



Annual Report 2023

Supporting the Well-being of all Great Lakes Residents



Timeline - Established in 1980

2007

ASHOW Coomba Park commenced

2008

Forster Community Garden kicked off

2010

FNC successful with No Interest Loan Scheme funding through Fair Trading & DSS

2011

FNC entered first agreement with NSW Dept of Family & Community Services for Child & Family Work

2014

Better Learning Better Communities Established
In consultation with Worimi Elders

2015

Great Lakes Womens Shelter established in partnership with Womens Community Shelters

2016

Festival of the Child commenced



2017

The Inaugural Big Sing By The Sea Commenced

2018

No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) Stand Alone Status granted by Good Shepherd Microfinance & Fair Trading

2019

Department of Aboriginal Affairs NAIDOC Cultural Cruise Offered for the first time

2020

- Targeted Early Intervention contract with NSW Dept of Communities & Justice signed for 5 years

2021

The Money Plan
- Round 3
Indigenous Money Network granted to FNC

2022

- FNC successful in grant with NSW Office of Youth for Aim High project
- Worimi womens Cultural Camp project initiated in consultation with Aboriginal Elders

2023

FNC relocated to new home at 3 Lake Street Forster





Our Story

Forster Neighbourhood Centre (FNC) was first established in 1980 and today reflects a range of services and programs (identified as community priorities) in response to the changing needs of the community.

FNC highly values the contributions of volunteers and acknowledges their contributions in achieving our purpose and impact in the local community.

FNC respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land where we work, the Worimi people, and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present. We walk alongside the Aboriginal community as an ally towards reconciliation between all Australians.

Vision

An inclusive and connected community where people are respectful, resilient and resourceful.

Values

- **Kindness:** We show empathy and understanding to all in a professional manner
- **Competence:** We are a trusted knowledge and skill base for the community
- **Respect:** We provide services and support in a non - judgemental way
- **Integrity:** We act honestly, ethically and do what we say we will
- **Client - Focused:** Our work is guided by the needs and aspirations of the client
- **Advocacy:** We draw on our relationships and partners to influence positive change and increase access to services
- **Open - Minded:** We are open to learning new ways of working and sharing our knowledge with others

Our Purpose:

Forster Neighbourhood Centre (FNC) exists to support the well-being of all Great Lakes residents. We are flexible and respond to the needs of the community through:

- Emergency Relief and Support
- Information, Advice and Referral
- Programs and Services to address identified needs
- Social Inclusion activities and programs

What we do:

Emergency Relief: (See Page 20)

Provides emergency relief parcels for community members experiencing crisis

Information, Advice and Referral: (See Page 20)

Provides an information hub 5 days per week where community members can access advice and referral to meet their needs

Child and Family Support and Counselling: (See Page 21-22)

Provides child and family support and general counselling to vulnerable families.

No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS):

(See Page 21)

Provides access to No Interest Loans of up to \$2,000 for essential items and expenses

Community Programs: (See Page 15)

A range of programs developed in response to community need including Better Learning Better Communities, ASHOW, Community Garden, Baraya Wakulda, Mens Group, Work Development Orders, EAPA Vouchers, Aim High and Vision Impaired Support Group.

Community Events (See Page 19)

Provides opportunities for social participation and community connectedness including Big Sing by the Sea, Wallis Lake Cultural Cruises and Forster Farmers Market.





My description of 2022/2023 is “roller coaster”. On the one hand, we were able to secure much needed new premises, thanks to Mid Coast Council (MCC), we were donated a (second-hand) bus by Nortec and we have gained some wonderful new employees: Lisa Hinton, Kitana Paulson and Lilly Lertsinpakdee. On the other hand, long serving NILS officer, Rachel Wylie has moved off to a new field of employment and sadly Stephen Ballantine, our WDO and tax advisor lost his battle with cancer. Through all this our staff and volunteers have dealt with the rising impact of the current cost of living and multiple flooding in our offices. (Now resolved, thanks again to MCC).

Through the golden pen of Corinne Stephenson, we were successful with several capital funding grant applications, which have allowed us to re-fit our premises and created a much more harmonious working environment for workers, clients and volunteers.

Following community consultation and Corinne's grant writing expertise, we have been able to establish a Women's Shed which since April, has grown to four times its original number. Thank you Tamara Clarke for her fantastic organisation skills and to Bunnings for accommodating us fortnightly and offering us regular DIY opportunities.

Our Men's Group run by Steve McWilliams, plays an essential role each Friday and our Community Gardens continue to flourish under the direction of long-standing volunteer Robynn Milne.

And what can I say about the No Interest Loans (NILs) team except to say they continue to kick goals and meet tough targets. In these times of economic hardship, staff and volunteer assessor/approvers have worked like a well-oiled machine under the guidance of Karen Burton, to provide loans to Forster/Tuncurry residents.

Worimi Elders have highlighted the need for more cultural camps for boys and girls to especially support young people around suicide. FNC, in conjunction with TAMS and Homebase, will be running three separate camps for girls targeting different age groups to increase cultural knowledge, improve engagement and to create role models. Program Co-ordinator, Kitana Paulson continues to build strong connections within community.

The number of Emergency Relief recipients reflects the impact of high cost of living. With the help of Club Forster, Eastern Tiger, Butterfingers Bakery and other donors, we have been providing food and support for about fifty families each month.

None of this happens by chance. Over the last year, this group of amazing staff and volunteers has forged itself into an harmonious, co-operative team serving the well-being of all Forster/Tuncurry community, with kindness and compassion. Under the leadership of Corinne Stephenson and Karen Burton, FNC continues to flourish to be a hugely productive organisation, and it is a pleasure to be part of it.

Our Staff and Services:

All of this has been achieved through FNC's extraordinary, caring and compassionate staff and volunteers.

Staff:

Corinne Stephenson: Manager, Programs and Strategy

Karen Burton: Business Manager

Lisa Hinton and Lilly Lertsinpakdee: NILS Officers

Anniqa Olsen: Child and Family Support Worker

Stephen McWilliams: Family Counselling and Men's Group

Kitana Paulson: Programs Officer

Linda Dennett: Market Co-ordinator / Graphic Designer

Volunteers:

Robynn Milner: Community Garden Volunteer Co-ordinator and Front Desk Volunteer

Tony Bennett: Front Desk, WDOs and Tax advice

Eileen Marks: EAPA and WDO's

Rhonda New, Christine Collins, Lyn Roberts: Front Desk Volunteers

Linda Sinclair: Pick up of Eastern Tiger donations every Wednesday



Board Members:

Our Board truly represents the community we live in. It is their interest and involvement which contributes to the smooth running of FNC. I sincerely thank each board member for your commitment to the Forster/Tuncurry Community.

Anne McKay, Margaret Fox, Iain White, Melanie Ledgett, Pam South and Jenny Arnold have been ever available to Karen Burton and Lisa Hinton for ensuring timely NILS approvals. The NILS team continue to achieve excellent results in this important program.

Julie Brady as Treasurer continues to keep her eagle eye on the numbers and all that that implies.

Margaret Fox continues as minutes Secretary.

