



ADDI
ROAD

COMMUNITY
ORGANISATION

Addison Road Community Organisation

Annual Report 2025

WINNER

The Sydney Morning Herald Good Food Guide 2026
'Food for Good Award'

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the Cooks River catchment where Addi Road is located and pay our respects to Ancestors and Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of this nation caring for country for over 60,000 years and honour their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to land, water, seas, and their rich contribution to society.

Sovereignty was never ceded.

Vision

Our vision is a just, equal, sustainable and diverse community.

Purpose

Our purpose is to help create lasting alternatives for social, economic and environmental justice. Addi Road spearheads a rights-based approach to community development programs in arts, culture, environmental and social justice. We provide affordable workspaces to NGOs, artists and community organisations, managing facilities and working collaboratively with various levels of government, educational institutions, community organisations and members of the public to ensure the provision of services and community development opportunities.

Values

Anti-racism, inclusiveness and diversity, teamwork and solidarity, growth, challenge and leadership, transparency and accountability, creativity, humour and celebration
First Nations justice, economic justice and climate justice.



Cover: "Voice Circle" by Aunty Kathy Dodd Farrawell, 2025

Acrylic and ink on canvas

Artwork photographed by community photographer, Tom Psomoyragos

Full image on page 71

"Voice Circle" takes the viewer on a journey through symbols, words, people and places. The painting came to life alongside the formation of the Addi Road Voice Circle, led by Wa'el Sabri as a new space for solidarity, conversation and healing. Silhouettes of hands and faces are gently revealed amidst a string of vibrant, interconnected waterholes linked by tracks, circled by the purple of the native hibiscus representing the Stolen Generations, against a landscape of stories, spiderwebs and the seeds of time. A deeply personal project, "Voice Circle" tells the story of Aunty Kathy's family, including a silhouette of Palm Island where her parents met and were treated cruelly by the authorities who documented them by "breed" under the Aboriginal Protection Act. The echoes of this injustice and our nation's true history blend together with inspiring quotes from leading advocates including Eddie Mabo; "Australia's Da Vinci" David Unaipon; the "Spirit Walker", Clinton Pryor; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioner Katie Kiss; Mandawuy Yunupingu; Malala Yousafzai; Adam Goodes, and Cathy Freeman. This is history, the present and the future all in one work of beautiful colour with an over-riding message of reconciliation and love, singing like a prayer for a more peaceful world where we can all "dream, peace, be hope".

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CEO's Report

To stand before Aunty Kathy Dodd Farrawell's *Voice Circle* is to feel a whole community speaking at once, Ancestors and NextGen, grief and grit, country and city, all bound by the quiet insistence of love. It is a fitting cover for this year's report because Addi Road is, at heart, a circle too: people arriving as strangers, leaving as neighbours; resources rescued from waste and returned to dignity; ideas looping from conversation to action to change.

We begin by acknowledging the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation, on whose unceded lands we work and gather. First Nations justice is not just one of our values, it is a compass point. This year, we listened harder, partnered more deeply, and placed truth, telling, cultural safety, and respect at the centre of our practice.

2024 has been a challenging year for many. Costs rose, wages didn't keep pace, and more people skipped meals to pay bills. In that climate, the community asked more of us, and we found a way. People power isn't a slogan here; it's the engine. With more than 800 volunteers, tenants, partners, donors, artists, students and elders, we turned nine acres of old barracks into a living, breathing commons.

As you turn these pages, you will see what we achieved together

- **Food justice at scale, with care.** We rescued 640 tonnes of good food and welcomed over 8,500 pantry customers every week, more than 425,000 visits a year. Our two community kitchens prepared over 30,000 nutritious meals, and Wednesday Night Lights grew into a weekly table for around 200 people, with medics, lawyers, and support services alongside the meal, because health, justice and belonging sit at the same table.
- **We stepped up where systems fell short.** Around 80% of pantry groceries are funded by us, not donated. In a year of relentless demand, we spent over \$500,000 in food relief alone, double the previous year, so no one was turned away empty handed.
- **We proved sustainability isn't an add-on; it's the method.** The Marrickville pantry runs entirely on on-site solar, our EV food rescue van is charged from our own

roof, and 100% of organic food waste is composted here. Circular economy in practice.

We did all this while managing a heritage site, strengthening governance, and modernising systems, work that rarely makes headlines but keeps the lights on and the doors open.

For decades, Addi Road has been creating miracles to keep up with repairs and maintenance on ageing infrastructure, while long-term tenants contribute only a fraction of commercial rents. We are now exhausted trying to meet the growing costs of catch-up maintenance under new legislative requirements.

