

First social enterprise café for Horsham

Horsham's new Laneway Café was launched in July 2019 amid a flurry of positivity, great coffee and enthusiasm. As the town's first social enterprise café, Laneway was the result of successfully receiving 'Pick My Project' funding – a State Government grants initiative inviting the community to vote on their favourite project ideas.

The café is a ground-up community initiative led by a partnership between the Centre for Participation, Woodbine and Horsham Special School. People from any background and with all levels of experience are welcome to take part in working at the café, creating opportunities particularly for disadvantaged people to break into the workforce, grow their skills, make new social connections, and get involved in the community.

A specific training program for people looking to make a career in hospitality has also been launched. Opportunities through this program include:

- > formal, practical hospitality training courses through the Centre's new CreATE kitchen
- > supporting catering projects delivered through the CreATE kitchen, helping raise funds for vital community projects
- > securing work experience positions at Laneway Café.



Outreach food van

Hospitality trainees now have the opportunity to experience how to operate a small hospitality business with the launch of our outreach food van, The Social Pantry.

As a platform for equipping trainees of all cultures and backgrounds with the skills to follow pathways into further hospitality education, jobs and enterprises, The Social Pantry was established thanks to support received via the Victorian State Government Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

Building partnerships for skills and workforce development is a major focus for The Social Pantry, as we look to continue to grow networks with local businesses and organisations. The initiative has also helped create a sense of shared belonging, respect and understanding of the diverse communities across the Wimmera, with people having the opportunity to meet others and sample food from a variety of cultures.

Other key achievements include supporting our region's economic growth by assisting people with the skills and experience they need for restaurants, cafés, catering organisations, and food enterprise start-ups. We've also supported people disengaged from earning and learning to get involved, helping build resilience, inclusion and participation.



Young G

We welcomed this year the Young G (Young Generation) group to its new home at the Centre for Participation. Previously hosted by the Grampians Community Health, the initiative provides new young arrivals to the Wimmera with a happy, peaceful space to come together, share their stories and hang out.

Delivered as a partnership with the Centre for Multicultural Youth, Grampians Community Health and the Wimmera Development Association, the Young G group has built participants' sense of belonging through camps, planting weekends and many other experiences – with transport often provided through our community transport bus. Highlights included a farm visit in Victoria's north-east, where young people experienced snow, took on an escape room, and brushed up on their camp-oven cooking skills.

Through these experiences and other activities, we've helped bring together more than 20 migrant youth in our region since March 2019. Looking ahead, we'll explore opportunities for an associated social enterprise. We'll also continue to support migrant young people to get involved, and build an understanding of the country they have adopted as their own.



146

CLIENTS ENGAGED IN 1,482 SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

82

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS ASSISTED IN SERVICE DELIVERY

4,268

HOURS DONATED BY VOLUNTEERS FOR SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

84

MIGRANTS ENROLLED IN LEARNING PROGRAMS

856

HOURS OF DRIVING COMPLETED IN LICENCING THE WIMMERA

1,542

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN 27,219 HOURS OF LEARNING

27

ORGANISATIONS SPONSORED THE 2019 VOLUNTEERING RECOGNITION AWARDS



ANNUAL REPORT 2018–2019

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY



The Centre for Participation changes lives and communities through local opportunities in **community support, volunteering, learning and partnerships.**

Welcome from Chair and CEO

We believe that by working together, we can all accomplish more. That's why, as we reflect on our highlights over the past year, we recognise the many partnerships that are at the heart of so much of what we've achieved at the Centre for Participation.

It was through strong relationships and collaborations that we were able to realise many dreams and goals in our mission to shape a thriving, connected community. New social enterprises were rolled out to create different opportunities to participate, with wonderful partnerships helping take projects from a concept to a reality. These projects included Laneway Café to support disadvantaged people to get started in the workforce, and The Social Pantry outreach food van to prepare work-ready trainees for hospitality pathways. Attending the Social Enterprise World Forum in Edinburgh in 2018 further expanded our commitment to social enterprise.

Another project grounded in solid partnerships was the HeartLands Horsham initiative – a community planting event that welcomed city-based migrants into the homes of Wimmera families. Auspiced by the Centre for Participation in coordination with Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, the event drew on the support of many partner organisations and individuals to make it a success.

Collaborations were also key in the development and delivery of good governance programs for women in sporting groups. Through our work with the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly, we've seen women step up right across the region to grow their knowledge and understanding of the role of good governance in sporting organisations. We're now building on that partnership to deliver more programs in the future.

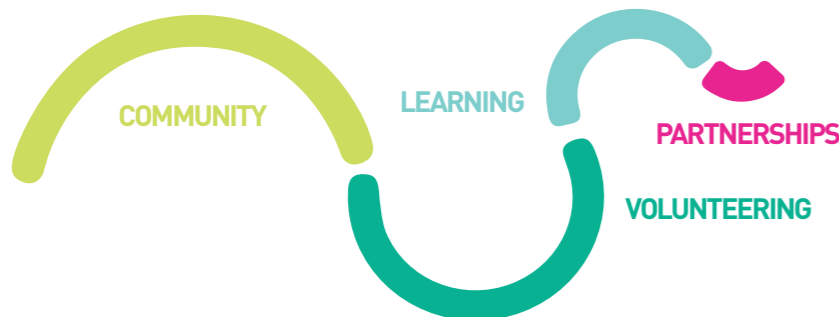
Our Volunteering Recognition Awards were another highlight – which again showcased the power of partnerships. By collaborating with businesses and other sponsors, we could come together to recognise and celebrate the amazing impact of volunteering across our region.

