

# **FITZROY LEARNING NETWORK**

## **2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



**Your Neighbourhood House  
Connecting Community**

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# FITZROY LEARNING NETWORK

Fitzroy Learning Network  
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admin@fln.org.au

FLN.ORG.AU

ABN 93 394 556 254 / Incorporation number A0009183G / TOID 3811

Fitzroy Learning Network acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to elders past and present of the Wurundjeri Wilam Clan of the Kulin Nation and we recognise their continuing living culture and the contribution they make to our city. We express our hope for reconciliation, justice and the recognition of the ongoing living culture of all aboriginal people.

Cover photo: Courtyard, Fitzroy Learning Network



# ABOUT US

Connecting community, developing potential, investing in people

***Fitzroy Learning network is an essential and trusted part of Fitzroy.  
A local community hub where people feel safe to connect,  
be heard, and to learn and grow.***

## VISION

An egalitarian society where everyone feels safe, included, and empowered.

## PURPOSE

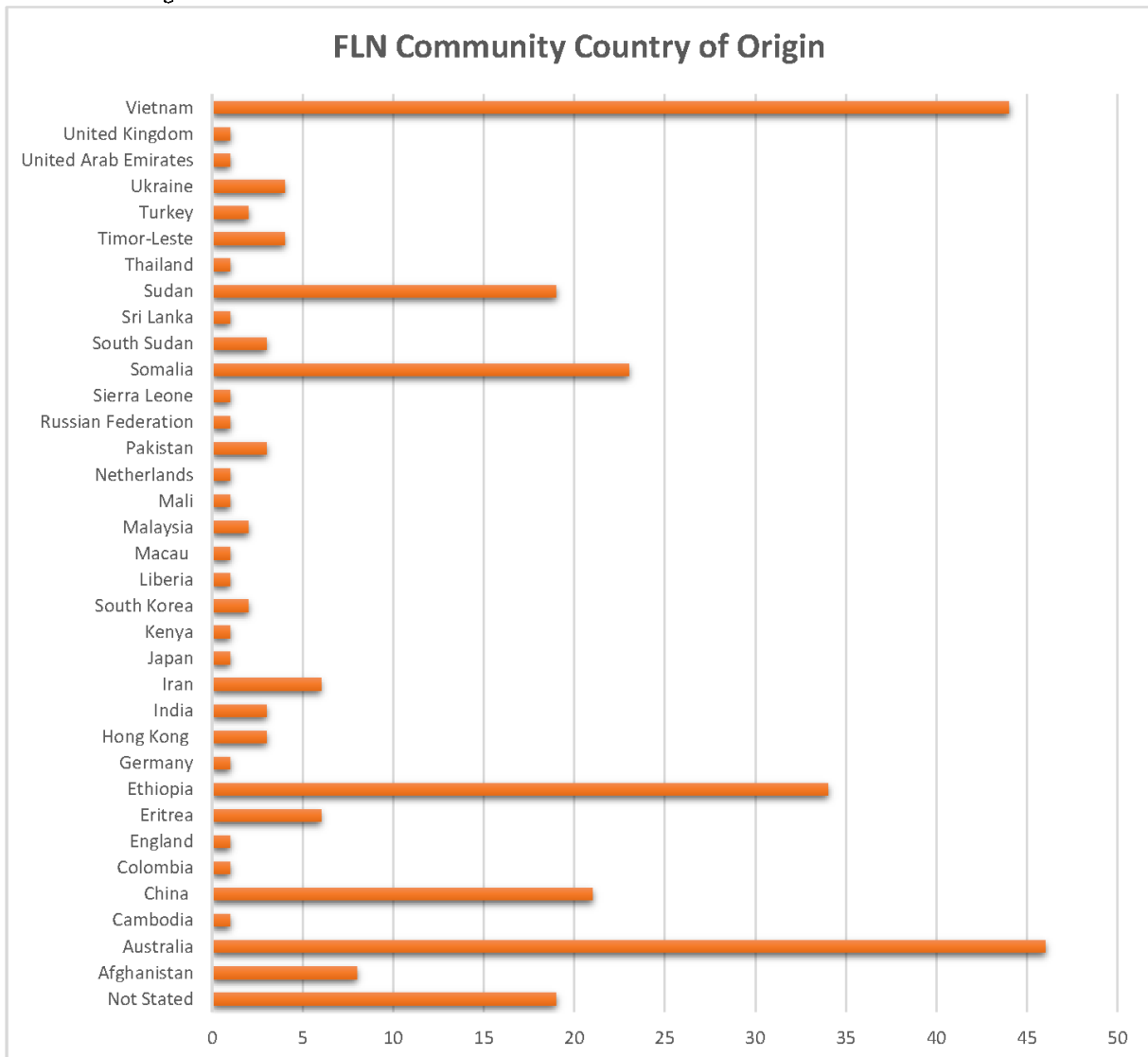
To foster community connection and active participation in society.

