

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



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Clayton VIC 3168
Melbourne, Australia

MISSION & CONTENTS

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As a way of experiencing and showing God's love, Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre aims to benefit residents of Clayton and surrounding areas through providing:

- educational, recreational and welfare programs to foster learning, personal wellbeing and social connectedness*
- community development opportunities for individuals, groups, and organisations to collaboratively address needs in the local area*
- opportunities for volunteers to improve their skills and support their local community*

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The Committee of Governance has met on four occasions (both electronically via zoom and face to face at Dixon House) this year and it has worked together as needed. There has been good attendance of members at all meeting and Dixon House has been well served by the Committee which was elected at the AGM meeting last November (2022). It would, however, be beneficial to have some new Committee members to inject new ideas into the running of Dixon House and I look to the current membership of Dixon House to become more actively involved in the activities of the Neighbourhood House.

PRESIDENT	Vaughan Smith	MEMBERS	Margaret Boccabella
VICE PRESIDENT	Vacant		Alison Bunting
SECRETARY	Vacant		Milroy De Vos
TREASURER	Ian Wilding/Bob Haywood		

The Vicar of All Saints, Reverend Charlie Fletcher and our Manager Winston Chee attended all Committee meetings during the year in a non-voting capacity. They continued to provide a valuable link with the parish of All Saints as well as the operational aspects of Dixon House.

I wish to thank our previous Treasurer Ian for his dedicated service to Dixon House over the past several years, despite having a range of personal commitments. He was very thorough with his approach to overseeing the financial affairs of Dixon House, and along with Naomi, was instrumental in navigating through the challenging years of the pandemic from a fiscal perspective. A few months after Ian's resignation, we were fortunate to have our new Treasurer Bob Haywood join us in the Committee of Governance. Bob brings with him extensive experience in the area of logistics. I wish Bob all the best in his new role in the years ahead and trust that he will be a valuable asset to Dixon House.

I must also thank our Manager, Winston Chee, for his efforts in the past financial year in navigating Dixon House back to normality after several years of disrupted service provision. Although our returning numbers were initially low, over time, and with the increase of new programs and project offerings, we saw a fresh cohort of participants join us. Of course, thanks should also go to our paid staff and volunteers who worked extra hard to support Dixon House's return to normality. The ceasing of additional government support at the end of the pandemic, and the decrease in donations and enrolment fee income has resulted in a deficit in the 2022-23 financial year. The Committee's effort is now focused on increasing income for Dixon House to place it in a better financial position for the years to come. We are also hoping to rebuild our membership base as well as the Committee of Governance. This will be a critical task in the new year, and I seek support from all members.

Vaughan Smith - President - Committee of Governance

TREASURER'S REPORT

I took over the role of Treasurer in February this year. On behalf of the Committee of Governance I would like to thank my predecessor, Ian Wilding for his contribution to the running of Dixon House.

We finished the previous financial year (2021/22) with an operating surplus or net profit of \$6540, which was due mainly to pandemic support of \$45400 which helped to "balance the books" for the financial year.

Pandemic support was not to be forthcoming in 2022/23 and we budgeted for a deficit of \$45875. The actual result for the year was a deficit of \$38176, a \$7699 positive variance to budget (income was up \$11914 versus budget, while expenses were up \$4215).

Equity (net assets) as at 30 June 2023 was \$52414.

Provided we continue to be vigilant with our funds and hopefully increase our fundraising events, there is no reason Dixon House cannot continue its services to the local community. In fact, although not in the year of this report, the committee is currently devoting much time and giving priority to investigating different types of ways to raise funds.

It is also worth mentioning that in October 2022 we invested \$50,000 in term deposits which can be used as a backstop if all else fails, however, if we continue to run at a deficit this will soon disappear.

Our banking continues to be managed by the Westpac Banking Corporation with two signatories required for each transaction. We pay our bills online or via debit card. Sources of funding and donations include All Saints Church, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Foundation, Australian Neighbourhood House and Centres Association, City of Monash, Toorak Op Shop, and individual donors. The annual accounts for the 2022/23 financial accounts have been audited by Garry Andrews, Accountant/Auditor and found to be in order.

