



# Annual Report 2017 - 2018

***Our Vision:***

*A vibrant, welcoming community organization facilitating individuals, families and groups, to share, learn and connect'*

## About Us

West Stirling Neighbourhood House Inc. (WSNH) was established in 1988 and continues with the revised vision being 'A vibrant, welcoming community organization facilitating individuals, families and groups, to share, learn and connect'. It is a hub of activity where playgroups, families, individuals and community groups meet in a friendly neighbourhood context which provides opportunities for support, to learn and reduce isolation.

We are a not-for-profit organization governed by the volunteer Management Committee, whose role is to manage the organization within the approved budget in accordance with the WSNH stated Objectives, Policies and Procedures.

The Western Australian Government through the Department of Communities provided 74% of funding for this service in the past financial year. The WSNH Service Agreement was for a period of 5 years which commenced on 1st July 2013 till 30th June 2018, however this timeframe has been reviewed and extended till 31 December 2018. A Tender for the Empowering Communities Program has been presented and if WSNH is awarded, will commence at the completion of the current agreement.



## Chairpersons Message

The 2017/2018 agenda was always going to be as exciting as it was challenging. A year to celebrate West Stirling Neighbourhood House's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but also a time to evaluate and redefine our vision for the future.

Our most recent management team has been dynamic, honest and hard working. Their leadership and commitment throughout this year has been invaluable.

The first undertaking of the committee was a major fundraising effort at our local Bunnings Sausage Sizzle in November. We were proud to report record funds (\$1800) raised which directly allowed us to purchase a new indoor climbing fort, children's board books (including bi-lingual texts) for the WSNH library and new toys to replenish the play areas.

2017 ended with Santa's Sundowner, a free event for all WSNH members and their families to enjoy an afternoon BBQ picnic at our centre. Members were able to enjoy the sunshine, conversation and even share in a little Christmas magic from Santa himself.

Fundraising proceeds further enabled a summer Busy Bee (powered by the efforts of members and committee) to paint, plant, clear out and rejuvenate the House for a fresh start to the 2018 year.

The WSNH staff and committee had grand and vibrant ideas when it came to commemorating the centre's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May. For the first time our Fun Day was transformed into a Community Festival. It featured free rides and activities, produce and craft, food, music, photo exhibitions, animals, dancing and of course...cake! The day was officiated and supported by the City of Stirling Mayor Mark Irwin, MLA member for Scarborough Liza Harvey and Doubleview Ward Councillor Stephanie Proud, who we thank for their attendance and kind words of congratulations. In another first, WSNH was able to collaborate with other community groups including The Bend In The Road Activation Group, Transition Town Stirling, Scarborough Scouts and a number of local businesses. The contribution of our community and members enabled this anniversary to stretch beyond our walls and reach further into our neighbourhood, creating a fun filled day that will not be forgotten.

The 2017/2018 Management Committee have endeavoured to review and formalise different areas of our current operational procedures during this year. The Vision Statement and Strategic Plan have been redefined to align with the new model within the Department of Communities. Additions have also been made to hire agreements, contracts and centre resources to provide continuity and development for the years to come.

As mentioned by our coordinator Jenni Kopij, this year also saw the centre provide its first financial tender to the Department of Communities. This was no small task. On behalf of myself and the Committee I would like to thank



Jen Kopij, Fran Lockyer, Claire-Helen Linton and Chenoa Walsh for their incredible dedication to the application, we are so proud of the submission and know that whatever the future, WSNH will be in excellent hands.

Perhaps one of the most satisfying projects of this year has been the short film beautifully created by Janine Boreland, who at the request of the committee has found a way to represent our incredible centre within our community. We hope this piece will be promoted and viewed again and again, giving us all the awareness and pride in the connections and friendships we make at WSNH.

A personal thankyou as chairperson;

- Jen for your continual guidance, experience and knack for on- the- ground connections and community information.
- Fran for always finding the time, patience and knowledge to solve or provide insight at every challenge.
- 2017/2018 Committee for finding so many ways to contribute your own life experiences and knowledge, but above all for your time, support and comradery.

I look forward to getting to know and working with the newly formed committee of 2018/2019. There are so many reasons to be a part of the community at West Stirling Neighbourhood House and I know we have a fantastic year waiting ahead

Nicole Jenkins

## Coordinators Message



This year has been a turning point for the organization. As we neared the end of our current funding agreement and approached our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary it was a time to celebrate our achievements, evaluate who we are, reassess and let go of old structures that no longer serve us, find clarity, improve systems and then create inspiring directions for the years to come. This has been achieved with many conversations, collaborations, systems changes, and a fresh attitude encompassing Asset Based Community Development.

We have embraced the leadership that Linkwest has shown with regard to community development and continued with the Neighbourhood House Week theme of Belonging. Further to that, we have now tagged our Centre as 'Our place to call home' as was presented in our new WSNH promotional Video. Thank you to Janine Borland for its production, along with many fabulous photos that she took for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Family Festival. The video was submitted for the Tender as a testimonial to the value of the Organization to our community.

The events and celebrations held at the House were the highlights of the year, where our members and the extended community came together enthusiastically for family fun and frivolity. We wish to acknowledge the support we received from all our volunteers and a range of Community Grants which contributed to the success of the events. Our thanks to the following Community Partners: The City of Stirling Cultural Development Fund, Three Oceans Community Chest and the Liza Harvey - Community Events Grant, all of which contributed to the huge success of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Family Festival.

