

**Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic  
Communities Council  
Annual Report 2018**



***Different pasts, shared future***

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**Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council  
Annual General Meeting  
Friday, 02nd November 2018  
5.30pm**

Welcome

\*\*\*Reminder for members to make their vote prior to commencement of the AGM\*\*\*

Acknowledgment of country - President Redgina Balchin

Mashaidi Wa Yesu Choir

**Apologies:**

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting - November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 be accepted as true and correct.

Moved:

Seconded:

**Guest Speaker:**

Denis Ryan – “Perseverance, Hope and Resilience”

**Reports:**

President’s Report (Redgina Balchin)

Executive Officer’s Report (Dean Wickham)

Treasurer’s Report (Katherine Carusella)

Motion: That the reports be adopted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Motion: That the financial statements be adopted.

Moved:

Seconded:

**Special Business:**

No notice of any special business has been given.

**Announcement of Board of Management:**

Trevor Leighton to conduct elections.

President:

Vice President:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Committee:

Committee:

Committee:

Committee:

Committee:

**Meeting Closed:**

# President's Report

Kia Ora

On behalf of the Board I would like to present the Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC) 2017-2018 Annual Report.

The past year has been both a rewarding and challenging year and I would like to take this opportunity to share this with you.

Firstly, last financial year, SMECC purchased the old Sunraysia Community Health Services building on Tenth Street Mildura and the renovations are nearing completion. Once completed this will provide SMECC a great opportunity to meet the needs of our community with highly sought after short-medium term accommodation for resettling our region's newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers. Given the high demand for and lack of suitable accommodation in Sunraysia, this building will assist us to provide a basic human right of safe and secure shelter. The Board and our staff are excited to officially open it for full use over the coming months.

In order to achieve this milestone it has required a huge investment of time and SMECC finances. However, the Board have no doubts that this worthy investment will be recouped over the next couple of years and we look forward to meeting some of the housing needs of Sunraysia.

The biggest challenge of the past financial year has been the changing funding framework of our Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) which is funded by the Australian Government. This program aims to provide support to humanitarian entrants to build skills and knowledge and thereby empower them to become self-reliant and active members of our community. As you will see from the financial reports, the two largest expenses have been Tenth Street building works and the loss of income from the HSP. Although it has been a big financial challenge, it has also provided opportunities to explore other avenues to meet our communities' needs. The Board look forward to the year ahead to bring more of these opportunities to fruition so that our community can prosper.

Thank you to the Board for volunteering their time to enable SMECC to continue advocating for systemic change, effective collaboration, capacity building and sustainable development. The Board are working on a new SMECC Strategic Plan to guide our work and will be presented in the new year. I would personally like to thank outgoing Board members, Theresa Ahoy-Ketting and Ofa Hakalo who served on the Board for 5 years and 1 ½ years respectively. Both of these strong community leaders have stepped down to focus on leading their community groups as Presidents of Mildura Fijian Community Association Inc, and Sanctuary of Tongans. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

As always, thank you to SMECC staff and volunteers for your dedication to the organisation. The Board acknowledges your commitment to SMECC and hope that you enjoy working for SMECC as we enjoy the privilege of serving on the Board.

In closing, the Board would like to thank our members, patrons, and stakeholders for supporting SMECC to carry out our mission, goals and objectives and continue the great work started in 1979 by founding members headed by the Inaugural President Denis Ryan AM. SMECC is privileged to not only have Denis as a Life member but also as our AGM guest speaker as he shares his story of overcoming adversity. Denis is an inspirational leader of our community and I am honoured that Denis is not only a part of our AGM but will also be with us when SMECC celebrates our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019.

*Redgina Balchin*



# Executive Officer's Report

I'd like to thank the staff and the Board of the organisation and the outgoing staff Razie Abdullah, Mehdi Arifi, Zia Ibrahim, Hanifa Khudrahm, Jane MacAllister, Melanie Payen, Ghulam Poya, Andrew Rankin, Vanece Shimirimana, and Sunita Shrestha.

This year has been a challenging one, as we work with community groups and cohorts that are always at the forefront of negative media and political dialog. We know the strength and resilience of those we work with and the weaknesses of the systems that attempt to bring access and equity to all. As a service provider and an advocacy body, we see so much potential, vibrancy, and resilience in the CALD community living and moving through our region. The challenges of today's Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. continues to be advocacy for CALD access and equity across economic participation and social inclusion.

We see migrants working across all industries building our strong and growing regional economy, with people working in agriculture, horticulture, health, hospitality, healthcare/social assistance, education/training manufacturing and construction. Yet the narrative that gains traction is that of negativity and xenophobia when immigration and population policy is on the discussion table.

SMECC has always worked with the strength of diversity, indeed the formation of the Inaugural Advisory Group was a source of strength in times of hardship. The then Shire President Cr. Denis Ryan, our guest speaker, presided over the formation of the Sunraysia Ethnic Advisory Committee. This group was formed to advocate to state and federal governments for assistance needed by local grape farmers who had lost crops as the result of the devastating hail storm in 1979.

The inaugural meeting was held in the Shire offices on Fifteenth Street, Irymple at 10am on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 1979. Present at the meeting were Cr. D.J.H Ryan (Shire of Mildura), Cr. H.R. Thomas (Shire of Mildura), Fr. A. Triantafyllou (Greek Community), Fr. A. Dal Bello (Italian Community), Mr. P. Brizzi (Italian Community), Mr. F. Batur (Turkish Community), Mr. J. Dolenc (Yugoslav Community), Mr. M. Wilkinson (Migrant Education Officer, Education Department), Mr. R. Cadman (Department of Agriculture), Mr. M Parsons (Department of Social Security), Mr. M Tkalec (Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), Mrs. M. Blake and Mr. D.F. Drew.

The coming together of the Sunraysia Ethnic Advisory Committee in 1979 is a testament to the strength of good people working together to support each other and to build the strong and vibrant community we have today.

We work with people; the most valuable resource in building community.

When looking forward to the future focus of our work, the answers may be found in our history books.

*Dean Wickham*



SMECC Playgroup

# Treasurer's Report

After every great achievement comes challenges. We have continuously been successful in the growth of our organisation, from the move to Twelfth Street, to the purchase of Ramsay Court and the development works being undertaken to get it up and running for our future clients. To see one of the biggest losses we have had in the organisation happen this year, although scary, it is not uncommon.

We continue to run our principle activity which is to provide relief and assistance to emerging communities and refugees in the Sunraysia/Northern Mallee area.

