

- **RSNH Annual Report**

RSNH Annual Report motion to be accepted

Moved: Phil Day

Seconded: Neryl Jeanneret

Appointment of Auditor - *Propose motion to appoint Ryk Eksteen from Collins and Co. as the Auditor for the next financial year 2021-2022*

- **Moved:** Neryl Jeanneret

Seconded: Kat Thorn

Annual Membership Subscription fee and *date – propose 30th April and gold coin donation*

- **Moved:** Matt Dravich

Seconded: Phil Day

Election of new Committee of Management for 2021/22

- Phil Day (Chairperson, Office Bearer)
- Kat Thorn (Deputy Chair)
- Cheryl McLachlan (Secretary)
- Owen Martin (Treasurer)
- Matt Dravich
- Erin Dale
- Neryl Jeanneret

All elected unopposed.

That there be up to 10 member of the Committee of Membership

- **Moved:** Phil Day

Seconded: Neryl Jeanneret

Other Business (*the secretary must be notified of any additional business items in writing by close of business on Friday October 8 2021*)

None.

Meeting Close. **1.45 pm**

Manager's Report

RSNH has proven to be exceptionally resilient and adaptable in the uncharted times that we find ourselves travelling through and first and foremost I wish to commend the incredible staff and volunteers who have made this happen.

Over the past 12 months, we have yo-yoed in and out of lockdown 4 times, causing RSNH to close its doors for a total of 130 days!

A number of our projects and programs were put on hold and some were moved online. New and creative projects were developed such as a COVID mask making project, sewing reusable 3-layer cotton masks for community members in need. Skype, Zoom and Google Hangouts became our new classroom platforms and ways to interact. Our tutors have been very good at adjusting their classes to online learning and dealing with a wide range of digital literacy barriers.

However, our main activity has been the development of our Food Relief program. From our commencement in May 2020, we soon grew from producing 50 to 150 meals per week. By February this year, our team of staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to create over 250 meals per week!

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Ruby Walker-Smith and her key volunteers Froso Siatos and Anne Erna, who each week turn rescued food into healthy and tasty meals. There are also a number of dedicated volunteers who need to be thanked: who prepare meals, pick up food donations, pack and stock our community pantry, and serve people who come to the door to access the program.

In August 2020 we received the Rapid Response Grant from Inner North Foundation of \$1500 to assist us to expand our food relief activities, purchase bulk staples and a new freezer. Further support was received via Vic Health's 'Reimagining Health' grant which allowed us to establish a community pantry of basic staples for people facing food insecurity.

Our Playgroup program only ran for 15 weeks this year. Parents and children have really missed attending the supported sessions and the opportunity to connect with other families. Meri Carnovale has been our wonderful Playgroup Coordinator for over 2 years and I can understand how difficult it must be to have this program suspended for so long. She plays a key supportive role for a number of our Coburg families.

Fortunately, Meri also teaches our ACFE Work Readiness and Introduction to Volunteering and Event Planning Courses. She has been very flexible with moving her classes online. I want to acknowledge her ability to boost the morale of the students and facilitate a connection for them during this time of isolation.

As part of our long term vision to continually improve our spaces for the community to enjoy and share, and to support the range of activities on offer at RSNH, we installed a greenhouse and shade sail in the sensory garden this year. We were fortunate to receive funding from Bendigo Community Bank Strathmore and the Stronger Communities Grant to purchase and install park furniture in the Community Garden. In partnership with Moreland City Council, they will install the furniture later this year.

Manager's Report

Events are usually a key activity for us to attract people to come into RSNH and enjoy our spaces, and to showcase our programs. This year we were able to hold our Christmas Party on Friday 11th December. It was our only event for the year but it was definitely a highlight! It was so good to see the many friends and visitors of RSNH and we enjoyed a delicious feast prepared by our community kitchen team.

We said farewell to core staff members Kelly Davis and Hannah Evans (who have both been here for over 2 years). I'd like to thank them for their contribution and work over the past 2 years. We welcome the dynamic Meghan O'Connor to the new position of Assistant Manager and Craig Burgess as Administration Officer, who is also our well-loved EAL teacher. I am excited to welcome our new Garden Coordinator, Nathacha

Subero, who will be leading the reactivation of the Reynard St Community Garden (RSCG), to continue building a thriving, sustainable diverse hub for community engagement, education, food security, disability access and inclusion.

Finally I would like to thank and acknowledge the support from the CoM. The Staffing Subcommittee has been proactive in supporting the recent staff restructure and development of new position descriptions. Over these past 2 years I have had the pleasure of working closely with our chairperson Philippa Day to collaboratively align operations and governance according to our strategic vision at RSNH. Phil has led and transformed our CoM to be a highly skilled, effective and proactive group.

I look forward to working alongside the CoM and our wonderful team of staff and volunteers at RSNH to continue our mission to improve the wellbeing of our community and build a strong neighbourhood by being a welcoming place where everyone can learn, connect and play!

– Lucy Eames, House Manager

