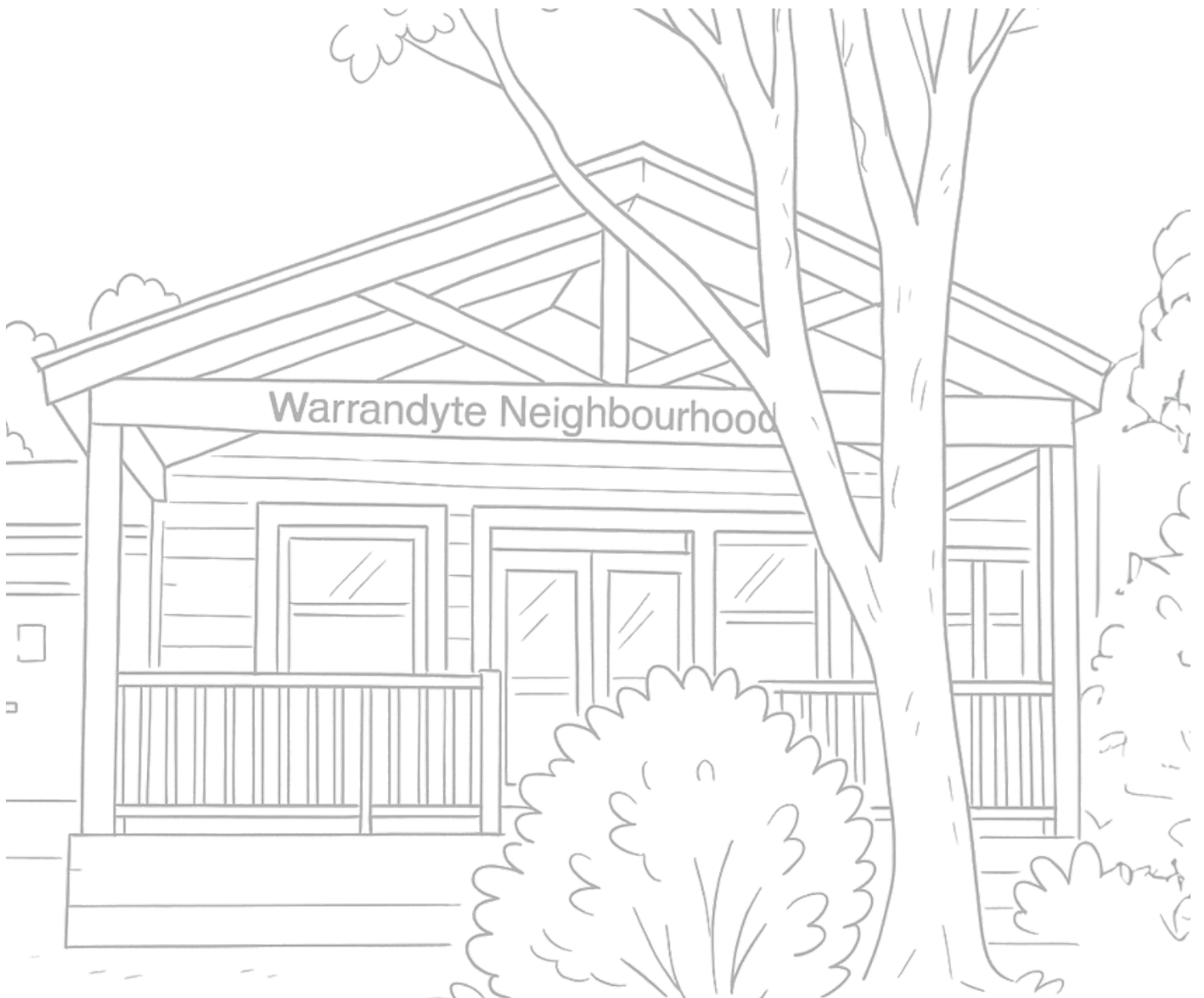




**Warrandyte
Neighbourhood House**



2025/2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Inc.

Level 1, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte VIC 3113

P: 9844 1839 | E: info@wnh.org.au | WNH.org.au



**Warrandyte
Neighbourhood House**



Welcome TO THE WARRANDYTE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House has been around for over 30 years. We are a not for profit community organisation run by a volunteer Board of Governance and a small number of part time staff. Our fitness classes are led by professional, qualified fitness instructors whilst our clubs are run by volunteers. We offer all this and more in a supportive, inclusive and friendly environment.

To learn more about our Vision and Mission please refer to our website.

