

Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Annual Report 2018-2019



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Photo credit:

Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, Alli Sebastian Wolf & Caromoda Photography



SHNC Strategic Plan

Our Purpose

We are here to build a strong and inclusive community in Surry Hills.

Our Centre is a place where people are treated as equal and valued individuals. We encourage people to develop to their full potential and aim to support them to live meaningful fulfilling lives.

The Centre operates according to a philosophy of open management and aims to reflect the local community by encouraging participation and discussion about all issues relevant to the community and to the running of the Centre.

Our Values

- We value diversity, respect difference, recognise the whole person and encourage inclusiveness
- We recognise and seek to build on strengths – individual strengths, community strengths and our own strengths
- We value and offer hospitality, warmth and welcome
- We recognise the whole person and work with people ‘where they are at’
- We value people looking out for each other, and community connectedness
- We value and apply evidence-based and theory-informed practice
- We value collaboration and working in partnership with the community
- We value innovation, creativity, learning and growth

Our Strategies and Objectives

Strategy 1: Contribute to a resilient and inclusive community

- Provide opportunities, activities and experiences that build and sustain quality of life and wellbeing
- Build capacity and confidence to enable individuals and families to better manage daily challenges and critical or unforeseen circumstances
- Contribute to the development of community spirit where people naturally pull together in times of adversity
- Contribute to breaking social isolation and cycles of disadvantage

Strategy 2: Deliver a range of services and programs to meet the diverse needs of the community

- Provide learning experiences that builds resilience and support people to realise their full potential working to break cycles of disadvantage
- Provide a place where all people feel welcome, accepted and included
- Provide access to high quality facilities that meet the needs of the community

Strategy 3: Provide high quality Children's Services

- Maintain and develop high quality education and care for children attending our services
- Secure the future of the Children's Services
- Provide a range of accessible family-friendly services and activities that build family resilience and contribute to Surry Hills being a safe suburb for families and children

Strategy 4: Develop our capability as an organisation

- Review and strengthen our governance arrangements
- Ensure the long-term viability of the centre

Our Services

- Creative and educational activities
- Wellness programs
- Children's services: Long Day Care and Outside School Hours Care
- Information and referral
- Advocacy and support
- Surry Hills Market
- Surry Hills Festival

The Chair

2018-19 has been a packed year and one that the board has enjoyed as we have worked with Gillian to help make the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre a place that is beneficial and helpful for everyone in our community. Our role as a board is to give professional guidance and to add in a constructive way, with our skills, to the running of the Centre. We take our responsibility very seriously but we also always make sure we have time to build relationships with each other and the management team. We enjoy working together for the good of Surry Hills.

An important aspect of our role is to reflect on how our work could be more effective and to evaluate, with the staff, how we can be more active and supportive in our engagement with the Surry Hills community. Our board has been more involved in the community this year and this has been a very good thing. I would like to thank the talented board of governors who generously give their time and support. This is a voluntary position and we really enjoy what we do. The governors add such great value to the organisation as a whole as we bring our different skills and personalities to the Centre in order to make sure it runs for the benefit of our community.

The highlight for me this year has been seeing in our board meetings, the dedication and care that the board has for the Surry Hills Community. We are also very encouraged by the management team's commitment to Surry Hills particularly as we work alongside the vulnerable and also other members of our community. I believe we have established strong connections with the staff team and the wider community.

We continue our work with City of Sydney to ensure we deliver best practice and we are always working to remain grounded in community service delivery but with a heart. We were sad this year that we were not able to hold the Surry Hills Festival. This was a very tough decision that we had to make because of financial reasons. However we feel that we will be ready to deliver a very good festival next year and we already have a team working on that.

The monthly markets and the community cafe are always a vibrant hub of activity. One of my favourite times of the month is café day where this place is filled with people from our community. Stephen and his team of volunteers help make this a great experience for everyone. I want to say a big thank you to the local businesses who support us each year and to the City of Sydney for their ongoing commitment to creating community.

