

*Linking
Engaging
Celebrating*

*The heart
of our
community*



EASTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Annual Report 2012 - 2013

Eastwood Community Centre Inc.
95 Glen Osmond Road
Eastwood SA 5063
Ph: (80) 8373 2225
Fax: (08) 8373 3334
Email: eastwood@eastwood.asn.au
www.eastwood.asn.au

About Eastwood Community Centre

Linking ... Engaging ... Celebrating

Eastwood Community Centre is a hub of community activities for local (and sometimes not so local) residents. The Centre hosts art, craft, leisure, personal development courses, and community groups and organisations, and works closely with residents, council, and local schools to meet the needs of the community.

The Centre is a non-profit organization which provides a chance for community members to meet people in their local area, make new friends in an environment that is welcoming and non-threatening, get helpful information, learn new skills, and develop networks of support and care that extend beyond the walls of the Centre and contribute to the well-being of the community. Community development is a strong focus.

The Centre services residents in the suburbs of Eastwood, Glenside, Frewville, Parkside and Unley. However, there is no typical user of the Centre – community groups, special needs groups and people looking to learn new skills or engage in social activities are among those who use our facilities.

Our Mission

Eastwood Community Centre initiates, promotes and supports community-oriented actions, programs and projects that establish, strengthen and develop social networks and support systems that encourage self-reliance in the community, primarily for the residents of the Unley and Burnside Councils; and for groups and individuals wishing to use the Centre's resources. We provide an attractive, well-provisioned, well-staffed venue responsive to changing community needs and perceptions, and the social, economic and political environment.

Our Objectives

- To be a hub for the Community through the provision of a venue for meeting on a casual, social, recreational, and/or educational basis, and to be a source of community information;
- To offer a range of social, recreational and educational programs to members of the Community;
- To identify disadvantaged groups and to facilitate access and participation in programs to suit their needs;
- To foster links and interaction between members of the community;
- To foster programs which encourage self-reliance and self-help among members of the community;
- To encourage a high level of volunteer involvement and participation at the Centre.

Governance

Planning ... Building ... Sustaining

Eastwood Community Centre Inc. is managed by a community-based Management Committee who are elected at the Annual General Meeting to manage the affairs of the Centre. The Committee's responsibilities are to approve and develop the Centre's strategic framework, ensure financial viability and compliance with legislation including obligations such as taxation, workcover, insurance, risk management and the meeting of contractual and service obligations. The Centre's Management Committee is made up of local residents and dedicated professionals who volunteer their time and expertise.

Management Committee

Name	Position
John Mercer	Chairperson and Public Officer
Hayden Edwards	Treasurer
Jenny Warncken	Vice Chairperson
Allison Byrne	Secretary (ex-officio)/ Community Development Co-ordinator
Christine Meldrum	Staff Representative
Di Wilkins	Councillor for Eastwood and Glenunga Ward, City of Burnside
Helga Lemon	Councillor for Eastwood and Glenunga Ward, City of Burnside
Mike Hudson	Councillor for Parkside Ward, City of Unley
Jim Jacobsen	Community Member
Tony McDonald	Community Member
Janette Tilsner	Community Member
Philip Kitto	Community Member
Bec Paor	Community Member
Katherine Taylor	Community Member

Staff

Allison Byrne	Community Development Co-ordinator (0.8 FTE)
Chris Meldrum	Office Administration (0.4 FTE)
Viv Coburn	Office administration (0.3 FTE)
Pauline Heather	Office administration (0.2 FTE)
Susan Taylor	'Step Out' Program Facilitator, (funded by City of Unley)
Valerie Lynch	Tutor, English Language and Literacy (funded by DFEEST)
Christine Maher	Tutor, Computing courses (funded by DFEEST)

Co-ordinator's Report

Another year has passed at a whirlwind rate presenting a number of highlights and challenges. Eastwood Community Centre programs and services have continued without interruption for centre participants which demonstrates the Centre's resilience in a general climate of uncertainty across the community sector regarding government funding. The Centre continued this year to be an active hub that this year saw an increase of 8 additional regular community activities, bringing the overall total to 52 regular community activities available to the community.

