

PRAHRAN COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTRE INC.

2020 Annual Report

Providing Opportunities



PCLC

prahran community learning centre inc.

PCLC

 www.pclcentre.org.au

 @thepclc

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The Collective Boutique

 www.thecollectiveboutique.com.au

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JOINT CHAIRPERSON AND PEO REPORT



Neil Pharaoh
Chairperson



Angela Stathopoulos
PEO

Dare we use the word “unprecedented” but that was the year that was 2020!

Neighbourhood Houses such as PCLC, work at the heart of their communities. We offer activities, programs and services that support the objectives of social inclusion and address factors that can lead to social exclusion. In short, we bring people together, help combat loneliness and provide the human connection that is so vital to health and wellbeing. During a year whereby we were also dealing with a global pandemic, the work that we were engaged in had even greater significance in combating loneliness, anxiety and depression.

If nothing else, the pandemic strengthened our community partnerships. It increased our ability and skills in connecting with people. In many ways, PCLC was able to provide more opportunities for vulnerable people in our community through a variety of online learning options and welfare checks.

Since March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone in our community - including our staff, teachers and volunteers who deliver our programs. To keep everyone safe, most of our face to face activities were ceased, while others such as VCAL, Exercise, Yoga and Art took their programs online.

We strive to always be accessible, inclusive and a welcoming Centre where all learners, community members and those who use the Centre for drop in are valued and made to feel welcome, regardless of their background, age or ability.

A few of our achievements and highlights in 2020 include:

- Successful re-registration of our Non-Senior Secondary School Provider (NSSSP) registration for a period of 5 years.
- Successful re-registration of our Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) licence to deliver the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).
- Successful re-registration of the AQTF Essential Conditions and Standards for Continuing Registration & VRQA Guidelines for VET Providers.
- Successful re-registration of the Service Approval to Operate an Approved Children's Service.
- Successful Notice of Approval for the purposes of Child Care Subsidy.
- Successful transition to Zoom classes for most programs throughout the Covid-19 lockdown periods.

We are grateful to all who have continued to support our Centre throughout the restrictions. It has been a learning curve for us all on how we can best support our members during the lockdown and, whilst we focused on the provision of online activities, we also reached out via phone calls and increased our email communications. We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the Committee of Management. They have been instrumental in navigating our Centre through COVID-19 and supporting all during these challenging times.

The PCLC Committee of Management has been a wonderful resource and key driver of the work of PCLC. Their expertise and commitment to continuous improvement has been instrumental in enabling PCLC to continue to implement the strategic priorities with a view to fulfilling the objectives by 2022. PCLC would like to thank the volunteers for their commitment during 2020 and in particular, to our Committee of Management, who are also volunteers.

We are also grateful to our State and Federal funding bodies for their continued support of our programs and services:

1. The Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP)
2. Higher Education and Skills Group (HESG)
3. Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE)
4. Commonwealth Home and Support Program (CHSP)
5. Home and Community Care (HACC)
6. Family Learning Support Program (FLSP)
7. Department of Education Oakwood Contract
8. National Occasional Care (NOC)
9. City of Stonnington Community Grant Program

To everyone involved in PCLC during a challenging year, to those who attend classes or programs, who teaches or volunteers, or who support the organisation in some way, a sincere thank you.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



Andrew Neophytou
Chairperson until August



Catherine Elliot-Jones
Secretary from August



David Paton
Treasurer



Gino Vincenzini
CoM Member



Maggie Burke
CoM Member from October



Mark Denton
CoM Member



Mark Pellas
CoM Member from October



Neil Pharaoh
Deputy Chairperson
& Secretary until August
Chairperson from August



Sandra Ross
CoM Member until August



Tara Blanchy
Deputy Chairperson
from August



Tom Moloney
CoM Member

PCLC bids a fond farewell to Andrew and Sandra

OUR LONG-TERM COMMITTEE MEMBERS



ANDREW NEOPHYTOU

Andrew commenced in the role of Secretary on the PCLC Committee in 2010, and was then elected into the role of Deputy Chairperson in 2011. He was elected into the role of Chairperson at the commencement of 2018. Andrew has a strong community development focus whilst ensuring synergies are realised by PCLC and the wider community. Andrew is the CEO of the Inner Eastern LLEN, a local not for profit organization, where he has established and brokered numerous partnerships, networks, and working groups, all for the benefit of young people and stakeholder groups.



