

SERVING AND  
SUPPORTING  
COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1986



# Annual Report 2023



SouthPort  
Community  
Centre Inc.

YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

# Contents

	Page
<b>Chairperson's Report</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Manager's Report</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Our Year in Numbers</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Relevant and Effective Programs</b>	
<b>ARCS, Reading &amp; Writing, VoSS/UpStart</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Waterfront Welcomers, DigIn Community Garden, Art Connect</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Inclusion Programs</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Spotlight - City of Voices Community Theatre</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Financials</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>People</b> .....	<b>11</b>

# Chairperson Report



## Lee Perry

Dear SouthPort Community Centre sponsors, members, and volunteers,

I'm delighted to report that 2023 has been an extraordinary year for our centre. Many of our programs operated at nearly full capacity, welcoming fresh faces, initiating new programs, forming partnerships, and participating in top-tier industry events. Additionally, we secured new grants, allowing for program expansion and rejuvenation of our marketing and promotions.

Here are a few standout moments for me this year:

- In October, our Waterfront Welcomers Program made history by warmly greeting over 1,000 individuals, marking the busiest day in welcoming people to the City of Port Phillip.
- The enthralling performance of "Harmonia" by City of Voices at Temperance Hall left a lasting impression.
- We maintained an impressive attendance rate of 80% or more for all our programs.
- Through our partnership with BrightSparqe, we supported 100 or more families each week with essential grocery items like fruit, vegetables, tinned food, and other non-perishables.

While welcoming many new faces and members this year, sadly, we also lost one of our City of Voices members, Kate Rockell, whose unexpected passing deeply saddened us. Kate's kindness and spirit will always be remembered, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to her friends and family.

In alignment with our mission to create a welcoming and inclusive community, we have developed a strategic plan for 2023 - 2025. This plan outlines three crucial priorities: enhancing organisational sustainability and long-term viability, crafting effective social, educational, and developmental programs, and reinforcing engagement, leadership, empowerment, and resilience within the community.

Our existing programs such as UpStart, ArtConnect, Get Out Of Town, Applied Reception & Customer Service, and Monday Drop Ins continue to experience growth and high demand. We anticipate their continued success with the steadfast support from entities like the City of Port Phillip and the Adult Community and Further Education.

In-line with the new plan, the organisation has already commenced reviews of our people, processes and policies, and implemented a new risk management policy. We look forward to the new year, new initiatives, and being able to further continue the great success of 2023.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our funders, with special appreciation to our major backers - the City of Port Phillip, the Department of Family Fairness and Housing (DFFH), the Adult Community and Further Education Board (ACFE), South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission, and major partners Star Health. Your unwavering commitment and support are deeply valued.

# Manager's Report



## Brian Hanlon

The past year has been one of getting back to normality for our staff, volunteers and local community. We at Southport Community Centre remain committed to the local community and we continue to be a very supportive organisation, staying in touch with our communities and changing to meet the needs of our residents.

During the year our activities have continued to grow including ARCS, Reading & Writing, City of Voices, Vossanova, Exercise Classes, Yoga, Art Connect, Monday Drop In, Women's Activity Group and Waterfront Welcomers. The staff are pleased to be back helping our members and the local community.

Our Get Out of Town program has again been a great success and has provided a school holiday program for families within the SPCC community.

This crucial work would not be possible without the commitment of the SPCC team, I am proud of and grateful to our Board members, staff and volunteers. Their leadership and dedication has allowed SPCC to achieve remarkable outcomes, and support vulnerable members in our community in many ways, as can be seen throughout the report.

It was great to have our Waterfront Welcomer Volunteers back at Station Pier providing support to Cruise Ship passengers and crew, this coming year will see more cruise ships coming into Station Pier and through the help of both the City of Port Phillip Council and Vic Ports the program will continue.

In my first year as Manager of Southport Community Centre I thank the Board, staff, volunteers and members for the making my year enjoyable and assisted me in helping all those that come in contact with SPCC to be an important part of the Port Melbourne fabric.

