for their stalwart support.



Final word of thanks must go to our wonderful FaRM steering committee made up of dedicated local community members working alongside representatives from key local businesses and organisations. Their strong governance and commitment to the project have ensured we remain on track with our project aims and objectives. Thank you.

Fran Kneeves,
FaRM Project Officer

Family Support / Family Links Program Worker Report

The Family Support Practitioner is funded by the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) to work with individual families, through a case management model, to nurture safe, supportive environments that foster children's healthy growth and development. By developing family/children focused case plans, we work purposefully and skilfully to address the complexities and challenges that the family are experiencing. Over a 12-month period, through the use of various therapeutic models, including the use of psycho-education and through a trauma informed lens, we work towards achieving the goals set out in the case plan. The worker is skilled in developing tailored plans with families that best meet their needs in an achievable and realistic manner, using a growth mindset. Trained in alcohol and drug support, hoarding and environmental neglect, parenting strategies and programs (e.g. Bringing up Great Kids, Friends resilience, drumbeat, equine therapy, Money Minded etc), family violence specific training (e.g. the SharkCage) and mental health support, families have an opportunity to address and work through their challenges through a well guided support plan with the worker.

During the past 12 months, the Family Support Practitioner has worked diligently and intensively with families in the northern suburbs area to improve, empower and support positive change and growth. One of the unique benefits of being based in the community centre, is that family's are seamlessly supported to be involved with other programs that NSCC offers. This often compliments and supports families to achieve their goals and ensures ongoing learning, connection and support beyond that of individual case management. Family's often join in on parenting groups, social events, groups of interest and some become volunteers at the centre. We also work closely and collaboratively with external services to support and maintain safe and nurturing environments for their children. We support family's to develop, grow and thrive across the six domains of the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework (being loved and safe, having material basics, being healthy, learning, participating and having a positive sense of culture and identity). We promote the wellbeing of the family unit by utilising trauma informed, strength based, culturally respectful interventions.



Family Support / Family Links Program Worker Report



Over the past 12 months, 100% of clients surveyed upon case closure, indicated that they made progress towards and/or achieved their goals, 100% indicated that they had improved awareness and knowledge of services/supports available to them and to support their family's needs, 100% indicated that they were satisfied with the responsiveness of the service to individual needs. There were 13 new families referred to the service in the last 12 months, with no waiting time to access the service. There have been numerous families who have previously accessed the NSCC family support program, who have specifically requested to be allocated to the NSCC family support practitioner again, due to positive past experiences with the worker and effective interventions in supporting their families. There have been no reported complaints about the family support service being delivered by NSCC, however there have been countless amounts of positive feedback received from families, schools, SFSK ARL and other government and non-government agencies. This demonstrates that the expert support and intervention offered by NSCC fs is not only effective, but exceptional.

Additionally, the current widespread socio-economic trends that are reportedly directly impacting on families in the northern suburbs, include (but are not limited to) the increasing cost of living pressures, food insecurity, housing shortages, school attendance declines, access to affordable and timely medical and mental health services and experiences of family and sexual violence. Despite these challenges, families in the northern suburbs continue to engage with NSCC and we successfully continue to provide holistic, wrap-around support to improve the overall life outcomes of our community members.

Kylie Pike (BSW, BA)
Family Support Worker



Community Family Worker Mowbray Report

Over the past year, as a **Community Family Worker**, I have presented a blend of evidence-based programs, community events and group activities. The program's intention was to forge a thriving, connected community and strengthen resilience among families living in the Mowbray and Invermay areas. Please find a summary of programs below.

Friends Resilience

This is a flexible program consisting of 4 components that can be adapted to age groups from 4 years to adults: Fun friends, Friends for Life, My Friends-Youth and Adult resilience.

Over the past year I have presented Fun friends, for children aged 4 to 6 years, I have also conducted 2 workshops of Friends for life, for children aged 7 to 11 years.

The program's key messages for all ages are acceptance, being brave, all feeling are ok and promoting kindness.

Through hands on fun activities and challenges, participants learn to embrace positive thoughts, build coping strategies and face challenges with confidence and bravery. Increasing the ability to self-regulate and problem-solve, allows participants to better meet challenges rather than be overwhelmed by them.

In 2024, Eight [8] families enjoyed our 8-week sessions for Fun Friends program which were presented at Heritage Forest.

For a brief time, each week we were joined by dog walkers who were happy to join us on nature walks and to be involved in impromptu discussions on caring for your local environment, animals, and people and around us. Parents praised the program adaption to include these teachable moments stating it was a "fun way to teach children to have a healthy respect for nature and for pets"

In January 2025 we presented the Friends for life program. Nine [9] families attended this 4-day workshop. Parents gave great feedback about learning new coping strategies for their children to better handle their emotional challenges as they return to school.