Our operating result has presented a deficit for the year amounting to \$244,343. This is a 360 degree turn from last year which we had presented an operating profit of \$40,217.

The best way I can explain this situation is that, although our revenue is steady, the cost to maintain our programs have increased and this significantly impacts our bottom line.

We are however still in a good financial position, with current assets exceeding current liabilities as well as having a net equity of \$2,905,573.

It is always a pleasure to be part of this amazing organisation and it is unfortunate that although we have had our successes, our 2017/18 figures don't reflect it. The board and management have been very diligent to address this issue and are actively working toward achieving better results for the new year. The Board cannot thank management enough for their abundant efforts in getting us to where we are now. I'm excited to see what 2019 has in store for our organisation, members and our new and existing clients.

*Katherine Carusella*

## Board of Management Meeting attendance 2017-18

Date	Redgina Balchin	Gary Pearse	Katherine Carusella	Sue Watson	Ian Japp	Theresa Ketting	Dan Bertoli	Ofa Hakalo	Medhi Sanati pour	Paul Zaharias
25.7.17	X	X	X	X	X	apology		apology	apology	
22.8.17	x	x	x	apology	x	x	x	x	x	
26.9.18	x	x	apology	apology	X	apology	X	apology	x	
24.10.18	x	x	x	x	x	x	apology	apology	x	
28.11.18	x	x	x	x	apology		x	x	apology	x
23.1.18	x	x	x	x	x		x	apology	x	x
27.2.18	X	x	apology	x	x		x	apology	x	x
6.3.18	x	x	x	x	x		x	resigned	x	apology
27.3.18	apology	x	x	x	x		apology		apology	x
24.4.18	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	apology
22.5.18	x	apology	x	x	x		x		x	apology
26.6.18	x	apology	apology	x	x		apology		x	x

Notes:

Casual vacancy accepted by BOM in July 2017, first meeting August 2017

Paul Zaharias and Dan Bertoli elected at 2017 AGM

Theresa Ketting not elected at AGM

Ofa Hakalo resigned 6.3.18

Redgie 11/12

Gary 10/12

Katherine 9/12

Sue 10/12

Medhi 9/12

Ian 11/12

Theresa 2/4

Daniel 8/11

Ofa 2/8

Paul 5/8

# Client Services

Who are Sunraysia's recently arrived refugees who make up the majority of SMECC's client services? Over the past twelve months over 90% of newly arrived refugees who are a part of Australia's Humanitarian program arriving in Mildura have come from the Hazara ethnic minority group originating from Afghanistan. There have also been a small number of new community members from Iran & Iraq.

The majority of SMECC's client services are focused on providing case work support for people on humanitarian visas, and other migrants with limited English language skills within their first five years of living in Australia.

After someone has lived in Australia for more than five years, SMECC's services are very limited, to only supporting with complex matters or around issues such as family violence. Why are our client services limited to people who have lived in Australia for more than five years? This is because after that time there is the expectation from the Australian government that most people will have the skills and confidence to use mainstream support services and will not need our support. Sometimes though this is not possible due to a client's individual circumstances or due to poor cross-cultural service delivery from other services meaning they are not being appropriately or flexibly supported.

**Humanitarian Settlement Services** – AMES Australia works closely with SMECC to implement this program. The program is Federally funded. SMECC received 5 clients from the Congo and 10 clients from Afghanistan. Receiving new clients from the airport and transporting them to their STA. Settling clients into the community and integrating them with required services. There is also regular follow up with clients to ensure all is well and to ensure all clients receive the correct services required. Other services are, finding suitable LTA for all clients and settling clients into this LTA for their new life in Australia. Further, linking clients into employment opportunities and integrating them with fellow community members as well as introducing clients into sports and social activities. SMECC has also been focused on implementing work opportunities for new arrivals. This is a work in progress

**Humanitarian Settlement Program** – Since the transition from HSS to HSP in November, SMECC has supported 69 HSP refugee clients newly arrived in Australia. Since the transition, the program requires additional administration work and requires specific evidence for every service SMECC provides. This program provides a range of community orientation and health & well-being support services for refugees from their day of arrival in Australia – Mildura, for up to twelve months. These orientations are to be provided and claimed within a deadline. This program is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

**Family Safety (Violence) Project** – funded for two years by the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet to support Mildura local initiatives. This is to prevent and respond to family violence and other related issues linked to gender inequality within local CALD community group. In 2017, the SMECC staff received training in identifying, assessing and supporting clients from CALD community experiencing or at potential risk of family violence. The project has a focus on working with the Humanitarian Settlement Program to address the stress and concerns related to newly arrived refugees or family's reunification after an extended period of separation. The project focuses on working in partnerships with services such as the Mallee Domestic Violence Service and the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights to provide a range of community engagement activities to build a broader understanding of family safety and violence issues and to identify vulnerable community members.

Through the project, SMECC has managed to provide collaborative service support with MDVS to seven victim survivor clients from Afghan Vietnamese, Tongan, Indian and Philippine background with severe and complicated situations. Through this project, it was identified that there is room for other opportunities to explore the preventative family violence space that can help everyone from a CALD community background. Hence, the project has worked on the rollout of the project in establishing a Family Strengthening Resource Package (FSRP) that can be given to the CALD community group in their language. The FSRP includes information that can assist in gaining a better and boarder understanding of respectful relationships, family violence and the different types of it. This Includes forced marriages, child abuse and all the central services in Mildura that can assist, including other general services outside Mildura. FSRP is created with the aim of an ongoing educational and awareness in the CALD community and for anyone who has recently arrived in Australia.

**Settlement Service Program: Case Work** – The Casework Program assists refugees and migrants from any culturally and linguistically diverse background with limited English skills. This program works in coordination with multiple support services to provide regular assistance to clients referred to this program. Some clients are received through referrals from other SMECC client services whilst other clients come from external services. Clients within this program are eligible for assistance for up to five years after their arrival in Australia. SMECC coordinates with external services such as Haven, MASP, Mallee Family Care, Jven and Public Housing. This program supports a diverse range of clients from different nationalities. Many of the clients are Hazara, Iranian, Iraqi and a small number of Burundian and Congolese clients. In the last 12 months SMECC has had 163 clients and approximately 410 clients visits though this program. This program is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. Some of the challenges in this program include working out the best way to assist clients with language barriers and any individual problems they face. Some of the rewarding aspects of this program is seeing the clients become more independent and rely less on SMECC.

**Status Resolution Support Service** – The SRSS program supports people who are seeking Asylum in Australia while awaiting the outcome of their application. This service provides limited information, referral and financial monitoring support to the client. The majority of our asylum seekers located in Mildura and Robinvale are from Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. In the last twelve months, SMECC's client list has dramatically reduced due to the change in eligibility and requirements to access support in the program. There is a number of clients who transferred from Red Cross Australia to SMECC. Even after the transfer, the number of clients are less than 30. Many Asylum seekers with work rights have had opportunities for employment locally. This program is funded by the commonwealth Department of Immigration & Border Protection.

# Community Programs

**Strategic Engagement Coordinator** - The SEC role is a Victoria government initiative designed to provide support for resettlement programs across Victoria. There are nine SECs across Victoria. The SEC (Strategic Engagement Coordinator) will strengthen settlement outcomes through a strengths-based community engagement approach that involves collaborative efforts and coordination to engage and support culturally diverse communities, including at-risk and new and emerging communities across Victoria. This includes not only newly arrived community members, but also those who may have been in Australia over five years, and/or are ineligible for Commonwealth settlement support, but still require assistance to support their participation and settlement in Victoria.

In Sunraysia the focus has been on employment outcomes for SMECC clients. To date direct relationships with industry have resulted in 20 CALD participants being employed in the solar construction industry and up to 20 in the meat processing industry. To support these employment opportunities SMECC has conducted information workshops for each industry and provided training rooms for pre-employment training. Employment and housing present as the two key issues. Access to employment presents difficulties as many opportunities are tied to employment contractors who engage employees from outside the region. Rental vacancies are exceptionally low in all regions. All regions make the case for more workers to come in but need to provide the necessary employment and accommodation needs available to ensure new arrivals have a reason to stay. Strong interest from Buloke and Ganawarra LGAs for development of resettlement programs. Community meetings conducted.

**SMECC Multicultural Playgroups** - This is SMECC's longest functioning program, continuously improving and catering to the needs of children and families. Currently the attendance and participation, totals 33 parents and 44 children ranging from 6 months to 5 years of age. Our diverse participants come from Congo, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Burundi etc. "Small Talk" MRCC operates the Monday program in conjunction with SMECC and Wednesday at 10-12 noon is operated by our SMECC team.

Our main goal at the two playgroups is to support ethnic families isolated by language and cultural barriers with a fun, safe and inclusive environment. Children are engaged in pre-school activities including singing, dancing, arts and crafts, helping them get ready for Kindergarten. Parents attending playgroups are also provided with worthwhile information and activities including English lessons, to help them cope and settle well in Mildura.

The on-going visit of the Maternal and Child Health Nurse once a month's ensures that parents remain on top of their children's check-ups and immunisation appointments. Consultations, referrals and monitoring of children's development are made available during this visit. The refugee health Nurse from the Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS) comes once a month to deliver an information session on women's health issues (Such as Pap smears, Breast screen, kid Dental Health, Dietitian, Speech development, Occupational Therapy etc.) Women from isolated backgrounds find it easier and more comfortable to consult on issues about themselves and seek help with the nurse who also provides information on Children's health.

The steady support we receive from our community partners have spelt our success all these years and our constant communication with parents helped us identify the support we provide for them. This year the following are our plan and goals to achieve.

- Continue supporting our HSP, SS, FSP and SRSS clients
- Work more closely with women and families to identify further support and services for them and their children
- Conduct excursions to meet other community members in Mildura
- Recruit more volunteers (either from online Childcare students, TAFE and Senior College) to help us meet our objectives at playgroups
- Be open and responsive to feedback for immediate action and referral to both internal and external services

We, at the Multicultural playgroups will continuously work on the programs that reap positive outcomes for our clients. We are extremely happy as to how our playgroup have evolved and has grown all these years. The support we build with our clients make them want to come to us and open up—an outstanding achievement. With this, we find out more issues, facilitate ways and provide solutions by connecting them to our internal services at SMECC and /or directing them to our community partners.

**New Arrival Men's Program** - Engaging activities for newly arrived men in Community Programs on Wednesday afternoons are conducted. We provide support for newly arrived men to fit in and settle in Australia. Connecting men with the issues, they're facing and making their passion into a reality. We do this by empowering men to change their perspective view of things and promote positive vibes in the community. This program enables men to develop their personal, social and educational development. This enables them to develop their voice, influence, and place in society and to reach their full potential. All of them are new to this country so it easy for us to implement this program/activity without many challenges. The activities help them to; build their self-esteem and self-confidence and develop their ability to manage social relationships. This in turn creates learning opportunities for them to develop new skills and encouraging a positive group atmosphere. We have collaborated with other groups, organizations and community services to implement some of the activities that we do. These include the Mildura United soccer club. All if not most of our clients attend Mildura SC for weekly games. We train Tuesdays and Thursdays then play a game on Sunday. This has been possible because MUSC and Irymple Rotary Club has allowed our clients to play without paying their full joining fees. This program has helped our clients with their basic needs and English language support. This program has helped our clients to feel welcome in Australia. We have delivered some of the best and memorable activities for this men through this program. The activities include; Swimming, Monthly BBQ, Information sessions, Q&A, VicRoad information sessions and site visits. The majority of participants or numbers of people who show up the most are new arrivals from a Congolese background. We normally get over five participants to these weekly activities to keep this program going. The key trends and needs we noticed that are both challenging and interesting are: most of these people are new to this country and they don't have transport to come and do the activities, these men require being picked up all the time. Other challenges are finding activities for grown men that are engaging.



## **Youth Activities**

We have a wide range of youth programs including cooking class, youth project activities in our drop in centre and participation in local community markets. These events include girls doing henna, face painting, dance performance, selling traditional food and lastly our substantial soccer program which has more than 50 youth involved.

We perform these projects and activities as part of the community programs team to engage and support young people and groups from new and emerging communities from refugee & asylum seeker backgrounds. This is to increase the youths skills and confidence, supporting leadership, encouraging creativity, social participation and economic participation. Lastly and most importantly this brings communities together and breaks barriers between the different cultures by introducing each other to different foods and learning and exchanging new ways of doing things.

In making all this happen we have been collaborating with:

- Mildura United Soccer Club to support participation in football federation Sunraysia regional soccer competitions.
- Mildura Rural City Council to support with participation in local school holiday activities and also other youth external events such as the Youth Expo event.
- Mildura English Language Centre to help get information regards programs, activities and events across to the youth.
- Local Youth Market to increase youth income & participation.

