

Annual Report 2022

Bellarine Living & Learning Centre Inc
October 2022





The Committee, staff and volunteers respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands and waters of Australia. We also acknowledge the land we work on is Wadawurrung country and belongs to the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We respect and acknowledge this land and its ecosystems and all elders: past, present and emerging and we thank Aboriginal people for 60, 000 years of caring for and nurturing country. We will invite guidance in the development of the Bellarine Living and Learning Centre through the cultural knowledge and wisdom of the local Wadawurrung community.



Bellarine

LIVING AND LEARNING CENTRE INC

2021- 2022 Annual Report

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Bellarine

LIVING AND LEARNING CENTRE INC

BLLC Mission

OUR VISION

What we want to see

A community that values connection, celebrates diversity and encourages empowerment and growth for all.

OUR MISSION

How we do this, now and into the future...

We support our community by providing a place that is responsive to community needs and encourages connection, growth and participation.

OUR VALUES

- Connection
- Respect
- Support
- Responsiveness
- Opportunity and Empowerment
- Sustainability



Chair Report

What a year it has been!

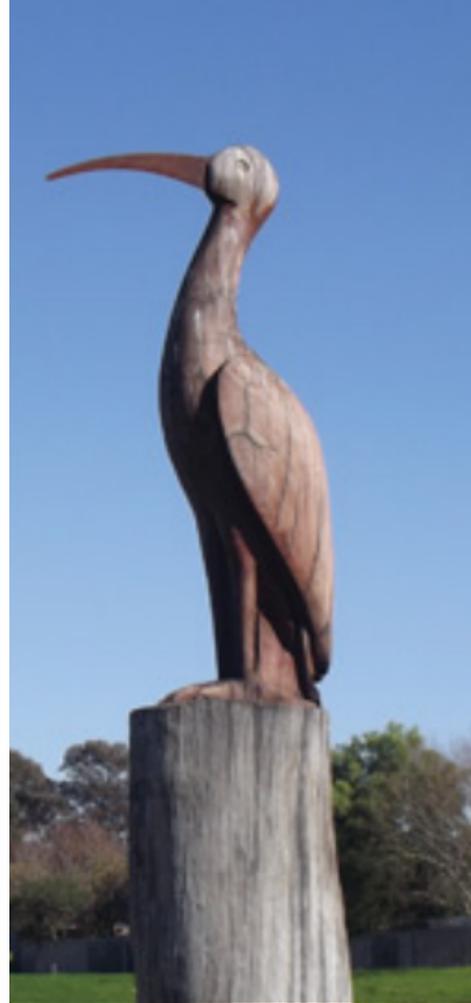
From releasing a new Strategic plan, juggling Covid, beginning discussions with the City of Greater Geelong and Community for a new Community Hub, farewelling and welcoming so many amazing people and embracing so much positive change and growth for the Centre it's hard to focus in on a particular 'thing' within the mosaic of so many amazing moments and opportunities over the past 12 months.

I think I can speak for all in saying that it has been so good to be able to come together again, face to face, post Covid and enjoy our friendships, connections and community being together again. I have personally loved seeing the centre come back to life with an ever increasing flow of people coming through, and to see the physical changes in the space with the colour, the plants and even the simple ambience of the diffuser in the foyer. It is those little touches staff bring to the space that create the welcoming and safe atmosphere we can all enjoy.

I would like to acknowledge, Deanne Linde, our Centre Manager who joined us a year ago. Her thoughtful and considered approach to leading the Operations team and ushering in a new chapter in the story of BLLC has been invaluable and I've enjoyed the opportunity to work in partnership, within our respective roles, to bring the communities vision for BLLC to life.

It has been an honour to hold the position of Chair at BLLC for 2021/22. My heartfelt thanks to the entire Operations Team, past and present, for the incredible work you do, and have done, to support our community. I also wish to acknowledge and thank my fellow Committee of Management members, past and present, for your time, energy, and commitment over the past 12 months. I am excited for the future of BLLC and look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the coming year.

Rebecca Taylor



Manager's Report

This past financial year has seen progression through the Covid 19 pandemic and all the disruption and difficulty that it brought. As Victoria continued to open up and community members became more confident to come together, BLLC responded with expanded programs, activities and events. This rebuilding and renewal was made possible with the support of grant funding from Give Where You Live, Geelong Community Foundation and City of Greater Geelong. Coming into the role of manager at BLLC at this time has been exciting and challenging, building on the considerable work of past managers. There has been much to learn about the NH sector, the operations of the BLLC and the community.

There are many people to thank for their support during this year and I am very thankful to be a part of such a supportive and hard-working network. The staff and volunteers who held BLLC through 2020 and 2021 did a remarkable job of engaging with the community, maintaining the Foodbank program, delivering classes on-line where possible and keeping up with Government health requirements and restrictions.

