



Annual Report 2019



GREENHILLS
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE

PLAY/LEARN/BELONG



Contents

President's Report
Coordinator's Report
Our Team
Board Members
Childcare Report
Activities
Courses and Activities - Our community
Partnerships
Financials
Treasurer's Report
Auditor's Report



President's Report

April 2020



Welcome to another year at Greenhills Neighbourhood House!

We have had a very productive and full-on year in 2019, and are looking to continue our progress into 2020.

Our goal as a committee is to ensure participation within the community and to make sure we are constantly updating our programs to suit the current needs of the house.

Last year, we were looking to solidify our existing programs after refining what we offer the previous year. In doing these, we increased our sustainability programs, strengthened our relationship with the Diamond Valley Lions, increased volunteer engagement and our Second Bite delivery... just to name a few!

A huge part of our house is obviously the childcare center, which took a lot of our attention last year to get it on par with other childcare facilities. This included introducing a 'Child Care Subsidy' program, which was a major change for our parents and staff, however after rolling the program out, it has turned out to be worth all the extra work. Greenhills is receiving more funding from the government while childcare is now more affordable to families. We also introduced a new staff member to the childcare program, Karen.

As a house, we created partnerships with IDV (disability services) and St John Accord to help further our programs and abilities to offer services to the community.

Our function room also saw a makeover, with new floors put in and a beautiful mural painted on the wall (thanks Chloe and Libby!)

In 2019, we saw some of our familiar faces leave, such as our Co-ordinator Anna, our administrative assistant Chloe and two of our committee members: Libby and Austin (President). We wish them luck in the future and would like to thank them all for their tireless effort that they gave to Greenhills. In saying this, we would like to extend our warmest welcome to our new coordinator Janelle, and two new committee members: Chris and Roberta. We hope you feel at home at Greenhills and enjoy your time here.

I personally hope we have a great year at Greenhills and continue fulfilling our role as an asset to the community, as well as providing services and activities that everyone can enjoy.

Thank you,
Rose.



Coordinator's Report

April 2020

Greenhills Neighbourhood House is one of the 400 strong members of the Neighbourhood House Network In Victoria, seven of these operate in the Banyule area.

2019 has been a highly eventful year for the house. I am very grateful for all the hard work and innovative projects initiated and established by our former coordinator Anna and Chloe. The house was steered by a great committee in 2019, weathering many storms and putting us in a great position for 2020.

People: Greenhills Neighbourhood House is passionate about people! The team want to encourage community to come to Greenhills and find a sense of belonging, whether that is through doing a class to improve your health, learning something new, or your child experiencing new friendships and activities through our occasional child care. We respond to community need, so it is not unusual for us to change direction if our community wants us to. We want to create an environment where people are welcomed, safe, supported and empowered. This year we have continued to build on our social inclusion programs, as well as providing food assistance through our Second Bite program & having a very successful sustainability program.

Participation: At Greenhills we have continued to have a focus on building social inclusion in family support, mental health, wellbeing and food security. This year we focused on educating ourselves and our community on homelessness and Family Violence. We connected with emergency relief and like-minded NGO's to support community members with mental health and financial relief. We offered opportunities to community members with disabilities through barista training, mosaic class and body movement classes at no fee.

Planet: This year we focused more on sustainability in our Neighbourhood House, providing courses and classes on how to care for our planet. This year we have seen participation in the sustainability space through our Boomerang Bag sewing group, Plastic Free July workshops, Roving Refills, refreshing the veggie boxes and through offering rescued food weekly through Second Bite. We estimate that through second bite we are distributing around \$300 of food per week to local community members. We have also introduced the very popular bread tags and milk lids collections for wheelchairs and prosthetics. GNH also organised and staffed a recycled 'clothes swap' through the Banyule Youth fair.

Place: We have achieved amazing results this year in raising the Greenhills Neighbourhood House profile. Our social media presence has dramatically been increased – leading to many new faces attending the house. We have increased signage at the house and attended open days, Bunnings workshops, Library events and even had our first Bunnings sausage sizzle. We co-hosted a Trivia night and have made every effort to promote our name out there in the community.

