



CRAIG FAMILY CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Our Purpose and Service Philosophy

We strive to ensure that individuals and families of all kinds are respected by, connected with and engaged in our local community.

The Craig Family Centre is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation providing activities, support and educational services to local residents and families since 1957. We are committed to working with and for the community.

The Craig Family Centre is involved in early learning and developing new programs that encourage information sharing, mutual support and community participation in local and social issues. The Craig has a strong community development focus and encourages participation and involvement by people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, beliefs and cultures.

About Us

The Craig is an incorporated association with a long history of community inclusion and development. Established in 1957 as a children's centre, the 'Craig' has grown into a multipurpose hub offering children's services, community and Neighbourhood House programs. The Craig is co-located with Access Health and Community and Maternal and Child Health. Strong connections and cross referral is a key feature of the 'wrap around' model that our 'hub' facility provides.

As an incorporated association, the elected Committee of Management is charged with the responsible management of services in accordance with the Constitution on behalf of its members. Day to day operations are run by our Executive Director leading a team of professionals across core funded program and fee for service areas.

Our Vision

The Craig's vision is driven by our belief that people, regardless of income, ethnicity or any diversity that defines them for who they are, should be equally respected and given the same opportunities and access to the same services.

Historically, Ashburton had a large proportion of public housing and low income families but over the past decade rapid gentrification has seen a rise in the overall social and economic index for area (SEIFA) scores that measure disadvantage.

The challenge for our centre is to meet the needs of the broader community whilst not letting low income and socially disadvantaged individuals and families fall through the cracks. We do this with a strong network of partnerships with other service providers in the area, coupled with policies that balance any restrictions to full social inclusion.

Importantly, we are also a strong advocate for sustainability – both in the environment and in our approach to the services we deliver.

Our People

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

OFFICE BEARERS 2021

CHAIR Peter Sizeland

VICE CHAIR Joy Vogt

SECRETARY Roman Fida

TREASURER Bob Stensholt

GENERAL MEMBERS

Winnie Waudo

Jo Thorpe

Shalini Bodhankar

MANAGEMENT

Executive Director - Louise Ippolito

Administration

Administration Officer – Claire de Vos

Finance Officer – Dan Ryan

Assist Admin Officer – Sophie Allen

Community Programs, Neighbourhood House

Community Programs Coordinator – Mary Heath

Early Learning Support

ELSP – Meaghan Wealands

Homework Support Group

Program Co-ordinator – Stephanie Davis

Mandarin Program

Program Co-ordinator – Jessica Jiang

Children Services

Children Services Team Leader– Margot Serena

Educational Leader – Shelley Bussell

Joeys Occasional Care

Room Leader - Margot Serena

Co-Educators

Eleni Fotiou

Emily Fung

Marzia Samad

Nasreen Patel

3 Year Old Kindergarten

Kindergarten Teacher- Shelley Bussell

Co-Educator– Shakiba Shams

4 Year Old Kindergarten

Kindergarten Teacher- Liz Shea

Co-Educator - Maree Nolan

Our Partners

CO-LOCATED SERVICES

Access Health and Community
Ashburton Maternal and Child Health

MAJOR FUNDERS

City of Boroondara
Department of Education & Training (State)
Department of Health & Human Services (State)
Department of Family Fairness & Housing

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Balwyn Rotary
Bendigo Bank – Ashburton Community
Chadstone and Malvern East Rotary
The EDGE Community Fund
Lions Club – Boroondara Gardiners Creek
Shelter Real Estate
Samarinda Ashburton Aged Services

COMMUNITY USER GROUPS

Ashburton United Soccer Club
Australian Breastfeeding Association
CamCare
Country Women's Association (CWA) – Ashburton
The EDGE Community Fund
Egg Decorators Guild of Victoria
Growing Old Living Dangerously (G.O.L.D)
Lion's Club – Boroondara Gardiner's Creek
Lion's Club – Ashwood/Mt Waverley
Prada Willie Association
Salvation Army
Real Mandarin
Victorian Guild of China Painters

SERVICE PARTNERS

Access Health and Community including CamCare
Ashburton Baptist Church, House of Hope
Ashburton Community Centre
Alamein Neighbourhood House
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
Playgroups Victoria
EDVOS
Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)

Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre
St Kilda Mums
Power Neighbourhood House
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria

AUSPICED GROUPS

Growing Old Living Dangerously (G.O.L.D)
Winton Road Food Forest

Report from the Chair

This is my first report as chair of the Craig Family Centre, and what a year it has been!

