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# Our Vision is to Connect, Care, Collaborate and Create.

North Sydney Community Centre (NSCC) is a dynamic, responsive and independent not-for-profit community organisation. Our programs and services foster social connection and wellbeing.

Our independence enables us to offer integral, varied and inclusive services to the local and wider community. We listen to community needs and interests and act responsively through our programming.

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TO ADJUST  
PULL LEVER UNDER EAR

# President's Report

**GENIA MCCAFFERY**  
President

North Sydney Community Centre has had another successful year.

After celebrating our Centre's 50th Anniversary last year, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Playgroup this year. The Playgroup was one of the first services the new North Sydney Community Centre offered to its community and it remains one of our key services. Like many new parents, my first involvement with the Centre was the Playgroup and I made many enduring friendships here. I'm now attending once again with my grandson! Thank you to everyone; our wonderful staff, our children, parents, grandparents and carers and North Sydney Council for helping us to celebrate this.

We continue to adjust to the new normal post-Covid lockdowns and restrictions. We also have had to be conscious that as the economy has weakened, our community has become more cost sensitive. We have tried to keep any price rises to the minimum while also ensuring the rising cost of delivering our services does not threaten the financial viability of the Centre.

Like many other Community Centres our operations have improved significantly although we've had to be constantly aware of changes in conditions, so our operations can respond quickly. We're proud of the large range of high quality services we offer which encourage and

promote community engagement in a friendly, relaxed environment. All of our activities; Adult classes and Workshops, Playgroup, Venue Hire, Northside Produce Market and After School Care, were affected by Covid-19 outbreaks and have recovered while adjusting to changed conditions.

After School Care expanded its services last year by accepting younger children aged 5–6 years. Though our attendance numbers have still not returned to pre-Covid levels, each year they improve. It is interesting to note that most parents now work at least some of the working week at home.

Thanks to our wonderful staff especially our ASC Coordinator, Gus Gomez. Gus has made significant improvements to our ASC service in a particularly challenging and difficult time. Sadly Gus resigned recently and we wish him every success in his new job. We're excited by our new ASC Coordinator Silvia Jaimes and her Deputy Nalini Chelliah. They both bring a wealth of childcare experience and expertise and we're really pleased they've been promoted from our existing team.

Our ever popular Northside Produce Market, is loved by its many patrons who come from all over Sydney to attend the market. We thank our regular stallholders and we continue to welcome new ones.

Our market has over 70 stallholders. Lisa MacDonald, our Market coordinator, has been doing a fabulous job for many years ensuring that our Market is the great success that it is. Lisa's capacity to get free promotions for the market, like on local ABC radio Simon Marnie's Saturday morning program, is fantastic and ensures our Market's success. On Saturday 16th November will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

Our Playgroup, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year, is a well loved and important service for our 0–5 year olds and their parents, grandparents and carers. The Centre is working hard to increase participation. Thank you to all our wonderful Playgroup staff and volunteers, especially our Playgroup coordinator Gill Alborough.

Our workshops and classes have really recovered with increases in participants and variety of courses on offer. We're very lucky to have such an excellent calibre of talented tutors. Thanks to Rosalynde Gray for the excellent job she does providing a vibrant programme at the Centre and keeping our workshops and classes running smoothly.

Venue Hire is an important source of revenue for the Centre and our community appreciates it as a valuable community asset. Our Venue Coordinator, Marianne Yag is doing an amazing job in both promoting and ensuring we deliver a high quality service.

Our Marketing and Social Coordinator, Gretel Duque, is doing an amazing job.

(...) our staff have worked very hard (...), doing an extraordinary job keeping the Centre on budget while maintaining our services despite our limited budget. They've responded to the many challenges we've faced with innovative and exciting ideas.

She has overseen the difficult task of getting our new website up and running and I'm glad to say that despite the usual hiccups, we now have a website running smoothly. Marketing of course is vital in ensuring that our community knows what we have to offer and can engage with us in a meaningful way. Our new Newsletter is improving that engagement with our community and improving our reach with our younger community members in particular.

All our staff have worked very hard over this last year, doing an extraordinary job keeping the Centre on budget while maintaining our services despite our limited budget. They've responded to the many challenges we've faced with innovative and exciting ideas. We really are lucky to have such dedicated and hardworking staff.

Our Director, Michelle Worthley has handled all the continuing challenges of our times with hard work and good humour. We're very lucky to have such a positive, talented leader. However, due to family circumstances, Michelle is currently on carers leave and we hope to welcome her back soon.

In October our Centre's Deputy Director, Michelle Nixon retired after 22 years. We miss her and thank her for her extraordinary dedication. Our new Deputy Director Hana Safarova is doing a fabulous job and is now Acting Director while Michelle Worthley is on leave. We are very lucky that Michelle Nixon has agreed to return from retirement to assist us with staffing while Michelle Worthley

is on leave. Our staff have been amazing in their willingness to assist us to keep the Centre running smoothly in this difficult time for our Director Michelle.

