



Maldon Neighbourhood Centre Inc

Friendship & Community



Annual Report

2023/2024

Table of Contents

- 01.** Committee of Management
- 02.** Acknowledgements
- 03.** Community Value Snapshot
- 04.** Chairperson's Report
- 05.** Coordinator's Report
- 06.** Auspice Group Reports
 - Maldon Cycling
 - Maldon Golden Movies
 - Tarrangower Dementia Alliance
 - Tarrangower Tomorrow
 - Maldon Artist Network
- 07.** Treasurer's Report
- 08.** Audited Financial Statements

Committee of Management

The Committee of Management in 2023/2024 comprised:

Chairperson: Carolyn Palmer

Vice Chair: Pam Millwood

Treasurer: Danny Murphy

Secretary: Peter Matic

Ordinary Committee Members:

Ann Metz

Alison Park

Jan Sinclair

Acknowledgements

The Maldon Neighbourhood Centre acknowledge that we are on Jaara country. We recognise the continuing connection to land, waters and culture of the Dja Dja Wurrung people. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Maldon Neighbourhood Centre would like to acknowledge the support of our volunteers and members.

We would like to thank our partnering organisations: Maldon Hospital, Castlemaine Community House, Dhelkaya Health, Maldon & District Community Bank, Mount Alexander Shire Council, Maldon Men's Shed. Tarrengower Prison, Maldon Inc, Maldon Senior Citizens and Baptist Church Maldon.

Maldon Neighbourhood House

Real **Impact**. Real **Value**.

INCOME \$235,803

VALUE \$1,244,837

This figure includes the value of:

Improved quality of life through social connection: **\$232,034**

Volunteer contributions: **\$158,350**

Emergency relief provided: **\$69,484**

Services provided: **\$40,421**

Adult Community Education: **\$709,135**

Early childhood education and care: **\$35,413**

Emergency relief value includes:

- Food and groceries: **\$66,604**
- Food vouchers: **\$2,400**
- Clothing: **\$480**

Services value includes:

- Computer/internet usage: **\$1,440**
- Facilities use or hire: **\$4,392**
- Résumé assistance: **\$360**
- Auspicing other organisations: **\$3,162**
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: **\$24,000**
- Fee for service activities: **\$1,067**
- Power Saving Bonus: **\$6,000**

This community value equates to:

\$5.28 for every \$1 of income

\$13.06 for every \$1
of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program
funding

Over **\$478.78** for every hour the neighbourhood
house is in use

Employment value

2.8 FTE jobs

including 2.0 direct and 0.8 indirect
Full Time Equivalent positions



These values are produced by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria based on data provided by Maldon Neighbourhood House in the 2023 Neighbourhood Houses Survey. Only a limited range of activities where a determinable valuation method exists are included.

Chairperson's Report

As we wrap up another year at the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre (MNC), I want to take a moment to reflect on our governance journey and what it means for our community. As I look back on the last twelve months, I'm so very grateful for the community spirit that continues to shine through everything we do. It's my belief that we live in an exceptional town populated by exceptional people and, at least for now, I'm not accepting any alternative descriptions!

During 2024 the Committee of Management has lost two members and, happily, gained two new recruits. Grateful thanks to Danny Murphy, outgoing Treasurer, for his above and beyond service. Danny continued in his role for most of the year despite moving from Maldon. We have now been fortunate to recruit Geoff Holmes to fill some very big shoes. Alison Park has also left us and will continue to offer support to others in her busy community roles here and in Castlemaine. Jan Sinclair joined us this year and brings with her a wealth of professional experience and willing hands. We do still have room on the committee for new members and if it's even crossing your mind for a second to join us, please contact either John or me. Any time, day or night!

The work done by the 400 plus Neighbourhood Houses across the state continues to be extraordinary. I thought it would inspire us all to know that recent figures report:

- 400 houses supporting 4500 community groups across Victoria
- \$850 million dollars in measurable community support given
- \$21 of service delivery provided for every \$1 of government funding – now that's a useful return on investment.
- Numbers of volunteers have almost reached the same level as 2017 – pre covid –an extraordinary achievement and very far from common.