We now have a whole new staff team at BLLC who are experienced, enthusiastic and committed to working with this community and responding to its needs and ideas as we work together to deliver our strategic plan. We have also said goodbye to retiring volunteers and welcomed new ones. Part of our plan going forward is to encourage new volunteers to be a part of the exciting work of the BLLC. With thanks to Deb Kearney who facilitated the process, BLLC has a new Strategic Plan which will guide the work of the Centre for the next 3 years. The focus for BLLC is on improving our physical space, developing our programs and providing a place and opportunities for people to connect. We are well on the way to achieving our objectives and are excited about our future plans.



Highlights

Physical Space

While we wait for the COGG planning process for a new building to be complete, we are working to make the current building more welcoming and friendly. The foyer has been redecorated with art work, plants, bookshelves and an area for tea and coffee where community members can help themselves. New eye-catching flyers of all our programs are on display. We have a break-out room set up in the hall for group meetings, programs and for people to just sit and read a book or have a cup of tea. There are plans to paint inside and part of the outside of the building which will give the place a fresh look.

Foodbank

Two students from Deakin University, in social work and public health, have completed their placements at BLLC. Monique and Stephanie undertook a research project to see if we could improve our Foodbank program. This included consultation with other Foodbank programs, a survey of BLLC Foodbank participants and a literature review. Many changes have been made to be more responsive to the needs of the participants.

Food related activities

Community interest in growing and cooking food led to exciting workshops being held at BLLC. Victory Garden workshops taught participants about growing edible food in pots and Minimal Waste workshops showed us how to cook three healthy meals from one set of ingredients. These were so popular that we are expanding the theme and running horticulture courses, becoming members of the Grinter community garden, setting up community kitchens and running café skills including barista training, in the new financial year. Developing partnerships

Our partners continue to be an integral part of the BLLC.

Feed Me Bellarine, Encompass' The Paddock, The Grinter Community Garden, The Rolling Pin, Baker's Delight and the Early Learning Centres all have provided food for the Foodbank and workshops. BLLC brings leftover fresh food to the Early Learning Centre or McKillop Education so completing the circle.

Partnerships with ReLink and LeisureNetworks have provided all abilities yoga classes and a program for young children called MiniMovers.

Encompass remains a strong partner with joint events in the planning.

BLLC worked with the Gordon and Newcomb High School to research what young people in the area know about BLLC and what they would like to see happen in their community. The results are currently being actioned.

Newcomb library ran some very beginner computer classes at the library in conjunction with BLLC. One of the librarians runs a BookChat morning at BLLC once per month.

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Events

We held several successful events including a wonderful outdoor Christmas celebration, a mother's day morning tea on Neighbourhood House Day with Christine Couzens as a guest and Wear it Purple was an opportunity for the community to support young LGBTQI+ young people. (Encompass café donated beautiful purple cakes).

Programs and activities

We ran many ACFE courses over the year with committed and motivated tutors dedicated to sharing their knowledge.

Thanks to grant funding from COGG, we were able to run new programs including Introduction to Mindfulness, Tune Up Your Life which gave participants tools to manage difficulties in life and ceramics classes with the creative members of our community.

We supported the community with applications for the Vic Gov Power Saving Bonus and we had a wonderful volunteer help people complete their tax returns.

We provided free hearing checks through Hearing Australia and free child car restraint fittings and safety checks through Kidsafe Victoria.

I would like to thank all our volunteers, those who left during the year and those who remain for your dedication and commitment to your community and to BLLC. I would also like to thank the staff who work tirelessly and go above and beyond to keep everything going.

Deanne Linde



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

Our Partners

BLLC would like to acknowledge and thank our partners:

- City of Greater Geelong
- Encompass
- Department of Education and Training
- The Gordon
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Feed Me Bellarine
- Foodbank Victoria
- Foundation 61
- Geelong Community Foundation
- Geelong Food Assistance Network
- Geelong Food Relief Centre
- Geelong Regional Libraries
- Give Where You Live Foundation
- MacKillop Family Services
- Neighbourhood Houses - Barwon
- Neighbourhood Houses - Victoria
- OneCare
- Leisure Networks
- Orange Sky Laundry
- Rolling Pin
- Bakers Delight
- Whittington Early Learning Centre
- Whittington Primary School
- Volunteering Geelong



BLLC Team

Committee of Management

Position	Name
Chair	Rebecca Taylor
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Peter Burge
Member	Georgia Thorne
Member	Tim Courtney
Member	Therese Wilby
Member	Liz Bonner
Member	Nateesha Thomassen
Member	Rose Ott

BLLC Staff 2021 - 2022

Position	Name
Manager	Deanne Linde
Program/Volunteer Coordinator	Georgie Allen
Foodbank Worker	Lynne Waters/Kevin Bowers
Bookkeeper	Linda Coney/Summer McDermott
Reception/Administration	Renee Bennet/Lisa Berry