Our ongoing challenge is to rebuild our cash reserves which were seriously diminished during the Covid lockdowns and its aftermath.

I'm very lucky to have a dedicated, hardworking Management Committee. We're all volunteers, but everyone is willing to assist the Centre in their area of expertise, giving many hours to support our staff. A special thank you to our Treasurer Vivek Samdarshi, Vice President Lynne Oswald and Secretary Beate Reinhardt. I also want to thank John Playford for managing the difficult staffing issues we've faced and Barbara De Graff for working closely with Gretel to deliver our new website. Finally, we welcome Naomi Fiegel, who brings valuable experience from her work with Local and State Government and I extend my gratitude to Jane Aellig for her dedicated service – we'll especially miss her expertise in financial services and regulatory compliance.

I'd like to again acknowledge North Sydney Council for their ongoing support including the provision and maintenance of our wonderful building and our annual grant.

I'm confident we'll continue the improvements we've made this year and the Centre will remain a vital part of the North Sydney social and cultural environment.

# Directors' Report

## **MICHELLE WORTHLEY**

Director

## **HANA SAFAROVA**

Acting Director

Without question, North Sydney Community Centre fosters a strong sense of belonging and community. We are proud to keep our Vision, *"To Connect, Care, Collaborate, and Create"* at the forefront of everything we do. The dedication of our staff, volunteers and tutors is evident as we continue to build meaningful connections within the Centre and the wider community.

### **A Facilitator of Social Interaction**

Bringing people together has an immediate and positive impact. As a key facilitator of social interaction, we deliver community-based services that promote physical and mental health, as well as overall well-being. We provide opportunities for social interaction, employment and adaptability to the evolving needs of the community.

Our After School Care program, led by Gus and his team including Silvia, Nalini, Catherine, and a group of casual staff, continues to excel in accommodating children aged 5–12 years, ensuring an engaging and safe environment. Playgroup, coordinated by Gill with the support of Hajar,

Debra, Louise, and Chloe, is steadily growing and remains a cherished service for parents of children aged 0–5 years. The Northside Produce Market, held twice a month, is a vibrant community event that welcomes both long-standing and new stallholders.

Despite changes in casual staff within After School Care and Northside Produce Market, we celebrated 10 years of service from our long-standing staff, Lisa MacDonald, our NPM Coordinator, and myself. We also bid farewell to Michelle Nixon, who retired in October after 21 years with the Centre, but we are delighted to welcome her back as a volunteer! Additionally, we welcomed Hana Safarova as Deputy Director and Michelle Morgan as Office Administrator. We are grateful for Ros, our Program & Events Coordinator, who continuously recruits excellent tutors and introduces new class offerings, as well as our tireless Marketing Coordinator Gretel, and Marianne, our Venue Hire Administrator, who all work diligently in the office. A big note of appreciation goes out



to all Centre staff and volunteers for their relentless efforts in delivering outstanding programs and services.

### **The importance of staying connected**

To ensure our economic viability, we continually review our revenue streams and expenses, as well as our sustainable practices, which are consistently evaluated. We actively engage with the community and extend collaborative actions with local businesses. Our facilities are well-maintained and fit for purpose, thanks to the ongoing support of North Sydney Council.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Management Committee for navigating constant changes and for their unwavering support. We are pleased with the consistently positive feedback from our patrons, reflecting their appreciation for the Centre and the services we provide.

We recognise the importance of staying connected and are delighted to serve such a wonderful community. North Sydney Community Centre's history dates back to 1972, and we thank you for being a part of NSCC. We eagerly anticipate the next 50+ years together!

(...) we deliver community-based services that promote physical and mental health, as well as overall well-being. We provide opportunities for social interaction, employment and adaptability to the evolving needs of the community.

# Committee Members

**GENIA MCCAFFERY**  
President



**Joined in:** 2016

**How did you discover the Centre?**

I have had a long-standing relationship with the Centre both as a parent and community member.

**What do you like about the Centre?**

I love the Centres' vibrancy and strong connection to the North Sydney community.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

My experience as Mayor of North Sydney.

**LYNN OSWALD**  
Vice President



**Joined in:** 1999

**How did you discover the Centre?**

I was a stallholder at the original general market in the 1990's which began my appreciation of the NSCC.

**What do you like about the Centre?**

I love the general inclusiveness the centre provides for one and all.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

I bring a passion to the centre for everything it provides the community.

**Why do you get involved?**

To support the objectives of the Centre.

**VIVEK SMADARSHI**  
Treasurer



**Joined in:** 2019

**How did you discover the Centre?**

Through a colleague of mine who connected me with the Director at the time, Joanna Goodwin.

**What do you like about the Centre?**

The people, the purpose lead offering and its connection to the community.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

A strategic mindset, focus on community and people and financial acumen.

**Why do you get involved?**

To give back to community.

