



Reynard Street
Neighbourhood House



Annual Report

2025-2026

Lead Design & Editor: Patricia Penafiel
Production Design & Editor: Mika Matsumoto





*Reynard Street Neighbourhood House
acknowledges the Traditional Owners
of the Coburg area in which we work,
the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung
people.*

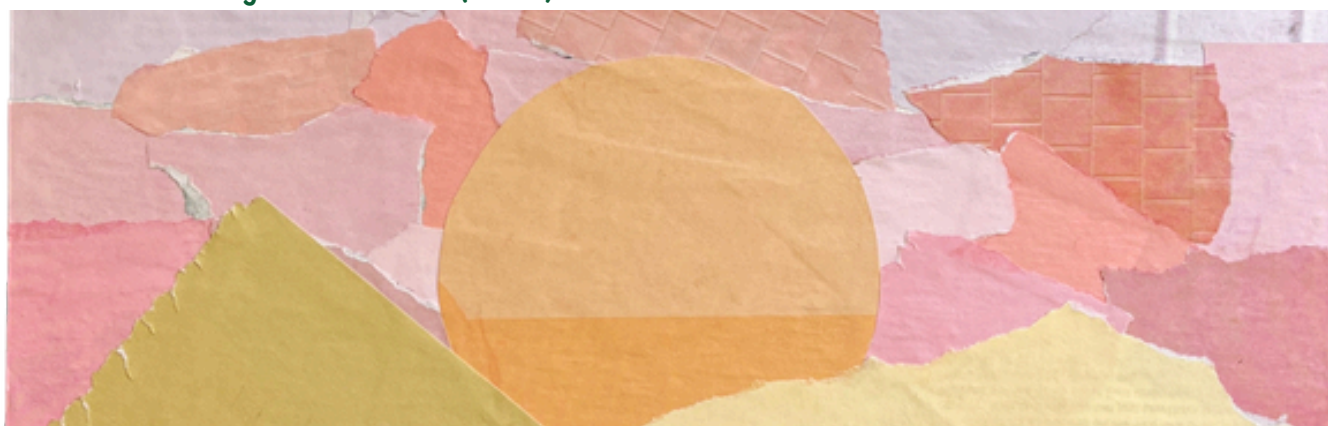
*We recognise their continuing
connection to land, skies,
waterways and community.*

*We pay our respects to them and their
culture, and to their Elders past,
present and future.*

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Cover Artwork by Isabelle Hann (2026)



Committee of Management



DUNG NGUYEN
Committee Chair



FRANCES MARTIN
Deputy Chair



MATTHEW GOURLEY
Treasurer



ILONA NICOLA
Comittee Secretary



CAROLINE HENWOOD
Committee Member



DERYA SILVA
People & Culture
Sub-Committee Chair



MARY CAMPBELL
People & Culture
Sub-Committee Member

Reynard Street Neighbourhood House (RSNH) is managed by a voluntary Committee of Management, made up of members from the local community.

The Committee of Management (CoM) provides RSNH with community “governance”, which includes developing strategic plans, policies, permanent staff appointment, monitoring finances and overseeing delivery of legal and contractual obligations. The CoM acts as the voice of our membership in line with the aims and objectives detailed in our Constitution.

Dear Members and Stakeholders

Executive Officer's Report

I am delighted to have joined the Neighbourhood House sector and Reynard Street at the end of May 2026. After working within the Homelessness service system for a period of twenty-seven years in a range of operational and senior management positions, I welcome the opportunity to be part of a sector & inspirational team that brings joy, hope and connection to people living in the local community of Coburg.

After visiting Reynard Street for the first time, I was impressed by its warmth, welcoming atmosphere and creative spirit, not to mention the beautiful garden setting. As I walked around the Community garden, located in Robinson Reserve, I was struck by the energy and dedication of many people over a significant period of time, to create a garden oasis of calm & tranquility.