## OUR VALUES

Community-centred | Inclusive | Authentic | Welcoming | Collaborative



Countries of Origin:



English	55	Tigrinya	3	Mandinka	1
Vietnamese	43	Hakka	2	Nuer	1
Oromo	25	Harari	2	Punjabi	1
Somali	24	Korean	2	Russian	1
Mandarin	18	Turkish	2	Spanish	1
Arabic	15	Chinese	1	Telugu	1
Dinka	11	Fijian	1	Tetum	1
Dari	9	Hindi	1	Timorese	1
Cantonese	8	Japanese	1	Urdu	1
Amharic	4	Krio	1		
Ukrainian	4	Kurdish	1		
Persian (excluding Dā	3	Malayalam	1		

# 2021-2022 SNAPSHOT

**1560 food relief packs**

**10,000 onsite meals**

**920 classes**

**14 special events**

**720 community support interactions**

**240 social support engagement**

## **Gender**

Fitzroy Learning Network continues to engage mostly women in its programs. For the period, overall, 69% of our clients were women, and 31% men. This is a 2% shift toward male engagement. Our partnership with Quin House [which is all male] and with St Mary's House of Welcome shifts this demographic.

## **Age**

FLN reaches people of all ages. We have participants from as young and excitable as eight, to three students in their 80s who are enthusiastic about learning. The majority of our participants are aged between 30 and 60.

## **Country of Origin**

FLN is proud of, and values, the diversity of our cohort. We have community members from 34 different countries of origin, speaking 32 different languages between them. Our most common countries are Ethiopia, Vietnam, Sudan, Australia, China and Somalia.





# OUR PEOPLE

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Chair	Jeannine Jacobson
Deputy Chair	Jane Stephens [to Apr 22] Jon Staley [from Apr 22]
Secretary	Annie Chapman
Treasurer	Kalpesh Kothari

## Ordinary Board Members

Chris Hrynevitch [to Nov 21]  
David Randall [to Jan 22]  
Danielle Meyer  
Jen Freshwater  
Jon Staley  
Julia Gregg  
Rachna Muddagouni

## THE CORE TEAM

Chief Executive Officer  
Jane Tonkin

Accredited Training Program Manager  
Nicole Adornetto

Learn Local &  
Community Program Coordinator  
Christine Sammut

Community Support Coordinator  
Ruby Foley [to Oct 21]  
Edith Benkoe [from Oct 21]

Administrator  
Thuy Ngo

Cleaner  
Fabiola Escalante  
Eugenia Mezquida

Admin & Project Support  
Christine Pendleton

Accounting  
Two Peas [Janine, Nikki & Naomi]



# OUR PEOPLE

## Programs & Project Staff

### EAL Teachers

Cathy Sailah  
Floyd Kermode  
Judith Fleurisson  
Kath Janka  
Matt Noonan  
Nemo Cahill  
Ronnie Elazary

### Learn Local Teachers

Francis Thompson  
Kamalpreet Singh  
Mandy Sinclair  
Michael Sexton  
Nemo Cahill  
Sasha Hodge  
Skyla O'Shea  
Swaruparani Sooragani