SANDRA ROSS

Sandra commenced as a PCLC Committee member in 1999. Sandra is a former registered nurse and has also been involved with the Citizens Advice Bureau as a Committee member and as a staff member since 1993. Sandra has a strong sense of community and is an advocate for supporting people who are experiencing challenging situations. Sandra is to be commended for her many years of voluntary service to the community.



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF COVID-19



Neighbourhood houses were classified as an “essential service” in March 2020 and since then have been at the forefront of community support and relief.

The start of 2020 had our centre brimming with people engaging, learning, joining in activities and programs and looking for information and support. Painting, laughter, learning, playing, exercising and the feeling of connection created a fun, vibrant, safe local place for all of our community to enjoy. When COVID-19 hit and Melbourne was in lockdown our building suddenly became eerily quiet, but our staff were busier than ever. During an extraordinarily difficult time PCLC rose to the challenge of supporting and engaging our community.

PCLC created video tutorials to assist members to be able to use Zoom and provided ongoing phone support to assist with learning to use new technologies and programs.

We had a dedicated Welfare Support Person who made weekly contact with all our participants and sent out care packs, information packs and activity packs. Newsletters were sent out regularly with updated links to local supports and current information as well as health and wellbeing tips.

Our Art, Exercise, Yoga and VCAL classes went online and our participants were excited to be able to continue their courses and keep in contact with their friends online.

Our Occasional Child Care continued to provide invaluable care to families in the area.

COVID-19 has shown that more than ever people are looking for connections, and that centres such as PCLC are an essential need for everyone in the community.



VET FOR VCAL AND VCE STUDENTS

Prahran Community Learning Centre currently offers Senior Secondary Schools the opportunity to provide their students with the ability to complete an accredited art class comprising of either Certificate II (CUA20715) or Certificate III (CUA31115) in Visual Arts, whilst contributing towards the completion of senior secondary certificates, either the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).



This course is an accredited art class comprising of Certificate II and III Visual Arts for students aged 15 – 20 years old. The intention of the course is to provide a relaxed, open and fun atmosphere conducive to the needs of the age group. Classes are contextualised to suit individual learning needs.

Students will learn to understand the different practices of various aspects of art including, amongst others: drawing, painting, sculpting, mosaic, 2D and 3D forms, etc. Students will acquire advanced knowledge in mixed media and their usage.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF UNDERTAKING VET COURSE(S)

- VET enables students to gain qualifications for all types of employment, and specific skills to help them in the workplace.
- Undertaking VET while at school allows students to mix general and vocational education and to make a start on training for a career before they leave school.
- VET studies allow secondary students to gain practical skills in a specific industry while contributing towards the completion of senior secondary certificates, either the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

PCLC Strategy House



2022 VISION – – – – –

To create an inclusive and innovative environment, where our diverse community can access support and education

OBJECTIVES BY 2022



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (ACTIVITY AREAS)

- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Term Courses • Childcare • School Holiday Program • Evening/After Hours • VCAL • Accredited Courses • Trade focused activities • Structured Drop-in Service • Welfare Relief • Accommodation • Addition to Scope • NDIS/Disability Services • TCB • Rainbow Tick Accreditation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Location • Fee For Service Programs • Committee Skills-Audit • Staff Skills-Audit • Business Continuity Plan • Council Relationship • Strategic Partnerships • Compliance Strategy • Childcare Funding Transition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement Strategy • Marketing/Comms Portfolio • Local Promotions • 40th Anniversary Events • Marketing Plan • Branding Plan • Social Media Strategy • Community Involvement |
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MISSION STATEMENT

Providing Opportunities