Playsteps

Through the Playsteps program, we aim to provide a supportive space for families, to practise skills and have fun with their children, whilst establishing rapport and encourage warm social interactions among participants.

With the emphasis on child and parent/carer play, the program promotes healthy development and learning, capitalising on encouragement, coaching, role modelling and teachable moments. Participants attend for 8 weeks and are recognised and celebrated for their participation and awarded with a certificate at the end of their program.

Participants from our 2024 sessions have reported that reviewing their progress, captured in weekly photos, had been an emotional experience, as it enables them to realise that they gain deep satisfaction and joy and in spending one on one time with their children.



Community Family Worker Mowbray Report cont/d....



DRUMBEAT

The Drumbeat program has many fun activities embedded within to encourage children to contribute to conversations. For 10 weeks families gather in a drumming circle to learn basic drumbeats and the importance of rhythm in life. During Term 1 of this year, I presented 2 rounds of Drumbeat.

One, as an afterschool family session and the 2nd as a peer group of late teens and young adults. One of the significant challenges a family can have is creating a safe environment that encourages children to talk, to contribute, to discuss their challenges. Feedback received during the afterschool family sessions show parents use the experience as a talking point in a family setting, building on connections with their children.

Highlights from the peer group program were discussion on teamwork. During an activity exploring the value of teamwork, participants tried to out drum each other by drumming faster and louder then fell into regular rhythm, syncing with the rest of the group. This ended with laughter and participant reported feeling energised by the body vibrations. Described by a carer as a “natural calming of chaos”.

Make time to play- Family fun activity group

This is a weekly group that regularly attracts 24 parents, carers, children and extended family members. The group provides opportunities for children to create, engage in physical activity, or just chill. Parents, carers, can relax in a supportive environment, converse, observe, or join in on activities with children.

Activity suggestions and positive feedback from children highlights their enjoyment and appreciation for the group sessions, while parents value the opportunity for their children to unwind from the stresses of school and participate in enjoyable activities and make new friends. All agree it's a fun way to end the week.

Monthly Family outreach carpark sessions –

In collaboration with City Mission's Snagchat Van, these sessions encourage community inclusion through food, conversation, and connection. Regularly attended by 25 families local community members

Community Outreach officer, Nick McKinnon and his support crew of volunteers offer food, snacks and beverages, while I provide crafting and play activities. Together we aim to forge connections with families and members of the local community. Through conversation we can connect individuals with support networks thereby breaking down barriers that lead to social isolation and loneliness.



Community Family Worker Mowbray Report cont/d.....



Picnic and Play in the park

A highlight of the past year was our Picnic and play in the park held at Heritage Forest to celebrate National Children's week. Our event was visited by 55+ parents, carers and children who took part in outdoor games, a tug of war rope game and balloon play with Coco the clown. Nick from City mission was on hand with his Snagchat sausages. Through discussions with attendees, we gathered insights on how families learned about the event:

- 10 families discovered it through the Playgroup Tasmania Celebrating Children's Week activity guide. ·
- 25 individuals were participants from the NSCC Make Time to Play group.
- 5 families were informed via NSCC advertising on Facebook.
- 6 families attended as a result of word-of-mouth referrals from the Australian Bhutanese Society.

With Gratitude

None of this would be possible without our community partners, volunteers, and families who show up, participate.

Special thanks to our weekly program volunteers: Leanne Newson, Katelyn Blazely, and Hannah Mcphee. And, to our support networks who have provided valuable assistance in helping us foster connections between Community members and families.

- Invermay Primary and Mowbray Height Primary school
- City Mission
- Baptcare and NDIS
- Mission Australia
- Women's Legal Service Tasmania
- Playgroup Tasmania

In Conclusion I wish to express my gratitude to the management and staff of the Northern Suburbs Community centre. I feel privileged to work with a wonderful supportive team.

I am equally thankful for the guidance received from the team at Anglicare, Communities for Children, Kanamaluka. Your support is truly appreciated.

Debbie Clark

Community Family Worker.



Community Family Worker Newnham Report

The Community Family Worker engages with disadvantaged families in the areas of Mowbray, Newnham, Rocherlea, Lilydale & Mayfield. Connecting families with their community & building up trusting relationships enhances their lives to better support issues that may arise. CFW provides support to families to improve their wellbeing & enhance family functioning & increase participation of vulnerable people in community life. The CFW supports links to parenting programs, one on one conversations, assistance for referrals, social connections & promoting engaging with their wider community by starting at NSCC with outreach programs & building on from this. This role aims to ensure that children of families attending programs” feel loved & safe”.