Early in 2022 we recruited an experienced Executive Director in Louise Ippolito. Louise has brought considerable experience and knowledge in early childhood education to take the Craig onto the next phase following a review of children's services and obtaining "Excellence" rating in all seven areas of the National Quality Standards. As a result, the Craig has commenced offering extended sessions in our children's services program from 2023 together with the introduction of the government's free kindergarten initiative.

During 2022 we were able to recruit a social worker - Meaghan Wealands - to provide assistance to our families in Children's Services and those vulnerable and disadvantaged families in our wider community. This program was funded by a grant from the commonwealth government and we plan to extend this program in the future.

Following two years of COVID restrictions, the centre was able to reopen and offer onsite programs such as playgroups, Mums n Bubs yoga, bush playgroup and Bright Brains Homework Club. We also conducted 'Stage and Screen' Musical Theatre and held our community pop-up market together with our Winter Warmer Food Forest.

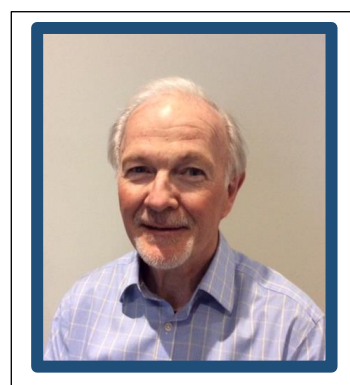
We were also successful in 2022 to receive a grant from the Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to develop our community courtyard. This redevelopment will create a more inclusive space for children and their families and compliment the adjacent kindergarten playground. Thanks to the support from the state government, City of Boroondara, local community and various suppliers for this project. This project is scheduled for completion in early 2023.

Thanks to the team at City of Boroondara, our local Federal and State Members of Parliament, state and federal governments and our major funders and partners in providing support to the Craig to enable us to continue to serve our local community.

I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow committee members, Joy Vogt, Winnie Waudo, Jo Thorpe, Shalini Bodhankar, Roman Fida and Bob Stensholt for their support and contribution to the Craig during the year. Also, many thanks to Louise who has supported the Committee in the management of the Craig, and to all our staff in children's services, community programs, social program and our administration team, and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the Craig and the wider community.

Peter Sizeland

Chair, Committee of Management



Executive Director's annual Report 2022

Welcome to my first Director's report for the Craig Family Centre Ashburton.

It has been a year full of change and progress and I hope the initiatives I have started will be continued into the future. Firstly, I would like to welcome all the new families who arrived at the Craig Family Centre throughout 2022. I have enjoyed the working relationship I have developed with all stake holders, and I intend to keep building on those in the years to come.

I am privileged to be the Executive Director of such calibre and lead a fantastic staff that have already highly evolved skills. We have Children's Services, Neighbourhood House and also our great Administration team, Social Worker and our facilitators who demonstrate commitment and professionalism across all aspects of the Craig. Each of the staff brings their own unique set of skills and abilities, which are appreciated, I have nothing but respect for this team and the great work they do.

In 2022, CFC had an average 258 families with 298 children enrolled at with a significant increase throughout the year in all our groups. It has taken some time for everyone to come to terms with face to face after such a tumultuous two years. Our community groups have also continued to grow and it has been great to see the GOLD group on a monthly basis increasing also.

Our Neighbourhood House continues to grow with many of the face-to-face playgroups filling up as the year progressed, coming out of the two years of COVID lockdowns. It is fantastic to see the families now able to be together in person rather than through video conferencing. Music has become one of the most popular playgroups along with our Bush Kinder and parent lead playgroups.