**JOHN PLAYFORD**  
Committee Member



**Re-joined in:** December 2020

**How did you discover the Centre?**

A friend on the Committee

**What do you like about the Centre?**

The staff are fantastic. We have recruited as far away as South America.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

A balanced approach to most issues.

**Why do you get involved?**

I was advised my skill base in a career of industrial relations may be of assistance.

**TRISH CUTLER**  
Committee Member



**Joined in:** 2018

**How did you discover the Centre?**

A friend who is a committee member.

**What do you like about the Centre?**

The great sense of community spirit, which aligns with my own values.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

Enthusiasm for the market and adult classes, and an attention to detail from years of being an accountant!

**Why do you get involved?**

The then treasurer was retiring and there was a need for more members with financial skills.

**BEATE REINHARDT**  
Secretary



**Joined in:** January 2009

**How did you discover the Centre?**

Before joining I had been attending courses.

**What do you like about the Centre?**

Its warm, welcoming atmosphere and dedication to support the community.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

My admin/finance skills and enthusiasm to help the Centre to continue its vision to support the quality of life in our community.

**Why do you get involved?**

To help to promote the values of the Centre and to continue the community spirit.

**JANE AELLIG**  
Vice President



**Joined in:** 2017

**How did you discover the Centre?**

Through attending Northside Produce Markets

**What do you like about the Centre?**

Everything! The kind and warm people, the vibe, the markets, classes and playgroup.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

I have assisted the Centre with reporting obligations and volunteered at various events.

**Why do you get involved?**

I enjoy being part of the dynamic atmosphere and giving back to the community. I will really miss the Centre and Committee.

**BARBARA DEGRAFF**  
Committee Member



**Joined in:** 1997

**How did you discover the Centre?**

When my older son started After School Care.

**What do you like about the Centre?**

I love the markets, the workshops, the people and the fantastic sense of community.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

Sharing my time and professional skills is a way of giving back to an organisation that has given so much to my family and community.

**Why do you get involved?**

Volunteering in the community is rewarding and provides balance in my life.

**CORINNE MADDEN**  
Committee Member



**Joined in:** 2017

**How did you discover the Centre?**

I used to take my daughter to playgroup when she was 2 years old (she is now 24!)

**What do you like about the Centre?**

I love the warm community feel and the wide variety of activities for all ages.

**What do you bring to the Centre?**

The playgroup philosophy of learning through play, creativity, explorative activities, respect and inclusion.

**Why do you get involved?**

I want to stay in touch with this beautiful place and service our community by volunteering.

# Staff

## CENTRE STAFF

### **Director**

Michelle Worthley

### **Acting Director**

Michelle Nixon,  
Hana Safarova

### **Program & Events**

#### **Coordinator**

Rosalynde Gray

#### **Marketing Coordinator**

Gretel Duque

#### **Office Admin**

Michelle Morgan-Mar

#### **Market Coordinator**

Lisa MacDonald

#### **ASC Coordinator**

Gus Gomes,  
Silvia Jaimes

#### **Playgroup Coordinator**

Gill Alborough

#### **Venue Hire**

Marianne Yag

## PLAYGROUP STAFF

Pooja Bhatla

Chloe Cantwell

Hendrick Hoffman

Silvia Lara

Claire Pascoe

Debra Rifai

Hajar Torkaman Dehnavi

Louise Tully

### **Volunteers**

Eugenia Capalbo

Sidonie-Morea Garland

Ingrid Hannet

Sejal Jobanputra

Catherine June

Cindy Wu

## ASC STAFF

Emily Ang

Sue Barnes

Callum Boyd

Nalini Chelliah

Catherine Donohue

James Eriksson

Andrew Hanna

Bridget Hawdon

Ellena Hicks

Hendrick Hoffman

Elsa Jarra

Roopa Jambur

Kat Kelly

Ellen Lagan

Linda Lee

Jung Yun Lim

Norma McLean

Eliza Nicholls

Ella Nugent

Joanne Perry

Linda Ramsden

Bianca Salis

Allison Van Poppel

Sneh Villanova

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.

— Coretta Scott King

## MARKET CREW

William Chan  
Jack Jones  
Shayne Kraal  
Silvia Lara  
Joanna Moriarty  
Ella Nugent  
Yausko Ohara  
Bella Peardon  
Aimee Roberts  
Jack Sambrook  
Tanja Schroeder  
Lisa Steel  
Oliver Stone  
Kieran Webb  
Angela Yoshikawa  
Changhao Yu

### Market Volunteers

Jeff Fai  
Michele Owen  
Janet Watson

## VOLUNTEERS

Cordelia Ho, *Garden*  
Donna Karp, *Market*  
Virginia Blaikie, *Garden*

### High School Volunteers

Alexander  
Alexis  
Amy  
Aneira  
Charlotte  
Chloe  
Chris  
Ellie  
Hana  
Holly  
Jackson  
Jonathan  
Josh  
Lara  
Leo  
Sophie  
Sophie  
Tom

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

### Bookkeeper

Michelle Nixon,  
Julie Dahlberg

### Cleaner

Maya Kantar

### Designer

Melanie Tu

### IT Consultant

David Stone

### Market Tours

Tawnya Bahr

### Photographers

Zara King

# Programming & Events

ROSALYNDE GRAY



## Community Partnership

We are proud to highlight our partnerships with local service providers who have enriched our community talks and events. These collaborations have greatly enhanced our programming and provided essential resources and support to our community. This year, we collaborated with:



Aboriginal Heritage Office



# 1,354

average enrolment per term  
in FY23/24

# 100+

individual small business  
supported by NSCC

“Over 30 years and counting, and am still loving every minute of my time teaching at NSCC. How lucky am I?”

