ARALUEN

Annual Report 2021

WELCOME

HOME MENU

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FROM LARISSA OUR CHAIR

IN 2021, THE EXTENDED LOCKDOWNS AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRICTIONS CAUSED IMMENSE DISRUPTION FOR ARALUEN. FOR A SECOND YEAR, COVID IMPACTED OUR OPERATIONS, WE CONTINUED TO FACE UNPRECENTED CHALLENGES TO IMPORTANT SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

Many organisations in our sector have struggled, unable to operate anywhere near normal capacity. Supporting our participants' face-to-face interaction, and building connections with participants, families and carers is at the core of Araluen's work. The constraints on these services have been severe. The lockdowns have taken a heavy toll on everyone. In acknowledging all our staff, particularly those balancing home-duties, care-duties or living alone, we extend our deepest gratitude for their extraordinary commitment, care and resilience throughout the pandemic.

Araluen's leadership team have helped the organisation to navigate this wave of the pandemic. The safety, health and well-being of our participants, staff and wider community have been our primary focus. The Leadership Team under Tamara Cattach's guidance have led with courage and integrity, rising to meet many challenges including adapting the way we deliver participant services, workforce planning, remote working, and the mandatory vaccination of all Araluen staff. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is also changing the way Araluen operates and the supports we're offering. Our service plan is designed to maximise the opportunities and reduce the complexities presented under the Scheme, whilst maintaining Araluen's high standards of quality assurance and safety. In a year of great change and disruption some achievements stand out. We used the past year to create new online opportunities for support and meaningful connection, introduced new services, expanded our supported accommodation services, and were quick to recognise and respond when we faced the real threat of COVID-19 in our midst. We thank our Executive Leaders for their tireless efforts, outstanding commitment and innovative leadership.

This year the Board bid farewell to Trevor Norman and to Linda Peterson, both served as Directors and as Treasurer, Company Secretary and Deputy Chair of the Board respectively. We acknowledge their dedication over many years of invaluable service to Araluen. We were delighted to welcome Ray Hair to the Board. Ray brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role of Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Also, we thank Dan Gleeson for taking on the role of Company Secretary.

On behalf of Araluen, we are deeply grateful for the continued support of our members, volunteers and all those who support Araluen. The Board played an integral role governing through this difficult time and I thank them for their dedication and service.

Araluen's financial position is stable however the impact of the pandemic means it is necessary to continue to optimise our business operations with responsive and prudent management.

We remain forward looking as we are closer to the end than the beginning, having reached the vaccination milestones required for the careful easing of restrictions. We will focus on the path ahead, taking the lessons from the past year to spur recovery and the next phase of Araluen's future. One lesson we will take forward with us is to find time for re-connection and celebration of our achievements big and small. There is much to do and this promises to be a busy time. I am confident Araluen's Chief Executive, the Executive Leadership Team and staff are equipped for the Araluen of tomorrow, as together we take the next steps to repair, and recover for a stronger Araluen. We look with great hope for a better year, and one in which we will strive to continue to inspire, support and empower people to have great lives.

Dr Larissa Roeske

FROM TAM OUR CEO

"Although COVID-19 placed pressures and restrictions on most of our services, I am proud to say that we kept our heads held high and moved forward with our vision clearly in mind".

Tamara Cattach

DOWNLOAD TAM'S MESSAGE IN TEXT

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2022
YEAR 2

Our **Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022** provided clear direction for Araluen to respond effectively to the challenges and risks of the pandemic without losing sight of our overarching goals or sacrificing progress.

Araluen started an extensive Services Review that involved six months of community consultation and industry-related research. We can now pursue our **five Strategic Priorities** with a more complete picture of what people want and need from Araluen as well as the external factors that will influence how we can deliver imaginative, sustainable support in the evolving NDIS environment.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2019 - 2022

- **lead best practice in imagining and achieving great lives**
- **maximise our reach and impact**
- **continue to be a leader in the evolution of diverse housing options**
- **strengthen our position as an employee of choice**
- **maintain a sustainable and thriving organisation**

VIEW OUR SERVICES REVIEW CONCLUSIONS

VIEW OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2022

DIGNITY
PASSION
INTEGRITY

IMAGINING BETTER

WHAT WE DO

ASPIRE, IMAGINE & EVOLVE

Araluen provides effective supports that enable adults with intellectual disability to achieve a great life. These supports are imaginative, caring and directly inspired by participants. We know that positive, on-going change is possible for people when their strengths and dreams are the motivation behind it, and when we create the right opportunities.