Having a place for our community groups to come together in a safe environment has been a plus for CFC across 2022 as participation in these groups continues to grow, we are able to support the community in a positive way. CFC has also had a number of community events which have been very well patronised by the wider community, our Pop-up Food and Craft Market, Ashburton Film Festival, Bike Maintenance workshop, and celebrations for mothers and father's day were all successful.

In Children's Services the Quality Improvement Plan remains an integral part of the assessment and rating process and includes an assessment of the quality and practices that are implemented at CFC. It also contains the Centre's Statement of Philosophy, identifying strengths and areas that the service considers may require improvement. CFC has been committed to upholding the seven quality areas through the support and guidance of not only our Educational Leader Shelley, but also families, educators, and the wider community.

CFC continues its focus on the National Quality Standards. The children's services teachers and educators continue to work together on assessment reviews the and ongoing development of CFC Quality Improvement Plan. CFC has achieved a rating **exceeding** that of 2021 and will most likely be assessed again in 2024.

At the Craig Family Centre, we foster team work that promotes respect, kindness, clear communication, and that's culturally inclusive in our every day practices. We are on the road to create positive learning environments that help shape the future of children within the Boroondara community through collaboration and family focus.

I commend Peter our President and Joy our Vice President in their roles and contribution to CFC. Peter has devoted many hours to his role above what was required and always goes above and beyond. Peter has supported me in my role as Executive Director, as he was in this position for the two years of lockdown and has assisted me in settling in to my role.

The Committee of Management through their volunteer input not only play a significant role at CFC but have a focus to commitment in improving the workplace conditions of the educators/staff. The Committee of Management recognises that the employees are CFC most valuable resource and values each individual employee, supporting work life balance. I acknowledge and extend my thanks to all of the Committee for their support and relentless time and work they have put in to the past twelve months. Each position is one that is a volunteer which regularly demands more time than initially thought and for that I would like to say thank you to all.

CFC as a not for profit organisation have applied for and been successful in obtaining a number of grants, one for iPads for children's services for the Mandarin Language program, another for the Ashburton Film Festival and it was wonderful news when we found we had been successful in the grant for the Courtyard redevelopment, which has now commenced (March 2023)

Reflecting over the past year numerous changes have occurred at CFC. There have been challenging moments and plenty of growth and development. CFC will continue a journey of improvement and continued success throughout 2023. I look forward a busy year with the introduction of "Free Kindergarten" and an increase in playgroups that has seen our enrolments increase substantially.

All the best for 2023

Louise Ippolito

Executive Director



Treasurer's Report 2022

The following comments have been based on the audited Financial Statements presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Craig Family Centre for the 2022 financial year.

Overall Comments

The Craig Family Centre incurred a deficit of \$57,408 compared to a deficit of \$143,407 in 2021. The main contribution to this result was due to an improvement in revenue, particularly in our children's services programs and maintaining overall expenditure to a similar level in 2021.

Also, increased activities in community programs, particularly playgroups resulted in increases revenues for the year.

Revenue

Total revenue for the year increased by \$113,645 to \$970,891 (\$857,246 in 2021). The main revenue items were Children's Services fees \$606,040, grants from Government and local organisations totalling \$269,786, other revenues \$50,496 and Neighbourhood House income \$37,756.

Expenses

Total expenses for the year increased by \$27,646 to \$1,028,299 (\$1,000,653 in 2021). Increases were incurred for Employee Benefits of \$104,636 to \$873,578 in line with changes to staff awards and hours, while Program and Other Expenses decreased \$77,841 to \$148,106 mainly due to the delay in the commencement of the early learning support program and the completion of the children's services consultancy project.

Assets

Total Assets were \$558,421 compared to \$540,849 in 2021. The main change was due to an increase in Current Assets (including cash) of \$14,672 to \$540,794 (\$526,122 in 2021).

Liabilities

Total Liabilities increased by \$74,979 to \$344,607 (\$269,628 in 2021). This is mainly attributable to increases in accounts payable and GST due at the reportable date. Further, funds were received for the community courtyard during the latter part of the year. These funds have been treated as a liability pending completion of the program in early 2023.

Equity

Equity (Net Assets) was \$213,814 compared to \$271,221 in the previous year, a decrease of \$57,407.