We urgently need proper government investment in this vibrant hub that serves over **2 million people annually**, supporting mental health, disability access, Aboriginal affairs, cost-of-living relief through free meals and food pantry services, legal aid, child sexual assault services, and much more. Addi Road is not a once-a-week community centre; it operates seven days a week, often into the evenings. There is nothing like it. Visitors from across Australia and overseas consistently remark on how this place lifts and strengthens communities of all ages, classes, and cultures. Prime Ministers and Premiers have seen this work firsthand. They have participated in it, celebrated it, and even modelled national initiatives on programs we pioneered, from anti-racism campaigns like Racism Not Welcome, EV charging stations and solar, powered food pantries to being the first organisation in NSW to pack emergency hampers as COVID broke.

We exist alongside sporting fields and golf clubs, important and well-funded spaces, but ours is the public commons that anyone can access, regardless of income or background. If those facilities deserve investment, surely this **multi-award winning and deeply recognised community centre; the backbone of community life and wellbeing; deserves it too.**

My thanks to our Board, staff, and site team for stewarding both the asset and the mission, and to our tenants who make Addi Road hum from dawn to dusk. I especially

want to acknowledge Board Director Sean O’Connell, whose astute, multi-skilled leadership has brought depth, discipline, and seasoned oversight to our governance. It is a privilege to work alongside such an exceptional Board of Directors—people who serve the interests of Addi Road with unwavering commitment to fiduciary responsibility, duty of care, and good governance. Their integrity and stewardship ensure that our values are not only protected but actively lived every day.

I want to name something plainly. This model rights-based, place-based, people-led, works. It delivers impact per dollar that would make any economist blush. But it remains marginal by design when governments outsource risk to community. We are proud of our independence; we are also clear-eyed about the need for genuine public investment in proven community infrastructure. To our friends in government: **Addi Road is a multiplier. Back the multipliers.**

And to our champions, Craig Foster AM, Bryan Brown AM, our corporate teams, school communities, local businesses, artists, and the quiet donors who give what they can, thank you. You didn’t just fund programs; you funded belonging.

What’s next

- We will deepen First Nations partnerships, embedding cultural leadership across programs and place. We will continue actively participating in food insecurity studies led by First Nations knowledge holders.
- We will expand our Addi Eats and Addi Moves nutrition, exercise and mental health program. An innovative project with positive results.

- We will grow our food justice capacity while advocating for systemic reforms so charities aren’t forever filling gaps.
- We will scale youth-led work; music, art, dialogue, and action; because young people don’t just inherit the future; they’re building it now.
- We will advance our zero-waste agenda, expand community education, and keep turning sustainability into an everyday habit.
- We will open our doors wider, with more night-time access, more low-cost cultural offerings, and more chances for people to contribute, learn and lead.

Next year, Addi Road turns 50, half a century of people refusing to accept that scarcity and isolation are inevitable. Half a century of communities proving the opposite is possible: abundance through sharing, strength through diversity, and security through solidarity. We’ll celebrate, yes—but more importantly, we’ll set the course for the next fifty.

Voice Circle reminds us that history, present and future sit in the same frame. Our task is to keep the circle intact, welcoming, widening, warming. If you’re reading this, you’re already part of it. Bring a friend. Bring a skill. Bring your story. Sit at the table. Cook with us. Organise with us. Build with us. Because at Addi Road, **food is a language, art is a tool, place is a teacher, and community is the strategy. Belonging is what we all must feel.**

In solidarity,
Rosanna Barbero



About Us

For 49 years, the Addison Road Community Organisation has been a place to gather, to share, and be together.

Whether it's a celebration of culture, an inspiring lecture, a musical performance, an art exhibition, recording a podcast, enjoying a free hot meal, shopping for affordable groceries or browsing the popular Sunday markets for organic fruit and vegetables, Addi Rd is a community centre in the true sense of a community centre.

Here at Addi Road, the needs, ideas and inspiration of our community are central to everything we do, and naturally, as a result our vast array of services, events and programs offer something for everyone.

Built on a solid foundation of justice, equality, compassion, sustainability and creativity, Addi Road achieves a lot with very little funding. For example, it's not well-known that around 80 per cent of the groceries we sell through our two food pantries is paid for by us.

This year, faced with a surge in demand for food relief driven by on-going cost of living pressures, we spent around 500-thousand dollars to help fight hunger in our community. That was double the amount on the previous year.

And to help cover these costs, in the absence of any meaningful government assistance, we turned (again) to our dedicated supporters, community, neighbours and ambassadors, led by Craig Foster AM, who has been shining a light on the work we do since 2019.

As always, Addi Road finds a way.

"People power" is more than a cliché here, it's our whole way of life.

We are here for community, fuelled by community, and it's our community which keeps us afloat through their "sweat equity", dedication, commitment and compassion.

This year we've seen increased participation, interest and engagement with:

- Corporate and industry groups in a wide variety of ways, including groundworks, financial support, and hamper packing;
- new and continuing food donor partnerships;
- new and continuing front-line recipient partnerships;
- more than 100 new volunteers, now totalling over 800;
- individual and group bookings for our hall and gallery spaces;
- First Nations community members, generously sharing and guiding;
- young people participating in our growing Addi Youth program;
- educational institutions collaborating on a range of projects, research and training initiatives;
- environmental groups and individuals working with us on site and sustainability.