Through all these significant achievements, we also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of our staff, Board and other volunteers in making these things happen. We know that without the incredible commitment and dedication of our people each and every day, our work would simply not be possible.

Looking ahead, we'll continue to build on the strong foundations established by our team to grow our impact even more in the future. We've now achieved many of the goals we laid out in our current strategic plan, and will soon begin work on our next strategic plan to set us up for further success.

We'll also explore new opportunities to develop both formal and informal partnerships with individuals and organisations right across a broad cross-section of our community. By coming together and looking at different dimensions and contributions in partnerships, we can generate the funding and support necessary to deliver key projects. As a charity, we have a strongly committed Board and executive team ready to develop more programs to meet our community's needs and aspirations.

Bronte Maddaford, Chair, and Julie Pettett, Chief Executive Officer



STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY – 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



Wimmera Social Support

Staying healthy, active and engaged throughout life has many benefits. That's why our Wimmera Social Support services are designed to help older people get out and about, keep up connections, and participate in their communities.

Services are supported by trained volunteers who help people reach their goals, with many volunteers connected through the Wimmera Southern Mallee Community Training Services social enterprise. Matching volunteers with people that have similar interests is a key priority, and as a result, we've seen many volunteers and clients build strong, ongoing friendships.

In partnership with My Aged Care and as part of the Commonwealth Home Support (CHS) program, in 2018/19 we supported 146 people to grow social networks and take part in community life. People were assisted in a variety of ways, including through transport for medical appointments, volunteer-led weekly men's and ladies' outings, and access to our community transport bus initiative. With 82 volunteers donating 4,268 hours to help people in our community, this service has continued over the past year to boost older people's independence and show that anything is possible for anyone.



Volunteering Recognition Awards

Every two years, the Volunteering Recognition Awards celebrate the contributions of volunteers, volunteer programs and volunteer-involving organisations that make our Wimmera communities vibrant.

Our 2019 gala ceremony hosted at the Horsham Town Hall was again a great opportunity to recognise outstanding achievements in volunteering. With 27 sponsors helping bring the event together, we welcomed over 200 guests and saw volunteers awarded across a total of 18 categories. We acknowledge all the worthy winners and particularly recognise Wimmera River Parkrun for taking out the Overall Leading Volunteer Organisation Award, and the MATES mentoring program for winning People's Choice – congratulations!



With 1089 3WM, Mixx FM and The Weekly Advertiser



Unlocking opportunities

Helping people explore different pathways for learning is a key focus at the Centre for Participation. Through both accredited and non-accredited education opportunities, we support people to boost confidence, grow skills to open up doors, and build stronger community connections.

In 2018/19, we helped 1,542 people unlock their potential through participation in 27,219 hours of learning. Other major achievements include a renewed focus on shaping our learning programs to meet the needs of our community, as we actively consulted with learners to inform new projects. A number of new social enterprise projects incorporating learning pathways were rolled out over the past year, helping open up fresh opportunities.

With migrant women a priority learning cohort in the Wimmera, we also continued to explore different ways to support this group. We currently have 84 migrants enrolled in learning programs, assisting them to strengthen connections and develop skills for work and life.

Licensing the Wimmera

Our Licensing the Wimmera program helps people get the driving experience they need to get their licence. With many people lacking a supervising driver or vehicle for practice, the program matches disadvantaged learners with volunteer mentor drivers, helping learners gain valuable experience. Through Licensing the Wimmera's L2P program in 2018/19, mentors volunteered 856 hours of supervision, helping 14 young learners successfully get their licences and develop the skills to get out on the road. We also continue to support older drivers through our unfunded P21 program.



Financial highlights

Sound financial management ensured the Centre for Participation continued to deliver projects and initiatives to meet the needs of our community throughout the past year. Key financial figures for the 12 months ending July 2019 include:

- > Income: \$2,702,356 – including the Centre's auspicing of the Wimmera Primary Care Partnership
- > Total expenses: \$2,636,881 – with staff wages and entitlements the largest single expense
- > Investments:
 - building a training room and commercial kitchen (CreATE) available to the wider community
 - purchase and fit-out of our commercial outreach food van (The Social Pantry)
 - purchase of a 12-seater bus to boost our community transport program
 - upgrade of facilities including the Centre entrance and disabled toilet.

Powering the future Fundraising

It's through the financial support of our individual donors, philanthropists and sponsors that we're able to deliver many of the programs, services and initiatives that empower our communities.

To continue this progress, we know that ongoing support from financial partners will be vital in helping us fund key projects in the future. We're looking to join with local businesses, individuals and organisations for the financial contributions, fundraising events and bequests needed to keep creating new opportunities.

We've got many exciting unfunded and underfunded projects ready to go – we just need the finances to make them happen. Fundraising priorities include Licensing the Wimmera, Migrant Support, community transport and Wimmera Social Support. If you're interested in making a real difference to your community, get in touch!

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