Gellibrand Community House

GELLIBRAND COMMUNITY HOUSE

2026

Annual Report



Art work by Claire Gittings

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,

Recognising a committee that truly supports our community

Gellibrand Community House

President's Report AGM Gellibrand Community House 2026

Welcome everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Gellibrand Community house 2026.

As you all know this year above all other years has been exceptionally challenging with the fires across the Otway's starting on the 9th January. This resulted in the Gellibrand Blues & Blueberry Festival being cancelled and some of our activities been put on hold. The committee and volunteers really stepped up to the plate when asked if we wanted the Gellibrand Hall to be the recovery centre and our hands went up immediately.

It started off with a public meeting at the Hall on the 27th of January, a forum of CFA held at the hall and the setting up of a food relief centre. Gellibrand was really put in the spotlight, and it was led by the Gellibrand Community House. We offered cooked meals, and these gatherings were an important part to bring people together to share food, stories and helping to start the healing process. We also provided takeaway meals delivered to your door. We, with other leaders of the community, set up a local Fire Recovery Committee which has been working with the Colac Otway Shire and Colac Area Health. All the while, we were holding monthly meetings, writing up minutes, keeping the books, tending to the garden beds, and trying to keep things as normal as possible. The walking group, chair yoga, cheese making, all still went ahead as well as renovating the kitchen in amongst all of this. We also sent postcards out, painted by our lovely Loreen Missen, to every fire brigade (122) that came to our aid. And have I mentioned our fantastic volunteers? They were the ones who cooked meals, and wrote on those cards, and spent their time at the hall helping and welcoming people into the space.

Lounge chairs were brought in and got a good work out and everyone was able to relax in a safe area. New friendships have been made over the past year, and the community has become closer. To those people who lost their homes, sheds, or bush around them our hearts go out to you, and I hope you have found the support you needed to get through this very tough time.





Another great achievement for us this year was the completion of the yarning circle, and our thanks go out to Richard and Peter Collolpy, Bruce Beale, Nathan Swain, Rupert Day and Claire Gittings, for all your hard work and planning. I just love the yarning circle and hope many nights will be spent sitting around the fire having a yarn.

Can I tell you all how much I love this community and the place we all live and wouldn't live anywhere else? I think I told a reporter they would 'have to take my out in a box'! I feel that everything the Community House has done over the past few years was setting us up for this year, and moving into the hall has worked out to be a great move. We now have a solar battery, new kitchen, new electrics throughout, and a quiet room and the place is just shining. People love this hall and the great turn up to a recent working bee proves this. We can't also forget our wonderful businesses in our little town as well, who worked tirelessly providing food and drinks to all the fire fighters. And to our fire fighters, what brave men and women they are for saving our town, so we still have a pub, general store, caravan park and hall to spend our time and gather.

So, to all of you here today, I say thank you, thank you for your hard work, your time, your dedication, your love and understanding. A special thankyou goes out to our Committee, our Coordinator, Kyla, and to Bridie and George. They have all been working behind the scenes and not only working for the Community House most are on another committees. They really are the great quiet achievers.

Lorna Jemmett | President Gellibrand Community House |







Gellibrand Community House
Annual Coordinator's Report 2025–2026

It has been an extraordinary year for our whole community—a year that has tested us, brought us closer together and shown the strength of our connection to one another. The connections and trust built over the past few years helped people feel comfortable coming to the House after the January fires, gathering together, asking for help and supporting one another. Our Strategic Plan's vision of a welcoming, inclusive community hub became something we could see and feel every day.

After the fires, I wanted to create a warm space where people could find food relief, meals, company and connect to the services they needed. I brought my couches from home and set up a cosy corner. I felt my role was to set the scene and provide the structure for our committee, volunteers and support services to connect with the community and create their magic. Our volunteers and Committee brought the warmth and openness we all needed. New volunteers joined us, and many people connected with the House for the first time. We supplied lunches every day we were open for the first month after the community could return after evacuating, then made them weekly and now monthly to ease the pressure on volunteers.

At times, the growing demands of my role felt overwhelming, yet the rewards have been profound. Our committee worked particularly hard to support me and the community while navigating their own recovery journeys. Seeing a connected, generous community come together has been a powerful reward for their commitment. I am deeply grateful for their care, determination and support.