All this activity provided by committed staff and volunteers working at full capacity and very often beyond.

However, the challenges faced by other sectors are reflected in Neighbourhood Houses as well. Many Houses in Victoria have been experiencing difficult times of late and problems have ranged from operating with budgets in deficit, staff resignations and committee recruitment struggles. At Maldon we are reaping the benefits of previous committee members, volunteers and staff who have put in place strong governance guidelines and wise financial planning. I believe it's important to acknowledge the work done in previous years that has enabled us to continue providing the huge range of activities that the MNC provides. Of course, none of this would be possible without our dedicated staff, faithful volunteers and steadfast Committee of Management. Heartfelt thanks to you all.

As we move into the next year, we'll continue to prioritize good governance. We'll keep refining our strategies and remain open to new ideas that help us serve our community better. As always, our aim is to ensure that the MNC remains a welcoming and supportive place for everyone.

As we look to the future, I'm excited about what's coming next. We're planning to introduce new programs and explore ways to enhance our services further. Your ideas and feedback are always welcome, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

In closing, thank you to each and every one of you for your support and involvement. Let's keep the momentum going and make our neighbourhood even stronger!

Carolyn Palmer
Chair, Committee of Management
Maldon Neighbourhood Centre

Coordinator's Report

This has been a fantastic year at Maldon Neighbourhood House as we enjoy our vibrant community with activities and events enjoyed by many.

On Mondays our amazing Childcare team continue to engage with the 'newer' Maldon residents and provide a fun and informative environment for our local children. We were sad to see Anna leave the team and wished her the best as she needed more time to support family. Julie-Anne has stepped into the leading role and done a sterling job. Veronica also said goodbye to us. Alicia and Lesley have continued to offer amazing support and care for the children.

The Maldon Community Lunch keeps supporting our town with a satisfying lunch every week for more than 40 people. Lynn continues with her passion and creativity and with the help of a team of volunteers (Pam, Liz, Jenny, Gavin, Julie, Dianne & Paul) cooking, serving and cleaning each week. Women from Tarrengower Prison also assist and we really appreciate they have been able to return after too long a break. We also thank Pam and Maddie as back-up coordinators for us, especially whilst Lynn was unwell. We thank the Mount Alexander Shire Council who fund the lunch and who have agreed to increase funding from July 2024.

Maldon Community Pantry was dreamed and brought to fruition. Early conversations with Ali, Darcy and Heather recognized how food insecurity was impacting some in our community. Holy Trinity Anglican Church offered to host the pantry and we set about opening up in November, not quite sure how it would unfold. A clear steady need was there and it has continued to build. Heather was passionate in talking with all the cafes in Maldon for a 'pay it forward' scheme for coffee and cake. This expanded to meals and meat vouchers from the butcher. Maldon & District Community Bank supported us with funding for shelving and a fridge. Our great team of volunteers include Carolyn, Kay, Dawn, Yvonne, Ray & Paul. Thanks also to local businesses supporting the program.

We received our new electric vehicle via a grant from Department of Transport. After a very long wait and we waited patiently as the bus travelled to Australia (Brisbane), got fitted out, and by midyear, was on its way south. We had a great launch in October. There were some hiccups, but our team of drivers took the challenges and we have learnt more about this new technology and how it might work for Community Transport. As part of the funding we have to provide updates and are available to other organisations to share our experiences (the good and the not so good). The older diesel bus is still utilized for charters, regular runs to Castlemaine, Maryborough and Kangaroo Flat.

Monthly bus tours continue to be popular with trips to art galleries, wineries, gardens, op shops, picnic and hotel lunches. We also explored Echuca, Wedderburn, Clunes & Macedon amongst others. A big thank you to our amazing drivers – Stewart, Ken, Neville, Paul, Robert and Geoff.

The weekly Playgroup is a great opportunity for young families to connect and play together. The Toy Library is regularly used by families, and grandparents.