Every day, Addi Road proves it doesn't take a harbour view to be Sydney's best address.

**Addi Road is the
best place in the
world.**

—— Bryan Brown AM



ADDI ROAD FOOD PANTRY



What We Do

Addi Road, otherwise known as the Addison Road Community Organisation, is a 9-acre “breathing space” in the heavily urbanised Sydney suburb of Marrickville serving the community in the surrounding suburbs, and communities across the state.

Operating on a long-term lease on Crown Land since 1976, Addi Road has played a vital role in the development of multicultural Australia, in fact, it was the Italian and Greek communities who led the push for a dedicated community centre when the Army gave up the land at the end of the Vietnam War almost 50 years ago.

Gaining the leasehold was a significant win for these communities, and they wasted no time repairing and breathing new life into the dilapidated site.

Throughout the days, months and decades that followed, Addi Road provided a vital space for celebrating and sharing culture, pioneering radical new initiatives such as opening one of Australia’s first bi-cultural childcare centres, and firmly cementing its place as a leading light of community development.

Today, Addi Road is a thriving, pulsating heartbeat of activity. From daybreak when the first volunteers arrive to sort and stock the food pantry, to the ground-staff and community gardeners composting, mulching, and planting, to the children arriving for daycare, or martial arts classes, as well as the artists and other creatives who pay reduced rent for space in one of the retired army huts. And that’s just the morning. By midday the first customers are lining up at the food pantry, the kitchen is buzzing with head chef Heather directing volunteers cooking meals for community, there may be corporate groups packing hampers in the hall, someone recording in our free sound studio, exercise physiologists overseeing a gym session, while the Addi Road office is fielding inquiries, applying for grants and developing programs... and so much more.

At Addi Road there is always something going on, and no two days are ever the same. Addi Road is home to a wide range of small businesses and services which employ more than 700 people in total including the Addi Road Food Pantry and office; early learning centre; Addi Moves gym; Addi Sounds recording studio; AIME; Australian Martial Arts; the Bower Co-op; the Gumbramorra Hall; the Fair-Trade Emporium; Wirringa Baiya legal service; Marrickville Legal Service; Ethnic Community Services Co-op; Radio Skid Row; Bush Music Club; Burdekin Association; Koshari Korner Egyptian eatery; Flight Path Theatre; Half Moon Yoga; plus a range of individual and art collectives; and community nursery.

Our 2025 programs included:

- Food Justice programs including our two food pantries and kitchens
- Addi Sounds recording studio and youth program
- The Addi Road Writers’ Festival
- Public Schools’ Art exhibition
- Hampers of Hope
- Wednesday Night Light weekly dinners plus added services
- Addi Youth
- Addi Moves health and fitness
- Addi Eats nutrition program
- NAIDOC week mural
- Environment and Sustainability
- Addi Road’s Voice Circle
- Australia’s first ever Romani Festival



Addi Programs

Addi Road is a diverse and inclusive community fuelled by conversation, food, music, culture, language and stories, built on foundations of dignity, solidarity and respect. We have always, and will always advocate for fairness, equality and justice.

2025 was another year of hardship for many Australians facing cost of living pressures, rising inequality, and other economic and social challenges. The Productivity Commission estimates one in seven Australians now lives in poverty, the highest level since 2001. Meanwhile our

sense of belonging is at its lowest level since 2007.

It's a well-known fact that a sense of belonging is important for psychological well-being, and for that reason, our programs are designed to foster connections and bring people together. Connections and interactions drive us forward.

People say it's like one big family. Others describe it as one small world. Everyone who interacts with Addi Road understands how special it is.

This year, as always, Addi Road's diverse and dynamic calendar of events and programs reflected the community that inspires it, creates it, and drives it forward. Our programs and events don't just magically appear. Every program, every event has someone or some group planning, organising, promoting, setting up chairs, preparing food, even cleaning the bathrooms. Authentically grassroots, our programs and events are flexible enough to respond to need and ready to pivot as required.

— Olivia Wilson-Zarganis
Programs Manager



1 mil

almost 1 million visits



700+

events in 2025



\$300k+

donated by Addi Road to community groups through discounted hiring fees



1,500

weekly transactions to our two food pantries



30,000

meals cooked for our community per year: which is around 700 per week



5,000+

hampers given free to those in need yearly

Pantries and Kitchens

At Addi Road, we believe food is a fundamental human right, and for that reason, we often describe this part of our program as Food Justice.

Food brings people together, builds community and is at the heart of everything we do.

Ten years ago, when we opened our first food pantry in a shipping container in the Addi Road car park, there was only three food pantries in the whole of NSW. Now there are hundreds.

As demand for affordable groceries continued to grow, so did we, moving from the shipping container into a small hut, then expanding again to our current, fully solar-powered, supermarket style space next to the Addi Road main office.

In 2021, we took the opportunity to partner with Mission Australia and opened our second supermarket style food pantry in the nearby suburb of Camperdown.

Today, through both pantries we are serving around 8500 customers per week.

And with an estimated 4 million Australians currently experiencing food insecurity, our Addi Road food pantries are continuing to experience strong growth in demand, including from those who can't afford even the most basic shop. In response, Addi Road has provided more than \$140,000 in emergency food vouchers this year; or when we couldn't give out vouchers, we've given out hampers of basic groceries such as pasta, cereal, bread, fruit and vegies, so no one ever goes away empty handed.



This year we've seen increased demand not only from the vulnerable members of our community but also from people who work Monday to Friday, even homeowners are struggling to afford groceries these days, it's so hard for most people to make ends meet. Thankfully we're able to create a space for everyone.

Julia Doubleday
Food Pantries Manager



640t

total amount of food rescued



37%

increase in food rescued this year



40

weekly large-scale food donors



100%

of electricity used by the Addi Road Food Pantry generated from solar power on-site



300%

increase in demand for emergency food relief



100%

of organic food waste composted on-site





This is certainly a challenging time, there is less opportunity to grow the rescue food side of our operation, it's so competitive out there. Thankfully we have great relationships with many local supermarkets, including Harris Farm, and we have the support of Second Bite, City of Sydney, EPA, and local food service companies who see the difference we are making.

Damien Moore

Food Operations, Corporate
and Engagement Manager

This year we rescued 640 tonnes of food, all good enough to eat, saving it from landfill – but it wasn't enough to keep up with demand. We've also encountered a noticeable impact on food donations because of efficiencies in stock management incorporating AI, improved waste management, mark downs and on-selling on apps.

Our Addi Road Food Pantry in Marrickville is open Monday to Friday 12 – 4pm and until 7pm on Wednesdays to tie in with our Wednesday Night Lights, community dinner.

Our second Food Pantry in near-by suburb of Camperdown offers the same range of affordable groceries, as well as monthly “Cook Up” cooking classes. Open Monday- Friday 12 -4pm, this year we also started opening on Saturdays from 12 – 4pm to help meet the

growing demand for affordable food and groceries from people who work weekdays.

To help community members access the Camperdown Food Pantry, Addi Road runs a “Pantry Pick Up” bus service every week, travelling through the local housing area, providing a friendly, reliable service which helps reduce social isolation while also ensuring everyone, regardless of mobility or circumstance, has access to affordable food and community support.





Along with our two food pantries, Addi Road has two community kitchens cooking around 30,000 nutritious, ready-to-eat meals every year.

Of these, every week we cook 200 meals for our Wednesday Night Lights community dinner and give away 300 meals through our Camperdown food pantry to community members who don't have the means, energy, or facilities to cook at home.

Working at Addi Road is the best job I've ever had, and I've had a few. Every day I get to creatively feed people, reduce food waste through amazing corporate partnerships, interact with our amazing volunteers, and see real change happen right in front of me. There's something deeply human about sharing a table, it reminds me of my Southern roots where nobody ever left hungry. Our Wednesday Night Lights dinners fill more than stomachs; they fill hearts. Feeding people isn't charity, it's community. And that's what Addi Road does best.

Heather Hancock
Addi Road's Head Chef







Our kitchen at Camperdown also runs monthly “Cook Up” cooking demonstrations focusing on seasonal ingredients from the food pantry. We regularly have around 30 – 50 people in attendance, to watch as a healthy, balanced meal is prepared by our volunteers, talking through the ingredients and method step by step. These demonstrations help build cooking confidence, as well as providing practical skills in food

storage and waste reduction and bring many new people to Addi Road.

Following the cooking demonstration, the recipe that was demonstrated is served by volunteers who prepared the same meal on-mass in the kitchen for everyone to enjoy. The ingredients are then given to everyone to try the recipe at home.



30k+

meals prepared in our kitchens
for community yearly



10k

school breakfasts given out
every year



200

Wednesday Night Light meals cooked
for community every week



Food is our language when words fail us. It says: you belong here. It says: I see you. I hear you. You matter. But food also tells another story, doesn't it? It exposes the fault lines in our society. It reveals who has access and who doesn't. Who eats in abundance and who goes without. Every meal we serve - and we serve thousands each week - is a reminder that in one of the wealthiest nations on earth, people are hungry.

This is what Addi Road is about, recognition, even love, manifest in active engagement with the community. Feeding people, listening to their stories, hearing what they need and what they want, forming policy and programs out of that street level and intimate engagement. Because we care about the well-being of our community on every level.

Rosanna Barbero
CEO

Wednesday Night Lights; A Table for Everyone

In a world that tries to divide us, Addi Road says come here, sit down, you're home.

Every Wednesday night at Addi Road in Marrickville, our team of volunteers set the long tables outside the Food Pantry and serve a healthy, freshly prepared dinner for around 200 people with dessert, tea and coffee, conversation and great music.

The night is a celebration of community, and along with good food, we make a range of services available, including the streetside medics for free health check-ups, and the local lawyers for free legal advice.