As I settle into my new role and get to know volunteers, staff and partners, I acknowledge that the last twelve months has been a time of challenge due to structural changes and organisational renewal, as the organisation re-aligns with its core values, vision and mission.

My immediate focus is to provide a sense of stability to the service, strengthening collaborative partnerships, fostering participation and and re-energising our commitment to the principles of Community Development including empowerment, social justice and environmental sustainability.

A key organisational goal over the next twelve months is the creation of a culture and work environment that allows people to flourish and our organisational goals to be achieved.

Reynard street would like to take the opportunity to recognise and acknowledge all the tremendous volunteers, staff, partners and supporters who have contributed to the service over the last twelve months.

In particular, we recognise the contribution of Nathacha Subero, who was employed with RSNH for five and half years, in various roles, but most significantly as the Garden Co-ordinator and Executive Officer until June 2026. Nathacha's dedication, enthusiasm and commitment has been greatly appreciated and we are reminded of her legacy each day as we walk amongst the native plants, trees and birds of Robinson Reserve.



Lisa Sammut
Executive Officer

Committee Chair's Report

This has been a significant year of change for Reynard Street Neighbourhood House. We restructured and made some difficult decisions on programs, aimed at bringing our costs in line with what we can sustainably afford. Throughout, our core programs continued, including our garden, cafe, playgroup, cooking program and Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) classes.

Restructuring is never comfortable, and reviewing programs that people value is harder still. Each decision was made carefully, mindful of what these programs mean to our community. Part of governing responsibly is recognising when a structure isn't sustainable, and having the discipline to act on that, so the House remains here for the long term.

I am pleased to report that, we have exceeded expectations and closed the year with the best financial result in six years, providing welcome stability and a stronger position to plan ahead.

I want to thank Nathacha Subero, who took on the role of Acting Executive Officer during this period of change. Nathacha has been part of the House for many years, in roles including Garden Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator and Marketing Coordinator, and stepping into the Acting EO role during a restructure was a considerable undertaking.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you Nathacha, for your commitment and years of service to the House. I also want to acknowledge Linda Perugini, who stepped down as Executive Officer in October 2025. During her time in the role, Linda led the development of our new organisational structure and secured several significant grants to help resource this work. Thank you, Linda, for your contribution to the House.

Thank you to the funders who supported our programs this year: Sisters of Charity, Inner North Community Foundation, Melbourne Airport, Colliers Charitable Fund and Bendigo Bank. Their support has helped us deliver programs that assist our diverse communities to develop employment skills and connect with their community.

The Committee and Linda have also focused this year on applying for additional grants, to support our financial position and our ability to keep delivering services long term. This reflects a systemic issue across our sector: base funding for neighbourhood houses does not cover the full cost of our programs, and houses like ours rely on grants and fee for service work to supplement our operating budget. We supported the sector's advocacy through the 2025/2026 Neighbourhood House Program campaign for increased funding and will continue to advocate for a more sustainable funding model.

I am pleased that Lisa Sammut has joined us as our new Executive Officer, bringing clear, considered leadership to the role. Patricia Penafiel and Imren Bayram have also stepped into important leadership roles this year, taking on responsibility for several key functions across the House. Imren joined us this year as our Community Development Program & Volunteer Coordinator and I thank them both. More broadly, I want to thank all our staff, including long-serving team members Meri Carnovale and Ruby Walker-Smith, for their resilience and their care for the House and our community in keeping things running through all this change.

Finally, thank you to the Committee of Management for their work throughout the year. Governing through a restructure, while continuing to meet the ongoing needs of the House, has asked a great deal of a group of volunteers, and I am grateful to each of them. This will also be my last year as Chair of Reynard Street Neighbourhood House. Reflecting on what we have achieved these past few years, and the people who made it possible, I feel privileged to have played a part. Thank you.