### Youth Engagement Program

#### Youth Sewing Group Facilitators

Christobel Elliott  
Sasha Hodge

#### Our Space Facilitators

Christobel Elliott  
Dylan Oosterweghel  
Katherine Hesline  
Luigi Chisenga  
Ror Akot  
Ruby Foley

### Community Development Program & Projects

#### Gardening Group

Simone Broekman  
Margo Roest

#### Castaways Craft Group

Christine Sammut

#### Art Class

Alanna Clarkson

#### Food Bank

Annie Chapman  
Brigid Russell  
Denise Weybury  
Jeannine Jacobson

#### Flavours of Fitzroy

Annie Chapman

#### Project Support

Damon Rowston  
Fred Van't Sand

### Work placements & secondments

Carlota Baticon  
Christina Panayidis  
Gabby Kannini-Parsons  
Katherine Hesline  
Priscilla de Mello  
Razia Qasim

### Volunteers

Alma Gill	Mary Gies
Amanda Rasmussen	Matthew Tabbada
Andoni Laguna-Alberdi	Meredith Young
Anne Michelson	Michael Sexton
Annie Chapman	Miranda King
Brigid Russell	Molly Ward
Christina Hornby-Waring	Nanetter Hunter
Denise Weybury	Nicole Brown
Eoldie Piquet	Noni Zaman
Fred Van't Sand	Rob Freshwater
Grace Richardson	Priscilla de Mello
Isabelle Khor	Rachel Michel
Jane Erwin	Rosemary Ballard
Jarajchaya Jarungchit	Sakira Nathaniel
Jeannine Jacobson	Sharon Hernandez
Jen Freshwater	Steph Bourke
Jenny Norvick	Steve Bone
Joanne Rowe	Steve Wilkins
John Richardson	Sue Coffey
Julianna McNally	Tessa Monash
John Telfer	
Julianne McNally	
Louise Stewart	
Lucy Benjamin	
Lynda Clifford	
Margo Roest	
Marie Buckland	
Mark Rumler	

# FROM THE CHAIR

2021-22 has been a very good, if challenging, year for Fitzroy Learning Network. It has been wonderful to be able to engage in face to face activities and events again and FLN's premises have come alive after two years of necessary lockdowns to contain the spread of Covid.

FLN has had a succession of open days, community dinners with a cornucopia of delicious food contributed by our community, short and long courses and community activities at all hours. FLN's teaching of English and other skills continues now fully face to face.

A highlight event was Harmony Day in March in Condell Park which brought people from all over the Fitzroy neighbourhood together for music, dancing, juggling and beautiful food (of course) from mid afternoon until sunset, demonstrating the scope for community inclusion to build community cohesion. Harmony Day was supported by a grant from the City of Yarra.

FLN published a new cookbook with recipes from a variety of countries and cuisines, ably shepherded through the recipe testing and production process by a Board member, Annie Chapman. Production costs were supported by a grant from Bendigo Bank. I recommend it as a Christmas gift.

## Departures from FLN's Board

Long standing Board members have retired over this year. Chris Hrynevich was involved with FLN for many years as a volunteer and a Board member for seven. Chris retired from the Board in November. She made a substantial contribution to FLN's operations and governance. Jane Stephens was a Board member for four years and was an exemplary chair of FLN's Finance, Risk and Compliance Committee over that period. She left big shoes to fill.

Rachna Muddagouni stepped down from her role on FLN's Board in June this year. The Board misses her knowledge of the Registered Training Organisation environment; we wish her well. David Randall resigned his role when he moved interstate. We wish him well in his new home.

## Current Challenges –

### FoodBank and FLN's search for a new home

Demand for assistance with food has doubled in the last four months. FLN has run a food relief program for some time now which supported over 20 families each week with fresh fruit and vegetables delivered by Oz Harvest and pantry staples supplied from FLN's own resources. We are now supporting 45 households each week and our expectation is that demand will continue to grow. FLN is running a series of fund raising events to support this program.