Participants benefit from Araluen's robust partnerships and passionate, values-driven staff. We work with individuals to develop tailored pathways to greater independence, inclusion, and fulfilment.

OUR VISION

IMAGINING & ACHIEVING BETTER LIVES

OUR MISSION

INSPIRING, SUPPORTING & EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO HAVE GREAT LIVES

IMAGINING AND ACHIEVING BETTER

SOME PROUD MOMENTS!

A HAPPY HOUSING STORY

Araluen's Options for Community Living Team worked closely with four men and their families to secure a private rental to call home. After months of planning, each housemate has the supports in place to enjoy a more independent life outside the family home. Take a peek inside.

CLICK THE IMAGE TO WATCH THE VIDEO OR AT www.vimeo.com/araluencentre

COOKING WITH JESSICA AND EMILY

This year, Araluen embraced new technologies to provide a wide range of supports online. Jessica and Emily were able to continue to learn cooking skills from the safety of home while Chancez Cafes were closed. Staying connected and engaged is even better when there's cinnamon bread involved!

CLICK THE IMAGE TO WATCH THE VIDEO OR AT www.vimeo.com/araluencentre

OUR BOARD

ARALUEN'S VOLUNTEER BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTE INVALUABLE EXPERTISE, PASSION AND EXPERIENCE IN THEIR LEADERSHIP ROLES.

BOARD MEMBERS

2020 - 2021 financial year

Larissa Roeske
Chair
Jim Pasinis
Deputy Chair 2020/21
Linda Peterson
Deputy Chair 2020
Raymond (Ray) Hair
Treasurer 2021
Trevor Norman
Treasurer & Company Secretary 2020
Bruce Martyn
Ian McMenamin
Liz Mildenhall
Andrew Newland
Julie Watson

Tamara Cattach
Chief Executive Officer
Dan Gleeson
Chief Operating Officer
Company Secretary 2021

OUR PEOPLE

OUR LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES 2020 - 2021 financial year

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Provide overall governance of Araluen's Strategic Plan

Larissa Roeske - Chair
Jim Pasinis - Deputy
Tamara Cattach
Ian Mc Menamin
Ray Hair
Trevor Norman (former)

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Provide strategy, governance and oversight.
- Oversee the development and analysis of strategic projects and future directions in readiness for Board consideration.

Ian Mc Menamin - Chair
Ross Coverdale - Secretary
Tamara Cattach
Dan Gleeson
Larissa Roeske
Bruce Martyn
Jim Pasinis
Linda Peterson
Andrew Newland
Peter Mildenhall
Ray Hair

ICT COMMITTEE

- Provide governance of ICT strategy to ensure Araluen has fast, reliable, modern and secure technology.
- Current priorities include Cyber Security and the ICT Roadmap.

Bruce Martyn - Chair
Dan Gleeson - Secretary
Josh Brouwer
Olivier Rivoalan (Centorrino Technologies)

QUALITY & ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

- Reports to the Board on current and emerging issues which are contributing to or impeding the quality of the services participants receive.
- Maintain and improve service quality throughout Araluen.

Julie Watson - Chair
Joshua Brouwer - Secretary
Larissa Roeske
Tamara Cattach
Alison Elliot
Jade McEwen
Bruce Martyn

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Provide governance of Araluen's financial responsibilities and performance.

Ray Hair - Chair (present)
Trevor Norman - Chair (former)
Julie Morgan - Secretary
Tamara Cattach
Larissa Roeske
Dan Gleeson
Helen Ryan
Ian Mc Menamin
Edda Lyons

PARTICIPANTS, FAMILIES & CARERS NETWORK

- Provide education to participants and families regarding a number of topics including quality at Araluen, advocacy, NDIA changes and plan management.

Tamara Cattach
Penny Kendall
Helen Ryan
Josh Brouwer
Araluen participants, families and carers.

HOUSING NETWORK

- Arrange a number of Housing Support Networks forums throughout the year.
- assist members to plan future accommodation options for their family member by exploring innovative models of housing.
- connecting interested people with potential housing developers or investors.

Liz Milldenhall
Penny Kendall
Jenny Tomlin
Tamara Cattach
Ross Coverdale

"As the recently appointed Treasurer of Araluen, I am pleased to report that Araluen remains in a financially stable and healthy position."

