WEDDERBURN COMMUNITY HOUSE

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

2016 – 2017

Chairperson  
Jon Chandler

Secretary  
Irene Finch

Treasurer  
Karen Fazzani

Members  
Richard Dougall
Annette Robertson
Bev McNaughton
Robyn Vella

Staff

Coordinator  
Jude Raftis

Finance Officer  
Michael Hartwig

Education Officer  
Marg van Veen

Life Members  
Josie Williams
Barbara Beauliv
Dottie Hicks
Joan Steel
### Volunteers

#### Kitchen Volunteers
- Louise Gamble
- Shirley Webb
- Glenda Booker
- Joan Steel
- Ashlee Smith
- Donna Smith

#### Op Shop Volunteers
- Joyce Lewis
- Christine Nash
- Denise Caulfield
- Jane Rowley
- Donna Smith
- Ashley Smith

#### Bingo
- Robyn Glass
- Christine Nash

#### Front Desk Volunteers
- Elizabeth Canfield
- Lorraine Grosser
- Robyn Glass
- Christine Nash
- Jude Colman
- Liza Azahar
- Bev McNaughton

#### Patchwork Tutor
- Irene Finch

#### Felting Tutor
- Annette Robertson

#### Singing group facilitator
- Helen Chandler
Where would we be without them! These extraordinary women keep the wheels turning here at the Wedderburn Community House. We now have 16 volunteers who make sure community lunches, bingo, Op Shop and the front desk all function to perfection making ours one of the best community houses in Victoria.

Our wonderful kitchen ladies provide our residents with a two course home cooked meal every Wednesday, cook for the two week period of our Shearing School, cater for community organisations when required and give up their valuable weekends to prepare food for Loddon Arts Gallery exhibitions on many Sundays. These ladies fundraise for the Community House and help keep our organisation sustainable, enabling us to continue to offer the services so vital to small rural communities like ours.

Volunteers have now taken over the running of the Community Op Shop which has been a great fundraiser for the House and the wider community. They also help out at Bingo every Wednesday as well as operate behind the front desk for all stakeholders at the Centre – Wedderburn Community House, Loddon Visitor Information Centre, Inglewood & District Health Services and Maternal Child Health, as well as other allied health services from Bendigo.
Wedderburn Community House is a vital facility for Wedderburn and surrounding districts providing many services which otherwise residents would have to travel to a regional centre for assistance.

The Wedderburn Community House Board of Management sets the direction of the centre through policy, procedure and the strategic plan, which is delivered by the Wedderburn Community House Co-ordinator, staff and volunteers.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate Jude Raftis, (Co-ordinator) on another extremely successful year managing the House and for taking on the role of Chair of the Wedderburn Centre Committee of Management. Marg van Veen (Education & Training Officer) has continued to be a valuable contributor to the running of the House and working with our many volunteers. During the year, Michael Hartwig was reappointed as Finance Officer and commenced duties in October 2016 and has been a valuable member of the team.

Over the past 12 months, the Board of Management has continued to update an action list on a monthly basis and some of the major achievements are:

- Reviewing the Wedderburn Community House Strategic Plan 2013-2018
- Reviewing and adopting policies
- Continuing to improve financial management by implementing new financial systems

The redevelopment of the Wedderburn Community Centre has provided a fantastic community facility for all to enjoy and landscaping courses conducted under the auspice of the House have resulted in a revitalisation of the gardens along Wilson Street and the area between the House and the Community Garden. Due to major works undertaken during the year to eradicate the rising damp in the building, the landscaping courses originally planned for the House were transferred to the Wedderburn Cemetery where approximately 10 volunteers undertook major landscaping works to beautify the Cemetery. I would like to specifically acknowledge members of the Wedderburn Lions Club who volunteered their time and expertise to improving this extremely important community asset and provided the Cemetery Trust with the labour resources to assist with this vital project.

On behalf of the Wedderburn Community House Board of Management I would like to thank staff and volunteers for their tremendous efforts in meeting the needs of people who require assistance from the Centre.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Board of Management for the valuable contribution to Wedderburn Community House, in particular Irene Finch who continued in the challenging role of Secretary and Karen Fazzani who has been our Treasurer for the past few years. This year, the Board welcomed two new members in Annette Robertson and Richard Dougall and I would like to thank them both for their valuable contribution to our
deliberations during the year. I wish the incoming Board every success with the continuing development of the House.

Jon Chandler  
Chairperson  
Wedderburn Community House Board of Management
Being the Coordinator of Wedderburn Community House has made me realise the importance of community development. I am still in awe of the contribution made by our wonderful team of volunteers, beginning at the top with our Board of Management members, who give up their time contributing to the smooth running of the House. Then we have our 16 in-house volunteers who make this place the real hub of our community. We now have around 500 people coming through the doors of the Centre each week accessing services. This is over 50% of our total population and around 20,500 per year!