Finally, I would like to thank Naomi Lim (Finance Officer) and Winston Chee (Manager) for their help and advice during the past year.

Bob Haywood - Treasurer - Dixon House Committee of Governance

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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Garry Andrews, accountant, auditor, tax agent
ABN 67526517195 (no GST)

**1 Higham Street,
Cheltenham Vic 3192.**

Phone: (03) 9584 9871, 0409834618

Email: garry.andrews5@gmail.com

AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR I JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

DIXON HOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC. ABN
86648041219, REGISTERED WITH AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND
NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION, CONSUMER AFFAIRS
NUMBER A0058595N.

FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND ALL MEMBERS OF DIXON
HOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INC.

I certify that I have audited the financial records of Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre Inc. for the year ended 30th June 2023.

During the audit, the Finance Officer, Naomi Lim, provided all documentation including the financial accounts, Profit or Loss Statement as well as the Balance Sheet including attachments, and on site audit meeting was held with Naomi Lim and queries raised where answered to my complete satisfaction. At the date of this report there are reasonable grounds to believe that Dixon House will be able to pay its debts when they become due and no adverse matters have arisen since the balance date.

Based on information provided and after discussions I certify that the year end result came to a loss of \$ 38,454, this outcome was the result of many factors, major ones being;

- No Government support, re Covid, previous year \$ 45,400 current year nil.
- Post-pandemic period was challenging and unpredictable due to less people activity resulting in lower income than expected with class numbers down.
- Donations lower than hoped for.
- Staff costs remain major expense which is to be expected.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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Garry Andrews, accountant, auditor, tax agent
ABN 67526517195 (no GST)

**1 Higham Street,
Cheltenham Vic 3192.**

Phone: (03) 9584 9871, 0409834618
Email: garry.andrews5@gmail.com

The future holds no guarantees for financial success, however, we live in uncertain times and not-for profit organizations are not exempt from severe turn around, a profit or loss in one period does not indicate the same outcome for the next year, Dixon House has capable leaders as well as experienced staff and volunteers who are well placed to insure the best outcome for the future, I am confident that the next year will achieve a much better financial outcome, with donations and grants being key factors.

The net assets, or equity at year end stands at \$ 52,414.

DATED; September 22,2023.

SIGNED:



GARRY ANDREWS
CERTIFIED PRACTISING
ACCOUNTANT,
TAX AGENT

Phone; 9584 9871
0409834618

BUSINESS ADDRESS.
1 HIGHAM STREET
CHELTENHAM VIC 3192.

Profit and Loss

Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre Inc.

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

(\$)	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
Income		
Annual Membership fees	355	80
Bank Interest Received	1,736	32
Donations - All Saints Church	7,332	5,081
Donations - Individuals	1,902	250
Donations - Individuals (All Saints Church)	160	823
Donations - Individuals (Expression Through Art)	20	-
Donations - Toorak Op Shop	2,667	4,000
Funding - Anglicare (Emergency Relief Administration)	4,800	4,200
Funding - Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	93,718	89,596
Grants - ANHCA (Helping Hand)	6,792	3,208
Grants - City of Monash (Connecting Clayton)	8,600	8,600
Grants - City of Monash (Healthy Eating Program)	4,839	-
Grants - Department of Social Services (Volunteer Grant)	2,534	577
Grants - Good Things Foundation (Be Connected)	-	379
Grants - Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society	8,679	10,047
Grants - Others	1,300	2,475
Other Revenue - Hall Hire & Others	1,833	540
Programs - Art Class Fees	3,650	295
Programs - Computer Class Fees	1,955	574
Programs - English Class Fees	5,189	3,695
Total Income	158,060	134,453
Plus: Other Income		
Gains from Disposal of Assets	329	-
Pandemic Support - Department of Jobs, Precincts, Regions (BSF)	-	45,400
Reimbursement of Long Service Leave	12,481	-
Total Other Income	12,810	45,400

