The Gellibrand Community House

2025 Annual Report



OUR VISION:. "The Gellibrand Community House will be the heart and driving force of a vibrant community hub that engages and empowers all people living and working in our area."

We proudly acknowledge these beautiful lands cared for by the Traditional Owners, the Gadubanud and Gulidjan Peoples,

Art work by Claire Gittings

Annual General Meeting
Presidents Report 2025

Community house members, friends, volunteers, and partners. We really have proved that working together can get the impossible done and now we are at the final stage of acquiring the land next door to the hall. The CFA is ready to put in the water tank and clear the block and we will be ready to expand our garden with produce for all the community. Really a dream come true and a heartfelt thanks to the generosity of the Richmond's and the hours of demanding work from Neil Longmore. What a champion. Have your say in what you would like to see happen in this space. We have one more hurdle to overcome before the land belongs to the community and the hall, but we can get this done.
Watch this space.

The year started off with a bang and a laugh with the very funny pageant, and a great night was had by all. Then we moved to the fire season and what a season it was. It seemed like every weekend there was a new fire outbreak somewhere close by, and thanks to all the local fire brigades we survived another season in the Otway's. Thank you to our wonderful CFA Brigades. We also had an opportunity to gather as a community with the emergency responders to discuss the recent fires. Thanks to Juli Fahquar and Kyla for organising this.

We have put in wicking beds which are growing beautiful vegetables, and we are using these for the community lunches. So, this works hand in hand. The Gellibrand Market in February and the Devonshire teas were another success and all our beautiful volunteers got involved.

Behind the scenes the community house committee members have been working extremely hard with the strategic plan which was led by our wonderful Michelle Terkelsen. This plan is for the community house future and where we would like to go and what we would like to achieve over the next 4 years. One focus has been on recruiting volunteers as these are such an important part of the community house success.

We held the Golden Gumboot again this year and even though numbers were down due to the wet weather, the kids enjoyed this free event. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors especially Midway, AKD, Wildlife Wonders, Otway Blueberries, Otway e-bikes, and our local Gellibrand Hotel.

We also held a First Aid course, installed a Defibrillator, and subsided the art group to engage John Hughson to help the members become experts with water colour. The Edible Garden group is now supported by the community house through a What's app group. The group meets once a month in the members' gardens, and they exchange produce and ideas. The walking group meet weekly, and the members and their dogs love a chat and a cuppa together. These activities are about bringing the community together and that is what we are about.

Our wonderful community house committee has worked extremely hard over the year, and our thanks and appreciation go out to them. Mandy, our treasurer has collaborated along with our bookkeeper to make sure we are compliant with authorities. Gordon Hans has been our wonderfully efficient Secretary for many years. We thank him for this and his project management of the move of the Community House into the hall and the major renovations that you can see all around us. He is stepping down from this role but is thankfully staying on the Committee.

Our coordinator Kyla is another diligent worker, and her door is always open to welcome you into this space. So thankyou Kyla for another eventful and successful year. The calendar is a product of Kyla's artful and creative mind, please collect your free copy and display it proudly in your homes.
Finally, you can see that we have some beautiful mosaic pieces on display today. This will be part of our fire pit yarning circle that we have codesigned with Richard Collopy. Please take time to view these pieces that have been made by Claire Gittings, who is Kyla's mother. The design of the area is also available for your viewing.

Lorna Jemmett
President, Gellibrand Community House.



Treasurer's Report
Gellibrand Community House AGM

Gellibrand Community House has had a busy 2024-25 financial year with the regular events Golden Gumboot and Blues and Blueberry Market running as well as The Pageant and
Devonshire Teas being introduced. A constant feature has been the successful monthly Community Lunch, which virtually funds itself through donations from community members attending. Our financial year's earnings were $1,591 and our equity, as at 30 June 2025 was $150,906.

The Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Department contributed $100,334 to our operational budget. We also received $5,600 support funding from Colac Otway Shire for our operations 2023-2025 and a community grant of $884 contributing to speakers for the Smart TV.

We spent $10,242 (Small Equipment Purchases) on a range of items, including new tables, a chest freezer, garden equipment, tools and a defibrillator. This accounts for most of the difference in the reported net profit between the last two financial years.