Other issues

There are no outstanding issues that have not been reported in the audited Financial Statements. Current arrangements regarding funding from Commonwealth agencies and State and local governments are expected to continue in 2023.

Bob Stensholt

Treasurer

Membership Report 2022

Groups / Members	2022
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Craig Family Centre Children's Services	
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Sessional Care	
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3 Year Old Kindergarten	
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4 year Old Kindergarten	
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Total Number of Children's Services Members	291
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Craig Family Centre Programs and Community Groups	
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Committee of Management	7
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Neighbourhood House Programs	363
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G.O.L.D Group	35
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Total Craig Family Centre Members (2022)	696
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The Joey Room Annual Report 2022

2022 in the Joeys room heralded a new beginning for both the children and the educators who, for the first time, opened the curriculum under the Early Years Learning Framework and the Victorian Early Years Learning Developmental Framework.

The education team in the Joeys room were committed to the provision of high-quality care and education and we were able to view children's learning as being characterised by Belonging, Being and Becoming.

The educators created learning environments for the potential to add agency and to influence how the children would play and learn, each working within their professional practice to ensure that all children had supportive and secure opportunities designed to facilitate their learning and development.

A major observational tool was the introduction of the Floorbook.

This is a large to be drawn in, written into or have photographs placed of and by the children and educators to showcase children's conceptual understandings, their questions, and comments to inform their learning journey. This approach is child led; it supports observation, documentation, and planning. By listening to the children and identifying their interests the Floorbook records the evidence of the process of play and the learning that comes from it.

So, our program was tweaked.

We partnered with our families which in turn fostered a strong reciprocal relationship. Our role was to work alongside our families to support a shared vision of learning and growth. It was important to develop learning communities whereby the children and families were active and engaged partners and decision makers within the curriculum.

Our approach was to be culturally responsive, to have a program child led and emergent – to empower children wherever possible, to have a program that was functional and flexible, and our program to be able to provide risk and challenge.

The incredible educational team documented the children's learning that occurred through their play by sharing the children's ideas, their thinking, literacy and numeracy skills, their creativity, investigations, their growing independence, confidence, resilience, problem solving, working with concepts such as shapes, colours, signs, letters, and numbers and most importantly how to become social beings and to be able to work in group settings.

Every journey begins with small steps and that's exactly how we began our journey in the Joey's room. The Floorbook for the educators and children has become a comprehensive learning document and we have been able to program educational experiences to nurture and inspire individual children's needs and interests.

I thank the early childhood educational team, Nasreen, Emily and Eleni, who have been a cohesive support throughout the year as we embraced new beginnings.

Margot Serena.

Room Leader.

Kindergarten Annual Report 2022

We all entered 2022 with a sense of cautious hope for a future free of lockdowns. After two years of ongoing disruption, it was a relief to come back together with a strong collective focus on nurturing wellbeing and building social connection. We experienced numerous absences of staff and students throughout the year due to Covid and a resurgence of other viral contagions, but we managed these challenges in our stride and provided as much continuity for the children as we were able to.

Nurturing wellbeing...