As an organisation we have been able to provide a food bank to our vulnerable members of our community through organisations such as Bright Sparqe, Port Phillip Community Group, Alex Makes Meals, Noisette Bakery, Baker Bleu, Bennetts Butchery, Sacred Heart Mission, Pinchapoo, The Exhibition Centre and Brenda's Beanies. This has become an important part of supporting our local community.

I am looking forward to another very exciting year as Manager of Southport Community Centre. During this year we will continue to grow our activities for the betterment of the community.

# Our Year in Numbers

**10,424** Education contact hours  
(student contact hours)

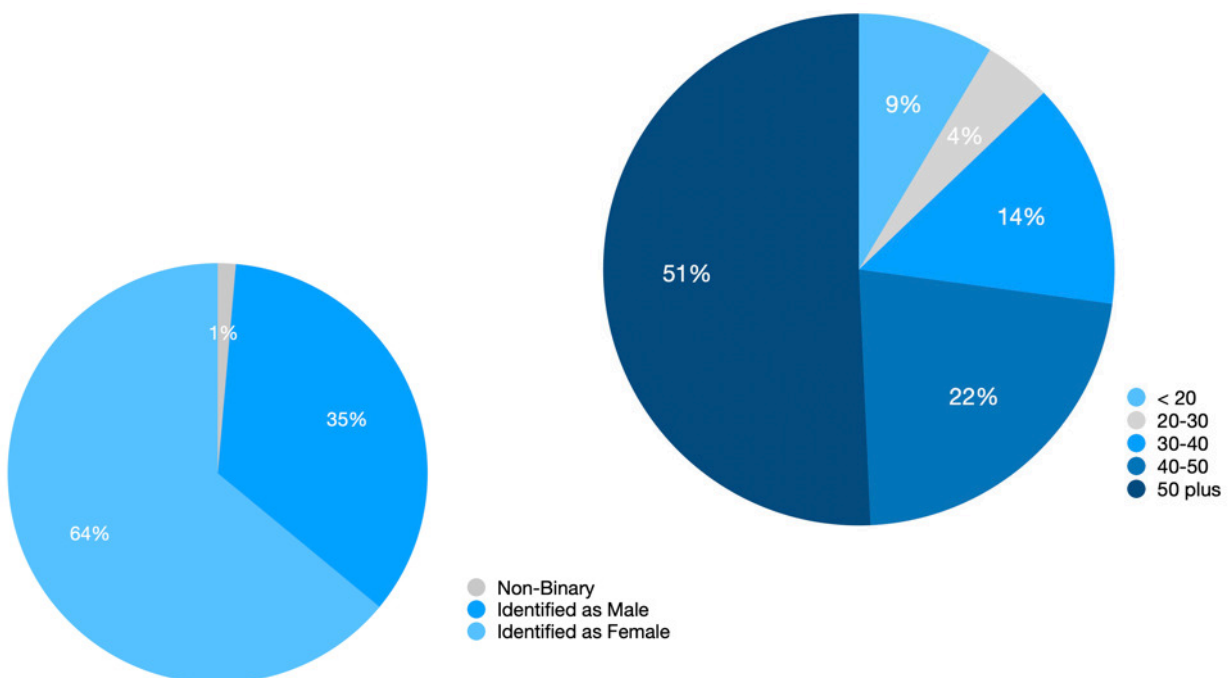
**14,824** Participant contact hours  
(inclusion, health & wellbeing programs)

**4028** Volunteer hours

**9862** One-on-one contacts  
to vulnerable community members

**58,273** Targeted social media reach

**72%** Participants came from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background





# Relevant and Effective Programs

## ARCS Training Pathways to employment.

The Applied Reception and Customer Service (ARCS) Program for the long term unemployed, continues to provide much needed support to those facing barriers in finding work opportunities within this current climate.



Many of our participants have multi-diverse backgrounds and / or experiences. A majority are from different cultural backgrounds and are socio-economically disadvantaged. Some are living with a disability and / or mental health issues, and others have experienced housing insecurity or barriers to accessing mainstream education.

