BROOME CIRCLE

Step into the circle

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Our vision:

to see **Broome CIRCLE** in the forefront of developing a vibrant, cohesive, happy, thriving and welcoming community.

Our purpose:

to build a stronger and more inclusive community through connecting people, encouraging collaboration, supporting initiatives and exchanging skills.

Cover photo courtesy of Abby Murray Photography

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Jordin Payne

Ngaji gurrjin (Hello everyone),

It is my pleasure to provide you with my report for the financial year 2020-21. A year of change, reflection, strengthening and some tough calls. I look back to my introductory announcement to members with a commitment that first and foremost we are a community organisation and that Broome CIRCLE Committee of Management cares very much for the community we live, work and raise our families in.

We have delivered on some strategic changes over the course of the year with an intention to bring liyan back into focus with how we go about delivering our services and working together. This includes improving our governance measures within the organisation, the effectiveness of the committee and a move towards process-driven and data-informed decision-making.

Your liyan is a constant and continuous energy force that connects you to your inner self, your community, and the world we live in; it is a lived philosophy that weaves people, culture and country together. It was my intention as the 2020-21 Chairperson that we be guided by this philosophy in our approach to our roles in service of Broome CIRCLE, the Broome community, and the decisions that were required for this organisation.

Working better together

This year has brought with it some much-needed change but also increased reflection to improve the way we work and the why. We have delivered a strengthened strategic plan and worked together to increase our efficiency and effectiveness as a committee. We implemented a resolutions register, actively maintained an action register to keep ourselves accountable and ensure that items are progressing with the appropriate prior information and guidance to make informed decisions.

With the delivery of the new strategic plan there has also been the establishment of more robust key performance indicators (KPIs) for both the committee and the organisation to better measure success and opportunities; I look forward to seeing this strategy operationalised.

As volunteers, it was important that we shared responsibility and provided the opportunity for our fellow committee members to learn and grow in this governance space, as is the ethos of Broome CIRCLE.

I want to thank all the committee members, with a special thanks to Jake Hay and Cobina Crawford as my executive team over the past year.

We worked hard to ensure we addressed member concerns to deliver on our responsibilities for the overall governance, strategic direction of the organisation, and improving accountability for corporate performance in accordance with the organisation's goals and objectives.

Securing our growth

This year saw one of the hardest decisions we had to make as a committee, and as community members of Broome, the closure of our much-beloved Broome Early Learning Centre (BELC). The decision was not made lightly and required many hours of discussion, expert advice, financial models, and the exploration of alternatives, before finally making the call that BELC was no longer a viable delivery option for Broome CIRCLE. The closure of BELC has provided us with a unique opportunity to have responsive activities taking place in that space that add value to the organisation and our members; to better respond to the needs of our members, and to encourage community participation in our programs and support.

Growth cannot happen without investment and we have a significant one on the horizon with a new premises currently progressing through planning, to build the capacity of both our teams and our programs.

Diversifying our funding streams is a high priority for this committee to secure our future and minimise our risk should grants that we so heavily rely on are no longer become available; unfortunately in the current market this is something we must mitigate against. I want to thank our CEO, Denisa Konecny, for her persistence and diligence in building strong and positive relationships with our primary funding partners, that gave them the confidence to provide much-needed funds for this financial year, and to allow us to deliver high-quality and meaningful programs.

Looking to the future

I value the experience felt by those around me and within the organisation. To ensure voices are heard, Experience Surveys are in development, for both staff and committee members, to better capture internal culture and gaps within the organisation and committee, and to empower us to shape the future direction of the organisation.

We are delivering on our commitment to increase diversity and inclusion at Broome CIRCLE with the initiation of a Reconciliation Action Plan underway.

Next year brings with it the first year under the new strategic plan with improved KPIs, and I look forward to measuring our success and achieving our goals for 2022 and beyond.

Honouring our hardworking teams

I want to personally thank you all for your trust in us to serve you and this organisation.

I want to publicly acknowledge the Broome CIRCLE staff for your hard work and passion, and our members for your loyalty to our humble organisation. Serving a not-for-profit organisation is one of the toughest roles of all, and you have shown how much you care about this town and the people in it - thank you on behalf of all our committee members.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Denisa Konecny

Reflecting back over the past 12 months highlights a truly remarkable year for Broome CIRCLE and our community. Above all, we continue to be grateful for the relative safety of our population during the Covid-19 pandemic and acknowledge the efforts and dedication of the various individuals and organisations who have worked tirelessly to keep our region safe and our vulnerable protected. Inevitably, the impact of travel restrictions reverberated across our business sector, followed more recently by the busiest tourist season in history – certainly a year of contrast and change.

Like most organisations, Broome CIRCLE worked hard to adapt to ever-changing circumstances in order to balance staff and community safety with continuity of service provision. We embraced technology whilst seeking to maintain a supportive, personalized and connected mode of service delivery at a time when many of our community members were doing it tough.