We also acknowledge the professional and personal support that we have enjoyed over a number of years from the City of Stirling, Doubleview Ward Councillor Stephanie Proud, and Liza Harvey MLA, Member for Scarborough.

Presenting the Tender for funding for the next 5 years to the Department of Communities 'Empowering Communities Program' on behalf of the organization was a huge job completed with the expertise and generosity of our Committee Chairperson Nicole Jenkins, Committee Member Claire-Helen Linton, Acting

Treasurer Chenoa Walsh, Coordinator Jennifer Kopij and Assistant Coordinator Fran Lockyer along with other contributor's from the Committee. We are currently awaiting the response from Government. This will determine the future and longevity of the organization in its current form. Whatever the outcome, after 30 years of operation, the governance team and staff remain optimistic, buoyed by the support of our members.

We continue to strive for excellence in presenting a fabulous resource for our target community of Families with young children but are also welcoming and working with an older demographic as well. Along with our safe and well-resourced centre for playgroups, the house is also a base for Child Health Nurses, parenting programs including Triple P, Wiring kids and Ngala, Adult learning Workshops and Room Hire for numerous community groups and private hire for children's parties and the like.

The past year has seen the community come together to Collaborate with events and community development like never before. The community is taking control of its own direction in development and organizations, community groups, government and private enterprise are coming together for the greater good. We are at the heart of this network and able to work with community to support their initiatives. We look forward to further involvement with the 'Bend in the Road' Place Activation Group, Transition Town Stirling, The West Stirling Repair Café and other local enterprises.

I extend my appreciation to the Management Committee, Staff and volunteers who have all contributed to making 2017 - 2018 another productive year.

Jennifer Kopij

## 2017-2018 Management Committee

### Executive Members

Chairperson	Nicole Jenkins	(Monday p/g)
Vice – Chair	Naomi Bellworthy	(Tuesday p/g)
Secretary	Chenoa Walsh/Rochelle Van Santen	(Monday p/g)
Treasurer	Cassie Sun/Chenoa Walsh	(Monday p/g)

### General Members

Kanako Bird	(Japanese p/g)
Anna Blenkarn	(Tuesday p/g)
Claire-Helen Linton	(Thursday p/g)
Kara Cheah	(Tuesday p/g)
Vicki May	(Tuesday p/g)
Manuela Mocke	(Italian p/g)
Wendy Stentiford	(Community member)

The Management Committee are WSNH members who volunteer their time to represent the interests of all members. Nicole has been an exceptional leader. Taking on the role of chairperson, she studied the duties and responsibilities of Governance and familiarized herself and the committee with the WSNH administrative policy documents. This has been an extremely busy year with two major events to be executed: the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and the Tender for funding into the future.

The management committee have contributed not just their time, but shared their individual skills and knowledge with our community. Their collaborative involvement at meetings creates dynamic conversation and provides a great foundation for decision making. Our committee members have found ways to utilize their own interests and skills to be valuable at our centre whether it be suggesting links to public resources and community organisations, becoming involved in WSNH courses, planning and setting up functions, laying groundwork for new policies and procedures, stepping into alternative roles when it was required, or simply by offering to lend a hand when it was needed most.

## Staff

Staff longevity brings with it a stable 'home-base', accumulated skills, knowledge and experience. Four staff members have worked for the organization for more than 10 years. Their reliable, welcoming attitude along with their passion for supporting families with young children has contributed to it being 'Our place to call home'.

Kathy has been minding children in our crèche for more than 14 years, while Fran and Jenni have earned their Long Service Leave after 10 years and Joan our Caretaker (employed since 2002 and now in her 80's!) has earned a place in our hearts. We sincerely thank Joan for being such a stalwart member of our community and an integral player in the success of this House and we wish her many joys as she touches other communities in the coming years.

Jason Siew volunteered his accounting skills for the first part of the year until he found employment. Thank you to Jason and congratulations on securing employment.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chenoa Walsh who stepped down from the position of Committee Treasurer to fulfill the role of WSNH Coordinator during Term 4 2017 when Jen was on compassionate leave. She was a welcome fresh face to the staff and brought in her expertise of Financial Management and Facebook advertising. ☺

## Membership

All community members are welcome to join and participate in our thriving Centre. As of June 2018 there were 8 playgroups with a total of 95 members and 127 children. We also have 35 non-playgroup members. Most playgroups are full with wait lists, however attendance has suffered a little over the winter due to illness and the international playgroup members returning to their country of origin to visit family. Non-playgroup members have joined as a result of having had a party here (Room Hire), attended a course here, or are members no longer attending playgroup.

## User Groups & Partnerships

The house is very much a **community venue** and operates with ease to accommodate its many users. It is clean, bright and welcoming and I commend all users for ensuring that it is left that way for the next user group.

This year has seen 13.5% increase in Room Hire in addition to a 56% increase in Room Hire from the previous year. This increase has been due to some new ongoing bookings such as the Yoga and heavier use by bookings established in the year prior.

Our **user groups** include regular: Playgroups per week, Child Health Clinics - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Lactation Consultants, Ngala workshops – Pyjama Drama and Sing and Grow, Perth Actors Collective, Yoga classes, Creative Kids Art Club, Potters House, in-house and external courses and workshops as well as one-off individual hire for parties (often four over a weekend!), meetings and consultations.

**Our partnerships** with:

- Transition Town Stirling who organize the seasonal Swap, Share, Shuffle have promoted the ethos of reduce, reuse, recycle and bring local people to our hub.
- The Bend in the Road Neighbourhood Collective – a group focused on developing community activation in our immediate precinct through user friendly landscape design and events.