This year the Centre further developed programs funded by the Department for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) through offering computing classes at both beginners and intermediate levels to give people a pathway for further developing their computing skills which proved most popular in the first Term of 2013. The short gardening courses were also highly successful with excellent retention rates and community working bees at the end of each course. Good knowledge and hands-on skills development was passed onto our garden volunteers and local residents. The cooking and photography activities for people with acquired brain injury that are delivered in partnership with Uniting Communities North East Networks continue to be well-received. Their adventurous photography trip to Mount Gambier is testament to their growth in confidence. The cooking classes also aid the interaction between other groups and volunteers at the centre when there is delicious cooked food for sharing.

The **South Australian Living Artists festival** was once again a highlight of the centre's events in giving people with disabilities the opportunity to showcase their bold and colourful artworks. The 'Dizzy' exhibition won the Special Artists Award for the second year running. I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Hans Kreiner in assisting the artists develop their work and in organising all aspects of the exhibition.

The ever popular **Eastwood Community Centre Christmas Party** was held on the third Wednesday evening of December. This year approximately 200 people enjoyed the barbecue and live music entertainment. And yes, there was also some dancing.

This period we said goodbye to Susan Taylor, who for 7 years facilitated our 'Step Out' program for clients of Supported Residential Facilities. We also said goodbye to Christine Maher as our contract with DFEEST came to an end for her tutoring of the computing classes.

Joining us for 6 months was Su Ningsih, a Masters of Social Work student on placement who gathered valuable data about the demographics and numbers of people who regularly participate in activities at the Centre. Data collection was a priority in this time period in order to inform the Centre's application for further funding from the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI).

Another priority was the Centre's audit for certification of the Australian Service Excellence Standards, which saw extensive behind-the-scenes development of systems to underpin the Centre's operations and inform its continuous improvement. This certification will place the Centre in a strong position for negotiating future funding of our services.

In conclusion I would like to thank Centre donors and funders (listed under Partnerships), volunteers and Management Committee for their support, enthusiasm and commitment to Eastwood Community Centre.

Allison Byrne
Community Development Co-ordinator

Volunteers

Involvement ... Participation ... Commitment

Volunteers are the backbone of our organisation. Their untiring work can be seen in office administration and reception, in Mairi's Garden, in the Management Committee, driving the Eastwood community bus, running programs and helping at events.

National Volunteer Week is a great opportunity to recognise, reward and celebrate our volunteers. During this special week ECC works in partnership with the City of Burnside to award volunteers for milestone achievements in years of service, and all volunteers are celebrated with afternoon tea at the Awards Ceremony for outstanding years of service.

Our volunteer management practices are underpinned by the National Standards for Involving Volunteers in Not For Profit Organisations and we are mindful of them at all times. In line with this, volunteers are inducted and trained when they join our organisation, and in accordance with State Government policy, undergo a police check. This year 4 new volunteers underwent this registration process.

Eastwood Community Centre gains much through the involvement of volunteers and they are similarly rewarded through being actively involved in their community, developing their skills, and building friendships.

We thank each of our volunteers for their contribution:

Phyl Skinner, Coral Raymond, Margaret Nicholls, Ron Glasson, Chris Lewis, Gwenda McCoy, Terry Castle, Jill Crosby, Dorothy Sinclair, Barbara and George Rogers, Kate Stock, Jeanette Burgess, Val Lynch, Rosemary Allen, Stewart Percival, Franco Princi, Emily Hutchinson, Dulip Gamage, Wole Oginni, Chris Meldrum, Viv Coburn, Pauline Heather and the members of the Management Committee (listed under Governance).

We pay a special farewell to Alan Swan, who has volunteered for over 15 years at the Centre and has retired this year to look after his health. Alan is pictured below, in the centre of the right-hand photograph.



Partnerships with Our Community

Partnering Innovating Growing

Our unique and innovative funding arrangements ensure we can deliver quality services and programs to remain the hub of our community. We partner with service clubs, government and non-government organisations and foster relationships with valued sponsors.