The most significant issue FLN is confronting now is the pressing need to secure an alternative home. FLN has been at 198 Napier St for 28 years. Our discussions with the owners of the building, the Catholic Church, to explore the possibility of a longer term lease came to a definitive close earlier this year. FLN's lease ends on 30 June 2023.

The challenge for FLN is to find a new home that keeps us in touch with the people who use the Neighbourhood House and are students at FLN's courses and provides the space and facilities that our community values. The people who come to FLN mainly live in the Atherton Gardens estate.

We are hoping to secure a corner of the Cubbies Adventure Playground to build a new home. The Cubbies is a space for children to engage in free and creative play; it is the backyard and a safe space for children aged 4 to 12 from Atherton Gardens and the surrounding neighbourhood. FLN's intention is that new premises would be separated from the Playground, oriented away from it towards the pathway which is an extension of Young St, and Condell St, so that there is a connection to the Playground but it remains a separate space. We hope that a positive and mutually beneficial relationship can develop over time between the Cubbies and FLN. We have a grant from the Community Support Fund to undertake the building project.

We are consulting with our community, the children who use the Playground and their families, 54 Reasons [who currently run the Playground] and people in the community who support the Cubbies. We are working with the City of Yarra as the administrator of this Crown Land and the Department of Land Environment Water and Planning, which has ultimate authority over what happens on Crown Land. We are very grateful for the assistance we are receiving from Kennedy Nolan Architects and Urbis planning advisers.

We are keen to talk to anyone who has an interest in the Cubbies and FLN's future home.

### **Acknowledgments**

I acknowledge the excellent work of Jane Tonkin, FLN's CEO, and her team, Nicole, Chris, Edith and Thuy in making everything FLN does, happen. I also acknowledge the work of FLN's dedicated teachers, facilitators and volunteers. Thanks to FLN's partners who collaborate with FLN to deliver important programs and the organisations that have generously awarded FLN grants to undertake community activities. I thank my fellow Board members for their commitment and work over the year.

Jeannine Jacobson  
Chair



# FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Year 2021-22 has been yet another eventful and challenging year. While the first half of the year was affected by COVID lockdowns and consequent disruption to our core activities, later half has been a test of our resilience as an organisation, our staff's dedication & commitment and support from our funding bodies and our partners. And I am glad to state that we have come out of it all stronger, determined, and successful. The reason I can say this with confidence is because on relative terms (ignoring the government support funding for COVID), we have done better than previous financial year.

- We maintained our key project funding partners including Community Bank – Clifton Hill, Leith Foundation, and Inner North Community Foundation.
- Changes to enrolments requirements meant an increase to enrolments through AMEP [which also supports access to childcare].
- New strategic plan maintains the commitment to operating within our means and in a transparent way and identifies the priority of securing and additional multi-year fund that can reduce some of the financial pressure.

While we are not out of the woods yet, we have a stronger focus and clear plan for better financial position in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our CEO and the team backing her for their dedication and commitment.

I would also like to thank the fellow Board members who have generously devoted their time and stayed committed to the values and objectives of this organisation. It is a joy and honour to work alongside such dignified members. It was sad to see some of our strong and long-serving Board Members retire in the past 12 months.

Kalpesh Kothari  
Treasurer

## FLN Financial Result Summary & Analysis

### INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021	YoY Changes
	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL REVENUE	909,858	937,121	(27,263)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	883,695	848,581	(35,114)
Net Surplus/(deficit)	26,163	88,540	(62,377)
LESS: Extraordinary Govt COVID-19 Support Programs	99,829	302,783	(202,954)
Net Surplus/(Deficit) excl. Extraordinary Govt Support	(73,666)	(214,243)	140,577

#### Key Messages:

1.  
In the first instance, looking at the Audited Income Statement it appears that the net financial result for FY 21-22 was \$62k worse than FY20-21. However, considering the fact that during FY 21-22 FLN received \$203k worth of Govt. COVID-19 Support less than last year, overall financial performance for FY 21-22 has been \$141k better than last year.