As a key provider of financial counselling and capability services in Broome and surrounding communities for over twenty years, Broome CIRCLE team was well placed to assist and maintained continuous provision of services to a broader demographic of service users than ever before.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our wonderful team of staff as well as the timely additional support from our funding bodies, which enabled our team to rise to the challenge and assist hundreds of people in need during this critical time; you will find some of their inspirational stories in this report.

The outstanding efforts of our financial counselling and Money Support Hub staff were recognised in October 2020 at the FCAWA Conference, where our team were announced as winners of the Outback Award.

Our Community Development initiatives have also continued to grow, with a strong focus on reducing social isolation felt by many following periods of social distancing and restrictions. We thank our service users for your valuable feedback which continues to shape and improve the programs we offer our community. You will find many of these featured in our annual report – sometimes a picture paints a thousand words...

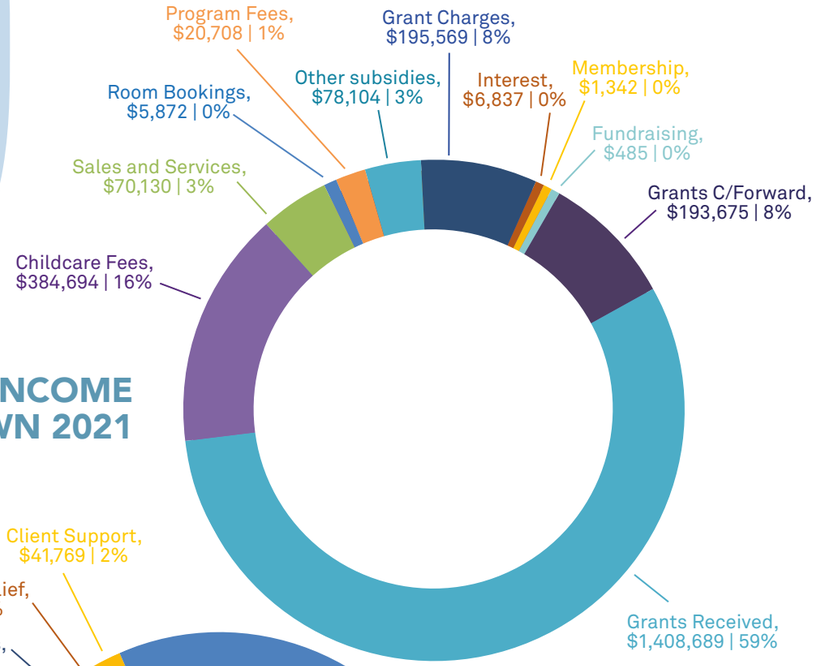
Whilst the Volunteering sector is still recovering from the impacts of restrictions, the past six months has brought many wonderful events and volunteering opportunities. Events such as Shinju Matsuri would not be possible without the efforts of community volunteers and we thank each and every one of you for your time and participation. I would also like to thank our volunteer Committee of Management for their time and efforts over the past year.

Despite the various challenges facing many not-for-profit organisations, Broome CIRCLE has reached numerous important milestones over the past year. We have reviewed our Strategic Plan, updated our Policies and also our website.

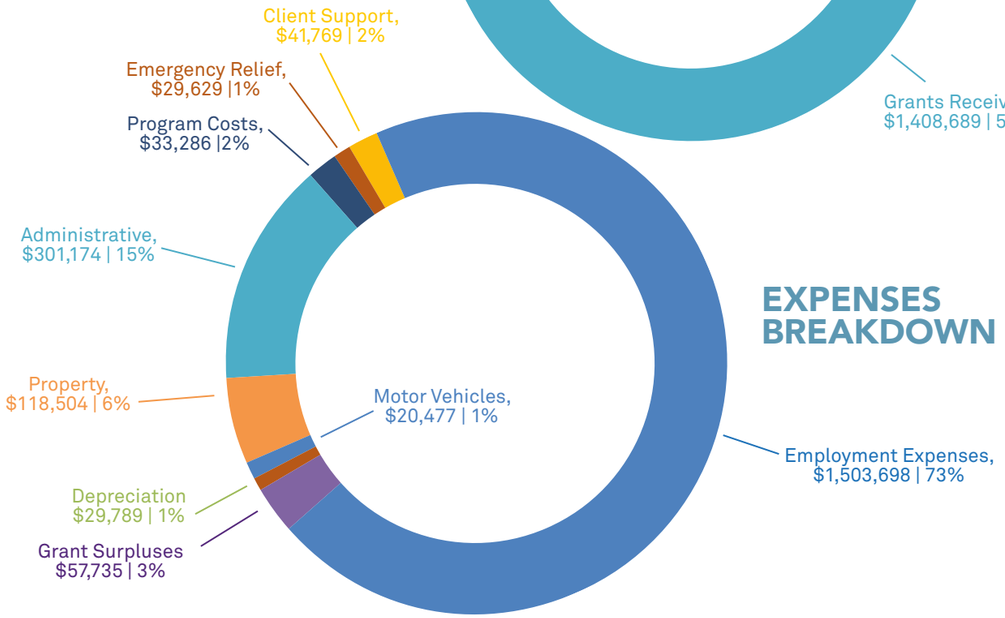
CIRCLE's grass-roots origins during the 1980's were humble, with initial meetings and operations being conducted in private homes, the Court House gardens, at Town Beach and then eventually in the Country Women's Association (CWA) Hall. It is interesting and serendipitous to note that our recently acquired additional property at Herbert Street was formally vested in CWA – so almost 40 year later, we have come full Circle! I would like to thank the CWA for passing the reigns to Broome CIRCLE. The redevelopment of our additional Herbert Street property is well under way, as we work towards the transformation of these premises into a vibrant community centre for all to enjoy into the future.