Playsteps Parenting

This is a play-based program that focuses on enhancing the interactions between children, parents & carers through play. It is designed to support parents to understand their child’s behaviour & communication patterns. The course operates for 9 weeks with specific activities weekly & the theory of attachment i.e. eye engagement between parent/ carer & the child. This year Playsteps Parenting Program ran in the mornings & Baby Bugs always operates in the afternoon. This worked effectively as parents/ carer’s we are stating they will be lost when the program finishes, “we love coming, what will we do “. The CFW then connected them to Baby Bugs by asking them to stay a bit longer as an introduction to the program. When the program finished all these new families whose first time in a program was at NSCC have stayed & engaging with Baby Bugs Program. This year we also had new families from other cultures. There have been on average between 12-14 in these groups.



"a smiley face with her first ever certificate (3rd on the right) " & proud mum was watching on from afar

Community Family Worker Newnham Report cont/d....

Drumbeat

This a wonderful program that teaches learning rhythm in your life in a fun way through drumming. Topics include Core rhythm- team work, tolerance, harmony, community, heartbeat rhythms, resilience, relationships, emotions. We chat about the topics in a safe comfortable environment.

Baby Bugs Playgroup

This is a community-based playgroup that welcomes a diversity of families from all walks of life. There is lots of laughter & fun activities. Families with children 0-5 years old can come along every week or whenever they chose & join in with healthy munchies. The worm garden has been a highlight for the children who fed worms their scraps from home. We have volunteers & students & disabled with carers who have supported all year. Playgroup is in its 11th year of operating & is well known in the community. This group has between 8-18 participants attending each week.

The Community Family Worker would like to thank the support over the year from the Manager, staff volunteers, parents, Service Providers, Family Support Worker at NSCC & the community & Communities for Children.

Caz Bellis,
Community Family Worker Newnham.



Our youngest who joined in & did drawings on topics in the program with his first certificate of participation which he took to his childcare centre & showed everyone for a week!

Community Connector Program

Community Connector engages with disadvantaged families to support increased access for individuals & communities to appropriate programs, services & resources that addresses their needs. Through supporting participants in their community, they feel more connected & become much more confident in everyday life. The Community Connector networks with Service Providers to be better informed on people in the industry & updates to assist with referrals which self-referral is encouraged. This role is based on a strength- based work practice as all families have their own strengths. Engaging with the Community House introduces people to so many opportunities i.e. socially, educational, healthy options. These include friendships with a variety of groups to develop personal skills.

Peeps

This is a youth program held at The Shed in Rocherlea for young people 10 – 17 years old. This is a safe place for children to learn new skills & be active but mainly to make new friends & have fun together. Some of the activities include: eightball, table tennis, playing guitar, cooking, art & craft & team activities. They are a wonderful group of youth who come from school so excited to hang with their friends. This is a fun welcoming group that enhances children's socialization skills through teamwork, sharing & caring. This group averages between 12 & 16 children. We are grateful to the wonderful team at ADRA Op Shop Mowbray for their ongoing support (both financial and goodwill) that provides resources and food weekly to our Peeps Program.



Making nutritious wraps



“cool as, sausage rolls”



Learning how to create a gaming program



The Cliff Pass at Penny Royal

Community Connector Program cont/d



Graduation Day

Children's University

A program that engages children 6-15 years old doing educational activities in a variety of ways. Parents & children are introduced to The Northern Suburbs Community Centre at Newnham where this program operates every Thursday. Children are making new friendships with children who live in other areas & some have multi-culture backgrounds. We have many different activities over the year i.e. science, community activities, visiting the Children's University & making mandalas, teamwork, art & craft, planning, making their rules for the group, treasure maps, cooking, physical activities, brainstorming etc. This group has grown so much in confidence & the number of children attending. This group has on average 12 – 16 children attending & their parents also come to NSCC & connect with the staff with various issues before & after the group. This year we have the highest number of children join Children's University (16) & one new one just started & 2 on the wait list. There are also 2 others who come from other schools to. Their hours of activities, community events & commitment is amazing! Santosh from Children's University said we have a good reputation & are getting known to parents, which is so good for our Community Centre



Making models of the Brain - Amygdala's



Mum and daughter at Children's University



Learning to tie fisherman's knots

Community Connector Program cont/d

Your Space:

This is a wonderful space in Rocherlea for families & community to drop into for a chat, cuppa, information, activities, to hang out, met new people. This has only been operating for 4 weeks but already has had 2 families & several others come visit & one is a new family that has moved to the area. The Community Connector & the Project Officer did a letter drop which was a good way to promote & met people in the area. Families have discussed various challenges in their lives & the Community Connector & Support Worker provides information & assistance i.e. referral services. We have had 21 people connect in the 4 weeks. A new family with a baby has regularly visited since starting this program, which shows they value “Our Space”.