We are deeply grateful to George O'Dwyer, Bridie Walsh, Kylie Groves and Donna Groves, and the teams from Colac Otway Recovery, The Colac Local and Headspace, and Emergency Recovery Support hosted by Colac Area Health. They have supported people who lost homes, property, farm infrastructure, health and their sense of safety. Those supported have described the difference as life-changing.



Town meetings gathered our community's wishes for recovery and led to the Community Recovery Group, with four working groups: emergency preparation, planning and community safety; infrastructure for fire readiness and recovery; mental health and community wellbeing; and business, farming impacts and financial recovery. Juli and I worked within the emergency preparation subcommittee, contributing research, local emergency information and neighbourhood communication. This community-led approach puts local voices and priorities at the centre of recovery. I also represented Gellibrand on the Otway Bushfire Recovery Committee, hosted by Colac Otway Shire, which met weekly at first, then every three weeks to stay informed as the summer fires, floods and recovery unfolded.

As life returned to some sort of normalcy, regular lunches, yoga, meditation, cards, art, gardening, walking and creative Sunday sessions offered friendship, learning and moments of calm. The May Recovery Celebration brought around 100 people together, while Neighbourhood House Week, The Longest Lunch, Christmas in July, the Biggest Morning Tea and Golden Gumboot activities encouraged connection. Special highlights were visits from Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria.

Our facilities also moved forward. The $48,000 Community Food Relief grant supported the completed kitchen upgrade, and $12,000 from FRRR enabled a solar battery installation. Starlink improved connectivity. Volunteer support, reporting and grant work continued behind the scenes. The 2025 Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Value Report estimated $273,289 in community value from $113,827 in income—$2.40 for every dollar, capturing only part of the House's contribution.
Another highlight is the Yarning Circle. After around four years in the making, the vision has finally come to fruition as a beautiful place for healing and connection. We are deeply grateful for the generosity and knowledge of Richard and Peter Collopy, and the artistic talents of Claire Gittings, in bringing this gift to Gellibrand. Its opening on 18 October will mark a special milestone for our community.

Thank you to everyone who has helped carry us through. After this tumultuous Year of the Fire Horse, I'm looking forward to our own 'Year of the Earth Sloth': a little more cruisy, joyful and healing.
Time for a cup of tea and a good lie down..





Treasurer's Report
Gellibrand Community House AGM
18th October 2026

Gellibrand Community House has had a challenging and very busy year, as a result of the bushfires that commenced on 9th January this year. The hall was quickly transformed into a fire relief centre offering community members access to food, water and services. This continued intensely up to Easter and required some flexibility in the provision of finances and volunteer hours. We auspiced community meetings and recovery events, received donations and provided space for donated goods and Government services.

The Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Department contributed $123,701 to our operational budget, including an extra $20,000 in recognition of the extra hours being worked by our Coordinator since the fires. This year we were obliged to deposit portable long service leave payments worth $7,038 over the financial year. We also received $17,256 grant funding, including a community grant from Colac Otway Shire for new tables as well as funds for bushfire preparation and general operation.

We spent $1,518 (Small Equipment Purchases) on a range of items, including a Webber and some shelving for the container storage area.

As at 30th June 2026, we had Current Liabilities totalling $98,375, including $16,471 in the Hall Re-build account. We raised $3,037 over the year through a Devonshire Tea event and several donations for the Hall Re-build funds. At the end of the financial year, we also held $46,916 fire recovery funds allocated to 6 different projects.

As previously reported, 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 $10,091 for the operation of the annual Gellibrand River Blues and Blueberry Market, which unfortunately was cancelled due to the ongoing threat of fires this year.

Kyla, our Coordinator, managed to secure $12,409 from FRRR for a battery to complement the solar system. This is now installed and should reduce the hall's electricity costs in the future.

The Gellibrand Community House continues to have 'Charitable Status'. We can 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 2026.