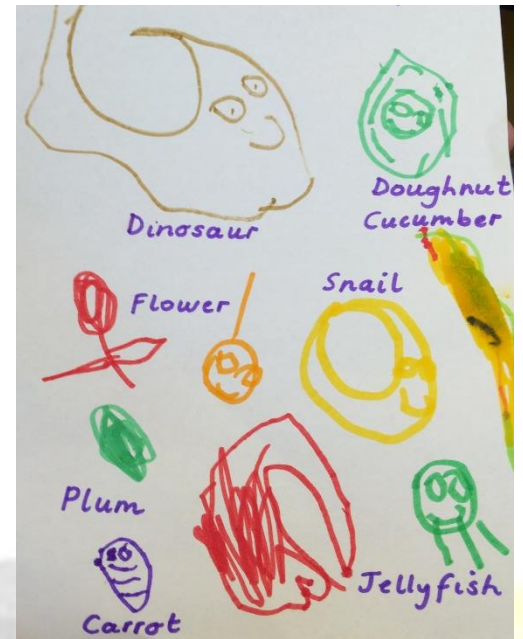
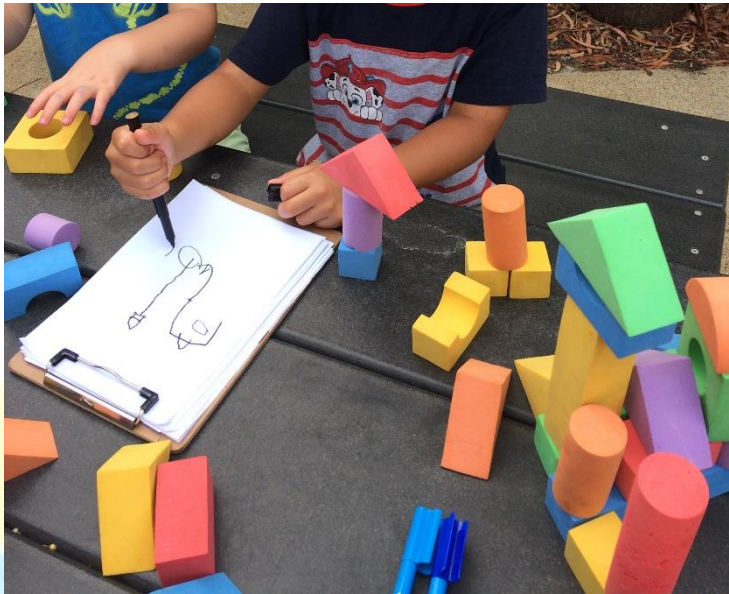
It was wonderful to observe the successful transition of many of the Craig's 2021 3-year-old Kinder students into the 2022 4-year-old Kinder class. These children were well connected with each other and their learning environment and benefitted significantly from their positive relationships with educators from the previous year. In the new cohort of 3-year-old Kinder students, half were new enrolments and were shifting from the Joey's program. Conscious of the children's need for a strong sense of security and belonging in their new classroom, we focussed on building positive and caring relationships with and amongst the group. With support to further develop their personal resilience, connect with classmates, and extend their social, play, and communication skills, all our kindergarten students thrived in 2022.

Fostering positive learning dispositions...

The Kinder students all enjoyed a curriculum rich with opportunities for learning through inquiry and investigation, building foundational critical thinking skills through supported dialogue with educators. Processes of wondering, predicting, exploring, discovering, assessing, and reflecting were incorporated into the subjects and ideas of interest to the different classes. At times the two groups shared their learning experiences with each other, and we appreciated the rich conversations and extension that resulted from connecting the different age groups together.

Extending cognitive and communication skills by exploring and expressing ideas in different ways...

After building "my new home" This child used higher level cognitive processes to observe and represent his 3-dimensional construction through 2-dimensional mark-making.



This child is linking communication and ideas to pictorial and written mark-making.

This child told the story of her campfire whilst creating through nature play and later reflecting on the experience through drawing and conversation.



Engaging in sensory processing...

Through data collection and analysis education and care professionals identify curriculum priorities for students. During this post-lockdown era we have factored in the implications of increased isolation on learning and development. Limitations on families' access to playgrounds and other physical and outdoors activities and environments have increased the need for students to participate in frequent physical exercises. Through yoga, ballgames, obstacle courses, woodcraft, clay, and other movement exercises we nurtured the students' proprioceptive development, supporting core strength, visual motor, gross motor, and fine motor skills, which are very important for safely navigating playgrounds and natural environments, as well as developing writing skills. Over time the children have been building confidence and persistence in these challenging activities.

Physical activities are important for brain development. These students enjoyed challenging themselves! "Shelley, can I do obstacle-ing?"



Encouraging confident learners and building the child's sense of agency...

The children were encouraged to participate in the planning, risk assessment, and decision making throughout the curriculum, including the physical activities. This nurtured their awareness of the need for considering both risk and benefits of different challenges as well as changing approaches to ensure that all children could be included in the experiences. Conversations about these ideas required the children to express ideas clearly, to negotiate, to problem solve, and at times to compromise. The process involved brainstorming, collecting information, trialling and experimenting, and reviewing failures, and of course, celebrating successes! As the children further understood this process and became more confident in asserting and discussing ideas, the successes were followed by the search for new challenges.