Less: Operating Expenses

Accounting Software - Xero	1,284	1,176
Bad Debts	-	23
Bank Fees	147	86
Depreciation Office Equipment	-	81
Event Expenses	1,147	1,736
Fees - Auditor	200	220
Fees - Membership for Professional Organisations	1,111	1,058
IT - Computer Hardware	476	162
IT - Webhosting & Software	583	499
Miscellaneous Expenses	317	727
Office - Cleaning	4,290	1,800
Office - Equipment & Printing	2,383	2,047
Office - Refreshments	175	102
Office - Stationery	1,194	569
Office - Telephone Expense	630	805
Program - Healthy Eating Needs	1,208	-
Program - Homework Club Needs & Equipment	152	168
Program - Homework Club Refreshments	224	169
Programs - Art Group Needs	426	247
Programs - English Books	-	131
Programs - English Stationery	93	-
Publicity & Signs	2,138	439
Rent Paid to All Saints Anglican Church	7,200	7,200
Staff - Admin ER Support	4,089	3,755
Staff - Admin Officer	33,123	27,795
Staff - Adult Education Coordinator	21,670	18,348
Staff - Annual Leave	(2,410)	(7,701)
Staff - Art Teacher	3,952	2,027
Staff - Computer Class Tutor	1,627	506
Staff - Coordinator	67,679	73,433
Staff - Homework Club Coordinator	-5,523	7,877
Staff - Long Service Leave	12,162	(1,709)
Staff - Portable Long Service Leave Levy	2,399	2,267
Staff - Programs Coordinator	11,704	9,300
Staff - Project Officer	2,884	-
Staff - Super Contribution	15,970	14,312
Staff and Volunteers Training	- 170	- 470
Volunteers Travelling Expenses	32	-
Work Cover Insurance	3,203	3,075
Working with Children & Police Check	170	112
Total Operating Expenses	209,324	173,313
Net (Loss) / Profit	(38,454)	6,540

Balance Sheet
Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
As at 30 June 2023

(\$)

ASSETS	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
Bank		
Billing Account	144	144
Comm Solutions Cash Reserve	32,797	138,393
Comm Solutions Cheque Account	1,206	1,027
Petty Cash Community Lunch	-	301
Petty Cash General	61	61
Term Deposit x4860	20,000	-
Term Deposit x4908	20,000	-
Term Deposit x4916	10,000	-
Westpac Debit Card Account	353	226
Total Bank	84,561	140,152
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	1,283	135
Other Receivables	12,481	87
Total Current Assets	- 13,763	221
Fixed Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation	- -	3,839
Office Equipment	-	3,960
Total Fixed Assets	-	121
Total Assets	98,324	140,494
	-	
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	- -	172
Accrued Liability	1,409	3,482
Deferred Income	5,389	16,394
PAYG Withholdings Payable	7,756	8,124
Provision for Annual Leave	6,922	9,332
Superannuation Payable	4,321	4,516
Total Current Liabilities	25,797	41,675
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	20,112	7,950
Total Non-current Liabilities	20,112	7,950
Total Liabilities	45,909	49,626
NET ASSETS	52,414	90,869
EQUITY		
Current Year Earnings	- 38,454	6,540
Retained Earnings	90,869	84,329
TOTAL EQUITY	52,414	90,869

MANAGER'S REPORT

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Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre

CONNECTING CLAYTON
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROJECT

PROUDLY PRESENTS

Cookies

ONLINE PRIVACY

& DATA BREACHES

FREE WORKSHOPS

MINIMISING ONLINE RISK FOR
YOURSELF AND YOUR ORGANISATION

A Return to Normality

After two years of massive disruptions, things began to return to normal for Dixon House in 2022-23. All our programs were back onsite, although some of our English programs had online options to accommodate those who could not attend in person. Apart from our regular program offerings, we had a flurry of activity with our projects, new and continuing, such as Helping Hand, Healthy Eating on a Budget, and Connecting Clayton to the World.