Our current 2025/2026 Board Members:

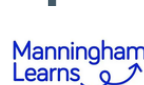
Travis Vandenberg - President
Natalie Rinehart - Vice President
Linda Marshall - Secretary
Nicola Hart - Treasurer
Cleo Casey - General Member
Tim Lambert - General Member

Office Staff:

Vanessa Virgato - Manager
Emma Harris - Finance and Admin

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, community club leads, partners and sponsors.

Grateful Partnerships



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A close-up photograph of bright yellow, fluffy flowers, likely Mimulus, against a clear blue sky. The flowers are in sharp focus, with some green leaves visible.

President's REPORT

It is a privilege to present the President's Report for the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Warrandyte Neighbourhood House (WNH). While this past year has seen significant governance evolution, community advocacy, and programme expansion, we must also acknowledge the increasingly critical financial headwinds facing our organisation. Navigating structural funding shortfalls and rising operational costs poses significant challenges for a small, community-governed organisation like ours to remain long-term financially viable.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to outgoing President Natalie Rinehart for her dedicated service and support during our leadership transition. As I stepped into the President role, her guidance was instrumental in ensuring continuity and momentum for the House.

We also pause to honour the memory of beloved Board and community member Neil Oldfield. Neil was a cornerstone of local community life, active across the Men's Shed and WNH, and the initiator of our popular second Dungeons & Dragons youth group. His legacy of warmth and community spirit remains woven into the fabric of our House.

Governance, Board Development & Strategic Foundations

Over the past year, the Board of Governance focused heavily on strengthening organisational governance, policies, and strategic planning:

- **Board Capability Matrix:** A comprehensive Board Skills Assessment was conducted to evaluate current governance strengths and guide future recruitment. The Board demonstrated strong capabilities in Strategy, Financial Oversight, Risk & Compliance, and Community Engagement. Targeted gaps in Marketing/Communications, IT/Digital, and Fundraising were identified as priority focus areas for future board composition.
- **Policy Framework Renewal:** We prioritized updating critical governance policies, formally endorsing the Child Safe Policy and Financial Management Policy. Work is ongoing to refresh the comprehensive Policy and Procedure Manual, including updates to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement and Governance Policy.
- **Strategic Planning & Visioning:** The Board initiated plans to engage external consultancy support to assist in defining WNH's next multi-year Strategic Plan, clarifying our long-term vision, mission, and programme roadmap.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Operations & Operational Leadership

The Board extends its sincere gratitude to House Manager Vanessa Virgato and Emma Harris for their ongoing leadership, operational resilience, and dedication to serving our community throughout the year.

Financial Governance & Financial Summary

The financial position of the House remains sound, supported by strong historical reserves:

- **Coordination Subsidy Erosion & Sector Funding Pressures:** A core structural challenge facing WNH, as well as the broader neighbourhood house sector, is the ongoing erosion of the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) funding subsidy. Over successive years, state funding indexation rates have fallen significantly behind real-world operational cost growth. Annual award wage increases and high CPI inflation have compounded this gap, creating a systemic imbalance between state funding levels and actual operational costs required to maintain our community hub.
- **Structural Deficit & Financial Governance:** The House operated at a structural deficit for the financial year. While a portion of this was driven by non-recurring legal and employment resolution expenses, the underlying operational framework reflects the ongoing pressure of static funding and rising fixed overheads.
- **Reserves & Financial Stewardship:** The operating deficit was absorbed by accumulated cash reserves and retained equity, preserving the organisation's financial stability while the Board works toward long-term sustainability.
- **Sector Advocacy & NHVic Campaign:** To address these structural risks, WNH actively aligns with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic) in advocating for systemic funding reform. This includes supporting sector-wide campaigns calling for an immediate 25% uplift in NHCP funding to ensure neighbourhood houses across Victoria remain viable, sustainable, and capable of delivering vital community support services.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Outgoing Board Members & Looking Forward

We extend our deepest gratitude to departing Board members Natalie Rinehart, Cleo Casey, Tim Lambert, and Nicola Hart for their outstanding dedication, guidance, and service as they step down. Their shared vision, time, and governance contributions have been invaluable in guiding the House through a key period of growth and transition. More broadly, we want to recognize and sincerely thank all our Board members and dedicated volunteers across every level of the House for their ongoing passion, commitment, and invaluable contributions to our community.