Aunty Janice Paulson provides valuable insight and connections to the Worimi/Aboriginal Community, with so many fingers in so many pies. We are lucky that Aunty J makes the time to serve on our committee.

Felicity Carter OAM as President is helping to build stronger relationships with other community organisations and advocating on behalf of FNC.

I thoroughly enjoy working with you all and thank you for your commitment.

Funders and Donors:

We acknowledge our major funding bodies and thank them for enabling us to provide these much-needed services.

Funders:

- **Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)** who fund both the Community Strengthening and Family Support program as well as the Community Participation program
- **Good Shepherd Microfinance** and **NSW Department of Fair Trading** for NILS, together with NAB.
- **Club Forster** for ensuring we can support our community with Emergency Relief food and shelter.

Donors:

- **Eastern Tiger** (Forster Bowling Club): Tasty Asian food for Emergency Relief.
- **Butterfingers Bakery**: Weekly fresh bread.
- **C3 Church, Forster Tuncurry**: Polar fleece sleeping bags.
- **Quota International**, Forster: Delicious homemade soup for Emergency Relief.
- **Knit and Spin**: Beautiful hand knitted children’s clothes and blankets.
- **Bunnings**: plant donations for our Community Garden; BBQ staff and equipment for community events

Other Contributing Community Services Organisations:

- We are extremely fortunate to work closely with **TAMS** providing us with space and transport to run our Better Learning, Better Communities Tutoring program and NILS once a week, as well helping to facilitate our Girls Cultural Camp.
- **Homebase Youth Services**: For coordinating our local interagency and supporting school holiday programs
- **Great Lakes Womens Shelter**: For sharing donations and space to make sure services and support gets to those who need it most.



Communities & Justice



Great Lakes Knit & Spin Inc.



Tobwabba Aboriginal Medical Service



Good Shepherd No Interest Loans



GREAT LAKES Womens Shelter



HOMEBASE Youth Services



Church Forster Tuncurry





Overview

The achievements of Forster Neighbourhood Centre this year have been amazing as detailed in the rest of this Annual Report. I am pleased to confirm that, as per the audit, all of this was achieved with a tiny deficit of \$1239.

I am pleased to once again report that the Committee, ably supported by the Business Manager and Programs Manager, has responsibly managed the finances of Forster Neighbourhood Centre. The expansion of our services is reported on elsewhere, but we are deeply satisfied to have achieved this financial outcome while developing and extending what we do for the benefit of the whole community.

Our achievements must always be underpinned by effective financial management, and I am proud of the way we have done this in 2022/23 Financial Year.

People

Working closely with Karen Burton, Business Manager, and Corinne Stephenson, Programs Manager, has been once again a pleasure. Karen in particular has been endlessly accommodating and responsive, making my volunteer burden so much lighter. I sincerely thank her for that.

The staff and committee again worked effectively together, continuing to improve transparency, provide more effective financial management, leading to ease of decision making and reporting.

I thank the FNC Board, especially those of you that don't find pages of numbers as endlessly fascinating as I, for your support and indulgence.

Financial results

A capital grant of \$241,013 for the fitout of our new premises at 3 Lake Street was fully expended, with a great result for all to see.

The small deficit led to a reduction in total equity of \$1249, to \$335,821. These funds will allow us to fund our planned "Forever Home", a key strategic objective toward which we continue to work.

Conclusion

As reported in 2022FY, I am confident that FNC is well positioned for the future and that we continue to lift our level of accountability to meet the increasing reporting and acquittal standards of our regulatory and funding bodies.

Celebrating the Grand Opening of our new home.



Karen Burton

We are now in our new premises in Lake Street Forster, which has given us the space to expand our services and give our visitors a much nicer experience. The staff and volunteers worked so hard in getting us here. Although we had a few hiccups with the building initially, we are very happy in our new 'for now' home. We hope that in the near future we can offer other service providers the opportunity to provide outreach services from the Centre as we now have designated interview rooms. Legal Aid continues to provide their outreach service every 2nd Wednesday.

Yet another very busy year has passed and although COVID appears to have taken a back step, it has certainly continued a flow-on effect that the world is still experiencing. With rising rental prices, interest rates and the cost of living, Forster Neighbourhood Centre is providing even more assistance than in the past several years. Without the generous donations from local food retailers, Club grants and donations from our network of other community services, we would not be able to give the much-needed help to those in our community that need support.

Our Nils loans are also increasing and the borrowing amount has increased to \$2000. Good Shepherd has also given consideration to victims of family and domestic violence, allowing higher borrowing amounts. We have been advised that our funding will continue until 2024 and we are confident that this will be extended for ensuing years.

We continue to provide our EAPA and WDO service and will be providing Tax Help again from July to October 2023.

We now look forward to the future as we grow as a service. We have a great team who work cohesively, support each other and give so much of their time to help others - a BIG thank you to you all.

Corinne Stephenson

Another year at Forster Neighbourhood Centre has once again demonstrated the high value of local place based services to be flexible and responsive to community needs. Our skilled team live and work in the Great Lakes community, noticing where support is needed most, to bring together people across the community to support each other towards our Vision for a community that is respectful, resourceful and resilient.

In addition to our brand new premises, there have been some exciting highlights for FNC.

Our Program Officer, Kitana Paulson, designed our new logo that encapsulates what we are about.

The green colours represent the ocean, browns representing the sea and the earth, the figures representing all people in our community and the connecting lines representing the individual journey that each person is on, thank you for your thoughtful design Kitana.

After over 10 years, we re-established the Great Lakes Womens Shed with the support of a grant from Womens NSW. Tamara Clarke joined our team one day per week and with support of former member, Kate Morgan, generated a heap of community interest with over 25 people in attendance at our launch event in July. We look forward to the community participation opportunities this project will provide for women in the Great Lakes, experiencing social isolation.

With a new NSW Government, we continue to advocate alongside peak bodies LCSA and NCOSS for core operational funding for the work that we do. With revenue under \$500,000 per annum we achieve over \$1.5 million in social value to our community. This needs to be recognised and resourced to meet the growing needs of support during times of crisis and recovery.

Committee Members



Melanie Ledgett

Melanie Ledgett joined the FNC Committee in 2021, with extensive experience with local volunteer organisations including Landcare, Rural Fire Service, P&C and local surf clubs. Melanie holds a Science Degree and Diploma in Botanical Medicine and has a passion for environmental regeneration and local activism. Melanie runs a thriving local environmental restoration business and a native nursery. Melanie has joined the committee as she enjoys working with community groups to improve everyone's access to a better life and healthier natural environment.



Janice Paulson

Aunty Janice Paulson is a well-known and loved Worimi Elder who has lived much of her life in Forster.

She has a long-standing commitment to working for her community and culture and amongst other things, she has worked extensively in the field of Domestic Violence.

She is also involved in the Elder's Olympics, Elder's stretching and strengthening exercises and Elder's events and outings – basically if there is an Elder's Community event, Aunty Janice would be at the helm!

Janice is passionate about advancing the cause of Aboriginal education and is a founder of Better Learning, Better Communities, a program for primary aged Aboriginal students.



Felicity Carter OAM

"There are few other community services organisations that have the will, capacity and responsiveness to meet community needs that FNC has. I am so proud to be part of it.

The innovation and compassion shown by our staff and volunteers is second to none" Felicity said.

This will be Felicity's 12th year on the management committee and 5th as President. Initially joining to help with programs working with children, especially around literacy. Since then, this has expanded to working with Worimi Elders and the broader Aboriginal community in areas of education and cultural awareness which has greatly enriched her life.



Julie Brady

Julie has been on the FNC Committee for 13 years, initially as President, and for the last four years as Treasurer.

"The committee sees how hard the last two years have been on the most disadvantaged people in this community, and we get great satisfaction from providing our support programs and being creative in finding new ways to provide assistance.

Two things that I love about FNC: Seeing the caring and empathy of the FNC staff and volunteers, who every day think about how things could be better and work to achieve that. Being part of creating a loving, respectful and productive partnership with the Worimi and off-country Aboriginal community" said Julie.



Iain White

Originally from Scotland Iain has been a committee member of FNC since 2003. He has a diverse background in agriculture, nursing, theology and as a massage therapist. He worked in agriculture for 20 years.

Iain was a Pastor of the Baptist Church in North Manly (Sydney) until 2001 when he relocated to Forster as the Pastor of the Forster District Baptist Church before retiring in May 2018.

Iain enjoys being able to support people who are doing it tough. He became involved in the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) and volunteers at the school care group at Coomba Park providing an opportunity to be able to provide a service to the local community.



Anne McKay

Anne McKay has been a member of the Committee since February 2020.

She has a watching brief for the NILS program and also volunteers in the Better Learning, Better Communities program.

Anne and her husband have a passion for travel centred on twin interests of animal and bird watching and National Parks, both in Australia and overseas.

Anne plays bridge, does jigsaws, and enjoys socialising when possible with friends and family. A longtime volunteer in various organisations, she is now especially interested in contributing to the work done in the community by the FNC.



Margaret Fox

After working as a town planner, research librarian and access consultant in Sydney, Margaret came to live in Pacific Palms with her husband Michael 18 years ago.

Margaret continues to work occasionally as an access consultant but is more involved in the local community. She plays golf and bridge, enjoys painting and drawing with a local art group, is a committee member of the Palms Garden Club, and a member of a local book club and the Coomba Wine and Dine Club.





Karen Burton

Karen began her journey with FNC as a Nils Loans Officer in February 2019. Prior to this she was the Co-ordinator of Ageing Services with MidCoast Council for over 20 years, providing Aged Care Packages, Dementia Specific Day Care Programs and Social Support Services to Forster, Tuncurry, Hawks Nest, Tea Gardens, Stroud and surrounding areas.

In 2022 she took on the role as Business Manager/Nils Manager and is passionate in assisting those that need a helping hand.

During her time with FNC, she has seen the significant impact on our community from the natural disasters that our area has endured - fire, flood and of course COVID -19.

'Increased homelessness and job losses has resulted in the increase in the number of people accessing the service and we take pride in doing our part to assist those in need, making their lives better.

'Karen enjoys working out at the gym, spending time with family and friends and loves our beautiful piece of paradise in which we live.



Corinne Stephenson

Corinne started with Forster Neighbourhood Centre in January 2022 as our Manager, Programs. Corinne has over 10 years' experience working in not-for-profits in the Forster/Tuncurry region advocating for programs and services in our local community.

She has completed her Bachelor of Sustainability (Social Resilience) and is passionate about using her skills and experience to work alongside our First Nations people to promote reconciliation.

Linda Dennett

Linda began volunteering at FNC in 2005 after moving to Forster from the Central Coast. She started on the front desk but soon got interested in a lot of the other services the Centre provided.

Over the years Linda has also been volunteer support to Community groups. Linda also co-ordinates the Forster Farmers Market. She is paid for market day and graphic design work.



Lisa Hinton

Lisa joined Forster Neighbourhood Centre in January 2023 as our NILS Officer. Lisa brings 30 Administration and Bookkeeping years' experience, holding qualifications in Frontline and Business Management. Lisa chose to join our team because of the great services that are provided to the local community, and for the opportunity to be able to assist those requiring support and assistance. She is encouraged by the opportunities the NILS loans provide to our clients, allowing them to access funds in all sorts of circumstances and empowering them to manage their own finances.

Being relatively new to the area, moving here from Western Sydney 7 years ago. Lisa enjoys fishing, camping, and spending time by the water. .

Lilly Lertsinpakdee

Lilly joined the Forster Neighbourhood Centre team in September 2022 initially as a volunteer then our NILS Officer. Lilly has over twenty years' experience working in not-for-profit organisations in various roles involving community projects, networking, counselling, case management and group facilitation. She holds a Bachelor of Community Service Work (Family and Community) and Diplomas in Business (HR), Accounting and Leisure and Health and is passionate about social justice and being part of the process in making positive changes in someone's life. The team enjoys Lilly's interest in cooking and sharing food with friends.





Steve McWilliams

Steven commenced his professional relationship with FNC in 2010 as a volunteer while completing his Tertiary studies. Volunteering enabled Steven to gain an understanding of the important role FNC plays within this region.

"Fortunately, I was offered a paid position in 2014 as a Child and Family Worker and I have remained in this position ever since."

Steven's role is primarily to provide personal counselling and parenting programs to individuals and families within the target groups.



Anniqua Olsen

Anniqua is the Child and Family worker who comes with a wealth of knowledge. She has had over 15 years of experience working in the welfare sector, primarily working with families with dependent children.

Prior to relocating to this region, Anniqua has previous experience working with youth, women and children in crisis accommodation settings in Tamworth, the disability sector and separated parents reconnecting with their children in a positive and supportive manner.

She holds a Diploma of Community Welfare Work, Financial Counselling, Cert IV in Visual Arts and more recently, studying Certified Lifeforce Energy Healing, meditation and numerous alternate healing modalities.

Anniqua's absolute passion in life is to bring the best possible outcome for all the families she has encountered throughout her profession.

In her spare time, she loves exploring this beautiful area by bush walking in the national parks, bird watching and enjoying the lake and beaches.



Kitana Paulson

Kitana is a very proud Worimi/Bundjalung woman who has grown up in the Forster-Tuncurry area her whole life, joining the Forster Neighbourhood Centre in January 2023 as our Programs Officer. At 23 years old, Kitana brings 4 years experience in Community Services, particularly cultural support and mentoring for Aboriginal children/young people in Out of Home Care. She joined our team to take the opportunity to share her skills and experience with her local Worimi community.

Kitana is a talented Artist who is passionate about connecting to culture and the strength of a community.

She encourages the younger generations to learn and grow as much as they can through our upcoming cultural camps and existing programs facilitated by local Aboriginal peoples, including Worimi Elders. Her dream is that Indigenous youth feel empowered to come through as strong local leaders working toward positive change. Kitana believes in being the change she wants to see, and has chosen Forster Neighbourhood Centre to continue her journey.



Rachel Wylie

Since starting in Feb 2019, Rachel worked in the NILS program which is her regular gig! Rachel also coordinates the Vision Impaired Support Group, runs cooking, craft, macrame, sound therapy and budgeting workshops.

"I'm thrilled to be a part of the FNC family. But most of all I love the dignity and sense of pride and relief that the NILS clients express, when coming for a loan that changes their world into something brighter and better for a time" said Rachel.

Volunteers

Christine Collins

Christine is a volunteer on the front desk of FNC. In her role she answers the phone, deals with emails and helps people who come into the centre to access our services. Christine has a work background as a Primary School Teacher and in Aged Care and she enjoys talking with people and social activities. "I have learnt so much about our community services through this Position.

I love the variety of the tasks and the wonderful staff I get to work with at FNC" Christine said.



Rhonda New

Rhonda has lived in Forster -Tuncurry over 20 years. Since retiring she has worked for Animal Welfare League in their Op shop, Forster Library as a volunteer, and for over ten years at FNC on front desk/reception. Duties are varied and include answering phones, referring clients to appropriate FNC services or other services as required. Help with access to Housing Providers, emergency food relief, etc. Hobbies include yoga, U3A, walking group, VIEW club. "I enjoy the variety each day at FNC brings and enjoy helping people and working with all the wonderful staff" says Rhonda.

Eileen Marks

In between jobs, Eileen attended Tuncurry Tafe, did Business Admin Certificate 111 and received a distinction. With the encouragement of her teachers to carry on, Eileen decided to study Information Technology both Certificate 11 & 111, which was very intense, and took a full year! As part of the FNC team, Eileen's role is in administration for clients who need help with their electricity bills (EAPA) and Telstra vouchers, also Work and Development Orders (WDOs), Other tasks are keeping data records of our clients for Emergency Relief, EAPA, Telstra and WDOs. She was also part of the 'Be Connected' team training clients with their tablet and mobile phones, which she found very enjoyable.



Robynn Milner

Robynn has been a volunteer at Forster Neighbourhood Centre for just over 11 years. She works on the front desk and enjoys assisting people when able. Over the years, Rob has met a lot of the locals. Her skills in admin have come in very handy with general front desk duties. As part of the Emergency Relief Rob does a fortnightly shop to accommodate people struggling to get through and need assistance with food. Plus she volunteers as the Forster Community Garden Coordinator with a great team of volunteers every Tuesday. "ROCK ON " Robynn said.

Tony Bennett

When Tony retired after a career in finance, he retrained as a financial counsellor and worked in Western Sydney for 3 years. He and his wife then moved to the coast and they both became involved in volunteer work, Tony in Taree (mainly with NILS) and with FNC since last year. "The work is very rewarding as it enables me to give back to the society that has supported me for ever. It is also uplifting to work with a team of like - minded people. My other main passion is birdwatching and I am a long-term member of the Manning Great Lakes Birdwatching Club".



Lyn Roberts

Lyn commenced as a volunteer on our Front Desk in May 2023. Lyn comes to us with a wealth of experience in integrated care, welfare, administration, customer service and community services. As well as generously volunteering her time for Forster Neighbourhood Centre, Lyn also volunteers locally at Forster Art Gallery and Manning Art Gallery plus enjoying reading, bush walking, whale watching, painting, and exploring new areas in her spare time! Lyn volunteers within the community as it provides both a sense of belonging and responsibility to contribute to her new town. Meeting wonderful people and living in such a beautiful environment is just a bonus.

Community Programs



Aim High project funded by NSW Government Child and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative was an important school holiday program to provide opportunities for local Aboriginal children to try new skills and interests and nurture their unique talent and interests. Facilitated by local Worimi women Tanika Davis and Kitana Paulson, Aim High provided a range of meaningful activities including Gathang Language workshops, Cultural Art, Tennis clinics, NRL clinics, surfing lessons, Cabarita Christmas party and fishing days.

ASHOW Coomba Park after school program began in August 2007, providing free and structured indoor/outdoor play activities; child health and wellbeing information; activities that develop children's life skills, and; activities that develop children's social, emotional and cognitive skills. ASHOW is targeted for primary school children from Coomba and runs every Wednesday afternoon during school term. Participants arrive via the school bus to the Coomba Community Hall. This year, we delivered ASHOW across 37 sessions providing 421 education opportunities for Coomba Park children and 209 social participation opportunities for our volunteers.

Forster Neighbourhood Centre Mens Group started in response to an identified community need for a safe place for men to come together and connect. The Mens Group provides an opportunity for any male in our community who are feeling isolated to come along and join a group for a cuppa and develop connections and friendships. We facilitated 44 Mens Group sessions, creating 524 social participation opportunities for our group members.

Work and Development Orders program (WDO) is a government program intended to help people who have difficulties in repaying their State Debt Recovery Office (SDRO) fines. Forster Neighbourhood Centre acts as a WDO sponsor. FNC's role is to interview potential participants in the WDO program and then assist them in accessing activities that will help them to repay their fines. In 2022-2023, FNC supported 18 individuals to pay off their fines at the value of \$13,695.

Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) Vouchers is a government program to help people who are unable to pay their electricity bill due to unforeseen circumstances. People can access vouchers up to twice per year to apply towards their electricity account. In 2022-2023, FNC supported community members to access \$35,000 in EAPA vouchers to assist with overdue electricity accounts.

Vision Impaired Support Group facilitated by Forster Neighbourhood Centre, is a social inclusion and education program targeted to people in our community who are vision impaired. On a monthly basis, an outing is planned to a community venue or restaurant for like-minded people to come together to share their experiences and ideas for a more inclusive community. This year, we ran 8 meetings for up to 10 people at any one time.

Forster Community Garden

Provides an inclusive space for the wider community. A motivated and committed team of volunteers put their blood, sweat and tears into making the Garden a success. We enjoy the generous support from MidCoast Council and Bunnings Warehouse to keep our community activity going.

The Forster Community Garden offers residents of the Great Lakes the opportunity to come together to share ideas and learn how to grow their own organic food in a sustainable manner. Established in September 2007, the garden is open to all members of the Great Lakes community to participate in sustainable gardening. This year, our Community Garden project facilitated 44 sessions, creating 179 volunteering opportunities for our local community.

Community Garden Spotlight: Meet our Volunteer Sally!



Sally has been volunteering in the gardens for over 6 years, acquiring her passion for the outdoors and gardening from her mother. Working as a hairdresser, her boss would send her out to work in the garden when things were quiet in the salon and her love of gardening continued to grow.

We asked Sally a few quick questions about what the Community Garden means to her:

What brought you to engage in the Community Garden?

"I like gardening and needed something extra to do. I used to walk through the gardens and notice a group of friendly people there and you can't sit at home all the time, you need interaction with people (something that I'm good at!), and something to do, so I started to come along as a volunteer."

What benefit does the program have for you and/or the community?

Sally said it makes her feel good to be helping in the community and making social connections, not only in the garden, but with other community members as they walk past and share a smile and a few words. Sally admits that she does love to have a chat, and seeing the community walk away with a smile gives her self - gratification, and recognition of all the hard work that she does to maintain the garden. For the community, the Garden hosts several important community events, such as WDO's where community members work off fines, and different groups use and appreciate the space as a place to walk through and chat.

Do you have a story or highlight to share about your time being involved at the Community Garden?

Sally had plenty of positive experiences to share however was keen to highlight that the garden is in desperate need of re-designing for it to function at its best to support our community. By re-designing the space, it would allow for more community activities to be held throughout the week allowing more people to appreciate the labour of Sally's love of gardening. Sally works hard at maintaining and keeping the space tidy and free from weeds, whilst preserving the native environment around the creek beds.

Better Learning Better Communities

Was developed with input from Elders and the community, delivered by volunteers to support primary age Aboriginal students to do the best they can at school. Once a week, each child works one-on-one with a volunteer tutor to concentrate on the areas most needed and/or of most interest to that student.

Our aim is to make learning fun and keep students engaged so they want to come back. All our tutors have **Working with Children** checks and are carefully trained in how to support Aboriginal kids in their learning. We learn, eat and play games together!

This year, we delivered Better Learning 29 sessions providing 231 one-on-one tutor opportunities for Aboriginal children and 90 social participation opportunities for our tutors.



BLBC Spotlight:

Meet Better Learning Better Communities Mentor – Lena!

Lena Donnelly works at Tobwabba Aboriginal Medical Service as the Aboriginal Family Strengthening Worker. Lena has been a mentor and supporter of our Better Learning Better Communities (BLBC) program, engaging children, providing transport and mentoring local kids to overcome their barriers to educational attainment. We asked Lena about her involvement in BLBC over the years.

What brought you to engage in the BLBC program?

The main reason I got involved in the program is because of the kids, knowing how much they struggle with both schoolwork and the school environment.

Lena also explained that she used to do a homework club when she was younger and it really helped with reading, writing and meeting new people.

What benefit does the program have for you and/or the community?

Lena spoke about how proud she is when she sees the program working for the kids.

She explained how seeing the shy ones or ones with speech problems, developing their confidence to actively engage is a real benefit to them.

Lena has received feedback from BLBC tutors and school teachers about how much the children have improved with their engagement in learning.

Do you have a story or highlight to share about your time being involved with the BLBC program?

Lena had plenty of positive experiences of the confidence the program has developed in local children.

Lena specifically mentioned the kids who have experienced trauma and finding trust in adults has been a real challenge for them. To see these kids develop a positive friendship with their tutors over a couple of months has made a real difference. Lena spoke about how she now observes one child thriving in the structure of the program, feeling comfortable with how it works and what he needs to do, even now walking in smiling and chatting, really looking forward to being there.



Baraya Wakulda (meaning 'Singing Together' in local Gathang language) is a weekly gathering to sing songs in both Gathang and English languages. The singing group encourages social participation and connectedness through song and music, providing an opportunity for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members of the community to develop friendships and a shared understanding of local history and culture. Baraya Wakulda, supported by a local choir conductor, practice each week as a group of approximately 15-20 and perform their songs at local community events as requested.

This year we delivered Baraya Wakulda across 45 sessions providing 303 participation opportunities for our group members.

Baraya Wakulda Spotlight:

Meet Aunty Lynette Davis!

Aunty Lyn was one of the original founders of our Singing group, Baraya Wakulda (meaning Singing Together in local Gathang language. Aunty Lyn grew up singing all her life up on Tobwabba. Her and her cousins, would harmonise everywhere they went, singing as they collected bush food. It was through this love of singing that Aunty Janice Paulson and Aunty Lyn wanted to start this group.

We asked Aunty Lyn a few quick questions about what Baraya Wakulda means to her now:

What brought you to engage in Baraya Wakulda?

Aunty Lyn spoke about attending Big Sing in the Desert in Alice Springs with other community members and the Big Sing by the Sea event hosted in Forster. From attendance of these events, there was a sense of community and a few people were keen to meet more regularly to continue to sing. In discussion with friends Elaine Charker, Felicity Carter and Julie Brady, a group was formed by Aunty Lyn and Aunty Janice to meet weekly to sing together.

What benefit does the program have for you and/or the community?

Aunty Lyn explained how some members come and go but there is a core group of Elders that attend regularly and sing with friends from the local community. Aunty Lyn said "I love being with such a lovely group of people. Learning songs brings the group closer together as one. I really look forward to the group each week and find it very fulfilling".

An important part for Aunty Lyn is trying to encourage other Aboriginal community members to come together as one and share their singing talent as part of the group. "There is so much talent in the community, singing and music was such a big part of learning and growing up for me, that I want to see more happening in the community"

Do you have a story or highlight to share about your time being involved in Baraya Wakulda?

Aunty Lyn spoke of the joy she gets from singing all different songs. Sandra Kwa as the group conductor facilitates the sessions beautifully and helps the singers identify what vocal range they have e.g Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass. Aunty Lyn is unique and can sing across a couple of ranges which not many people can do. She explained that the group really enjoys when they are singing well together and one of the participants will record the group for them to listen back to. This is very special.



Community Events

Forster Neighbourhood Centre runs a range of events to foster community connections and social participation. FNC is committed to reconciliation between all Australians, focusing on community events that provide opportunities for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members of the community to come together to learn, build mutual respect and friendships.

Our Community Events run in the past year include:

Forster Farmers Market

Held on the third Saturday of each month and held in the grounds next door to the Forster Court House. Little Street, Forster. It's a great opportunity to purchase and tantalise your taste buds with the freshest of produce from the farm. The aim is to promote fresh produce grown or homemade products created in the MidCoast area and neighbouring regions. There is a variety of fruit, vegetables, gourmet sauces, jams, preserves, pure honey, plants and much more.

In 2022-2023 the market provided opportunities for 24 producers to showcase their products to the local community. We are always seeking more local producers to add to the market.



Wallis Lake Cultural Cruises

Provided as a community service to facilitate access to local Aboriginal Cultural knowledge and site exploration for the whole community. Facilitated by local Worimi Elders, the Cultural Cruises are an opportunity to immerse yourself in local Aboriginal culture and what it was like to grow up on Worimi country,

We arrange a Cultural Cruise for NAIDOC each year and on request for community groups and private bookings. This year saw record numbers with over 90 attendees on the Cultural Cruise and a further 70 community members at Coomba Park to greet us to share a barbecue and bush tucker inspired sweets.



Due to COVID, we were unable to run our annual **Big Sing by the Sea** event in 2021 so were thrilled that the Minimbah Elders and Forster Neighbourhood Centre could once again host our local event in September 2022. With numbers capped at 100 attendees, we welcomed a full house at Tuncurry Memorial Hall for a weekend of singing workshops and Worimi cultural immersion experiences. The event was topped off with a spectacular Showcase Performance, attracting a further 50 attendees to see our singing groups perform.

Worimi Women Cultural Camps

Is a project funded by the NSW Government's Stronger Country Community Fund in association with the Regional Arts Fund NSW and the Forster Neighbourhood Centre. Our first camp was held in June this year and was attended by a small group of Elders, Aunties, Mums and Daughters to come together for cultural learning and bonding together through strength and identity. In consultation with the local Worimi community, Forster Neighbourhood Centre will facilitate three Cultural Camp events per year over the next three years.



Reconciliation Week Film Screening

Provided an opportunity for the community to come together and watch the award winning documentary, Incarceration Nation. Incarceration Nation is a story of strength and resistance in the face of racism and oppression.