— Pim Hodge

## Tutors

At North Sydney Community Centre, we take great pride in our dedicated and skilled tutors who bring knowledge and passion to their roles. Our long-standing tutors include:



**Name:**

Lyndall McKee

**Course:**

Watercolours Adv

**How long?**

Over 17 years



**Name:**

Pim Hodge

**Course:**

Pottery

**How long?**

Over 35 years



**Name:**

Pina Bartolo

**Course:**

Life Drawing

**How long?**

Over 25 years



**Name:**

Angela Zhu

**Course:**

Tai Chi, Qi Gong

**How long?**

Over 25 years



**Name:**

Marion Claridge

**Course:**

Exercise for Seniors

**How long?**

Over 22 years

## Events Hosted

Throughout the year, we have hosted various events designed to bring together the North Sydney community. Highlights include:

---

Annual Student and Tutor Exhibition

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2023 & 2024 Open Days

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Death Cafe: Celebrating Life and Death

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Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Walk

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Art for Wellbeing – Mental Health Month

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In Conversation: Death and Dying

---

NSW Seniors Festival

---

## Fundraising Events

In 2023/2024, we organised several fundraising initiatives to support important causes.

Our contributions included:

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Supporting the Smith Family's annual Christmas appeal

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Raising funds for the Cancer Council and Brain Cancer Group during our Biggest Morning Tea Playgroup session

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Collecting food donations for the House of Welcome throughout June

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## Acknowledgements

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### North Sydney Council

For subsidising the Friday Lunchtime Choir and supporting our Centre's programs.

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### Northbridge Woolworths

For their generous food donations to our events.

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### All tutors, staff, volunteers, and supporters

For their dedication and contributions.

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# Marketing

GRETEL DUQUE



## Website Traffic

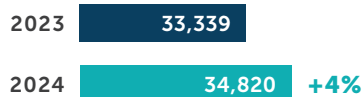
North Sydney Community Centre has a new website! The new design improves the user journey, making it more accessible for students to book a class. With brighter colours and a streamlined menu, it's easier for users to find what they're looking for.

## Email Marketing

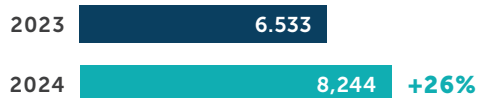
The North Sydney Community Centre has launched a vibrant new newsletter featuring eye-catching colours and concise content, significantly increasing the click-through rate (CTR) in our email campaigns and helping us achieve one of our marketing goals.

The new website has made it clearer for people to subscribe to the newsletter. Previously, the newsletter was available on the website, so there was little incentive for people to subscribe. Now, they need to subscribe to receive detailed information about our upcoming courses, workshops and enrolment days.

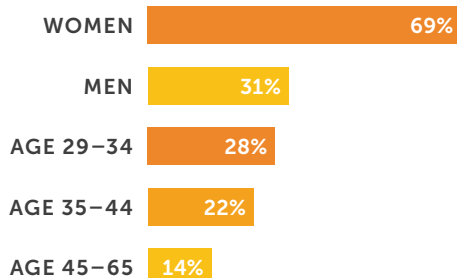
### Organic Search



### Social Media



### Our Audience



### Enrolment Day Newsletter CTR



### Open Rate



### Click-Through Rate (CTR)



### Gained Subscribers





# 55%

increase in click-through rate (CTR)

# 188,706

total reach of Facebook accounts

# 4,271

followers on Facebook (+7%)

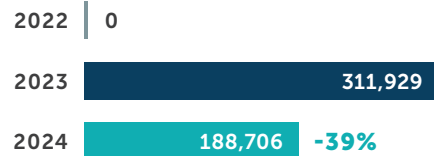
# +17%

reach through Facebook ads

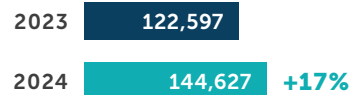
# 8,592

total of subscribers

## Facebook Reach



## Facebook Paid Reach (Facebook Ads)



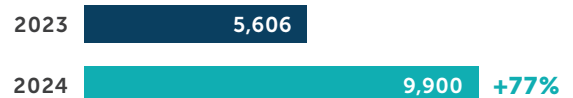
## Facebook Followers



## Facebook Likes



## Facebook Profile Visits



## Facebook Links from Posts



## Instagram Reach



## Instagram Followers



## Instagram Profile Visits



“ [The new design] has helped us achieve our marketing goal (...) ending the financial year with 585 new subscribers and a total of 8,592 subscribers.