ARCS provides 6.5 hours of training within our 6-month courses (run twice yearly) - supported within a relaxed training environment. Our tailored one-on-one training for each participant experience maximises support, and the acquisition of work ready skills and personal confidence. With weekly classroom sessions and on the job training, participants can develop confidence, build community connections, and develop employment skills in preparation to be 'job ready'.

Achievements & outcomes: Our previous ARCS graduates indicated that several students transitioned into either volunteering roles, undertook further study, or gained full time / part time employment within the hospitality, retail, or community service field.

## Reading & Writing Adult Literacy Program

Our Reading and Writing Classes provide students with the opportunity to improve their literacy skills in a supportive environment. This allows many to become more engaged socially and develop their capacities so that they can pursue further education, undertake volunteering opportunities or gain employment.



## VoSS/UpStart

Another year of creativity, connection and skill development for the UpStart / VoSS program.

Funded by the generosity of Better Health Network (Star Health) SouthPort Uniting Church, we have been able to visit galleries such as Heide Museum, plays at the Melbourne Theatre Company, Theatreworks and Memo Hall.

There have been at least 50 outcomes of employment, volunteer work and training and over 60 people have participated in our courses including Life Natters and Finding Your Voice, to improve communication and conversation.

Memoir Writing has provided great conversation and insight into people's life experiences and the Vossanova Choir was invited to perform at Parliament House to raise awareness about homelessness.

Sounds of the South Side/ Roarstage has provided our participants and other community groups such as Roomers and City of Voices with a platform to perform short stories, poetry, and music to an audience at the Dogs Bar.



# Relevant and Effective Programs

## Waterfront Welcomers Achievements 2022-2023

Waterfront Welcomers began welcoming passengers and crew again in October 2022, achievements between October 2022 and - March 2023 saw the volunteers delivering 2796 hours during this time. There were 48 volunteers in the program and they met 112 cruise ships during the period.

95% of our volunteers are local residents and they are very excited providing their knowledge to the passengers and crew on Port Melbourne and more broadly on the City of Port Phillip. They get great comments from those that come in contact with them and we are one of the only cities in the World that provide such a welcome.

This year the program will be back beginning in late October and running through until 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

We hope to have the Electric Bus running again this season bringing passengers from Station Pier into Bay Street.

We would like to thank our partners, Port Melbourne Business Association, City of Port Phillip, Victorian Ports, Port Melbourne Bakehouse, South Melbourne Market and local businesses for the support they provide us.



## Art Connect

Art Connect runs for 8 weeks during school terms and it's popularity grows every year.

We are lucky to have an accomplished artist, designer and community developer Amanda Neville as the facilitator. Many regulars and drop ins attend her classes attracted by her expertise and open approach to teaching art.

The regulars who attend bring paintings along, whilst others create something new each week. The artworks are varied in mediums from paint, pastel, pencil and collage.

Apart from the artist activities it is a very friendly and social group, who enjoy a good chat whilst creating art.



## Dig In Community Garden

DigIn provides a space for locals to grow and harvest fresh produce, and participants report the garden is crucial for food security, mental health, social connections and wellbeing in our high density urban environment.

Nearly 100 community members engages with DigIn. Together they spend over 9300 hours a year volunteering at working bees, and cultivating vegetables, eggs, honey and seeds.





# Relevant and Effective Programs

## Scorecard: 2022-23

- We continue to focus on advanced programs that further reinforce skills, confidence and abilities of participants through ARCS and UpStart while still providing accessible inclusion programs to vulnerable communities.
- SPCC continues to strengthen relationships and engagement with existing stakeholders, ACFE, Better Health Network (Star Health), City of Port Phillip and Port Melbourne Business Association, through delivery of key programs such as ARCS, UpStart, City of Voices and Waterfront Welcomers.

## Monday Drop In Women's Activity Group



SPCC provides two recreation activity groups, **Monday Drop In** and **Women's Activity Group** - for local residents who experience mental health issues, disabilities, and / or social isolation.

These groups provide a welcoming and safe place, where people can enjoy a meal and participate in various activities. This enables them to learn life skills and develop lasting friendships - further developing individual community and social connections.

