

Chairperson's Annual Report

2024 has been a productive year for our Centre. Throughout the year, programs have continued to run, and events have continued to happen, and the Centre continues to be popular as a venue for hire. Here are a few highlights of our achievements over the last twelve months.

At last year's AGM we pledged to review our Risk Management Plan and our Constitution. I am happy to report that during 2024 the Board of Management reviewed, amended and signed off on a new Risk Management Plan for the Centre. Work on the review of our Constitution will commence in the very near future and will be led by Lyn Walkley.

In 2024 the Centre successfully underwent assessment for the Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES) accreditation. This standard was first achieved by the Centre in 2018 and again in 2021. To be able to achieve ASES accreditation for a third time demonstrates the Centre's ability to deliver a consistently high level of performance. It is therefore fitting to acknowledge that the Centre would not be able to perform at such a high level without the hard work, support and dedication that is displayed by our volunteers, our Board of Management, and staff at the Centre. At the risk of repeating myself, without our volunteers and staff we simply could not function

The Chairperson's Report provides the opportunity to recognise individual excellence. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of Sheridan Manning as our 'new' CDO. After sadly saying goodbye to Marnie Mitchell (after she accepted a new and challenging role as Manager, Communities with West Arnhem Regional Council), we welcomed Sheridan as our new CDO. The City of Onkaparinga clearly made the right choice in appointing Sheridan. Since successfully winning the role of CDO, Sheridan has worked tirelessly to make the role her own. I thank Sheridan for her knowledge and expertise she brings, and how she applies herself to the continuous improvement of the Centre's service delivery.

As Chairperson (and dad) it gives me immense pleasure to congratulate Megan Buchanan for being nominated for the City of Onkaparinga Youth Recognition Awards 2024 in the Contribution to Community category. This is the second year in a row that Megan, a long-term volunteer and Board of Management member, was nominated; it is pleasing to see her contribution to the Centre being formally recognised.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Men's Breakfast Program for being nominated by the Board of Management for the Every Generation Onkaparinga Awards 2024 for their active contribution towards health and wellbeing in the community. The Board would like to thank all the volunteers, particularly Mike Potter and Kevin Matters who have been the driving success of this program over so many years. On behalf of the Centre, I wish you all the best at the Awards Presentation In October.

'This year we formally (and proudly) recognised the tremendous service provided to our Centre (and our wider community) by Bruce Harper and Bevan McFarlane. Between them they have provided close on 100 years of public service for our Centre and community. In recognition of Bruce and Bevan's dedication we decided to rename two of the Centre's rooms in their honour. Our activities room (and 'Board' room) is now the....room. If you are attending this AGM you will be sitting in the.....room.

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In April we successfully hosted ANZAC Day at the Centre in Partnership with Blackwood RSL. It was a very well-attended, and very well received event. The feedback from the people in attendance was incredibly positive; some people going as far as saying it was the best one the Centre had ever hosted. Praise indeed.

I would like to thank Catherine Hutchesson, Member for Waite for her donation of a New Zealand flag that flew alongside the Australian flag during the service. I would also like to thank Alzanne Eksteen and Tifany Knoll for the beautiful renditions of the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems respectively, Marion Themeliotis for representing the City of Onkaparinga, and the support of the City of Onkaparinga for making the venue the fantastic place that it was on the day.

Last year we sadly said farewell to Marnie and Peter Shultz; this year we sadly say farewell to Heather Anderson and Rebecca Adams. Heather has been a participant (art class), a long-time office volunteer and a long-serving member of the Board of Management, including taking on the role of Chairperson for several years. Heather brought a huge depth of experience and understanding of the community sector (having worked for Community Sectors SA) which significantly benefited our bid to achieve ASES Accreditation; she also supported our volunteer development and took on the role of volunteer, conducting the Friday morning Centre building tours for prospective hirers.

We also said goodbye to Rebecca' Bec' Adams, our CDSO. Although only with us for a relatively short space of time we are immensely grateful for the time that Bec spent with us. Bec seamlessly fitted in with all the volunteers, the Board of Management, Centre Programs and regular hirers. Everybody who interacted with Bec had a positive experience and spoke highly of her; she leaves with our gratitude, and we wish her all the best for future endeavours.

In 2024 – 2025 we will continue the excellent work of the past 12 months, starting with the review of the Constitution and then our Continuity Plan, particularly as the issue of future funding may prove challenging.

Ian Buchanan, Acting Chairperson



New Centre Signage 2024