### Social Media

North Sydney Community Centre continues to thrive on our Facebook platform. Despite a 39% decrease in Facebook reach, it's important to note that the previous financial year had an unusually high percentage due to poor management of social media platforms the year before.

Additionally, thanks to an increased budget for Facebook Ads, we've seen a 17% improvement in Facebook Ad reach. The number of followers also increased by 7%, ending the financial year with a total of 4,271.

There is still a lot of work in progress with our Facebook platform. Our community tends to engage more with authentic and personal content. This year, we aim to incorporate different types of content, such as the benefits of taking classes and insights into what can be learned from our courses, rather than focusing solely on 'book here' or 'book now' messages.

The North Sydney Community Centre platforms are primarily used to increase awareness and enrolments, and to inform the community about what's happening. However, it is also important to include content that aims to teach, engage, and inform our audience about more than just bookings.

### Explorers Playgroup

#### Instagram Followers

2023	496	
2024	597	+20%

#### Facebook Followers

2023	789	
2024	814	+3%

### Northside Produce Market

#### Instagram Followers

2023	6,291	
2024	7,620	+21%

#### Facebook Followers

2023	7,284	
2024	7,611	+4%



HUNNY  
Winnie the Pooh  
HUNNY

Blue hoodie and dark pants

Light blue polo shirt and khaki shorts

Girl in pink shirt and grey pants  
Man in green shirt and dark shorts  
Boy in orange shirt and dark pants

Black stroller with a bag inside

# After School Care

SILVIA JAIMES



## Kindergartens Enrolments

We have lots of expression of interest from prospective new Kindergarten parents for 2025 and a number have filled in enrolments forms.

## Inclusion Support

We continue to welcome and support children with special needs designing programs to help children experience a fun and inclusive time. We have been fortunate to have new staff join us with experience in these areas and they have contributed their experience to helping his children. We have been very lucky to have been receiving the help of the KU Inclusion support services with strategies and advise on how to best support children with extra needs.

## Team Development

The team has grown in number during this year with a number of new members joining the Leisure team:

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### Adriana and Lais

have specific psychology background

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### Ben and Dylan

are studying BSC Education

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### Michelle and Joy

have Diplomas in Early Childhood Education

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Unfortunately, the end of the financial year has seen the departure of our excellent ASC coordinator Gus Gomez who left for new horizons. We are happy and grateful to say that Silvia Jaimes has stepped up to be the coordinator of the team. Silvia has a lot of experience as she was a coordinator of an OOSH service at a big local school in the past.

## Safety

This term we have introduced the wearing of the orange high visibility vests for all children during the transition from North Sydney Demonstration School to Leisure premises. Once on the premises the children are free to remove the vests. This is an extra safe guard for staff and the general public to have high visibility of the children when walking them. We are also using a new route from the school walking through St Thomas Church grounds thereby eliminating walking through the council carpark which is very busy at that time.

### **Volunteers**

We as a centre are very grateful to have a number of wonderful volunteers helping us give an enriched program for the leisure children. These include the gardening helpers, our lovely Yoga teacher who is the daughter of one our staff, teaching mediations, sound healing and Yoga and our energetic martial arts expert.

### **Centre Open Day**

At the Centre Open Day we held an Art exhibition of the children's works. This idea was initiated by the children with a view to selling their Artworks. It was lovely to have the exhibition showcasing all the talent that the children have.

### **Aboriginal Elder Visit**

We are very fortunate to have one of the Community Aboriginal Elder visit and give a talk about the life and community of her family. The Grandchildren of Aunty Jeanie all come to Leisure Afterschool care.

# 60—80

children attended ASC from Monday to Thursday in FY23/24.

That's an increase of

# +27%

# 35

children attended ASC on Fridays in FY23/24.

That's an increase of

# +20%

# Explorers Playgroup



GILL ALBOROUGH

## General

2023–2024 has been a year of consolidation and reflection, our focus as always is on our families and to ensure on improving our service to the community.

Towards the end of 2023 the team were under huge pressure to focus on what would attract more families to our playgroup as our numbers had plateaued. We were offered some advice about how to improve our service by changing the layout and a variety of activities. The teams were wonderful in adapting to these changes, though circumstances for families have changed enormously post Covid with cost of living pressures and managing illness. We ran a survey to determine exactly what our families are saying.

27 out of 56

heard about Playgroup via word of mouth

12 out of 56

heard about Playgroup via Google search

## Events we hosted

### Mother's Day Raffle

A great success as always. The money was sent to Mary's House.

### Biggest Morning Tea

This was a great success. Woolworths provided a \$100 voucher to buy food and staff baked muffins.

