



## **GEELONG WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CO CHAIR REPORT**

It's a pleasure to be able to present this Report for 2022.

I'm extremely grateful that David Kearney agreed to stay on and co share with me the role of Chairperson. This has allowed us to follow up on projects as they presented according to our skills, time and interests.

It has been an opportunity to share the responsibilities of leadership without them becoming too much of a burden - given that all of us are retired and have other interests in life to pursue.

This working model assisted in filling the positions of Treasurer and I thank Colleen Carnegie and Marg Kellett for sharing this role, and Lyn Morrison and Lezley Rhodes as Co Secretaries.

Early in 2022 - we wanted to get the message out that we were 'Open for Business' and without any anticipated lockdowns ahead - we were able to pick up the threads and begin to resume our activities as planned. Our community was ready for business too as classes filled up, and more sessions were able to be offered each week. Potential users were also looking for venues and by mid year the capacity of the Neighbourhood House was full.

One of the most exciting projects that we introduced was the Inaugural Artist in Residence project lead by Felicity Kavanagh. Felicity has many years experience of providing interesting and creative Arts projects over the years, and her enthusiasm for this project and the philosophy behind the concept was inspirational.

It was a huge learning curve for all of us as we grappled with what it would look like but with Felicity's vision and adaptability - we have succeeded. Felicity will also give her AIR Report later in this meeting, and we have examples of some of the AIR exhibits on display tonight.

As David mentioned in his report last year - we were advised that we were not successful with the City of Greater Geelong Infrastructure Grant. This was such a disappointment, but the very good news came through last Tuesday night when Michael from Christine Couzens Office rang to say that our new grant application for \$65 000 from State Government through Council, Living Local, had been approved.

GWNH will always be grateful for the support and interest in our ongoing wellbeing as Christine Couzens - so a very big 'Thank You' Christine.

While not standing again for this coming year, David Kearney has offered to assist with implementing this grant to improve and enhance the capacity at 89 Autumn St, Geelong West.

Of course, all these plans and projects would not have succeeded the way they have without the leadership and management of the Neighbourhood House by our Inaugural Coordinator - Lisa Young. As we endeavoured to get back on our feet - many, many meetings have been held throughout this year in which Lisa has participated and followed through on - our thanks to you Lisa for all your good work.

Finally - I'd like to thank the 2022 Committee of Management for all they have taken on this year. It has been an extremely busy one but we have much to show for all our endeavours.

To our outgoing members, David Kearney and Lyn Morrison, and recently retired Moira Donovan - thank you for your support, hard work and friendship over the year.

To the remaining members - Colleen Carnegie, Margaret Kellett, Rosemary Nugent, Maureen O'Keeffe, Lezley Rhodes - my thanks to you all, and very best wishes to the incoming committee for the year ahead.

**PAM VIRGONA**  
**CO CHAIR 2022**