Performance: Greenhills has a professional and dedicated team. We aim to deliver high service, but always have people as our focus. This year we were proud to be successful in attaining CCS for our Occasional Care. This was a rigorous process and we were one of the first Neighbourhood Houses to be successful. This means that our children attend the childcare at a cost determined by Centrelink – making it much more affordable for our community. We were successful in attaining 3 grants this calendar year and these have now been expended – mainly focusing on improving the Green Room.

Our Team

A close-up photograph of a plant with thin, green, needle-like leaves and numerous small, yellow, fluffy flowers. The flowers are arranged in clusters along the branches. The background is blurred, showing more of the same plant.

Office Staff

Anna – Coordinator
2019

Janelle - Coordinator
2019/20

Sarah - Admin

Janet - Book keeper

Childcare Staff and Volunteers

Elaine

Kristen

Natalie

Karen

Belinda

Bev

Maryanne

Meredith

Board Members

Rose Zurucky, Chairperson

My name is Rose and I am a digital content producer at the Carlton Football Club. I have been on the committee at Greenhills for three years and especially enjoy taking photos of all the programs and events that the house provides. I am currently in my last semester of my Media and Communications Bachelor at Swinburne Online. In my spare time, I like reading and watching footy and basketball, so please feel free to chat to me about that... and cats.

Dee Cooper, Vice President

My name is Dee and my first encounter with the house was in 2017, when I was looking into Occasional cares for my toddler. I became a committee member in March 2019. I love the community involvement and being able to make a difference. When I'm not running around after my 3 year old, I enjoy reading, gardening, and all things home design.

Sue Mooney, Secretary

Hi my name is Sue and over three years ago I discovered Greenhills Neighbourhood House stand at the Diamond Valley Library's International Woman's Day event.

I was encouraged to come along to meet some new people, learn some new skills and just drop in. It had been a fun and rewarding relationship. I have certainly met some wonderful people, learned many new skills and often just drop in. I found it to be such a welcoming and fun place to be a part of that I joined the Committee and have enjoyed that as well. So glad I just dropped in all those years ago.

Ros Demetrios, Treasurer

Hi there, my name is Ros and I am currently the Treasurer at GNH. I have been on the committee for 2 years and I first attended the centre through the Horticulture Course in 2017. I now attend Tai Chi and have made some fabulous friends through the course – it has been great physically and emotionally



for me. In my spare time I love to do mosaicing, glass work and general creative activities. I love being part of the GNH team and look forward too many more years collaborating and helping the community.

Bev Landy

I have been connected to GNH for about 34 years and am still with the same yoga teacher from that time. I have done several other classes over the years, eventually realising that I should give something back for all the fun I have had, and wisdom I have achieved. So about 10 years ago I joined the committee, and decided to volunteer in the childcare room too, having a background in childcare. Currently, my time is filled with classes, volunteering, travel and grandparent duties.

Roberta D'Antonio

I'm a mother of two young toddlers. My son is part of the occasional care program and I wanted a way to contribute to the wider Greenhills team so I joined the committee in 2019. I have a background in marketing and events, mostly in the not the profit sector so I'm hoping my skills can be useful to the committee. I love to cook and I'm looking forward to getting back into my jigsaw puzzle hobby when I have more time.

Chris Pattison

I have lived locally in Briar Hill for over 20 years, but only recently discovered Greenhills Neighbourhood Centre. I've worked in education in various capacities, but mainly as a teacher and student counsellor. Such work involved working in various teams particularly those focused on the well-being of students and staff. On a visit to China, I discovered Tai Chi. Thus the initial link to GHC where I first met Agnes, GHC's patient and competent Tai Chi instructor.

Childcare Report

2019

Greenhills Occasional Care offers a supported and Inclusive program for children aged 6 months to 5 years through our session week 9am – 1pm., Monday to Friday.