Courses offered include Chainsaw, Woodworking & Acting for Beginners. Our writing course is popular and 'Staying Safe Online' is helping folk be more tech savvy. Walking groups meet the whole year round with Fridays being very popular with our four-legged friends. Thanks Brenda, Julie and David for your research and scouting for places to visit for the monthly "Out of Town" walks.

Our Market has truly found it's home at the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre. There is a great ambience as locals and visitors enjoy quality wares and great coffee, a snag and song from a new entertainer each month. Lynn, our Market Coordinator brings passion and dedication each market and we also thank volunteers who are there rain, hail or shine, especially on those cold winter mornings. The fundraising for local community groups is a great source of income providing more than \$15,000 through the year. Thanks also to the Golf Club for providing the trailer bbq.

Thanks to staff and volunteers here at the Centre – Julia who excelled in newsletters and communications. Our Centre volunteers – Ross, Carolyn, Kay & Maree. Our garden volunteers – Geoff and Carolyn. Wendy our cleaner, and book-keeper Mary Whittle. Thanks to our dedicated Committee of Management who bring care and oversight to the Centre.

MNC took a lead with the Voice Referendum. 'Maldon for Yes' provided information for people to be informed. Even though the final outcome was not the result we hoped for, the deepening of knowledge was helpful as we journey together.

This has been a big year for us, we are looking forward and expect a great future for our house and community in years to come.

Please remember this is your Neighbourhood House. Come and get involved – we'd love to have you.

John Bainbridge
MNC Coordinator

Auspice Group Reports

● Maldon Cycling

ACTIVITIES FOR 2023/24

Maldon Cycling was previously named The Maldon Classic. The event known as The Maldon Classic, is now conducted by a separate group, which is not auspiced by MNC. Other cycling-related activities continue under the name of Maldon Cycling.

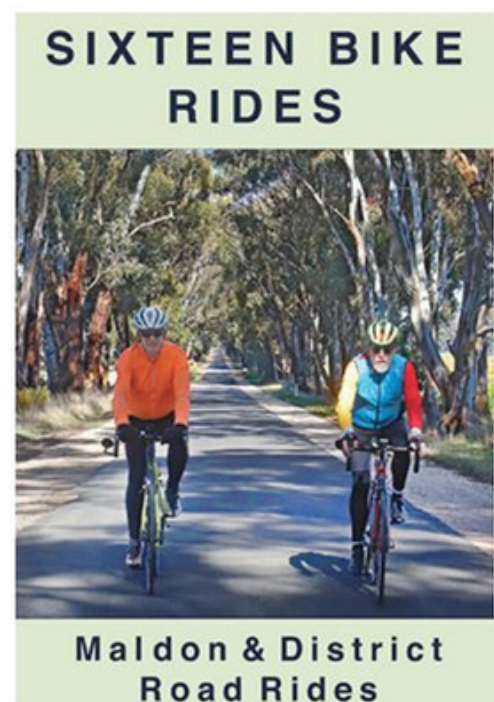
Maldon Cycling published a book, 'Sixteen Bike Rides', with maps of road rides around Maldon, descriptions of the rides and photographs of points of interest. As the first print-run of 150 was almost sold out, an additional 100 were printed in January. The book is stocked at the Maldon and Castlemaine Visitor Information Centres, and a number of retail outlets in Maldon, Castlemaine, Maryborough and Bendigo.

Work has begun on a book of Gravel Bike Rides, which should be very popular. The group also assisted with a booklet of local bike rides, published by Friends of Maldon Historic Reserve and Maldon Inc. It will be titled 'Ride MaldON' and will be in the same series as the Walk MaldON booklet. Maldon Cycling obtained funding from Community Bank Maldon & District for artwork and printing of the book, and assisted with the development of maps and text.

ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR 2024/25

Maldon Cycling will work to finalise the Gravel Bike Rides book and the Ride MaldON booklet. The Gravel Rides book will be sold by the Information Centres and retail outlets which now stock the Road Rides book.