FINANCIAL

INCOME BREAKDOWN 2021



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN 2021



TREASURER'S REPORT

Cobina Crawford

Broome CIRCLE has faced the uncertainties of the past two years and has managed to maintain its strong financial position. The Coronavirus pandemic has certainly thrown up its challenges, not least of which is the uncertainty it created around all aspects of operations and any form of long-term planning, however, CIRCLE has made it through in a sound position.

Overall CIRCLE's financials have continued their steady growth of the past few years. Working Capital has increased to $621,000 as at 30th June 2021, up from $505,000 last year. These continued, steady increases are a great reminder of CIRCLE's solid financial base. These funds are CIRCLE's own and are not tied to any funding body or program.

CIRCLE carried forward substantial grant funds from 2020 into the 2021 financial year, as did many similar NFP's, mostly due to the issues surrounding service delivery with Covid in the final quarter of that year. For the 2021 financial year, however, CIRCLE managed to ensure service delivery was increased wherever possible and, in the main, all carried forward grant funds have now been fully utilised.

For the 2021 financial year CIRCLE will carry forward overall surplus funds of $57,735. These funds are all expected to be retained for use in 2022. Across all operations CIRCLE reports a net surplus of $231,700 for the 2021 year. This figure is slightly inflated due to the purchase of the new vehicle during the year using funds set aside in earlier periods, as well as the upgrade of a considerable amount of CIRCLE's IT during the year. These capital purchases are removed from the P+L, inflating the end surplus reported.

Below is a summary of grants and programs delivered for the 2021 financial year:

- Department of Communities funded the Volunteer Service, Empowering Communities and also Broome Financial Counselling Service. These programs were all FULLY SPENT for the 2021 financial year, with the exception of Financial Counselling Service which will carry forward $27,000 in grant funds required to support the additional 0.75 FTE position funded through to 30 September, 2021;
- Volunteering WA funded the new Broome Volunteer Hub during the year and this program reports as FULLY SPENT. During the year CIRCLE fully utilised the $11,950 carried forward from 2020;
- Department of Social Services (DSS) funded the Money Support Hub and this program reports as FULLY SPENT at year's end. DSS approved the use of the 2020 surplus ($78,500) and those funds were fully utilised during the year against normal grant service delivery;
- There was a $10,000 grant received during the year to provide supplementary services to the Financial Hub program. This was from The Financial Counselling Foundation to increase capacity to conduct outreach services. This grant was also FULLY SPENT during the year;
- Lotterywest provided Emergency Relief funding, with $56,500 carried forward from 2020. The amount of $17,900 exists as a surplus at 30 June but is approved for use during the new financial year;
- The Happy Homes program will carry forward its $10,500 in funding to the 2022 year, rebranded as the Camera Story Project. These funds are expected to be fully spent during the new financial year;
- A $2,000 grant was received and fully spent under the Neighbourhood Centre Week program;
- Broome Early Learning Circle (BELC) was greatly affected by COVID during the 2020 financial year, reporting a loss of $27,000 for that year. During the 2021 year it bounced back to report a surplus of $36,000, however, this result is solely due to additional once-off grant income received during the year. During the year the decision was taken to cease BELC operations as of 31st August 2021 as it was not sustainable without continued grant funding which remained unconfirmed. BELC did receive a separate $2,300 grant under the Inclusion Support Program which will be carried forward and expended in the new financial year;
- Overall Non Grant (which includes any BELC surplus or loss) reported a profit of $146,000. This is of course a sound result. Overall 2021 echoed the challenges of 2020, however, again proved to be a successful year for CIRCLE. Looking forward to 2022, all key programs remain and the ongoing works surrounding the establishment of the Broome Empowerment CIRCLE facility is exciting to look forward to as well. CIRCLE remains in a solid financial position and has its own funds available to support the creation of this new facility.

