

Margaret River Community Centre Inc



Annual Report

2024-25

**Supporting & connecting our
community since 1985**

From the Chair

Nurture Connect Belong

2025 has been a year of reassessment, after the centenary celebration of the Old Hospital. In our 40th year, while ensuring the Margaret River Community Centre continues to meet our core goals, we have taken the time to commence the process of reassessing and reevaluating how we achieve those goals. This has included a redraft of our constitution and restructuring of our strategic plan. I will highlight some key activities over the year based on our strategic priorities and point to future plans, more detail is provided in this re-formatted Annual Report, hopefully making for an easier read while still containing all the pertinent information.



Supporting Community: *We relieve the disadvantage, distress and poverty experienced by persons in need, by being responsive and proactive in identifying need within our community and how it may be supported.*

Core to our reason for being, we provided crisis support through the

- Emergency Relief Program funded in part by DSS, run by 3 key part-time staff, which saw over 1,500 visits.
- Soupie, our soup kitchen operating on Monday & Wednesday evenings over 80 nights, which provided almost 11,000 meals served by over 48 volunteers and one part-time staff member.

Our emergency relief staff have identified the increasing complexity of disadvantage is not being effectively met within our community. Ongoing liaison and advocacy with the Shire of Augusta Margaret River (SAMR) together with other advocacy groups in the region such as Mindful Margaret River & Just Home, is starting to see some traction.

Over the last two years we have seen the need to better support Seniors in our community, and we have acted to support them through introducing the

- Staying In Place program from the start of 2024. With one part time staff member we provide coordination services for both InCasa and HomeMade Aged Care providers, currently servicing 9 clients. It should be noted here that the allocation of Home Care Packages (HCP) by the Government, continues to be a lengthy and much delayed process, all of which has been exacerbated by the delay in the introduction of the new Aged Care Act from 1 July to 1 November. At MRCC, we are continuing to work with our aged care providers to ensure that we will be ready for this introduction. However, there is a very real concern for seniors in our community at impact of these continued delays in allocation of HCPs.
- Centre for Seniors. A small grant from Voyager Estate allowed purchase of some additional furniture for the Soupie Rooms. Although initially started by volunteers, a SAMR grant has enabled us extend this program, and it is now being run twice a week on Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon. We have employed a part-time Seniors Coordinator who works with volunteers and seniors attending the sessions, to develop a program that both assists in meeting their needs and is engaging.



MRCC continues to act as a hub by providing facilities to complementary services in line with our mission. A taste of this is that in 2024-2025 we continued to host Anglicare WA to deliver a weekly financial counselling service, we collaborated with Just Home Services Australia, developed strong working relationship with SW Mental Health Service, and supported Justices of the Peace volunteers through to the MR Toy Library.

Conserve & Improve Our Facilities: In order to support MRCC's welfare programs, which provide benevolent relief to people in need, we *conserve and improve the facilities of the heritage listed Old Hospital Precinct in a timely, safe and fiscally responsible manner, improving contemporary usability.*

Security of tenure for MRCC was assured by renewing our 10+10 year lease with the Shire as landlord in late 2024. We have maintained tenancy subleases, in line with our mission, with eight ongoing tenants from MR Playgroup to WA Country Health Services. We continue to optimise short term and casual hire through renting office and meeting rooms to peer support groups, counsellors, legal practitioners to visiting services such as LAMP and SW Community Legal Centre, and numerous local community, not-for-profit or charity organisations such as Just Home.

The renewal of MRCC's lease for the facility through taking up the 10 year extension on our 10+10 year lease with SAMR was due in 2023, but delayed due to protracted discussions with the Shire staff over responsibilities contained within the Shire's proposed variation. Finally in October 2024 the deed of variation was signed confirming extension of the lease. The variation clarified that cleaning, repairs and maintenance is the responsibility of MRCC, while repairs and maintenance of a structural nature and major works is the responsibility of SAMR.

As part of this process Neil Tweedie Architecture was commissioned by SAMR in 2023-2024 to identify, scope, budget estimate and prioritise a works schedule of necessary works required at the Centre. This work was conducted in consultation with MRCC's Centre Manager and was in line with the Conservation Plan for the Heritage Precinct. The scope of this work was estimated to be in the order of \$1,500,000.

After many years of contributing funds to maintenance and capital works, MRCC no longer has the funds to support further capital works. From 2023, SAMR has been providing grants for such works of \$75,000 pa. The first tranche of planned works, includes restumping of the Old Hospital wing that Nature Conservation MR currently occupies. Even with significant revision of the scope downwards, these works will cost in excess of \$200,000. This has required accumulation of Shire grants into a third year plus obtaining a \$50,000 grant from the State Government via the then member for Warren Blackwood Jane Kelsbie. This current works program funding model is not sustainable. The piecemeal approach is costing MRCC in stress, extra staff hours, extra maintenance costs and lost or reduced rent. MRCC invested significant manhours in preparing and submitting a substantial Building Better Regions grant application in 2021 which was unsuccessful. BBR has been superseded by the Growing Regions Program and MRCC has requested SAMR as landlord to pursue such grant opportunities, and indicated we are willing to support them in this. However, the ongoing slow progress in this area has become critical for MRCC, and the Committee has resolved to address the issue with both local and state governments as a matter of urgency.



Early Education: In order to support MRCC's welfare programs which provide benevolent relief to people in need, *we remain leaders and centre of choice in our district for provision of quality, affordable early education services.*

Our Centre for Children Coordinator and her team continue to work tirelessly in all seven quality areas to build a culture of excellence and strive for National Quality Standards (NQS) Exceeding rating.

We likewise strive for excellence through staffing which this year has included a particular focus on professional learning, including attending the Early Childhood Conference in Perth. MRCCC is also experiencing the industry wide shortage of early educators. While we continue to advertise widely, we have for the first time sponsored an overseas worker under the appropriate Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA). We are continuing to work closely with MRSHS and SW TAFE to provide career pathways into the industry.

Another focus is in ensuring adequate resourcing of equipment and facilities. In late 2024, the Margaret Cecil Building was renovated at a cost of \$132,890 to create another room for the Toddlers (2-3yr olds) to extend their learning, allowing us to increase the operating capacity of the centre by 5 places from 51 to 56 as per our licence.

Finance & Organisational Governance: In order to provide benevolent relief to people in need, *our governance ensures that we are adequately resourced for efficient and effective functioning.*

In 2025 we managed an annual turnover of just over \$2,000,000 with an operating loss of \$118,484 before amortization and depreciation and this has seen an associated reduction in working capital to approximately \$37,000. Moving into the 2026 financial year the Finance Subcommittee and the Committee of Management are closely monitoring our trading on a monthly basis. The Committee of Management is very conscious that trading has to break-even over coming months, which will require some level of change in how we are operating. We are currently exploring a number of options for immediate, short and medium term action.

This year the Committee completed a thorough review of our strategic plan and goals together with a rework of our constitution to enable our application as a charity subtype "Public Benevolent Institution" with the intent to obtain Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. The new constitution is being presented to the AGM tonight for approval.

MRCC continues to improve facilities, this last year included a focus on IT tools, with a changeover to Xplor for childcare together with a move to MS Teams, both of which are anticipated to significantly improve efficiency in our administration and governance.



Connecting Community: In order to provide benevolent relief to people in need, *we enhance the social fabric of our community by providing a hub to connect people, ensuring accessibility and inclusion.*

We continue to provide a hub where the community can connect, a couple of highlights were:

- The Bowls for Soupie event which was an amazing experience – showing our community at its best and building great connections, while raising over \$16,000. Thank you to all involved, especially the artists.
- The annual conversation tied to our AGM, last year was with Rachel Siewert and addressed Changing Welfare Needs in Our Community.

A focus for the 2026 will be to further activate our members and volunteers to support a donor program once we have obtained DGR status.

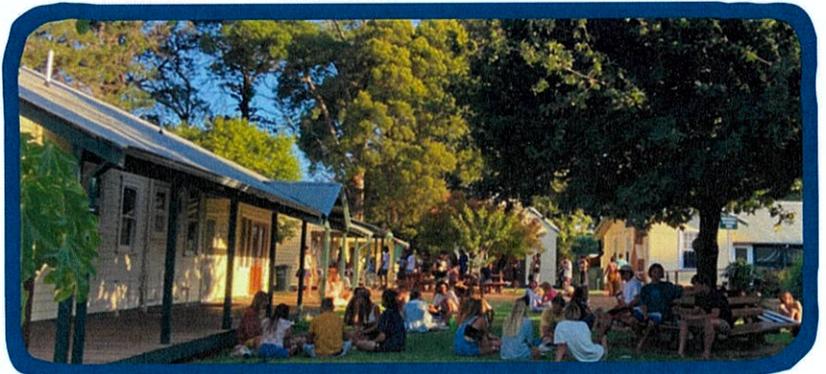
Thank You!

MRCC provides an tremendous breadth and depth of services to our community from these beautiful grounds and buildings of this heritage listed precinct. It would not be possible without the incredible support of our caring, experienced and mostly part-time staff together with our amazing and passionate volunteers from Soupie to Seniors, from Subcommittees to the Committee of Management.

Thank you to each and everyone of you, for your dedication and investment in this our Centre.

Jessica Worrall

Chair, Committee of Management
September 2025



Our Vision

As an independent community-based association, Margaret River Community Centre Inc. provides assistance to and supports people in need by delivering programs, activities and supporting services at the Old Hospital Heritage Precinct, amongst the local heritage, arts and gardens. The activities and programs which MRCC undertakes and supports will adapt to the changing needs, social justice, personal growth and connections of a diverse community, in order to relieve the poverty, distress and disadvantage experienced by persons in need in our community.

Our Mission

1. To relieve the poverty, distress and disadvantage experienced by persons in need, including by providing or supporting services and programs that:
 - a. relieve social, economic, health and other disadvantage;
 - b. relieve the needs of aging persons; and
 - c. promote the health, welfare and care of children and families.
2. To provide and maintain the Old Hospital Heritage Precinct, being the place through which MRCC delivers its activities and services, provides a forum for communication, identity, and consensus, and brings together people and ideas that are beneficial to the community.

What We Do

Currently at MRCC we

- Offer emergency relief and operate a soup kitchen;
- Offer aged care support through our Centre for Seniors and Staying-In-Place program;
- Offer quality, affordable early education services through our Centre for Children; and
- Conserve and improve the Old Hospital Heritage Precinct and act as a hub for complementary services.



From the Treasurer

I present the 2025 audited accounts from our auditor Steve Dean for Stephen McCloud (CPA), see attached.

An overview of our current financial status is detailed below:

	2025	2024	2023	2022
Income & Expenditure				
Total Income	\$2,002,131	\$1,930,763	\$1,847,904	\$1,673,735
Total Expense	\$2,120,615	\$1,887,092	\$1,878,010	\$1,691,123
<i>Surplus/Deficit on Ordinary Activities</i>	<i>-\$118,484</i>	<i>\$43,671</i>	<i>-\$30,107</i>	<i>-\$17,388</i>
Depreciation & Amortisation	-\$186,293	-\$169,078	-\$167,332	-
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-\$304,777</i>	<i>-\$125,407</i>	<i>-\$197,439</i>	<i>-\$17,388</i>
Balance Sheet				
Total Assets	\$1,487,483	\$1,669,729	\$1,658,240	\$2,006,357
Total Liabilities	\$484,864	\$362,334	\$225,437	\$179,319
<i>Net Assets</i>	<i>\$1,002,618</i>	<i>\$1,307,395</i>	<i>\$1,432,803</i>	<i>\$1,827,038</i>
Key Performance Indicators/Data				
<i>Working Capital</i>	<i>\$36,963</i>	<i>\$289,997</i>	<i>\$273,699</i>	<i>\$469,264</i>
<i>Wages to Income</i>	<i>\$86.5%</i>	<i>78.5%</i>	<i>74.4%</i>	<i>77.0%</i>
<i>Childcare % of income</i>	<i>84.8%</i>	<i>83.5%</i>	<i>79.8%</i>	<i>85.6%</i>
<i>Fundraising & Donations</i>	<i>\$24,940</i>	<i>\$15,446</i>	<i>\$27,516</i>	<i>\$12,652</i>
<i>Grant Funding[^]</i>	<i>\$9,479[®]</i>	<i>\$43,619</i>	<i>\$43,716</i>	<i>\$1,477</i>
<i>Emergency Relief Funding held separately, allocated directly MRCC deducts approved administration charge</i>	<i>\$46,035</i>	<i>\$66,538</i>	<i>\$62,454</i>	<i>\$54,999</i>
<i>Shire funding of works project (grant)</i>	<i>\$75,000[*]</i>	<i>\$75,000[*]</i>	<i>\$75,000</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Works projects</i>	<i>\$20,678</i>	<i>Held over</i>	<i>\$162,517^{**}</i>	
<i>MRCC funded capital works</i>	<i>\$132,890[#]</i>		<i>\$87,517 (top up)</i>	
<i>Repairs & Maintenance Contractor Costs Only</i>	<i>\$34,193</i>	<i>\$42,150</i>	<i>\$68,471</i>	<i>\$53,701</i>

[^] Excludes administration charge from ERF below

[@] 2025 \$20,000 SAMR Grant for Seniors Program, delays in provision meant \$19,760 held over for 2026FY

^{*} Funds retained for major refurbishment works including restumping in 2025 (two wings of old hospital)

^{**} MRCC Funded remaining \$87,517 for cost of works

[#] 2025 for modification of Toddler's Room

The year ending 30th June 2025 was one which made heavy demands on MRCC's finances. The accounts are laid before this meeting and are available for inspection.

The standout feature of the accounts for 2025 is the operating loss of \$118,484, before amortisation and depreciation. Amortisation and depreciation increased the loss by a further \$186,293, to \$304,777; however these latter charges are not relevant to our trading and working capital.

This loss, coupled with the expenditure of \$132,890 on expansion of our Daycare facility, had a substantial negative impact on our working capital – resulting in a reduction of \$253,034, from \$289,997 to \$36,963.

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The expenditure on the Daycare Centre was predicated on a business case proposal which showed that the project would yield pay-back in four years. In fact there was an overspend of \$22,890 on this project, and this will extend the pay-back period, however we see this as being an investment in the future of our organisation and community.

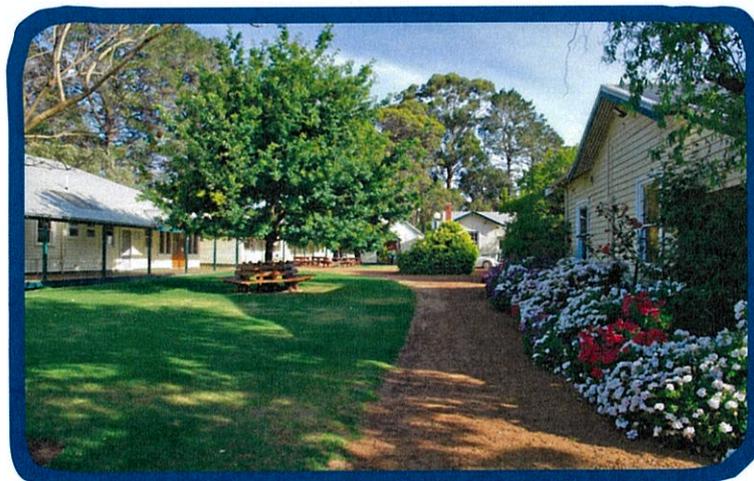
Our venture into the area of caring for the elders of our community, Staying in Place, suffered a loss amounting to \$30,893 for the year, however a recent surge in clients should result in this activity achieving break-even in the current year. We see this important activity also being an investment in the future welfare of our local community.

On a less positive front, we experienced a substantial increase in the costs of administering the Centre, particularly in servicing the welfare programmes which are essential for those who are less fortunate in our community, and in servicing the maintenance and refurbishment of the fabric of our heritage buildings. Our administrative wages and superannuation costs exceeded our budgeted figures by around \$46,500. This is not sustainable for a volunteer run, not for profit organisation such as MRCC.

The Committee of Management is taking steps to review and reduce costs where possible; however we also need to look to additional sources of funding to support our welfare programmes and the maintenance of the fabulous heritage precinct which is the beating heart of Margaret River. We hope that achieving Deductible Gift Recipient status will help our fund-raising endeavours, and that donors will join with us in securing a sound future for the Margaret River Community Centre

Bryan Timmons

Treasurer, Committee of Management
Margaret River Community Centre Inc
September 2025



Committee of Management

Office Bearers

Chair: Jessica Worrall
Deputy: Sally Hays
Secretary: Anne Steele
Treasurer: Bryan Timmons

Committee

Ros Blakeney
Donna Dornan
Margot Edwards

Key Staff

Lydell Huntly (Centre Manager)
Amber Fairbrass (Childcare Coordinator)



Our Strategic Priorities

As described in the MRCC Strategic Plan 2024-2029



Supporting
Community



Conserve &
Improve Our
Facilities



Early
Education



Finance &
Organisational
Governance



Connecting
Community



Supporting Community

We relieve the disadvantage, distress and poverty experienced by persons in need, by being responsive and proactive in identifying need within our community and how it may be supported

Emergency Relief Supports

Funding received from Department of Social Services is supplemented by community donations.

\$46 000 DSS

MRCC covered 96% of the cost of ER administration.

We have re-tendered for the next DSS 5-year 'Crisis and Emergency Relief' grant (awaiting notification). Appendix 2 and 3 show datasets.



<p>1513 ER visits 63 p/mth (avg)</p>	<p>20p/mth (avg) No Fixed Address</p>	<p>Food vouchers \$25 860</p>	<p>623 Food parcels</p>	<p>Pharmacy assistance \$1 118</p>
<p>Financial counselling x 40 individuals</p>	<p>Tax Help 48 returns lodged</p>	<p>623 Showers</p>	<p>248 Laundry visits</p>	<p>Fuel vouchers \$5 876</p>



Margaret River Soup Kitchen

With the sad passing of one of our lead volunteers, Diana Newton in November, we made the informed decision to employ our first paid Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Jason Bidwell, who started in January. Jaes has implemented numerous improvements and savings.

10 979 meals
80 Soupie nights
48 volunteers inducted
1800 volunteer hours
4.4 tonnes of rescued food from supermarkets via Second Bite



Volunteers Ken Hunt and Sunni Haynes returned to deliver the ATO's Tax Help program

Strong working relationships

- MR Police
- SW Mental Health Service
- AMR Shire Rangers
- DBCA Rangers
- Education Dept
- Visiting social services

Collaborative Relationships

- Anglicare WA | Rotary MR | Lions MR
- Cowaramup Lions | local churches
- River Angels | SVDP
- Pacific Aust Labour Mobility Scheme
- MR Community Pantry | Just Home Services Australia | Share the Dignity

Community Donations

- Ian Dowling & MR Potting Community
- Payet Gallery | Rosa Brook Hall | Voyager Estate
- Body Club | MR Rotary | MR Lions
- MR Uniting Church | MR Baptist Church
- Numerous caring and generous individuals



Community Support Hub

All tenants at MRCC are aligned with our Objects of Association and enhance our function as a community support hub

- MR Playgroup | MR Toy Library**
- Nature Conservation MR Region**
- SW Counselling | MR Theatre Group**
- Belong at Home | Just Home**
- WACHS Community Health**
- WACHS Child Health**
- WACHS Injury Management**
- WACHS Cancer Support Services**

Renting office and meeting spaces facilitates local access to a range of visiting and specialised services

- peer support groups | job agencies**
- counsellors and psychologists**
- allied health professionals**
- legal practitioners**

Regular visiting services

- Justice of the Peace volunteers**
- Dept of Communities | Harbour Refuge**
- Dept of Justice | Accordwest | LAMP Inc**
- Anglicare WA | Advocacy WA**
- SW Community Legal Centre**



Support for Seniors

Staying in Place (SIP): helping older locals to stay living in their own home. In its second year, the volunteer SIP Steering Committee employed a part-time coordinator. New agreement with Home Made. Delay in delivery of packages is an ongoing external challenge.

- 45 enquiries**
- 15 active support workers**
- 9 HCP clients**

In response to unmet need amongst older residents for access to information and connection, the **Community Centre for Seniors** opened. The casual weekly catch up is run by volunteers, with funding from AMR Shire for a paid coordinator to expand this to a twice-weekly event.

Support for families

Ongoing subsidised rent for the Toy Library & Playgroup. Margaret Cecil Rest House renovated to increase capacity at the Community Centre for Children to 56 children.



Lions Clubs
Margaret River
Cowaramup



Leanne Sutton (MRCC) and Linda Donovan from River Angels. WA Country Health service hold weekly parent groups.

We hosted Morwenna Richardson, Anglicare WA to deliver a weekly financial counselling service.

Rotary Club of Margaret River made numerous collections via the Kindness Trolley project to replenish our pantry stores.



Conserve & Improve Our Facilities

In order to generate profits to be reinvested into MRCC's Community Welfare Programs which provide benevolent relief to people in need, we conserve and improve the facilities of the heritage listed Old Hospital Precinct in a timely, safe and fiscally responsible manner, improving contemporary usability

- After extensive negotiation, our lease with AMR Shire was renewed in Oct 2024. Another aspect to celebrate is the beauty and ambience of the gardens, which Richard Negus has now been nurturing for 10 years.
- The strategic goal of conserving and improving this beautiful heritage listed precinct in a manner that retains human service tenants, allows us to generate profits and continue to provide support to those in need through our Community Support programs, is currently a major challenge.



For the last 35 years we have independently managed the 'conservation and improvement' and it has not substantially impacted on the viability of other support services. However, due to the cumulative effects of age on the 100-year old complex, these costs are now threatening MRCC's viability.

\$1.5+ million capital and maintenance works remain identified and prioritised in our Centre works plan, which reflects the site's Conservation Plan.
\$75,000 per annum for these works is currently allocated by **AMR Shire until 2026-27**.

Larger allocations of funds will be imperative to ensure the continued operation of MRCC as a hub of community services

The 2023/24 and 2024/25 \$75,000 annual Shire allocations were authorised for roll over and allocation to works that were due to commence in May 2025 but were delayed until September 2025. As the works were estimated to cost over \$200,000, Jane Kelsbie as Member for Warren-Blackwood committed the WA State Government to contribute an additional \$50,000. These works will result in the **restumping and asbestos removal in the NCMRR and Child Health wing**.

Current cost estimate **\$220,000**

In addition to the scheduled works, the MRCC self-funded a renovation of the rooms in Margaret Cecil Rest House to improve flow and capacity and increase daily childcare numbers from 50 to 56 children per day.

Cost **\$132,890**

Building repairs & maintenance (contractor costs only) funded by MRCC

Cost **\$34,193**



Early Education

In order to generate profits to be reinvested into MRCC's Community Welfare Programs which provide benevolent relief to people in need, we remain leaders and centre of choice in our district for provision of quality, affordable early education services

A highlight of the year was the completion of renovations to the Margaret Cecil Building, creating another room for the Toddlers (2-3 yrs) to extend their learning. We were pleased to have seven Educators engage in the Early Childhood Conference in Perth, a full day of information sessions and networking.

The Community Centre for Children has been challenged by the industry-wide shortage of full-time qualified Educators. To address this we continued to work closely with the high school and SW TAFE to provide career pathways for trainees, and we applied for Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) permits.



103	114
FAMILIES UTILISING THE CENTRE	CHILDREN ENROLLED
26	56
STAFF	PLACES

Little Babies 6wks – 18mths 1 Educator : 4 babies	Big Babies 18mths - 2yrs 1 Educator : 4 babies
Toddlers 2-3 years 1 Educator : 5 chn	Big Kids 3-5 years 1 Educator : 10 chn



x3 Early Childhood Teachers on our team

MR Senior High School students studying 'Caring for Children' conducted storytimes with the children

x5 TAFE students hosted for practical placements

x8 Educators continuing studies

45% of our staff have been at the Centre for 5 years

x6 families have been a part of the Centre for over 8 continuous years.

★ Our ratio of Educators is maintained at all times: if one needs to leave the room eg for lunch or non-contact duties, another Educator will cover (even when children are sleeping)

★ MR Lions provided a new children's couch and home corner set for our Big Kids Room.

The children love tending the vegetable garden that we share with the Soup Kitchen, our Christmas donation activities and visiting the town library.

★ Children engage with people of all abilities including a regular music session lead by a disability participant and their support worker.



Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) assesses and reviews every provider against the National Quality Standard (NQS).

We strive for excellence in all of the seven quality areas.

Educational Program & Practice

- Learning opportunities reflect children's knowledge, interests and strengths.
- Learning experiences built by engaging with families about their child's development.
- Families can access documented progress based on the learning planning cycle.

Children's Health & Safety

- Planting & harvesting the vegie garden, children learn about healthy food.
- Active supervision of all children, at all times ensures they are safe.
- All educators are trained in Child Protection & Mandatory reporting requirements.

Physical Environment

- Connected rooms provide opportunities to securely explore new environments.
- Engaging in supportive outdoor experiences, fosters curiosity.
- Wet weather onesies support flexibility in outdoor play during wet weather.

Staffing Arrangements

- Long-term employment of Educators is an integral part of our success.
- Educator allocation supports continuity & secure relationships between educators and children. Educators allocated set rooms for consistency & familiarity.
 - Early Childhood Teacher in the Big Kids Room (3-5 years)
 - All other Rooms have a full-time room leader

Relationships with Children

- Educators respond to and interact with children to build trust and support them to feel safe, secure, confident and included.
- Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help others.
- Educators acknowledge individual interests through relationships built over time.

Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities

- Families welcomed and provided orientation to the centre and processes.
- Families engaged in shared decision making.
- Children connect with the wider community: Big Kids monthly visit to Silver Chain Day Centre, weekly music visits, visits to Margaret River Library.

Governance & Leadership

- Our philosophy reflects the connection to the Community Centre complex.
- An appointed Educational Leader assists in individual planning for children and delivering educational programs.
- Educators take opportunities for continuous learning & professional development.

Finance & Organisational Governance

In order to provide benevolent relief to people in need, our governance ensures that we are adequately resourced for efficient and effective functioning

This year, we undertook a comprehensive review of MRCC's 5year Strategic Plan and subsequently a review of our 2017 constitution; the latter will be tabled for adoption at the AGM.

We anticipate our application for PBI/DGR status will boost our capacity to attract philanthropic support.

Significant investment was made in improving information and communication technology to strengthen security and streamline management of information, data and communications. This IT transition will continue into the next year as systems and processes become embedded.

Moving forward:

- ➔ work towards enhanced community awareness of our activities, highlighting our financial and political independence and the integral value of the community support hub
- ➔ apply for Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) status
- ➔ continue the review of our membership and revamp our communications plan
- ➔ attract new members to the Committee of Management, aiming to increase the diversity of the committee over the next couple of years



9

COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT
MEETINGS

>15

SUBCOMMITTEE AND
WORKING GROUP MEETING

12

ADMIN STAFF,
INCLUDING CENTRE
MANAGER
LYDELL HUNTLY

30

ECE STAFF, INCLUDING
CHILDCARE COORDINATOR
AMBER FAIRBRASS



Connecting Community

In order to provide benevolent relief to people in need, we enhance the social fabric of our community by providing a hub to connect people, ensuring accessibility and inclusion

Since leasing the Old Hospital Heritage Precinct in 1990, MRCC has become an inclusive and accessible hub, welcoming to all in our community.

People spend time at the Community Centre for a wide range of purposes.

We are a membership-based organisation with ordinary and associate members (tenants, staff and families enrolled at the Community Centre for Children). Over the years, we have acknowledged **6 life members**.

Committee of Management and staff are active in working groups, networks and peak bodies:

**Mindful MR | AMR Shire's Community Network Group
WACOSS | Linkwest | CEWA | WA Mental Health Alliance**



Volunteers play an essential role in our organisation, including the Committee of Management, sub-committees and steering groups, hosting the Centre for Seniors, and of course our regular and dedicated Soupie volunteers, some of whom attend for food prep in the morning and others for the evening shifts.

60+ volunteers | Shadyn Ilyes = volunteering at Soupie evenings for 13 years

Our **8 permanent tenants** have remained unchanged. All are community-oriented and not-for-profit or government agencies.

We offer a variety of spaces for rent, including meeting rooms, casual offices, commercial kitchen, art space and the Old Church, all at affordable rates.

Spaces were hired out for over 3600 hours, providing social services as well as a wide range of leisure, recreational and educational activities. Our venues also supported start up businesses and hosted creative performances.



**U3A | QiGong | yoga | dance | music | singing | circus | meditation | church | arts
conservation | language classes | personal development | peer-support group**

Supporting local arts:
**Hosted Penny Wise Exhibition
Supported MRSHS's Creating Identity**

Community Conversation:
**Changing Welfare Needs in Our Community
with Rachel Siewert**

Our fundraising events play a key role in connecting community

- generate community spirit & joy
- raise awareness & build community support for our goals
- financially essential

Cafe Smart: Drift Cafe & Yahava Koffeeworks
taking action for homelessness... **\$1000**

Bowls for Soupie: another fantastic collaboration with the local potting community (thank you Ian Dowling) and Arts MR. Included an art exhibition and opening at Nala Bardip Mia/ The Heart, in addition to the sell-out feast under the stars in our Quadrangle... **\$16 000**



Appendix 1 Emergency Relief Indicative Statistics

Over 1500 visits, 28 people experiencing homelessness (sleeping rough, including transient) visited 851 times, \$25 860 food vouchers

- Note, these statistics provide a summary of the distribution of available resources.
- Increase since previous year in total visits yet reduced number of people assisted: more repeat visits (eg there are some clients who sometimes come in 5days a week for a shower).
- Reduction since previous year in number of people seen each month.
- Average number of people presenting with No Fixed Address across 4 years: 9, 15, 17, 20 people.
- Fewer fuel vouchers given out this year compared to previous year; more pharmacy assistance provided compared to previous year.

Financial Year	Total # ER visits	Avg # of clients/month	# Food vouchers	# Food Parcels	Fuel \$	Pharm \$	Shower #	Laundry #	Other Services (Utilities, Accom, Vinnies cards, Bus, Referrals etc)
2020-21 <small>*Based on 8 months only (Oct-Jan not included)</small>	417	25.5	x175	63	\$1157*	\$596**	115	32	70
2021-22	797	66p/mth NFA: Avg 8p/mth	x265 \$17 430 Avg \$1453/mth	322	\$4477	\$851	261	120	190
2022-23	1150	96p/mth NFA: 15p/mth	x279 \$16 755 Avg \$1396/mth	424	\$6415	\$691	598	124	227
2023-24	1289	107p/mth NFA: 17p/mth	x303 \$17 300 Avg \$1442/mth	481	\$7429	\$943	707	184	237
2024-25	1513	63/mth NFA: 20/mth	x399 \$25 860 Avg \$2155/mth	623	\$5876	\$1118	623	248	432 services + \$2084 +\$250

Food vouchers: December reflects pre-Christmas peak. Food parcels: increase reflects increased distribution and recording of frozen Soupie meals. Other Services may be under-represented due to variations in recording methods; increase from previous year likely due to record keeping changes; the 2 cash amounts shown are from Harvey Watchell fund (\$2084 includes medical, accommodation, tent and backpack bed expenditures specifically for people facing homelessness) and another private donation (Care Fund support), ie in addition to the Dept Social Services funds

Month	Total # Visits (includes repeats)	# of Clients	# Food vouchers	# Food Parcels	Fuel \$	Pharm \$	Shower #	Laundry #	Other (Utilities, Accom, Vinnies cards, Bus, Referrals etc)	NFA
July 2024	127	46	18v \$990	59	6v \$200	0	83	22	41	93v 18p
August	127	51	20v \$1150	46	7v \$245	0	72	31	50	89v 19p
September	102	50	26v \$1890	29	14v \$690	0	51	20	23	54v, 14p
Oct	114	63	30v \$1900	45	15v \$650	\$109	51	14	32	54v, 16p
Nov	111	61	5v, \$290	44	20v, \$696	\$7.70	38	19	30	64v, 23p
Dec	141	110	5v, \$130 + 98v, \$8300	24	12v, \$450	\$541	32	13	8	41v, 15p
Jan 2025	127	67	46v, \$2960	62	19v, \$670	0	33	21	20	47v, 17p
Feb	132	72	33v, \$2160	66	17v, \$600	\$183	49	13	48	62v, 22p
Mar	118	48	20v, \$1280	52	8v, \$250	\$66	51	25	40	78v, 16p
Apr	131	54	29v, \$930	78	12v, \$300	\$80	57	19	44	88v, 25p
May	147	63	28v, \$1770	64	16v, \$425	\$41	62	26	63	104v, 28p
June	136	76	41v, \$2110	54	22v, \$700	\$90	44	25	33	77v, 26p
Totals 2024-25	Total ER visits Avg visits/mth	Avg # clients/mth	# Food vouchers	# Food Parcels	Fuel \$	Pharm \$	Shower # Avg/mth	Laundry # Avg/mth	Other Supports (Utilities, Accom, Vinnies cards, Bus, Referrals etc)	Total NFA Visits Avg indiv/mth Range
	1513	761	399v	623	\$5876	\$1118	623	248	432	851v Avg 20/mth
	Avg 126/mth	Avg 63/mth	Total \$25 860				Avg 52/mth	Avg 21/mth		14 – 28p/mth

PREVIOUS YEAR 2023-24

Month	Total # Visits (includes repeats)	# of Clients	# Food vouchers	# Food Parcels	Fuel \$	Pharm \$	Shower #	Laundry #	Other (Accom, Referrals etc)	NFA
July 2023	95	42	16 \$975	29	11 \$375	0	56	13	30	63v 17p
August	94	45	19 \$1160	49	14 \$425	0	46	18	36	59v 17p
September	88	50	27 \$1210	34	11 \$375	0	39	10	14	51v 16p
Oct	109	53	30 \$1710	57	25 \$980	\$7	42	12	17	67v 21p
Nov	127	62	34 \$1845	40	20 \$680	0	68	22	20	83v 20p
Dec	81	40	15 \$670	25	17 \$695	\$287	45	11	16	56v 16p
Jan 2024	107	43	27 \$1330	50	15 \$641	0	68	13	15	69v 13p
Feb	125	51	29 \$1700	44	21 \$688	\$39	73	12	13	86v 16p
Mar	114	47	27 \$1510	35	22 \$900	0	65	12	9	78v 20p
Apr	104	51	33 \$2200	30	17 \$550	\$500	61	12	23	66v 17p
May	131	54	26 \$1760	51	15 \$670	\$110	76	24	16	75v 14p
June	114	45	20 \$1230	37	12 \$450	0	68	25	28	82v 17p



Appendix 2

Margaret River Soup Kitchen

Indicative Statistics

In 2024-25, almost 11 000 meals were served to 7 680 people at 80 Soupie nights. An average of 130 meals were served each night.

There was a reduction in total meals and total people compared to previous years. Once adjusted for the reduced number of nights (attributed to 2 closure periods for volunteer breaks) the average number of meals per night is still lower than previous years. Attendance on summer nights is noticeably higher and May shows a peak.

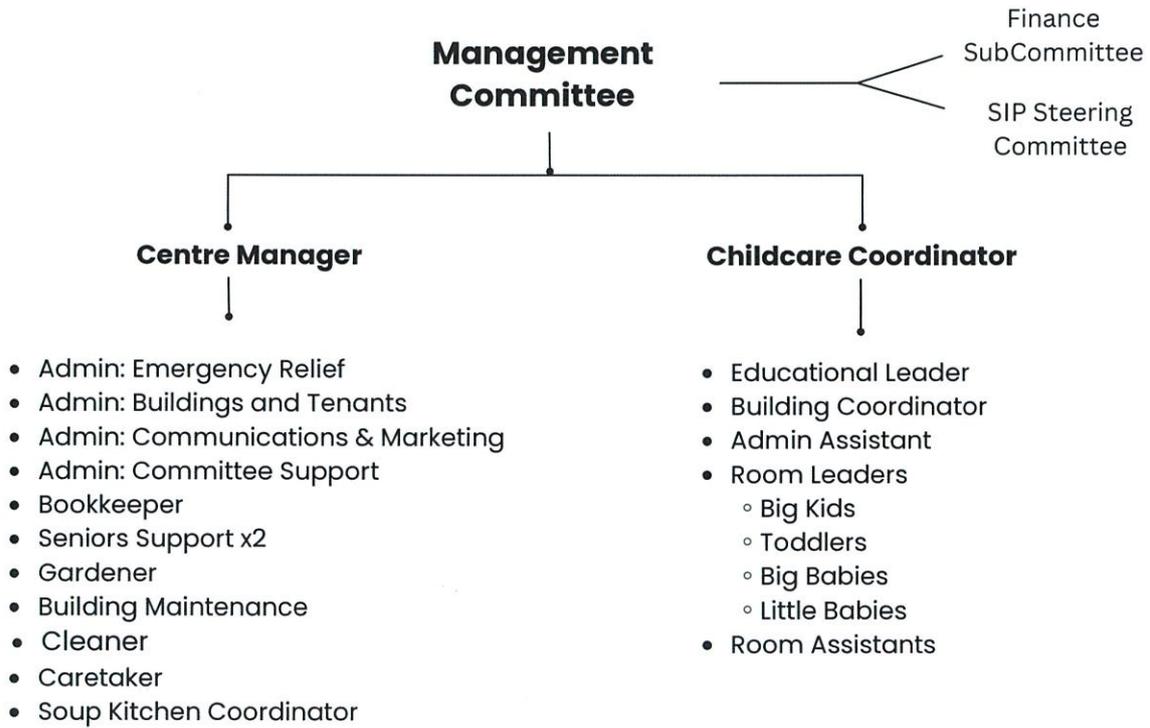


2024 - 2025		# Soupies	Total meals served	Avg total meals/n	Avg % no-fee meals/n	Total people	Avg people/n
2024	July	6	499	83	14%	337	56
	Aug	7	679	97	15%	411	59
	Sept	8	703	88	12%	488	61
	Oct	9	1012	1121	9%	727	81
	Nov	7	973	139	7%	666	95
	Dec	6	1017	170	7%	732	122
2025	Jan	5	765	153	10%	567	113
	Feb	8	1364	171	22%	972	122
	Mar	8	1236	155	10%	865	108
	April	7	812	116	9%	559	86
	May	8	1590	199	10%	1106	138
	June	4	329	82	15%	216	54
2024-25 TALLY		Soupie nights	Soupie meals for the year	Avg meals per night	Range of monthly no-fee meals/night	Number people over the year	Range of people/night
		80 nights	10 979 total meals	130 avg meals/n	Range: 50-158 monthly no-fee meals/n Avg 11% of total meals are no-fee/n	7 686 people	Range: 54-138 people/n Avg 93 people/n
2023-24		92	12 898	140	115-176	9 169	79-132
2022-23		96	15 177	161	91-244	9 476	55-157
2021-22		86	13 816	165	97-260	7 752	45 - 153
2020-21		90	14 053	157	117-250	Records from March only	Records from March only

Notes: 2022-23 numbers shown here are different to the 2023-24 Report, with these numbers amended after an error was found in the spreadsheet. In 2023-24, over 12 000 meals were served to over 9000 people at 92 Soupies. An average of 140 meals served each night. Numbers are consistently higher in spring and summer.



Appendix 3 Organisational Structure



Appendix 4 2024-25 Snapshot

www.mrcc.com.au
33 Tunbridge St
Margaret River
08 9757 3200



2024-25 Snapshot

**A not-for-profit supporting & connecting
our community since 1985**

EMERGENCY RELIEF SERVICE

63 individuals per month (averaged)
20 people per month with no fixed address

MRCC funds **96%** ER admin cost
DSS \$46 035 + donations

“the weeks that I was without work, without a place to go, completely alone were very difficult, but here I found someone who made me have hope again”

4.4t rescued food
1800 volunteer hours

Active working relationships

MR Police | SW Mental Health Service
AMR Shire Rangers | DBCA Rangers
Visiting social service agencies



SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS

Staying in Place

45 enquiries | **15** active support workers
9 HCP clients

Community Centre for Seniors

Volunteer-run, weekly social gathering

MARGARET RIVER COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

56 daily spaces for babies & children 0 – 5yrs



COMMUNITY EVENTS 2024-25

Sep: AGM and Community Conversation: Changing Welfare Needs in Our Community, with Rachel Siewert

Oct: Bowls for Soupie Fundraiser Exhibition and Feast

\$132 890 self-funded Margaret Cecil Rest House renovations

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Employing:

Centre Manager

Admin x 4PT, cleaner, gardener, maintenance, caretaker, Soupie coordinator

Childcare Coordinator

29 FT-PT-casual educators
1 admin

Seniors' Supports

x2 PT coordinators

HERITAGE PRESERVED FOR CONTEMPORARY USE

\$1.5+ million capital & maintenance works remain prioritised in Centre works plan. \$75 000 p.a. is currently allocated by AMR Shire until 2026-27.

Larger allocations of external funds are imperative to ensure the continued operation of the Community Centre as a community services hub.

PERMANENT TENANTS x8

MR Toy Library | MR Playgroup | Belong at Home Just Home | SW Counselling | WA Country Health MR Theatre Group | Nature Conservation MR Region

CASUAL ROOM HIRE > 1300 hires

Old Church | Meeting Rooms | Art Space
Casual Offices | Commercial Kitchen





Contact Us

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08-9757 3200

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Old Hospital Heritage Precinct
33 Tunbridge St
Margaret River 6285

Facebook
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Margaret River Community Centre for Children: 9757 2520 childcare@mrcc.com.au

Margaret River Staying in Place: 0494 30 256 stayinginplace@mrcc.com.au

Margaret River Community Centre for Seniors: 0497 400 951 seniors@mrcc.com.au

Margaret River Soup Kitchen: 9757 3200

Room hire: bookings@mrcc.com.au



A not-for-profit supporting and connecting our community since 1985