## What families say about Playgroup:

Welcoming and friendly staff

Good community feel  
Peaceful, secure space

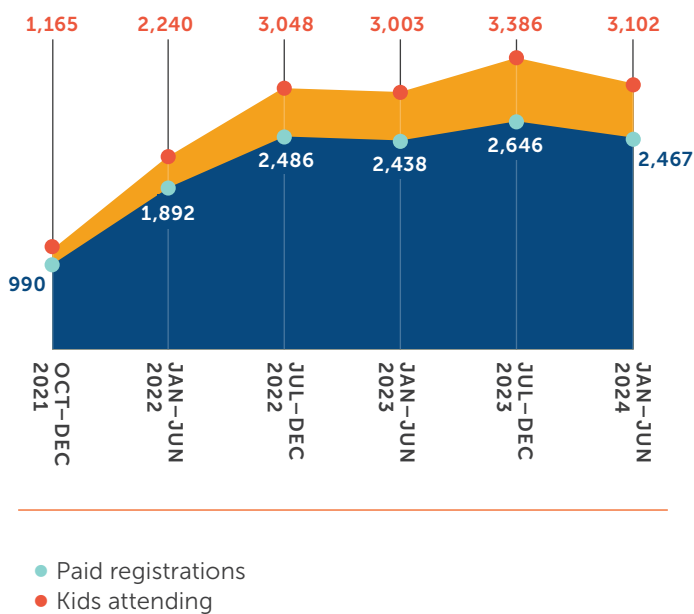
Huge indoor and outdoor space  
Great playground

Wonderful activities, great toy selection, different themes, story time, singalong

Registrations have dropped from 32 to 31, kids attendance from 41 to 40 in FY23/24

Month	Avg. Registered	Total Registered	Avg. Kids	Total Kids
Jul–Aug	29	559	37	709
Aug–Sep	32	679	41	871
Sep–Nov	31	704	40	903
Nov–Dec	34	704	43	903
Jan–Feb	32	223	41	285
Feb–Mar	30	487	38	617
Mar–Apr	31	458	37	567
Apr–May	32	291	40	368
May–Jun	37	632	47	783
Jun–Jul	27	376	34	482
<b>Average</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>40</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>5113</b>		<b>6488</b>

Registrations in comparison 2022–2024



### Partnerships

Our partnership with Early Ed has continued this year with success. Seta from Early Ed joined Hajar on Open Day to keyword sign story time and singalong.

Our TAFE partnership has continued this year. The students are studying a Bachelor of Early Education and were recruited to complete a 3-week practical with us. Each of these students have contributed in a positive way from co-hosting story time and singalong, creating extra craft activities to set up and pack up.

### Staffing and Volunteers

The team has been very stable this year with Deb, Hajar, Louise, Chloe and Gill. We've recruited 3 new casuals Catherine, Pooja and Silva to fill in as necessary. We farewelled Clare who is now working at the Tresillian in her professional role. We are very appreciative of our volunteers Sid, Cath, Cat, Cindy, Sejal and Eugenia.

# Northside Produce Market



LISA MACDONALD

Our July 2023 Northside Produce Markets were a great start to the new financial year. Traditionally the school holiday markets are quieter with some of our customers away, however these markets were well attended. It has become apparent that post Covid, what was *'the norm'* is no more and the market patterns of the past can no longer be relied on to predict success.

The Spring and Summer that followed was forecast to be hot and dry however, the dry did not eventuate. By February of 2024, the extreme heat, rain and humidity had a negative impact on many of our fresh produce stallholders. Some of the farmers were unable to attend the market due to too little produce, and sadly could not even get into their paddocks to prepare for future crops.

The run of wet weather continued through to the end of this financial year. The weather impacted customer attendance at the market and stallholders felt the effect of this. The cost-of-living crisis also meant that less money was being spent at the market, particularly on less essential items.

## 25th Anniversary

On a brighter note, the Northside Produce Market entered its 25th year in 2024, having started its operation as a fundraiser for the North Sydney Community Centre in 1999. In this day and age, when we can have our shopping delivered to the door, reaching this milestone is confirmation of how much the market is appreciated and valued by the community.

(...) reaching this milestone is confirmation of how much the market is appreciated and valued by the community.

On reflecting upon the last 10 years that I have been managing the market, I realise that shopping for fresh produce that is grown by such fabulous farmers, and for artisan food made by such passionate producers, in the relaxing outdoor setting of Ted Mack Civic Park, creates an energy that is wonderfully infectious. On all levels, I see the community benefit from the power of connection.

I cannot thank the market stallholders, staff and volunteers enough for toughing out the weather this last year. I also thank the North Sydney Community Centre staff, committee and volunteers for all their input. Thanks as always goes to North Sydney Council for their assistance when needed, and for supporting the free bicycle servicing and Market Tours.



# Music & Movement

**SIMONA GREEN**



The program focuses on instilling in children a love for music through structured play.