We asked you what you like about our programs

Rita! She is an amazing teacher. Also meeting other people with the same interests • Social, interactive • Community, sharing and fun • The fun banter and the knowledge • Hands on • Learning in a fun group with like-minded people • Lots of laughs and a great night with people • The inclusiveness ... the laughter & new friendships made • The genuine passion of the presenter • Made me feel comfortable and was well organised • like having a multicultural event in Broome taught by someone of that ethnic group sharing their culture • The atmosphere, information and ability to chat and mingle with the group and facilitators

We asked you what you like about living in Broome

Lifestyle • Small community, no traffic lights, wet season The community and environment • Weather, beach, small community, people • The sky • The ease of living • Culturally diverse / inclusive community • The colours and the culture • Community spirit, outdoor lifestyle

BROOME EARLY LEARNING CIRCLE (BELC)

During a year of many challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and ever-changing regulations, the wonderful BELC team of early childhood educators worked hard to provide a nurturing and unique long day-care service under extraordinary circumstances. BELC continued to thrive and adapt under the leadership of our wonderful Coordinator, Yvonne Chen, who worked tirelessly to ensure safety, stability and consistency of care. Her commitment to the staff, families and children was reflected in the very high standards of childcare that BELC provided on a daily basis.

Some milestones throughout the last 12 months were successful inspection of the service by the ECRU regulator, retaining quality staff and supporting their ongoing study. Ongoing support from the Inclusion Support Program provided professional development opportunities for staff to further enhance their childcare skills and one-on-one creative play. Throughout the year, the children have been busy with art and craft activities, learning new songs in both English and Yawuru, and spending time outside in our community garden and play area.

Following the onset of COVID and the government introduction of no gap fee period, BELC numbers were reduced to ensure that the service was managed in the best cost effective manner possible during months of 50% income reduction. BELC returned to full numbers once the demand increased and confidence of returning to childcare resumed in Broome.

Unfortunately, after the COVID no gap fee period and diminishing grant funding it became increasingly evident that BELC was not financially sustainable. Despite ongoing efforts to secure additional sustainability funding to keep the service running viably, this was unsuccessful thus leading to the difficult decision to wind up the BELC at end of August 2021. A farewell party was held attended by both present and past BELC families, providing an opportunity to celebrate the good times and thank the team for their wonderful work over the past three years.

It has been a privilege to work with this dedicated team of exceptional educators and also Melita who provided excellent administrative support. Fortunately, the severe shortages of qualified childcare professionals in Broome at this time has meant that there is no shortage of employment opportunities on the horizon.

Our sincere thanks to the following BELC staff for their commitment to the children and families, and for providing a top quality long day care service that was among the best:

Yvonne Chen
Maggie Yu
Ame Chrystal
Santi Luttgens
Ni Luh Armini
Melita Grant
Jen Ward
Min En Chek
Josie Song
Ryley Herzfeld

MONEY SUPPORT HUB (MSH)

Program Manager, Paula Manning

Throughout the 20/21 financial year the Money Support Hub (MSH) team has worked closely with clients throughout the shire of Broome and continued to develop strong relationships with our outreach communities, which are serviced regularly by our Financial Counsellors, Capability Workers and dedicated Community Education staff. The Broome-based services have continued to provide a range of supports to a growing cross section of our community affected in various ways by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, including small business and tourism operators.

Some of the achievements in this period have been the significant improvements in our reporting platform that have saved time and resources, optimising reporting capabilities to our funding bodies and, importantly, allowing us to focus on service delivery. The efforts and performance of our team have been recognised by the renewal of our funding agreements. The purchase of the second vehicle has improved our capacity to provide outreach services both out on community and within the town of Broome. Our staff attended the FCAWA conference in Perth where the Broome CIRCLE team was awarded the Outback Award in recognition of the delivery of quality, responsive services to our region. The team also attended the FCA conference in Darwin where staff also received recognition for the relationships developed and work they have done with our clients.

Emergency Relief was in high demand, particularly after the COVID moratoriums on tenancy, power and loans ended and JobSeeker was reduced.

This remains a vital service, enabling us to assist some of our most vulnerable community members requiring assistance, such as women escaping domestic violence who access our services to make a new start.

Over the past year, our dedicated Financial Counsellors and specialist Community Education Program staff have developed and implemented various innovative Financial Literacy Education Workshops, in addition to proving one-on-one Client assistance. The demand for the suite of MSH services, which include financial counselling, budgeting, tax help, community education, advocacy, emergency relief and No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) has been very high, with our team all working at capacity.