2.  
Having said that, ignoring the Govt. COVID-19 support, FLN still incurred a deficit of \$74k. Hence, there needs to be an ongoing emphasis on increasing revenue as there is little room to reduce costs without impacting services and the annual program.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021	YoY Changes
	\$	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	575,482	541,346	34,136
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	34,800	77,906	(43,106)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>610,282</b>	<b>619,252</b>	<b>(8,970)</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	278,699	297,260	18,561
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,251	26,824	16,573
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>288,950</b>	<b>324,084</b>	<b>35,134</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>321,332</b>	<b>295,168</b>	<b>26,164</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	321,332	295,168	26,164
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>321,332</b>	<b>295,168</b>	<b>26,164</b>

#### Key observations:

1.  
During FY 21-22 while the total assets reduced by \$9k, total liabilities reduced by \$35k leading to the net increase in equity by \$26k.

# FROM THE CEO

2021-22 has been a fabulous year marked by food, pathways and getting to know the neighbours.

## Food & Sustenance

The kitchen is the centrepiece of our Neighbourhood House. Foodbank provides a weekly top up of groceries and our wonderful community lunches produced in partnership with Cultivating Community enable a sharing of culture and stories.

The kitchen has been running on turbo this year with regular cooking classes, community dinners hospitality training and a steady stream of Fitzroy Learning participants coming in to prepare food.

## Connecting to Community

We have been throwing open our gates on the first Saturday of each month. This has connected us with neighbours, provoked conversations and collaborations, and enabled people who are part of the Neighbourhood House to connect with the broader community through markets.

Over the last year we have seen a surge in people coming to Fitzroy Learning to build a social network, and people attending classes lingering in the courtyard to meet with others and have lunch.

The value of this place as a community hub cannot be overstated. One of our English language students wrote us a letter full of great ideas and she wrote about her very first visit to our Neighbourhood House. She wrote "I felt as if I had come to visit old friends."

Our role in building capacity and resilience in our community has taken on a greater importance. We see a growing number of people visiting our Neighbourhood House for the social connection more than anything else. These people may end up in a class or two, but the crucial element is that they have a base here where they meet people, share cups of tea and stories, and dive in and help out.

## Unleashing potential

There are constant hurdles to participating in mainstream society that are placed in front of many of the people we work with. Over the last twelve months we have trialled some activities to help challenge this in creative ways.

We have delivered a Train the Trainer course and this will now be part of our repertoire. The people who have come through the course were then engaged to deliver a workshop or class through our Saturdays@FLN project. Activities included cooking classes, drumming workshops, and kokedama and terrarium making.

We employed a group of women to prepare food for Bridges to Harmony and this has evolved into a very exciting employment program you will see more of in 2023.

## People are our power

The expansion in our activities over the last twelve months has been possible because of an amazing team.

Staff at Fitzroy Learning Network are committed and inspiring. They are adventurous and seek ways to collaborate with community and sector partners. The team engage with the organisation's broad spectrum of activities. It is this interest and obvious enjoyment that enables us to punch well above our weight in terms of delivery.

The Board at Fitzroy Learning Network are invested and actively involved. They work hard to ensure the best possible future for this organisation and they bring a wealth of experience and passion.

Volunteers at Fitzroy Learning Network are amazing! They invest in our programs and talk a lot about just how much they learn from their experiences here. They also initiate projects - the market bag project being a prime example. One of our volunteers saw the opportunity to move away from the plastic bags people brought in for foodbank, and to encourage people to use cloth bags sewn for this purpose. Three sewing bees later we had a big batch of bags ready to go.

Participants at Fitzroy Learning Network jump in and get involved. Over the last twelve months we have seen an increase in people who offer to help out, who invite themselves into our kitchen to prepare food for the staff and participants. This active participation tells a story about the power and place of this Neighbourhood House.

On the surface we provide a welcoming place for people to gather and connect, for them to learn and share, and be part of a vibrant community.

Under the surface we are working hard to increase access and reduce inequality and injustice, to remove barriers, and improve understanding. To make sure people have food and that they are safe. We effortlessly move between making someone a cup of tea and advocating about housing, watering the garden of dealing with Centrelink or immigration. We remain agile and responsive. All this is no small task!