Connecting Clayton to the World Project

Our final year of this Monash Council funded project was also our most successful, this can be attributed mainly to the opening of services after the pandemic disruptions, and the return of international students to Australia in greater numbers.

Connecting Clayton - Online Privacy and Data Breaches Workshop

- We engaged a postgraduate law student from Monash University who ran a workshop through Dixon House about internet privacy and data safety, given these were trending topics at the time. All the attendees found the workshop to be eye-opening and were thankful for the practical tips provided. Feedback from the student volunteer:
 - "As I had recently relocated to Australia, I found the workshop (both in terms of preparation and presentation) helpful in understanding Australian businesses and organisations."
 - "I believe I did well at the workshop and Dixon House was very helpful."
- The workshop was recorded and uploaded to Dixon House's [Youtube channel](#) and linked via our [website](#), available for anyone to view. I strongly recommend anyone who has any presence on the internet to watch this excellent presentation. Well done and thank you Prateek for your contribution to the community.



Connecting Clayton - Singaporean Culture Presentation and Dinner

- We connected with two Singaporean undergraduate medical students from Monash University who ran a cultural presentation about their country of origin, Singapore.
- The event ran on a Friday evening in February 2023 and covered Singaporean history, culture, geography, language, and cuisine, and incorporated games and a Singaporean dinner. Participants came from a variety of backgrounds including Australian, south east Asian, Chinese, and Indian, with ages ranging from primary school to retirement age. Attendees reported that they learned a lot during the presentation, had fun in the quiz games where they could win prizes, and thoroughly enjoyed the Singaporean Laksa dish as well as Kopi (coffee). At the conclusion of the event, attendees stayed back half an hour chatting to each other!
- Some feedback from the student volunteers:
 - "Many of our participants were very inquisitive during our presentation and were very interested in learning more about Singaporean culture. We were able to respond accordingly as well."
 - "As an international student, I am very grateful that Dixon house has provided me with the opportunity to interact with the local community. It is an even greater privilege to be able to share my own culture with the locals."
 - "I learnt the process of planning for a workshop and thinking from the perspective of participants. The process enabled me to be more creative."
 - "I got to meet locals living in the community I was studying in and share my culture with them. Without the project, I would not have had the chance to meet these amazing people in person and in that moment, I really felt like I was part of the community."
 - "I felt more connected with the local community I was studying in. When studying in university, there are few chances for me to meet and connect with the people in the local community."
- Thank you to Benecia, Bernice, and Grace (their helper) for putting on this wonderful event for Dixon House.



MANAGER'S REPORT

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Connecting Clayton - Indian Culture Presentation and Dinner

We engaged two Monash University engineering students who ran a presentation and dinner on a Friday evening in April 2023. The two volunteers were joined by another three associates, also Indian international students and ex-students who assisted mainly in the kitchen. The presentation included a wealth of information about Indian history, culture, landmarks, language and cuisine. It was a very interactive session where people could ask questions and participate in quizzes and games. A delicious meal of kichadi, chapati, and chicken curry was provided. The highlight for some was after the dinner where participants asked the two Indian students about their settlement experience in Australia. It was quite an eye-opening and special moment where locals, most who had minimal contact with international students, got an insight into the international student experience, including the struggles they faced in relation to culture shock and being away from their family. You can see a highlight reel from the night on our [website](#) or [Youtube](#) channel. Thank you Sneha, Abhi, and their friends for putting on this enriching program for Dixon House.