Our program planning is on a fortnightly basis. It aims to cover the major areas of development for early childhood: fine motor, gross motor, cognitive, sensory and social and emotional needs.

This year we moved to providing care in 4 hour morning sessions 5 days a week, remaining flexible within the session to suit our family's needs.

Term two we embarked on the process of registering for the Child Care Subsidy, once this was in place, we saw an increase in our numbers with full groups by term 3 until the year end.

We believe in working closely with our families aiming to provide a smooth transition coming into our care, ensuring a personal welcome for each child and time for parents/carers to discuss any issues or concerns.

Many of our staff undertook Auslan training this year (we had a deaf child with us 3 days a week) and this was a great new skill to learn and to pass on to our children in care. We even signed a Christmas song together at the end of the year.

Our staff, Kristen, Belinda and Natalie offer patience and understanding to aid children's development and integration within the groups, as well as being involved in activity ideas to interest and challenge the children.

Mary Anne and Bev have continued donating their time volunteering in occasional care, their assistance is greatly appreciated by staff, children and families. Thank you both for your commitment.

2019 ended with our sing-along celebration and a farewell to Kristen, who after 9 years, said a sad goodbye to Greenhill's to seek a new challenge. We wish her good luck and happiness.

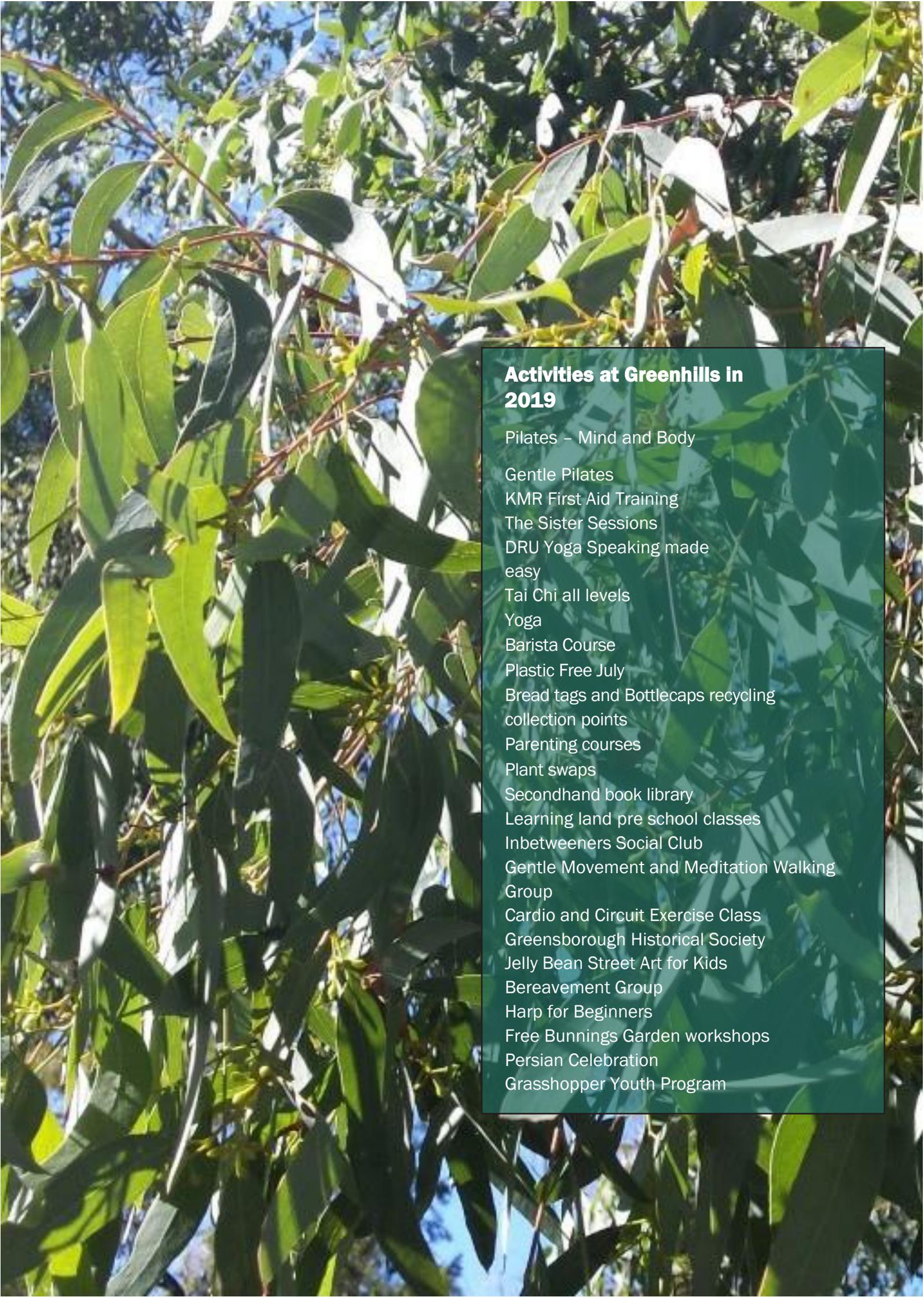
Elaine
Childcare Coordinator



Sending my son to occasional care has been fantastic. His vocabulary has increased, and he comes home with so many stories to tell, always talking about the other children. The staff are great with him and have taught him so much with singing, playing and reading books and in the process, I get ideas of what I can do at home with him too.

Roberta





Activities at Greenhills in 2019

Pilates – Mind and Body

Gentle Pilates

KMR First Aid Training

The Sister Sessions

DRU Yoga Speaking made easy

Tai Chi all levels

Yoga

Barista Course

Plastic Free July

Bread tags and Bottlecaps recycling collection points

Parenting courses

Plant swaps

Secondhand book library

Learning land pre school classes

Inbetweeners Social Club

Gentle Movement and Meditation Walking Group

Cardio and Circuit Exercise Class

Greensborough Historical Society

Jelly Bean Street Art for Kids

Bereavement Group

Harp for Beginners

Free Bunnings Garden workshops

Persian Celebration

Grasshopper Youth Program

Courses and Activities

Our Community

Tai Chi participant:

Firstly, I would like to say what a delight it is to be greeted by the lovely Sarah each morning we arrive for Tai Chi. Always bright and happy and nothing is ever a problem. Our class is an enjoyable event with Agnes, who is a patient and talented instructor. Not to mention a lovely lady. The class is informal and friendly, we always have a fun time and mistakes are always laughed about and cheerfully corrected. Agnes never hesitates to go over and over something we find difficult to master. Loving every minute of the class.

Wendy Jones

Boomerang Bag volunteer:

I love the way things fall into place at Greenhills. You discover it by chance, you attend a class or activity. You are immediately welcomed by staff and community alike. You feel their kindness, discover shared interests, and connect in a way that is so rare these days. You start to look at what else is happening around the house. Partly because there is always something interesting going on, but mostly because you want to come back. I love to spend time in this place with these wonderful people, where connection and community are always at the forefront.

Hannah

Party Hirer:

We had our son's birthday at GNH and couldn't recommend the venue more highly. The staff were so helpful and the facilities excellent. Perfect for all weather – with indoor and covered outdoor use as well as the playground which the kids loved. The kitchen is very well appointed which made catering a breeze. We will definitely be having future parties here, it was terrific! The day was an absolute success and everyone enjoyed the space.

Kate McGrath

Pilates participant:

I have been visiting Greenhills Neighbourhood House for several years. Since my retirement, I have had the flexibility and freedom to sample many of their different and engaging classes. Situated at the edge of the Andrew Yandell Reserve, it is a calm and peaceful Centre. The friendly and cheerful staff, no matter how busy, are always ready with a cheerful word and encouragement. The wide range of community innovations that are trialled make the Centre a focal point in the area.

I particularly enjoy attending courses at the Centre, the interaction, friendship and camaraderie with fellow class attendees and highly skilled instructors are an added bonus.

Sylvia Barnes



Partnerships

Diamond Valley Lions

The year 2019 saw us cement our partnership with DV Lions. A great community support organisation we worked with the Lions on fairs, boomerang bags and displays but additionally we gratefully received donations of a new fridge, money towards branding our boomerang bags and new sewing machines and materials. We are so grateful for their ongoing support and intend to foster this friendship into the future.

IDV Macleod

We have really enjoyed working with this disability provider to engage local young adults with disabilities to volunteer at the house. Our beautiful mosaic piece was a very enjoyable weekly project and now they volunteer with us in the garden and with odd jobs. Tony and his crew bring great joy to the centre and we are continuing to offer opportunities including working with our new coffee cart.

Bunnings

We have a long history with Bunnings in supporting our community work – especially around sustainability and workshops. In exchange we attend and provide workshops at their event days – like Mothers Day and Launch days. This year we had help replanting the garden beds, running women's workshops and holding a Bunnings BBQ to raise funds.



Financials



Treasurer's Report

For the year ended Dec 31, 2019

Financially the Neighbourhood House has managed to have a successful year with only \$3956 deficit.

Childcare income increased from last year (\$17283). This was mainly due to the implementation of the Child Care Subsidy for all our families who were eligible during Terms 3 and 4. This allowed them to pay only a portion of the fees on invoice with the remainder being paid directly into our bank account by Centrelink.

Our course income also increased from last year (\$2492). This was mainly due to increased participation in Pilates and Tai Chi.

Although there was a reduction in regular groups using the Centre the party hire income received kept the Use of Centre Income similar to last year.

The main reasons for the increase in Salaries and Wages was because of payout on termination of staff and a transitional stage while our new Co-Ordinator, Janelle Dunstan took over totally in that role.

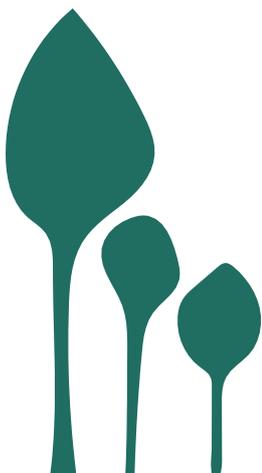
There were a lot of governance compliances while applying for the Child Care Subsidy which contributed to an increase from last year in the childcare expenses. The increase in subscriptions was due to a subscription to Xplor for the management of the Child Care Subsidy.

An increase in fundraising efforts with a Trivia auction night and Bunnings cake & sausage stall focused on raising extra funds for childcare allowed some extra equipment and supplies to be purchased.

A grant from Banyule City Council allowed the construction of a much needed ramp in our Green Room in November. There were two further grants from Council which have been carried over to next year to be expended and the yearly grant helps out immensely with our running costs. We thank them and DHHS for their funding for the year and their continued support.

Treasurer Ros Demetrios

Bookkeeper Janet Kenrick





“I always feel that everyone is made to feel welcomed and accepted just the way they are at Greenhills Neighbourhood House.”

Jane

Walking group participant



Greenhills Neighbourhood House

Community Drive, Greensborough 3088

Phone: 9435 9287

Email: coordinator@ghnh.org.au

Website: ghnh.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/greenhillshh

Instagram: [greenhills_neighbourhood_house](https://instagram.com/greenhills_neighbourhood_house)

Office Hours

Mon – Thursday

9am - 3.00pm

ABN: 77506593314

Inc no: A 1002

We wish to thank the following businesses, organisations and individuals for their support throughout the year:

- Banyule City Council
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Men's Shed Diamond Creek
- Diamond Valley Lions Club
- Diamond Valley Community Support
- Bunnings Eltham & Thomastown
- Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres (ANHLC)
- Julie Johnson - North East Neighbourhood House Network (NENHN)
- Karen Taylor (Banyule City Council)
- Mission Australia



**GREENHILLS
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**

PLAY/LEARN/BELONG