Ray Hair

FROM RAY
OUR TREASURER

OUR FINANCES

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

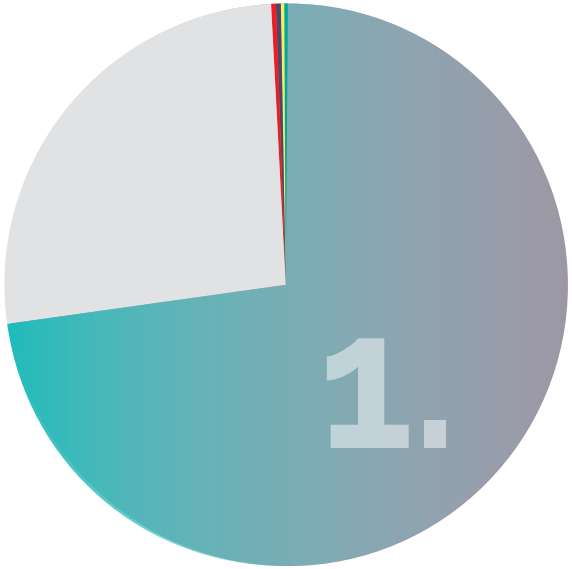
The Covid-19 health crisis continues to affect our ability to safely deliver services to our participants. Araluen has continued to offer online support to supplement the limited community and onsite support that we provide safely and where restrictions allow.

Araluen is taking steps to reduce expenditure in many areas of the business including the unprecedented measure of standing-down staff during lockdowns.

Araluen continued to qualify for the Commonwealth Jobkeeper Grant up until it ended on 28th March 2021, receiving $4,151,000 in financial relief for this financial year.

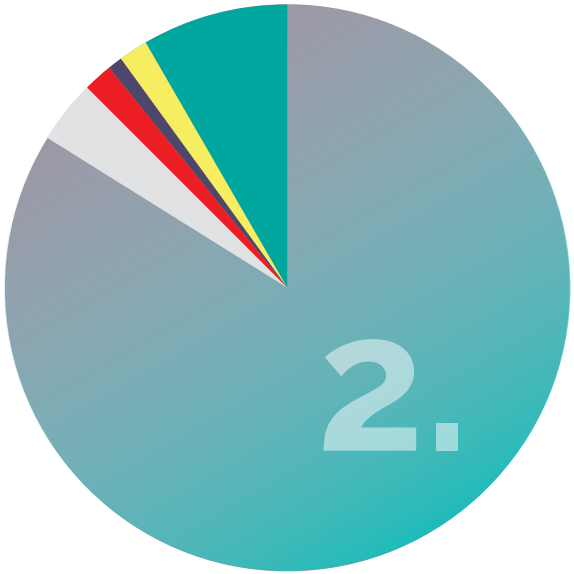
A net surplus of $1,118,774 was recorded for the year ended 30th June 2021 (prior year surplus $4, 014).

During the year, land and buildings were revalued resulting in a comprehensive income for the year of $8,112,885.



1/ Income 2020-21

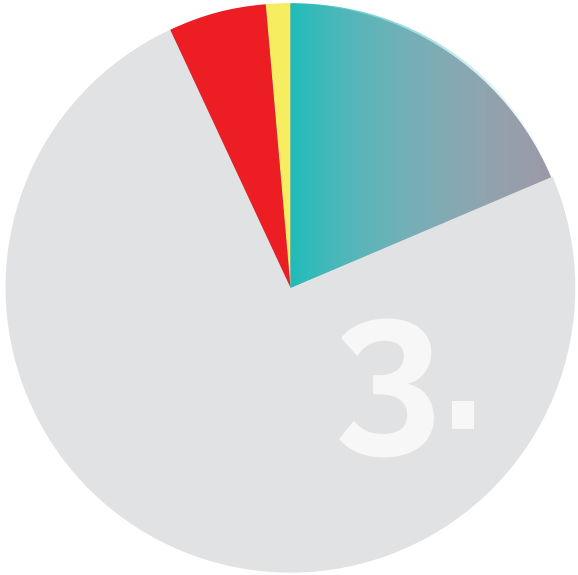
Participant Fees	**$11,473,000**
JobKeeper Grant	**$4,151,000**
Cafe Sales	**$56,000**
Donations & other funding	**$40,000**
Interest received	**$9,000**
Other	**$11,000**