Confident and engaged learners are empowered to use materials in new and interesting ways...



This child's thinking shifted as he reflected on the images created by adding pieces to the house to make a "rocket car".



Multisensory learning...

The children explored their understanding of line, shape, colour, pattern, symbol, and image through a variety of mediums. Whilst providing opportunities for building social relationships and communication skills these learning experiences developed the students' spatial awareness, visual-motor coordination, concentration, and fine motor skills. Set tasks such as



This block puzzle became a house for Gecko!

puzzles provided opportunities for problem-solving, sharing and negotiation, cooperation, and experiencing success by completing a goal. Through use of open-ended materials during transient art and imaginative play experiences, the children developed their creative thinking and imagination.

Children are free to experiment with and learn about a wide range of concepts through use of materials that hold no intrinsic purpose...

These children explore concepts and express ideas creatively through transient artwork.



Overall, we had a busy and successful year with the students showing significant progress in their learning and development across the curriculum. By the end of the year our 4-year-old Kinder children were ready and raring to take the big step forward into formal schooling and the 3-year-old Kinder children were all prepared for continuing into their second year of kindergarten in 2023. Well done everyone!

Shelley Bussell

Educational Leader

Neighbourhood House Annual Report 2022

2022 proved to be yet another year of uncertainty. Whilst the continued disruption of repeated COVID lockdowns was behind us, the complexity of the *recovery process* had created new challenges. Never was there a more important time to focus on strengthening our local community and the connections within it.

As a Neighbourhood House, our key objective throughout 2022 was to support the health and wellbeing of our community.

We aimed to provide a broad range of activities and services to meet community needs and interests, with a commitment to combat loneliness and social isolation, created for many throughout the pandemic. We worked hard to connect and reconnect members of our community - and in particular members from our least advantaged communities. We know that social connectedness is critical for our physical and psychological wellbeing and can be a protective factor against loneliness and depression.

We strived to further develop our suite of programs for families with children under five years of age, as a key focus area. We understand that adequate social support and connections during the transition to parenthood can profoundly impact on the health and wellbeing of the entire family unit. It was particularly important to provide this support to families after Melbourne's many lockdowns and their adverse effects on young families.

In 2022, most of our community activities were returned to an in-centre delivery, and it was wonderful to re-connect in person.

Playgroups & Under 5's

We welcomed the following Playgroups and child-carer activities throughout 2022, all delivered in centre:

1. 'All the Doo Dah Day' Music & Movement

Facilitated by Lynda Slavinskis & Rae Davies

2. Bush Playgroup

Facilitated by Kirsty Seymour

3. Creative Play with Squiggle Kids

Facilitated by Lauren Gardiner, Debbie Isaac & Cass Freney-Mills

4. Friday Parent-Led Playgroup

5. Gumnut Music with Louise

Facilitated by Louise Lindsay

6. Mandarin Playgroup

Facilitated by Jessica Jiang

7. Mums 'n' Bubs Yoga

Facilitated by Grace Koay

8. Parent-Led Baby Playgroup

9. Tuesday Morning Music with Jo

Facilitated by Jo Kitley



Bright Brains Homework Club

The Bright Brains Homework Club (BBHC) provides a safe and supportive out-of-school learning environment for students from years 1 to 10. Trained Volunteer Homework Tutors assist students in developing their academic skills, such as numeracy, literacy, advanced mathematics and essay writing.

From February to July, BBHC remained operational, online. Our priority remained the social and academic wellbeing of our students, particularly after Melbourne's many lockdowns and extended periods of 'remote learning'. We focused on English language skills, early years literacy and numeracy, essay writing, advanced mathematics, and of course connection and integration.

Upon study completion each week, students enjoyed group games, where they were provided with the opportunity to further practice their conversational English skills, as well as turn taking, collaborating and testing their concentration skills.