The Community Connector & Support Worker would like to thank the Manager, staff, volunteers, Service Providers, Children’s University, The Shed & the community. We have enjoyed working with our community in our roles over the year.

Caz Bellis, Community Connector Program Coordinator & Carl Britton, Community Program Worker



Learner Driver Mentoring Program Coordinator Report



The L2P program, which is offered through the Northern Suburbs Community Centre, enables people to develop their practical driving skills and experience in preparation for gaining their driver's licence. This program specifically supports low-income learner drivers who do not have access to a car for driving practice, or to a family member/friend who can assist them with practical driving instruction. Between July 2024 and June 2025, there were 81 learner drivers who were actively involved in the NSCC L2P program. These learners can take advantage of free driving lessons in the L2P car, offered by 31 volunteer mentor drivers, at mutually convenient times. Learner and mentor drivers in the L2P program come from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, including the following countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, China, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nepal, South American, and Sudan.

To support the needs of learner drivers, who come from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, the L2P program offers Learner Driver Awareness Theory Training workshops throughout the year for both groups and individual learner drivers. These workshops, which are organized in collaboration with 26Ten, help learners develop a better understanding of terminology related to traffic, the function of different parts of a car, and Tasmanian road rules. Learner drivers who have participated in these workshops have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to develop more understanding and confidence that supports them to have a safer experience when undertaking practical driving instruction. In the coming financial year, it is intended to run at least 2 Learner Driver Awareness Theory Training workshops to effectively prepare new learners with the skills needed for safe driving.

During the year there were 34 learner drivers from the L2P program who successfully completed the practical driving test and got their 'P' licence. In preparation for this test, mentors complete check lists based on the learner's level of driving competence. These checklists assist learner drivers to effectively prepare for their provisional driving test by highlighting driving skills which may need further improvement, such as changing lanes and executing 3-point turns correctly.

Learner Driver Mentoring Program Coordinator Report cont/d...

It is exciting that 9 new mentors and 3 returning mentors have volunteered to play a vital role in the L2P program in supporting learner drivers gain practical driving skills and experience. This includes offering opportunities for driving in different weather and traffic conditions as well as at different times of the day and night. Previously the L2P program did not have a mentor to support Farsi-speaking learner drivers, so it is with thanks that we also welcome a mentor from Afghanistan as one of the new L2P mentors. In the coming financial year, I intend to organize quarterly mentor refresher training to specifically draw the mentors' attention to any changes in Tasmanian road rules, and to provide any updates that may assist the mentors in their voluntary role of supporting learner drivers.

The L2P program is fortunate to have a Hyundai i30 sedan available for learners' practical driving lessons. During the year, learners have driven 142,998 km in this car, to gain experience driving in different types of road conditions, including in urban areas, highways, cities and rural areas. To ensure that the L2P car is in good condition and running smoothly for the practical driving sessions, I now complete a daily check of the L2P car. This includes a focus on both the interior and exterior of the car, so that any maintenance that may be required can be completed in a timely manner.

Mani Rai,
L2P Coordinator



Meenah Neenah Program Coordinator Report 2024 - 2025

The Meenah Neenah team currently includes Chris Flood and Tegan Murray. In late 2024, Aunty Vicki West retired from her role in the program. We sincerely thank her for many years of dedication and invaluable contributions to Meenah Neenah. Her cultural knowledge, guidance, and warmth have left a lasting impact on the lives of many young Aboriginal children. Her presence will be deeply missed, and we honour the important role she has played in shaping the program and supporting the next generation.

Meenah Neenah is a culturally safe, arts-based program that supports Aboriginal children in exploring identity, belonging, and connection through creative expression. The program runs weekly during school terms at three schools in northern Tasmania: East Tamar Primary, Port Dalrymple School, and Ravenswood Primary.

Each session is grounded in key cultural themes—such as identity, place, family, and community—and offers students meaningful opportunities to engage in hands-on creative projects, storytelling, and group conversations. These activities foster pride in culture and strengthen each student's sense of self and connection to others.

In 2024/2025, Meenah Neenah has delivered the following schedule of sessions:

- Port Dalrymple School – 3 weekly sessions, each with up to 12 students
- Ravenswood Primary – 3 weekly sessions, each with up to 6 students
- East Tamar Primary – 1 weekly group session, with up to 8 students, plus a weekly 1:1 mentoring and in-class support.

While group sizes remain small to support deep engagement and connection, we frequently welcome additional students into sessions. Many children seek out Meenah Neenah as a safe, inclusive, and culturally affirming space within the school environment. We embrace this flexibility, meeting each student where they are—whether they need creative expression, cultural grounding, or simply a calm and supportive space.