All classes are based on unconscious learning so that the children are not inhibited by set musical ideas. Instead, they experience musical concepts using:

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**Movement to explore beat, rhythm, dynamics, and creativity**

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**Action songs for beat, pitch, aural skills, and vocabulary**

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**Pentatonic solfa songs for vocal skills**

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**Percussion instruments for beat, patterns, dynamics, tempo, and ensemble**

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**Songs/poems dramatization for creativity, storytelling, feelings, and emotions**

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**Nursery rhymes for traditional culture around the world**

---

**Recorded pieces for music appreciation and timbre**

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Research has shown that participating in music learning from a young age can improve a child's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development. These classes use a combination of Dalcroze, Kodaly, and Orff teaching methods and activities tailored specifically to the age and developmental stage of students.

# 40

years

of Music & Movement at North Sydney Community Centre and counting

# 2.5–5

years

is the age group of participating children

“Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.

— Confucius

# Venue Hire

MARIANNE YAG



North Sydney Community Centre has established itself as a central hub for families, not only from the local community, but also from across Sydney and even nationally. Our vibrant and friendly atmosphere combined with our comprehensive facilities, has made us a preferred choice for a variety of events with a growing reputation.

The success of our venue hire services can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of our exceptional team. We all have consistently provided top-level service, ensuring that every event runs smoothly and meets the high expectations of all our clients.

Feedback from our families has been overwhelmingly positive. Families have expressed their satisfaction with the Centre's facilities and the professionalism of our team by striving with exemplary professionalism, managing each event with care and attention to detail. We have also adapted to the needs of a diverse clientele, accommodating various requests and ensuring personalised experience.

Our team has gone above and beyond to support families and ensure that their events are not only successful, but also enjoyable and memorable.

As we move forward, I am excited about the opportunities that the next year holds. I am committed to continuing to provide excellent service and expand our services, networking and build strong professional relationships with industry professionals, to meet the evolving needs of our community. With a strong foundation and a dedicated team, we are well-prepared to host another year of successful and joyous events.

# 187

events hosted in FY23/24

## Events we hosted

### Family Celebrations

Including Mother's Day and Father's Day luncheons, which have seen increased popularity and advance bookings

### Workshops and Classes

Cooking workshops and other educational events have become highly sought-after

### Adult Milestone Birthdays

Featuring celebrating many 50th, 60th, 70th & 80th milestone birthday celebrations

### Mother's Groups Parties

Supporting social gatherings and community building

### Children Themed Birthday Parties

Ranging from murder mystery parties to disco nights, catering to varied interests, with jumping castles, animal mobile zoo farm, mobile wood-fired pizza, mobile coffee baristas, caterers and many themed entertainers.

# 6-12 months

advanced booking period recorded in FY23/24



**Aussie Enterprise**

4 reviews · 4 photos



★★★★★ 5 months ago

We recently celebrated my son's 7th birthday at the North Sydney Community Center, and it was an absolute delight! The facilities were top-notch, offering ample space for all our activities. We were so happy to be able to create a vibrant atmosphere within this amazing, spacious facility, perfect for a celebratory gathering. The staff were incredibly accommodating and ensured that everything ran smoothly, from providing sufficient tables, chairs etc to assisting with audiovisual equipment. With its modern amenities and welcoming ambiance, this community center exceeded all expectations and made for a memorable birthday celebration. Highly recommend for any event!



**Redian Golowacz**

Local Guide · 15 reviews · 11 photos



★★★★★ 7 months ago

Brilliant venue for children's birthday party. Easy access to the Center and ample of parking. We had the Moreton & Bay Room which was spacious, clean and also we could have a bouncy castle, it was just perfect. My party wouldn't have been such a success if it hadn't been for Marianne. Highly recommended!!!



**Alys Holz**

Local Guide · 19 reviews · 11 photos



★★★★★ 3 months ago

Held my daughters 6th birthday party here. Was a fantastic space to host 20+ kids for an easy party - the wattle room was perfect for our group and we had good weather so could use the connected playground which was a HUGE asset. Rain was forecast but I wasn't worried as there was plenty of space for us inside. Marianne was so lovely to work with, patient with my questions and great with advice. Want a great venue for a kids party then I highly recommend the centre.



**Jordan Wang**

6 reviews



★★★★★ 4 months ago

A fantastic venue very well suited for a recent toddler's birthday party! The room was clean, spacious, and had access to a big playground for all the kids. The booking process was easy and straightforward, and the staff were friendly and very accommodating, making sure we had everything we needed. Thanks for all your help Marianne and the NSCC team!

# Treasurer's Report

**VIVEK SAMDARSHI**  
Treasurer

2024 financial year was the third consecutive loss for the community centre in what can only be described as period of sustained financial challenge. Whilst the year was loss making, citing inflationary costs pressures, continued need for reinvestment and wage growth, the extent of losses reduced relative to prior years. Importantly, it was pleasing to see revenue streams continue to grow year on year across all our programs. Whilst key streams are not quite back to pre-Covid levels, the trajectory has been positive and continues to validate the hard work of all the staff and the quality offering of programs provided by the centre.