- Broome CIRCLE team has engaged in Advocacy in the following areas:
- ACBF funeral plans – working towards a petition to government for an investigation into the unconscionable selling practises. As a result of the advocacy and media attention the State government legislated for protective measures for prepaid funeral plans.
- Free Wills provision to the Shire of Broome – many community members are not able to afford to have their will prepared. Our team is working closely with legal firms to provide pro bono wills in a pilot program to two outreach communities.
- ACCAN (Australian Communications Consumer Action Network) membership forum to advocate for the remote communities who have lack of connectivity for digital and communication services.
- Engaging in CBA and Bankwest monthly financial counsellors' forum which addresses banking barriers to vulnerable and low literacy clients; also financial hardship applications and the barriers within CBA and Bankwest services.
- Members of the Australia-wide ATO advocacy group to ensure that vulnerable and low literacy clients' barriers or hardships are represented.
- Provision of free Tax Help for low income clients
- Broome CIRCLE participated in the Yarning Mob Forum, a nationwide network for First Nations Financial Capability Workers and Financial Counsellors.

TAX REFUNDS & CLIENT SAVINGS	$38,177
DEBT WAIVERS	$334,151
DEATH INSURANCE	$462,000
TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT DISABILITY	$516,354
SUPERANNUATION	$180,500
REFUNDS	$ 43,762
TOTAL	$1,574,944

IMPACT IN STORIES - MONEY SUPPORT HUB

Case study 1

Client B initially made contact with a Broome CIRCLE financial counsellor to seek support for her forty-year-old partner (Client A) who had been in hospital for several months. Client A had worked hard as a mine worker to support this family; he loved life and fishing. He suddenly fell ill due to complications from a back operation and tragically, he never made it.

The case was extremely complex as the financial counsellor was not able to speak directly with the client who was hospitalised at the time. All the financial counsellor was given was an application to an organisation called Debt Fix, who were charging an extraordinary amount of money to assist, and the outcome they were seeking for the client was heading towards bankruptcy. The client would have been required to pay almost $500 per week for about 200 weeks, which given the client's health would have most certainly led to a breach.

There were multiple debts including $50,000 to the Commonwealth Bank; gradually, the financial counsellor was able to get these debts waived. The above outcomes certainly assisted the family to at least have some relief; the plan had been to work through all the remaining debts and also assist with the Terminal Permanent Disability (TPD) application for the client. However, due to the time that it took to get responses and medical reports, the client unfortunately passed away, which is incredibly sad.

Given the above situation, the financial counsellor proceeded to assist the family to access the deceased's super, and as a result, the family was able to purchase a house. Prior to this, they had been advised that they would need to move out of their rental due to it being sold.

The money that was obtained from the deceased's super was well-invested in a house that is fully paid for. Overall, the financial counsellor was able to get $120,000 worth of debt waivers and an incredible $440,000 out of the deceased's superannuation.

The above case is just one of many illustrating the work of our financial counsellors who make a real difference to families.

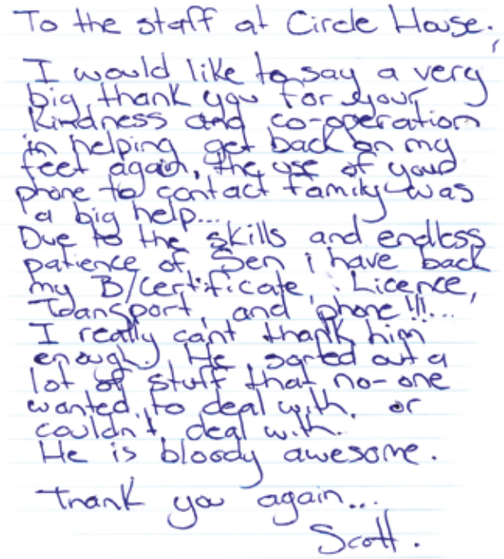
"Veronica Johnson is an absolutely and undeniably the most amazing financial counsellor. Veronica has dealt with our most complex financial situation with the utmost kindness and compassion in a thoroughly professional manner. We never anticipated the results she was able to achieve for us while my husband was reaching the stage of palliative care. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you Veronica, we are very grateful for what you have done for our family's financial situation during this difficult time".

Tina Malcolm

Case study 2

Client C came to Broome CIRCLE for help with making a withdrawal on his superannuation but he did not have any documents to prove his identity or superannuation membership. Firstly, the financial counsellor had to apply for the client's birth certificate using Emergency Relief funds. The financial counsellor was then able to link the client's myGov account with the ATO and this revealed that the client had not yet submitted his tax returns. The financial counsellor was able to lodge the client's tax returns and later applied for early release of his superannuation within COVID-19 allowances. With the assistance that the client received from the Broome CIRCLE financial counsellor, he was able to get his birth certificate, driver's licence, transport assistance and mobile phone.

The client was able to get his job back and start a new life, as reflected in his testimonial below:



To the staff at Circle House.

I would like to say a very big thank you for your kindness and co-operation in helping get back on my feet again, the use of your phone to contact family was a big help...
Due to the skills and endless patience of Ben I have back my B/Certificate, Licence, Transport and phone !!!...
I really can't thank him enough. He sorted out a lot of stuff that no-one wanted to deal with, or couldn't deal with.
He is bloody awesome.
Thank you again...
Scott.