As we enter this exciting new chapter, the transition across key Board positions creates a vital opportunity to rebuild, refresh, and diversify our leadership team. Navigating this transition while proactively managing organisational risks inherent to a small community-governed body requires us to maintain a relentless focus on future sustainability and risk management. This work will be driven by our upcoming multi-year Strategic Plan, ensuring strong financial stewardship and operational resilience. Crucially, our path forward relies on deep collaboration with Manningham Council, local partners, and the broader community, while keeping the voices and needs of the people we support firmly at the centre of all our decision-making to deliver truly responsive and meaningful services.

As we look toward FY27, Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is well-positioned to strengthen its community ties, expand vital programmes, and continue serving as a warm, inclusive hub for all.

Travis VandenBerg

President, Board of Governance

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Inc.

Treasurer's REPORT



The Financial Report of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House (WNH) for the year ending 30 June 2026 reports an operating deficit of \$52,827. This compares to an operating surplus of \$467 in the prior year (2025).

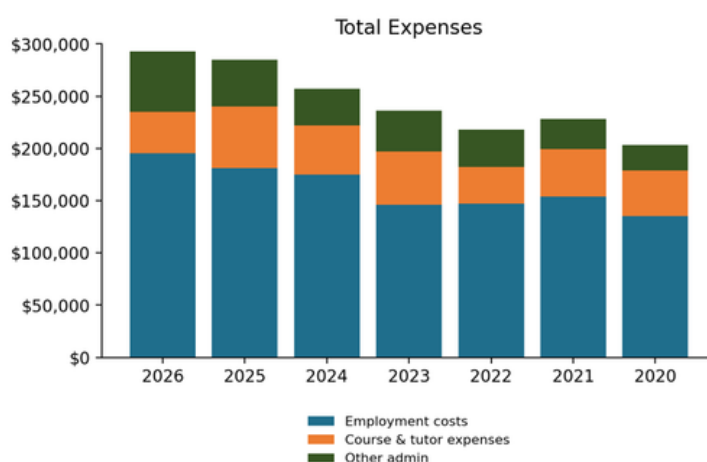
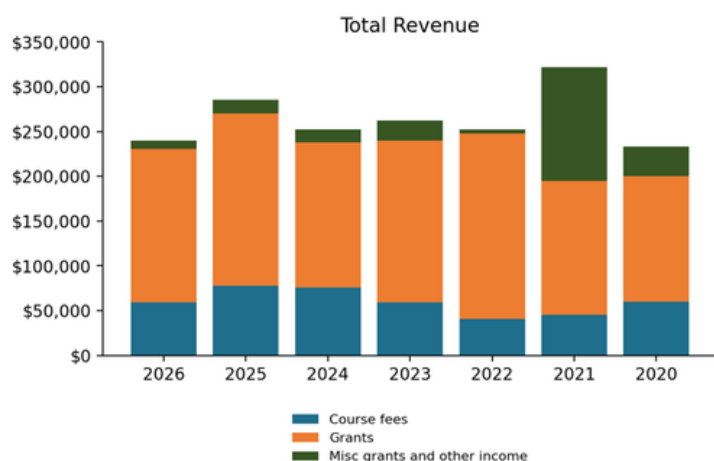
Total income for the year was \$239,864, down from \$285,434 in 2025 — a decrease driven largely by lower grant income (\$171,257 vs \$192,712) and lower course fee income (\$59,382 vs \$77,662). Total expenses were \$292,691, slightly higher than the prior year (\$284,967), reflecting increased staff and Board (legal) costs relating to the employment matter described below.

The main driver of this year's deficit was a one-off increase in expenses relating to an employment matter that has now been resolved. Excluding these one-off costs, the House's underlying operating position for the year was in line with expectations.

The resulting deficit has been met from the House's cash reserves, which remain solid. As these costs were one-off and non-recurring, the Board does not expect them to affect the House's ongoing financial position.

Total Revenue and Total Expenses 2020–2026

The charts below show total revenue and total expenses from 2020 through to the current year (2026). Figures for 2025 and 2026 are drawn directly from the audited/reviewed financial statements; figures for 2020–2024 are carried forward from last year's Annual Report chart.



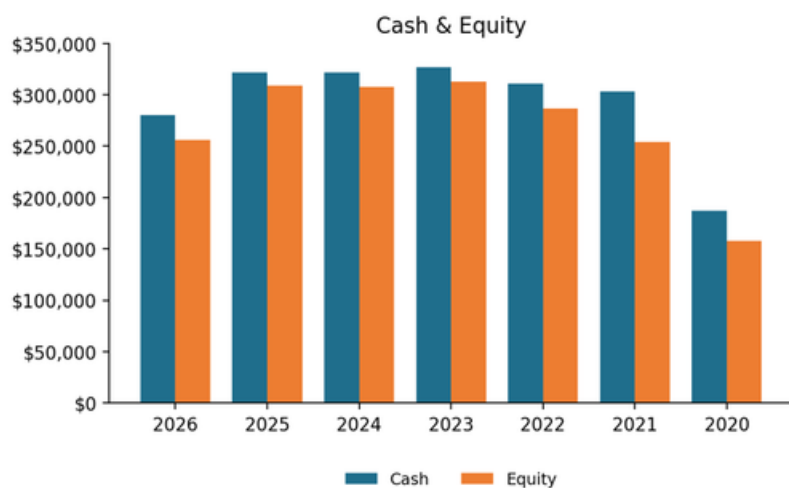


TREASURER’S REPORT CONTINUED

Cash & Equity 2020–2026

The cash position remains sound, with \$280,046 held in term deposits and operating bank accounts at 30 June 2026 (2025: \$321,811). This reduction of \$41,765 reflects the operating deficit incurred during the year. Total equity (retained earnings) decreased from \$308,800 to \$255,973.

The House's cash reserves continue to provide a solid buffer, built up from operating surpluses in prior years, allowing WNH to remain responsive to community needs even in a year of increased cost pressures.



Looking Ahead — FY27 Budget

With the employment matter now resolved and the associated one-off costs behind us, the Board expects the House's financial position to improve in FY27. The approved budget for the year ending 30 June 2027 forecasts total income of \$265,500 and total expenses of \$281,950, resulting in a budgeted deficit of \$16,450 — a substantial improvement on the FY26 result once the one-off legal and payout costs are stripped out.

The Board remains confident in the House's underlying financial sustainability, supported by its strong cash reserves, and will continue to monitor income and expenses closely throughout the year. A copy of the full audited/reviewed financial statements is available on request. Please contact the office for your copy.

Nicola Hart

Treasurer, Board of Governance

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Inc.



Manager's REPORT

Hi everyone.

In the immortal words of the fabulous Dolly Parton...

"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails".



This financial year has been one of adjustment. Adjustment can help us to build resilience, cope with change, reduce stress and grow. I'm pleased to say that the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House has done all these things.

Amongst the inevitable challenges that comes with operating a small neighbourhood house, we celebrate the wins.

We continue our valued partnership with CareNet, without whom, we could not provide our free satellite food pantry. Our pantry provides much needed pantry staples and toiletries to those experiencing food distress and associated issues. We assist approximately 32 parties per week that we know of. Given our model, we are certain that many more people benefit outside of office hours. This year, the Warrandyte Bendigo Bank have also greatly assisted us by way of a grant that allows us to keep up with demand. My sincere thanks to CareNet and the Bendigo Bank. We continue to partner with Ajani Neighbourhood House and have secured funding from the Victorian Government to further bolster food relief. Thanks to Rebecca Sanders at Ajani for leading the charge.

The provision and management of food relief brings with it, complexities. It stands to reason that if people are experiencing food distress, there are other significant issues impacting upon individuals and families. Consequently, organisations are dealing with difficult presentations which can result in perceived safety concerns for staff and volunteers. By way of supporting each other, we have joined with CareNet and Ajani to provide peer support and debriefing. This will continue until funding can be sought to provide appropriate, professional interventions.

We have introduced new clubs this year, namely Board Games and Acoustic Sessions. These are growing in popularity. In addition, we have offered two new one-off workshops that were very well received. These were Basket Weaving and Cheese Making.



MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

We have proudly supported Days of Significance including International Women's Day, IDAHOBIT and NAIDOC. Recognising these days is important as it promotes respect and acceptance, builds a sense of belonging and inclusion and supports equality.

We were the successful recipients of the Neighbourhood House grant from Manningham City Council. Whilst the application process was more rigorous this year, it secures Council funding for the House for the next four years.

I continue to represent Warrandyte Neighbourhood House at the Manningham Food Relief Network and the Manningham Learns Network.

On a sad note, Board member Neil Oldfield passed away. Not only was Neil a Board member here at the House but a much-loved person in the community. He is sadly missed. As always, my gratitude goes to our Board of Governance for their support and commitment. I'd also like to thank my colleague Emma Harris for her dedication, loyalty and ability to sprinkle joy.

Take care,

Vanessa Virgato

Manager

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Inc.