And to the staff and the volunteers of the Centre...WELL DONE! Look what you have all achieved for the community. A caring, vibrant, welcoming and diverse hub in the heart of the city! Congratulations!!

Thank you to the team as a whole, to Gillian for your leadership and the governance committee for your commitment in ensuring we are providing the very best community support we possibly can.

Enjoy the summer months and roll on 2020.

Karina Kreminski - Chair

The Treasurer

The financial year for the period from July 2018 to June 2019 highlights a surplus of \$6,181. To return a surplus in a challenging economic environment represents sound financial management. As noted in last year's report, the balance between income and expenditure has become very fine. Generally, our costs are growing, but our growth in revenue is slow. Each year we take measures to redress the balance whilst insuring the community continues to be supported through a strong program of activities and engagement opportunities. As a result Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre maintains its very strong financial position with an enduring commitment to our community.

Our gross revenue was \$1,708,025 arising chiefly from fees received (\$ 983,713) including our recovery of Government subsidies enjoyed by qualifying families, from the Family Assistance Office. Both these numbers are slightly more than the previous year.

Government grants total \$471,177 including the rental subsidy from the City of Sydney for our premises in the Surry Hills Library and Community Centre building.

Our expenses totalled \$1,701,844 of which \$1,096,029 went to payments, provisions or training for our staff and management.

SHNC remains proud to be able to offer our community high quality services in the form of Long Day Care for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers and Outside School Hours Care for older children. These services make a vital contribution to our financial position.

The long-standing Surry Hills Markets, an enduring fundraiser, together with the Market Day Café, showed a surplus of \$13,029 (excluding internal admin fee) up by \$4,157 from previous years.

Renting out our meeting and function rooms netted us \$27,696 which is decreased by \$7,667 from last year's due to not making over \$17,000 of hall hire income which resulted in no hall hire surplus payment from City of Sydney.

Over all the Centre is in a sound financial position, with members' equity now standing at \$914,199. We have no debt. We can withstand future financial pressures so long as we maintain discipline.

Tony MacMahon, Treasurer

The Secretary

At the 2018 AGM the following members were elected to the board of Governors: Linda Bretherton, Karina Kreminski, Anthony MacMahon, Ang Becroft, Tim Ritchie, Narelle Clark and Deb Sorensen.

This year the Board of Governors has remained consistent with strong attendance and engagement from our governance team. As previously agreed the board met bi-monthly to discuss full business and as a subcommittee in the intervening months.

This year the board held 6 full governance committee meetings and 10 subcommittee meetings as shown in the table below. In September Tim Ritchie stepped down from the board.

Position	Member Name	Attendance
Chair	Karina Kreminski	5 + 1 apology
Deputy Chair	Linda Bretherton	4 + 2 apologies + 5 subcommittee meetings
Treasurer	Tony MacMahon	5 + 1 apology + 5 subcommittee meetings
Secretary	Narelle Clark	5 + 5 subcommittee meetings
Member	Deb Sorensen	4 + 2 apologies
Member	Tim Ritchie	5 + 5 subcommittee meetings
Member	Ang Becroft	5 + 1 apology + 5 subcommittee meetings

Narelle Clark, Secretary

Our Staff

Without whom, this Centre would not function.



Gillian Elliott
SHNC Manager



Victoria Baghos
Business Officer



Stephen Lunny
Community Programs Coordinator



Cassandra Tilbrook
Children and Family Services
Coordinator



Victoria Johnstone
Festival Director



Celeste O'Hara
Administration Officer

Not Pictured:

John Ferguson
Accountant

Anna Kim
Book Keeper

Long Day Care Team



Spring Chum Moi Lai

Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor/
Educational Leader



Sanjana Prakash

Certified Supervisor/Educator



Joyenti Chowdhury

Educator



Nidhi Mehra

Educator



Mamta Parekh

Educator



Selina Wang

Educator and Support Worker

Out of School Hours Care Team



Bernadette Jamayah

Child Educator



India Childs

Child Educator



Mahad Hassan

Child Educator



Dylan Nicholas

Child Educator



Celia Bradshaw

Child Educator



Rebecca Harkins

Child Educator



Andrew Fairweather

Child Educator



Samantha Ischar

Child Educator



Ash Ure

Child Educator

Volunteers

We are deeply indebted to the numerous volunteers who give freely of their skill, talents and experience to lead many and varied groups and activities.