Over the past 12 months we have seen some changes with Suzi Kirkham leaving us to work full time in Boort and the return of Michael Hartwig to his former position as Finance Officer. We have seen the demise of the popular NILs interest free loans scheme due to funding being channelled to larger organisations. Local people will now have to access this funding from Bendigo Family and Financial Services.

We have taken on Work For The Dole participants giving locally unemployed people the opportunity to do their work placements in Wedderburn rather than having to travel to access activity sites. One of these activities has been in our community garden Poo2Plate which has kept this garden and the overall surrounds maintained to a high standard.

Our popular Landscape & Design Course has been conducted at the Wedderburn Cemetery this year and Tony Day and his helpers are transforming this space into something quite special.

Once again our Shearing School proved to be a great success and we thank the RE Ross Trust for sponsoring this program. This is the last year that we will receive their much appreciated funding.

Patchwork continues to be very popular and thank you to volunteer Irene Finch for once again coming in every Monday to conduct classes.

At our Christmas Break up Life Member Joan Steel was awarded a Volunteers Award by local member Louise Staley. Joan is a stalwart of the House and the wider community and she was very proud to receive this award in front of her family, especially Cathy and daughter Mikayla, who travelled down from Brisbane.

Once again we held Ballroom Dancing classes and the annual Masquerade Ball, which is now on the official ballroom calendar. We even had dancers coming from as far as Frankston to tick a Masquerade Ball off their bucket list!

Our ACFE pre-accredited courses continued to run again this year and a comprehensive report is in Marg’s Education Report.
Demand for our home made sauces and relish has continued to keep volunteers busy in the kitchen with one person coming in one weekend and purchasing all the sauce on the shelves to take back to Melbourne – it is the best sauce they have ever tasted!

This year we have received grants from Loddon Shire Council for $3000 for Scoop & Scuttlebutt and $4880 from FRRR towards our Landscape & Design Course in 2018. We also received a grant from Inglewood Community Bank to have our chairs reupholstered in the dining room - $2000.

Tastes of Loddon still manages to attract large numbers even though there have been the odd cancellations due to a change of date and other commitments on the same weekend. Thank you to Janet Bausch for continuing to come up with great ideas for her themed meals.

We had appalling weather for our Naturally New Age Festival and stallholder numbers were less than half compared to last year. When contacted, stallholders said there were more stallholders than buyers and they would not be coming back. This was disappointing so we decided not to hold another festival this year due to the cost and work involved. We have changed our Farmer’s Market into the Wedderburn Country Market and relocated the market to Jacka Park and we now have more stallholders who capture the passing traffic.

Scoop & Scuttlebutt continues to be hugely successful and thanks must go to Marg van Veen for all the work she puts into each monthly edition.

We held our second Open Garden day in October 2016 with 6 wonderful gardens on display and this was once again very successful raising over $800 for the Wedderburn Lions Club Aged Care Fund. We now have 16 gardens on a three year rotation that will give gardeners something different to look at each year. We thank all participating garden owners for the hard work and added expense you put into making this day so interesting.

This year we farewelled Bingo volunteer Nola Brooks. Nola has been instrumental in the running of Bingo in Wedderburn over the past 12 years and continued to help when we took over. Without the help of volunteers we would not be able to offer this activity to the community. We are the only surviving Bingo in the district and have visitors from Bridgewater, Inglewood, St.Arnaud, Boort and Charlton, with up to 50 players in attendance each week.
Our volunteers trip has been organised for November with a river cruise – Wetlander Cruises on the Gannawarra Wetlands, Koondrook. This will be on a Sunday November 19 with morning tea in Kerang before departing at 12.30 with lunch included.

We took over the running of the Op Shop and this has been a great fundraiser for the House as well as the Wedderburn Community. Allowing us to contribute to causes we consider worthwhile, such as purchasing netballs for our junior players and contributing to the cost of the Indonesian Trip, that some of our students from Wedderburn College will participate in later this year.

Once again Wedderburn Community House has had a very successful year bringing courses, activities and events to our community. I want to thank Marg and Michael for their continued support and to all Board Members for their valuable time.

Lastly thank you to all the volunteers that make our job so much easier. Without you the Centre could not operate as efficiently as it does. You welcome people to the Centre and work hard to make sure we have the best Community House there is. Once again it has been a pleasure working with all of you in 2016/2017.

Jude Raftis
Coordinator
MARKETS

COURSES
Landscape & Design Crew

Landscaping Works at the Wedderburn Cemetery
2017 has proven to be another great year for courses at Wedderburn Community House, with the range and number of classes offered increasing all the time.