Case study 3

Client D accessed her superannuation under COVID criteria to pay for her daughter's return to Australia. Her daughter had been in Spain, which had experienced many COVID-19 deaths and she eventually returned safely to Australia. After some time, the client's car needed significant repairs and she accessed credit cards and loans to pay for these repairs.

The client found it hard to make her repayments and therefore tried to arrange with the bank and credit card companies to defer payments for three months but this was unsuccessful. The bank referred the client to Broome CIRCLE's Financial Counselling services.

At 78 years of age, the client was in receipt of an Aged Pension and was struggling financially. She did not have permanent accommodation and in previous years had managed by providing housesitting services, however, COVID-19 had made this increasingly difficult to maintain.

The financial counsellor worked with the client to liaise with the creditors and was able to negotiate an extension on hardship payments for a further three months. During this time, the client returned to work part-time.

The outcome for this client is that her car got back on the road, she is working part-time meeting her negotiated repayments and confident that she can maintain her current lifestyle.

BROOME VOLUNTEER RESOURCE SERVICE & KIMBERLEY HUB

Cate Warne, Volunteer & Events Coordinator

Broome CIRCLE's Volunteering Services has continued to grow, with our Volunteer Coordinator, Cate Warne, now able to operate at fulltime capacity thanks to our continued partnership with Department of Communities and Volunteering WA.

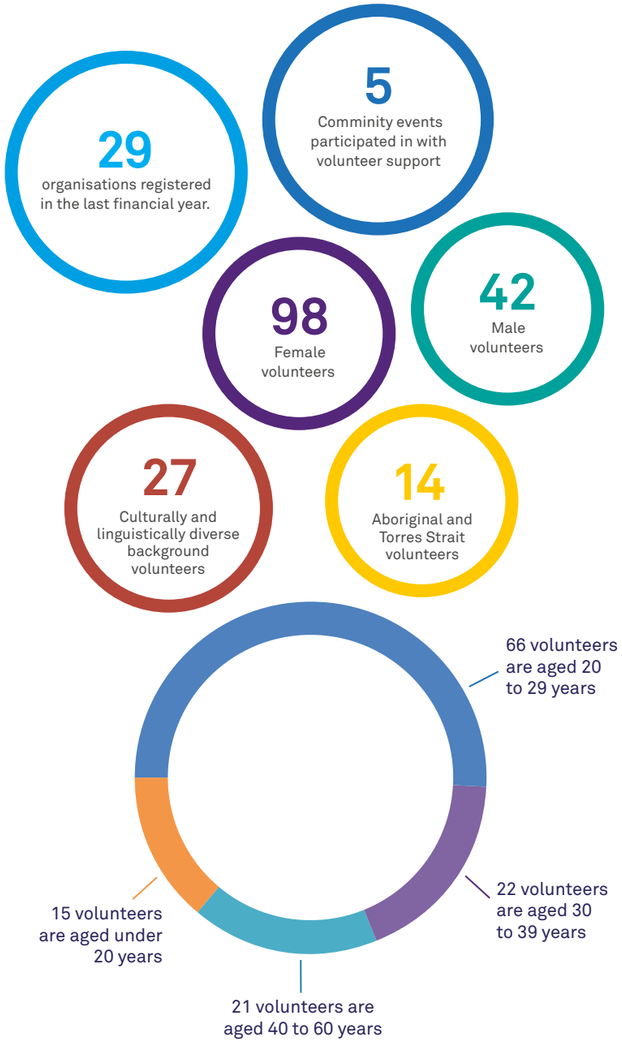
This has enabled us to expand our representation within the community as well as provide a much better and more cohesive service to our Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs). Broome CIRCLE is working closely with VWA as we adjust our service parameters in line with new contract requirements which will be consolidated over the next year as we seek to tailor our services to the Broome community and beyond.

Our Volunteer Coordinator was selected to participate in VWA'S first scholarship program themed 'Restart and Re-engage'. This initiative has enabled Broome CIRCLE to fine tune and expand our knowledge around the National Standards for Volunteering, offering a better service to our VIO's as well as to the volunteers.

In the last financial year, our Volunteering Hub supported 238 volunteers and a total of 29 registered not-for-profits during what has been a time of recovery following periods of pandemic restrictions. The collective efforts of our amazing volunteers have significantly contributed to the reactivation of many vital community services and initiatives, for which we are sincerely grateful.