2/ Expenditure 2020-2021

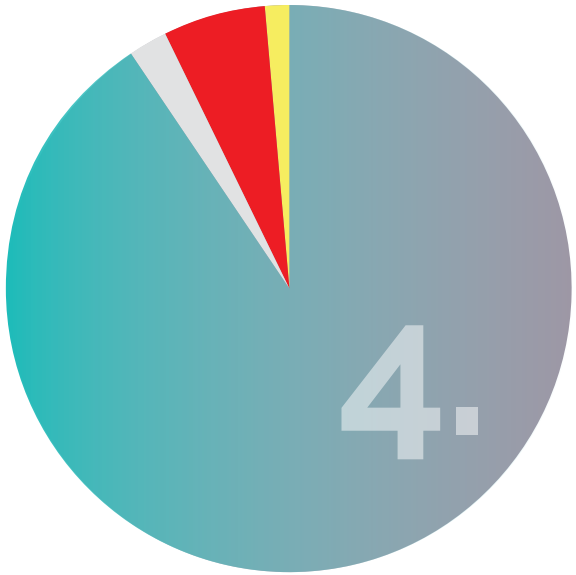
Employee Benefit Expense	**$12,301,000**
Depreciation	**$527,000**
Client Services Expense	**$248,000**
Transportation Expenses	**$101,000**
Maintenance & Repairs	**$264,000**
Other	**$1.181,000**

OUR FINANCES



3/ Assets*

Cash &Financial Assets	**$5,336,000**
Non-Current Assets	**$21,304,000**
Trade & Other Receivables	**$765,000**
Other Current Assets	**$84,000**



4/ Liabilities and Equity*

Equity	**$24,905,000**
Trade & Other Payables	**$626,000**
Employee Provisions	**$1,628,000**
Other Liabilities	**$330,000**

*as at 30 June 2021

FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash and Financial Assets have increased by 23% compared to the prior year. This is attributable to the receipt of the Commonwealth Jobkeeper Grant which has allowed us to continue our limited operations and retain and pay staff wages.

As a result of a revaluation of our land and buildings the Non-Current Assets have increased by 46% compared to the prior year.

OUR THANKS

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Safer Communities Fund
- The Australian Government, Department of Home Affairs
Nillumbik Shire Council
Jane Russ and family
Rotary Club of Diamond Creek
Gateway Rotary Club
Brendan Trezise
Bruce Martyn
David Rodonich
Glennis Page

SUPPORTERS

Able Australia
Accessible Projects
All Saints Anglican Church Greensborough
APRA
Banyule City Council
Banyule Community Health Service
Banyule Nillumbik LLEN
Banyule Nillumbik Technical School
Blue Lion
Brotherhood of St Laurence
Bulleen Special Development School
CarerLinks North
Career Education Association of Victoria
Centorino Technology
Change Coffee
City of Whittlesea
Community Housing Ltd
Community Sector Banking
Concord School, Bundoora
Joseph Connellan
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Diamond Creek Men's Shed
Diamond Creek Rotary Club
Diamond Creek Tram Café
Diamond Creek Traders Association
Diamond Valley Special Development School
Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre
Dodgy Paper
DPV Health
Dr Kirsten Day
Epping Community Services Hub
Hurstbridge Bowling Club
Hurstbridge Community Hub
Hurstbridge Football Netball Club
Hurtsbridge Cricket Club
Illowra Housing Projects
Jets Gym, Diamond Creek
Jets Studio, Bundoora
Lloyd Plumbing
Lower Plenty Football Club
Melbourne Polytechnic
Dr Andrew Martel
Prof Keith McVilly
Mirror Image Framing
Montsalvat
National Disability Services
Natures Harvest, Hurstbridge
Nexus Primary Care
Nillumbik Living and Learning
Nillumbik Shire Council
NorthEast Primary Care Partnership
NORTH Link
Piccolo Meccanico, Diamond Creek
Dr Kerrie Punshon
Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria (RDA), Warrandyte
SLAM – Melbourne Polytechnic
Dr Ian Sharrock
Titans, Diamond Creek
The Hon Anthony Carbines MLA
The Hon Danielle Green MLA
The Hon Vicky Ward MLA
The Hon Kate Thwaites
University of Melbourne
Victorian Artists Supplies
Watsonia Library Book Club
Whittlesea Community Connections
Whittlesea YMCA
Working for Victoria – Jobs Victoria
Dr Ilan Wiesel
Universal Improvement Company (UIC)
Workplace Legal
Yarra Plenty Regional Library
Yarra Plant Group

SPECIAL THANKS

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Peter Tarasuik
(cover, page 16)

Simon Pickering
(pages 6 & 14)

ARALUEN

Imagining and achieving better lives

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vimeo

Araluen acknowledges the traditional owners of the land upon which we work and pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging