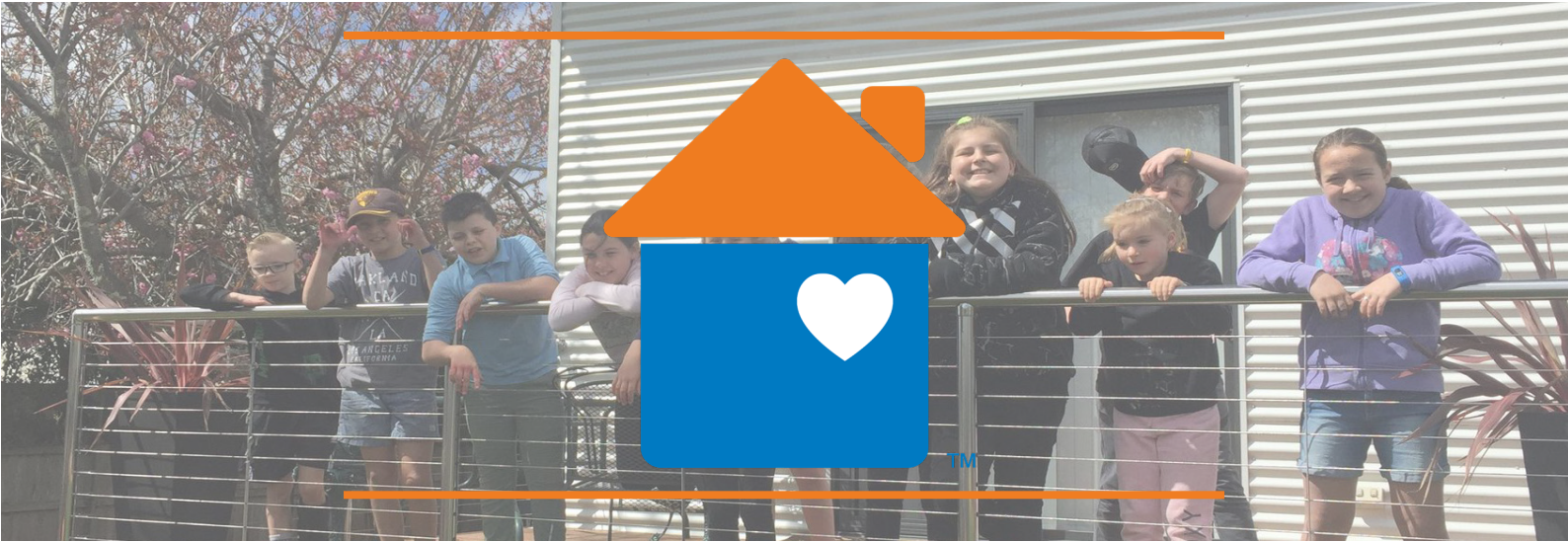




**Dorset
Community House**

Dorset Community House Annual Report 2020 - 2021

#heartofdorset



Dorset Community House Board of Directors

Patience Hailey, President

Pat Young, Vice President

Guy Jetson, Secretary

Ross Watson, Treasurer

Geoff Saville, Public Officer

Jo Kerr

Michelle Shaw

Denise Young

Dorset Community House Staff

Jen Barron, House Manager

**Zoe Bennett, Activities, Programme & Events
Coordinator**

**Kasha Lagodzka, Activities, Programme & Events
Coordinator**

Catherine Bennett, Playgroup Coordinator

Deb Tarling, Admin & Finance Officer & Cleaner

Mark Hayes, Garden Coordinator



President's Report

Patience Hailey

President, Dorset Community Association

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way..."

Tale of Two Cities - Charles Dickens

The House has had challenges over the past year, and our achievements were not always straightforward. Jen aimed high, and we did our best to keep up. She has worked tirelessly with the Board to refine and modernise how the House should function in the current global circumstances. Jen manages to wring the very best from each person. Every member of the team has worked hard and thrived despite the worldwide situation. An honorable mention goes to Zoe, as the person who I think has flourished the most. So proud! A huge thank you to our retiring treasurer, Sam, for all you did; it was fantastic having you on the team.



President's Report

The focus on youth and the Out and About programme has been met with enthusiasm throughout the community. The team has been developing connections with the youth of the Dorset region through Winnaleah District and Scottsdale High Schools. Our regular programmes, activities and events are reaching further into the Dorset community than in previous years.

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Mark's amazing garden and Loaves and Fishes food have been

providing quality nourishment and happy bellies to many in the region. Many people have been connected to relevant services through the House and the access we provide to a variety of organisations. The House proper has seen renovations and improvements: a shower and laundry fit out, and the new polytunnel!

We have had a variety of positive and beneficial interactions with other local groups. Thank you to everyone who has supported the House, each in their own special way. I know each member of the team really appreciates all the support that Dorset throws at us. When you help the House, you help the community!

As a Board we are proud of what the House has achieved, but we are not shy, nor ignorant, of the hard work still to come. We will continue to exercise our efforts for the community!

It is my great honour and pleasure to have served the community as the President of the Dorset Community Association this past year.

#CovidSafe #HeartofDorset!



Finance Report

Ross Watson

Treasurer, Dorset Community Association

I would like to start by thanking Sam Hunt for her contribution as Treasurer and Board Member during the 2020/2021 year. The year started with Sam as Treasurer, however as the year progressed changes in Sam's situation meant she was no longer able to fulfill the role. However, Sam has continued to support the House in assisting with the preparation of the 2022 Budget and information required by the Auditor. Also, thanks to Geoff Saville for stepping into the role of Public Officer allowing me to take on the role of Treasurer.

For the year ended 30 June 2021, the House audited results reflect a loss of -\$58,233, not a pretty sight admittedly.

The 2021 Budget was set to reflect a small loss for the 2021 year, however additional unplanned expenses and the decision to employ an additional person outside of the funding model contributed to the loss reflected.



Finance Report

For 2022 the Board has adopted a Budget that reflects a further loss for the year. The Board believes that additional grant funding can be achieved to offset the loss based on the efforts made during the 2021 year and ongoing. Further grant income is not a given, and the 2022 progressive results will be reviewed by the Board and hard decisions may need to be made. There are currently sufficient cash reserves, but again the Board is aware of the need to manage these for the continued future of the House.

Lastly, but not least, thanks to the team at Dorset House working to provide outstanding services to the Dorset community.



NILS Report

NILS loans have been very busy during this financial year with 54 loans completed. Kasha and Zoe have been trained in NILS loans and this has enabled us to offer appointments more frequently through the week and as part of Out and About. Some of these loans have been done in house but we have and are prepared to be able to provide over the phone loans for clients that may not be able to travel.



Manager's Report

Jen Barron Manager

Life at the Dorset Community House has been busy during 2020/2021. The area of programme, events and activities has expanded, and we continue to keep a focus on our priority areas – Out and About



and Young People. As well as these focus areas we have been running regular Yoga classes that are open to everyBODY; put on some amazing Drive-In-Movie nights for Mental Health Week; taken a bunch of women and students from Scottsdale High School on a hike up Mt Stronach for International Women's Day; run a series of activities with Scottsdale High School here at the House for NAIDOC week and these are just some of the highlights!

Along with the activities that we facilitate ourselves over the 2020/21 period we have had various providers working from the House for the benefit of the Dorset community. These include Anglicare Financial Services, Laurel House, Baptcare NDIS, Maxima and APM employment agencies, Launceston Legal Service, Housing Connect, Women's Legal Service, Legal Aid and community groups such as the CWA. Chair

Manager's Report

Yoga has run regularly from the House which is enjoyed by many. Two Heart Foundation Walking Groups in Scottsdale and one in Bridport are overseen by the House but coordinated by local Volunteers. We appreciate all these services and Volunteers contributing to the health and wellbeing of the people of Dorset.

I continue to be involved in lots of networking opportunities including coordinating the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Network which now has over 80 members, being a part of the Dorset Suicide Prevention



Network and collaborating with other Neighbourhood Houses around Tasmania. We also aim to have a presence at the local Chamber of Commerce meetings to stay connected more broadly with the traders in the North East.

In terms of house and property upgrades over the last year

this has included the installation of a child safe gate at the side of the property, the renovation of the old toilet area to be a shower and laundry area for community use. This is a much needed addition to the House and has been used weekly by those who need it. The polytunnel has also been a great addition to the garden area of the House enabling the extension of our growing season. Congratulations goes to Mark and the team for constructing this to professional standard.

COVID-19 has continued to impact the way that we deliver services. There are limitations to the number of people we can have in the House and other procedures that we need to take into account. Our COVID plan is up to date and we are ready as an essential service to continue to serve the community going forward.

Manager's Report

Staff continue to work hard to make a difference in the community. This year Mark attended a Health and Safety Training at the Trade Training Centre which has helped to inform our practices here at the House. All of the staff completed a training with Working it Out as we want the House to be a welcoming place for all. We continue to update our policy's to make sure everything that is needed is in place at the House. Volunteers make a huge contribution to the operations of the House and we thank them for their service – especially the members of the Board who all give them time and energy to ensure that the correct oversight is provided to all elements of House operations and governance.

It was not possible for me to mention everyone and all the activities of the House in my report. You can read more in the remainder of this report. I do appreciate everything the entire team and the community does to assist in making Dorset a healthier and happier place to live.



Share the Dignity

We have a pink box in our bathroom that anyone can access at any time and over the last 12 months 85 sanitary items have been given away. Also, this organisation has drives during the year and gives us many sanitary items to give away which is very much appreciated by the community. Thanks to Mandy Walters for her dedication to this project as her work makes it possible for us to share these items with the community.



Programme Report

Zoe Bennett and Kasha Lagodzka Activities, Programme & Events Coordinators

Programmes, activities and events at the Dorset Community House has undertaken continual change and growth with COVID-19 becoming part of our norm. We have returned to face-to-face activities, programmes and events while following restrictions and regulations from the department of health.



In the last 12 months we have worked on utilising the funds we have been allocated through grant funding.

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through grant funding. In addition to applying for other grants totalling \$18,925.54, we also received \$22,000 as an election promise to go towards a Dorset Youth Analysis.

Our two priority areas for 2020/2021 were Young People and Out and About.

During the last 12 months we have partnered with schools including Winnaleah District High with weekly visits in the school term. These visits involved delivering Loaves and Fishes food to their canteen and general support to the school. In May we held two youth week events, one in Scottsdale the other in Winnaleah. We had 15 youth attend in total. From this we launched our After School Hangouts which happen

Programme Report

fortnightly at the House. We have received positive feedback and responses for parents, schools and the community around the interest we have in the young people of Dorset.

The Out and About Programme has been out in the community 15 times and we had 248 participants over that time. We used Council halls on a few occasions which is helpful for the programme in colder and wetter months.

Overall the 2020-2021 year has been a year of growth and development in Activities, Programmes and Events. From our learnings over the last 12 months we plan to further develop APE in 2021-2022.



Loaves & Fishes

We have continued our partnership with Loaves and Fishes Tasmania. In this last 12 months we have given away 5,040kg of Vegetables, 1,730kg of Fruit, 3,408kg of Meals, 200kg of Eggs, and 1,0186g of other Groceries. We upgraded our record keeping system in the beginning of 2021 with 324 in House orders and over 84 deliveries.



Polliwog Playgroup Report

Catherine Bennett

Polliwog Playgroup Coordinator

Polliwog Playgroup has been a hive of activity over the past extraordinary year, with many changes and adaptations for the ever-changing circumstances that have been presented. We have come out of lockdown with a greater appreciation for the friendship and support our small group provides. We are conscious of our Covid restrictions and guidelines and endeavour to provide a quality service for our children and carers.



We have over 20 families registered with an average of 8-10 children per session with their parents and grandparents attending our sessions.

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session with their parents and grandparents attending our sessions.

Throughout the year we have provided many experiences and celebrations ranging from; book themes; Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas, Halloween, Book Week, National Simultaneous Story Time, and even Talk like a Pirate Day! We also had a session in Anzac Park when the House was under renovation.



Playgroup Report

Due to our online Facebook following during Covid, we continue to record our story time each session so that people can join us online.

We have been promoting Playgroup around the community by posters at the doctors Surgery and Child Health Clinic and various businesses. We will continue to work toward attracting new families to enjoy playgroup with us.





Garden Report

Mark Hayes
Garden Coordinator

Our new polytunnel is complete and looking great. This is an awesome addition to the garden and will not only extend our growing season, but it will allow us to grow plants that we may not have been able to grow outside. We have installed shelving for seedlings and plants as well. The construction was a great effort by all Volunteers also a few locals that assisted with time and know how. We have constructed new full length garden beds and filled with locally acquired soil mix.

The workshop has been essential during the winter months, the Volunteers and I have constructed 9 garden beds from excess material left over from the polytunnel. Several lawnmowers have been donated recently and we have been working on getting them running to donate to local clients that may be in need during spring.

The garden has a winter crop of garlic and brassicas. We have recently planted silver beet and other items in the new polytunnel.

We are continuing to sell our locally grown veggies for affordable prices. We are also receiving donated fruit and veg from local gardeners. During the last financial year, we have purchased and re-sold 1,732 kg of veg from Moore's and Young's Veggie Sheds.

Garden Report

The seed library is now functioning well and has been well received in the community. We have some minor teething issues regarding who is to stock the library with seeds in the future.

We had a break in to our shed and thanks to insurance, local business, and private individuals we are now back to having all the tools replaced and a more secure workshop. We have had an alarm sensor installed that is attached to the House alarm system.

We are happy to say that we secured funding for \$1,000 from the premier's discretionary fund to purchase fire wood. We have delivered several loads of firewood to clients in need this winter to areas including Gladstone, Nabowla, Springfield and Scottsdale.



First Aid Training

We ran First Aid and Mental Health First Aid Trainings. Across the training we had 29 participants. Both trainings upskilled participants to be more aware and ready for situations that they may come across in our community.





Eating with Friends

Eating with Friends is a great opportunity for attendees to meet with other people, have a chat, laugh, and share a nice meal. Most of the attendees say that they are always looking forward to the next meeting. Many of them are lonely so this group is very important to them.

In this period we visited 11 locations and had 339 attendees – an average of 30 per event.

We have grown in number over this year with 52 on our lists now and it's been hard this year to find venues with Covid restrictions to allow us to be a group of this size.

Pat Young, Eating with Friends Volunteer
Kasha Lagodzka, Activities Coordinator



Transport Report

Deb Tarling, Finance Officer

Pat Young, Volunteer Coordinator

On the 1st of February 2021 we increased our prices for transport. The service has continued to be busy and client feedback on price rise has been very positive. We have also received comments on Volunteer drivers as respectful and courteous, helpful, providing information on other services provided by the House and other providers in Dorset. They also report the service and being reliable and on time. Vehicles are clean and comfortable.

The following information covers the running of the two vehicles, the Dorset Rover and Ractis, during the 2020 – 2021 financial year. Figures from the previous financial year have been included as a comparison.

Journeys	2020-2021	2019-2020
Total kms	45,234.6 kms	42,109 kms
Total Social Trips	353	351
Total Medical Trips	365	239

	2020-2021	2020-2021	2019-2020	2019-2020
Account	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense
Total income for both motor vehicles	\$11,336.90		\$6,959.50	
Fuel and Oil		\$4,880.38		\$4,926.83
Vehicle Insurance		\$2,476.22		\$2,364.81
Vehicle Registration		\$1,369.30		\$1,388.30
Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance		\$2,905.25		\$2,003.70
Transport Expenditure		\$1,306.44		\$1,455.62
Totals	\$11,336.90	\$12,937.59	\$6,959.50	\$12,139.26



Marketing & Promotion

In the past year we have developed our marketing and promotions. We now have a not-for-profit Canva Pro account which allows us to utilise the full design programme. We have an up to date website, we are active on Facebook, send out a regular Newsletter and make use of our Waiting Room TV for promotional purposes. Our Facebook page has 913 likes and 1,026 followers. Our monthly Mailchimp newsletter has 292 contacts. We appreciate the support of the North Eastern Advertiser in terms of ongoing editorial regarding our events and activities.

Volunteers Report

In July, 2020, we welcomed back most of those who volunteered for us before the COVID-19 House closure.

We have had a number of admin Volunteers come and go during the year and currently this is an area of need for the House.

In the garden we have Marita Grant, Joseph Goodluck, Cameron Trevenna, Wayne Shmidt, Wesley Targett, and some community corrections volunteers needing to complete hours. The garden Volunteers have worked hard throughout the last period mowing, maintaining the grounds, planting building items such as polytunnel, garden beds, and other items out of new and recycled/reclaimed materials. We had a donation of mowers in need of repair, the Volunteers and I have been working on these and one has been given to a community member and 2-3 others ready to hand out.

We could not operate our transport service without transport Volunteers including our long serving and hard working Volunteer transport coordinator – Pat Young. We thank her for her continued service and dedication.