Connecting Clayton - A Volunteer's Perspective - Sneha

- Volunteering to lead the workshop on Indian culture and food at the Connecting Clayton Project's event was a deeply rewarding experience. It allowed me to connect with people from diverse backgrounds while sharing the ethnic and cultural beauty of India. As an international student, I often felt far from home and missed the cultural richness that defines Indian life. Through the workshop, I brought a piece of India to Clayton, sharing the vibrancy of our festivals, the elegance of our art forms, and the deliciousness of our culinary traditions.
- Connecting with the local community was a heartwarming experience. Our audience spanned generations and backgrounds, each eager to learn and engage with the intricacies of Indian culture. Their curiosity and enthusiasm reminded me that the desire to understand and connect with different cultures is universal. The interactive nature of the workshop was a highlight. Engaging with the participants, encouraging questions, and facilitating discussions created a dynamic and open environment for mutual learning. People shared their own experiences and insights, turning the workshop into a two-way exchange of cultural knowledge.
- Serving a traditional Indian dinner was a delightful experience, as we watched our guests savour the flavours of India. Food's power to unite people transcended language and cultural barriers, strengthening our connection. The discussion session about studying abroad further deepened our bond. Sharing our experiences, challenges, and joys created empathy and understanding.
- In conclusion, my volunteer experience running the Indian culture and food workshop was a remarkable journey of connection and cultural exchange. It reaffirmed that, despite our differences, we share a common humanity and a desire to learn from and connect with one another. It left me with a deep appreciation for the power of cultural exchange to build bridges and create meaningful connections in our diverse world.

Helping Hand

Reading, Writing, Computing Assistance

EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON, THURSDAY MORNING



HELP WITH

Reading letters, bills etc.
Filling in forms
Accessing online services

LEARN TO

Use a computer or smartphone
Navigate the internet
Pay bills online, and more

HELPING HAND PROJECT

PROUDLY PRESENTS

LIMITED PLACES LUNCH PROVIDED

FREE PRESENTATION
PRIVATE RENTAL ASSISTANCE

HELPING HAND PROJECT

PROUDLY PRESENTS

LIMITED PLACES LUNCH PROVIDED

FREE PRESENTATION
HEALTHY & AFFORDABLE EATING

A Helping Hand in Clayton

This funding from Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association enabled us to set up an innovative program that provides quick assistance to those with literacy or computer literacy barriers who need help with understanding written information and correspondence or to access online resources. We set up a framework for the program and trained volunteers to provide this service. One significant benefit was that with the framework and resources developed, we are able to continue this program indefinitely without any future funding whatsoever. Examples of support provided include completing housing forms, writing support letters, applying for Working with Children Check, and providing basic computer training. Our support prevented further housing and financial issues and enabled people with their efforts in seeking employment, maintaining communication with loved ones, and staying safe on the internet, among other things. We also hosted two workshops by Launch Housing and OzHarvest, tackling the topics of private rental support and affordable eating in the midst of the current cost of living crisis. A big thank you to our volunteers in Helping Hand for being part of this pioneer program, and also to Launch Housing and OzHarvest for providing essential information and tips to the community.

Helping Hand - A Volunteer's Perspective (Siew)

Helping Hand assisted mostly elderly, non computer literate clients with online applications/submissions such as the power saving bonus, rental assistance and Centrelink. Computer tutoring provided two free one hour sessions, and introduced clients to the Be Connected website as well as other free online courses. There was a demand for job search, and clients were introduced to job search websites such as Seek exploring the tools and resources readily available online. Key to the computer tutoring approach was to provide clients with sufficient knowledge and skills to achieve short-term goals and to empower and motivate them to continue on their computer literacy journey.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made every Dixon House program and activity possible - Dixon House Committee and members, volunteers, partner and funding organisations, donors (see list on the last page), and definitely not least, the dedicated staff at Dixon House. A special mention of Oanh Lam who took on extra duties during my absence and who orchestrated several innovative programs. Another special mention also goes to our dedicated reception volunteers Christine, Delrine, and June, who played an integral role in our operations.

Winston Chee - Dixon House Manager

CREATIVE PROGRAMS

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Expression Through Art Program (Term 3 and 4, 2022)

The second half of 2022 saw everyone getting into the rhythm and joy of weekly art making. We welcomed three new students to unleash our creativity with, and social catch ups for everyone. Our new art trolley and hall storage made set up quicker for our three generous volunteers, who also help with artistic support, refreshments, and cleaning.