The Ride MaldON booklet will be available free-of-charge at the Information Centres and some tourism outlets.



Auspice Group Reports

● Maldon Golden Movies

In the past year, Maldon Golden Movies celebrated a decade of bringing people together to enjoy films. As always, the mix of movies was diverse, taking members around the world and on emotional journeys. There have been some changes to the committee as some valued members left and new recruits brought fresh enthusiasm and experience. A new assistant projectionist has joined to lend a hand and ease pressure. MGM members were a hit at the annual Maldon Easter Parade (especially Marilyn!) and had a ball. MGM held a special screening to help raise funds for Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation during NAIDOC week. Maldon Bakery became a valued sponsor and has provided delicious baked movie snacks. The 2023 program ended with a joyous musical and the 2024 started with a French feast; this illustrates that MGM is as much about having fun together as it is about watching the big screen.



Auspice Group Reports

Tarrangower Dementia Alliance

Tarrangower Dementia Alliance is a group of local individuals and organisations working to make life better for people living with dementia in our community. We continue to engage with local groups to heighten awareness.

The Maldon Athenaeum Library continues to make improvements following a grant we offered. These include Name Badges: Coloured Lanyards and large font used on the Volunteers name badges make the Duty Volunteers more recognisable to approach. Toilet Block: sensory colours help members to differentiate the floor from walls including the Toilet Seat Cover. Signs to locate toilet block, both outside and inside the building. Colour, larger size and font of the shelving labels to make it easier to read for those facing sensory issues, Yellow lines on the outside steps leading to the front entrance to help safety for those with depth perception difficulties.

Our group of volunteers fundraised at the April Maldon Market. Partnering with Maldon Men's Shed we raised funds to run our future activities.

Maldon Golden Movies continues to support the work of the alliance and presented Supernova for the September film as part of Dementia Action Week. Supernova is a moving story of two men who are deeply in love but will soon not know each other. One of them is aware that he's at the precipice of the final stage of dementia, losing many of his abilities to comprehend the world around him.

We organised a 3 hour training session from Dementia Australia. EDIE is an immersive workshop that enables participants to see the world through the eyes of a person living with dementia. Utilising virtual reality technology, this workshop enhances the knowledge of dementia whilst exploring enablement strategies to support a person with dementia to live more confidently.

Auspice Group Reports

● Tarrangower Tomorrow

ACTIVITIES FOR 2023/24

Tarrangower Tomorrow has continued to promote aspects of the Community Plan. This has included:

- Consulting with Powercor regarding a community battery that Powercor will own and manage, funded through a federal government program. Installation should commence shortly.
- Working with Maldon Inc., on a series of publications promoting aspects of Maldon. This has included helping to fund the reprinting of a booklet of local walks 'Walk MaldON', and assistance with a booklet of local bike rides – 'Ride MaldON'.
- Providing feedback to a group lobbying to reduce the amount of heavy traffic through Maldon.
- Discussions with potential council candidates regarding the Community Plan and priorities for the town.
- The website was upgraded and made easier to manage.

ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR FY2024/25

A community housing group within Tarrangower Tomorrow (TT-CHG) has prepared an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Community Bank Maldon & District for funding of up to \$1 million for affordable housing to be built in Maldon for working-age people. The EOI was submitted by MNC (as our auspice body) and supported by our partners Haven Home Safe (Haven) and Mount Alexander Shire Council. If the EOI is successful, TT-CHG will work with Haven, the Council and MNC to prepare a fully costed proposal.

Tarrangower Tomorrow will continue to promote the Community Plan. We will work with Cr Rosalie Hastwell, the new councillor for Tarrangower Ward, to review aspects of the plan and to establish priorities for action.



TARRANGOWER
TOMORROW



Auspice Group Reports

● Maldon Artist Network



Catherine and Carole preparing to hang Jeff Makin's work



Nancy Whittaker, Jeff Makin and Catherine Tait ready for an opening with a speech by Jeff



The crowd at a MANet opening



Treasurer's Report

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Audited Financial Statements
