

MCC

Murwillumbah Community Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



Murwillumbah
Community
centre

Murwillumbah Community Centre wish to acknowledge the Ngandowal and Minyungbal speaking people of the Bundjalung Country, in particular the Goodjinburra, Tul-gi-gin, and Moorung - Moobah clans, as being the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters within the Murwillumbah and Tweed Shire where we live, work and grow.

Their enduring connection to country has provided care and shelter for countless generations.

In the spirit of this deep connection we commit to providing a safe space for all, offering support, dignity and respect.

We pay our respects to the contribution of Bundjalung Elders both past and present, and to the enduring wisdom they offer.

We acknowledge the Torres Strait Islander, South Sea Islander community of the Tweed and all Aboriginal people that call Bundjalung Country home.

Cover artwork: Gayle Hyde

Artwork this page and featured in this document: **Growth**, Indira Arnold. Instagram: kierrabellearts

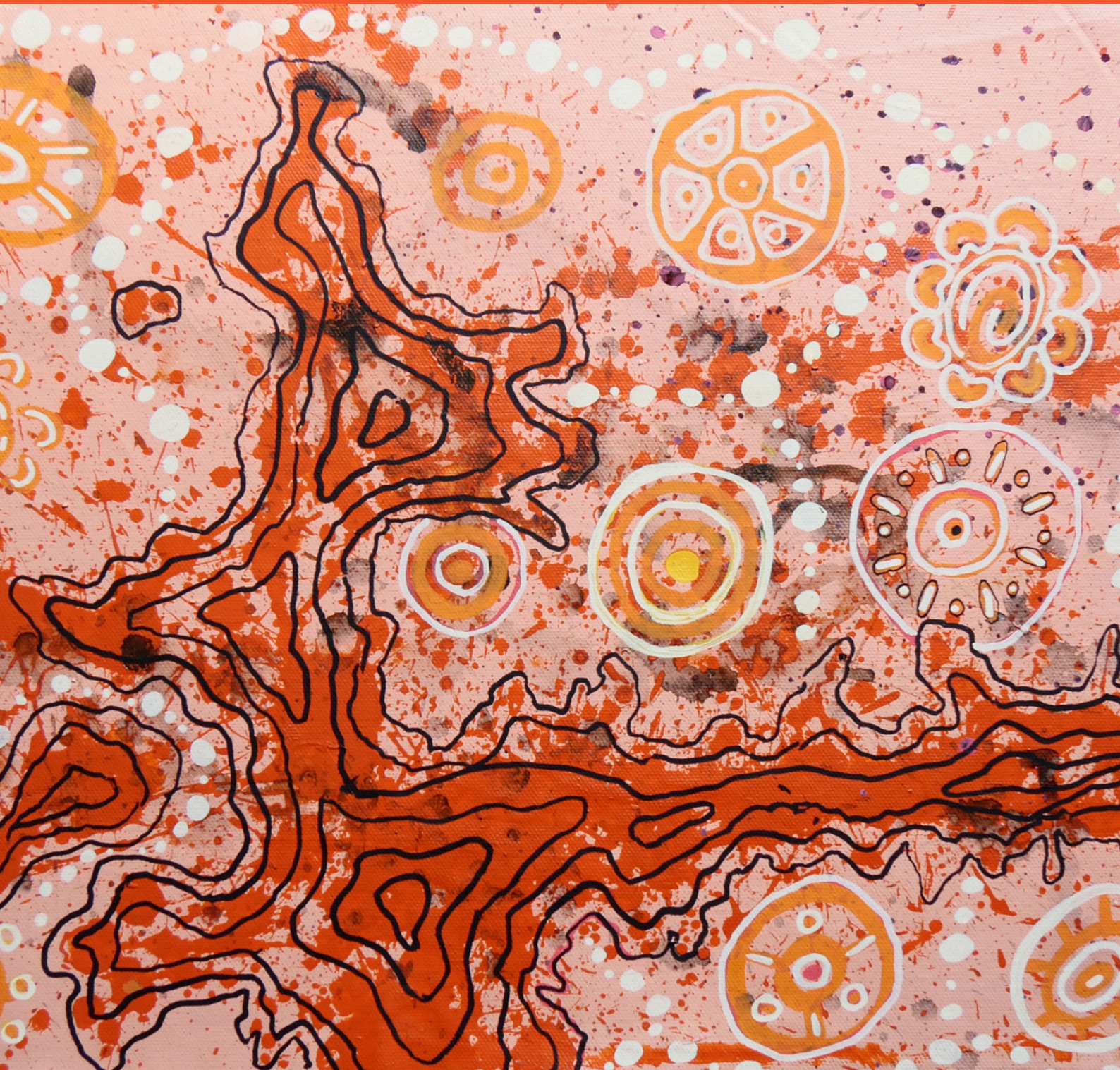


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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

2024 has been a year of change with the retirement of the centre's long serving Manager, Wendy Constantine and Chair, Barry Longland. I would like to thank both Wendy and Barry for their many years of dedicated service to Murwillumbah Community Centre (MCC) and to our community in general.

MCC celebrates 50 years of service this year having commenced in 1974 operating from Murwillumbah Hospital. We have grown from a small service with limited resources to the incredible and diverse service we offer in 2024. There have been many challenges along the way but the positive outcomes that MCC has achieved is directly attributed to the dedication of our Management, Staff and Volunteers.

I would also like to thank Greta Hunter, on behalf of the Board, for her 50 years of committed service to MCC. Greta is a founding member of MCC and retired earlier this year. We wish Greta a well-earned and relaxing retirement.

Nick Cornish also retired from the Board due to work and family commitments. The Board would like to thank Nick for his wonderful contribution to the MCC team. Nick is looking forward to returning to the Board when he has more time.

I would like to welcome the following members to the MCC Management team and for their contribution to our service:

Kerrian Dear	Secretary and HR
Anne Barton	Director and Media and Marketing
Lauran Wassell	Director and Youth Engagement
Nicki Shipard	Director and Community Development

Warren Polglase's long – term commitment to the MCC Management team is to be commended. Warren is our longest serving committee member and I thank him for his many years of service to our community, both as a member of the MCC Management Team and as a long serving local Councillor.

Respected Bundjalung Elder, Charlene Emzin-Boyd, will also be joining the Board this year. We welcome Charlene to the team.

We completed our Board renewal this year with long term board member Warren Polglase stepping into the role of Treasurer. Warren brings a wealth of expertise to this role.

Wendy and Barry were at the helm through some of the most challenging years in the history of MCC. They, together with the support of the staff and volunteers, steered us through the aftermath of the unprecedented 2017 floods followed two years later by the 2019 bush fires, a Covid pandemic and the catastrophic floods that closed all three of MCC's facilities in early 2022. Their strong leadership through these very difficult times is to be commended.

This year we moved back into the Centre, newly refurbished and designed to be flood resistant. Thankyou to Tweed Shire Council for their ongoing support of our organisation and the use of this wonderful facility. It has been heartening to welcome the community back to our centre and to have our meeting rooms so well utilised by local groups.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In January this year we welcomed new Manager, Fiona Hunt, to lead the MCC team. Fiona comes to MCC with a long and distinguished career in the community services sector and together we have worked with the team to develop the new Strategic plan and vision which will guide us through the next 5 years. It is a plan to further strengthen connections with the community and to support collaboration. The first 6 months of Fiona's leadership have presented challenges and opportunities, which we have embraced together and I feel confident that the centre is in good hands.

2024 has been a difficult year financially for MCC with flood funding ending, increased demand for services, capacity building expenses for the organisation, and cost of living and inflation impacting the centre like so many other small businesses.

The Board would like to reassure the community that 2024 was an unusual year and that steps have been put in place to ensure that the centre will return to balance in the coming year.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and volunteers of MCC for their dedicated commitment to the service of our community. Every member of the MCC team go above and beyond to assist those members of our community who are most vulnerable and in need. Their commitment is greatly valued and very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the Management Committee for their support of the team and for your dedication to community service.

I will be stepping down as Chair this year and hand the reigns to Carmen Stewart. Carmens passion for community welfare and development is well known in the community which makes her the perfect person to Chair MCC.

I look forward to the year ahead.

Kerry Turner
Chairperson

Every member of the MCC team go above and beyond to assist those members of our community who are most vulnerable and in need. Their commitment is greatly valued and very much appreciated.



STRATEGIC PLAN



OUR VISION

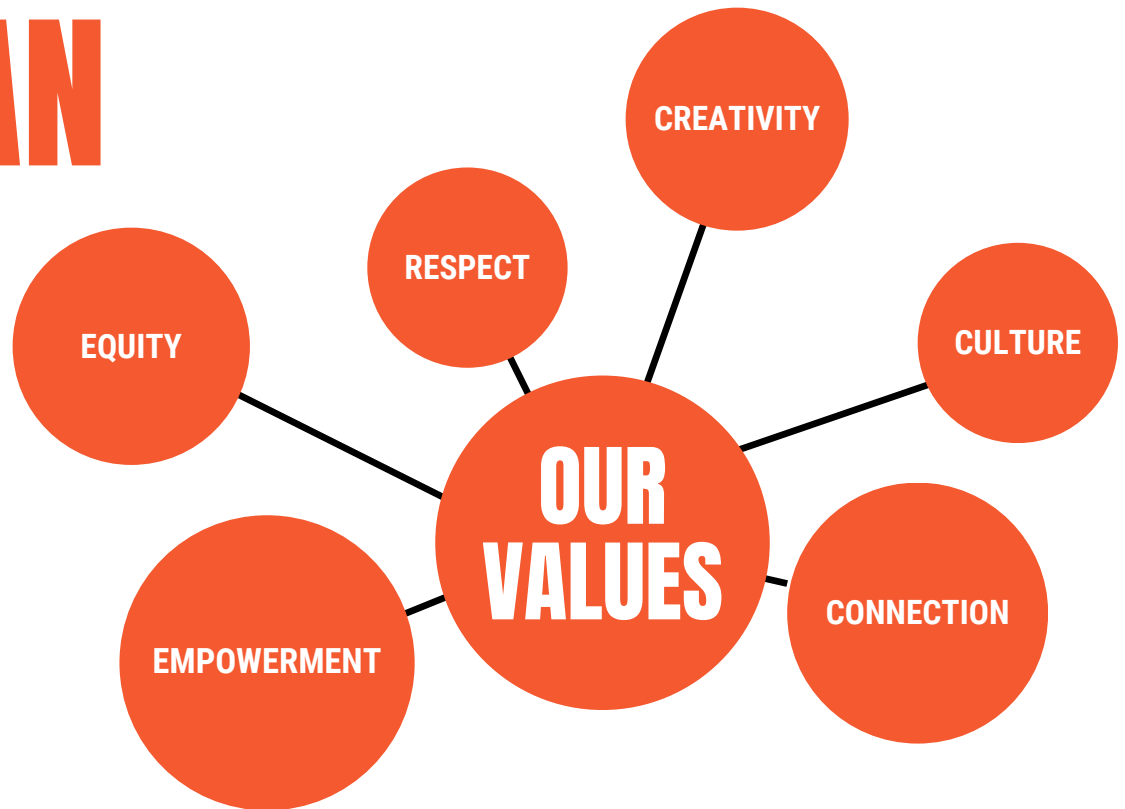
People are engaged, empowered and supported
Our community is connected and self sustaining
Everyone has their needs met

OUR MISSION

To be an organisation that fosters social equity, health and wellbeing, joy, connection, deep respect and the sharing of knowledge and resources for all.