Additionally, these programs also encourage individual participation in society - and promote understanding and positive attitudes towards people of all abilities.

Group attendees participate in a wide variety of activities and / or outings including: Bingo Bonanza, Fish & Chips on the Beach, Picnics in the Park, Card and Yard Games, Candle Making, Devonshire Teas, Pancake Parlour, Op Shopping, Museums, Art Galleries, BBQ's, Trivia Challenges, Movies Days, International Cooking Sessions, Adaptable Exercise Classes, Decorating Gingerbread Houses, and visits to local Cafes and Restaurants.



**Inclusion Programs** support the health and wellbeing of vulnerable families and residents. These programs have become even more crucial post COVID-19 and under current financial strains. Programs such as **Get Out of Town**, **Recreational Access Group (RAG)** and **Exercise For All Ages**.



**Get Out of Town** program supports and strengthens disadvantaged families within the City of Port Phillip, by providing them an opportunity to participate (free of charge) in exciting activities over the school holiday periods.

This program helps them reconnect within the family unit, develop skills, experience wellbeing, reduce social isolation, build community connections and resilience - as well as providing pathways into support.

This year the program included excursions to Chesterfield Farm, Chaos Lab, Metart World, Melbourne Zoo, Sealife Aquarium, Circus Skills, Gasworks Art Park, art & craft activities, Theatre Productions, Melbourne Royal Show, Variety Christmas Party, and Village Cinemas.

**In 2022-2023 we delivered 12 activities over 4 holiday periods involving over 400 participants.**



## City of Voices Community Theatre

It's been a HUGE year at City of Voices inclusive theatre group. In November 2022, we performed our all-original production of 'Harmonia' to sell-out crowds in the intimate surrounds of Temperance Hall, South Melbourne. Described as 'a treat to behold' by our audience, 'Harmonia' was a creative exploration of the spaces within and between us, and the last production with Artistic Director Myf Powell at the helm. After 18 years of hard work and love, Myf stepped down at the end of 2022 and we welcomed new Artistic Director Milly Cooper in 2023. Myf left big shoes to fill, but Milly has proven herself to be more than up to the task. We also welcomed new Arts Support Worker Clarisse Bonello.



2023 has been a time of gain and loss. New staff and participants have joined the group, bringing fresh energy and ideas. But sadly, in July 2023 our beloved friend and member, Kate Rockell, passed away. A thoughtful, considerate woman with a cheeky giggle, Kate was new to performance but challenged herself to try hard things. We will always remember her performance of "The Spirit of South Melbourne" during 'Harmonia', and will miss her kindness and camaraderie.

After our major production, City of Voices has not rested on its laurels. We are creating an all-original music video clip for the South Melbourne Community Chest in an effort to encourage more volunteers to help out at the op shop. A collaboration with the Chest and Port Phillip Baykeeper, Neil Blake AO aka 'Captain Trash' from the Port Phillip EcoCentre, our group has written a song and recorded a pirate-themed film that will soon be released. We have had theatrical outings to La Mama, Roarhouse and Dancehouse, guest workshops led by Liz Jones AO, and a visit from playwright Michel Paul Tuomy. All of this, combined with learning new theatre skills and making new friends at our weekly workshops, has combined to make 2022-23 a big year at City of Voices.



THEATRE  
confidence  
CREATIVITY  
literacy  
ART

# Financials



## Treasurer's Report

for the year ended 30th June 2023

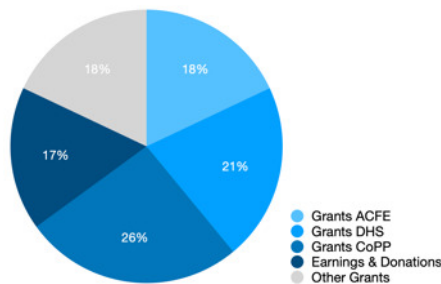
SPCC made a surplus of \$6,369 (2022: \$6,157). SPCC continues to remain financially healthy and enters next year with accumulated member funds of \$146,348 (2022: \$139,979).