Highlights:

- BVRS held three Pop Ups at the Broome Boulevard Shopping Centre to promote volunteering – 32 new volunteers were recruited
- Thank a Volunteer event called 'Recognise, Reinvent & Reimagine' (R&R&R) by the Bay held at the Broome Museum courtyard in conjunction with the Shire of Broome; this Sundowner celebration and an award ceremony recognised our outstanding volunteers and provided a great opportunity for us to get together to talk all things volunteering. BVRS also in conjunction with the Shire hosted a family movie night as a thank you to our volunteers and their families.
- BVRS participated in coordinating the volunteers for the Shinju Matsuri 2021.
- As part of the Shinju Matsuri 2021 Broome Circle hosted a key community event – a Morning Tea for our community seniors and elders. This vibrant event, staffed by volunteers, was well attended with up to 80 seniors and elders present. Many parts of our community also generously gave their time, song, or food, to help make this event a huge success.
- Another traditional community event of the Shinju Matsuri is the Float Parade; BVRS not only provided the volunteers for this event but also assisted in the running and event support.



- Provided volunteers for Kimberley Art Network's two major events - the Broome Fringe Festival and the Shinju Matsuri Art Awards - which required not only event staff but also catering staff. Broome CIRCLE was proud to sponsor the Youth Award prize in support of our emerging artists.
- Volunteer Hub supported the Salt Water Rhythm and Ride Rodeo, with well over 30 volunteers involved over two days. This event once again highlights our strong commitment and ongoing partnerships with community-based events.
- Supported Broome Shire with the Australian Citizenship event, requiring a meet and greet role as well as serving of the traditional morning tea after the ceremony. This was a very rewarding experience not just for Broome CIRCLE but also for the volunteers and our new migrants, to explore volunteering as a great community immersion experience and a way to meet people.
- On the home front, our Volunteering services continue to support Broome CIRCLE volunteers, which enables us to run and expand several community programmes programmes including the Broome Circle Community Verge Garden, Artisan Series, Tax Help, school holiday programs and community events like Neighbourhood Week.

Our Volunteer Coordinator has initiated a monthly newsletter called 'What's Hot in Volunteering' as well as a regular spot on Triple M to highlight the needs of our VIOs and community events, and of course to thank our valuable volunteers. A part of this recognition focus is Cate's 'Volunteer of the Month' promotion, with recognition in our newsletter and on social media, presentation of a Certificate, and a 'thank you' coffee voucher.

"This is just a quick letter to say thank you very much to you, and to your fantastic volunteers. KAN truly appreciates the efforts that you put into securing volunteers for community activities and to the volunteers themselves (of course!). Having worked with you on both the Broome Fringe Festival and for the Shinju Matsuri Art Awards, I appreciate the efforts that go into finding individuals who have an affinity with the activities and to ensuring they are well briefed and competent. Without these volunteers, KAN would have less success in manning these community art events and keeping them open to the public. We look forward to continuing to work with you and hope that your volunteers enjoy the engagement with our vibrant creative community".

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

It was a busy year at CIRCLE for the Community Development team! We are consistently evaluating and diversifying programming, developing new Partnerships and opportunities for Collaboration and looking at new ways of engaging with the Community. The **Empowering Communities Program** encompassing the Artisans Series, Speakers Unlimited, Our Block Rocks, Community Verge Garden and Broome Food Coop continues to grow and develop with great community support and engagement alongside new opportunities being developed.

The **Artisan Series** continues to provide opportunity for one-off or a series of classes facilitated by local artisans to come and share their skills and passion with the wider community. Throughout the year we have seen a diverse range of cooking classes with the focus on international cuisines, truly showcasing the rich, culturally diverse community within Broome. These nights are always fun, vibrant events that enjoy wonderful support from the community. This year we have also seen the Sewing CIRCLE back at Broome CIRCLE and moving forward we will see Artisan Series expand to also include classes with an arts and crafts focus.

Junior Artisan's Art and Cooking Stars programs continue to prove popular amongst Broome's youngest community members. Feedback from participants, facilitators, and community surveys will see these activities evolve towards the end of the year, as we fine tune what works best with what the community would like to see at CIRCLE. CIRCLE has also facilitated a range of School Holiday programs seeing the Junior Artisan's programs delivering engaging one-off activities for kids during holiday periods.

The past year has seen the **Our Block Rock's** evolve into a dynamic and exciting community event, run in collaboration with many different service providers popping up in new locations around town. During 2021 we have hosted Our Block Rocks events at Haynes Oval and Dakas St Parks, looking to activate and engage with different areas and community members each time. Engagement in the event grows each time, showcasing a broad range of activities with partnerships evolving as the event continues to grow and grow.

Speakers Unlimited continues to welcome Broome's most passionate to share their knowledge on a variety of topics with others. This year, topics have included plastic, recycling and waste management in Broome, the science of early brain development and the benefits of modern cloth nappies and weed management. We are already looking forward to topics later in the year, including nutrition and astrology.

The **Community Verge Garden** has continued to flourish with an incredible, dedicated group of volunteers, in partnership with Incredible Edible and the Broome Volunteer Resource Centre. There are exciting plans to continue developing the garden with a seed bank and nursery being developed in the future as well as a Universally Accessible Garden.

Photo courtesy of Camera Story

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Broome Food Coop Membership remains strong with the ability to utilise Broome CIRCLE's new building in Herbert Street as a base for orders to be packed and delivered and also to have more storage capacity. We welcome new members and are excited to see the Coop continue to grow.

Broome CIRCLE continues to deliver a range of **Children and Parenting** programs supported by Anglicare and Parenting Connection WA such as Tuning into Teens, the Science of Early Brain Development and Dad's Tuning into Kids with Chris Bergmann. Cyber Safety and Protective Behaviours for Parents has been delivered in both Broome and Bidyadanga with WA Child Safety Services and Baby and Child First Aid courses with Dr Emma Horne.

Community Events & Highlights

Broome CIRCLE **Christmas Craft Markets** are an annual event with 2020's being an incredibly successful event, engaging with small businesses and hobby crafters from Broome and other Kimberley communities. The markets drew a large number of local residents and we continue to receive wonderful feedback about last year's market, with a lot of enthusiasm for the Christmas Market, planned for December 2021.

This year, we partnered with Helping Minds to create a Community Long Table Dinner for Harmony Week. Thanks to food generously donated by a range of Broome's local restaurants, the attendees enjoyed a buffet of cuisines from across the globe. Unfortunately, weather forced the dinner itself inside, however, live music, conversation, dancing and spontaneous fire twirling still brought community members together under the stars.

Photo courtesy of Kimberley Supports KAMS

Planning has already begun for Harmony Week 2022 and we invite community members and groups to join us to celebrate the amazing diversity here in Broome.

Broome CIRCLE has engaged Camera Story to run a series of photography workshops in Bidyadanga and Broome for Australian First Nation women working closely with the Women's Centre in Bidyadanga. These workshops cover a range of topics from technical aspects through to focused creative development with an exhibition at the end of the project in November. The focus is on building capacity and confidence amongst women in the community, providing them with a safe space where they can explore their creativity, culture and identity through a camera lens.

Broome CIRCLE partnered with the Broome Community Resource Centre to run a Neighbourhood House Week Event, '**The Broome Community Showcase**'. This year's theme was 'Loneliness: The Solution is Community' and the event was hosted at Broome CIRCLE. A range of community organisations came together to showcase who they are, what they do and how to access their services or get involved. It was an opportunity for community members and organisations to collaborate, ask questions, and get involved to build a stronger, happier Broome. It was an incredibly engaging event with Jamie Jackett providing entertainment and the Anti Choir and the Big Sing Group coming together to perform.

Looking forward, we have a lot of exciting plans for the remainder of 2021, with the Community Development Program continuing to evolve to deliver fresh and exciting programs and events to the Broome Community. We welcome any feedback or suggestions and are always open to opportunities to collaborate!

Photo courtesy of Sarah Landro Photography

Our Service & Community Partners:

Linkwest | WACOSS | Financial Counselling Australia | Financial Counsellors Association WA Helping Minds | Anglicare | The Unframed Project | Kimberley Personnel | Country Women's Association | Alive & Kicking | Recovery Centre | Centacare | Red Cross | Broome Youth & Families Hub | Men's Outreach Service | Incredible Edible | Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Camera Story | PCYC | Broome Regional Medical Service (BRAMS) | Shire of Broome | Kullarri Regional Communities Indigenous Corporation Bidyadanga | Garnduwa | Broome Community Resource Centre | Marnja Jarndu Women's Refuge | Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation | Financial Rights Legal Service – Mob Strong Debt Help | LAW Access – Free Will Clinic | Aboriginal Family Legal Services – Free Will Clinic | HHG Legal Group – Free Will Clinic | Jackson McDonald – Free Will Clinic | Staff & Community at Beagle Bay, Bidyadanga, Djarindjin & Ardyaloon

Thanks to our Funders:

Department of Communities | Department of Social Services | Lotterywest | Linkwest Department of Training & Education | Volunteering WA | Mary Mackillop Today | First Nations Foundation | Kimberley Community Grant Scheme (Water Corporation) | Anglicare Good Shepherd Microfinance | Regional Arts WA

Our Contractors & Supporters:

VLK Accounting | Optimise HR Consulting | Cold Blue Business Consulting | The Hive Design Kimberley IT | Letizia Palmer Chartered Accountants | BK Signs | We're Cleaning Up Handy Andy's Gardening Service | Tuna Blue – Bevan Bessen | Kimberley Property Settlements Maurice Blackburn | ABC News Kimberley | SBS | Rusty Coast

Our Donors:

Our grateful thanks to the community organisations, businesses and community members of Broome who have generously donated to our service. A special thanks to:

GIVIT | Bunnings Broome | Lioness Club of Broome | Pindan Patches | Alcoholics Anonymous | McCorry Brown Earthmoving | Jacqueline Abrahams

Donations are always welcome, please go to our website: **www.broomecircle.org.au**

OUR PEOPLE

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Honouring our hardworking teams

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