Centre Manager's Report

Another year has passed, and as I reflect on my work with Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre over recent years I see how greatly I have been inspired to continue the work laid down by the people who have gone before - the strong and dedicated women who founded the Neighbourhood Centre, who fought for social justice, who took great strides into developing more equitable communities and created the foundations of our work today. I am proud to say that today we, the team of board members, staff, volunteers and community members, still hold true to the value of community and the power of people, and continuously strive to uphold the principles and practices of social justice that lay at the foundation of our organisation.

Our centre aims to provide a safe, healthy and caring environment that is accessible to all. We believe that maintaining ongoing positive engagement with our staff, volunteers, service users, families and children contributes to the people's wellbeing and helps build a resilient and thriving community. Guided by this shared vision and values, we work to ensure Surry Hills remains an inclusive, welcoming, safe and diverse community in which everyone has a place and everyone's voice is heard.

I extend my sincere thanks to our staff team, our board of governors and our volunteers, all of whom create the rich tapestry that is Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre. Due to your dedication and work, the Centre is in a unique position to provide services and programs that engage with all strata of this vibrant community, with all the complexities of a diverse range of people living, working and visiting a high density urban village.

We have had a most successful year. We are proud of the achievements made, we are proud of the connections we have forged and developed within the community, and we strive to continue to be at the heart of Surry Hills.

We extend a special thank you to City of Sydney for providing the accommodation, to the Department of Communities and Justice for the investment in people, to the Surry Hills Creative Precinct and the local businesses, to the families who use our children's services and to all our members and guests.

As we move forward, we are confident Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre will continue to grow and develop. Working with a renewed vigour with women and men from our community, it grounds our practice, creates confidence in our abilities and adds purpose and a clear vision as we move into the future. I am privileged to belong here with Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre.

Gillian Elliott, SHNC Manager

Centre Report

Classes & Groups

It was another busy year of a jam packed timetable, providing valuable class and exciting excursions for the community. SHNC runs both educational and recreational classes on a weekly basis: including English language, computer classes and tai chi. Additionally, there is also the weekly Men's group 'Blokes Business' as well as the monthly bus excursions for the elderly local community, which has been selling out in recent months.

We thank an amazing team of volunteers who make these activities possible by generously giving their time, skills & expertise to benefit the centre and the community!



Partnership Projects

Partnership with Surry Hills Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)

The Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) engage at-risk youth, educate parents and the wider community through risk reduction activities and campaigns to reduce alcohol-fuelled violence and drug use. Surry Hills CDAT is chaired and hosted by Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre. Harm minimisation around Alcohol and Drug use is central to the work we do at Surry Hills CDAT.

Surry Hills CDAT has grown significantly in membership over the last year. At one of our larger meetings, 16 organisations were represented around the table.



Kitchen Table Project

The Kitchen Table Project is a 10 week SHNC/CDAT Partnership Project which we delivered twice over the last year. This program has a Kitchen and Table focus. In the Kitchen, participants prepare a weekly healthy meal and then share it at the table where conversations are held about nutrition, alcohol and drug harm reduction, drugs and the law and liver health. Kitchen Table also facilitates employment pathways, building confidence and skills enabling participants to re-enter the workforce.

A Kitchen Table Healthy Eating Workshop

- Opportunity for one-on-one engagement with dietician
- A healthy eating presentation by a nutritionist
- A practical cooking session where participants cook a healthy and affordable meal to share at the table
- Participants will take home a Healthy Eating Toolkit

Weds 23rd Oct
10.30am to 2.30pm

Surry Hills
Neighbourhood Centre
Lvl 1, 405 Crown St

\$20
Coles voucher
for participants

For enquiries please call Surry Hills Community Connect on 02 9319 9311



REDFERN

We delivered cycle 3 of Kitchen Table Project in Redfern in partnership with Waterloo/Redfern CDAT and Counter Point. The participants were young people aged 16 to 24 who may be at risk of misuse of Drugs and Alcohol.