STRATEGIC PLAN



RESPECT
 Acting with honesty and integrity
 Accepting others' values and choices
 Treating people with dignity

Acceptance - Dignity - Integrity

CONNECTION
 Working together for better outcomes
 Sharing ideas and knowledge
 Co creating solutions

Co Creation - Sharing - Collaboration

EQUITY
 Embracing difference
 Fostering inclusivity
 Advancing human rights

Rights - Difference - Inclusivity

CREATIVITY
 Responding to changing needs
 Being flexible and adaptable
 Encouraging passion and courage

Change - Passion - Flexibility

EMPOWERMENT
 Being people centred
 Recognising potential
 Encouraging self determination

People - Self Determination

CULTURE
 Appreciating First Nations culture
 Connection to Country
 Celebrating diversity

Diversity - Connection to Country - First Nations

Management Committee

Kerry Turner	Nicholas Cornish
Warren Polglase	Kerriann Dear
Greta Hunter	Nicole Shipard
Barry Longland	Anne Barton
Greg Walsh	Lauren Wassel

Financial Counselling

Sophia Erlich	Sofia Werner
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Food Hub

Patsy Walsh

Youth

Jess Porter	Joshua Hawkins
Marlena Bassar	Jye Hackwood
Christina Bennett	Kody Farrell
Mossy Cluney	Zoelle George
Atticus Henderson	Ruby Green
Caitlyn Rice	

Management & Administration

Wendy Constantine	Karen Chaffey
Fiona Hunt	Gary Setchell
Fiona Fitzgerald	Kathryn Edmunds

Community Services

Eva Sanz Orio	Sarah Lovett
Jamie Perry	Kerry Pritchard
Eve To	Kelli Rankin

Indigenous Programs

Lara Lei	Belle Budden
Robyn Beezley	Kelly Knox
Mudjai	Teleahsia Togo
Rackell Sussyer	Charline Emzin-Boyd
Grayson Needham	Grayson Phillips
Deidre Currie	Eve White
Leigh Leslie	Katriona Jones

Students:

Nikki Shipard	Zoelle George
Alannah Eason	Ruby Green
Sophie Macken	Kirsten Mayer

Volunteers

Gary Setchell, Judy Clement, Fiona Mengersen, Glen Dascombe, Chris Hudson, Jodie O'Brien, Wendy Hancock, Robert Merlo, Samantha Bowles, Shavarnia Williams, Sonja McLeod, Alain Legrand, Amanda Brincat, Brett Pryor,Carolynn Tabakhoff, Joy Marat, Di Human, Kathryn Edmunds, Talah Garbett, Damian Reed, Kalindi Godden, Lizzie Buscaino, Shivorne Kini, Nicole Mudgway, Mic Cosmic, Lisa Clark, Letechia, Elise Lang, Jye Hackwood, Danni Grant, Dylan Porter, Courtney Hardcastle, Arjan Prasad, Kody Farrell, Diana Willock, Annie Rillstone, Raymond Lindsay, Trish Read, Kathy O'Connell, Anne Freeman, Bob Freeman, Jackie Martin, Di Hather, Jane Johnson, Sharon Cain, Laurel Garnett, Kylie Burchell, Robert Merlo, Karen Carey, Desiree Tinetti, Sharmain Balston, Carolyn Tabakhoff, Frank Boifave, Dina Lamstein, Fiona Crawford, Sonia Lebby, Marcel, Ari, Rob Gee, Rachael Sanderson, Amarina Toby, Craig McNiven, Stephanie Boldeman, Annabel O'Flynn, Allanah Willock, Suzie Cohen, Penny Gordon, Lisa Gardiner, Jan Ungerer, Michael Hecker



MANAGER'S REPORT

I joined the team at Murwillumbah Community Centre MCC in January 2024 and have had a wonderful year becoming part of the centre and the community. Thank you everyone for the warm welcome. I also acknowledge the rich legacy of the outgoing Manager Wendy Constantine and thank her for support in settling into the role.

It is MCC's 50th year and the Centre is truly a hub for the community. We are grateful to Tweed Shire Council for leasing us our purpose-built refurbished centre and their ongoing support to make it a safe and welcoming place.

Please read the program reports, they give a great overview of what we do and what we have achieved this year.

We offer great facilities for meetings, training and celebrations and the centre is filled most days with people learning or improving their wellbeing. Our programs offer the opportunity to connect and belong and we have an open door to anyone experiencing hardship.

Collaboration is at the heart of all that MCC does and our key partnerships this year have been with our sister community center's Community Gateway and the Consortia of Neighbourhood Centre's (CONC); Janelle Saffin MP; Tweed Shire Council; Justine Elliot MP; Social Futures; YWCA; Ngunya Jarjum; The Family Centre; Bugalwena plus our collocated service partners. Our full list

of thankyou and acknowledgements is included later in the report. Thank you all for working with us to support the Murwillumbah community and to create the change we all want to see.

MCC is excited to share our new Strategic plan which will guide our work from 2025-2030. We consulted with the community to hear what they wanted and needed us to be and overwhelmingly heard that they want us to continue to be the place people come to when they need assistance. They also want us to do more with Murwillumbah Youth and Seniors and so we will aim to do this over the coming years.

Our community hit hard times this year. The ongoing impact of the 2022 floods on many families and individuals, hikes in the cost of living and housing prices meant that many have been living in real poverty. In our Financial Counselling program 64% of client's income was below \$40,000 per annum. This program advocated to get \$180,900 worth of debts waived for clients, saving many from bankruptcy. With the help of our donating food partners, we provided over 11,000 free meals + 435 Food hampers + 150 food vouchers this year to families, older people and those experiencing homelessness. Our demand for Emergency relief assistance rose 31% and we provided \$134,000 worth of goods and services in addition to the food provided. Many people tell us that being able to access help is the only thing enabling them to pay their rent, stay in the area and keep their families together.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Across our programs we provided
over
20,000
occasions of service

and worked with over
3,000
people

Thank you to our incredible team of staff and volunteers for meeting this elevated level of need. Special thanks to the leadership team Lara, Eva, Patsy and Sofia and to our backbone team Fiona and Karen- you are all incredibly dedicated and skilled. We will continue to support the Murwillumbah community and advocate for the systemic change needed to address the root causes of disadvantage. As our Community Service Coordinator Eva says in her report "Our greatest success is the way we support everyone that comes to our centre in need. We always have something to give, we find a way for them to not leave empty-handed, we wrap around services or supports and advocate on their behalf."

Another core thing we do is bring people together to celebrate connection, culture, and talent. This year's Kinship Festival was the biggest ever with 6000 attendees and inspiring performances from local dance groups. The generous sharing and celebration of Bundjalung culture is a highlight of the year and enriches the whole community. Thank you to the 100's of volunteers who make it happen. Our second Youth Festival was huge success this year too with local bands performing and competing for the coveted title of Band of the Year and other young performers and artists sharing their talents. It is the only Youth led

festival in the region, and we will continue to support this opportunity for young people to share their gifts.

I would also like to give special thanks to our volunteers. They are the heartbeat of our service, and we could not operate without them. This includes Gary Setchell who has been our Nullum House Team leader for 12 years. This is 3 days a week of sometimes distressing service that ensures people experiencing homelessness can get their basic needs met. Gary is nominated for a Tweed Shire Council volunteer of the year award, and this is well deserved. Special thanks to Raymond Lindsay our 98year old Food Hub mainstay and Patsy's right hand man. Raymond gives 3 days a week to ensure Patsy does not have to do all the heavy lifting and the Food Hub runs smoothly. Thankyou veryone for all that you do. Thanks also to our volunteer Management Committee who have guided and supported us this year.

Kerry Turner is stepping down as Chairperson at the AGM after a long stint on the committee. Kerry has been a wonderful support to me in my first year and we all thank you for your service, Kerry. We welcome Carmen Stewart to the board as our new Chairperson. Her innovative approaches to place-based solutions and broad networks fit beautifully with our aspirations for the centre and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with her.

And finally farewell to Patsy Walsh our Food Hub Co-ordinator who is retiring at the end of the year. Patsy established the Food Hub and has worked in various roles across MCC always bringing good humour, great kindness and practicality to everything she does. Thankyou Patsy, we will miss you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MCC is grateful for all our funders, partners and donors. Collaboration is at the heart of all that we do. From the Australian Federal Government to the local people who give to help feed our community, MCC thanks you and so does the Murwillumbah community.

Funding Partners

Australian Federal Government:

National Indigenous Australians Agency
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

NSW Government:

Department of Communities and Justice
Transport NSW
Regional NSW- Office for Regional Youth

Healthy North Coast

Social Futures

CAGES Foundation

YWCA Australia

Tweed Shire Council

Northern Rivers Community Gateway

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation

The James Frizelle Foundation

Headspace National

Street Smart

Tweed Community Clubs

Ingrained Foundation

Splendour in the Grass

Energreen Nutrition

Heart of Love Foundation

DharmaCare

Co-Location Partners

Social Futures

The Family Centre

WISE Employment

Mylestones

Hearing Australia

Epic Support Services

Grow

The Reconstruction Authority

Department of Corrections

YWCA

Momentum Collective

OCTEC

Roundsquared

Family Services Australia

WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Partner Organisations

Tweed Shire Council
Murwillumbah Chamber of Commerce
M|Arts
The Returning
Arts Northern Rivers
TAFE NSW
We-Ali
Possums Preschool
Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre
Northern Rivers Community Gateway
Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre
Murwillumbah Learning Community High School
Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School
Consortia of Neighbourhood Centres (CONC)
Mount St Patrick College
The Small School
Social Futures
Tweed River High School
Sathya Sai College
Ngunja Jarjum
Bugalwena NSW Health
Deep Listeners
Duke Albada

Chinderah Volunteer Hub
Heart of Love Foundation
GIVIT
Resilient UKI
Resilient Lismore
SES
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre
Murwillumbah CORE
Volunteer HUB 2484
Safe Haven
Plan C
The Family Centre,
Headspace
Verto
Securebase Solutions
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
Health & Homelessness Outreach Team
Assertive Outreach Team
Service NSW
Footprints
Centrelink
Murwillumbah Community Health Centre

Donors and Supporters

Tweed Valley Adventist Op Shop
Murwillumbah Services Club
Sathya Sai College
Findex
TAFE NSW Northern Region
Lions Club
Macro Meats
K-Roo
Tweed Escapes
Glow
Williams Group Australia
Hare Krishna- Uki
Heart to Heart
Good360
GIVIT Donors
Kitz Living Foods
Pasta'bah
Eat to Live
Mavis's Kitchen
Momentum Collective
Anglican Parish of Murwillumbah
The Small School Community Murwillumbah
A.I Inspection Pty Ltd
ORIMA Research
First Nations Staff Forum - Services Australia
Jan Ungerer- Pattern Catcher

Jet Real Estate
Nutralife Organics
Tumbulgum Fishing Club Inc
Possums Pre School
Ngunya Jarjum
All Saints Anglican Church Friends group
Dinki Di Reject Shop
Crazy Bargain Buys
IGA Tweed Valley Way
Secondbite
Coles Murwillumbah
Stan Scanlan
Beth Matsuto
Graham Dietrich
Knit Happens
Murwillumbah Day View Club
Bakers Delight Murwillumbah
Creative Crafters Group
Pauline
Jan O'Regan
Rosemary Wade
Warren Polglase
Priscilla
Paula Raymond- Yacoub
Roma
Kim

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

FOOD HUB REPORT

The Food Hub has had an uninterrupted year without having to close due to a natural disaster! We have had a steady stream of past, current and new members accessing the affordable grocery lines available to all community members in the 2484 and the surrounding area.

With continued rising cost of groceries and the media coverage of the major food chains charging higher prices than they should, customers are very relieved to receive some welcome reprieve for their food bill. It is encouraging to receive positive remarks from our customers who really appreciate our service. Many have expressed how it has made such a difference to their lives!

Description of Program

The Food Hub operates out of the old Red Cross building in Knox Park. We are open to the public on Wednesday and Thursday, 10am-3pm. Tuesday we receive and process stock. Contrary to what many in the community believe, our stock is purchased from Food Bank and two other wholesalers – Aratara and C-Store in Brisbane. Food Bank stock is mostly at very reduced prices, whereas the wholesale stock is more expensive. However, we are very conscious of keeping our prices down and try to keep well under the cost of the major food chains. We have a very small amount of stock donated to us – probably less than 5%. This is often sold at a very minimal price to cover the cost of packaging or given away for free.

We have a lot of expenses to cover such as pallet transport, electricity, rubbish collection, packaging for fresh produce and bulk items, EFTPOS fees and thermal rolls, Retail Manager fees and stationery.

Our achievements

Current membership numbers from January to October 2024 are 564. The number of customers accessing the Food Hub varies from month to month. Factors affecting this can be such things as the weather, or school holidays. However, we average 100 customers per day. Wednesdays are busier than Thursdays – sometimes twice as busy.

100
WE AVERAGE
CUSTOMERS A DAY

Our sales since January have averaged \$4866 per week (2 days). We are finding that our profit margins are decreasing as the cost of goods and expenses are increasing in price.

We have many Emergency Relief clients from MCC using the service as well. From July to end Oct we had over \$4200 in sales from ER clients. More and more people are finding it tough and are so grateful our service is available to them. I believe it is an invaluable service to the community and although we are struggling financially to cover our costs, we need to try our best to keep the doors open. Finding financial assistance from businesses or philanthropic donors would be so helpful.

FOOD HUB REPORT

Our volunteers play a vital role in the operation of our service. We have 20 volunteers who assist for half a day each week, performing roles such as new stock and pallet processing, kitchen and fresh produce processing, checkout operator, and keeping stock up to the shelves. They are a fantastic bunch of helpers who all go the extra mile, using their initiatives and doing their best. Some of our volunteers have been with us since we opened in our current building (5 years). I would like to particularly thank our long-term volunteers, such as Kathy O'Connell, Trish Read, and Ann and Bob Freeman. We have had many volunteers come and go, but mostly our volunteers stay with us for quite a long time, which has been invaluable.

Our longest serving and oldest volunteer is Raymond Lindsay, who turns 99 in March! He comes in faithfully 3 mornings a week and has been my right-hand man for the last 5 years. I would like to honour Raymond for his dedication to volunteering at the Food Hub. He has been tireless in his efforts, which has included promoting our stock items to customers (he's a great salesman!); retrieving donated items such as bread, buckwheat puffs, pasta, pecans and fresh produce from donors; opening up the Food Hub for early deliveries; going on errands of all kinds, including driving to Chinderah to collect

donations of frozen meals for MCC; bagging up all kinds of stock and fresh produce in the kitchen and in the early days, carrying out customers purchases to their cars. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Raymond – I can count on him to assist me in whatever I ask him. He is always looking for ways to help the Food Hub and our customers. He will be greatly missed as he retires from volunteering either at the end of the year or early 2025. The Food Hub won't be the same without him.

I will also be retiring from the Food Hub at the end of the year. A new coordinator will be appointed and trained before then. I would like to take this opportunity to thank MCC for the 8 years of employment I have enjoyed with them. I've really enjoyed working with staff, clients and customers during that time within my various roles. I wish the new Coordinator and volunteers well, as they continue to work in the best interests of the Community Centre, the Food Hub and the community. The needs are great, and the Food Hub plays an important role in supporting our community.



FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT

This year we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Financial Counselling services provided at Murwillumbah Community Centre. Throughout those years the landscape of financial wellness continues to evolve, with increasing recognition of the vital role financial counselling plays in empowering individuals and families.

The Murwillumbah and Tweed Financial Counselling Service has continued to operate with one worker, four days a week. The service continues to be funded by the Office of Fair Trading and funded in a partnership with Northern Rivers Community Gateway with funding being provided for the service until 2027.

Overview of Services

In 2023-24, we offered a range of services designed to meet the diverse needs of our clients:

- **One-on-One Financial Counselling:** Personalized sessions focused on budgeting, debt management, and financial resilience.
- **Community Outreach:** Partnerships with local organizations to extend our reach and provide services to underserved populations.

Key Achievements

Client Engagement: In the 2023/24 fiscal year, we supported over 76 clients, a decrease from 108 clients in the previous year.

Despite this decline, we successfully met our funding agreement requirements.

This reduction can largely be attributed to the heightened complexity and financial challenges facing our clients. Many are grappling with long-term mortgage issues that demand a greater level of advocacy and support. Furthermore, we have seen a significant increase in bankruptcy inquiries, which require substantial time and resources to address effectively.

Clients affected by flooding continue to seek financial counselling, mainly to help negotiate insurance settlements. Common issues include unexpected changes in circumstances, excessive reliance on credit products, and ongoing financial difficulties related to high living costs, particularly in housing affordability, rent, and rising interest rates.