In our work, we include youth from many different backgrounds. We have youth from Afghanistan, India, Burundi, Congo and Cambodia.

Our youth group are aged between 10 to 18, both girls and boys with an estimate of 70 to 80 youth.

Our ongoing and regular programs are our soccer program which has 2 days of training and 1 day of games, regular weekly cooking class, regular youth programs in our drop in centre every weekend, and our twice a month participation of youth in the local Red cliffs and village markets.

During our work, we had many challenges; every step had its own challenge. Having youth with parents from different backgrounds and different way of thinking was challenging in terms of giving permission for their child to attend the programs.

However, we were successful in changing the parent's minds and making them accept and understand the benefits of the new programs and activities for their child, which made them, become supportive of their child engaging and participating in any activities or programs.

It was a pleasure going through all those times with the youth and working with SMECC to make it all happen. We have had many successes and a few challenges, but we will always use any opportunity to improve and do better.

## **New Arrival Youth**

Engaging young people in Community Programs and providing support for new young arrivals to fit in and settle in Australia has been our goal. Connecting youth with the issues they're facing stretches beyond the program. Empowering youth to change their perspective view on things and promote positive vibes in the community. Enable young people to develop, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development enables them to develop their voice, influence, and place in society. They can then, reach their full potential. Most were new to this country so it was easy for us to implement this program/activity without many challenges. For example, building young people's self-esteem and self-confidence, and developing young people's ability to manage social relationships. We created learning opportunities for young people to develop new skills, encouraging a positive group atmosphere. We have partnered with other groups, organizations and community services to implement some of the activities that we do. These include: the Mildura United soccer club. All if not most of our clients attend Mildura SC for weekly games. We train Tuesdays and Thursdays then play a game on Sunday. This has been possible because MUSC and Irymple Rotary Club has allowed our clients to play without paying their full joining fees. This program has helped our client with their basic need and their English language support. This program has helped out clients feel welcome in Australia.

Mildura Rural City Council has put our newly arrived young people into their School holiday programs and they provide us with entertainment instruments when needed

We have delivered some of the best and memorable activities for young people through this program, these activities include:

Swimming, Go kart racing, Monthly BBQ, Information session Social games, e.g Soccer, Touch footy and Movie night

This program is aimed at all young people in the community but the majority of the participants are new arrivals from Congolese and Afghan backgrounds. On a good day when we are doing something good about 10 to 15 people will show up but normally I will have around 5 people attending.

The key trends and needs we noticed that are both challenging and interesting are,

The challenges we face are that some of the activities clients are interested in are costly, meaning we can't afford to take the youth to do all costly activities. When we don't provide interesting activities young people start to lose interest in the program and disengage.

Some of the activities the youth have come up with are their own ideas which helps them to be engaged; Design and textile was Christine's idea, the Salon for men was Estate's idea, the Radio podcast and video was Benedict's idea. The youth have also come up with having a Proper youth structure (for example, having a leader and a deputy) Doing more Arts and craft. E.g painting. Which can then be sold during markets e.g. Mildura/Redcliffs markets, Monthly performances by the African Community. E.g. singing, dancing, comedy show, acting etc.

Overall Goal/purpose is to Upskill youth, more Community engagement and staying connected to culture while implementing these opportunities.

### Assist Program

Each year the SMECC Board allocates a total of \$5000 of the organisation's own funds to provide small amounts of financial support for families and individuals in financial distress, and in emergency situations. It is dispersed at the discretion of SMECC Senior Management and the Board, and is focused on supporting CALD community members that for whatever reason 'slip through the cracks' of eligibility for assistance from other services. This support can either be through direct financial gifts, or through formal loan arrangements to be repaid by clients. Examples of how these funds were used in 2017-18; medical costs for children, funding students' camps, emergency financial support. E.g. bills, emergency travel for immigration appointments, emergency accommodation, fuel assistance, assistance with reimbursements to resource organisation, scholarships for students, rental assistance and bond loans.

### Cultural Awareness Training

An introduction to Cultural Competency Training for outer agencies; respond to Australia's increasing diversity, Improve communication with your diverse clients, Improve the quality of your service, learn valuable cross-cultural communication skills to better engage with the CALD community.

Information and skills imparted in this workshop support professional development standards.

Staff that are culturally competent have the knowledge and skills to successfully navigate interactions with people from non-English speaking backgrounds. This in turn not only enhances business/ service outcomes but also supports our broader community. Valuing cultural diversity through cultural competency training will lessen cross-cultural miscommunications. This will enhance your employees understanding, knowledge and skills, when dealing with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Stakeholders and agencies that have engaged and participated in this program are: MASP, MFC, MRRC, SCHS, TAFE, WDEA, SRS, DHHS, Rotary, MDVS, and Degaris, Pasadena and Playalong kindergartens.

-Over 350 participants from outer agencies have participated in this training. 24 training sessions in the last year.

-Acquired annual mandated trainings from SCHS, in talks still with MRCC, TAFE, Justice Department and the Police.

-Victorian Early years conference speaker, Oct 2018.

-Curtailed training requested from Ramsay Health and Kindergartens.

-Cultural Competency training 2 being developed as the next training for previous participants or a 1 & 2 all day training.

Participants have suggested this needs to be in schools as well, so will look further into that.

### Volunteers

**NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 19**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS DONATED: 786 HOURS**

**MOST VOLUNTEERED PERSON: RUTA MINDE**

**PROJECT MOST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: DRIVER MENTOR PROGRAM**

### Our Volunteers

Nematullah Akhlaghi

Gerard Doorackers

Vic Etherington

Thilina Fonseka

Murtaza Ali Gulzari

Gary Huxtable

Sivakantharoopan Luxmikanthan

Michael Mack

Ruta Minde

Brian Murphy

Izidonia Nahimana

Livia Naucukidi

Vasim Negah

John Niyera

Joselyne Ntahomvukiye

Jean Paul Nzeyimana

Warren Pearce

Anna Robbins

Toba Vecchiet



# Other Community Activities & Special Events

## Adult Community Further Education (ACFE)

Adult Community Further Education (ACFE) classes.

SMECC is funded through DET to provide pre-accredited education programs through the Learn Local initiative. This program provides English as Additional Language (EAL) educational opportunities for people from any CALD community group who wish to improve their English.

SMECC EAL classes are focused on supporting those with Preliminary to Post beginner levels of English. As there has been no Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP) in operation for a year in Mildura, ACFE classes are a good starting point prior to students enrolling at TAFE or MADEC. SMECC's ACFE classes currently focus on survival English, verbal communication skills and beginners writing skills.

Our ACFE classes are currently collaborating with the St Joseph College Year 8 Mercy class students offering an additional Conversational English class, sharing stories, knowledge and language. Afghan, Burundian, Congolese and Vietnamese students attend our ACFE classes with an average of 6-20 students participating in each class.

Many clients have been frustrated with the lack of the AMEP. Many have thus enrolled at TAFE. English conversation cooking classes starting up in September to see if the new Congolese clients are interested.

## Shared Local Solutions (SLS)

SLS is designed to increase the level of cooperation between Sunraysia Learn Locals. Outcomes from the project included the development of career taster programs in health, business and retail.

To develop a more employment or education focused model for Learn Locals in Sunraysia and develop pathways to TAFE.

This program was funded by the ACFE Board.

MADEC Community College, East End Community House, Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre and Zoe Support were the partner organisations. Closer relationships were developed into TAFE especially around pathways and in support of the ReConnect Program TAFE has been awarded.

Industry was approached at several points with important contacts with the ATGA and food processing industry being explored. Sunraysia Community Health Service provided rooms and topic experts for the health industry career taster as did TAFE who provided a teacher. There is a greater awareness among learners as to the opportunities to access training and work. The Health Industry Careers Taster program utilised staff from different health disciplines to talk to participants about career pathways. The Health industry career taster has over 1400 views on Facebook and the program was fully attended by 20 participants. Participants from 3 LLOs attended the program. A slightly different approach was taken with a small business taster. In this program, Mildura Development provided a Small Business Victoria facilitator for a business basics workshop. The small business program was attended by 12 clients of which 5 went on to attend an ACFE Pre NEIS program conducted by MADEC Community College. These participants were introduced to small business pathways and the opportunity to pathway into the RMIT TAFE auspiced New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS). These participants were referred to the MADEC program by SMECC. Learn Locals have demonstrated that there is an engagement at pre-employment levels which suits their business models and service rationale. Stakeholder – industry/commerce recognition of Learn Local/ACFE was recognised as being deficient early in the program. Extensive efforts were made to connect with industry and employers to reposition Sunraysia Learn Locals into a positive and forward looking space. Industry and commerce must be an important part of the stakeholder engagement of Learn Locals in Sunraysia. Industry and commerce are the 'end destinations' for LLO participants whether through direct employment or via training at TAFE. Stakeholder services such as TAFE have started to consider LLO particularly at the pre-employment industry level.

Discussions were held with companies in the solar construction, meat processing, health industries, grape industry and horticultural services regarding destinations for LLO learners and industry needs. TAFE engaged at executive levels near the end of the project in order to develop an ACFE Learn Local supported, ReConnect application.



ACFE Class



SLS Launch



### **SMECC Modified Learner Driver**

The Learner Driver program has been offered by SMECC since 2010. We operate this program through a number of ways. We provide opportunities for our community members to engage volunteer driving mentors organised by SMECC. This can include a bi-lingual support worker if required. Free driving safety education sessions are conducted for clients once or twice a year through our collaboration with our partners Roadsafes Mildura and the Mildura Police. This can earn them 4 free driving lessons from Mildura Driving School upon completion of certain requirements. We at SMECC recognise the needs of our clients, the newly arrived HSP clients and isolated women in particular, to become independent members of the community. To know that they can drive to their appointments, drive their children to school and to increase their chances of attaining work are among the top reasons why this program exists. We have had 50 learner drivers attend the sessions and have had 25 successful people who earned their Probationary "P" permit in 2017-2018. We acknowledge our partnership with VicRoads, Road Safe Mildura, Mildura Driving School, and Mildura Police in their contribution to the success of the program for the past several years. Our gratitude extends to the valuable time and effort of our volunteer drivers who patiently guide and teach our clients the valuable driving skills necessary to attain their Ps. Special mention to Tressna Martin from Roadsafes and our volunteers, Michael Mack, Gary Huxtable, Vic Etherington, Gerard Doorakkers and Joselyne Ntahomvukiye for their contributions. We have a high demand for driving lessons due to our HSP clients and others requiring a licence to be able to attend work. Therefore, SMECC will continue to collaborate and work as a team and offer this program. We hope to recruit more regular driving mentor volunteers to assist us in getting our clients road ready and help them become responsible drivers moving forward. SMECC also refers young learners to Sunassist youth "L2P" program whenever possible. We also train the mentors twice a year, who then can volunteer and contribute to our programs. Different components of these activities are financially supported through; Commonwealth Department of Social Services - Settlement services program, Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet - Capacity building and participation program strategic partnership funding.

### **Community Awareness & Education**

SMECC, with our partners, deliver a range of one-off or short term activities to help develop knowledge, skills and confidence of our clients from new & emerging communities. This support is offered to ensure that community members from new and emerging communities are able to settle more effectively in our region.

Service/ agencies who have been involved with delivering sessions and activities throughout the year include: JVEN Employment program, Diaspora Action Collective, Victoria Police, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Community RoadSafe Mildura, Mildura Rural City Council, Sunraysia Community Health Services, TNT – Baby Warehouse, Lower Murray Water, Vision Australia, Rights, Information & Advocacy Centre, Swinburne University, Seven Fields.

Topic areas which have been covered through these activities include; Census 2016 completion, Community Mobilisation, CV Writing, JVEN Employment program information session, Police Careers & Roles, Driving Education, Council roles & responsibilities, Women's Mental Health, Child Car Seat Safety, Women's health Pap smear, Water health & safety, Ready, React, Recover emergency services, Child sight impairment, HACC CALD services, Women's health SCHS parenting unit, women's and children dental health, Women's health breast care/ cancer, Centralised Kinder enrolment system, Youth volunteering, Online Tertiary Study options, pre-employment information.

Different components of these activities are financially supported through;

Commonwealth Department of Social Services – Settlement Services Program

Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet – Capacity Building and Participation Program Strategic Partnership Funding

### **Community Foodshare**

The Mildura Community Foodshare has been hosted at the SMECC skills shed/ warehouse since 2015, with initial support from the Healthy Together Mildura Initiative.

The foodshare operates through SMECC notifying a contact list of staff from different agencies and services when deliveries arrive. These staff or volunteers then come and pick up the food to take back to their service for further distribution. The foodshare is not open for individual clients to come and collect directly themselves. SMECC offers this support as a community service to contribute to supporting others in the broader community. It is also valuable for SMECC as a community engagement opportunity.

SMECC does not receive any funding for this program, and it is just a fact of whichever staff member is able to support pick-up, drop-offs or notifications just jumps in to do it.

Foodbank South Australia provides the vast majority of fresh food into the community foodshare, we also receive regular food deliveries from Brett & Anne Gunn and regular emergency relief and dried food hampers through 'New Life' Assemblies of God church. Over the past year we have also received additional food donations from Henderson College and Kircher's Mt Stewart Asparagus.

Agencies and services who have benefited from the foodshare over the past twelve months for their clients and food programs include; St Pauls/ Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen, St Vincent De Paul, Mallee Accommodation Support Program (MASP), Centacare, Trinity Lutheran College, Mallee Family Care, New Life Church, Pioneer Village, Mildura Senior College, Chaffey Secondary College, Dareton Secondary School, Mildura Specialist School, Mildura South Kindergarten, Mildura West Primary, St Josephs, Sunitafe, Red Cliffs Secondary, The Lake Primary School, Pasadena Preschool, Sunraysia Community Health Services, Ranfurly Primary and SMECC's own clients.



## Partnerships

Whilst SMECC leads many services and community programs ourselves, we also work with a range of other agencies to help provide an effective range of local services and support. In many of these cases, SMECC plays an increasingly background supportive role as other agencies become well placed to lead themselves. Partnerships this year have included:

- Sunraysia Community Health Services, support of the SCHS Refugee Community Garden & Lunch Group;
- Mildura Rural City Council in a range of areas such as; Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN) program, offering Maternal & Child Health Services onsite at SMECC in Collaboration with our Multicultural Playgroup;
- Murray Mallee Community Legal Service and Women's Legal Service Victoria for visiting legal services and training support;
- Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, support their local activities to engage and support local Muslim communities;
- Roadsafe Mildura working with SMECC driver practice program to provide additional driver education and support
- Continuing to provide advice and support for the Burundian Community Garden project led by Sunraysia Local Food Future with the support of Slow Food Mildura, Sunraysia Produce, Open Food Network and 3000 acres.
- Supporting the 2017 Iempower youth leadership program in collaboration with the Department of Justice;
- Partnering with the Mallee Domestic Violence Services and Sexual Assault Unit for client service support
- Ongoing partnerships and engagement with Youth Services Mildura, Chaffey Secondary College, Mildura Senior College and Mildura English Language Centre to engage and support young people through community project activities.

We support partnership activities for a range of reasons. Sometimes other agencies may have specialist expertise which we feel adds value to support our target group, facilities more suited to a particular activity, may not be based locally and we provide support during visits to the region. More importantly, it is the recognition that one (small) agency like ourselves cannot hope to do everything ourselves. We plan to continue to support organisations and initiatives, with a particular focus on supporting those which are well-coordinated and complimentary to other existing programs. We also aim to focus on working to ensure there is an increase in two-way client referrals back to SMECC from other agencies where these activities recognise an area of need or opportunity for potential further support from SMECC.

## Sunraysia Multicultural Festival

This year, on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018, over 1,600 visitors gathered at a new location; Chaffey Secondary College for the fourth Sunraysia Multicultural Festival. The festival's main focuses were to collaborate and foster a concrete partnership with the college and its students, to actively participate and encourage organisation of such an event, as well as social cohesion and relationship building amongst our diverse community members. The festival also had a strong community capacity building component to support New and Emerging Community (NEC) groups in the lead up to the event to help facilitate their active participation.

Funding for the event was received through a grant from the Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet. The festival was successful in engaging a variety of different CALD communities through their participation in the event. This year saw an increase in participation of local key NEC groups, particularly those from Afghan, Burundian, and Sri Lankan Tamil backgrounds. Other local CALD groups who participated in the event included countries like Mauritius, Nepal, Fiji, Vietnam, Bangladesh, a local community group, our Indigenous community, and our English language students.

A professional performance group from Melbourne known as Sonik Waves was our main act, while our local talent continued to shine with their performances throughout the day.

This year's event also included the participation of other services supporting CALD groups to support community awareness of their programs. These included; Sunraysia Community Health Services, Murray Mallee Community Legal Services, Mildura Rural City Council Children's Services, Headspace, Two Rivers Early Learning Centre, Maurice Blackburn, Vision Australia, Victoria Legal Aid, and the Dante Alighieri Society of Mildura Italian society.

*A few quotes and findings from our survey feedback from audience members:*

*The festival saw 50% new attendees. 84% described festival as "excellent" or "very good."*

*"There's something for everyone...from entertainment, food, information stalls and the performances. A great day out."*

*"Every year it has gotten better and better. Food and henna and smiling faces."*

*"Everything. Fabulous food, stalls, music, dancing. A real sense of community at its best."*



With the purchase of the facility, over this financial year, we have been able to complete Phase 1 of renovations and have it operational to occupy up to 10 people in this space. There are still 3 more phases to go with plans and permits in place, but progress has been slow and arduous with financial barriers being the major hurdle in getting us through to the next phase.

[illegible]

The graph below shows our centre usage for the year.

Names	Orange Room	Blue Room	Board Room
Heavenly Feast	13		44
Hazara Community	10	9	
Filipino Community		2	
Twitezimebere Burundian Community	51	95	13
Sanctuary Of Tongan	49	56	
Fijian Community	34	10	3
Indian Community	29	6	21
Vietnam Community	6		1
Turkish community	2	3	
Different organisations	63	16	109
<b>TOTAL USAGE</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>191</b>

Youth Room	Classroom	Kitchen
49	297	35

## **Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

### **Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 June 2018**

Committee Report

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Changes in Funds

Statement of Cash Flows

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Committee Statement

Independent Audit Report



**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Your Committee members submit the financial report of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2018.

**Committee Members**

The names of the Committee members throughout the year and at the date of the report are:

Redgina Balchin - President	LSC Gary Pearse - Vice President
Katherine Carusella - Treasurer	Sue Watson - Secretary
Ofa Hakalo (Resigned)	Paul Zaharias
Ian Japp	Dr Mehdi Sanati pour
Daniel Bertoli	

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

- To provide direct relief and assistance to emerging communities and refugees in the Sunraysia/Northern Mallee area.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

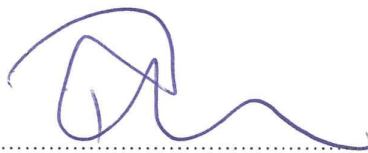
**Operating Result**

The deficit for the year amounted to \$244,343.

**Review of Operations**

A review of operations of the association during the financial year identifies a significant decrease in profit. A 3% overall increase in government grants and project funding during the year has been offset by a 23% increase in expenditure.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Redgina Balchin



Katherine Carusella

Dated this 19th day of September 2018



**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS & OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue	2	1,181,386	1,132,397
Other revenue	2	271,064	283,488
		<b>1,452,450</b>	<b>1,415,885</b>
Administration expense		99,018	100,951
Depreciation		70,925	91,433
Finance costs		33,455	29,888
Motor vehicle expenses		35,739	30,550
Occupancy costs		232,673	149,429
Program costs		167,575	119,680
Employee benefits expense		1,048,789	844,753
Travel expenses		8,619	8,984
		<b>1,696,793</b>	<b>1,375,668</b>
<b>Operating Profit/(Loss) for the year</b>		<b>(244,343)</b>	<b>40,217</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>			
Net gain on revaluation of land & buildings		-	1,431,571
Total other comprehensive income for the year		-	<b>1,431,571</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year</b>		<b>(244,343)</b>	<b>1,471,788</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2018**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3	471,852	639,654
Trade & Other Receivables	4	93,964	209,859
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>565,816</u>	<u>849,513</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	3,234,959	3,234,586
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>3,234,959</u>	<u>3,234,586</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><b>3,800,775</b></u>	<u><b>4,084,099</b></u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	6	134,162	112,635
Provisions	7	72,955	73,222
Financial Liabilities	8	84,240	84,240
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>291,357</u>	<u>270,097</u>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	7	10,341	20,984
Financial Liabilities	8	593,504	643,102
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>603,845</u>	<u>664,086</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>895,202</u>	<u>934,183</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>2,905,573</b></u>	<u><b>3,149,916</b></u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Reserves	9	1,431,571	1,431,571
Retained Earnings		1,474,002	1,718,345
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u><b>2,905,573</b></u>	<u><b>3,149,916</b></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016</b>		1,678,128	-	1,678,128
Profit for the Year		40,217	-	40,217
Total other comprehensive income		-	1,431,571	1,431,571
<b>Balance at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>		1,718,345	1,431,571	3,149,916
Loss for the Year		(244,343)	-	(244,343)
<b>Balance at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>		<b>1,474,002</b>	<b>1,431,571</b>	<b>2,905,573</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from grants & customers		1,558,608	1,444,941
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,581,795)	(1,251,099)
Finance costs		(33,455)	(29,888)
Interest received		9,737	10,633
<b>Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities</b>	10	(46,905)	174,587
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(71,299)	(413,013)
<b>Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities</b>		(71,299)	(413,013)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of borrowings		- 49,598	(41,392)
Proceeds from borrowings		-	293,000
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		(49,598)	251,608
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(167,802)	13,182
Cash at beginning of financial year		639,654	626,472
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	3	<b>471,852</b>	<b>639,654</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

**Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

These financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Victoria. The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of these financial statements. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless

**a. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

Plant and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**b. Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

**c. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**d. Revenue and Other Income**

Grants received on the condition that specified services are delivered, or conditions are fulfilled, are considered reciprocal. Such grants are initially recognised as a liability and revenue is recognised as services are performed or conditions fulfilled. Revenue from non-reciprocal grants is recognised when the Association obtains control of the funds.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

**f. Comparatives**

Comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year where required by accounting standards or as a result of a change in accounting policy.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

**Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**g. Key Estimates**

*Impairment*

The Association assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the group that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

**h. New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods**

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods and which the Association has decided not to early adopt. The Association does not expect that these changes will have a material effect on its financial statements.

**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>NOTE 2: REVENUE</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Humanitarian Settlement Services	385,068	517,091
Humanitarian Settlement Program	96,907	-
Complex Case Support	23,271	-
Status Resolution Support Services	71,461	163,630
Settlement Services	188,199	193,181
Refugee Action Program	230,000	195,000
Strategic Engagement Coordinator	140,000	-
Adult Community & Further Education	32,284	48,522
Mildura Rural City Council	14,196	14,973
	<b><u>1,181,386</u></b>	<b><u>1,132,397</u></b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest Received	9,737	10,633
Rent Received	46,372	12,011
CPC Family Strengthening	70,000	70,000
DEDJTR Multi Language Guide	-	45,455
DEECD Shared Local Solutions	60,000	40,000
Sunraysia Multicultural Festival	20,000	27,500
Small Projects Income	20,672	27,028
Work for the Dole Funding	-	25,830
Other Income	44,283	25,031
	<b><u>271,064</u></b>	<b><u>283,488</u></b>
<b>NOTE 3: CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash on Hand	200	200
Cash at Bank	213,468	275,374
Term Deposits	258,184	364,080
	<b><u>471,852</u></b>	<b><u>639,654</u></b>
<b>NOTE 4: TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade Debtors	39,982	88,001
Accrued Income	28,120	98,363
Prepayments	20,409	17,878
Other Receivables	5,453	5,617
	<b><u>93,964</u></b>	<b><u>209,859</u></b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>NOTE 5: PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>		
Land & Buildings		
At Independent Valuation 2017	3,150,000	3,150,000
At Cost	61,820	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(48,186)	-
	<b>3,163,634</b>	<b>3,150,000</b>
Motor Vehicles At Cost	92,007	92,007
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(66,295)	(57,722)
	<b>25,712</b>	<b>34,285</b>
Plant & Equipment At Cost	154,681	145,202
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(109,068)	(94,901)
	<b>45,613</b>	<b>50,301</b>
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<b>3,234,959</b>	<b>3,234,586</b>

**Asset Revaluations**

The freehold land & buildings were independently valued at 30 June 2017 by WBP

**a. Movements in carrying amounts**

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant & equipment between beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Land & Buildings	Motor Vehicles	Plant & Equipment	Total \$
Opening Balance	3,150,000	\$ 34,285	\$ 50,301	3,234,586
Additions	61,820	-	9,479	71,299
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation Expense	(48,186)	(8,573)	(14,167)	(70,926)
Closing Balance	3,163,634	25,712	45,613	3,234,959

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>NOTE 6: PAYABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade Payables	24,887	8,586
Accrued Expenses	22,900	-
GST Payable	(2,640)	25,502
Payroll Liabilities	31,515	21,047
Other Payables	57,500	57,500
	<b>134,162</b>	<b>112,635</b>



**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>NOTE 7: PROVISIONS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Annual Leave	42,819	54,544
Long Service Leave	30,136	18,678
	<u>72,955</u>	<u>73,222</u>
<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Long Service Leave	10,341	20,984
	<u>10,341</u>	<u>20,984</u>
	<u><b>83,296</b></u>	<u><b>94,206</b></u>

**NOTE 8: FINANCIAL LIABILITIES**

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Bendigo Bank Loan (107 Twelfth Street)	36,400	18,200
Bendigo Bank Loan (32 San Mateo Avenue)	18,200	36,400
Bendigo Bank Loan (Ramsay Court)	29,640	29,640
	<u>84,240</u>	<u>84,240</u>
<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Bendigo Bank Loan (107 Twelfth Street)	185,323	211,199
Bendigo Bank Loan (32 San Mateo Avenue)	167,805	177,241
Bendigo Bank Loan (Ramsay Court)	240,376	254,662
	<u>593,504</u>	<u>643,102</u>
	<u><b>677,744</b></u>	<u><b>727,342</b></u>

The bank loans are secured by a first mortgage over the freehold and college leasehold properties.

**NOTE 9: RESERVES**

**Asset Revaluation Reserve**

- The asset realisation reserve records revaluations of property, plant & equipment.

**NOTE 10: CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

<b>Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit/(Loss)</b>	(244,343)	40,217
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating		
Non-cash flows in profit:		
Depreciation	70,926	91,433
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
increase in trade and term debtors	115,895	4,689
increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	21,527	27,767
increase in employee benefits	(10,910)	10,481
	<u><b>(46,905)</b></u>	<u><b>174,587</b></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

**NOTE 11: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

At 30 June 2018 the Committee is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in these financial statements.

**NOTE 12: CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

At 30 June 2018 the Committee is unaware of any capital or leasing commitments which have not already been recorded elsewhere in these financial statements.

**NOTE 13: RELATED PARTIES**

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties.

**NOTE 14: EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE**

Since the date of these financial statements, there have been no events occurring after reporting date which require specific disclosure.

**NOTE 15: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE**

The association's activities are funded by various state and federal government departments, its core source of revenue is provided by the Department of Premier & Cabinet and the Department of Social Services. At the date of this report, the members of the Committee had no reason to believe that these government departments would not continue to provide financial support to Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc.

**NOTE 16: ASSOCIATION DETAILS**

The principal place of business of the association is:  
107-111 Twelfth Street  
MILDURA VIC 3500

**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Redgina Balchin - President



Katherene Carusella - Treasurer

Dated this 19th day of September 2018

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**Auditor's Opinion**

The financial report of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc has been audited. This comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible persons' declaration.

In my opinion, the financial statements of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc as of 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic).

**Basis for Opinion**

The audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statement' section of the report. I am independent of the organisation in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to the audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and for such internal control as the responsible persons determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible persons either intend to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the organisation's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

The auditor's objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, professional judgement is exercised and professional scepticism is maintained throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

- Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I'm required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. Conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with responsible entities regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that are identified during the audit.



Kellie Jane Nulty  
RCA 298704  
Dated this 19th day of September 2018



# Our Partners and Supporters



An Australian Government Initiative

# Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting

**Annual General Meeting**  
**held Thursday 2nd November 2017**  
**5.30 pm - 6.25pm**

Location: 107-111 Twelfth Street Mildura VIC 3500  
Welcome All - Redgina Balchin  
Acknowledgement of Country - Redgina Balchin

**Attendees:** Twitezimbere Burundian Community, Helen Chaston, Lisa-Maree Stevens, Christine Leamon, Dr Srikala Bharath, Murat Aydin, Sue Watson, Redgina Balchin, Katherene Carusella, Mehdi Sanati Pour, Theresa Ketting, Yolanda, Beth (Filipino Community), Fiona Lush, Stephen Williams, Father Gary, Anne, Freda (Greek Community), Andrew Manley, Anne Webster, Shiva Neiker, Walaa Sabri, Juvelina Guterres, Danielle Hren, Ray Cadmore, Farjana Alam-Rankin, Mahidiya Monis, Rosette Ndinduruvugo, Dean Wickham, Julyn Chan and Jessica Ngo.

**Apologies:** Peter Byrne OAM, Ofa Hakola, Dr Victor Obatoki, Steven Bliim, Andrew Rankin, Alev Kuzu, Kerry Gillespie, Sayema Najafi, Mehdi Arifi, Jean Paul Birama, Razie Abdullah, Iddress Jafari, Mohammad Qasini and Safiya Ibrahimini

## **Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting - held Friday 28th October 2016**

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 28, Friday 2016 be accepted as true and correct.  
Moved: Katherene Carusella      Seconded: Theresa Ketting      Carried

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Angelo Tsirbas MD – Aesthetic Oculoplastic Surgeon

“Challenges for assimilation, strengths, perseverance, problems and overcoming adversity for migrants in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

## **Reports:**

President’s Report – Redgina Balchin  
Executive Officer’s Report – Dean Wickham  
Treasurer’s Report – Katherene Carusella

Motion: That the reports be adopted.

Moved: Mehdi Sanati pour      Seconded: Gary Pearse

Motion: That the financial statements be adopted.

Moved: Gary Pearse      Seconded: Theresa Ketting

**Special Business:** No notice of any special business has been given.

## **Election of Board of Management:**

Trevor Leighton from the State Electoral Commission was in charge of conducting the election process, in which there were four office positions and 5 general members.

President:	Redgina Balchin
Vice President:	Gary Pearse
Treasurer:	Katherene Carusella
Secretary:	Sue Watson
Committee:	Mehdi Sanati pour
Committee:	Ofa Hakalo
Committee:	Ian Japp
Committee:	Paul Zaharias
Committee:	Daniel Bertoli

**Meeting closed:** 6.25pm



# Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council

**SMECC Community Cultural Centre  
107 - 111 Twelfth Street Mildura VIC 3500  
PO Box 1213 Mildura VIC 3502**

**P: (03) 5022 1006**

**F: (03) 5021 2450**

**E: [reception@smecc.org.au](mailto:reception@smecc.org.au)**

**[www.smeccinc.org](http://www.smeccinc.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/smeccinc](https://www.facebook.com/smeccinc)**