We sadly learnt of the passing of our dear friend, Quentin, and held a memorial for him so we could celebrate his presence in our lives. We completed his bright mandala artwork for inclusion in the Noble Park Community Centre Art Show. The Art Show also gave us reason to complete our artworks in time for submission, especially as it has been three years since it was held due to COVID delays. There were watercolours of pets and ships, oil paintings, mixed media works, and a collaborative artwork from everyone. One student even sold his artwork!



In Term 4 we had fun making pop-up Christmas cards, and continued exploring our preferred art medium. It was great to see participants sharing their skills with each other, and providing encouragement when confidence was lacking. On our last session, we celebrated Christmas and a student's 80th birthday with a large card that everyone had contributed with a small segment and warm wishes. **Oanh Lam - Art Tutor**



CREATIVE PROGRAMS

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Expression Through Art Program (Term 1 and 2, 2023)

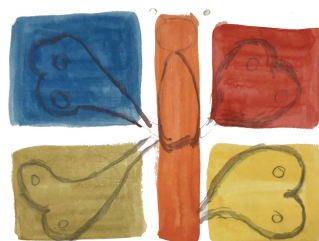
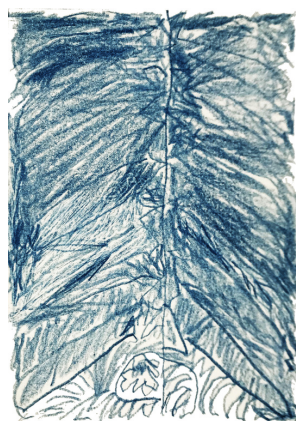
At our art sessions, we've noticed something magical happening – conversations that effortlessly transition into beautiful drawings. It's like the art flows naturally from the heart, through the hand, and onto the paper. Many of our participants bring a childlike spontaneity to their artwork, and it's truly heartwarming. Art, for us, is more than just visual expression; it's a means of self-soothing, emotion regulation, and therapeutic joy. As Jean Dubuffet once said, "Art addresses the mind, not the eye."

We've found a wonderful ally in sketchbooks – our trusty companions for recording and conceiving ideas. They capture the essence of our artistic journeys. Speaking of journeys, let's take a moment to appreciate the unique styles of some of our incredible artists:

- Carol: Besides being a mug collector extraordinaire, Carol's intuitive drawings find a new home on our custom mug mockups.
- Theoni: Green aficionado and master of sophisticated lines, Theoni's work often hides intricate leaves if you look closely enough.
- Kate: With a love for daisies and a knack for swimming (25 laps today!), Kate brings her passion for both into her vibrant drawings.
- Ken: Figures, faces, and sometimes a self-portrait – Ken's drawings tell stories in lines and shapes.
- Lynne: Butterflies hold a special place in Lynne's heart, and you can see their delicate presence in her art.
- Nick: Saturday morning cartoons hold a nostalgic charm for Nick, and his drawings reflect the joy of those animated memories.

As we continue this artistic journey together, let's celebrate the unique stories each of us brings to the canvas. Remember, it's not just about what meets the eye but what speaks to the soul.

Jaime Hoe - Art Tutor



CREATIVE PROGRAMS

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Craft and Friendship Group

The craft and friendship group meets on Monday afternoon. Our average attendance is eleven. The emphasis of the group is friendship with the sharing of ideas regarding craft. Celebration of birthdays and our special hat days brings much joy.

Dianne Payne & Gwen Clark - Craft and Friendship Group Facilitators



ENGLISH PROGRAMS

Thanks to the tremendous commitment of our tutors, staff and students for 2022-23. We had a core number of tutors who made running the programs possible. We recruited some very good tutors including, David, Allan, Jenny, and Kath. They, along with Roslyn and Kerrie have helped run a successful English program. Our conversation classes, one-to-one tutoring have been popular with new students. They cover relevant topics that the students are interested in, and these are tailored to the needs of the students.

In Multi-Level English we have two or three tutors which help students with speaking or reading. Sometimes grammar homework is given. Students can work in smaller groups with a tutor and practice reading, listening, speaking and writing. Our Learning Australia Culture and English Class (LACE) taught students about Australian culture, language, geography and history. We had diminished numbers unfortunately after our return from the pandemic disruptions. I suspect that our cohort of students in that period prioritized English language learning as compared to learning about Australian culture. We will look at some changes to the course in the future to boost numbers when we reoffer the program.

At the end of each term we invited the tutors and the students to an excursion. The places we went to in 2022-23 included the State Library, a tour of Melbourne Town Hall (where we met the Melbourne Lord Mayor, Sally Cap), a visit to the National Gallery of Victoria, and Treasury Place. The excursions highlighted Melbourne's cultural sites and also help build friendships between students and tutors.

A special thank you to all our tutors who taught our students invaluable communication and life skills - our courses would not have been possible without their involvement. We are always looking at ways to increase our outreach into the migrant community and help students improve their English language skills. We look forward to an expansion of our English programs to help the local community in 2024 and beyond.

Wayne Lim - English Coordinator



HOMework CLUB

Homework Club (Term 3 and 4, 2022)

The Homework Club is a lively place of learning and connections for our young students, with a new family joining in Term 3. They were hesitant at first, but our tutors have provided a supportive atmosphere with shared interests to make after-school learning engaging.

Highlights from the second half of 2022 includes table tennis in the hall being a hit with some students, earning a small prize for completing a Human Maths Bingo, and developing knitting skills for the first time. They enjoyed making their own pita pizzas and yummy smoothies, leading to discussions about the five food groups and what was healthy and unhealthy. One tutor was great with facilitating two literacy and numeracy game sessions with students eager to share their responses.

We also thank our volunteers for being giving of their time, as it has not always been possible to recruit as many volunteers as in the past. Their individual knowledge and skills have ensured the diverse needs of our students were met. They have shared their expertise in advanced maths, love of literature and drama, and giving new experiences a go as an example of overcoming initial difficulties.

Oanh Lam - Homework Club Coordinator



Homework Club (Term 1 and 2, 2023)

We were able to recruit several new tutors for Homework Club which helped us do a range of activities with our students including quizzes, word and maths games, riddles and watched short educational videos. Each tutor brings a useful set of skills to assist the students with their homework.

The tutors have helped the students with their reading, maths, English and homework assignments. Sometimes one tutor will work with several students at a time, depending on numbers. We welcomed one new student from Bangladesh who has fitted in well and is eager to learn.

After they finish their homework, Didier (a volunteer from Columbia) has been setting up mini soccer matches. If the kids do not want to play soccer, they also have a choice of table tennis or badminton. They get to enjoy a snack after they play sport.

Each student has certain needs and thanks to our volunteer tutors, we have been able to help them with their homework. We are grateful to our volunteers, students, parents, staff, Melbourne Anglican Foundation and Dixon House for making this program possible.

Wayne Lim - Homework Club Coordinator



HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET

Through a small grant from Monash Council we were able to run this exciting workshop series focused on helping people to achieve cheap and healthy eating. We provided this through a series of six three-hour nutrition and cooking workshops to help establish new eating habits, given the rising cost of living. The small group environment provided participants with a conducive environment for cooking together 2-3 dishes per workshop. We thank our wonderful volunteers and Monash Council for making these workshops possible! The workshops had two visits from a Monash Health Promotion officer and a Linked Health dietician to educate us on the benefits of making healthy food choices on our physical and mental health. We learnt tips for thoughtful shopping purchases, healthy convenience and takeaway food selections, and modifications to recipes and cooking practices to make meals nutritious. Further positives of the project, as commented by participants and a regular volunteer, included having opportunities to cook the various recipes, seeing that healthy meals can be delicious, and trying different food, ingredients and recipes which they may not normally eat or cook themselves e.g. smoothies, sushi, and stir fries. The workshops also allowed for social connections and sharing of existing nutritional knowledge. At its conclusion, everyone wanted more sessions! The messages of healthy eating spread to participants' family and friends as they shared meals and experiences from the workshops. Other Dixon House programs also sampled our cooking or dropped by in between their classes to attend parts of the workshops e.g. English and Art.