The Community House is working closely with the Hall Committee and the CFA to secure donated land next to the hall. We are now in the final stages of negotiations. This extra land will enable us to have a large tank for the CFA; provide a community garden in wicking beds for growing edible foods and in the future, hopefully improve the Hall's septic system. As at 30th June 2025, we had $13,434 in the Hall Re-build account, having raised $4,141 over the year. These funds were raised from the Blues and Blueberry Market stall, various BBQs, Devonshire Teas and donations across the year. We will continue to carefully consider the best way to use these funds to improve the community's access and use of the hall.

Again, we aim to run most of our programs at cost price or with a subsidy to enable greater enrolments. In addition to our funded income, as detailed in the reports, we also hold a balance of approximately $10,051 for the operation of the annual Gellibrand River Blues and Blueberry Market. This past market ran even and the Gellibrand Community House stall raised $1,921 for the Hall Re-build. Fundraising expenses were absorbed by the Community House.

Kyla, our Coordinator, continues to seek opportunities to secure funding for a battery to complement the solar system we have installed in the Hall. We are also hoping to apply for a larger grant that would enable significant renovations if we were successful.

The Gellibrand Community House has 'Charitable Status'. We can continue to receive tax deductible donations for the hall renovations through the support from Australian Neighbourhood Houses and centres Association (ANHCA); the process for which is accessible through their website.

Finally, we continued the practice of organising a review of accounts by Ben Hickey from Colac Finance Company this financial year. I was pleased to receive his report and submit it along with the financial reports (Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss Statement) for the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

Amanda Smith,
19th October 2025
Treasurer, Gellibrand Community House







Annual Report

Gellibrand Community House Inc.
ABN 18 525 987 435
For the year ended 30 June 2025
Prepared by Ben Hickey

Contents

3 Profit and Loss

5 Balance Sheet

6 Review Report

Profit and Loss

Gellibrand Community House Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2025
Accrual Basis

	2025	2024
Income		
Trading Profit		
Revenue		
Blues & Blueberry Festival Income	250	8,463
Coffee/Tea Contributions Income	169	67
Dept of Human Services FundingRevenue	100,334	96,889
Income from Grants	6,484	4,950
Interest received	1,973	2,407
Membership Fees	66	102
Programs Income: Community Kitchen Contributions	813	46
Programs Income: Fun with Fungi	-	960
Programs Income: Golden Gumboot	1,000	-
Programs Income: Tai Chi	-	420
Programs Income: The Pageant	2,739	-
Programs Income: Writers Workshop	-	150
Total Revenue	**113,827**	**114,454**
Total Trading Profit	**113,827**	**114,454**
Total Income	**113,827**	**114,454**
Total Income	**113,827**	**114,454**
Expenses		
Advertising & Marketing	49	40
Bookkeeping Service	3,498	3,498
Catering - AGM/Meetings	484	118
Computer Expenses	125	83
DFFH Grant 2023 - Participation Support Overspend Expenses	770	-
Electricity	880	-
Equipment Maintenance	181	-
Fees and permits	205	2,703
Festival Expenses: Fees & Permits	110	-
Festival Expenses: Fundraiser Expenses	550	-
Festival Expenses: Music/StageExpenses	668	-
Festival Expenses: PromotionalExpenses	745	83
Fundraising Expenses	159	57
Grant expenses - FRRR Grant chairs	-	4,950
Insurance - General	1,140	1,045
Legal costs	-	262
Memberships with Other Assoc	699	699
Newspapers	69	39

	2025	2024
Printing and stationery	874	1,332
Program Expenses: Community Kitchen	867	451
Program Expenses: Dungeons and Dragons	15	92
Program Expenses: Fungi Workshop	-	744
Program Expenses: Golden Gumboot	1,560	109
Programs Expense: Community Garden	429	-
Programs Expense: The Pageant	3,601	-
Programs Expense: Writers Workshop	-	250
Programs Expenses: Tai Chi	-	480
Repairs & Maintenance - Buildings	500	230
Salaries and wages	72,393	66,464
Small Equipment Purchases	10,242	4,205
Staff Amenities	435	591
Staff training	968	715
Superannuation Expense - Employees	8,100	7,140
Telephone & Internet	545	1,535
Waste disposal	307	268
Welcome Wall Expenses	-	(475)
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,068	905
Total Expenses	**112,236**	**98,612**
Profit/(Loss) before Taxation	**1,591**	**15,842**
Net Profit After Tax	**1,591**	**15,842**
Net Profit After Distributions/Dividends Paid	**1,591**	**15,842**

Balance Sheet

Gellibrand Community House Inc.
As at 30 June 2025
Accrual Basis

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Trade receivables	-	320
Westpac Blues Account (344825)	10,051	8,143
Westpac Cash Reserve (273596)	158,200	156,893
Westpac Community Solutions One (273588)	3,932	1,306
Westpac Debit Card (339743)	518	281
Working Petty Cash	192	92
Total Current Assets	**172,893**	**167,034**
Total Assets	**172,893**	**167,034**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
ATO Integrated Client Account	6,138	6,156
DFFH Grant 2023 - Participation Support	-	89
Gellibrand Progress Association	(4)	(4)
Hall Rebuild Fund	13,434	9,293
SPARC Funding Excess:SPARC -Gellibrand	134	134
Superannuation Payable	2,201	1,966
Welcome Wall Grant Received	85	85
Total Current Liabilities	**21,987**	**17,719**
Total Liabilities	**21,987**	**17,719**
Net Assets	**150,906**	**149,315**
Equity		
Retained Earnings	150,906	149,315
Total Equity	**150,906**	**149,315**

Review Report

Gellibrand Community House Inc.

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Independent Report to the members of the Association

I have reviewed the accompanying financial reports of Gellibrand Community House Inc. (the association) which comprises of the balance sheet as at 30 June 2025 and the income statement for theyearthenended.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The committee determines that the internal control is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, I have not become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report of the associationis not in accordance with theAssociations Incorporation Reform Act2012including:

a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

Restriction on Distribution

We have prepared this report solely for the use of the Committee and it would be inappropriate for this report to be made available to third parties and, if such a third party were to obtain a copy without our prior written consent, we would not accept responsibility for any reliance that they might place on it.

Reviewer's signature: Ben Hickey

Reviewer's address: PO Box 362 COLAC VIC 3250

Dated: 7 October 2025

Annual Coordinator's Report 2025
Gellibrand Community House

Overview

2024-2025 has been another busy and rewarding period for Gellibrand Community House. The House continues to be a hive of activity with programs, events, and partnerships that reflect the energy and care of our community. You really do need to read the weekly emails to keep up!

The Committee of Management remains a passionate, supportive group whose dedication and skills make a huge difference. Their enthusiasm continues to inspire me in my work. My work has been guided by our great Strategic Plan, ensuring our activities align with community needs and that we stay focused on our goals for the future.

1. Engaging with the Community

In response to last year's early fire season, we held a community meeting to address concerns and improve communication between residents and emergency services. From this, a working group formed to strengthen understanding and cooperation within the community.

We also ran a tabletop fire simulation exercise, which showed how a fire might move through the area. This was followed by a practical session with Jamie Mackenzie, who provided valuable insights into how to respond in an emergency and read weather conditions to make informed decisions.

These activities have improved local preparedness and strengthened neighbour-to-neighbour connections – one of our key community goals.

2. Building Relationships

Building relationships continues to be central to our work. From the Thursday walking group and monthly community lunches to the many daily drop-ins, these small but meaningful moments create strong community bonds.

Cups of tea or coffee are always on offer!

Local collaboration has been excellent again this year. The shared work on The Block next to the Hall project – involving the Hall Committee, CFA, and Community House – is a great example of partnership in action. Everyone involved should be proud, particularly Neil Longmore, whose commitment and perseverance have been instrumental in keeping the project on track.







4. Active Learning

Providing opportunities for learning and creativity continues to be a focus at the House.

The First Aid Course was a great success, giving participants valuable life skills. We also offered an Introduction to Cheese Making workshop, a Watercolour Painting class with John Hughson, and an Embodiment Movement session with Teresa Price. Most of these were subsidised by The Gelli House to keep it affordable and available for most who want to participate.