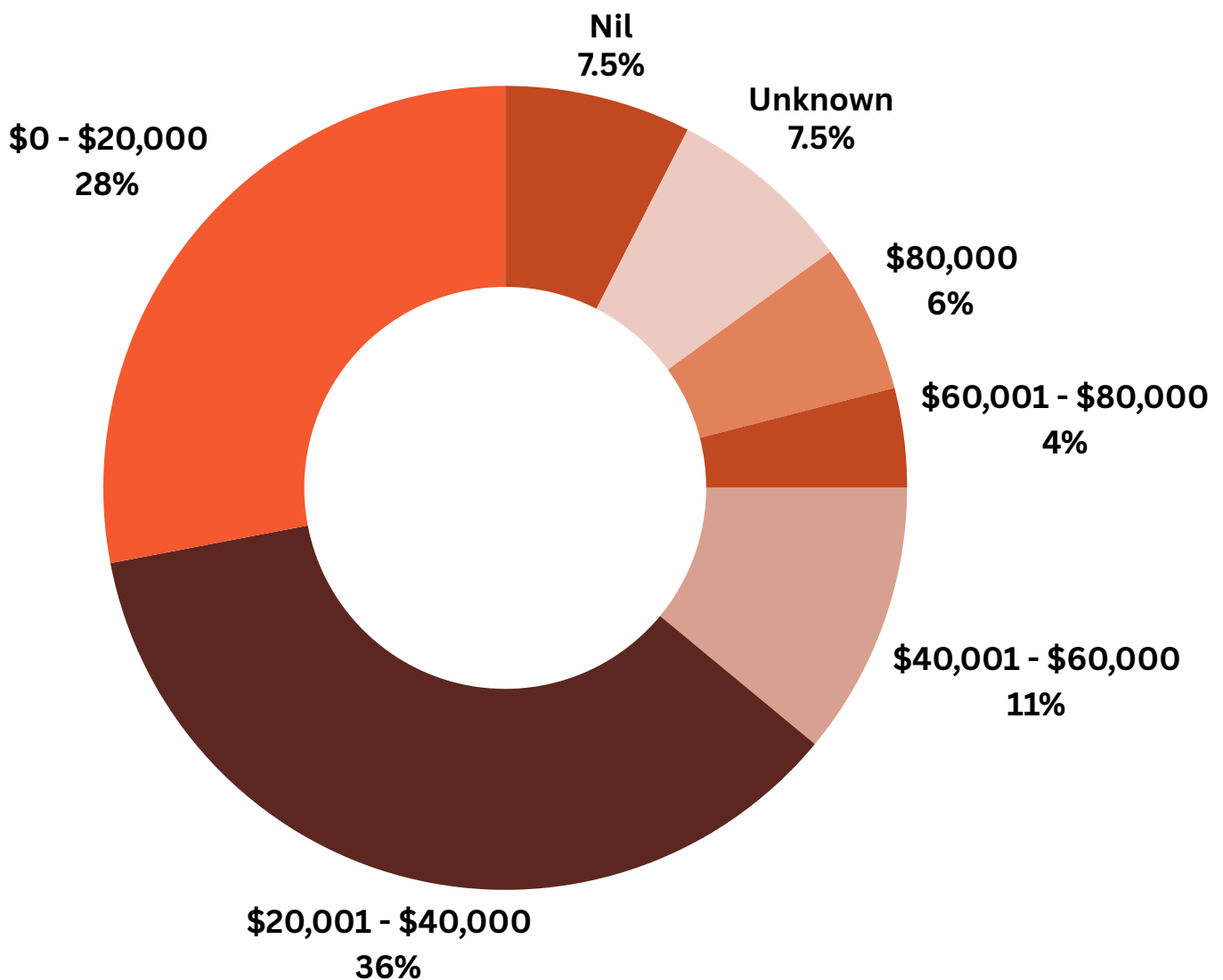
50
YEARS OF
FINANCIAL
COUNSELLING



FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT

We service the most vulnerable of clients.

In 2023-24, 64% of client's income was below \$40,000 per annum.



Community Partnerships

Collaborated with Doobai Dreaming Women's Group to host a workshop on budgeting & financial counselling, which allowed us to reach individuals who may not have otherwise sought financial counselling.

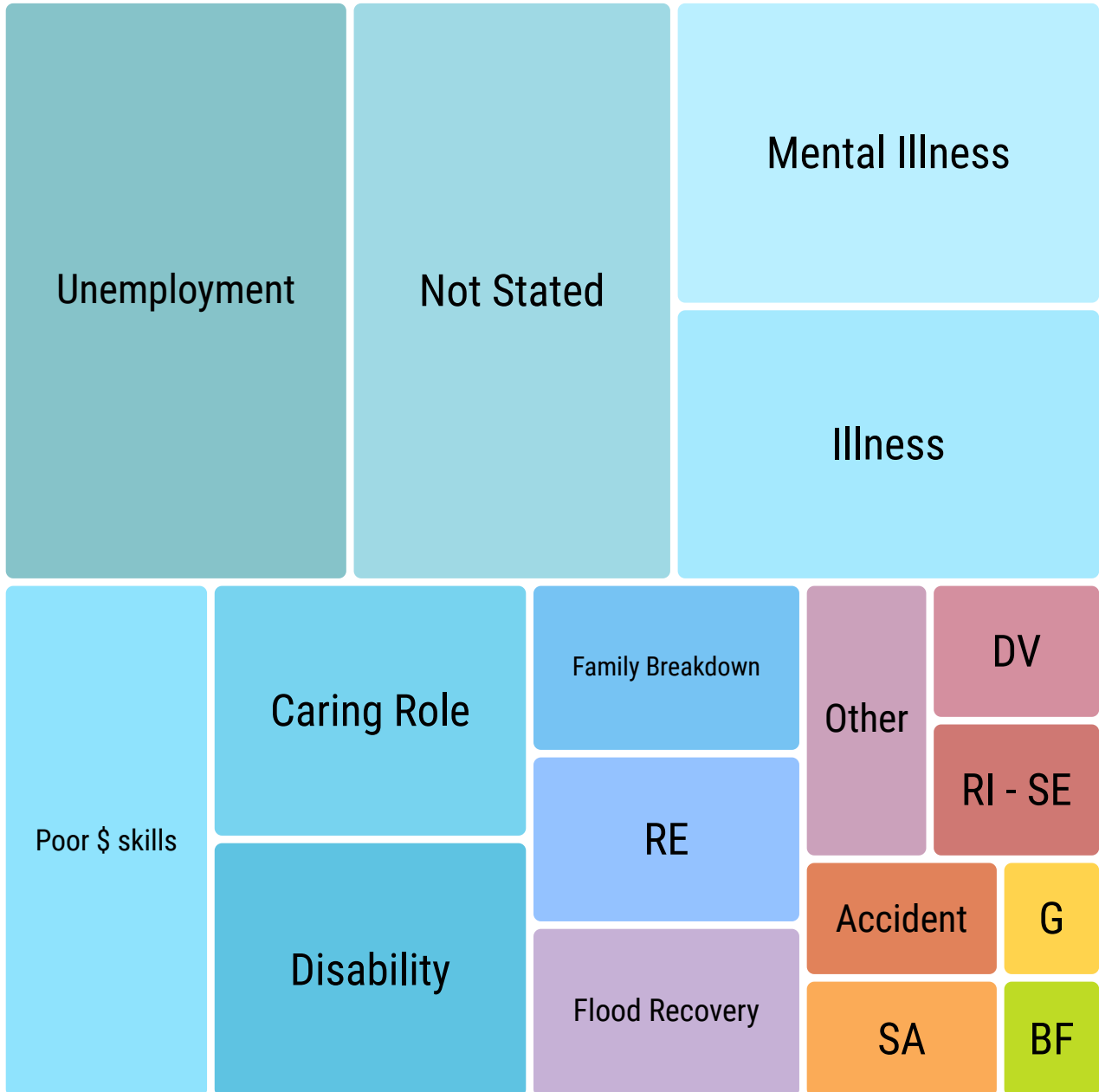
Networking

The Financial Counselling Service continued to work closely with other service providers, as a result we continue to receive referrals from various agencies, however clients are predominantly self-referred (22.6%).

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT

Key Source of Difficulty.

Shown in descending order, with Unemployment the largest source.



Poor \$ Skills : Poor money skills / Reduced financial literacy

RE : Reduced Employment

DV : Domestic Violence

RI-SE : Reduced Income from Self Employment

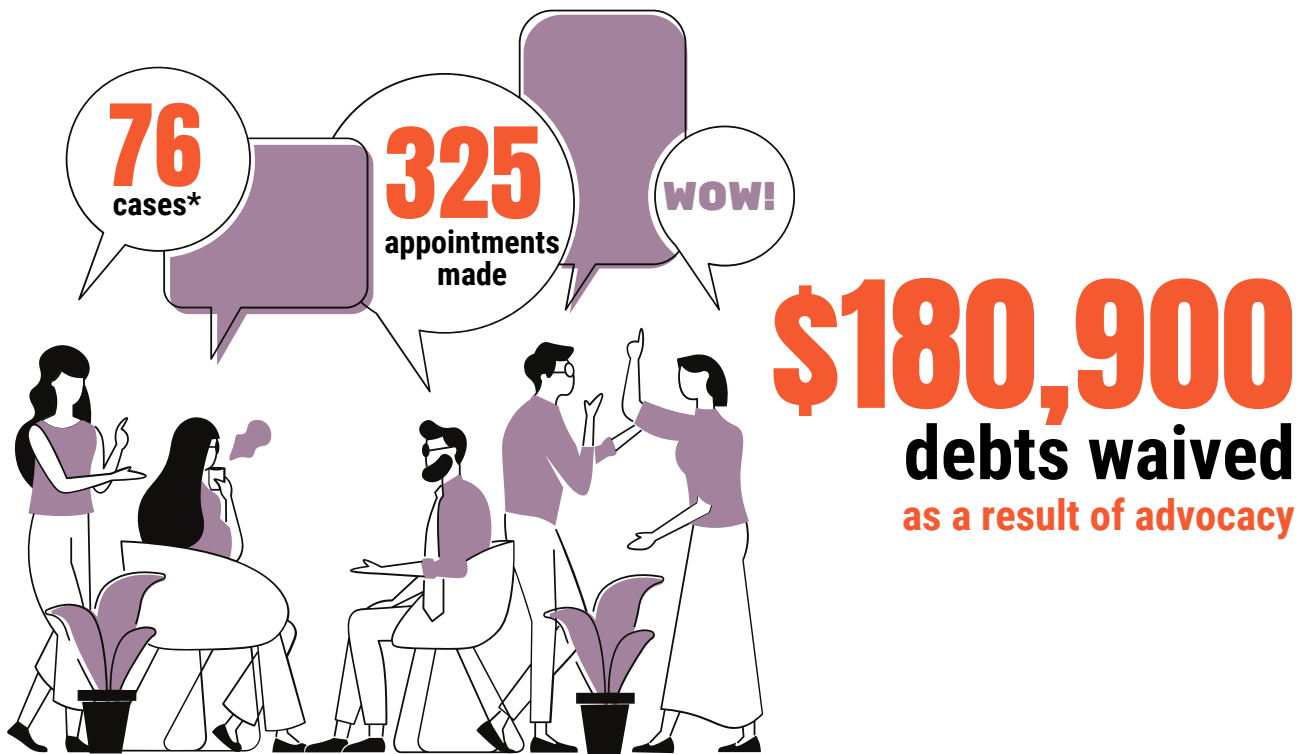
SA : Substance Abuse

G : Gambling

BF : Business Failure

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT

The Northern Rivers Financial Counselling Network continues to meet every three months, providing an opportunity to share and update service information, facilitate training in the most relevant areas and provide a forum to discuss other issues relevant to financial counselling in the Northern Rivers precinct.



*Murwillumbah cases

As I commenced as the new financial counsellor in July 2024, I wish to acknowledge my predecessor Sofia Ehrlich and recognise the positive results obtained for the financial counselling clients serviced during her 4+ year tenure.

Client Impact:

One such client faced significant financial challenges after the unexpected death of her husband, who was the primary breadwinner. In addition to the emotional toll, she struggled to manage household expenses, leading to increased debt. Sadly, the client was involved in a car accident with no insurance which left the client with medical bills and additional financial strain. The client worked collaboratively with the financial counsellor and after negotiations and the financial counsellor advocating on the client's behalf, the client successfully had her debt waived, providing her with much-needed relief. This client's journey illustrates the impact of financial counselling in overcoming adversity. With support, the client transformed her situation, enabling her to focus on her recovery and her well-being.

Sofia Werner – Financial Counsellor





INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

Murwillumbah Community Centre Indigenous Programs, an Aboriginal-led initiative, is co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and Elders. This suite of programs emphasizes local leadership, self-determination, and cultural values and creates opportunities for families to foster a sense of identity, belonging, and wellbeing. The programs focus on enhancing parental, cultural, and kinship relations, building parenting skills and resilience to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

Kids Caring for Country (KCFC)

Kids Caring for Country adopts a whole of family engagement model – funded by Communities for Children through our incredible facilitating partner – YWCA NSW Northern Rivers.

Strengthening family's cultural connection through shared learning, linking parents to training and supports and maintaining a safe, fun place for families to grow and flourish. Deidre Currie has been the lead female facilitator. Deidre is a local Minjungbal woman and has been teaching dance, language and culture in local schools and community programs for the last 30 years and facilitating KCFC for 13 years. Deidre has retired this year, and we acknowledge her profound impact on local cultural revitalisation and particularly her impact on women and girls – empowering them to step into the cultural space as song women and leaders. Deidre's support of the dance group, playgroup, Kinship festival and

Bunyarabugalma is a legacy that will continue to positively impact children and community through our programs.

Mudjai the male lead of this program has a wealth of cultural knowledge. Mudjai has continued to strengthen the program through the sharing of seasonal knowledge and practices that establish safety, respect, resonance, reciprocity, rights, and responsibility. This year he has focused on the sharing of the Whale dance and song, which has many layers of learning to move through as people sing and respond to each other - and to the whales. Each member of the group comes to understand they are important. The whale ceremony reinforces our connection with whales as coastal people and KCFC groups were held on Hastings Point Headland to dance for the whales.



INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

Aboriginal Family Support

Robyn Beezley provides counselling, case management, advocacy, and empowerment sessions to individuals and families of all ages, from young children through to adults. Robyn works primarily with those who have experienced complex trauma and adverse childhood experiences, and she brings a unique and sensitive approach to each person she connects with. Her dedication to fostering a safe, supportive environment allows her clients to feel genuinely seen, understood, and empowered.

One of Robyn's most remarkable qualities is her deep understanding of the cultural and spiritual needs of Aboriginal people. This cultural sensitivity is complemented by her skill in developing resources and family programs, including parenting sessions, that address the specific needs of Indigenous families within our community. Robyn identified that many of the clients she was working with had deep psychological trauma and adverse early childhood experiences that had not been addressed. Robyn identified that family support, advocacy, informal counselling, and referrals were a stop gap measure however for real shifts to take place – clients needed to be referred to a psychologist. Many of our more difficult to engage and vulnerable clients struggle to cope with appointments, travel and with processes.

Robyn garnered support from a Brisbane based psychologist, Penny Gordon who is currently volunteering her time and travelling to MCC bi-monthly so see our clients at no cost to them and without the need for them to attend a GP for referral and then be placed on a long waiting list. Robyn has designed program content for Kids Caring for Country including original songs and performance pieces, affirmations and activities that uplift and unite our participants to carry the flame of culture in their hearts.



Robyn has designed program content for Kids Caring for Country including original songs and performance pieces, affirmations and activities that uplift and unite our participants to

carry the flame of culture in their hearts

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

Guyahyn Playgroup

Guyahyn Playgroup is a targeted supported playgroup for children 0-5yrs and their parents, structured around the Bundjalung Seasonal Calendar and Early Years Learning Framework. Designed with community input, the playgroup strengthens cultural roots and kinship by providing a parent-led, culturally enriched environment. Employing Aboriginal parents within the program as staff means our jarjums see their parents as first teachers. In 2024, Guyahyn has continued to operate out of the Jindi Play space at Kingscliff TAFE after Possums Preschool was closed due to flooding. Guyahyn is funded by the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, Dept Prime Minister and Cabinet and The Heart of Love Foundation with the goal of improving school readiness outcomes for local Aboriginal children while strengthening identity and connection to community. Guyahyn has also partnered with Ngunya Jarjum's Wudjabyn program. Rackell Sussyer, Guyahyn Team leader has been focusing on developmental milestones through play, while Aunty Robyn has been focusing on teaching parents the skills to enhance their children's learning through bonding activities.



Doobai Dreaming Women's Group

Doobai Dreaming is a partnership between MCC and Bugalwena Aboriginal Health – through weekly therapeutic and cultural arts sessions it empowers Aboriginal women by creating a safe space to connect, share stories, and participate in traditional activities. Through skill-building workshops, including weaving, storytelling, and cultural workshops, this group supports women in leadership and community engagement. Guest speakers are invited to share on different health and wellbeing topics.



Possums Extension Program

Funded by the Heart of Love Foundation - This program supports Indigenous children aged 3-5 years to be ready for school through our partner Possums Preschool. Our Guyahyn educators link culturally relevant early childhood activities, encouraging learning and play aligned with cultural values and kinship principles. Possums Extension offers a bridge for families transitioning from Guyahyn Playgroup into Preschool, reinforcing cultural education in a community setting.

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

Bunyarabugalma After the Floods Wellbeing Facilitator Training

Bunyarabugalma (To make well/make healthy) After the Floods Training Program was part of a broader program Funded by Healthy North Coast. Bunyarabugalma is an Aboriginal designed mindfulness and movement resource incorporating therapeutic breathing, stretching, Aboriginal language and animal postures to connect our mind body and spirit.

The project team partnered with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation – “the Returning” to deliver at 8 camps and retreats over project period. The Bunyarabugalma project worked in partnership with the Returning to deliver workshops at their gatherings across the year. Facilitators had extensive support and opportunities to experience workshop facilitation in a retreat modality. The team were able to organize workshop programs across 6 events and our participants benefitted from the culturally safe opportunities to develop their skills. 16 Aboriginal community members completed a 2 day We-AI-Li Culturally informed Bunyarabugalma Facilitator training, with 9 participants gaining experience by delivering workshops at a range of community events and service settings. 198 people participated in the free workshops that were delivered by our trainee facilitators over the course of the program.

The Kinship – Annual Community Event

The 2024 Kinship Festival – MCC's flagship event has grown from a small, grassroots project to become the largest cultural gathering on the Northern Rivers – attracting participants from as far as Victoria and North Queensland. Knox park is transformed into a hive of cultural connection and family engagement with interactive cultural workshops, activities and experiences for all ages. It has a profound impact on local community cultural and connectedness as it enables all members of the community to contribute, participate and belong. engaged over 43 service provider stalls, 47 Aboriginal artisan stalls and attracted an estimated 6000 visitors – making it our largest and most successful Kinship Festival yet. This year's event engaged 140 Community volunteers, and this is a testament to the

community spirit that is formed in the process of creating the event. 47 Aboriginal artists registered stalls at The Kinship Festival the majority of these being families, 8 dance groups with 157 dancers – 87 of the dancers were children. This year, Aunty Kath Lena was honoured at the event, she was a treasured Kinship Committee contributor in the early years who sadly passed away in January 2024. Aunty Kath would perform the blessing of the food before the Kinship free meal was served and we remember her encouragement and leadership through this practice. The sharing of a free meal at Kinship is integral to the festivals values as it provides equality and fellowship to all our Kinship supporters – our wonderful volunteers work together on the day to serve thousands of meals so that everyone who attends is fed and cared for.





INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

Transport Access Regional Partnerships Grants Program – Connect to Culture

The Connection to Culture transport program has continued to provide 6 one-way trips per week during the school term to enable consistent, supportive, and culturally sensitive transport to and from Guyahyn Aboriginal Playgroup; Kids Caring for Country; and Doobai Dreaming. In addition to these regular activities The Connection to Culture Transport program also provided transport to Elders and Aboriginal community members to attend two cultural camps held at Midjinbil. The first camp was designed to support the wellbeing of Aboriginal women and their families, and the second camp was for Aboriginal people to connect with learning and practicing language.



The Connection to Culture Transport program also provided access to Aboriginal community members to attend a cultural trauma healing program held over 5 weekends - each block included a study day and an integration day on country where participants were taken to significant sites on country to assist with integrating their healing and to connect with country in a deeper way. This project has enabled the continuation of our early childhood education, whole of family cultural connection and women's wellbeing groups to continue.

We-Al-Li Trauma Informed Cultural Facilitator Training

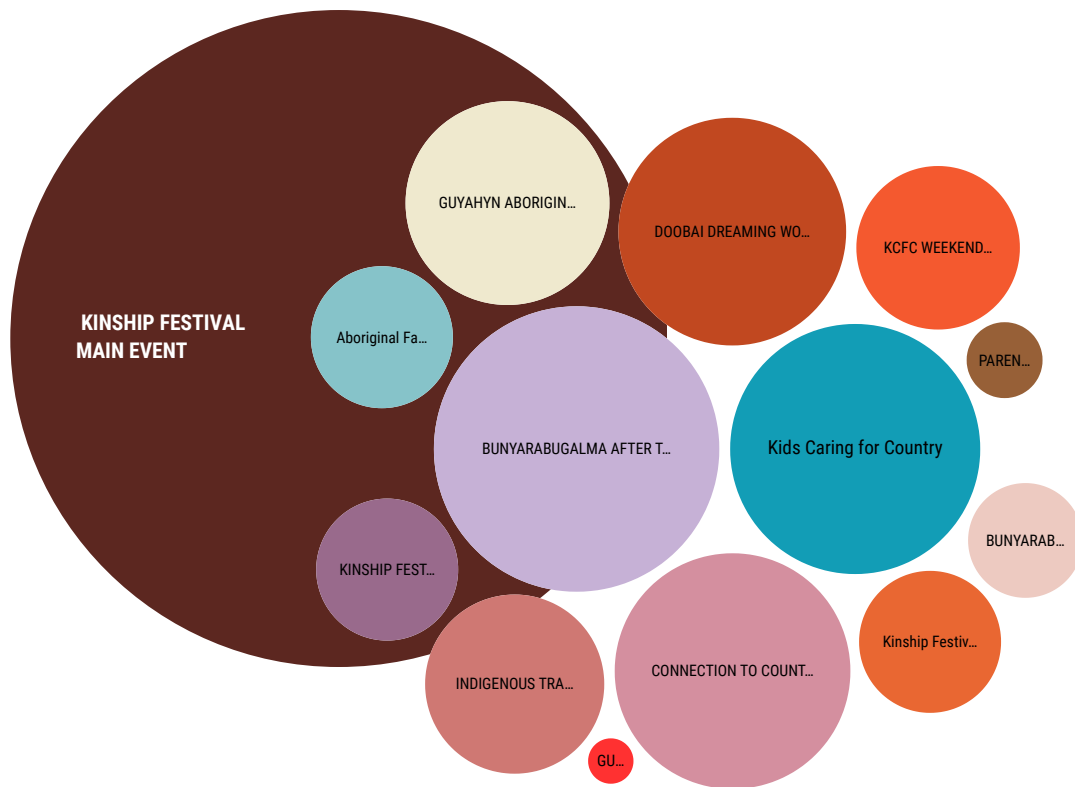
13 Aboriginal participants from across our MCC Indigenous programs completed We-Al-Li facilitator training over a series of five weekend blocks held at MCC. Childcare was provided to enable parents the opportunity to study and participants are now empowered as leaders and facilitators in cultural trauma informed care. Funded by Headspace National - this deep learning and reflective practice has enabled parents to deliver healing sessions for children and a framework for designing workshops within community.

Bunyarabugalma Youth Wellbeing App

The Bunyarabugalma Youth app was launched in November 2023, created by local Indigenous youth aged 12-25yrs, to help young people everywhere navigate challenging emotions by connecting with the elements of Country. This app shares the power of mindfulness and connection and has had 780 downloads so far, without any promotional campaign.

Grounded in cultural identity, resilience, and community connection, this innovative project brings together young people, cultural mentors, health professionals, and Elders. It incorporates culturally significant practices, including mindfulness techniques and guided meditations. The name "Bunyarabugalma," means "to heal, to make well, and to do correctly" in Bundjalung language, embodying the project's mission.

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT



MCC Indigenous Program Activities

	TP	0-12	S
KIDS CARING FOR COUNTRY	152	49	34
ABORIGINAL FAMILY SUPPORT	49	15	148
KINSHIP FESTIVAL MEETINGS	49	0	14
KINSHIP FESTIVAL MAIN EVENT	6000	3000	1
KIDS CARING FOR COUNTRY WEEKEND, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS	65	35	15
PARENT TRAINING WE -AL-LI TRAUMA INFORMED FACILITATOR TRAINING	14	17	8
GUYAHYN ABORIGINAL PLAYGROUP	101	53	34
GUYAHYN EXTENSION PROGRAM AT POSSUMS PRESCHOOL	5	5	38
DOOBAL DREAMING WOMENS WELLBEING PROGRAM	126	9	38
BUNYARABUGALMA AFTER THE FLOOD COMMUNITY TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS	198	10	32
BUNYARABUGALMA YOUTH APP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT	32	0	18
CONNECTION TO COUNTRY CULTURAL LEARNING SPACE PROJECT	135	75	10
INDIGENOUS TRANSPORT PROJECT	78	31	275*

TP = Total Participants. 0-12 = Participants 0-12 years. S = Sessions

*one way trips

Our greatest success

is the way we support everyone that comes to our centre in need. We always have something to give, we find a way for them to not leave empty handed, we wrap around services or supports and advocate on their behalf. And we do this from a trauma informed perspective, providing a safe space where everyone is heard and assisted where they are at.



COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

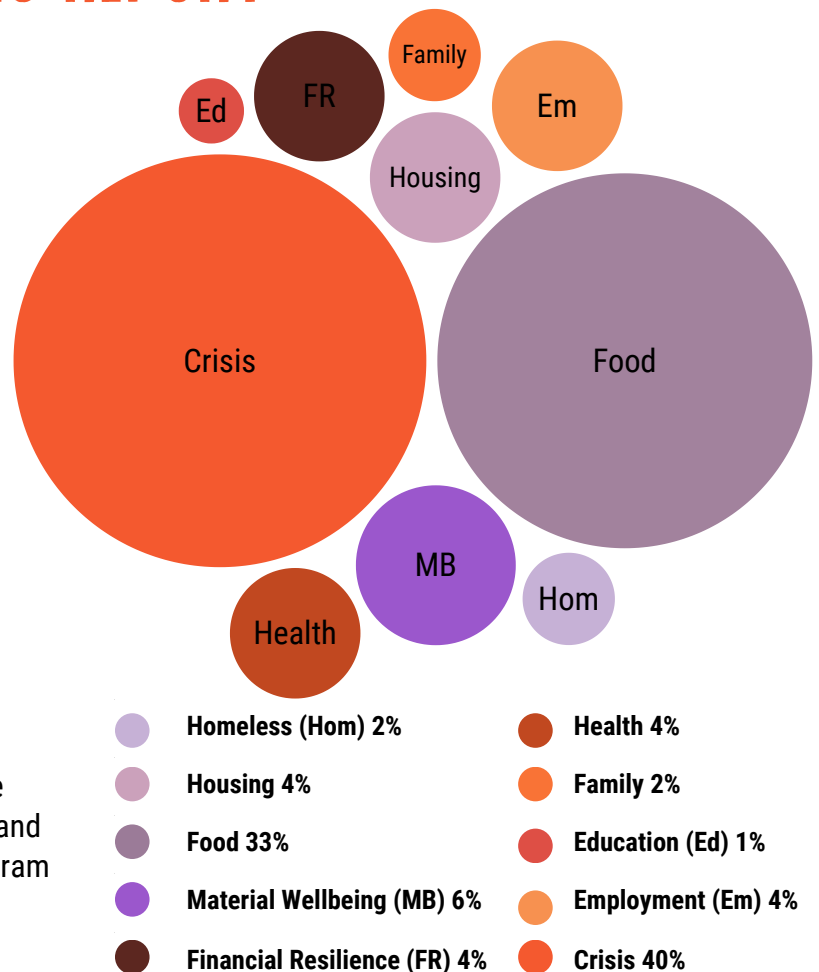
Murwillumbah Community Centre offers an array of services and programs to assist individuals and their families through advocacy, referrals and support with basic needs, health, and wellbeing. We also provide activities to improve social engagement and participation including arts & crafts, yoga, and our afterschool youth group.

We host and take part in community events, consultations, and interagency meetings to build capacity and collaboration. We provide opportunities to develop employment skills and career pathways through our Volunteer Program and student placements, facilitating access to training and skills development.

We strive to maximise available resources to meet the needs of our community through different government and non-government funding sources and local donations. We partner with other organisations, groups, and individuals to contribute with their knowledge capital and capacity to work together.

There are dozens of people that come to our centre every day requesting information, support, and/or referrals to internal and external services, with numbers reaching almost 1000 people in the busiest months (data from reception statistics, as occasions of service):

Our greatest success is the way we support everyone that comes to our centre in need. We always have something to give, we find a way for them to not leave empty handed, we wrap around services or supports and advocate on their behalf. And we do this from a trauma informed perspective, providing a safe space where everyone is heard and assisted where they are at.



10,975 people accessed our centre through our main hub in 2023-2024.

- 55.38% were women, 11.34% children and young people.
- We have distributed between 550 and 680 frozen meals each month.
- 31.2% of reception enquiries were dealt with over the phone and 68.7% were individuals dropping in or attending appointments at the centre.

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

EMERGENCY RELIEF & WELFARE SUPPORT

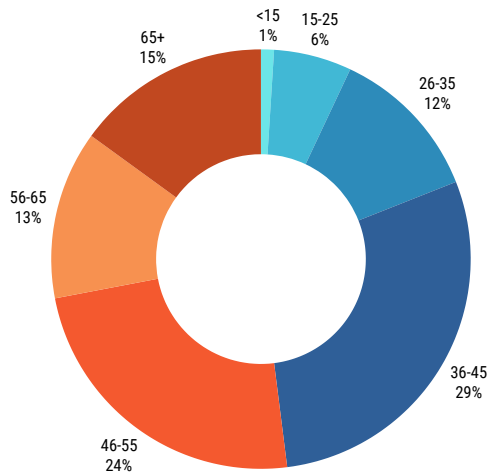
Despite flood related funding for brokerage ending by the 30th of June 2023, and the reduction of staffing throughout this year, 217 new individual and families were

FY Totals	occasions of services	New clients	Returning clients	EAPA	Food hampers	Material wellbeing & Homelessness goods	Coles & Food HUB vouchers	Fuel vouchers	GIVIT vouchers and goods
23-24	657	217	440	\$33,550	435	\$9,625	\$5,840	\$3,185	\$13,550
+/- from 22-23	+31.4%	-26.4%	+115%	+35.5%	+57%	N/A	+6.78%	+35.8%	N/A

Emergency Relief statistics 2023-2024

assisted through the Emergency Relief program for the first time, with an 115% increase of returning clients. 18% of clients identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders. We supported our community with material wellbeing and basic needs such as food hampers,

vouchers, care packs, bedding, camping items for homeless people, white goods and other house items through GIVIT. Goods and Services worth the equivalent of \$73,345 were supplied through this program (Data from CDS, our database system).



Most of our clients accessing ER were aged between 36 and 55 years old (53%).

<15	1%
15 - 25	6%
26 - 35	12%
36 - 45	29%
46 - 55	24%
56 - 65	13%
65+	15%

Our Community Services Team were able to provide direct individual support and referrals around: mental health and wellbeing; advocacy with Centrelink & NDIS applications; linkage to homelessness services, crisis accommodation; Housing Pathways, DFV and Victim Services applications; aged care plans; tenancy and other legal issues; referrals to our financial counselling, among other supports. This table below shows the number of people and families who have been supported individually through case coordination and referral to specialist services.

Advocacy & Support	Identified clients	Unidentified clients	Occasions of services
WELFARE	146	96	337
YOUTH	12	3	17
INDIGENOUS	45	1	59
TOTAL	203	100	413

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Nullum House

In the 2023-2024 financial year, we provided 2404 occasions of support and assistance to people attending Nullum House.

This included our meals program and accessing showers, laundry facilities and material aid. Rough sleepers and people at risk of homelessness were referred to local outreach services as well as internally through our emergency relief and welfare support to link them to Specialist Homelessness Services, health and DFV services.

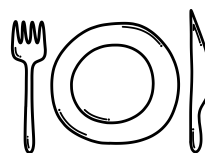
This year we have partnered with:

- Homeless Health Outreach Team
– NSW Health
- Assertive Outreach Team – DCJ Housing-Social Futures-Momentum Collective
- Harm Reduction / Needle Syringe Program
– NSW Health
- Drug and Alcohol counsellor - NSW Health
- Connecting Homes – Social Futures
- Centrelink
- Service NSW
- Footprints Community

We have a dedicated team of 20+ volunteers and students that work together to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our participants.

Throughout the year, they cook, clean, serve and assist our participants 3 mornings per week.

Nullum House continues to be supported by local donors, both individuals and foundations such as Heart of Love and Dharma Care, who fundraise for us every year.



Meals 4056
(up from 3599 in 2022-23)



Tea & Coffee 4160
(up from 3841 in 2022-23)



Showers 607



Washing Loads 367

Nullum House group activities

Nullum House also hosts other activities run by our team of volunteers or with external services and groups participation:

Nullum Art Program

Our art program continues to attract new participants with 32 registered for this fiscal year and 2 sessions running every Monday and an average of 8 to 18 attendees every week. Participants have been exploring different techniques and mediums such as acrylic pours, stencils, collage, Japanese techniques and styles and free play with colour's and materials.

The group has been creating diverse artworks that will be exhibited at the Small Works Gallery in town, from 29th November to 5th December 2024. This is possible with local donations from Findex.

Craft Group

In autumn this year, as a community –led initiative and request from participants who used to attend the Weaving Connections Through Generations Project in previous years, we have started the Knitting, Weaving and Crochet Club, better known as our Craft group, where participants can come and learn from each other how to knit, weave baskets or rugs and learn how to sew since we had a sewing machine donated. All the materials have also been donated by individuals and MCORE through Volunteer HUB 2484 when they had to close by the end of last year.

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Consultations, information sessions and training

Murwillumbah Community Centre continues to support our community to improve access to information and services and support by hosting presentations, information sessions and events in partnerships with other services and organisations, but also through consultations and participatory processes to contribute to community development and capacity building opportunities:

- Youth consultations: Murbah Youth Fest and other programs run at the Youth Centre.
- Flood response town meeting: attended by staff from different organisations and key community stakeholders.
- EmergencyRedi: information and consultation session run by Red Cross at Nullum House to involve those at risk of homelessness or more disadvantaged.
- NSW Service show day: an information day for Aboriginal community members to access Service NSW rebates and other services.

We also provide opportunities for training and development to our staff, volunteers and students that allow the teams to learn together and implement new skills in our work across the different programs and social groups we work with. This year we have run our ongoing monthly team meetings at Nullum House, 1st Aid course and working with complex clients and mental health.

Yoga classes

The health and wellbeing of our community is one of our main objectives. We address that by providing access to activities that encourage active lifestyles in affordable ways.

Our yoga class runs on Friday mornings and the group continues to grow with attendances reaching up to 23 people per session, and more than 36 people attending regularly.



COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Events

Christmas Gift Day

This year we decided to organise an event to distribute all the presents that were donated to the centre for the families in need. A total of 236 people came to get present for them and their family members. The heart of Love team donated their time to wrap all the presents for the attendees.



Homelessness Day event

This year, we have celebrated our second Homelessness Day event to raise awareness about this concerning issue that is affecting more people in our communities. Community members were encouraged to build paper houses displayed in Knox Park to represent the number of homeless people living in the Tweed Shire.

Students from different schools, young people from the after-school group and art group participants work together to build all the paper homes. 75 people attended the event.

Nullum House Christmas Lunch

As every year, we like to indulge our Nullum House participants and the community with a Nullum House Christmas party. Our team prepares roast chicken, salads, special season snacks and sweets. We also organize games to win prizes and Christmas hampers, we play carols and decorate our centre for the season. There are many local businesses and donors involved in putting this lunch together. More than 80 attended the event.

Interagency networks and other community partnerships

Murwillumbah Community Centre is an active member in the local community services sector, hosting some of the following interagency meetings in our premises:

- Tweed Shire Housing and Homelessness Network meetings (TSHHN)
- Tweed Shire Youth Network meetings (TSYN)
- Tweed Domestic Violence Integrated Response Committee (DVIRC)
- Tweed Zero interagency with Specialist Homelessness services
- Nullum House outreach services meeting
- Regional Office for Youth Community of Practice
- Community Resilience Network meetings
- Targeted Early Intervention Forums

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

MCC has a purpose-built Youth Centre that is inclusive and safe at the end of our main building. We offer a range of services and activities designed to provide social, cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities to increase social connections and wellbeing for young people in Murwillumbah. We are committed to fostering social inclusion, providing individual and group support through collaborative initiatives and youth-led engagement.

After School Youth Group

The MCC After School Youth Group meets twice a week, offering a free and inclusive space for youth aged 11-17. The program focuses on social participation, peer connection, and a sense of belonging. We provide afternoon tea, activities, computer time, connecting rituals and cooking.

This year 56 young people participated in the program with an average of 12-18 youth attending each session. From July to December 2023, we had 129 occasions of services, From February 2024, our numbers increased to 176. This steady growth reflects the positive engagement of our young people and the group's popularity.

One mother shared: "(YP) loves the group heaps. It gets her to school on Mondays and Thursdays without fail." Another participant said, "Youth Group is my family, I love them all."



Individual Support and Advocacy

Our Youth Worker offers brief intervention support to young people and their families that access our programs. This support includes information, advice, and referrals to specialist services. The worker also helps young people navigate challenges and work towards their goals.



Success story

A specialist youth mental health services connected a young person with complex needs into our after-school youth group for enhanced social connection. The youth worker provided one-on-one support, addressing issues like suicidal ideation, self-harm, and social anxiety. As a result, the young person transitioned from reliance on the youth worker to engaging with peers, exploring job prospects, and considering study opportunities. They developed healthier coping mechanisms and increased protective factors, reducing overall risk. We also secured additional NDIS support for this young person. The support offered has changed the course of this young person's trajectory and is a great example of the importance of this work in fostering resilience and positive outcomes.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Stay Safe Peer Project

This project is funded by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation through the Tweed Local Drug Action Team and is delivered by a group of local youth. The team consisted of young people ranging from 15 to 23 years old from diverse gender backgrounds and diverse abilities. These young people were trained to become peer educators and support other youth to prevent and reduce harm from alcohol and other drugs and unhealthy relationships. They helped co-design the project then used their skills in outreach settings at local events and popular hangout places for youth. This project offered paid roles and was first employment opportunity for many of the peer team members and they excelled.

Project outcomes

Around 100 young people participated in outreach sessions. 78% of surveyed participants reported an increase in their knowledge and 95.7 % were able to name an AOD support service, locally or via the internet. 65.2% reported increased confidence accessing a local AOD service after engaging in the project.

School Holiday Programs

MCC runs Youth Holiday Programs funded by the Office for Regional Youth and Northern Rivers Community Foundation. It's free of charge and provides accessible activities, including food and transportation for youth aged 12-17. We offer a range of activities and excursions to young people that may not have the means to do these activities otherwise. The activities are designed and planned in consultation with our afterschool participants and are aimed at fostering social engagement, connections among peers, skill development, boosting confidence and self-esteem, overcoming physical and psycho-emotional barriers, collaboration, and team building. 115 young people attended the excursions and activities across the year and 86% of participants reported that they would recommend the holiday program to others. The majority highlighted they made social connections. This program provides a healthy option during school holidays for local young people and improves social engagement and participation.



YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Murbah Youth Fest

In its second year, the Murbah Youth Fest was an outstanding success with approximately 800 people attending over the day and 58 young people performing or showcasing their talents. It was held as part of National Youth Week and funded by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, NSW Office for Regional Youth and Department of Communities and Justice. The Murbah Youth Fest is a youth-led initiative designed to showcase local young talent and build pathways for social and economic participation. Activities included a talent quest, battle of the bands and creative workshops and market stalls. We conducted feedback surveys with 53 attendees, revealing strong agreement on several points:

- The event enhances young people's sense of connection and belonging.
- It improves community identity and youth wellbeing.
- It fosters a more creative and vibrant community.

We collaborated with Tweed Shire Council, local businesses, and non-profits for donor support, food, and activities. The event not only engaged the youth but also strengthened community connections and awareness of local resources.



MISSION POSSIBLE YOUTH PROJECT

The Mission Possible Youth Project commenced in May 2024 and is funded by Social Futures Youth Participation Fund. The initial application aimed to enhance climate disaster readiness and recovery by training up young people as leaders in this space. However, after gaining significant feedback from 26 young people through a full day co design process the focus of the program shifted.

The new focus is on building 'Community Resilience' across a broader range of areas that contribute to that resilience. They include: the environment; mental + emotional wellbeing and social connection; art and culture; queer rights; homelessness; and women's empowerment.

The program targeted diverse groups of young people, including neuro divergent, LGBTQIA+, First Nations and those at risk of being disengaged from school. Fifteen young people signed up as Resilience Leadership interns. They come from Murwillumbah Learning Centre, Sathya Sai College, and Tweed River High School.

The interns are participating in a series of workshops through which they will craft an idea for a social impact action. The workshops include:

- Mission # 1 - Know Your Mission
- Mission # 2 - Live as a Leader
- Mission # 3 - Be a Messenger
- Mission # 4 - Connect with Community
- Mission # 5 - Overcome Obstacles
- Mission # 6 - Call in Support

The workshops are very practical, providing interns with the opportunity to learn skills and gain real life experiences, more akin to 'on the job' training. They will also have multiple opportunities to connect with community members. In Mission #4, targeted community members will hear presentations from the interns, with the intention of providing feedback and making suggestions for how to network and connect with the wider community. Mission # 6 will involve a public event, where interns will share their actions through visual displays and community members will be able to make offers of support to these inspiring young people. Community members may choose to offer funding, material support, mentoring etc.



Not currently at school but...
..Want to create change in the real world and build up your resume?
Have fun with like minded young people.
Participate in disaster training.
Work on projects that make a difference to your community.
Share your ideas and lived experience!

MISSION POSSIBLE

INFO SESSION 29TH JULY 4:00PM
Murwillumbah Community Centre

14 - 18 YEAR OLD YOUNG PEOPLE ELIGIBLE
FROM THE TWEED SHIRE



MISSION POSSIBLE YOUTH PROJECT

The workshops will finish in mid-December 2024, at which time, the interns will be encouraged and supported to implement their actions. Some have chosen actions that target their school community, while others have chosen to act in the wider community. In early 2025, Mission Possible will offer the interns the opportunity to attend a series of fortnightly 'clinics' where they will be supported by a team of mentors to follow through on their action ideas.

Finally, it is not the intention to completely abandon the original plan of equipping young people with crucial knowledge about climate change impacts, disaster preparedness, and recovery strategies. To meet this aim, the interns will be invited to support a public, disaster preparedness event in March, focussing on informing and skilling young people.

So far, the greatest success story of this program is the Mission Possible commitment to being young people lead. The inclusion of the co design day, allowed young people to have major input into the focus, the content, and the logistics of the program. The young people have the freedom to select an action that derives from their own personal mission while contributing to the community in a way that matters to them. The intention is to keep inviting young people to have a voice and a hand in the program and in their personal action agendas. It is all about sharing the power.

As a result, the Mission Possible interns will walk away with understanding, skills, and experience in: Personal impact and effectiveness; Overcoming their inner saboteur; Decision making and confidence building; Enhancing resilience; Community engagement and connection; Planning and taking action; Social impact; Problem solving and Seeking support.



RECOVERY SERVICES REPORT

The Flood Recovery Program (funded by Healthy North Coast) has been providing support to people affected by the floods since September 2022.

With a focus on assisting older people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, we have provided case coordination, referrals and individual support to access material wellbeing, mental health services and resources for recovery and repair, while also offering group activities to develop skills in disaster preparedness and resilience building to contribute to the collective healing and mutual support.

In our second year, we saw a shift to supporting more residents in outer lying areas around Murwillumbah that had not, for various reasons, been able to access support, and in many instances were accessing flood recovery support for the first time, particularly in the Chinderah area.

Areas of support

- Access to financial support: vouchers through GIVIT and other sources (Kmart, Good Guys, BCF and Bunnings, and other local businesses) and Rebuild (GIVIT) and referrals to pay trade work for repairs.
- Access to material wellbeing through the Emergency Relief service
- Referral to other services and advocacy to address ongoing and emerging issues with tenancy disputes/housing/accommodation, legal issues, counselling and psycho-emotional and social work support.
- We have referred clients to Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre and/or Tenancy Union to address the increase in tenancy disputes and no-fault evictions emerging as a post-flood issue.
- We continued to work with clients to improve their applications for accommodation and referred them to other services including RSS Momentum, Social Futures, Footprints Community Care Finder, and Link2Home.
- The rising cost of living also led to more people needing help with necessities.



RECOVERY SERVICES REPORT

Activities

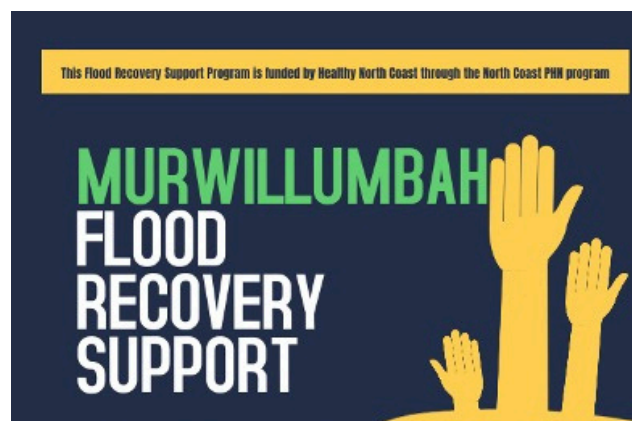
Recovery conversations by Deep Listeners

A two-day training program facilitated by the Deep Listeners founder, a local initiative to provide community members with interests and experience supporting others through difficult times as accidental counsellors and spontaneous volunteers. Participants learned trauma informed based skills and techniques (understanding the nervous system and responding to trauma response, strategies for self-help, compassion, empathy and deep listening skills) and key support services available.

This training was run twice with community members and volunteers in Murwillumbah and also in partnership with Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre.

Bunyarabulgalma after the floods

A locally designed Aboriginal wellbeing resource for healing and recovery. This activity was aimed at training local Aboriginal community members in trauma informed practices and a therapeutic model implementing breathing, movement and mindfulness techniques and become workshop facilitators in sessions that were run at different locations for the wider community (more information in the Indigenous Programs report).



The program in numbers

- 242 participants accessed the program this financial year, with 386 total for the whole funded period. The number required was 100
- 28.8% of participants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders
- 42.9% of participants were 50 years and older.
- 20 MCC staff and volunteers attended Working with Trauma training.
- 24 people attended SafeTALK-suicide awareness training.
- 21 participants attended the Recovery Conversations training run by Deep Listeners.
- 17 local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members were trained by We Al-li through the Bunyarabulgalma program to become workshop facilitators.
- 198 Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants attended 32 Bunyarabulgalma mindfulness workshops held at different locations and events (more information on Indigenous Programs report).
- GIVIT \$60,655 vouchers and rebuilds + 30 donated physical furniture and whitegoods items distributed.

RECOVERY SERVICES REPORT

Program Highlights

The second year of our Flood Recovery Program has produced many rewarding outcomes for clients that were struggling to recover over 2 years post-flood.

We continued to work with the Chinderah Volunteer Hub to support clients in their area, particularly those living in caravan parks. In addition to accessing funds and material items for residents through GIVIT and Resilient Lismore's Repair to Return Program, we facilitated face to face liaison between the Chinderah Hub and GIVIT management, as well as with the Resilient Lismore team, to ensure

ongoing support for Chinderah residents after our Flood Recovery Program comes to an end.

Our biggest success throughout this program has been to meet flood affected residents where they are at in terms of their individual recovery. Being embedded in our community means we can support client's day to day with their evolving needs. For some, it was listening and enabling them to feel heard; for others, it was helping them to navigate the various aspects of the flood recovery process and be supported to work through their challenges and find the right supports/services for their situation.

"Amazing workshop, very safe and supportive environment, Highly recommended!! J"

"Excellent and relevant content. Loved it! Thank you!"

"I have learnt "the confidence in my abilities and what I have to improve upon to assist others in a safe way and boundaries."

"What I have liked most about the program is "the knowledge of compassion to others and self."

"Found myself, and believe in my abilities."

Feedback given by Recovery Conversations training participants

TREASURER'S REPORT

AND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MURWILLUMBAH COMMUNITY CENTER INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2024.

I am pleased to present and briefly to talk to the Community Centre's Financial statements. The Finances of the Community Centre have a large variation to the financial position from years 2023 to year 2024.

Our retained nett surplus in year 2024 is \$234,767.83 where the retained nett surplus at the 2023 year was (\$343,001.95) which is a variation of \$108,234.12 in the negative.

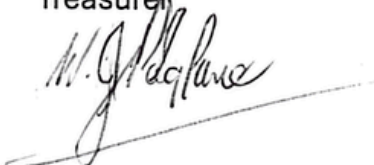
The Community Centre major income stream is mainly Government Grants for various programmes, when these grants are received at variable times, it will reflect on our cash flow and there are community expectations that we can still deliver on programmes.

The Community Centre still has a healthy nett surplus to trade but will have to have a serious look at what programmes will need to make some adjustments to if funding from Government Agencies is not forth coming.

The Financial Statements are tabled and I happy to take any questions.

Warren Polglase

Treasurer



MURWILLUMBAH COMMUNITY CENTRE INC

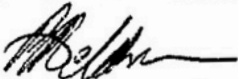
ABN: 79 073 211 619

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE
CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE MEMBERS OF MURWILLUMBAH COMMUNITY
CENTRE INC

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2022, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Mayberry Meldrum & Anderson



Brian Meldrum

21/11/24

315 Tweed Valley Way MURWILLUMBAH NSW

MURWILLUMBAH COMMUNITY CENTRE INC

ABN: 79 073 211 619

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	<i>Note</i>	2024	2023
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	501,381.90	721,674.22
Trade and other receivables	4	9,200.25	54,889.21
Inventories	5	7,700.97	8,443.70
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>518,283.12</u>	<u>785,007.13</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	169,834.53	175,994.82
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>169,834.53</u>	<u>175,994.82</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>688,117.65</u>	<u>961,001.95</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	35,436.54	51,456.84
Provisions	8	40,581.50	42,404.49
Other current liabilities	9	341,573.65	486,234.89
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>417,591.69</u>	<u>580,096.22</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	8	26,758.13	37,903.78
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>26,758.13</u>	<u>37,903.78</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>444,349.82</u>	<u>618,000.00</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>243,767.83</u>	<u>343,001.95</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained surplus		243,767.83	343,001.95
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>243,767.83</u>	<u>343,001.95</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached report of Mayberry Meldrum & Anderson.

FIND US HERE...

Murwillumbah Community Centre

**Knox Park, Nullum Street
Murwillumbah NSW**

**Phone 02 6672 3003
reception@mccentre.org**

Web: <https://mccentre.org.au/>

Social Media URL's 2024

**MCC Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064714956841>**

**MCC Food Hub
https://www.facebook.com/p/Murwillumbah-Food-HUB-100072061846237/?locale=eu_ES**

**Youth Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/murbahyouth2484/>**

**Kinship Festival Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/thekinshipfestival>**

**Kinship Festival Instagram
[@kinshipfestivalmurwillumbah](https://www.instagram.com/kinshipfestivalmurwillumbah)**

**Kids Caring For Country
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064524826606>**

**Guyahyn
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/930066557042780>**

**Doobai Dreaming
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089861385979>**

**Bunyarabugalma
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553396616238>**