Local & State Government Partners

Our most significant government funding partner is the City of Burnside, with whom the Centre works diligently to serve Burnside residents and to support the Council achieve its goals wherever possible. Eastwood Community Centre is a vital contributor to the City of Burnside's community services.

The City of Unley and the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion also provide funding for the Centre's operations. The Department for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology is also acknowledged for their continued support of Adult Community Education activities.

Lions Club of Glenside

We partner with the Lions Club of Glenside, which has representation on our Management Committee. The club also supports individual projects which seek to assist the most disadvantaged people in our community. Eastwood Community centre provides in-kind support to the Glenside Lions by provision of a venue for social barbecues and administration of painting drop-offs and collections for their annual fundraising art show.

Glen Osmond Road Precinct Association (GORPA)

As one of the businesses on Glen Osmond Road, the Centre advances relationships with neighbouring businesses, schools, councils, and residents through its involvement in GORPA. This year the ECC Co-ordinator continued to be an active member of the committee managing the Association. GORPA aims to inform and encourage local growth through communication, design and amenity of the area, and strengthening the profile of Glen Osmond Road as a successful main street.

In 2012 – 2013 the Association improved its profile via the staging of networking events for Glen Osmond Road businesses and moving ahead with streetscape plantings for improved amenity of the road.

Sponsorship

In 2012 – 2013 the following organisations have made generous donations and we thank each of the following sponsors for their contributions:

- Bank SA Parkside branch, Coopers Brewery, Cappel Bros. Seafood, The Octopus Garden and Foodland Frewville provide donations for our annual Christmas party
- Botanica Medica and Glandore Community Garden have donated soil and seedling supplies for community activities in Mairi's Garden.

The Hub of Our Community

Linking Collaborating Supporting

Our programs are designed to meet the diverse needs of our community, and range from self-help and support for people with specific needs to adult education programs and social activities. Eastwood Community Centre often sponsors groups by identifying and accessing the funding required to meet a recognised need or by subsidising use of the Centre. Other programs are established by the Centre to meet a need in the community, with the Co-ordinator seeking funding and employing staff, or establishing a group of volunteers to support the group when no funds are available.

Through its programs, the centre seeks to provide the space, resources and support to those in the community who require our services.

Some of our programs ...

Yoga
Community Gardening
Drawing and Painting
Life drawing
Siempre Tango
Bald Eagles Band
Tai Chi
Laughter Workshop

Adelaide Historical Bottle Club
Heritage Arms Society
Military Arms Preservation Society
Heritage Walks
Calm Abiding Meditation
Atheist Foundation of Aust.
Italian Folk Ensemble
Dancer's Co-op

Self-help and support

Alcoholics Anonymous
Autism SA
Cassandra's Aspergers Group
Gamblers Anonymous
Alzheimer's Australia
Low Vision Support Group (Royal Society for the Blind)



Serving Families and Children

The Centre is a great space for families with young children, where there is outdoor play equipment designed to suit children under five, as well as several well-stocked toy cupboards. Our facilities support various playgroups and parenting groups. The Centre is currently the only facility in the City of Burnside that has an associated garden containing a playground for very young children and family room-style meeting space.

The Centre is also used by a range of service providers who assist new parents with information, links to networks, support and advice.

Our Programs

Australian Breastfeeding Association
Caesarean Awareness Recovery
Education
Friday's Child
Japanese playgroup
Homebirth Network
Families SA Mediation
Let's Talk About Children
Eastwood-Parkside Playgroup



Serving Youth

This age group is the most difficult for any community service to target, with three distinct and disparate subgroups – school children, students and unemployed youth – all of whom are undergoing processes of creating identity, seeking new community trends and identifying with an assortment of peer pressures. Engaging these subgroups and maintaining that engagement is a continuing challenge for the centre and one we constantly seek to address through identifying suitable and appealing initiatives and services.