Dung Nguyen
Committee Chair

Reynard Street Neighbourhood House

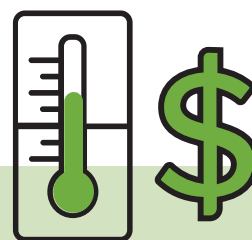
Who We Are:



We are an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation in Coburg. We aim to promote community wellbeing, reduce social isolation, and support and encourage an inclusive, empowered and resilient local neighbourhood.



Founded in 1988, Reynard Street Neighbourhood House is managed by a Committee of Management made up of local residents who have an interest in the community.



We receive funding from various sources including Merri-bek City Council and the Victorian Government. This funding assists us in the running of programs and activities.

What We Do:



We create a welcoming space that supports personal growth, wellbeing, and connected communities. We value inclusion and belonging, fostering development through community participation.



We work closely with our community, the NDIS, and other partners to deliver inclusive, impactful services. Together, we create opportunities and support that empower individuals and strengthen our community.



We provide accessible high-quality programs and services that reflect the diverse needs of our community — all designed to enrich lives, foster learning, and promote well-being.



We build community wellbeing and resilience through social activities, circular economy programs, education and training. By promoting sustainability, we empower people to adapt, thrive, and grow stronger together.

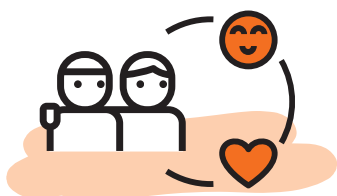
Our Impact

Real impact, real value

For every \$1 of income the community value equals to \$8.62

INCOME \$387,654 COMMUNITY VALUE \$1,231,116

This figure includes the value of:



Improved quality of life through social connection: **\$303,219**



Volunteer contributions: **\$326,091**



Emergency relief provided: **\$332,088**



Services provided: **\$131,524**



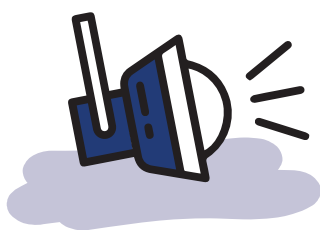
Adult community education: **\$129,053**



Social enterprise goods & services: **\$9,141**

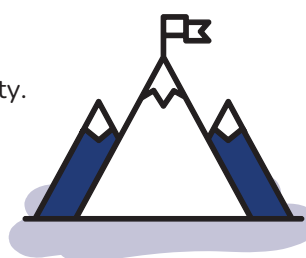
Emergency relief value includes: • Food and groceries: \$332,088 Services value includes: • Facilities use or hire: \$36,384 Computer/internet usage: \$480 • Community lunch, frozen or other meals: \$62,040 • Fee for service activities: \$32,620

Our Vision



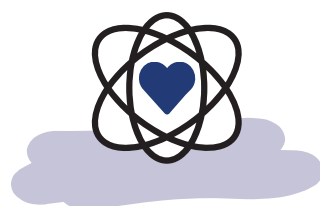
To be a vital hub for a happy, healthy, vibrant and inclusive Merri-bek community.

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.

Our Values



Our values underpin everything we do. In our work we aim for:

Authenticity: we bring our whole selves to work to connect with our community and colleagues and build trust.

Sustainability: a minimal ecological footprint, with an emphasis on innovation and continuous improvement.

Inclusion: we value diversity and recognise, respect and welcome all people equally.

Integrity: on an organisational and personal level we maintain high standards and our operations are honest, ethical and transparent.

Respect: for ourselves, each other and the natural environment, we act with care.

Community connectedness: engagement with the local service system and strong links with organisations and service providers to meet community needs.

Moments that shaped our year

At the start of the financial year, we were fortunate to collaborate with partners, hosting a number of events at Reynard Street Neighbourhood House. In July, we collaborated with The Uniting Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre to host a garden working bee and propagating workshop for participants that have newly arrived to Australia, which was followed by a wonderful Middle Eastern Feast from the Uniting staff and volunteers.