Oanh Lam - Project Officer



COMPUTER TUTORING

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It has been a wonderful journey at Dixon House so far for me. I am with a wonderful client from NDIS this year. It was not only about computer tutoring, but the interaction and communication has helped this client with learning challenges flourish throughout the course. To her credit, she never gave up, but came each time with new energy. We got to share many conversations and formed a good working relationship. I hope I can continue to contribute my knowledge with others at Dixon House. Thank you Winston for giving me this opportunity.

Bhumika Patel - Computer Tutor



Anglicare Victoria is proud to have continued the longstanding and successful parish partnership with Dixon Neighbourhood House and All Saints Clayton. We are deeply grateful for the outstanding effort and hard work put in by our emergency relief volunteers, who contributed an amazing total of 2,100 hours of direct and indirect client support in the last financial year. The past financial year has seen the cost of living crisis hit hard on the most marginalised groups that reach out to our emergency relief services, particularly evident with requests for assistance around utility grants and payments, housing applications and rental stress; and many single males and sole parent families presenting under the threat of eviction and on the brink of homelessness.

It is concerning but not surprising to note that the most common emerging trends include a significant increase the number of new clients i.e. 54% requesting assistance for the first time, and a rapid increase the frequency of assistance ranging from an average of 4 - 6 times per year, which means our stretched resources are helping new and existing individuals and families far more frequently. Consider the following statistics:

- Total number of individuals & families assisted :462
- Total number of new clients: 249 (54%)
- Total number of CALD clients – 56
- Total number of emergency relief types of assistance : 2808
- Total Value of Assistance provided - \$86,638 (Includes Christmas Hampers 2022)

Case Study

Shari is a 36-year-old female who presented at Dixon House in tears and quite distressed, after travelling with four children including a baby with a double pram on the bus for over two hours, in a desperate attempt to get help and financial assistance. Shari has been an Asylum Seeker for almost nine years and has been supported by an immigration caseworker through various stages of appeal and bridging visas. Shari has been living with her husband who had work rights, and was able to do limited work over the years, but the family has recently separated and Shari now is struggling to survive with limited access to Centrelink for the children, but no immigration income. Shari has been receiving limited support to pay the rent through Red Cross and ASRC however this financial support is coming to an end, and Shari is concerned about being evicted from her current home.

We were able to make contact with her caseworker and have agreed to contribute to \$400 towards one months' rent (In collaboration with SASH'S) to prevent the family being evicted. We were also able to provide practical financial assistance of \$80 Supermarket Vouchers, \$60 Food Parcel and a \$100 baby bundle which included nappies; baby clothes, toiletries and the family was included on the Christmas list for Hamper and Toys.

Shari was extremely grateful and commented that "She could now go to the supermarket and buy food that she could cook, and her children could eat" and remarked that she was particularly happy with receiving more nappies and was embarrassed that she been forced to "reuse some of her disposable nappies. "

Our dedicated team of volunteers also referred her to other family violence support networks, and discussed providing her with 12 cloth nappy pants which could be washed and reused to reduce costs, and stretch further in future.

Suzanne Keil - Emergency Relief Manager (Anglicare)

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

It would be impossible for Dixon House to do its work without the partnership and financial support of the following organisations during the 2022-23 financial year, for which we are immensely grateful:

- All Saints Church Clayton
- Anglicare Victoria
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- City of Monash
- Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association
- Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Foundation
- Toorak Op Shop
- Department of Social Services
- Churches and Organisations supporting Emergency Relief
- Individual Donors