In addition to weekly sessions, Meenah Neenah also facilitates excursions, incursions, exhibitions, and collaborative projects with community members and organisations. These opportunities extend learning beyond the classroom and connect students with Elders, artists, and cultural knowledge holders. The program is shaped by the voices and needs of the children we work with and is grounded in community connection and cultural guidance.

Throughout 2024/2025, each school community has celebrated unique moments of connection, creativity, and pride through their involvement in Meenah Neenah. Below are some of the key highlights from each school.

Ravenswood Primary School

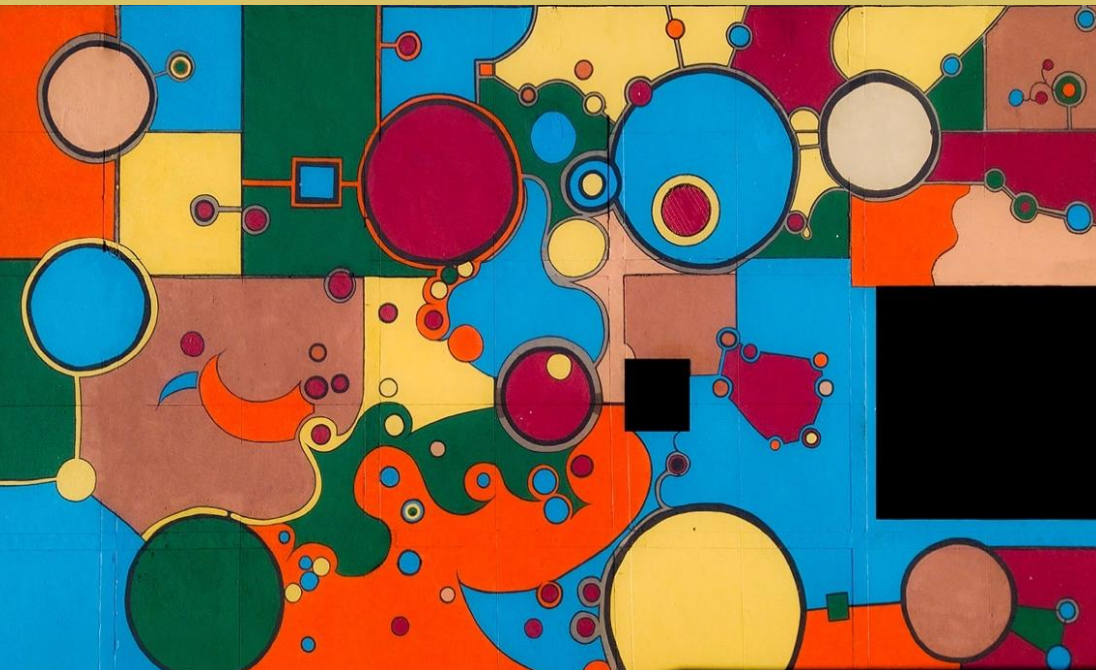
This year, Ravenswood students proudly participated in a school-based exhibition and celebration of their creative work. The event offered an opportunity for students to share their art and cultural learning with the wider school community.

A major highlight was the Tiagarra excursion, where students explored local Aboriginal history, culture, and storytelling. The experience left a deep impression on the group, sparking joy and reflection. Some of the memorable student feedback included:

"I'm never washing my face again!"

"We're the luckiest people in the world to get to come here."

Meenah Neenah Program Coordinator Report 2024 - 2025 cont/d...



East Tamar Primary School

East Tamar students also hosted a school exhibition and celebration, proudly showcasing their art and the themes explored throughout the year. These gatherings continue to strengthen cultural visibility within the school and give students the opportunity to feel seen, celebrated, and connected to culture.

Port Dalrymple School

Port Dalrymple had a particularly eventful year. Students held a school-based exhibition and celebration and also completed a stunning mural that now stands as a visual legacy of their learning and collaboration. The mural is a celebration of the 9 Tasmanian Aboriginal Nations and pays homage to elders past and present.

Another proud moment came during the 2024 NAIDOC Week flag-raising ceremony. Meenah Neenah students were invited to lead the Acknowledgement of Country, a significant act of leadership and cultural pride that was well received by the school community.

Student Reflections

Student feedback has been a powerful reminder of the deep impact Meenah Neenah continues to have. Their words speak to the importance of cultural safety, creativity, and belonging:

"We are building our own family in Meenah Neenah."

"I love coming to Meenah Neenah. I love feeling loved. I'm going to miss it."

"It's so much fun – it's like having a party!"

"I've never felt this special at school before."

"Meenah Neenah is my favourite part of school."



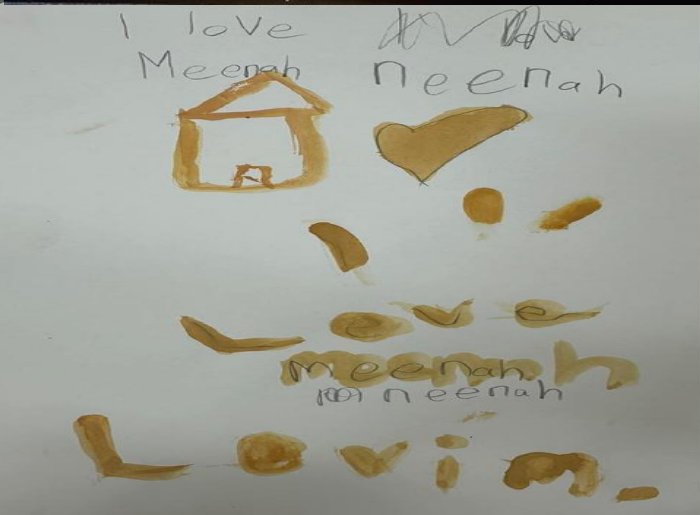
Community Partnerships & Future Collaboration

In 2025, Meenah Neenah began developing a meaningful partnership with the **Young Aboriginal Support Program (YASP)**. In May, the Meenah Neenah team met with YASP staff to discuss how we can work together to support Aboriginal students in a more holistic and connected way. This partnership is grounded in a shared commitment to cultural safety, community connection, and student wellbeing. As part of this collaboration, YASP staff plan to join some sessions to spend time with students, build relationships, and strengthen pathways for support beyond the classroom.

We see this as a powerful step in expanding the wraparound care available to students—connecting them not just to cultural learning, but also to youth workers, mentors, and broader community services. Over time, we hope to explore how Meenah Neenah can partner with more community organisations to ensure students feel seen, supported, and proud of who they are both in and out of school.

We're excited to continue building this collaboration with YASP and to explore further opportunities to connect young people with community-based networks that nurture belonging, identity, and resilience.

Meenah Neenah Program Coordinator Report 2024 - 2025 cont/d...



As we reflect on the achievements and meaningful connections of the past year, we look ahead with optimism and determination to deepen the impact of Meenah Neenah in the years to come.

Our key goals include:

Strengthening partnerships: Building on the promising collaboration with the Young Aboriginal Support Program (YASP), we aim to foster new relationships with community organisations, Elders, and support services to create stronger networks of care and cultural connection for our students.

Enhancing program offerings: We plan to develop new culturally relevant projects, excursions, and events that reflect the interests and voices of the children, while deepening learning around identity, belonging, and connection to Country. Ultimately, our vision is for Meenah Neenah to grow as a vibrant, safe, and inspiring space where Aboriginal children feel empowered, valued, and connected to their culture and community for years to come.

Looking ahead, we are planning a 2025 NAIDOC celebration and exhibition to acknowledge the children across all schools, including a special mural celebration for Port Dalrymple School. This event will be held during NAIDOC Week at Northern Suburbs.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of Communities for Children, our partner schools, families, caregivers, and collaborating organisations. Together, we are building stronger connections and opportunities for our young people.

Tegan Muray

Meenah Neenah Program Coordinator

NSCC Program Worker



The period from July 2024 to July 2025 has been a dynamic and rewarding year of community engagement and development. I worked as a Community Connector from July 2024 to February 2025 (Newnham and Mowbray), where I helped design and deliver inclusive, hands-on programs tailored to the needs of our diverse participants. From February 2025 to July 2025, I transitioned into the role of NSCC Program Worker, focusing my efforts specifically in Newnham and focused on Art and Craft, Macrame workshop and Therapeutic Gardening programs.

Throughout the year, we offered a series of creative and therapeutic workshops, including Macramé, Henna Art, Therapeutic Gardening, Polymer Clay Earrings, and Arts and Crafts sessions. These programs were carefully designed to foster creativity, reduce social isolation, and support emotional wellbeing. In addition to their social and emotional benefits, many workshops incorporated a small business component. Participants were encouraged to explore the potential of turning their skills—particularly in polymer clay design, macramé, and henna art—into micro-enterprise opportunities, adding an important layer of economic empowerment to the program’s impact.

Over the course of the year, we proudly engaged 237 community members across both sites into the above activities. Below is a summary of our activities, highlights key achievements, reflects on challenges faced, and outlines future goals as we continue to grow and respond to the evolving needs of our community.

The Art and Craft Program held weekly sessions and provided participants of all ages during 2024-2025 with a safe, inclusive space to explore their creativity, develop artistic skills, and connect with others in the community. Through hands-on activities such as painting, drawing, collage, and seasonal crafts, the program supported the emotional wellbeing, self-expression, and confidence-building of its participants. Participants made new friends, met people from diverse backgrounds, and shared ideas in a welcoming group setting. The sessions were open to all skill levels and encouraged cultural sharing through creative expression. Through program evaluation and feedback the following sentiments were expressed by participants: -

"I never thought I could be creative, but this program showed me it's about enjoying the process, not just the outcome. I've made new friends and feel more confident expressing myself."

"I love it the more I attend the better I will get :)"

".....Coming up with different ideas every week for us to do , very helpful, encouraging"

NSCC Program Worker cont/d....

The Macrame Workshop held weekly sessions and provided participants of all ages during 2024-2025 with an opportunity to learn the art of decorative knotting in a supportive, creative environment. Through hands-on instruction, participants created items such as plant holders and wall hangings and some share that they increased attributes such as patience and focus/attention to detail as well as having developed fine motor skills. The program encouraged self-expression and fostered a sense of accomplishment through the completion of tangible, handmade items. It also promoted social connection by allowing participants to interact, share techniques, and build friendships in a relaxed group setting. A participant shared the following "Learning macramé has been calming and rewarding. I'm proud of the pieces I've made!"

The Henna Workshop held weekly sessions and provided participants of all ages during 2024-2025 with a culturally rich, creative experience focused on the traditional art of henna design. Participants learned basic techniques for applying henna safely while exploring the cultural significance and history behind the practice. The workshop encouraged self-expression, mindfulness, and creativity, while also promoting cultural appreciation and respectful exchange. It offered a relaxed, social setting where participants connected, shared stories, and celebrated diverse traditions through art. A participant shared the following: "Henna art connected me to my culture and helped me relax. It's been wonderful sharing stories and techniques with others."

The NSCC Therapeutic Gardening Program in partnership with Tas Tafe commenced in February 2025. This program was held weekly during school terms and provided participants with calming, nature-based activities that support emotional wellbeing, mindfulness, and connection to the environment. Participants engaged in planting and nurturing herbs and flowers, building patience, routine, and pride. Many participants extended their learnings through continued gardening at home, building raised garden beds and growing herbs, vegetables, and flowers. These at-home gardens became sources of pride, wellness, and self-sufficiency. A participant shared the following: - "Gardening has helped me find peace and calm. I even built my own garden bed at home — it's become my sanctuary." At the start of the Therapeutic Gardening program, a few participants were quiet and reserved. Over time, they became more engaged and confident. One participant was inspired to build a small, raised garden bed at home. He said "I don't want to miss anything" Other participants shared how much they enjoyed learning about plants and nature, saying things like: "It was awesome." "We learnt a good and natural thing." "We really enjoyed it." "We want to make a garden bed at home." These stories show how the program helped participants feel calm, connected to nature, and inspired to create their own green spaces.



NSCC Program Worker cont/d....



The Polymer Clay Earrings Workshop held weekly sessions and introduced participants of all ages during 2024-2025 to the creative process of designing, shaping, and finishing handmade clay earrings. Participants developed fine motor skills, artistic expression, and confidence through the creation of wearable art. Participants learned basic techniques such as conditioning clay, colour mixing, cutting, and baking, while also exploring their personal style. The workshop fostered a supportive, social environment where participants shared ideas, gained inspiration, and connected with others. Some attendees used these learned skills to explore small business or market opportunities. A participant shared the following: - "Making earrings sparked my creativity and gave me a new skill. I'm thinking about selling my designs at community events soon."

Several programs introduced entrepreneurial pathways by helping participants explore how creative skills could be turned into micro-enterprises. For example, a number of participants sold polymer clay earrings at community markets; offered henna art services at local events and created macramé products for sale. This demonstrates how initiatives like the above can have an unintentional economic empowerment dimension, equipping participants with confidence, business literacy, and a sense of independence.

A standout example of this empowerment in action came from one participant who used her newly developed Craft and Macramé skills to create plant hangers and home décor items, which she then sold to raise funds for the Northern Suburbs Community Centre (NSCC). Her initiative not only demonstrated creativity and enterprise but also a strong sense of community spirit and generosity. This aspect of the program has helped build essential life skills including business literacy, customer engagement, presentation, and pricing, while also boosting confidence, independence, and pride among participants. For many, it was their first step toward self-driven creative entrepreneurship. A participant shared the following: "Turning my craft into a small business has changed how I see myself. I'm more confident and prouder to contribute to my family's income."



NSCC Program Worker cont/d....

Throughout the year, NSCC PW saw many positive changes and meaningful moments. Many participants returned each week in programs. The sessions became more than just creative activities—they became a space for connection. Here are some of the things we observed, along with real stories from participants:

One participant, who was very quiet at the start, began attending every Art and Craft session. Over time, she started talking more, laughing with others, and even bringing her neighbour along. She said, “It gets me out of the house and into good company.”