The film lays bare the story of the continued systemic injustice and oppression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on their own land, told by Indigenous Australians.

It was an emotional thought-provoking screening but an important part of truth telling for our community and nation. We have 25 people in attendance to come together and learn about this important issue.

Emergency Relief

Emergency Relief

The Forster Neighbourhood Centre, again with the support of Club Forster Club Grants funding, continued to provide Emergency Relief this year for community members in crisis. With generous support from our volunteers and local businesses, we were able to provide emergency relief parcels of basic food pantry items including meat, eggs and milk to enable recipients to be able to cook a nutritious meal.

We were very fortunate this year to have continued support from local businesses whose donations gave us more scope to help those in need. A big shout out to:

- Butterfingers Bakery, Tuncurry, who provide us with bread and cakes
- Eastern Tiger Restaurant, Forster who provide us with pre-packaged Chinese meals
- Quota International, Forster who provide us with home cooked soups during winter
- Great Lakes Knit and Spin ladies who provide us with blankets and baby knits
- C3 Church Forster Tuncurry for Hypothermic Sleeping Bags
- Banks and Dade staff and patients for hams for our Christmas Hampers
- Evermore Retirement Living for knitted goods and Christmas hampers
- As well as other community members donating items throughout the year.

All items are subject to availability at the time. Our Emergency Relief only has capacity to meet basic food and hygiene needs for up to a couple of days until other services and support can be accessed.

In the 2022-2023 financial year, we provided 527 Emergency Relief packages to community members experiencing crisis, which is an increase of 16.89% compared to last year. We have also seen an increase in homelessness (14.52%).

Information, Advice and Referral

This year has been a challenging one for our Front Desk workers, with an increase in information, advice and referral, however, relocating to the new premises has allowed us to cope with the increase of visitors in the Centre at the one time. The new reception area is very inviting and welcoming and we have a special space set up for children.

Being one of the first ports of call for those in need, we can offer a friendly soft entry point to assist people to get where they need to go. Our Front Desk workers are very knowledgeable on what is available in our community and are empathetic to the circumstances people find themselves in.

In the 2022-2023 financial year, we provided 3219 instances of information, advice and referral, which is over double the number in the previous year.



No Interest Loans (NILS) 2022 - 2023

Nils loans are available for essential goods and services such as fridges, washing machines, car repairs and registration and medical and dental expenses to name a few, up to the value of \$2000, with repayments being set at affordable amounts, to be repaid over 12 - 24 months.

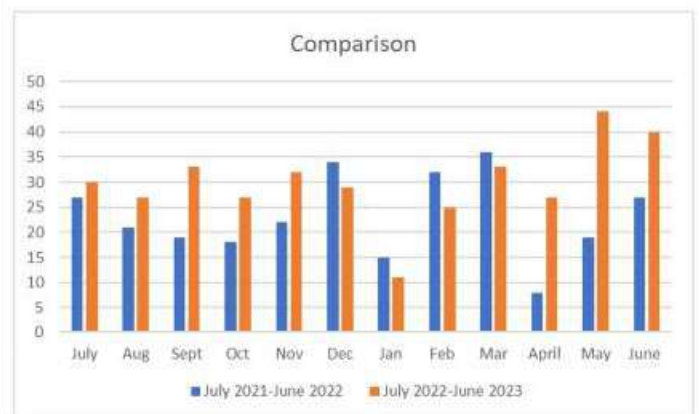
There are no interest or fees ever.

In the 2022 - 2023 financial year, Rachel Wylie stepped back from the Nils team, with Lilly Lertsinpakdee and Lisa Hinton coming on board, we moved into a new premises and saw challenges arise, which were worked through in a cohesive manner.

During the 2022 - 2023 period, a total of 358 loans were disbursed, an increase of **80 loans or 77%** from the previous year to the value of \$435,449.

We have seen the community face many challenges regarding the cost of living increases and housing availability and affordability.

The average loan amount has increased by 75% and the demographic of who is using Nils has also changed, with 30% more employed people now forming part of our clientele.



Child and Family Support & Counselling 2022 - 2023

The Child and Family Support and Counselling Service is funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice under the Targeted Early Intervention Programs.

The program aims to support families who have at least one child aged up to 12 years to ensure:

- Children have a safe and healthy start to life
- Children develop well and are ready for school
- Children meet developmental and educational milestones
- Children live in families that meet their physical, emotional and social needs
- Children and families have access to appropriate and responsive services if needed
- Links with family, school and community are established and maintained

In 2022-2023, we provided the following services:

- 101 occasions of specialist information and referral (e.g. information on child behaviour issues, housing/homelessness, unemployment, financial trouble, changing utility companies)
- 207 occasions of parenting support (parenting skills and support to improve the capacity to build positive relationships, respond to children's needs, and address challenging behavioural and emotional issues) to 49 vulnerable families.
- 169 home visits (structured support and skill development in the home) to 69 individuals requesting support
- 78 Counselling sessions (emotional support for individuals) for 26 individuals

Our program is voluntary and it takes great courage for vulnerable families to engage and access the support they need to support their children to thrive. This service is delivered by our skilled Child and Family team, Anniqua Olsen and Steven McWilliams with over 20 years combined experience supporting families to achieve their goals.



Steve McWilliams describes his role as wide and varied. Steve says *“A usual day involves conducting Circle of Security Parenting Programs and Personal Counselling for parents within our target group. Alongside these, I also refer my clients to the relevant services if their needs are beyond my scope. I also facilitate the FNC Men’s Support Group every Friday between 12 and 2pm”.*

See the following Case Study to highlight the work of the Child and Family Service:

“A young male engaged with our services who was estranged from his young daughter. We engaged in Personal Counselling over a number of weeks to establish client goals and to determine the issues that underpin some of the problematic aspects of his life. As part of this process, it was suggested that he participate in the Circle of Security Parenting Program, which he did.

At the completion of the program, my client indicated that he had a broader understanding of the importance of attachment and the micro skills required for effective parenting. As of last contact, my client had re-established contact with his daughter and is re building their relationship.”



Anniqua Olsen was featured in the Forster Fortnightly in March this year to highlight her work as a potential career path. The full interview is included here:

1. Name and role/career

Anniqua Olsen - Child and Family Worker (includes case management and accredited parenting program facilitator)

2. What is your typical day like?

I'm usually the first one in the Neighbourhood Centre of a morning. My role can be quite diverse from travelling 100km away from the office to deliver a parenting program to families in isolated areas to supporting families in the

local community, both at the centre and in their own homes.

I spend a lot of time, sitting and talking to families, identifying their strengths and working towards minimizing their worries and reducing the barriers that families may be facing. This ranges from mums and dads needing some parenting tips on behaviour management to some being a little more challenging for parents who need support with navigating therapeutic services or accessing financial support.

A large part of my role at the moment is supporting families through housing issues, financial problems and safely escaping domestic violence situations. Unfortunately these issues are getting worse rather than better as the rising cost of living puts immense pressure on families.