BLLC Volunteers 2021 - 2022

Foodbank

Anthea

Terri

Kenneth

Marlene

Foodbank cooking

Audrey

Rose

Reception/Admin

Caroline

Mike

Tax Help

Sue

General

Leonie



BLLC Programs

ACFE Pre-accredited Training

Introduction to Computers

Next Steps

Digital Essentials

Tell My Story

Art & Personal Development



City of Greater Geelong (grant funded)

Fit N Balance

Ukulele Classes

Handmade Ceramics

Tune Up Your Life

Introduction to Mindfulness



Geelong Community Foundation (grant funded)

Victory Garden Workshop

Minimal Waste Workshop



Give Where You Live (grant funded)

Foodbank

Free Community Services

Power Saver Bonus Community Outreach

Tax Help (volunteer Sue Wood)

Child Car Seat Fittings (Safe Seats Safe Kids)

Orange Sky Free Laundry

Free Hearing Tests (Hearing Victoria)



BLLC Programs

City of Greater Geelong

Youth Group programs

Geelong Regional Library Service

Book Chat

Realink/Leisure Networks

Yoga

Other

Line Dancing

Chris & Pam Wintershoven

Craft & Cuppa

Independent - Deb Isbister

Beginners Photography

volunteer - Sheryle Griffiths

Walking Group

BLLC



BLLC Annual General Meeting 2021

Minutes

Monday November 22nd, 2021

4pm-6pm

Present: Elizabeth Bonner (Acting Chair), Rose Ott, Jenny Speed, Nateesha Thomassen, Georgina Allen, Renee Bennett, Leonie Saundry, Terri Wilby, Tim Courtney, Peter Burge, Karen Gore, Anne Langton, Keith Langton, Deann Linde, Georgia Thorne, Rebecca Taylor, Jaylah Forey-Williams.

	ACTION
<p>1 Welcome and acknowledgment to Country – Elizabeth Bonner</p> <p>Acknowledgement of the <u>Waddarrung</u> Custodians and the connection to place we have to their elders and stories.</p> <p>Introduction to Deanne Linde, the newly appointed <u>centre manager</u>. She outlined her background in social work and engagement in the supportive and health programs, volunteers, health, <u>education</u> and social work at St. Augustine's.</p>	<p>Deanne will officially commence in her role on the 6/12/21</p>
<p>2. Apologies:</p> <p>Liz Waters- Foodbank Worker</p> <p>Dori Ellington- Whittington Primary School</p> <p>Melissa Hutchinson – former <u>CoM</u> secretary</p> <p>Sue <u>Shome</u>- student</p> <p>Caroline Lytzki- Foundation 61</p>	
<p>3. Review of actions from previous general meeting</p>	
<p>4. Acceptance of minutes from previous minutes</p> <p>Moved: Leonie Saundry Seconded: Jenny Speed Carried</p>	
<p>5. President/Chairperson's Report Read by Jenny Speed.</p>	
<p>6. Treasurer's Report -read by Elizabeth Bonner</p> <p>Moved: Rose Ott Seconded: Karen Gore Carried</p>	<p>Advice is to use surplus to address losses.</p>
<p>7. Questions to the Committee</p>	
<p>8. Proposed resolutions</p>	

BLLC Annual General Meeting 2021

<p>9. Acceptance of financial statements</p> <p>Moved: Rose Ott Seconded: Karen Gore Carried</p>	
<p>10. Acceptance of Annual Report</p> <p>Moved: Leonie Saundry Seconded: Karen <u>Gore</u> Carried</p>	
<p>11. Appointment of and questions to the auditor.</p> <p>Moved: Jenny Speed Seconded: Peter Burge Carried</p>	<p>Recommendation is that BLLC seeks a new auditor for 2021/2022. Recommendations will come from <u>Rosewall NH and Cloverdale NH</u>. Members to resolve.</p>
<p>12. Election of new members to Committee</p> <p>The committee was down to 3 members- Rose Ott, Nateesha Thomassen, Liz Bonner, after an exodus of members. With the addition of 5 new nominated and accepted members, Georgia Thorn, Rebecca Taylor, Peter Burge, Tim <u>Courtney</u> and Teresa (Terri) Wilby, we are now sitting at 8. As the constitution states that <u>local residents</u> are to be <u>prioritised</u> with membership (followed by skills and diversity) the new members satisfy that criterion by living in Whittington or surrounding suburbs.</p>	<p>Chair committed to do a skills-based appointment of roles in committee. Suggestion is for members to meet for lunch before Christmas. Meeting will</p>
<p>Accept and approve nominations:</p> <p>Moved Jenny Speed Seconded Karen Gore</p>	<p>remain on the 3rd Monday of each month</p>
<p>13. Meeting Close 6pm</p>	

Financials



For further information:

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www.bllc.org.au