I thank everyone who is part of this extraordinary Neighbourhood House.

Jane Tonkin  
CEO



# 2021-2022 PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS

FOOD BANK

CITIZENSHIP PREPARATION

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

ACCREDITED ENGLISH

SEWING & ART CLASSES

COMPUTER CLASSES

BRIDGES TO HARMONY

CREATIVE WRITING

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

FLAVOURS OF FITZROY

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

SATURDAY@FLN

OPEN DAYS

CRAFT MARKETS

COOKING CLASSES

FITZROY COMMUNITY DINNERS

PARTNERSHIPS

AUSPICING PROJECTS

GARDENING PROGRAM

STRATEGIC PLANNING

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

CASTAWAYS CRAFT GROUP

TRAIN THE TRAINER

# ACCREDITED TRAINING PROGRAM

Supported by

Skills First and Adult Migrant Education Program [AMEP].

The Adult Migrant English Program [AMEP] is funded by the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs.

Spoken & Written English -

\*Preliminary, \*Certificate I, \*Certificate II and \*Certificate III.

Hospitality Units –

\*Use hygienic practices for food safety and \*Prepare and serve espresso coffee.

Supported by

Aspire Foundation.

Delivered in partnership with

Kinfolk Enterprise.

FLN's accredited English program spent the last financial year building on the successes of, and learning from, the difficulties of the previous years. While the pandemic continued to test us, the program moves into the new year engaged and revitalised, with renewed energy for learning and sharing of ideas.

## Students

This financial year has seen FLN's highest enrolment numbers in this program since 2018, which speaks volumes to the quality of the programs we are delivering, and the eagerness of the community to participate. With the borders reopening, we have welcomed many more new arrivals than in the previous few years, including those coming from Afghanistan and Ukraine, as well as students from Ethiopia, Vietnam, China, Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and many many other countries. Due to our increased numbers, the low-literacy Preliminary class and the higher level Certificate II and III classes have increased their attendance days, and FLN is positively buzzing with people looking to improve their English and engage with our community.

Some of the highlights from our students this year include:

- Students completing certificates and moving onto higher classes, or further study outside FLN
- Students finding employment in areas of interest to them
- This period saw the number of our students working part-time grow. FLN is really pleased to support our students with both their study and employment goals
- Students utilising their skills at FLN in areas such as food preparation, administration, gardening and cleaning
- Students participating in our numerous community events, such as Bridges to Harmony and our Community lunches and dinners

## Teachers

In December 2021 FLN sadly said goodbye to a long serving teacher, Nemo Cahill. Nemo developed fantastic programs for our low literacy students and her calm and gentle nature will be missed. We wish her all the best for the future.

We welcome as the new preliminary teacher Floyd Kermode, who started with us in February 2022 and is a welcome addition to our dedicated EAL teaching staff.

Our teachers, despite the challenges of online learning and teaching early on in the year, have developed multifaceted and detailed teaching programs that draw on the students' strengths and allow them to engage in learning English in ways that are both meaningful and useful to the individual.

## Funding Streams

The end of the last financial year saw a change in how the Department of Home Affairs AMEP program was funded. Previously students were only entitled to 510 hours of funded English, however this limit was removed, so students who exhausted their allocation became eligible again. This is a positive for many of our students, as the AMEP program does not require students to pay any fees, and as such is a cheaper alternative to other funding bodies. This change has seen the ratio of AMEP to Skills First (Victorian Government) enrolments invert, where it was once 80/20 Skills First, this year has seen it shift to 80/20 AMEP.

## Collaborations

FLN's relationship with Cultivating Community and Cohealth continues and was embraced with vigour after being put on hold during COVID. One of the highlight's of FLN's year was the Harmony Day lunch where a number of students cooked food from their cultures at FLN for our Harmony Day celebration, supported by Peta and the wonderful staff at Cultivating Community. An exciting and delicious time was had by all!

We move into the next financial year raring to go with our Barista training collaboration with Sibling by Kinfolk and supported by the Aspire Foundation. Pandemic delays well and truly behind us, we move into FY 22/23 with an expertly tailored Barista training course, ready to support the employment and further study goals of Sibling and FLNs eager volunteers and students.

**Looking forward**

We move into the new financial year looking for ways to build on the fantastic experiences we have had this year, despite all its challenges. I thank all the teachers, volunteers and staff who have helped make this such a fulfilling place and program for all those who engage with it.

Nicole Adornetto  
Accredited Program Manager

# FOOD BANK

Supported by  
OzHarvest and Kinfolk Enterprises

Food bank continues to provide weekly food relief, and we have provided onsite meals on a daily basis.

Delivery has depended on:-  
Volunteer coordination backed up by core staff,  
Oz Harvest providing fresh produce on a weekly basis,  
Pantry staples donated by the local community, and  
Kinfolk Enterprises providing frozen meals.



# COMMUNITY PROGRAM & LEARN LOCAL: ADULT EDUCATION

Supported by  
Adult Community & Further Education [ACFE]

This is pre-accredited training designed to support pathways to further study & employment.

Courses included:

- Sewing Class
- Art Class [in partnership with St Mary's House for Welfare]
- Computers for Beginners & Digital Literacy
- Conversation Class
- Cooking from the pantry [two classes, one in partnership with Quin House]
- Creative Writing [in partnership with Quin House]
- Next Steps & Small Business Start Up

Students returned to classes in the second half of 2021 bringing a great sound of joy back to Fitzroy Learning. Conversations and laughter as people were able to catch up again face to face. There was not the great hesitancy that we may have anticipated. In the Learn Local program, we experimented with having people in the classroom as well as at home via Zoom. There was a mixed response and a bit of a divide, being on line compared to face to face, and the obligatory technical issues, especially with the audio experience.

One of the new programs in 2021 was Train the Trainer. This program allows Fitzroy Learning to support and develop the skills and confidence of community members to deliver workshops and classes as part of a short courses program. The program is based on units in the Cert IV training and assessment. It was also an opportunity for people to explore this career pathway.

Mandy the facilitator really enjoyed delivering the program, as did the participants. The last session is always great fun when everyone has to deliver a short activity. This included learning cooking skills, drumming techniques as well as IT tips.

The Quin House relationship has expanded with the delivery of a third program – Introduction to Urban farming in 2022. Our garden has been redesigned, tidied up and is generating some wonderful produce which supplements food bank, the cooking programs and morning teas. The garden has provided some wonderful healthy snacks in the forms of cherry tomatoes and snow peas. The guys from Quin enjoy the program, and will ask what the staff and students have thought of the changes, and what's been planted. My favourite is the enhanced side entrance, which came about via a donation from Condell

Gardens. A local resident was making a significant move, and wanted to find a home a significant number of plants. It also included a great planter box that houses a number of propagated plants as well as some of the donated items.

The relationship with St Marys has also expanded. Alongside the well attended Art program in 2021 a class with singing and storytelling, and a cooking class has commenced. The singing and storytelling is a fun way for students to get together and practice English via a different medium. It builds the students confidence in expression, voice projection and participation. The cooking class is based on what you receive from your weekly Food bank bag. The participants learn to think about what to cook from what they have, rather than getting a recipe and thinking about what they have to buy. They also get to take home a meal for that evening as well as any baked items.

We commenced a series of monthly open days and short course programs. The aim is to introduce Fitzroy Learning to the community and neighbours, and to broaden the number and range of people who participate in the Fitzroy Learning community. The Open days include activities and baked goods. Activities have included juggling, drumming, knitting, and crochet. There has also been a Market for students and local residents to sell their crafts, baked goods, and second hand items. The short course program has included cooking and Kokodama classes. All events have been great fun and a positive way to interact with the local community about the organisation.

All in all it has been a very full year with loads of variety and opportunities to try out new ideas and courses.

Christine Sammut  
Community Programs Coordinator







# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## FOOD RELIEF

For the annual year of 21/22 we have given out 35 bags of food each week to vulnerable families and households, many of whom are part of our English Language Program. This amounts to 1,750 bags packed and handed out by a wonderful team of volunteers.