Continuing from previous years, we have hosted key days such as Wear it Purple Day, Are U OK? Day and had a full week of activities as part of Merri-Bek's Seniors Festival. These initiatives remain an integral part of connecting with the community and fostering an inclusive, supportive environment for all generations and backgrounds. By celebrating diversity, promoting mental health awareness, and honoring our older residents, these events ensure that everyone in our neighbourhood feels valued, seen, and connected.



A day in the garden with our friends at Uniting Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre



Along with house events, the Reynard Street team also branched into fundraising efforts - most notably through the Bunnings Fundraiser and Sausage Sizzle that occurred in August. Volunteers and supporters all put their BBQ aprons on and graciously donated their time to raise much-needed funds for the house. We were blessed with sunny weather and a wonderful turnout.

Thanks to your support (and many hungry visitors!), we sold over 1,200 sausages!

Venue Hire

This year, we have operated at 71% capacity during the weekends for workshops and events - that's nearly 40 weeks of events during the year*!

Our venue hire has catered for special events and family gatherings throughout the years. This fiscal year is no different, evidenced by the consistent strides in venue bookings which provide a significant revenue stream to the neighbourhood house.

We are proud to have collaborated with multiple community groups, external businesses and municipal/council partners. RSNH extends our gratitude to partnerships with notably Merri-bek City Council, Mind Australia, West Brunswick Community Garden, and Uniting Vic Tas. The house has been home to many workshops in 2025-2026, including Filiz Takar's Herbalist Workshops, Isabelle Ross' Ashtanga Yoga Programs, and the recently added Miso Making Workshop hosted by Mika Matsumoto!

Our venue continues to be a welcoming space where community members can access an intimate, local and environmentally friendly space to celebrate individual milestones, birthdays and days of importance.



“So many people commented on how awesome the venue is. Will definitely be back.”

“We had a fab party and the venue was excellent!”

“Thank you for a lovely time at Reynard House, we look forward to booking again soon.”

*Estimated across peak activity of 37 weeks for Saturday workshops and events. Calculated as 71% from 52 weeks of operation.

Community Development

Since joining RSNH in January, 2026, I have felt right at home amongst our community here in Coburg. Over this time, I've been assisting with volunteer development, marketing and programming across the service.

It's the commitment of staff and our dedicated team of volunteers that enables us to connect with and provide for people in a myriad of ways. I appreciate the contribution of all the facilitators who have provided their time and skills so generously, teaching and adapting along the way to meet people exactly where they're at.

As we re-imagine and shape a way forward, my key focus has been to raise greater awareness of the incredible work that takes place each and every day at the House. Through strengthening our online presence, diversifying programs, and listening to our community, we have recorded a steady increase in program and workshop engagement, both with existing and new participation.

There have been a broad range of opportunities for social inclusion and connection, creativity and play with the continuation of Playgroup, Exercise (cardio circuit and pilates), Cooking and Sewing classes. New programs including Art, along with Miso Making workshops have been extremely well received and repeatedly at full capacity.

In the 2026-2027 financial year, we look forward to growing our volunteer base, re-vitalising our ACFE programs, expanding our health & wellbeing programs and free social & educational activities. The team are committed to building stronger partnerships with our community and neighbouring networks to provide local residents with a range of opportunities to connect, grow and learn.

- Imren Bayram
Community Development and Program Coordinator

Artwork by Sheena Mathieson (2026)



Learning and Connecting: House Programs



146 participants
in programmed
activities per week

**In 2025-2026 we delivered
the following programs:**

Basic Computer skills	Pilates
Beginner and Intermediate English	Seeds of Change
Cardio circuit	Sewing for Everyone
Creative Cooking	Singing
Deep Ecology	Upcycling and Costume Making
Experimenting with Art	Urban Food Gardening
Friday Community Lunch	Walking Group
Growing Connections	Community Lunches:
Growing Together Gardening	Wednesday & Friday
Miso Making workshop	Playgroup: Wednesday & Thursday
Monday New Parents Group	Work readiness



Program Spotlight

Experimenting with Art

In January 2026 the visual arts program was revived, facilitated by local artist Sheena Mathieson. Together students enjoy building their creative skills and knowledge and having fun at the same time.