SPCC's ability to support the community would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers, and ongoing support from our major funders: DHHS, ACFE, the Star Health Agreement, SouthPort Uniting Church, and City of Port Phillip.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers and funders. Special thanks also to Brian Hanlon who has taken on the stewardship of SPCC with positive intent and professionalism.

Stephen Unger, Treasurer

### Our income is coming from:



### Funders:

Department of Families, Fairness & Housing  
 Adult, Community and Further Education Board  
 South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission  
 City of Port Phillip  
 South Melbourne Community Chest

### Major Project Partner:

Better Health Network (Star Health)

## Income statement for year ended 30 June 2023

A full set of audited financial statements is available at:  
[www.southportcc.org.au/documents](http://www.southportcc.org.au/documents)

### South Port Community Centre Inc Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Revenue</b>	757,668	775,404
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration expenses	(140,091)	(164,411)
Consultant expenses	(124,570)	(118,413)
Employee benefits expense	(486,638)	(486,423)
<b>Surplus before income tax expense</b>	6,369	6,157
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Surplus after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of South Port Community Centre Inc</b>	6,369	6,157
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of South Port Community Centre Inc</b>	<u>6,369</u>	<u>6,157</u>

# People

## Board

Lee Perry (Chair), Sandie Hall (Vice Chair), Steve Unger (Treasurer), Jenny Whineray, Steve Pennells, Julian Wozniak



## Volunteers

Lulu Cooney, Sue Dockrell, Elizabeth Eadie, Barbara Fisher, Ben Galutera, Ann Grant, Rosalind Izod, Russell Griffiths, Lauren Klinkhamer, Timm Martin, Rachel McVean, Pam Montgomery, Sue Page, Suzie Sloan, Penny Torok, Susan Schmeja, Robyn Conti, Liz Jecks, Michael Baker, David Bampffield, Christiana Akinci, Sherryn Danaher, Judy Lester, Deb Wybrow, Brenda McGuirk, Sue McGowan, Christoula Nicolaou, Jean Sloan, Geoff McFarlane, Jenny Russo.

## Thank you

Bernadene Voss, Cr Heather Cunsolo, Cr Marcus Pearl, Cr Peter Martin, Cr Louise Crawford, Cr Rhonda Clark, Cr Tim Baxter, Cr Andrew Bond, Cr Robbie Nyaguy, Cr Christina Sirakoff, Mr Josh Burns MP, Ms Nina Taylor MP & electoral staff, South Port Uniting Church, Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Emma Blackford, Cathy Horsley, Denise Tsoukalas, Jacek Przybylski, Rotary Port Melbourne, Marjetka McMahon, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, Community House Network Southern, Star Health, Justice Connect, Southport Daylinks, Mini Maestros, Pat Grosse, Judith Jackson, Janet Bolitho, National Protective Services, Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association, Port Phillip Volunteer Coordinators Network, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

## Staff and Program Workers

Brian Hanlon (Manager and Program Lead Volunteer Support), Robyn Szechtman - Voices of the South Side Coordinator, Deb McIntosh - Voices of the South Side, Joanna Kozakiewicz - Events and Marketing Coordinator, Deb King - Finance Manager, Alicia Hancock – (ARCS, and Inclusion Coordinator), Amanda Neville - Art Connect, Brian Hanlon - Waterfront Welcomers Coordinator, Milly Cooper - Artistic Director of City Of Voices and Vossanova Choir, Geoffrey Thorsen - City of Voices and Vossanova Arts Support Worker, Isabel Robinson - City of Voices Company Manager, Carla Gigliotti - Trainer / Reception, Elaine Wilkinson - Trainer / Reception, Helena Kallaur - Trainer / Reception, Maree Montebello - Exercise for All Ages, Filipa Valente - Accessible Yoga

## Funders, Sponsors and Partners

Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Adult, Community and Further Education Board (ACFE), City of Port Phillip, Better Health (Star Health), South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission, South Melbourne Community Chest, Port Melbourne Business Association, Ports Victoria, Bright Sparq, Port Phillip Community Group.





**THANK YOU  
FOR SUPPORTING US  
AND OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY**



**SouthPort  
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