We supported students from the following schools:

1. Ashburton Primary School
2. Ashwood High School
3. Auburn High School
4. Balwyn North Primary School
5. Camberwell High School
6. Canterbury Girls Secondary College
7. Canterbury Primary School
8. Essex Heights Primary School
9. Glendal Primary School
10. Hartwell Primary School
11. Malvern Central Primary School
12. Parkhill Primary School
13. St Joseph's Primary School (Hawthorn)
14. St Michaels Parish Primary (Ashburton), and
15. Wattle Park Primary School

Students enjoyed a break from on-line sessions when we gathered for a pizza night, where we celebrated their learning achievements and reinforced new friendships.

Students were treated to a woodwork incursion facilitated by Craftpower, where they *explored their creativity through woodwork and learnt how to use real tools*. This saw students design, measure, drill and hammer to construct their own wooden vehicles.



It was lovely to have students and tutors connecting and working together in person.

As well as supporting students, we also provided new opportunities for our volunteers to engage with their local community in a meaningful way. This supported the fostering of new

social connections whilst acquiring new skills through the tutor training program and potentially increase their employment opportunities.

Our Volunteer Homework Tutors came from diverse backgrounds and predominantly consisted of university students.

The following training was provided to our Volunteer Homework Tutors:

- 1. Culturally Responsive Practice in Working with Multicultural Young People**
Facilitated by the Centre for Multicultural Youth
- 2. Tutoring Strategies to support EAL students with Literacy**
Facilitated by the Centre for Multicultural Youth
- 3. Tutoring Strategies to support EAL students with Mathematics**
Facilitated by the Centre for Multicultural Youth
- 4. Mental Health First Aid Training (Youth)**
Facilitated by Mary Van Lambaart, Digging Deeper

We are most thankful to all our Volunteer Homework Tutors who generously contributed their time each week to support the learning needs and social wellbeing of our BBHC students. Their support has been invaluable; they provided a great range and depth of skill across a broad variety of subjects. But above all else, they demonstrated warmth, humility, flexibility and enthusiasm.

Bright Brains Homework Club was coordinated by Sarah Hearn up until early 2022, and by Stephanie Davis from mid-February. They each continued to broaden the menu of online resources offered to students each week and ensured students and tutors alike remained stimulated and well connected.

Stage and Screen

‘Stage and Screen’ (formerly ‘Movies, Musicals & Popstars!’) is a musical theatre program, designed to engage senior primary school students wishing to pursue their creativity and build their confidence through the performing arts.

Developed and facilitated by performing arts teacher Belinda Jenkin, weekly classes were well attended throughout the year, for the third consecutive year. Key focus areas included learning:

- Scene work for film and television
- Television commercial and voice-over work
- Singing techniques, and
- Pop & musical repertoire

It was wonderful to end the year with a performance from the students, for their families. Particularly as many of our Year 6 students graduated from the program after three sequential years, while simultaneously graduating from primary school.

Safe Seats, Safe Kids Program

The Safe Seats, Safe Kids (SSSK) program continued throughout 2022, delivering free child car restraint fitting and safety checks to all local parents, grandparents and carers.

Delivered fortnightly in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, SSSK was booked at full capacity throughout the year.

Jobs Victoria Advocacy Program

We are grateful for our ongoing partnership with Jobs Victoria, who provided fortnightly visits from April 2022. They assisted many members of our community in their search for work, particularly parents returning to work, individuals new to Australia and those affected by the impacts of the pandemic. Numerous services were provided, including resume writing and personalised support from career counsellors – delivered free of charge.

Community Groups

Most of our community groups were able to return to the centre in early 2022. These included:

- Ashburton Food Forrest
- Australian Breastfeeding Association
- Country Women's Association Ashburton
- Edge Community Fund
- G.O.L.D. Group
- Lions Club Boroondara
- Real Mandarin Language School
- Victorian Guild of China Painters
- Victorian Guild of Egg Decorators

Special Events

Our community events are always a great way to help bring us together, celebrate our achievements and welcome new residents to the area. They provide a great opportunity to foster new friendships and deepen our sense of belonging. This was truer than ever before after two years of lockdowns and subsequent limitations on room capacity.

Our 2022 highlight events included:

- Mothers' Day Potting & Planting Event, facilitated by Little Sprouts
- Pop-Up Community Market
- Winter Warmer Working Bee, Food Forest Ashburton
- Father's Day Woodwork Event
- Ashburton Digital Storytelling Project, Celebratory Luncheon

Ashburton Digital Storytelling Project

The Ashburton Digital Storytelling Project was a special project designed to capture, document and celebrate the diverse and compelling life stories of our senior citizens.

Sixteen seniors from various backgrounds who resided in or had a special connection with greater Ashburton were invited to participate. They were paired with volunteers, who had a genuine interest in people's life stories and a desire to acquire new digital filmmaking skills.

Our budding filmmakers were provided with extensive training in video and digital production facilitated by First Ladies Productions. They were taught to construct a short, impactful film to capture and convey the story of their senior partner. Pairs worked together; new filmmakers acquired new skills such as interviewing, storytelling, developing a narrative and video editing.

The key objective of the project was to help strengthen our community by developing empathy, breaking down stereotypes and establishing new social and intergenerational connections through the filmmaking process. Filmmakers were asked to develop a narrative underlining key themes of hope and overcoming adversity.

Once the short films had been collated, the project concluded with a very special luncheon, where the films were screened for the first time in the presence of our new filmmakers, senior storytellers and their families.

This historical body of work will be archived and remain an important part of Ashburton's history. We would like to acknowledge the Rotary Club of Balwyn and City of Boroondara for supporting this special community project.



Special Thanks

During yet another difficult year, we wish to acknowledge the professional networks and community partnerships who provided us with the relevant support, information and specialist knowledge required to support our community in the many ways highlighted in this report.

Special thanks to the following organisations:

- Access Health & Community
- Boroondara Community Planning & Development
- Boroondara Environmental Sustainability & Open Spaces
- Boroondara Maternal and Child Health Service
- Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre
- Boroondara Youth Services
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Digging Deeper, Mental Health Educators
- Edge Community Fund
- First Ladies Productions
- Jobs Victoria
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
- Network of Inner Eastern Community Houses

Overall, we are proud of a very successful 2022 and we look forward to building on our strengths to further develop our local community.

Mary Heath

Community Development Manager

Early Learning Support Program (ELSP) Annual Report 2022

Good Afternoon everyone, my name is Meaghan and I am the coordinator of the Early Learning Support Program (ELSP). I am here to present a report on the progress of the ELSP over the past twelve months.

The aim of the ELSP was to support our existing families while reaching out to vulnerable or disadvantaged families whose children weren't attending a centre. Over the past year, we have been successful in providing support in various ways.

Firstly, I ran short meditations for staff at the beginning of staff meetings to promote wellness and mindfulness. Additionally, I have supported families by applying successfully to get funding from the Edge four times, allowing these families to attend Playgroups.

Further, I successfully applied for assistance with St Kilda Mums, where they provided everything a family needed for their new baby as well as winter clothing packs for their other three children.

Short term counselling for parents and mothers was provided as well. In addition, I wrote three support letters to Office of Housing and assisted two families in filling out Centrelink forms. I was also able to get basketball club fees covered for two children so they could play basketball, with the club providing them with balls and uniforms.

I have linked in with various local services, including Camcare, Access Health, Maternal Child Health, Alamein Neighbourhood House, Power Neighbourhood House, Ashburton Library, as well as the three local Primary Schools. Consultations with Educators were also conducted, around how best to support a family or child.

Assistance and involvement with Shelley and the Children's Council, as well as setting up the CFC Lending Library, have been successful. Furthermore, Play Therapy sessions for the children took place with Anne Muscatello, and a Walking Group and Parenting Support Group were initiated. Additionally, a Self-Care workshop for Mums was provided.

As the Markham Estate opens soon, we expect an influx of people needing support and assistance. We plan to expand our services by reaching out to more families in need and provide them with the necessary resources and support.

In conclusion, the Early Learning Support Program has had a successful twelve months. This program has been able to provide much needed support to families and their children, ensuring that they are not missing out on the benefits of early learning. We aim to continue providing support and assistance to those in need in the coming year. Thank you for your time.

Financial Statements 2022

Please refer to the separate document titled:

Craig Family Centre Incorporated – Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31 December 2022.