Student Testimonial

Experimenting with Art at Reynard Street Neighbourhood House is, as the name suggests, an opportunity to experiment, play, explore, let go, and not think too much about the outcome. It is a safe place for curiosity, connection, self-expression, being present, or simply being yourself.

I usually arrive feeling good because I know I'm going to leave feeling good. The class unlocks a part of me that I wish was around more often, a carefree part of me. It is my favourite part of the week.

Every class brings something new. We've had the opportunity to try so many different mediums and techniques; printing, drawing, watercolour, collage, clay, paint, just to name a few. All with an emphasis on using recycled materials. We're really lucky!

We're given the same materials and prompts, yet everyone creates something so unique. It's really magical - we each make it our own.

And somehow, there's still a sense of connection and community in the room. For two hours each week, we're simply there together, making and exploring.

Sheena is a big part of what makes the class feel so welcoming. She is always encouraging us to trust our instincts, not overthink, embrace imperfection, and allow happy accidents to happen. Of course, that's easier said than done. But when I do manage to let go, it feels really good.

And when Sheena says, "We are all artists," it feels healing. It feels like being given permission to be something you might not have believed you could be, simply because someone else believes that you are.

- Isabelle Hann
Experimenting With Art participant

Creative Cooking

Creative Cooking gives people the opportunity to come together and participate in creating a meal regardless of their skill level. All are welcome to chop, stir and sprinkle in this popular RSNH program!



Through our partnership with Open Table the group utilises food that is donated through SecondBite/Coles as well as some pantry staples to create sweet treats and savory meals from all types of cuisines. In 2025-2026, we have collaborated with multiple donors and collaborators to ensure the success and sustainability of our cooking program.

By introducing concepts of circular economy and commercial food supplies, the participants learn about food waste and its appropriate disposal, recycling, sustainable food practices, and being able to make a meal out of almost anything. Our programs are established with a core focus on empowering participants to develop their skills, and resourcefulness to create yummy, budget-friendly meals!



Our cooking participants, Margherita (L) and Josephine (R) harvesting warrigal greens from the garden.

Sewing for Everyone

Sewing continues to be a popular program for those that simply want to learn how to hem their pants, for those who have a great idea for a pair of pants and need support to see them come to fruition and for those who bought a sewing machine ten years ago and still haven't taken it out of the box!

The classes include people from different life stages all with the common goal of mastering a sewing machine. The relaxed space gives people the chance to chat, get to know each other, and support each other.

Initially, simple projects are suggested to help people become more confident sewers, however, more complex projects are facilitated. The sewing program at RSNH offers the chance for people to learn in a comfortable environment and really move through the course at their own pace.

- Ruby Walker-Smith
Kitchen Coordinator & Sewing Facilitator

Testimonials from our participants:

"This class has been so helpful in so many ways, Ruby is an amazing teacher. Very clear, friendly and helpful. The social aspect of the class is so helpful for my social and mental health, I feel grateful to be joining with other community members while learning a new skill. I hope there can be more funding for these opportunities in the future. 5/5 Stars!"

"Loving how relaxed and informative the class has been. Having the freedom to do our own custom thing, and learning (+ making mistakes!) together has been really fun. I would recommend."

"I'm absolutely loving this class! I'm learning so much each week and feeling more and more confident. I can't wait to attend each week. Ruby is an incredible teacher, always has time for questions and is so encouraging!"

"I look forward to Thursdays each week. Ruby is a great teacher and learnt a lot from class and she is very helpful."



Community Playgroups

The Reynard Street playgroup occurs twice a week on a Wednesday and Thursday morning. Through a variety of hands-on activities, children are encouraged to explore their creativity, develop new skills, and build confidence.

Children participate in painting and art activities that foster self-expression and imagination. Outdoor experiences, including digging in the garden and watering plants help children develop an appreciation for nature while enhancing their fine and gross motor skills. Music and dancing sessions are a highlight of the program, encouraging movement, coordination, and social interaction in a fun and inclusive setting.

A special event during the year was our Christmas celebration, where families came together to enjoy the festive season. Children were excited to meet Santa and each child received a book, promoting a love of reading and learning at home.



"My 20 month old grandson Louie loves going to playgroups and I enjoy seeing him have so much fun in a place where he feels safe and can explore many things."

-Andrew, Wednesday Playgroup



One of the playgroup's greatest achievements has been strengthening connections within our community. Parents, grandparents, and carers have formed meaningful friendships and support networks, creating a sense of belonging. Through shared experiences, families have been able to connect, exchange ideas, and support one another in their parenting journey.

The positive relationships developed between children, parents, grandparents, carers, and staff have contributed to a strong and inclusive community atmosphere. They love our Community Cafe and chatting with our volunteer barista while buying coffees and sweets and other goodies.

We are proud of the friendships formed, the skills developed, and the sense of support that continues to grow within our playgroup. We look forward to building on these successes and providing further opportunities for children and families in the coming year.

- Meri Carnovale
Playgroup Coordinator

The range and quality of experiential activities are particularly commendable. From sensory play to creative arts and group interactions, each session is clearly planned with care and an understanding of child development. This playgroup is not just beneficial—it is essential for nurturing both children and the families who support them. We look forward to the continuation and strengthening of our playgroup going forward.

-Mona, Thursday Playgroup



Playgroup Testimonial

I just wanted to send through my testimonial for how important the playgroup at RSNH has been for me and my family over the past 5 years. I feel that playgroups in general are such a wonderful way for parents, particularly new parents, to connect with other local families and learn from shared experiences.

At Reynard street I found a safe and inclusive place to learn about motherhood as well as providing a stimulating environment for my daughters to grow and learn with children around the same age. I also made connections with local families which still continue and have helped my eldest daughter in her transition to primary school.

The sessions we go to are always very well organised and it is clear thought has been put into making sure the children have a wide range of activities to participate in, which are different every week.

In such a busy time and place of life it is so helpful to my personal wellbeing (and I am sure that of others also) to have a place we can go where we know we are accepted and can connect socially and emotionally but in a relaxed and low pressure environment. Even with an increase to funding for three-year-old kinder happening, playgroup is so important for so many families to have as an option on days when they are looking for a fun and relaxed activity to do together.”

- Sophie Jones
Playgroup Parent

Flourishing Spaces

A key focus for this financial year was to transition the Reynard Street nursery into a thriving social enterprise model. We welcomed a new garden coordinator, Jemma Stefanou, to develop the garden and give it much-needed TLC.

Through Jemma's care and initiatives to reinvigorate the space, the financial year ended with a noticeable increase in plant production and the successful launch of our community plant sales. Under their guidance and with the support of our grants program, the nursery has transformed into a vibrant hub that blends environmental sustainability with social impact. For our Seeds of Change participants, they had a chance to put their learning into practice through our Work Integrated Module. Participants were involved in the end-to-end process of growing our nursery seedlings, packaging products ready for sale.

We continue to work in collaboration and support the important work of Deep Ecology, Community Food swap, Coburg composters & members of the West Brunswick Community garden facilitated by long-term supporters of the service.



Harvest Festival

Such efforts culminated in the Harvest Festival in March 2026 that took place in our Community Garden located in Robinson's Reserve. We partnered with local community groups and our Grant Program participants, hosting an array of workshops, sustainable craft activities and demonstrations. The event not only raised funds for the garden but also created an opportunity to connect with the local community, serving as a valuable temperature check on public interest regarding climate and local issues. By engaging directly with attendees, we gained deep insights into how our community wants to tackle environmental sustainability at a grassroots level.

The Harvest Festival provided opportunities to integrate our Community Cafe within our Social Enterprise programs, giving participants tangible work experience serving customers and connecting with RSNH visitors. This integration is especially important to Reynard Street Neighbourhood House's strategic goal of creating a closed loop between growing and consuming while raising awareness on environmental sustainability.



Harvest Festival 2026



Skills Training

22 | Reppard Street Neighbourhood House

A Place to Gather



Our year at a glance:
This year, we have served 580 sweet treats
and sold over 870 coffee cups here at
Reynard Street Cafe!

The 2025-2026 period allowed a chance of reflection and renewal for the Reynard Street Community Cafe team. Under the care of our core cafe volunteers Mika, Denise, Dianne and Nagi, the cafe has remained a steady source of connection for participants and the broader community. Behind the scenes, the team has reinvigorated the space and operations to include a seasonal, rotating menu of snacks and baked goods!

A key focus this year was continuing to cultivate our relationship with our participants and volunteers by improving our mentoring pathways through a community development lens.

Throughout the 2025-2026 financial year, we have proudly:

- Provided 3 employment opportunities within the organisation through our skills programs and volunteering initiatives.
- Established multiple hospitality workshops as part of the Growing Connections employment skills program.
- Hosted our annual barista workshop for local community members and school leavers.

It has been wonderful to see the Community Cafe as both a place of connection, and opportunity to develop pre-employment skills. It has reinforced that the cafe is a vital resource that empowers and strengthens our community.

Patricia Penafiel
Administration Officer/Community Cafe
and Venue Coordinator



Seeds of Change: Aims and Objectives

In 2026, we were fortunate to receive external funding to deliver horticulture and hospitality programs for women and non-binary people, enabling the provision of programming, workshops and events that truly compliment our existing assets. In March, we hosted the Harvest festival alongside many volunteers and community organisations to showcase sustainable and slow living. We've since developed and delivered Growing Connections and Seeds of Change to provide hands-on education & training in our garden and commercial kitchen for participants looking to create and diversify their career pathways.



We thank our funders Colliers Charitable Fund, Inner North Community Foundation and Sisters of Charity for their generous contribution to the Seeds of Change program.



Seeds of Change participant, Samra spoke of her experience in the program:

"Being in the garden feels like the most grounding way to start the week. With soft breezes, sounds of birds and a collective and communal interest in plants, I have a chance to be immersed in my immediate environment in an intentional and nourishing way. From looking at plants, observing them with help from Jemma, understanding their life cycle and contributing to it by harvesting and organising the seeds in anticipation of sowing them, is exciting."

Growing Connections: Aims and Objectives

The latest Growing Connections group is composed of participants that have had previous connections to the house, as well as some new faces and people that have rejoined the second group as they were unable to complete the previous program. With the addition of food safe handling training and a certificate of completion from in-house barista workshops, it is great to see how the program builds the participants' individual confidence and strengthens their teamwork. The program equips people with decision making skills such as meal preparation, menu development, creating a budget, shopping economically and hospitality service through our weekly community lunch. Through practice and volunteering opportunities at RSNH, it is our hope that the participants continue to gain confidence and skills.

Collier
Charitable
Fund

MELBOURNE AIRPORT

Our sincere thanks go to the Colliers Charitable Fund and Melbourne Airport for their vital contribution to the Growing Connections program.

Some words from our Growing Connections group:

"We've had a very good experience from the Reynard Street Neighbourhood House. Learning the skills of how to make coffee and also brighten our mind of how to handle food and contamination. It was a great opportunity to learn all those skills as in food safety, hygiene, etc. It was a great opportunity to build our confidence. And most of all, RSNH has a vibrant environment and staff are very helpful and friendly. We really appreciate their support - encouraging us to keep coming back to learn more."



Committee Chair, Dung Nguyen with INCF '25 grant recipients.



Nourishing our Neighbourhood



We provided over 8,220 kgs of food relief in 2025

Food Relief Program Update

The previous twelve months has provided staff with the opportunity to review and evaluate our Community Food Relief program. In partnership with the Department of Justice and Community Services, a free weekly community lunch has been provided on a Friday up until the end of 2025. Our popular Wednesday pop-up market also ceased during this time due to funding and resource constraints, mirroring the economic hardships of the era and the public's growing need for food assistance.

After many years of dedicated support from partners and volunteers, our emergency food relief programs were determined to be unsustainable, because of high demand as a result of increasing levels of inequality and structural disadvantage. In addition, our emergency food relief services, distracted the organisation from providing community development activities and programs which aim to empower individuals to reach their personal potential.



Community Lunch

As part of re-focusing our service delivery model to align with creating community connections, it was decided to concentrate our resources on enhancing a community lunch experience that enabled participants to enjoy a dining room setting, where conversations and friendships can be shared.



Our weekly Community lunch on a Wednesday continues to provide a nourishing two course home cooked meal, prepared by our volunteer team. The lunch utilises rescued food from Open Table and Coles in Coburg, providing a space for a diverse range of local residents to socialise and connect. Our Community lunch continues to grow in popularity and provides a safe and welcoming environment for people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and demographics.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

At RSNH, we're fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers who are the backbone of our service. Across kitchen, garden, office and maintenance we have had 30 volunteers and supporters assisting in day to day activities, working bees and events across the year. Some of our volunteers have been with us for over 10 years and many hold a meaningful sense of connection to the House and to each other.



Carol Gray, Facilities Volunteer



(L-R): Volunteers Phillip Ridi, Froso Siatos, and Mandy Dubrich

Some of our volunteers also took part in First Aid and CPR training to further their capacity and skills. Mika, our cafe volunteer, has also gained paid work opportunities at RSNH, facilitating a Miso Making workshop which was at full capacity and very well received.

This is a great outcome for Mika and a wonderful way to recognise the developing skills available amongst our volunteers. We hope to focus on this further in the near future with the development of a structured mentoring program and social enterprise across both the kitchen and cafe.



We are profoundly grateful to our RSNH volunteers, whose immense generosity reminds us every day of what it truly means to build a community.



Thank you to staff, volunteers and supporters

Administration

Andelys Jolley
Leon Everett

Annual Report Artwork

Isabelle Hann (cover)
Sheena Mathieson

Community Cafe

Denise McLachlan
Dianne Liquorish
Helen Oliverio
Mika Matsumoto
Stephen Cox

Community Garden & Environment

Edwina Crawford
Elham Shirani
Emiko Pelaggi
Gianni Grigoletto
Jonathan Eastman
Liz Morrigan
Maggie Cowling
Matthew Boland
Paige Jansen
Pauline Galvin
Simon Eastman
Stasia Dowling

Community Kitchen

Carol Gray
Denise McLachlan
Froso Siatos
Helen Oliverio

Community Kitchen

Mandy Dubrich
Nagi Matsumoto
Rosemary Southgate
Teigan McLean

Committee of Management

Caz Henwood
Derya Siva
Dung Nguyen
Frances Martin
Ilona Nicola
Mary Campbell
Matthew Gourley

Facility Maintenance

Carol Gray
Michael Reily

Marketing

Mika Matsumoto

Facility maintenance / IT

Ian Williams

Transport / Food Relief

Duncan Cole
Phillip Ridi

Walking Group

Ian Gibson
Helen Oliverio
Peter Medforth

Singing Class

Asheigh Dixon

Student on Placement

Nusreta Redzovic



Staff



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Executive Officer

HONOURING PAST LEADERSHIP

Linda Perugini
Nathacha Subero



ALFINA ASTUTSO
Bookkeeper



IMREN BAYRAM
Community Development
and Programs Coordinator



JEMMA STEFANO
Garden Coordinator



MERI CARNOVALE
Playgroup Coordinator



PATRICIA PENAFIEL
Administration Officer



RUBY WALKER-SMITH
Kitchen Coordinator

TUTORS/FACILITATORS

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Luke Maselli
Meri Carnovale

Ruby Walker-Smith
Sheena Mathieson
Sue Broumos

Key Funders

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Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR)
Merri-bek City Council

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