**Pre-accredited 20—80 hour ACFE courses.**

These are the traditional ACFE funded courses that we have run in previous years. The funding model was changed in 2016, so we no longer had the opportunity to request the hours we wanted. Instead the ACFE panel would assess the whole regions demand for ACFE hours (we are now the only provider), if any hours have been returned across the region in previous years (many from other organisations) and our own performance. The result was an offer of only 500 Student Contact Hours (SCH), compared to the 2000 we had provided to the community the previous 2 years. This was going to affect our ability to offer almost any courses at all.

We successfully argued for extra hours and had a new offer of 1200 SCH sent through. We had to accept this offer even though it was still short of what we had planned on for 2017. This meant we needed to apply for more hours at various times throughout the year. We eventually received funding for the full Landscape Design unit, but are still applying for extra hours with the Landscape Construction and Landscape Planting units.

In our ACFE 20-80 hour courses we offered;

- An introduction to computers—24 hours with 4 students
- Landscape Design—74 hours with 11 students
- Landscape Construction—78 hours with 13 students
- Landscape Planting— 74 hours with 11 students

All courses exceeded expectations with the Landscaping units having more than doubled the students we had anticipated based on previous year’s numbers. This was due to the change of location with many people wanting to be involved with the redesign of the cemetery and the involvement of the Lions Club.

We have provided a staggering 2,582 SCH in this range of ACFE courses in 2017, but have still not been funded for all those hours.

**ACFE Pilot Program Pre-accredited short courses up to 20 hours.**

To cover the possible lost hours due to the changes in ACFE funding as mentioned, we decided to redesign many of our existing courses to be eligible for this new Pilot program, as well as adding a variety of new courses. To our great surprise we were approved for all courses.

In our ACFE under 20 hour courses we offered:

- Introduction to Eucalyptus Distilling— 20 hours students
- Tour Guide training—20 hours with 7 students
- Publisher— 6 hours with 3 students
- Intermediate Microsoft Word—6 hours with 3
- Digital Photography— 8 hours with 6 students
- Tech Savvy—8 hours with 4 students
- Employment Skills—8 hours with 8 students
• Start Your Own Business—20 hours with 6 student

There have been mixed results with these short courses. Publisher and Start Your Own Business have been successes with good student numbers and great feedback. The first attempt at Eucy Distilling had to be cancelled due to last minute cancellations by students (an ongoing problem). We have rescheduled this course for mid-September and have included the College’s Hands On Learning students, as Robbie Collins informed us that they have been involved in the past and enjoyed the learning.

We are very excited to have a new Photography teacher in town and the registration numbers indicate the community is enthusiastic to meet him also. Employment skills is scheduled to start in second week of September and it will be the first time we will partner with People’s Plus Employment Services to run a course. Chris will run the first 2 session, with myself running the second 2 sessions. Hopefully numbers are enough to run the course and allow us to make this another annual learning opportunity for the community.

Registered Training Organisation (RTO) courses

My past three years of working to build up good partnerships with quality training providers and with local organisations like the Loddon Shire are finally paying off. Our reputation for quality training is now bringing in people from surrounding towns and an expansion on courses we run for the Loddon Shire.

This year our numbers and range of RTO based courses included;

- First Aid— 45 people
- CPR— 41 people
- Mental Health First Aid – 15 people
- Food Handlers Certificate—8 people
- RSA certificate—8 people
- Food Supervisors Certificate—5 people
- Barista training—6 people
- White Card (construction Induction) - 11 people
- Fork Lift licence—5 people
- Shearing school 2016—9 people
- Boat licence—20 people (after 2 years of being cancelled from lack of numbers)
- Fire Arms Safety 2016—22, closed bookings after this number reached.

We are working with our neighbouring Community and Neighbourhood Houses by planning our courses at alternate times to them and referring people to each other if we are not offering the course in the near future.

Now that we have built up a bank of reliable RTO’s with courses that are in demand, we will have an annual calendar of these courses on offer so the community get to know that First Aid/CPR are always March/April, all hospitality courses are over school June/July holidays, etc.
Leisure & Hobby courses

In late 2016 and 2017 the Wedderburn Community House continued to offer our community a range of leisure style classes to provide wellbeing, exercise, new craft skills and the opportunity to meet people and socialise. More and more we are seeing people travelling from other towns for our classes as they feel their own communities don’t offer the same opportunities.

Prospector couples who reside in town for long lengths of time have become regular members of many of our groups and often plan their trips around our events such as the dance classes, Masquerade Ball, Spring Dance, patchwork weekends and the annual Xmas Tree Festival.