Amanda Smith
Treasurer
Gellibrand Community House

Annual Report

Gellibrand Community House

ABN 18 525 987 435

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Prepared by Ben Hickey

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Profit and Loss

Gellibrand Community House

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Accrual Basis

	2026	2025
Income		
Trading Profit		
Revenue		
2026 Fire Recovery Donations Received	703	-
Blues & Blueberry Festival Income	40	250
Coffee/Tea Contributions Income	(37)	169
Dept of Human Services FundingRevenue	123,701	100,334
Donations Received	958	-
Income from Grants	11,969	6,484
Interest received	602	1,973
Membership Fees	190	66
Power Saving Bonus	688	-
Program Income - Art Workshop	800	-
Programs Income - Cheese Making workshop	210	-
Programs Income: Community Kitchen Contributions	1,049	813
Programs Income: First Aid Course	973	-
Programs Income: Golden Gumboot	1,000	1,000
Programs Income: The Pageant	-	2,739
Total Revenue	**142,845**	**113,827**
Total Trading Profit	**142,845**	**113,827**
Total Income	**142,845**	**113,827**
Total Income	**142,845**	**113,827**
Expenses		
Advertising & Marketing	-	49
Bookkeeping Service	4,323	3,498
Catering - AGM/Meetings	681	484
Computer Expenses	333	125
DFFH Grant 2023 - Participation Support Overspend Expenses	-	770
Electricity	392	880
Equipment Maintenance	-	181
Fees and permits	53	205
Festival Expenses: Fees & Permits	-	110
Festival Expenses: Fundraiser Expenses	126	550
Festival Expenses: Music/StageExpenses	-	668
Festival Expenses: PromotionalExpenses	-	745
Fundraising Expenses	114	159
Insurance - General	1,178	1,140
Memberships with Other Assoc	921	699

	2026	2025
Newspapers	33	69
PortableLong Service LeaveContributions	7,038	-
Printing and stationery	1,087	874
Program Expense - Art Workshop	1,186	-
Program Expense- CheeseMaking	308	-
Program Expenses: Community Kitchen	900	867
Program Expenses: Dungeons and Dragons	-	15
Program Expenses: First Aid Course	1,452	-
Program Expenses: Golden Gumboot	1,015	1,560
Programs Expense: Community Garden	1,247	429
Programs Expense: The Pageant	-	3,601
Repairs & Maintenance - Buildings	593	500
Salaries and wages	74,838	72,393
Small Equipment Purchases	1,518	10,242
Staff Amenities	380	435
Staff training	-	968
Subscriptions	50	-
Superannuation Expense - Employees	8,825	8,100
Telephone & Internet	1,734	545
Waste disposal	417	307
Water bill	60	-
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,082	1,068
Total Expenses	**111,881**	**112,236**
Profit/(Loss) before Taxation	**30,964**	**1,591**
Net Profit After Tax	**30,964**	**1,591**
Net Profit After Distributions/Dividends Paid	**30,964**	**1,591**

Balance Sheet

Gellibrand Community House

As at 30 June 2026

Accrual Basis

	30 JUNE 2026	30 JUNE 2025
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts	211,875	172,701
Trade receivables	68,179	-
Working Petty Cash	192	192
Total Current Assets	**280,246**	**172,893**
Total Assets	**280,246**	**172,893**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
ATO Integrated Client Account	6,546	6,138
BushfireRecovery Hub electrics	10,000	-
Community Reconnect/Recovery lunches	12,093	-
DFFH Food Security	13,608	-
FRRR Grant - Battery	12,409	-
Gellibrand BushfireRecovery Hub Facilitie &Amenities Hire	4,800	-
Gellibrand Progress Association	-	(4)
Hall Hire for Bushfire Relief	9,300	-
Hall Rebuild Fund	16,471	13,434
SPARC Funding Excess:SPARC -Gellibrand	-	134
Superannuation Payable	2,405	2,201
Upgrade ofHall Store room (Quiet Room)	8,523	-
Welcome Wall Grant Received	-	85
Yarning Circle Completion	2,220	-
Total Current Liabilities	**98,375**	**21,987**
Total Liabilities	**98,375**	**21,987**
Net Assets	**181,870**	**150,906**
Equity		
Retained Earnings	181,870	150,906
Total Equity	**181,870**	**150,906**

Review Report

Gellibrand Community House

For the year ended 30 June 2026

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 2026 and the profit and loss statement for the year then ended.

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 my 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 me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I 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 2026 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: 2 September 2026

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 organisations
- 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 so 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.