Some participants began helping others by showing techniques, setting up, or encouraging new members. This created a supportive and friendly environment and participants stepping up to take a leadership role. In a Macramé workshop, one woman who had mastered the basic knots started sitting next to new participants and guiding them step by step. She said, “I am happy to teach others what I learnt”

Workshops with a business aspect, like Art and Craft, Earrings and Macramé, sparked curiosity. Some people began to think about turning their hobbies into income. One participant created a variety of handmade items, including Macramé plant hangers, decorative crafts made from waste materials, and polymer clay earrings. She decided to display them at a local market, not sure what to expect. To her surprise, several pieces sold. She shared, “I didn’t think people would buy what I made. It’s given me a big boost of confidence.” This experience inspired her to explore more opportunities to sell her creations and continue developing her skills.

In sessions like the Henna Workshop, people didn’t just learn a skill—they also shared their backgrounds and stories. This helped build friendships and mutual respect. During a Henna session, one participant from Pakistan shared how henna is used during weddings and festivals in her culture. Another participant responded, “I never knew that—it’s beautiful to hear your story while learning something new.”

Shaveta Soni,
NSCC Program Worker June 2025



Community Shed Report

During 2024–2025 the NSCC Community Shed at Rocherlea has continued to provide opportunities for our community to gather, create woodcraft items, participate in workshops and activities, volunteer their time and skills, make new friends, and maintain existing friendships.

The Shed remains a welcoming and inclusive space, with members and local not-for-profit organisations accessing the facilities for essential social and capacity-building opportunities. Groups such as NOSS, Life Without Barriers, and Glenhaven have all continued to benefit from the Shed's programs. This year our shed supported the DadLAN program that supports fathers get together on weekends to play computer games, and connect with other dads for some important 'time out'.

This year marked the continuation and growth of our weekly woodwork programs with regular participants developing skills, working on individual and group projects, and building confidence and just general hands-on learning in a supportive environment thanks to our stalwart Shed Volunteers.

We are especially grateful to the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) for providing a grant to install an air filtration system, along with covering the cost of electrical installation. We also extend our thanks to the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association (TMSA) for funding the purchase of a jointer and sander. These additions have been invaluable for the Shed, making the space safer, more efficient, and better equipped for both our volunteers and participants. Our volunteers have expressed their appreciation for this support, as these tools and safety upgrades make a real difference to the quality of their work and their experience in the Shed.

A highlight of this year, where students from East Tamar Primary School attended a structured weekly program at the Shed. Under the guidance of Shed volunteers, students created woodcraft items such as serviet holders, building practical skills, teamwork, and pride in their work. Our volunteers, prepared materials and mentored students alongside school staff. This partnership highlights intergenerational learning, mentoring, and the way NSCC nurtures future community members.

Another highlight is the annual Christmas community event held at the Community Shed in partnership with Project North, City of Launceston and the Rocherlea Action Group. The event included free BBQ (facilitated by our Shed Volunteers) along with fun and engaging community activities for all ages.

We would like to acknowledge the important transition in our Project Officer role during this financial year. We thank Jay Dunn who supported the Shed until end of 2024, before returning to full-time gardening duties. Jay's dedication, energy, and encouragement helped establish and nurture many of the programs we now see thriving. We are very grateful for his tremendous contribution. In January 2025, we welcomed Carl Britton as our new Project Officer. Carl has already made a significant impact, completing Safe Operating Procedures for workshop machinery, supporting training on new equipment, and working closely with volunteers and participants to expand our programs.



Community Shed Report cont/d....

Carl's enthusiasm and commitment are greatly valued. Carl has been instrumental in introducing several new initiatives including Bicycle Repair, Coffee n Chat, Breakfast Club, and Repair Café. While in their early stages, these programs reflect the Shed's commitment to meeting community needs and providing spaces for learning, support and connection. Our thanks to Community Housing Ltd (CHL) for providing funding and resources to support Coffee n Chat sessions.

We have also seen participation numbers increase as new programs take shape, bringing fresh energy and connection into the Shed. In particular, the growing number of new houses being built around the Shed has introduced us to new residents who are eager for opportunities to meet others, learn skills, and feel part of the community. The Shed has become a place where they can join in, share experiences, and build friendships, offering much-needed social and learning opportunities that strengthen both individuals and the wider neighbourhood.



As always, the Shed's success rests on the shoulders of our wonderful volunteers. Led by Greg Mallett as Volunteer Shed Coordinator and supported by Richard Bowerman, Joe Double, and Malcolm van der Molen, our volunteers have given countless hours to support community members, groups, and local organisations. Their skills, patience, and generosity are the heartbeat of the Shed.

We are deeply grateful for their ongoing efforts in mentoring participants, supporting school programs, and maintaining the Shed as a safe, welcoming, and vibrant community space.

**Trish O'Duffy,
General Manager.**