Consequently, cash reserves dwindled significantly over this three-year period on the back of above-mentioned losses. In 2024, this issue facilitated the need to draw down on our term deposit to remain liquid and manage cash flow of day-to-day operations, highlighting the importance of needing to rebuild strength in our balance sheet over the coming financial year.

Focus remains on driving financial performance into FY25 through centre efficiency and productivity however we are still some way off getting key programs back to pre-covid levels. Ongoing review of program offerings and price points to ensure value and accessibility remains front of mind. All programs remain of utmost importance to our centre and focus on optimisation initiatives will ensure we are able to continue providing a high quality and relevant offering to our patrons.

As always, we remain extremely grateful for the substantive support from North Sydney Council that includes our grants, the use of the wonderful centre building and various other areas of assistance.

# Committee Members' Report

The committee members present their report, together with the financial statements, on the incorporated association for the year ended 30 June 2024.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Genia McCaffery  
Lynn Oswald  
Trish Cutler  
Beate Reinhardt  
Barbara DeGraff  
Corrine Madden (resigned 27 February 2024)  
Jane Aellig (resigned 11 March 2024)  
Vivek Samdarshi  
John Playford

## PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES

Providing services to the community such as children's services and adult education.

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

## OPERATING RESULT

The result for the year amounted to a deficit of \$109,225.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

# Statement of Income and Expenses

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
After School Care Fees	248,350	193,314
Class and Event Fees	593,450	545,019
Grants & Subsidies	245,768	203,106
Market Income	250,164	244,861
Playgroup Fees	65,362	68,301
Venue Hire	87,469	81,170
Interest Received	14,435	2,258
Other Income	9,486	16,636
	<u>1,514,484</u>	<u>1,354,665</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accountancy & Audit	(19,361)	(15,719)
Advertising & Promotion	(64,798)	(128,049)
Administration Expenses	(13,796)	(12,463)
Equipment Purchase/Replacement	(13,505)	(11,585)
Entertainment & Materials	(39,466)	(50,413)
Insurance	(21,981)	(19,265)
Repairs & Maintenance	(2,500)	(2,115)
Staff Expenses	(1,061,245)	(917,075)
Tutors Fees	(281,688)	(267,484)
Other Expenses	(105,369)	(119,346)
	<u>(1,623,709)</u>	<u>(1,543,514)</u>
<b>Deficit for the year</b>	(109,225)	(188,849)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>	<u>(109,225)</u>	<u>(188,849)</u>

*The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes*

# Statement of Financial Position

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	311,664	392,804
Trade and other receivables	4	1,497	6,176
Total current assets		<u>313,161</u>	<u>398,980</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>313,161</u>	<u>398,980</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	5	81,546	61,232
Contract liabilities	6	19,580	-
Provisions	7	105,065	104,458
Total current liabilities		<u>206,191</u>	<u>165,690</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	7	7,173	24,268
Total non-current liabilities		<u>7,173</u>	<u>24,268</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>213,364</u>	<u>189,958</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>99,797</u>	<u>209,022</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained surpluses		<u>99,797</u>	<u>209,022</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>99,797</u>	<u>209,022</u>

*The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes*

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Note 3. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash on hand	860	860
Cash at bank	110,804	91,944
Term Deposits	200,000	300,000
	<u>311,664</u>	<u>392,804</u>

## Note 4. Trade and other receivables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Other receivables	1,347	6,176
Net GST receivable	150	-
	<u>1,497</u>	<u>6,176</u>

## Note 5. Trade and other payables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Creditors & Accruals	81,546	61,034
Net GST Payable	-	198
	<u>81,546</u>	<u>61,232</u>

## Note 6. Contract liabilities

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Unearned government grants	19,580	-
	<u>19,580</u>	<u>-</u>

## Note 7. Provisions

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Annual leave	54,262	53,824
Long service leave	50,803	50,634
	<u>105,065</u>	<u>104,458</u>
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>		
Long service leave	7,173	24,268
	<u>7,173</u>	<u>24,268</u>




# Committee Members' Declaration

In the committee members' opinion:

- the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 1 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and associated regulations;
- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Accounting Standards as described in note 1 to the financial statements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the committee members

  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the annual report, being a special purpose financial report, of North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated (the Incorporated Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the members' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying annual report of the Incorporated Association is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Incorporated Association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual report' section of our report. We are independent of the Incorporated Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the annual report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of matter regarding basis of accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the annual report, which describes the basis of accounting. The annual report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the members' financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the annual report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Other information**

The members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and the auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the annual report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the annual report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the annual report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Members' responsibility for the annual report**

The members of the Incorporated Association are responsible for the preparation of the annual report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial statements is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The members are also responsible for such internal control as the members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the annual report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual report, the members are responsible for assessing the Incorporated Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members either intend to liquidate the Incorporated Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the annual report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this annual report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the annual report is located at The Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Limited**

**Brett Hanger**  
Director

Dated at Sydney, this day 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2024

