

Chairman's Report

I start by acknowledging the effort displayed by the Manager this last year. Managing and mentoring staff and trainees, keeping management committee members up to date with issues to discuss and negotiating with Shire re our lease arrangements. I also thank the management committee members for their input at meetings and the way all members participate with respect for all points of view. I also thank the members who volunteer their time to assist in the day to day operation of the CRC.

We want to thank everyone who helped us make the case in 2017/18 to keep funding CRCs at their existing level. The new State Government's decision to cut our funding was met with a resounding community campaign and the Government backed down on almost all proposed changes after we had already begun preparations to lose this fight. The entire community should celebrate this victory, which means the future of Northcliffe's CRC should be assured for many years to come.

A major achievement for 2017/18 was the negotiation of an MOU with the Shire of Manjimup, to manage the vacated library and office spaces, currently called 'The Meeting Space' and 'The Office Space'. In 2019 we aim to consolidate this arrangement by fitting out the Meeting Space with specialised furniture (which will roll away), a drop down projector screen and overhead projector. Both the Meeting Space and the Office Space are now available to community groups and individuals who wish to hire them.

If, in the future, the Shire is prepared to relinquish the lease over the Meeting Room and Office Space, the CRC can look into further integrating them and improving them. We are very excited about the potential of these new community spaces to support new activities in Northcliffe.

In 2019 we hope to work on a project to set up the old library foyer as 'The Common Room'. This would include a coffee machine and catering station, comfortable seating and decorations. It could be used as a relaxing and socialising space by visitors, regular building users, volunteers and staff. At this stage we have been delayed in this project by the Shire taking its time to move the old library foyer desk.

We engaged a second trainee this year. This was a hard opportunity to resist with the government agreeing to fund about 80% of the wages for the second trainee. While this puts more pressure on Management, it is a really valuable opportunity for Northcliffe and for those local people entering or re-entering the work force, and we're proud to be behind it.

New employees always add their own flavour and skills to the Centre and both Catrin and Gaye have added lots of unique skills to our mix.

Paul Owens

Treasurer's Report

The big success story for the governance and finances of the CRC in 2017/18 was the introduction of an EFTPOS and a POS system. This has reduced the level of errors in cash handling and slightly streamlined the book-keeping process for the CRC.

The unqualified auditors report was a good achievement for us, particularly in light of the overhaul of our back end book keeping we had to undertake with the new POS system. Our auditors, Avant Edge Consulting led by Santo Casilli, continue to provide excellent value and advice to the NCRC.

The new 'one touch payroll' policy being implemented by the Tax Office presents a significant challenge for the CRC which we will have to tackle in 2018/19. It is possible we will need to move to a whole new accounting system, or otherwise move to pay high cost annual MYOB subscriptions. We still have research to undertake as to the best approach to meet this new government requirement. One can only imagine how difficult this transition will be for other small businesses without access to the resources and experience of the CRC.

In 2017/18, after the election, the CRC was looking at a massive cut in services according to the governments stated policy, which they have now backed down on.

However we do need to bear in mind that we were actually under significant funding pressure under the old system, even before they planned on cutting it. The funding pressure we are continuing to experience is mainly due to legislated wage rises from the National Annual Wage Decision (trending at about 3% per year) and the Equal Remuneration Order (we have another 2 annual wage rises to pay based on this order, which are both around 3%). These changes effect all workers on the SCHADS Award. The CRC continues to examine our options in terms of lobbying for better funding indexation and examining whether we can move to a more flexible employment instrument. Neither of these two possibilities will be easily realised.

So far the CRC's way of tackling these cost increases has been to slightly cut staff hours each year. These staffing cuts have been well disguised this year due to fact we have taken on a second trainee. So, we have in fact had a net staffing increase.

However in coming years CRC users may begin to see the impact of this slow erosion in spending power, unless the CRC can more successfully raise more money from the services it provides. This is probably the most viable way to address our ongoing funding problems.

We were happy with the on-paper and cash results for 2017/18, and in particular the way our financial reserves are holding steady and even improving, as they have done steadily for the past decade. This is difficult tell in the audited reports however you can see the large influx in the Cash at Bank item. \$53,526 of this cash is prepayment of trainee grants for our two trainees, however even excluding these prepayments our cash flow analyses do still come out positive. The negative result you see on the profit and loss incorporates a number of large non-cash expenses such as depreciation and leave provisions. In many cases these on-cash expenses are never fully realised; Depreciated items are often replaced via grants; and, leave coverage is often provided via fill-in by existing rostered staff and by volunteers. Of course as a prudent and responsible organisation we do keep substantial cash reserves in place to ensure we are always able to meet staff and our other liabilities in the event these are realised.

In the 2018/19 financial year we are budgeting for a loss, as we take on the bulk of the approx. 20% of costs we are meeting for our second trainee our of CRC funds. Appointing a second trainee with an 80% wage subsidy from the government was a once-off opportunity which we felt deserved the

investment of some of our funds. We plan to budget for profit again in the 2019/20. Any members who wish to see our detailed budgets and our cash budgets will be accommodated – just ask us.

Ken Lloyd

Manager's Report

It's hard to remember back to 2017/18 when right now the CRC is in one of the busiest periods of recent times. We've had a whole year of ups and downs. Activity levels, for myself and staff, have never been higher.

Firstly, we offer our thanks for our success in our campaign against funding cuts to: the WA Nationals, local Green MLC Diane Evers, to our peak body Linkwest, to Lee Steel who manages Pingelly CRC, and to many other CRC volunteers, staff and users. A lot of our precious time and energy was spent on this campaign, including the planning we were instructed to do to survive on lower funding rates. Fortunately the bulk of our time was not wasted. This turnaround by the government was a pleasant surprise for everyone in the CRC network. Northcliffe CRC played its own role in this story, highlighting the toxic interaction between SCHADS Award wages and the funding cuts, and the devastating effect this would have on CRCs. Our Customer Service Officer, Damon Ormsby, also produced a number of great video testimonials from CRC users which went down well.

With our Labor government, the Nationals, the Greens, and to some extent the Liberals, now having publicly supported the value of CRCs, we have never had such broad based political support, and the funding future looks to me to be excellent.

Graham Evans

Funded Activities – A Summary

In 2017/18 our talented trainee, Gaye, led a Business Development activity on the theme of 'Women in Business' which was hugely popular. We were receiving positive feedback for that event for the whole 12 months following. There was clearly a demand for business networking.

This event helped get us prepared to run one of our most successful events ever, in September this year, the Northcliffe Naturally Business Sundowner. This was a fitting inauguration of the new Meeting Space next door to the CRC. We want to thank Northcliffe Community Development for the \$1,000 of financial support they provided toward this event.

This event also helped us launch some really substantial Business Development initiatives we will be working on in 2018/19 including a Business Calendar and the Northcliffe naturally branding partnership program. We also surveyed attendees about plans for future Business Development meetings and we plan to act on these survey results.

Another trainee led activity this year was the *Fabric of Life* photo competition. The theme was one of several proposed by our newest trainee, Catrin. All are invited to a prize ceremony for this exhibition in the Gallery at 3pm Sunday 18th November, which we hope will feature some live music.

The Sundowner and Fabric Of Life are in the 2018/19 financial year, so strictly speaking they don't fit into our 2017/18 AGM reporting. In 2017 our photo exhibition and competition used the theme 'Inside'. We received 60 or so entries and ran a successful exhibition.

Also in 2017/18 our film screenings continued to be popular, to the point of being full house. *Lego Batman* and *A Long Way North* were the animated films we screened. Each screening license costs us \$150, so high attendance is pre-requisite to justifying the costs of these events. We hold games and competitions and have a dress up theme for each film. Moving the film screenings into the Meeting Space next door in 2019 should allow even more to attend these popular activities. We also have a volunteer wanting to restart adult film club activities. A well set up screening venue should enable this to happen.

There are still places available at the upcoming screening of *Isle of Dogs* this Saturday so book yourself in and come and join in the fun. This film is suitable for all ages. Dress up as a dog to get a free popcorn and come along early, if you are a child and wish to participate in some games and competitions.

Our simulcasts in 2017/18 were reasonably well attended and we would like to continue them. However the new Government's cessation of the Westlink service puts the future of these simulcasts in question. Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, Symphony in the City and Switzerland were the three simulcasts screened in 2107/18.

As well as film screenings, our kids activities in 2017/18 include the ever popular after school kids computing club called *Glitch*. This ongoing activity, now in its tenth year, is helped along by very affordable prices, and the provision of a safe space where we can keep an eye on the kids playing on their computers. We also had a round of the Youth Sponsorship in 2017/18 which provided \$1640 worth of support to local kids' projects. 2018/19 Youth Sponsorships awards have been decided and will be announced shortly.

A successful 2017/18 activity that was led by trainee Gaye Van Hazendonk was the illustration workshops with artist Gabriel Evans. This included a youth cartooning workshop and an adult water colour workshop. We ran this on a break-even basis and were really happy with the way it went.

Our support packages are a big success story for the NCRC, allowing us to acquit a lot of the funds we receive from the State Government, while providing the services we are best known for: computer support, support with writing job applications and resumes, and support for local community groups creating marketing materials such as posters and event tickets.

We continue to provide community information via the monthly Calendar and the A Little CRC articles, available online and in the Karri Pigeon. Our website, northcliffe.org.au is also becoming a more and more significant resource over time for locals and visitors to access information about Northcliffe, its services, businesses and community groups.

During 2017/18 we ceased our partnership relationship with the Workers Club to promote and develop the Club ROMP event. This event, begun by CRC Assistant Manager Jacqui McCaulay, is now being sustained by the Club with the help of new DJ Dave Perry, and we are proud of our role in instigating, supporting and developing it over the years. The next Club ROMP has just been planned by the Club for 17th November.