



Bellarine
LIVING AND LEARNING CENTRE INC

Strategic Plan 2022-25

Bellarine Living and Learning
Centre






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.

INTRODUCTION

A BIT ABOUT US



Right in the heart of Whittington, the Bellarine Living & Learning Centre is a not-for-profit Neighbourhood House and Learn Local service that has been open since 1984.

BLLC is funded to provide a range of programs and activities that bring people together to connect, learn, be a part of and contribute to, their local community.

BLLC supports and services the 3219 postcode and surrounding areas, which includes Whittington and other parts of eastern Geelong. It is community owned and managed by a Committee of local representatives. We welcome people of all ages and abilities and from all walks of life.

During 2020 and 2021 BLLC and many members of the local community were impacted greatly by COVID-19 and the series of lockdowns and restrictions that were a result of this pandemic.

As we emerge from this challenging period BLLC will focus on rebuilding and strengthening its links and the programs, services, supports and activities it delivers, as a way to reconnect and strengthen the local community. We have developed our new Strategic Plan to highlight our strategic priorities and major plans for 2022-2024. We consider this to be a living document and one that will be regularly reviewed as it guides us through the next few years.

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

WHAT DRIVES HOW WE OPERATE...



1 - Connection

we understand how important it is for people to feel connected to one another and to their community and we will focus on activities that strengthen community connection.



2 - Respect

we appreciate the many differences in our community and know that we can all learn from people of different ages, backgrounds, cultures and abilities and we will respect and embrace diversity at our Centre.



3 - Support

we acknowledge that people and their communities need different levels of support at varying times and we will be creative, flexible and responsive in what we offer.



4 - Responsiveness

we understand how important it is to be responsive to individual and broader community need and we know there are real and lasting benefits that comes from being flexible and responsive when need is identified.



5 - Opportunity and Empowerment

we know that when people are empowered to take opportunities presented to them, they are able to learn, grow and develop and we are committed to providing a diverse range of opportunities for our community. Access to opportunities will be fair and equitable



6 - Sustainability

we are committed to sustainability and will seek positive outcomes that are financially, socially and environmentally sustainable for our Centre, and for our community.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Over the next 3 years we are committed to working directly with community and partners to create an active, vibrant and inclusive Centre that has strong links to local community, services and businesses.

Staff and volunteers at the Centre will continue working together with community to identify and respond to community needs by providing a place to come and:



Meet people



Feel connected



Get support



Be creative



Get active



Learn new things



Enjoy yourself



Develop skills



Get involved



Access resources

OUR PRIORITIES

FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS

Improve our
PLACE

Develop our
PROGRAMS



Connect our
PEOPLE

Focus on personal
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Advocating for the effective redevelopment of the building and improving the look, feel and resources at the Centre

Actively seeking broader engagement with the Centre and the development of its activities.

Expanding food-themed activities and programs to connect people and develop their knowledge and skills.

Building confidence and positive learning experiences that are diverse, supportive and inclusive.

Establishing local partnerships and building trusted relationships with our community.

Recruiting and supporting new volunteers to join the existing team and be involved in supporting activities and programs

Establishing a range of health and wellbeing focussed activities to benefit people of all ages and through all stages of life.

Growing our capacity to deliver quality learning programs that are responsive to community need.

Renaming and rebranding the Centre to raise its profile in the area and promote community ownership.

Supporting staff and partners to work in a community development framework to build capacity and strengthen community.

Creating a range of social programs and events to connect people and develop a sense of pride in the Whittington area and surrounds.

Providing opportunities to share and learn practical skills and knowledge for mutual benefit.

Thanks for reading

Acknowledgement

This Strategic Plan has been developed by the 2022 Committee of Management and has been prepared based on information gathered through the Community Engagement Project Report (2020), Strategic Plan (2018–2020) as well as formal, independent surveys and interviews with community, staff, previous committee members and key stakeholders.

The Committee consider the Plan to be a living document and it will be used as a guide for the Centre over the next 3 years.

Photos courtesy of
City of Greater Geelong

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