3. What is the best part of the job?

The Forster Neighbourhood Centre is a great place to work. Being a part of an awesome team makes a big difference when you're working in the community welfare sector. I do enjoy when we are able to access financial support for clients who need it the most, helping that family to take control of their situation and make positive changes. Being a part of a family's journey and supporting them to achieve their goals and aspirations is humbling and puts a smile on my face.

4. What do you suggest for anyone who is interested in your field of work?

Bring a sense of humor with you and a genuine desire to making a difference in people's lives whilst being respectful, transparent and compassionate.

Forster Neighbourhood Centre has a new home!

After a long period of inadequate premises, Forster Neighbourhood Centre can finally say it has a new home! Opening on Monday 20 March, 2023 at 3 Lake Street, Forster (the old Bottlo next to the Lakes and Oceans), Forster Neighbourhood Centre welcomes the whole community to come visit the newly centrally located hub.

The new premises is a Council-owned building provided at subsidized commercial rent for up to 5 years for use by Forster Neighbourhood Centre. The site was essentially a bare shed and with the support of government grants, the site has been fit-out as a central community hub complete with a community meeting room, interview rooms and a safe place for all Great Lakes residents to reach out for support. The purpose built fit-out was proudly funded by a \$190,110 grant from Round 5 of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund in association with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and the Forster Neighbourhood Centre.

Forster Neighbourhood Centre (FNC) has operated continuously in the community for over 40 years. Their new home provides the capacity needed to meet the growing demand for support and services. With the rising cost of living, the Centre is experiencing unprecedented requests for support reaching almost 100 requests per week.

We enjoy the support of local businesses Club Forster, Eastern Tiger Restaurant, Butterfingers Bakery, Evermore and Quota to meet this demand however having the space to store and distribute these generous donations is a game changer. It has taken a whole of community approach to deliver this asset to the community, thank you to all our supporters.

By Corinne Stephenson – Management Team

Above right: Interior before renovations.

Right: How the front desk looks now with friendly Forster Neighbourhood Centre staff at 3 Lake Street Forster.

Photos supplied.



Volunteers with exceptional community commitment

Volunteer Recognition
 The Forster Neighbourhood Centre (FNC) is a community-based organization that provides support and services to the local community. The FNC is a not-for-profit organization and relies on the support of its volunteers to provide its services. The FNC is proud to recognize the exceptional commitment of its volunteers and to thank them for their contribution to the community.



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Buranbal Marray Art Exhibition Opening

Buranbal Marray Art Exhibition Opening

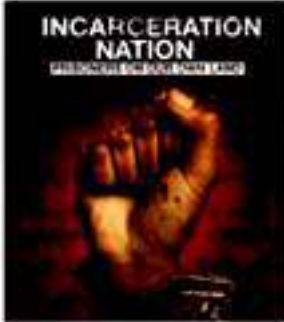
The Forster Neighbourhood Centre (FNC) is proud to host the opening of the Buranbal Marray Art Exhibition. The exhibition features a collection of artworks by Buranbal Marray, a talented artist from the local community. The exhibition is open to the public and is a great opportunity to support local artists and enjoy beautiful art.

The exhibition is held at the Forster Neighbourhood Centre, 3 Lake Street, Forster. The opening ceremony will be held on Monday 20 March, 2023, at 7:00 PM. The exhibition will run until Friday 24 March, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The FNC is proud to support local artists and to provide a platform for them to showcase their work.

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Reconciliation Week screening of 'Incarceration Nation'



As part of Reconciliation Week, Forster Neighbourhood Centre hosted a free community screening of the documentary 'Incarceration Nation'.

The purpose of the event was to facilitate truth-telling and raise awareness about Australia's history of brutality and systemic racism, and its impact on First Nations people today, particularly in our local Aboriginal community.

Twenty three community members and community service workers attended, commenting that the film was 'shocking and confronting' and 'well-timed enough'.

The documentary follows the stories of Aboriginal families and their experience with the criminal justice system, including over-policing, excessive force, brutality and, in some cases, deaths in custody. The film pushed that the cost to detain one Aboriginal young person (with the government over \$500,000 per year) while local Aboriginal legal service clients were being travelled due to a lack of funding. There was a real question on how this amount of money can be spent to achieve better outcomes as the film clearly shows us is failing.



About James Mundine featured in the documentary 'Incarceration Nation', he was just a 14 year old boy when sentenced to time inside for the first time. Despite his traumatic experience he has become a youth sports advocate.

'Incarceration Nation' is a must watch for all Australians to better understand this crisis and work together to make the change needed.

The film can be viewed anytime on SBS On Demand and more information can be found at www.incarcerationnation.com.au

By Corinne Stephenson - Management Team at Forster Neighbourhood Centre

Community News

Local Career



and reducing the barriers that families may be facing. This ranges from mums and dads needing some parenting tips on behaviour management to some being a little more challenging for parents who need support with navigating therapeutic services or accessing financial support.

A large part of my role at the moment is supporting families through housing issues, financial problems and safely escaping domestic violence situations. Unfortunately, these issues are getting worse rather than better as the rising cost of living puts immense pressure on families.

3. What is the best part of the job?
The Forster Neighbourhood Centre is a great place to work. Being a part of an awesome team makes a big difference when you're working in the community welfare sector.

1. Name and role/career
Anniqua Olsen - Child and Family Worker (Includes case management and accredited parenting program facilitator)

2. What is your typical day like?
I'm usually the first one in the Neighbourhood Centre of a morning. My role can be quite diverse from travelling 100km away from the office to deliver a parenting program to families in isolated areas, to supporting families in the local community, both at the centre and in their own homes.

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I do enjoy when we are able to access financial support for clients who need it the most, helping that family to take control of their situation and make positive changes. Being a part of a family's journey and supporting them to achieve their goals and aspirations is humbling and puts a smile on my face.

4. What do you suggest for anyone who is interested in your field of work?
Bring a sense of humor with you and a genuine desire to making a difference in people's lives whilst being respectful, transparent and compassionate.

Aim High project launches this school holidays!

Forster Neighbourhood Centre has been funded by the NSW Department of Health to launch the Aim High project. Aim High will provide a schedule of structured activities for local Aboriginal children to try out their skills and interests, led by Aboriginal models, to engage and foster unique talent.

The funding will be used to bring inspiring Aboriginal role models to the Forster area to run workshops with local children and provide out-of-school excursions to elite performances, such as Cultural Centre, Bangarra Dance studio and NRL matches. With the support of local services and schools, over 25 local children have been surveyed with Surfing, Motorbike riding, NRL and Cultural activities identified as preferred activities.

The Aim High project is coordinated by local Wirrali woman, Tanika Davis. Tanika's passion is focused on understanding the importance of role and impactful community engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Tanika's enthusiasm to ensure program outcomes benefit her people is reflected in all she does, personally and professionally.

Tanika will be supported by local Women's Unit and Senior as Activity Coordinator. We work at Forster Primary School as acting Aboriginal Education Officer and in his words 'he will do anything he can to support our local kids'. We are keen to see this program provide as



much opportunity as possible to nurture and develop talent in our local Wirrali children. The project will also be supported by Subacute Aboriginal Medical Service, Homebased Youth Services and NSW Health.