Programs... Karate
Kung fu
Kids Connect After-school (Autism SA)
Duke of Edinburgh Award Placements

Serving People from a Non-English Speaking Background

The profile of people attending these groups to learn about Australian culture and maintain their own cultural traditions is varied. These activities are a fantastic place for people to come together and practise their English language skills, gain confidence exploring social issues of interest and perpetuate meaningful cultural practices. Participants are very well engaged, and some are also becoming involved in volunteer work as a result of their involvement in these activities.

Programs

English Language Weekly
IELTS English Study Success
Friday's Child
Japanese Playgroup
Italian Folk Ensemble



Serving Adult Learners

Adult Community Education (ACE) programs are a key part of the Centre's offerings and attract a broad cross-section of the community. Programs range from studies for interest groups to courses designed for groups with a specific groups, such as people with disabilities. These courses often play a valued role in participants' lives, enabling them to not only learn new skills but also to develop self-confidence and supportive social networks.



Programs

Multicultural Cooking
Digital Photography
Computer Literacy
Garden Tea Club
Horticultural Therapy Society of SA
English Language and Literacy
Patchwork & Quilting
Community Gardening
Life Art
Portuguese Language Classes

Serving People with Disabilities

The Centre provides targeted programs for people with disabilities, including those with links to mental health services, which focus on integration for both groups and individuals. The Centre further aims to support people's integration and inclusion into our community by providing them with the foundation they need to participate in society. Compared to a state average of around 11%, up to 22% of participants in our programs have a profound disability.



Programs

- Art and Ability
- Kids Connect/ Autism SA
- Cassandra's Aspergers Group
- Digital photography (acquired brain injury)
- Film Nights
- Northeast Networks Cooking
- Community Gardening
- Lifelinks Sewing
- Step Out

Serving the Over-fifties

Our programs offer valuable social opportunities, intellectual stimulation and community engagement. They also provide vital social networks and support for older community members who could otherwise be socially isolated. Our programs for the over-fifties range from social groups to exercise and computing classes tailored to this age group.

Morning Melodies, our unique and impressive fortnightly program, provides social and intellectual stimulation for elderly residents, many of whom are frail and socially isolated. They come together to enjoy musical entertainment, Devonshire tea and conversation. This program is supported by the work of 12 volunteers on a regular basis.

Programs ...

- Morning Melodies
- 3 G's Social Club
- ECH Art & Craft Group
- Computing for Beginners
- ARPA cards and games
- Rhythms Exercise
- Jazz and Tap Dance
- Eastwood Walking Group
- Yoga
- 3 R's
- Drawing and Painting
- ACH Social Links



Financial Contributions

The sources of funding for the Centre's operation and maintenance are:

City of Burnside	\$115,360
City of Unley	\$ 12,710
Department for Communities and Social Inclusion	\$ 16,235
Venue hire	\$ 29,730

Eastwood also receives funding from special purpose grants. In 2012-2013 these grants included:

- Adult Community Education grant from DFEEST to support the delivery of cooking and photography classes for people with acquired brain injury, skills development for community gardening participants and volunteers, and computing courses;
- Adult Learner's Week grant from DFEEST for production of a recipe book by the photography and cooking groups for people with disabilities;
- Community grant from City of Unley to support community art activities;
- Funding of a Project Support Officer from Community Centres SA to assist the centre in working towards the certificate of Australian Service Excellence Standards;
- Data start-up grant from the Community Business Bureau for the customised development of a data management system enabling the Centre to collate demographic profiles of centre participants and demonstrate outcomes of Centre services.

Facility improvements and equipment upgrades in 2012 – 2013 included:

- Repairs of walls and repainting of the hall
- New blinds for rear verandah
- Thorough bus inspection and repair
- New photocopier in the office
- New computers for the Seminar Room
- Removal of pepper tree and establishment of new plantings along the public accessway

The focus of our financial reserves is to provide for matters of anticipated future change, including DCSI funding reform and potential loss of this grant, the funding of staff wage increases as a result of transition to the Modern Award and implementation of the Equal Remuneration Order from Fair Work Australia, and funding pressures at local government level, all of which are beyond our control and which may negatively affect our budget.