Testament to Dede and the Jailhouse Rockers dance classes last Spring, we had a family from Ballarat who drove over every Friday for the 2 hour sessions and developed some wonderful friendships leading up to the Spring Dance. That’s commitment!

- Singing—run by Helen Chandler
- Patchwork—run by Irene Finch
- Felting—run by Annette Robertson
- Yoga—run by Adam Smith
- Meditation—Leeanne Rollinson
- UFO’s—for anyone in the community to join
- Alone together 2016—partnership b/n Marg van Veen & Cara Ryan (Social worker IDHS)
- Pruning workshop—run by Peter Geogan
- Ballroom dancing—run by Dede Williams
- Rock’N’Roll dancing—partnership b/n Dede and the Bendigo Jailhouse Rockers.

Some of these groups (like patchwork) go from strength to strength, while others like the Meditation classes started strong but soon petered out. New this year was Annette’s felting classes, Lee-Anne’s mediation sessions and the Alone Together workshop we ran late in 2016. The Alone Together workshop was in response to numerous members of our community losing their partners and needing some support to plan for their future. It was a fun but informative session, with the dining room full of participants. The feedback was very positive and we offered to assist if any of the participants wished to make it a regular activity. This offer has not been taken up as yet.

We are lucky to have so many committed and talented people in our small community who are willing to share their skills. Even luckier for the Community House as many of these people share their skills at no cost to the house.

Scoop & Scuttlebutt

It’s been another good year for our community newsletter. The costs of producing the newsletter seem to have remained fairly steady over the 12 months with no more changes in postal costs and advertising numbers have continued to rise slowly.

For the first time we have political parties approaching us to have paid advertisements in the newsletter. We might need to consider how much advertising we allow them to have, as we don’t want our community newsletter becoming a propaganda tool with giant full page political ads every month. As you may be aware, we do use some of their media releases in the newsletter when space allows, but I only include items relevant to locals such as infrastructure projects, grants that are available to local groups, programs that may assist locals in health, or literacy. I purposely do not include political slogans, or even which party the information comes
Feedback on the general contents of the newsletter from people both local and in surrounding areas has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

The lack of articles and photos is an ongoing issue. People are disappointed if their story is not included, or the report not being as they would want, but none of these people actually supply a story. Only three people sporadically provide stories to the newsletter and one sports report. I am expected to chase down everything else. Compared to Charlton’s newsletter of similar size and content, they have a regular 8 to 10 people writing and reporting. The staff only has to collate the stories. How do we encourage people to submit stories with photos?

Events
The past twelve months was full of events run by the Community House, many of which were a result of courses, others through partnerships.

- Masquerade Ball in May – 70 people including many local youth
- Spring Dance in October – 120 people from across the state
- Garden Expo – 80-100 people
- Emergency Services day – students from Wedderburn, Charlton & Inglewood
- Christmas on High – partnership with local businesses, Tourism and Coach House Museum & Gallery

Marg van Veen
Education Officer
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash on hand</td>
<td>331,722</td>
<td>306,955</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable and other debtors</td>
<td>9,606</td>
<td>3,729</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>341,327</strong></td>
<td><strong>310,684</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>18,713</td>
<td>27,307</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,713</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,307</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>360,041</strong></td>
<td><strong>337,991</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and other payables</td>
<td>4,704</td>
<td>5,118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants received in advance</td>
<td>23,435</td>
<td>21,005</td>
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<td>Employee provisions</td>
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<td>8,764</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>34,887</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,207</strong></td>
<td><strong>34,887</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>321,835</strong></td>
<td><strong>303,104</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EQUITY</strong></td>
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<td>Retained surplus</td>
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<td>303,104</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td><strong>321,835</strong></td>
<td><strong>303,104</strong></td>
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Wedderburn Community House Inc.
ABN: 52 590 457 199
Operating Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2017

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<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Donations received</td>
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<td>482</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>234,337</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<td>Bank charges</td>
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<td>Utilities expense</td>
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<td>Advertising and promotion</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>522</td>
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<td>Administration expenses</td>
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<td>101,847</td>
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<td>Salaries and wages – superannuation</td>
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<td>Salaries and wages</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>247,949</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Net current year surplus after other comprehensive income</td>
<td>18,731</td>
<td>4,659</td>
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RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 303,104 298,445

RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 321,835 303,104
Wedderburn Community House Inc.
ABN: 52 590 457 199
Annual Statements Give a True and Fair View of the Financial Position and Performance of
Incorporated Association

The members of the committee of Wedderburn Community House Inc. certify that:

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Wedderburn Community House Inc. during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2017.

Name: JON CHANDLER  
Date: 1st SEPTEMBER 2017

Name: KAREN FAZZANI  
Date: 1st September 2017