Now in its second year, Wednesday Night Lights is a way to meet and mingle with the Addi Road community, share stories, ideas and perspectives, and soak up the simple human pleasure of just being together, sharing a meal

and having a chat.

Everyone is welcome at our weekly dinner and people come from far and wide, travelling across Sydney as well as from just down the street, or on the shuttle bus we run each week from Camperdown.

The feedback from community members and service providers has been overwhelmingly positive. As one community member remarked; "there is an eclectic group of people of all backgrounds. It is a safe place to connect. I love the campfire atmosphere and meals together."

Wednesday Night Lights takes place in front of the Addi Road Food Pantry in Marrickville every Wednesday night from 6pm. Everyone is welcome.





Addi Road is a trusted part of the community so when we offer additional services such as doctors and lawyers, people feel safe to use those services, in a way they otherwise may not. The doctors have told us this is helping detect and prevent serious issues such as heart issues and diabetes in people who wouldn't normally see a GP, but who felt OK to visit their mobile medical van at Addi Road on a Wednesday.

Yiana Roumeliotis
Community and Social
Impact Manager



Services offered in 2025:

- Street Side Medics
- Orange Sky
- 4 Voices
- Marrickville Legal Service
- Feel Good Project
- Advara Heart Care
- SWOP (Sex Workers Outreach Project)
- Sydney Multicultural Community Services
- GambleAware Central Sydney
- Benevolent Society Carer Gateway
- Able Minds Services



9,500

hot meals served at WNL
per year



100%

of WNL attendees accessing the
available services (and not just coming
for dinner and the food pantry)



69%

of WNL attendees currently
experiencing, or who have
experienced food insecurity in
the past year



92%

of WNL attendees saying they
had an increased opportunity
to access free or affordable
food thanks to WNL



100%

of WNL attendees saying WNL
increased social connection and sense
of community, and
decreased loneliness



2500+

number of tracks played
by DJ GK



Addi Eats

In keeping with our commitment to breaking down barriers to health services for people experiencing disadvantage, Addi Road has launched a nutrition service called “Addi Eats”.

In a new collaboration with the University of NSW, dieticians trained in mental health and trauma-informed care will be providing five-sessions of general nutritional health education, or medical nutrition therapy for more specific conditions to anyone referred to them by Addi Road staff and volunteers.

These are community members experiencing disadvantage who would be very unlikely to see a

dietician under any other circumstances due to financial hardship, mental health conditions, intellectual or cognitive disability, homelessness, alcohol or substance use disorder.

The Addi Eats program has been supplemented by students from the University of Sydney, who provided a nutritional assessment of both food pantries, as well as nutrition resources.

For ease of access, dietician appointments will be held on-site at Addi Road, with dieticians working alongside the team of exercise physiologists, also from UNSW, located at our on-site gym, Addi Moves.





Addi Moves

Addi Moves is a free culturally responsive and trauma informed physical activity service for individuals experiencing trauma or disadvantage, including mental illness, gender-based violence, food insecurity, homelessness or displacement.

Led by a team of accredited exercise physiologists including Associate Professor, Simon Rosenbaum, partnering with Mindgardens Neuroscience Network, Addi Moves aims to create a safe and welcoming space where participants can “move their mood” and experience the mental and physical benefits of exercise.

Nicknamed the “not gym,” Addi Moves was developed through an extensive co-design process which engaged people from a refugee and asylum-seeking background to develop six guiding principles: cultural safety, emotional safety, community connection, accessibility, physical activity literacy and support to address basic needs. Accredited exercise physiologists deliver tailored sessions

to meet the unique needs of service users. Since 2022, Addi Moves has delivered over 2000 exercise sessions and provided 1,000+ placement hours for UNSW Exercise Physiology students. With a 96% rebook rate, Addi Moves is building trust, fostering resilience, and improving well-being.

Addi Moves was even featured in a recent article in the prestigious “British Journal of Sports Medicine” which wrote: *“Free services address a pervasive financial barrier; lack of money to pay for services. Addi Moves provides culturally responsive and trauma-informed care through interpreter services and maintaining a physical space that promotes cultural and emotional safety, unlike many commercial exercise facilities. The space includes a small garden, optional window blinds, a mural painted by people with lived experience of forced displacement, posters by Books Unbound, and a world map where clients mark their cultural origins.”*

Our Volunteers

It's quite possible that every volunteer at Addi Road will give you the same answer to the question; what do you like best about working here? And that is: "the people".

For the hundreds of individuals from all walks of life who show up day after day to volunteer with us, chopping, cooking, serving, landscaping, gardening, packing, and so much more, the one thing they all comment on is the camaraderie and friendship they experience as part of the Addi family.

A selfless bunch, our volunteers lead with compassion, have a generous nature, a positive attitude and friendly

demeanour – they'll even keep smiling when chopping a mountain of eye-watering onions.