Rebecca Davis, Coordinator of the Aim High project in the Forster area. www.ABCNSW.gov.au



Revitalised women's shed for Great Lakes

ANNIE BAKER
With the Great Lakes 100th anniversary next year, it's a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

Project officer, Ann Baker, and the women's shed group are looking forward to the 100th anniversary of the Great Lakes 100th anniversary.

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Financial Report (Extract)

Forster Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
ABN 24 282 113 607
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Prepared by Beaver Novello Moss Pty Ltd

Beaver Novello Moss Pty Ltd

Director: **Alex Novello** FCPA, B. Comm.

Director: **Grant M. Moss** CPA, B. Comm.

114 Manning Street

P.O. Box 49

Tuncurry NSW 2428

ABN 81 641 576 089

13th October 2023

Julie Brady
Treasurer
Forster Neighbourhood Centre
PO Box 314
FORSTER NSW 2428

Dear Julie,

Re: Completion of our review of the Forster Neighbourhood Centre Inc. 2023 Financial Statements

I wish to advise that we have recently completed the review of the Forster Neighbourhood Centre's 2023 financial statements.

During the course of our review nothing came to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of Forster Neighbourhood Centre Inc. does not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Forster Neighbourhood Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2023.

I would like to thank the committee and staff for their assistance and co-operation during the course of our review.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Grant Moss



Certified Practising Accountants

Liability limited by a scheme approved
under Professional Standards Legislation.

Beyond
everyday
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Profit and Loss

Forster Neighbourhood Centre Inc. For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Income from Operations		
FUNDING - Major Programs		
CCCS TEI (DCJ)	145,137	137,570
TS TEI (DCJ)	137,781	130,598
NILS (Fair Trading)	104,548	99,097
NILS Good Shepherd (DSS)	52,625	40,962
Total FUNDING - Major Programs	440,090	408,228
Generated income & non tied income		
Donation Income - untied	18,355	-
Farmers Market - Operating Income	5,475	4,008
Income Other - Untied	19,590	10,303
Total Generated income & non tied income	43,420	14,310
Income, Grants and Donations - Other		
Electricity reimbursement GLWS	-	3,255
Grants - Other	102,952	18,091
Indigenous Money Network Revenue (IMN)	-	(9,637)
Total Income, Grants and Donations - Other	102,952	11,709
Miscellaneous Income		
Bank Interest Admin Account	2,520	52
Total Miscellaneous Income	2,520	52
Total Income from Operations	588,984	434,299
Operating Expenditure		
People Costs		
Staff - Insurance Workers Compensation	7,068	5,208
Staff - Recruitment expense	339	-
Staff - Salaries & Wages	373,152	274,798
Staff - Superannuation	39,108	25,161
Staff - Training, development and Supervision	5,093	2,582
Wage Provision	3,513	16,473
Total People Costs	428,272	324,222
Office Expenses		
Accounting Expenses and Audit Fees	2,000	2,000
Advertising and promotion Exp	1,837	1,520
Assets Purchased <\$5,000	9,877	11,900
Bookkeeping Expenses	3,624	3,420
IT - Computer Hardware and software purchases	2,974	5,332
IT - Support, internet, web maintenance etc	2,682	8,900
Motor Vehicle running - ALL expenses	7,021	6,835
Office - Consumables & amenities	1,795	2,195

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditors review report.

	2023	2022
Office Expenses - Telephone, Internet, Security & Fax	3,222	5,141
Office Expenses - cleaning - COVID and special	3,298	1,627
Office Expenses - Electricity, Gas and Water incl. Little St	6,652	4,986
Office expenses - Printing, copying, stationery, postage, etc	7,027	7,742
Property - Rental Coral Ave, 3 Lake St & Little St	11,906	16,534
Property - Repairs & maintenance Coral Ave & Little St	-	136
Total Office Expenses	63,714	78,268
Administration Other		
Insurances - Other; Publicly; Directors, Contents etc	6,156	5,748
Memberships Peak and Sector Bodies	947	1,438
Committee, volunteer and meeting expenses	2,493	2,166
Bank fees and charges	5	27
Contractors Expenses - Other	15,016	2,164
Total Administration Other	24,618	11,543
Farmers Market - Expenses	-	66
Community Garden Expense	-	2,947
Program Expenses		
FACS Program Expenses		
Community Connections, Centre & Support (CCCS) DCJ TEI program expenses	25,852	10,494
Targeted Support DCJ TEI - Program Expenses	-	483
Total FACS Program Expenses	25,852	10,976
BLBC Expense		
BLBC Expenses - Cultural Program All	-	974
BLBC Expenses - Tutor and Mentor Program	-	98
BLBC Expenses Other	-	346
Mens Group Expenses	-	54
Total BLBC Expense	-	1,473
ER (Emergency Relief) Expense		
ER, food Security, special hardship	-	7,687
Total ER (Emergency Relief) Expense	-	7,687
Other Program & Grant Expenses		
NILS Expenses	-	1,662
Total Other Program & Grant Expenses	-	1,662
Total Program Expenses	25,852	21,798
Program Expenses - other	47,766	-
Total Operating Expenditure	590,222	438,845
Current Year Profit from Operations	(1,239)	(4,546)
Abnormal Income		
ATO Small Business Stimulus	-	3,000
State Govt Stimulus	-	36,459
New Office Fitout		

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditors review report.

	2023	2022
3 Lake Street Forster Funding	241,013	-
3 Lake Street Forster Expenditure	(241,013)	-
Total New Office Fitout	-	-
Total Abnormal Income	-	39,459
Current Year Profit inc Abnormal Income	(1,239)	34,914

Balance Sheet

Forster Neighbourhood Centre Inc. As at 30 June 2023

	NOTES	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Bus Everyday Ac		3,000	1,321
Business Cash Maximiser		232,978	280,458
Main Account		64,090	109,558
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents		300,148	391,338
Receivables			
Trade debtors		116,637	853
Total Receivables		116,637	853
NILS Loan Program		295,852	186,772
Total Current Assets		712,637	578,963
Total Assets		712,637	578,963
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables			
Provision for Accounting and Audit Fee		2,200	2,200
Employee entitlements		31,109	27,926
Grants in Advance		33,701	13,637
Wages Payable		255	-
Trade creditors		1,569	9,062
Total Payables		68,834	52,825
Taxation			
GST		11,060	1,566
Total Taxation		11,060	1,566
Financial Liabilities			
NILS Account		295,984	186,904
Total Financial Liabilities		295,984	186,904
Total Current Liabilities		375,879	241,296

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditors review report.

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Non-Current Liabilities		
Other Non-Current Liabilities		
Non-Current Employee Entitlements	937	607
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	937	607
Total Non-Current Liabilities	937	607
Total Liabilities	376,816	241,903
Net Assets	335,821	337,060

NOTES 30 JUN 2023 30 JUN 2022

Equity

Retained Profits / Accumulated Losses		
Current Year Earnings	(1,239)	34,914
Retained Earnings at End of Prior Year	337,060	302,146
Total Retained Profits / Accumulated Losses	335,821	337,060
Total Equity	335,821	337,060

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditor's review report.



**Aboriginal Art Painting
and FNC's new logo
by Kitana Paulson**



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