FOSTER HOUSE



Delivered from home base at Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, this cycle was open to community members 18 and older.

A significant number of participants came from Foster House which provides accommodation and services to men who are experiencing homelessness.

Eat Well, Live Well

In its 5th year, this program is still proving to be popular. Focusing on people living with HIV, this partnership program runs for 10 weeks with a focus on healthy eating and practical cooking skills. Creating an opportunity for social interaction is at the core of all our kitchen programs.



Young Families Program

The Young Families Cooking Program is a component of an OASIS Program where marginalised young families and their children come together around the kitchen.

The parents help to prepare a healthy affordable meal while their children are cared for by volunteer child educators. The meal is shared by all at the community table. This provides an opportunity for families to meet each other whilst learning valuable living skills that can be applied at home.



A poster for the NAIDOC Afternoon Celebration. The title "NAIDOC" is in large orange letters, with "AFTERNOON CELEBRATION" below it. The event is on Wednesday, 3rd July at 12:30pm at the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre. It features a film screening of "The Aboriginal Tent Embassy" and the opening of the "Life for Koori Kids" art exhibition. Logos for NSW Aboriginal Affairs, Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, CDAT, and Commonwealth Bank are at the bottom.

NAIDOC Event

Our Annual NAIDOC Week event was held in July at the Centre. This year's celebration hit capacity with a screening of the "The Aboriginal Tent Embassy" and the launching of the "Life for Koori Kids" art exhibition.

Aunty Donna Ingram formally opened the event with a Welcome to Country and spoke later to the theme of this year's NAIDOC Week - Voice, Treaty, and Truth. The event was well attended by dignitaries and a diverse mix from the local community.

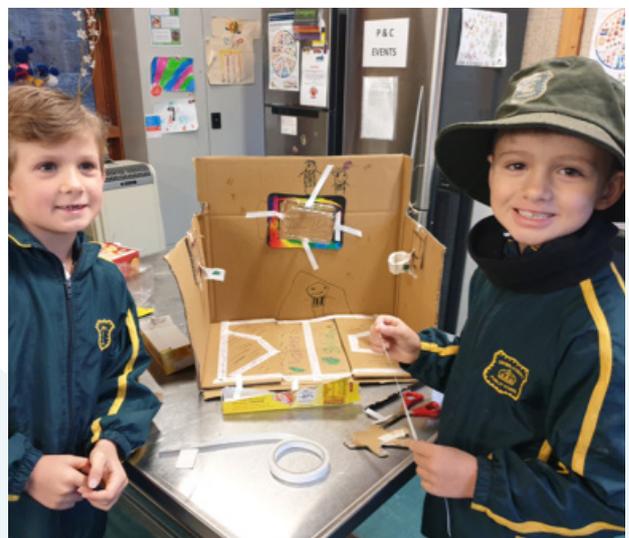


Outside School Hours Care

What an amazing year it has been for both our after school care and vacation care programs run out of Crown Street Public School. We have seen amazing growth in numbers to both programs and been able to run some awesome activities for the children. Our year started off with Dunbar Soccer once again teaching children the importance of team work. We have worked with the PCYC Woolloomooloo for gymnastics, and Sydney Archery and Skate Now have both been welcomed back.

Our in house activities, run by the team, have included everything from a mindfulness course and cooking classes, to facilitate coaching in math and English with Sandbox Coaching, and playing cricket with the Sydney 6'ers and Cricket NSW. Our Kung Fu kids continue to grow in confidence and skills and we even had a visit from the Sydney Swans. We look forward to continuing our close association with the Surry Hills Library, and their Maker and Creator program has been a great success.

Bring on 2020!