These programs were well attended and enjoyed by many. Seated Yoga with Bec Mercer has become a regular favourite and continues to make a real difference to participants' wellbeing. Bec will return after a short break to continue this valued program.

We look forward to Richard and Peter Collopy, the Traditional Owners of this Country where we live, teach us some Traditional stories from The Gadubanud and Gulidjan cultures when we install the artwork around the firepit early in the next year.

5. Communication and Celebration

Regular events such as The Golden Gumboot, Gellibrand Market, Monthly Community Lunches, The Dinner Dance (Gelli Jive), The Giant Gellibrand Auction, and Pat's Picnic remain highlights of our community calendar.

These gatherings bring people together, strengthen connections, and showcase what makes Gellibrand special. We continue to make these events as inclusive as possible and appreciate everyone who helps spread the word – word of mouth remains our most effective form of communication, and we thank everyone who helps share information about our activities.

Our weekly email update keeps locals informed about activities, events, and opportunities, alongside our regular page in the Otway Light. We're very fortunate to have such a dedicated local publication supporting community stories and engagement. The 2026 Gellibrand Calendar is ready, get yourself a copy!

6. Operational Management

Behind the scenes, there is always much happening to ensure the smooth running of the House. Involvement with Neighbourhood Houses Barwon and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria provides invaluable support, advocacy, and inspiration.

Each Neighbourhood House has its own character and strengths. Ours lies in our deep sense of community – we know each other, we care, and we act when needed. This strong local connection is what keeps our House thriving.

With several Community Houses across Victoria closing recently, the "Keep Our Doors Open - Strong Communities Start Here" campaign has become even more important. Current State Government funding has not kept pace with rising costs or the growing need for local support services.

Postcards are available for signing to be sent to our political representatives, highlighting the vital role Neighbourhood Houses play – supporting people where trust, belonging, and genuine connection already exist.



Kyla Beale
Coordinator, Gellibrand Community House
October 2025

2023 2026 STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLAN

OVERVIEW

OUR VISION: "The Gellibrand Community House will be the heart and driving force of a vibrant community hub that engages and empowers all people living and working in our area."

1 Engage with & Respond to Community

"Engage with & respond to community and ensure we have a diverse group of people through the doors, doing activities and talking to each other"

- Identify & provide activities / services that meet the diverse needs of the community including their wellbeing
- Identify and address any barriers community members may face in utilising/accessing the house
- Target specific subgroups in the community to be involved in the House who currently are not

2 Relationship and Partnership Building

"We have strong and positive relationships with our local community organisations & groups and offer accessible activities for all"

- Create links with local organisations and develop community projects and programs
- Develop creative partnership models that support whole of community
- Clearly identify and promote the support the House can offer to other community organisation
- Look at opportunities associated with sharing resources and infrastructure
- Demonstrate leadership in our local community

3 Volunteers & Employee Wellbeing

"Our rewarding and professional Volunteering program inspires engagement in our community"

- Further develop a sustainable Volunteer Program
- Create a variety of roles for Volunteers that are meaningful, inclusive, definable and rewarding
- Promote the volunteer program and define the benefits of being a volunteer
- Responding and providing support to community initiatives and education

4 Active Learning

"We deliver quality learning experiences to meet the needs of the community"

- Identify the learning needs of community.
- Develop programs and events for learning opportunities.
- Work to develop connections and inclusion.
- Create a safe and welcoming space to learning can occur

5 Community Communication and Celebration

"People understand what we do, who we are and what's on"

- Develop a promotion and communication plan that is diverse in its approach.
- Maintain and develop social media and website.
- Develop, practice, promote and advocate for a culture of positive communication and inclusion

6 Operational Management and Facilitation of a Community Hub

"We deliver services and programs as per our Strategic Planning"

- Ensure we are meeting our funding bodies reporting requirements.
- Ensure relevant policy and procedures are in place and current.
- Ensure appropriate induction and training is provided.
- Ensure employees are well supported and safe in their roles.
- Ensure evaluation and feedback processes are integral to all our activities.
- Sponsor activities and facilities that promote a Community Hub.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria

Colac Otway