To perfectly illustrate this selfless nature, one of our longest serving volunteers - someone who has been with us for more than ten years - declined to be interviewed for this report because they didn't want any recognition or fanfare, they just want to get on with the job because they love what they do.

And guess why?
"The people."



800

total
volunteers



100+

new volunteers
trained in 2025



21,250

hours of "sweat equity" from
volunteers: valued at \$1.1m



Thanks to all our amazing volunteers who fill the shelves, serve thousands of people every week, and keep the spirits of the organisation and community up. They're truly amazing. They could be doing many things with their precious time, but choose to be here every week, sometimes every day, just helping one person, after another, after another. They show care, patience and support for each and every one.

Craig Foster AM
Addi Road Ambassador

Corporates

This year more than 100 organisations donated both financially and physically to Addi Road, contributing hours of “sweat equity” through a wide range of activities including packing hampers, cooking, painting, gardening, landscaping and a whole lot more.

Special mention must be made of our friends at engineering firm GHD, as well as property group Mirvac, design and planning consultancy, Arup, and the GWS Giants and Sydney Swans for sharing our commitment

to strengthening our community and for many hours of good-will, helpful advice and support.

Also special thanks to all the schools – too many to mention by name – for supporting us throughout the year with food drives and donations, large and small. Every donation helps us help more people, and we are grateful to every single student and teacher who donated time and effort supporting us this year.



Thanks to the local Harris Farm Markets for selecting Addi Road as its charity of choice for its fundraising month in July, asking customers to donate to our food relief

programs. Every donation makes a difference, whether it's a few dollars, or a few thousand dollars, we make the most of every dollar and nothing ever goes to waste.

With special thanks to:

- Aldi
- ARC
- Arup
- Barilla
- Bob and Pete's
- Dari's Table
- GHD
- Grumpy Donuts
- GWS Giants
- Harris Farm Markets
- IGA
- Illy
- Mirvac
- Mutti Parma
- Oooby
- Petbarn Foundation
- Procal Dairy
- QE Food Stores
- Second Bite
- Sydney Swans
- Woolworths

Front-line Friends

Dropping off donations, in this case Dustin, our “onion man” who is one of a group of 10 who asked what we needed and now comes back every week with 50-100 kilos of onions or whatever else we’re short of.

Every day at Addi Road we see cars and vans pulling up at the pantry with someone asking how they can help us, or if we can help them. Individuals and organisations, schools, community groups, sporting clubs, reaching out for help when it’s needed, and returning to help when they can.

Picking up hampers for a community in need, we’re always happy to help anyone we can, in any way we can.