Long Day Care & Pre-School

We aim to provide a safe, healthy and caring environment for children at an affordable price. We accept and value every child inclusive of all races, cultural backgrounds, religion, gender and abilities.

Individual interests are encouraged and we foster independence. We believe it is important to maintain on-going positive communication and relationships between staff, children, families, and community.



Surry Hills Market

The Surry Hills Market has been operating for over 30 years and has become an institution that most locals and visitors of Sydney know about. However, over the years there seems to be a new crowd of shoppers visiting the markets, which has revitalised the overall vibe at the markets.

See below some great pics from our Markets Instagram account, which is growing by the day!



Stallholder Interview Series

Today we're talking to best friends Lola and Lily from L&L Designs - possibly our youngest stall holders ever!

Tell us about your stall

Lola: So we made everything and some of the money is going to raise money for endangered species.

What are you selling

Lily: Everything is handmade, it's all tops and macramé and pom pom dream catchers and lanterns and designer coat hangers. Every label has a pom pom. All the tshirts are \$10. We've machine washed them all to check that nothing happens (to the painted design), they've all been ironed.

Tell us about the designs

Lily: Most of the animals on the tshirts are endangered.

Lola: Those were the first ones we did, then we started doing dots.

Lily: And the macramé is not really related, it's just nice macramé designs.

How did it start?

Lola: We were at school and making up what we wanted to do when we were older and I said I wanted to save endangered species. And then we went home and started painting my baby brothers top and then my aunty was over and she said we should start doing that as a business to save animals.

How does this help the animals?

Lola: We're probably going to give the money to the World Wildlife Foundation.

Lily: 10% of each thing we'll give to them to protect the animals.



Did creating this label together make your friendship stronger?

Lola: We got a lot closer..

Lily: Yeah.

Community Cafe

The Surry Hills community Café is in its ninth year. A team of 20 dedicated volunteers give their time to make sure this wonderful project takes place each month. Café workers learn valuable life and hospitality skills.

Social interaction and support is also a vital component of this program- not only for the volunteers but also for the large number of regular customers/community members.



Surry Hills Festival 2019



Media Statement - 17 May, 2019

Surry Hills Festival takes a break in 2019!

The iconic and much loved inner city community festival, the Surry Hills Festival today announces it is taking a break for 2019.

A fantastic spring celebration of all there is to love about Surry Hills, last year's 2018 Surry Hills Festival was an enormous success, attended by an estimated 50,000 people, showcasing talents of over 200 musicians, hundreds of visual installations and performance artists and over 50 participating local venues, eateries, creative studios and businesses. An important program on Sydney's live music and creative industries calendar, the festival celebrates the vibrant culture, innovation and diversity of spirit for which Surry Hills is famous.

Produced for over 20 years by Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre (SHNC), funds raised through the festivals programs go towards important creative and community programs delivered by SHNC. The festival is important to the SHNC role in connecting communities, fostering well-being and opportunities for locals and creatives to flourish.

"Being produced and managed by a not-for-profit community centre, means the Festival is reliant on financial support and commitment from the community, be that government, businesses or individuals" said centre manager Gillian Elliott.

"With rising costs, and unexpected changes to key operational partners, Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre's board and management have made the difficult decision to postpone this year's Festival. The decision ensures no financial loss to the community and provides time to work with our team and partners towards future planning, negotiations and securing corporate, government and community partners..."

We're excited by the opportunities to partner with existing and new stakeholders and sponsors to deliver another fabulous Festival in 2020. This is a community event that highlights the diversity and creativity in and around Surry Hills ... an amazing creative Surry Hills Festival program that is renowned for showcasing fantastic live music, creativity and local business innovation in the heart of Surry Hills...

The board of SHNC would especially like to thank our long term partners for their ongoing support of Surry Hills Festival their support has been fundamental to ongoing success of the Festival to date." said spokesperson for the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, Gillian Elliott.

For further information please contact: Gillian Elliott, SHNC Centre Manager 02 9356 4977.



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(02) 9356 4977
shnc.org

Our partners:

