



**Dundas Area
Neighbourhood
Centre Inc.**

Building a strong and connected community

**44th ANNUAL
REPORT**

2020-2021

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre (DANC) acknowledges that we work on the traditional lands of the Wallamettagul and Burrumattagal people of the Darug nation on which our Neighbourhood Centre connects to community.

We pay respect to the strength, capacity and resilience of past and present Aboriginal people in our region.





Building a strong and connected community

OUR VISION

A connected community that embraces diversity and collaboration.

OUR MISSION

To be a reliable hub of support within our community through the provision of quality services and activities that enable strength, inclusion and respect, while reducing social and financial disadvantage and distress.

OUR PRIORITIES

- An integrated approach that supports meeting the needs of the local community.
- Provision of activities and services that promote understanding of the cultural diversity in our community.
- Continuously improving and maintaining the well-equipped community centre premises and resources so it is a welcoming and safe place for all.

OUR VALUES

Inclusiveness

Collaboration

Integrity

Adaptability



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BOARD REPORT

The 2020-21 Annual Report, our 44th, for Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc. (DANC) is presented covering activities for the financial year July 2020 to June 2021.

This year, once again, provided DANC with significant challenges and resulted in several changes for our organisation. Externally, additional pressures were placed on the vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the local community. The impact of Covid-19, for the first time, not only influenced our community's normal way of life but also placed additional requirements on DANC to adapt, serve and support the additional needs of residents.

I was particularly impressed and proud of the dedication shown by management, staff and volunteers during these difficult months. They were creative, flexible and adaptable during the lockdown periods. In addition, they continued to reach out to be accessible, where possible, for the community. I thank them for continuing their service commitment.

I also want to thank all the past and present Board members, as volunteers, who have generously given their personal time and professional support for the DANC organisation. In addition, a special thank you to Bicky Winkler, a Past President, for her strong leadership during the year and prior years, working tirelessly and supporting DANC during some difficult times.

During the reporting year the Board also adapted, holding meetings by Zoom/Teams to continue our important governance role and supporting the Centre Manager. Our governance effort was enhanced with the development of a comprehensive Policy and Procedure Manual for the organisation. This was accompanied by training for all Board members.

The role of Public Officer is held by Ken Bullock, a previous member of the Board. Special thank you to Ken for his ongoing guidance and valuable support provided to the organisation.

The following key events occurred during the financial year:

- DANC's principal source of funding is from the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). A new contract commenced in July 2020 and was extended in May 2021.
- Strategic Plan for 2020-23 was developed (August 2020).
- Margaret Noonan appointed Centre Manager (October 2020).
- Performance Improvement Plan approved (October 2020).
- Kathryn Hammond appointed Centre Manager (March 2021).
- New Constitution registered with Fair Trading (April 2021).



DANC was successful in obtaining additional one-off grants to assist in improving Centre facilities and information technology. DANC will revisit the Strategic Plan to develop the organisation further by exploring other opportunities for funding sources, collaboration and partnerships.

By June 2021 DANC operations again changed to remote offsite support with strict Covid-19 safe practices. Despite the challenges during the year, DANC continued to deliver to our community.

Graham Moon
President

CENTRE MANAGER REPORT



I commenced my role as Centre Manager at Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre (DANC) in March 2021, bringing with me a background of over 30 years working with community, including Local Government, peak body and disability specific roles. I was excited to be back 'on the ground' working with community in an organisation that was obviously keen to meet the needs of the community it serves. So while at the time of this AGM I will be celebrating a year of being with DANC, I was effectively only employed for three months of this reporting period.

There were a number of existing programs running at DANC, but the numbers attending weren't always what we hoped as we navigated the 'new normal' after our 2020 lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The community still had some fears about being in groups, there were still some attendance number restrictions in place for our groups and after a number of staff changes, DANC was just building itself back up to its key place in the community.

This was an exciting time as the staff team looked at how we could move forward and support our community while meeting our funding body requirements. For each program we created an activity plan to ensure we were meeting these requirements as well as providing activities the community were interested in being a part of.

One of our first 'big' events was Youth Week in April 2021. This event was supported by the City of Parramatta Council, the Waratah Centre, Dundas Library and the Rapid Relief Team (RRT). The goal was to provide an event that would not only provide activities for young people but would showcase these to the whole community. So, while the main project was the art mural workshop, another key component was the BBQ put on by RRT which brought the community together. We had over 50 community members attend on the day and the Centre was 'buzzing'. All the staff commented on how great it was to see the Centre full of people once again. We had big plans for the rest of 2021 which, sadly, the 2021 stay at home orders prevented.

We had great successes with our School Holiday Program, our Supported Playgroup, Homework Hub, Seniors Week lunch and Friday Connect. As a new worker in the organisation, it was great to see these programs grow and thrive with the key workers involved. Belinda Marchesiello, Tegan Thomas and Varuna Singh, supported by Vanessa Donoghue, Anna Chevelier and Sue Maarbani, all part time staff, worked hard to develop and implement these programs and connect with our community. We provided ongoing information and referrals, and emergency food hampers. I certainly had to 'jump in the deep end' to keep up with the ongoing activities at the Centre.



CENTRE MANAGER REPORT

In my first weeks I was able to make contact with some of our key partners including Hume Housing, Hope Connect, City of Parramatta Council, Tzu Chi Foundation, Telopea Public School – Schools as Community Centres, Dundas Library and more. These stakeholders play an important role with DANC, as they help provide us with the opportunity to better support the community. I am grateful to be able to work with these, and all our partner organisations, who share the same goal, to improve services to local residents. I am also grateful to them for their support to me as a new worker in the area. I take part in regular meetings with Telopea Connect and the Community Drug and Alcohol team (CDAT) and the Local Drug and Alcohol Team (LDAT) which are held bi-monthly.

I'd like to acknowledge the work done by our volunteers during this time. Kitty Chan, So Lau (Lisa), Lucine Song, Maria Antonova and Ken Wilcox. Kitty, Lisa and Ken made sure all visitors to the Centre were welcomed in and followed sign in procedures, while Maria and Lucine assisted in administration duties.

While my time and involvement during this reporting period is limited, I would like to acknowledge my predecessors in the Centre Manager role, Sharon Petrovic and Margaret Noonan, both who shared information with me to help make my transition into the role a smooth one. Of course, I'd like to thank my staff team for all their work and commitment to DANC.

Kathryn Hammond
March 2022



STAFF, STUDENT INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

Staff

Thank you to the following staff who were part of the team during 2020-2021

- Anna Chevalier
- Vanessa Donohue
- Kathryn Hammond
- Stephanie King
- Dulcie Lupton
- Belinda Marchesiello
- Suehir Maarbani
- Margaret Noonan
- Sharon Petrovic
- Tegan Thomas
- Varuna Singh

Student Interns

Thank you to the students who chose to participate in the work at DANC as part of their studies:

- Daniela Carualo Da Silva
- Mahedi Hasan
- Min Sun Jeong
- Grace Eunhye Kim
- Muhammad Mansha
- Julianne Min
- John Salvador
- Brianna Squires
- Satomi Terasaka
- Sonya-Leah Tofaenon

These students came from various colleges and universities and undertook a range of research projects and assisted staff in program development and implementation.

Board Members

The following members served on the DANC Board during 2020-21:

- Ramaprasad Bhar
- Harrison Dell
- Samantha Del Maschio
- Saj Deshmukh
- Carla Elias (resigned January 2021)
- Ziad Harb (resigned June 2021)
- Graham Moon
- Sudhakar Ramasamy
- Bicky Winkler (resigned June 2021)

Volunteers

DANC cannot function without our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to the following wonderful people who supported us during 2020-2021

- Maria Antonova
- Kitty Chan
- So (Lisa) Lau
- Lucine Song
- Kenneth Willcox



It is with great sadness, that we report the passing of our long term volunteer Ken Willcox. Ken started at the centre helping out in the op-shop and then moved to an office volunteer role. Ken loved working with us and with our neighbouring centre in Harris Park. He is very much missed by us all.

We celebrated our volunteers during volunteer week with a small gift and certificate of thanks for the work they do to support DANC.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc. Financial Report for the year ending June 2021 will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting. It was audited by chartered accountants C M Pitt & Co.

Total income for year totalled \$284,558 while expenses were \$275,863. Current assets amounted to \$200,301 while current liabilities were \$84,178. Employee related expenses amounted to 80% of outgoings.

The Centre is grateful to all who contributed funds or in-kind especially our funding body, Department of Community and Justice and our landlord City of Parramatta Council.

CENTRE ACTIVITIES

DANC receives its main funding from the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) through its Targeted Early Intervention program (TEI). This funding covers three areas:

- Community Connections
- Community Strengthening
- Community Support

All DANC programs are designed to meet these areas and are flexible and change and grow with community needs.

We also receive funding from various grants and donations through the year that allow us to expand on our programming.

Unfortunately, during the year, the Covid-19 pandemic created some anxiety for some people around being in group settings. As a result, we experienced lower numbers than expected for some of our activities.

DANC also promotes and hosts self-managed groups at the centre. These activities are run by community members and help promote community connection and community engagement.



PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

CONNECT & PLAY

Connect and Play is a supported playgroup for local parents and their families who have children aged 0-6. It provides children with a range of early learning activities that they may not have in their home, it provides connection with other children, and connects parents and carers with each other and provides support with the tools they need to support positive parenting. Early 2021 saw the numbers for this group increase steadily each week.



**JOIN US
FOR
CONNECT
& PLAY**

When: Wednesday, 10:00am-12pm
Where: 21 Sturt Street, Telopea

Connect & Play is a free supported playgroup for children aged 0-6 years, and their families.

Activities Include:

- Welcome Circle
- Story Time
- Music Making
- Craft
- Sensory Play
- Soft Play

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US ON 9684 4250

NSW GOVERNMENT | Communities & Justice | Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre

CREATIVE KIDS



**KREATIVE
Kids**

6-11 years old

TUESDAYS
3:30 PM – 5 PM
21 STURT ST., TELOPEA

NSW GOVERNMENT | Communities & Justice | Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre

For more information and to reserve your spot, please call 02 9684 4250

Creative Kids (previously known as Kreative Kids) was an after school activity program for children aged 6-11. This program was run with the assistance of our student interns and provided attendees with a range of art and craft activities which encouraged creativity and provided opportunities for children to interact with their peers.

SING & GROW

Sing and Grow was a music therapy program for young children and their families which ran at the centre in partnership with Sing and Grow Australia. This program focusses on strengthening family relationships, building capacity in parents to support their children's development in the early years of life and supports transition to school.



PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

SENIORS' FESTIVAL

Seniors Festival 2021 was celebrated with our partners from the Tzu Chi Foundation by taking the Friday Connect group to the Telopea Community Garden where a free lunch was provided. The Strum Along group from the centre provided the entertainment.



FRIDAY CONNECT

A promotional poster for Friday Connect. At the top, several hands of different ages are joined in a circle, with a speech bubble saying "Join us!". Below this, the text reads "Friday Connect" in large teal letters, followed by "12 AM to 2 PM" in smaller teal letters. Underneath, it says "Free food, clothes, shoes and toys" and "*LUNCH PROVIDED BY TZU CHI FOUNDATION". At the bottom, the location "21 Sturt St., Telopea" is listed.



Friday Connect provided a regular weekly opportunity for local community members to meet and connect. DANC partnered with the Tzu Chi Foundation who generously provided meals for the program and volunteers to connect with the community members who attended. This program enabled DANC to provide residents with successful referrals to other services, and provide emergency food relief when requested. In 2021 we partnered with Oz Harvest who provided fresh fruit, vegetables and breads each week for our attendees.



PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

TEA & TALK

Tea and Talk sessions grew out of well-being calls that DANC made during the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown period. The community requested a safe space to connect with other members of the community. The program ran until May 2021.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



DANC held school holiday programs in July and December 2020 and in April 2021. These programs were offered for children aged 6 - 15.

A wide variety of activities were offered based on feedback and suggestions from young people. These included badminton, table tennis, arts and crafts, bingo, chill out sessions with pizza, music and fun, pool competitions, a skate clinic and street gym. Crafts included utilising sensory play, exploring textures and slime! This type of sensory play can support development of thinking skills as well as fine and gross motor skills. One of the activities was an outing to the local pizza shop in Telopea, where the participants were shown how pizzas were made, before coming back to the centre to enjoy eating them! This was a great opportunity for young people to connect with local business owners and improve relationships.



PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group provided a safe space for young people aged 11 - 16. Staff ran activities including games, pool, table tennis, pizza and movie nights. Unfortunately lower than expected numbers led us to postpone this program. Staff consulted with attendees who expressed the need for homework support, and so the program changed to facilitate this.

DANC has been working with local partners to ensure we can best support the young people in our area looking at providing youth workers on the ground after hours. To support this, we received a grant from the City of Parramatta to purchase equipment and activity items to further engage with young people.

STREET GYM
RELAUNCH

WE'RE BACK!
WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL

@ Sturt Park, Telopea
2:30 - 5:30PM

Skate Clinic with Ollisonny | StreetgYm
Community BBQ | FREE Climbing wall
Open to ages 12 - 18

FREE!
sports, games,
food, music &
prizes to be won!

facebook.com/ymcanswyouth

For any enquiries please contact David from our Youth team
0402 255 193 | youth@ymcansw.org.au

Proudly partnered with Parramatta Council | Youth Week Young Yoks | Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre

NSW Justice Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre NSW NEW YORK WEEK 16-18 APRIL 2021

Indemnity: To the full extent permitted by law, patrons release YMCA NSW from all claims and liability in respect of, and indemnify YMCA NSW in full against, claims or liability to any other person and expense the YMCA NSW incurs, or may incur, in respect to any personal injury, death, theft, loss or damage arising from the patrons participating in this optional outreach service.

HOMEWORK HUB

COME AND DO YOUR HOMEWORK AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

At the Homework Hub, Centre staff are here to help!

We provide free afternoon tea, student homework and assignment support, and a games zone to help support healthy learning breaks.

What: Homework Hub
Who: School Students Aged 8-18 Years.
When: Thursday, 3:30-5:00pm
Where: 21 Sturt Street, Telopea

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

REGISTER TODAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US ON 9684 4250

NSW Communities & Justice Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre

Homework Hub offered homework help to students in years 4-10 and supported their parents and carers who may not have had the skills to assist their children in homework or school projects. This program also taught children study skills and allowed them opportunities to connect with their peers.



PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

YOUTH WEEK 10-18 APRIL 2021

Youth Week was an opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views, act on issues that affect their lives, and create and enjoy activities and events.

DANC worked with the City of Parramatta Council, Rapid Relief Team and Dundas Library to run this event. DANC engaged mural artist Sam Absurd to work with young people to design and create a mural. This mural is now hanging in the Neighbourhood Centre as part of a 'youth space'.

A tour of the library was organised, where young people could find out what the library has available to support studies and just for fun!!

The Rapid Relief Team organised a FREE BBQ for the whole community. This provided an opportunity for community members to have a look at the centre and to see the mural in development.



DANC YOUTH WEEK 2021

JOIN US FOR A MURAL PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST SAM ABSURD. FREE FOOD PROVIDED!

WHEN: THURSDAY 29 APRIL, 3:30PM

WHERE: DANC, 21 STURT STREET, TELOPEA

WHO: AGES 12-17

Sam Absurd, Nature of the Mind (2016)

Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre NSW Communities & Justice



PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

INFORMATION & REFERRAL, ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

As part of the services DANC offers, we provide information and referrals to our community on a range of topics. This can be as simple as providing a phone number for another service, to more complicated advocacy and referrals where we help clients access appropriate services specific to their needs.

PROVISION OF FOOD PACKAGES

in late 2020, DANC began distributing food packages to members of our community. Donations for these packages came from the Rapid Relief Team, Officeworks, Tzu Chi Foundation. In 2021, a new partnership was developed with OZ Harvest who supplied fresh fruits and vegetables and other items.

Clients were able to access these packages through attendance at Friday Connect or via dropping into the centre. For those residents requiring further support, referrals were made to other agencies.