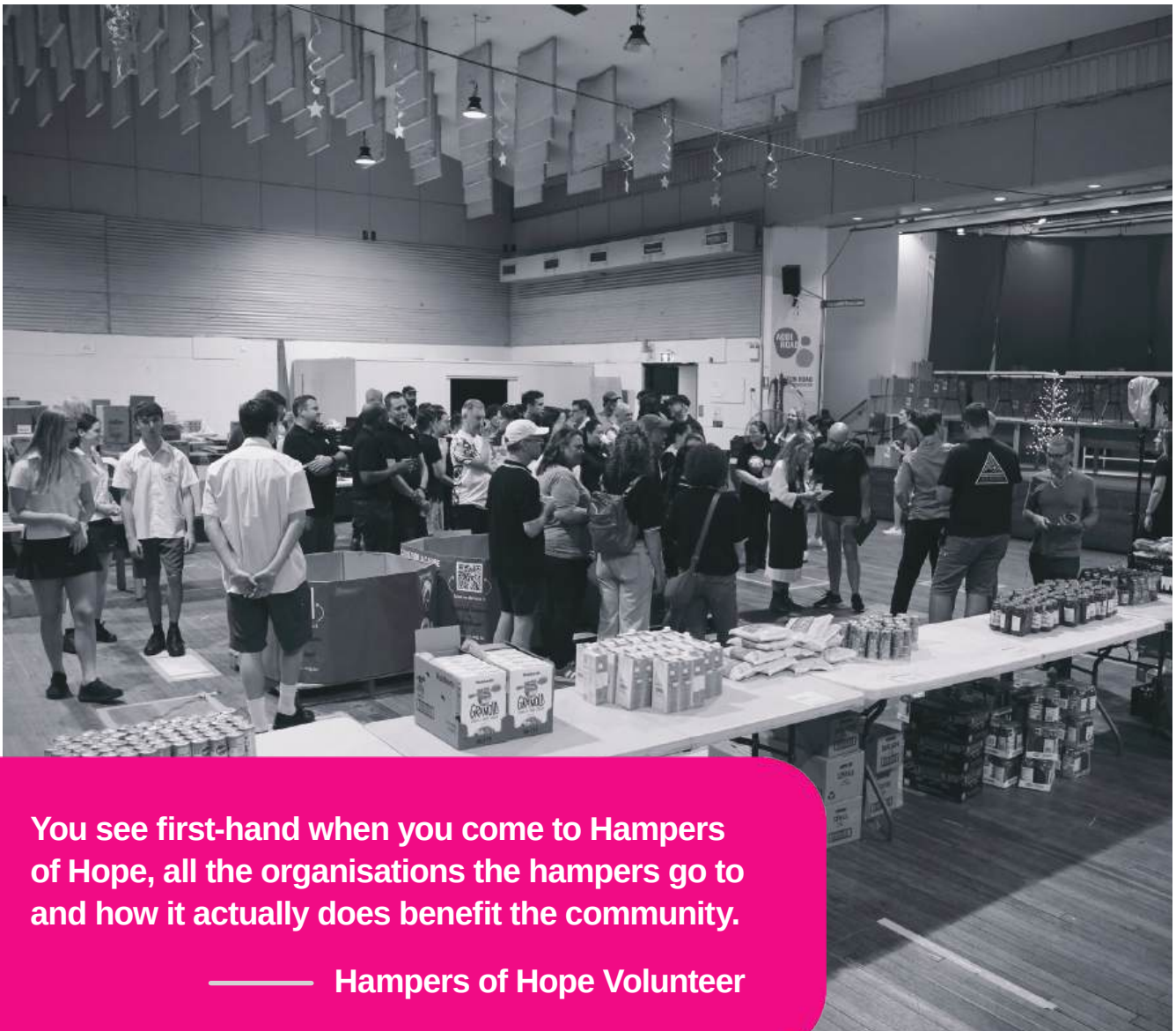
Hampers of Hope

For six years, every December the Addi Road community comes together to pack thousands of hampers to deliver to those doing it tough at this time of year.

The Gumbramorra Hall comes alive for a festive week, with hundreds of corporate and community volunteers, sport stars, actors, singers, our Ambassador Craig Foster, and the two friends who started it all, Lara Foster and Michelle Flemming.

Hampers of Hope is a cornerstone of community care and compassion. Our aim is to include products normally out of reach to anyone on a budget, and to include in each hamper a handmade card with a message of support. We also wrap toys and gifts for children and teens, as well as hampers of food and treats for pets.

Hampers of Hope 2025 will take place in the Gumbramorra Hall from Monday 8 – Friday 12 December.



You see first-hand when you come to Hampers of Hope, all the organisations the hampers go to and how it actually does benefit the community.