OzHarvest support this program with fresh produce and other supplies. We have a number of donors who bring a weekly bag of pantry staples or organise delivery of a substantial shop once or twice a year. And then the community respond to our twice yearly call out for dry goods. All this support is crucial and wonderful.

## VOLUNTEERS

We have more than 50 active volunteers who have volunteer monthly, weekly or for events. Our volunteers are tremendous at responding when we suddenly need help and support.

Our volunteers are part of the fabric of our Neighbourhood House. We would not be able to run the food bank without them. They provide essential classroom support in English Language Classes, Sewing Classes, and Citizenship Preparation. Volunteers help with events, community dinners, working bees, and fundraising.

And, of course, the Board of Management and Sub-Committee members are volunteer, providing their time and expertise to ensure our continued success.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We have provided continual direct support to people already connected to Fitzroy Learning and other community members. Weekly appointments fill our diary throughout the year, and whilst they can be one off, they are often recurring appointments. An average of seven appoints each week amounts to 350 interactions over the year; add in the spontaneous support and drop in requests and it is easy to see how busy this program is, and how much demand there is. 95% of these interactions are face to face.

Support provided covers housing, immigration and residency work, Centrelink navigation, domestic violence and family breakdown, settlement support and job preparation and training.

In May 2022 we restarted our face-to-face delivery for the citizenship preparation classes - there has been great take up and very positive feedback. We anticipate this will be an ongoing part of our program. Our job application volunteer has recommenced face to face support, working with people on individual job applications and tailoring to individual needs.

## STUDENT PLACEMENTS

We supported three community development students and an art therapy student with placements over the year. This is a valuable conclusion their studies and with our broad program, students on placement can explore a range of disciplines including creativity, youth programs, direct support, food relief and network activity.

We moved two students from placement into employment and this continues a trend of ours. We love being able to continue the relationship and extend their connection with us.

# PROJECTS & EVENTS

## BRIDGES TO HARMONY March 2022

A familiar and regular feature of our events calendar, B2H takes over Condell Reserve next door with live music, dance, circus, facepainting and food. The Fitzroy community gather to celebrate our rich neighbourhood and the strong community connection brought to life by our Neighbourhood House.

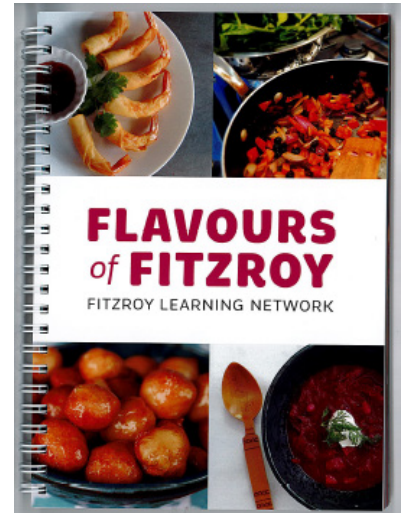
Supporters:  
Multicultural Festivals & Events and City of Yarra.  
Partners:  
City of Yarra, Yarra Libraries, Cultivating Community,  
Super Mande Percussion



## FLAVOURS OF FITZROY November 2021

Supporters:  
Ewing Trust, Community Bank Clifton Hill, Bowen Street Press

This cookbook celebrates the culinary history and migration into Fitzroy as reflected by our extended family - people that have been and are part of Fitzroy Learning. 19 countries and cuisines are a wonderful sample of this community.



## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT - OUR SPACE & YOUTH SEWING

Supporters:  
Bendigo Bank - Clifton Hill, Leith Foundation, Yarra Libraries

Our Space is a weekly Open Access activity for young people aged eight to 14 years. Youth Sewing is a gathering space for teenagers and young women.

Both provide a regular opportunity to gather, learn, share experiences, prepare food together, and develop camaraderie with peers and positive relationship with mentors.

One of our highlights this year has been creating fish from recycled soft plastic as an environmental awareness project working with Aware Away. These fish were then installed in Condell Reserve for Bridges to Harmony.



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