SELF MANAGED GROUPS

Self managed groups are an important part of DANC's programming. These groups connect our community through various activities. They are managed by volunteer group leaders.

We are always keen to hear from community members who may have an idea for a group, so please contact the Centre Manager for more details.

Some of our groups in the 2020- 2021 year included:

Art Class

Volunteer artist and tutor Florence Ilacqua, member of the Parramatta Art Society, continues to lead this enthusiastic and appreciative adult group of students. Classes are held at the Centre, however, the group visits Art Gallery exhibitions and demonstration workshops from various artists to further develop skills. Thank you Florence for your continued support and leadership. Some artwork from the group was on display at City of Parramatta Art Society Inc. Studio and Gallery in August 2020.



Strum along

Strum along is a group for anyone who likes to play an instrument or sing. It runs every Friday afternoon. It is an inclusive group aiming to address social isolation and foster neighbourhood connections through music as a low cost activity.

Table Tennis

Group leader Hanki Tokyo runs a table tennis group each week at the centre. He tells us: "All the the players in the group enjoyed very much the games as well as the venue provided. We sincerely thank you for letting us use the facilities".

Also at the Centre during this period:

- Happy Dance
- Dundance
- Multicultural Dance Group
- Table Tennis
- Seenagers Table Tennis
- Valley Voices Choir



Strum along group

COLLABORATIONS, NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the year, DANC has worked alongside other organisations to provide services to our community. These networks, partnerships and collaborations are a great way for organisations to be able to support each other and the community we work with.

Some of the key partnerships are listed here:

Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)

Our major funding source. DANC management meet regularly with DCJ to ensure our services meet the contracted arrangements.

City of Parramatta Council

DANC leases its premises in Telopea from Council and works closely with its staff. Special mention to Ellen Ross and Rodrigo Gutierrez from the Community Capacity Building team who not only provide support to the organisation as a whole, but to individual staff members of DANC.

Tzu Chi Foundation Australia

Tzu Chi Foundation has been helping our community by providing lunch for our Friday Connect program. As well as providing items for our emergency food hampers. Tzu Chi volunteers interact and connect and provide support to those attending the session.

Hope Connect

Hope Connect is located close to DANC and provide a range of services for our community. As well as working with them as part of "Telopea Connect", DANC supported a Community Drop in at their centre in April 2021. They were able to utilise the Community garden and DANC staff attended and brought the families from Connect and Play to take part in this event. We look forward to growing our partnership to support the communities we support.

Harman Foundation

A large supply of clothing, shoes and exercise equipment, as well as sanitary items, donated to DANC by our community, was give to the Harman Foundation to assist women and families that are victims of domestic violence.

In the week of the 4th of July 2020, a large amount of clothing was given to the Harman Foundation to help women and families that are victims of domestic violence. Heaps of casual and work clothes, exercise equipment, shoes and packages of sanitary items donated from our amazing community.

COLLABORATIONS, NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Hume Community Housing

Hume Housing is a local community housing provider. We work with the Community Cohesion officer as part of Telopea Connections as well as sharing information and working on joint programs for the community.

Dundas Library

The Library adjoins the centre and provides the opportunity for networking and referrals. The Library is also part of Telopea Connections.

Telopea Connections

Telopea Connections is a group of service providers who meet regularly to support and collaborate on issues for the community. This group also includes the CDAT (Community Drug Action Team) and LDAT (Local Drug and Alcohol Team) meetings.

CDAT strives to make the local community safer, healthier and stronger by working to prevent and reduce the harm associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs. They aim to promote awareness of alcohol and other drug related harm and strategies for minimising harm and to work together on locally relevant prevention strategies. The **LDAT** program supports community organisations to reduce harms from alcohol and other drugs in their local area.

Other Connections & Partnerships

Ladder Step Up
Oz Harvest
TAFE NSW
Rapid Relief Team
University of Western Sydney
Warratah Centre
Foodbank NSW
Western Sydney Community Forum
Carlingford Dundas Lions Club
Telopea Schools as Community Centres





Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc.

Building a strong and connected community

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