—— Hampers of Hope Volunteer



2000+

hampers packed



400+

gifts wrapped



400+

pet hampers



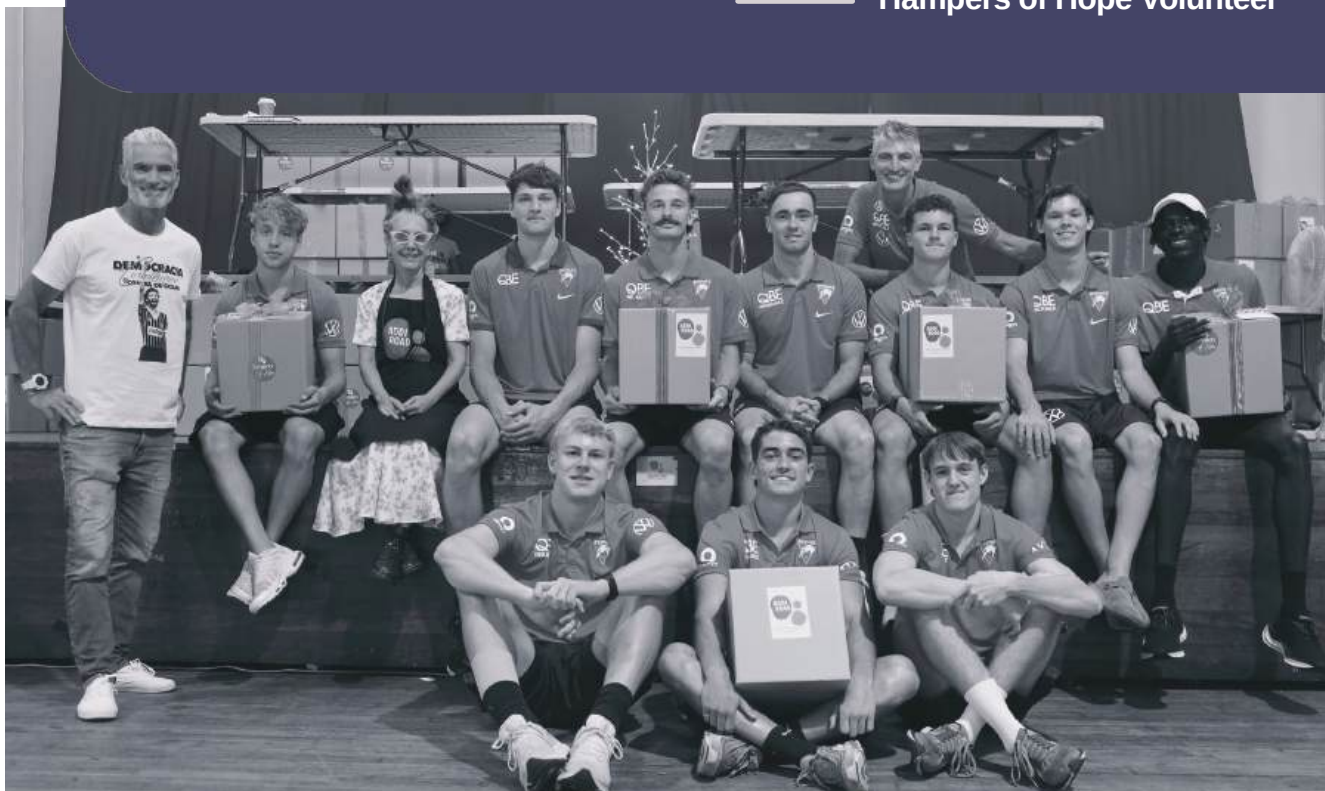
350+

volunteers participating



There's nothing separating people who are disadvantaged and people who are not disadvantaged, we are all the same people, and it's really good to help by doing things like donating or helping any way you can.

——— Hampers of Hope Volunteer





You know a lot of families are so poor out there, Christmas is just another day for the children. Nothing different. They don't receive gifts. The adults don't get anything special. These hampers and presents will be well received. Well and truly appreciated.

Locky Magick Dennis, who drove 4 hours from Euchareena, to collect 100 hampers, and gifts donated by the Sydney Swans.



Addi Sounds Youth Program and Music Festival

A total of 40 energetic young artists, bands, DJs, hip hop and solo performers took to the Gumbamorra stage for the first ever Addi Sounds Youth Music Festival – many performing to a live audience for the first time – in an epic 12-hour explosion of talent and genres from indie to pop to punk.

A truly inspiring event, the Music Festival was organised by the youngest members of our community, and along with the opportunity to perform live, performers had the opportunity to network, gain followers, sell merch, and get to know the Addi Road set up and recording studio.

With more than 200 tickets sold, the event raised 4-thousand dollars for Addi Road's food relief program.

Totally energised by the success of the 2025 event, organisers and Addi Youth team leaders, Cocoa the Conscious and Amal Dib now have their sights firmly set on something even bigger in 2026, possibly splitting the event over two days. Keep an eye on Addi Youth socials for updates.

The Addi Sounds music festival grew from the recording studio workshops we were running, there's such a yearning from young people to perform live.

Cocoa the Conscious
Addi Road Youth
Co-ordinator



40+

acts performed



11 yrs

youngest performers



80%

first time performers



12 hrs

of live music



Addi Sounds Recording Studio

Our new recording studio celebrated its first birthday in 2025, and what a huge year it's been.

Located in the army's old stone Armoury building, Addi Sounds is now "producing music as a weapon" (says Cocoa the Conscious!) under the watchful guidance of ANU lecturer in music technology, Dr Pat O'Grady, giving the whole community free access to user-friendly equipment for recording music and stories.

Poetry, podcasts and other recordings are being uploaded to SoundCloud, and one track, "Let Me Catch My Breath"

is now available on Spotify, iTunes and everywhere good music is found. Written, recorded and produced by three young artists who met through the Addi Youth program, the track was also performed at the Addi Youth Music Festival. Congrats to Knxyy (Alex), Josephine, and Gabe.

The sound-proofed studio has also been offering a variety of free training sessions including music production, and a podcast masterclass in partnership with Milk Crate Theatre. Special thanks also to global financial institution State Street for helping make this program a reality.



Addi Youth

One of the highlights of 2025 has been the increase in activity and participation rates in our youth-led programs, reflecting a growing desire for real-life interactions and connections, to share music, art and conversation.

Programs this year included Addi Sounds youth program; Addi Sounds Music Festival; ARTivate; Anti-Racism Workshops in Schools and Food Justice Juniors.



2025 has been an incredible year of growth, creativity, collaboration and joy for the child and youth team. In a year that has been tumultuous for so many young people it's been an honour to see something start small and grow fast. Creating a sense of belonging at Addi Road for young people will always be at the core of what we do. Showing up for youth, by youth, in raw honesty and solidarity. I think this year has shown how important it is to have spaces for young people as they are, to not be in spaces that are constructed and censored, but to allow them to take the lead. The next gen of Addi is here and growing fast!

Amal Dib

Addi Road Youth Team Leader

Anti-Racism Workshops in Schools



Now in its second year, 2025 saw Addi Road's anti-racism program "Can We Have a Conversation" connect with more than 800 high school students taking part in our workshops, giving them essential tools to understand and address racism.

Developed by young people with a high school focus group playing a central role, workshops target students in years 7,8 and 9 and are grounded in academic theory, informed by lived experience, and enriched by contributions from anti-racism professionals, experienced workshop facilitators, and academics from USdy.

The workshops cover concepts of race, racism and anti-racism, offering practical strategies to combat racism, practice anti-racism daily and critically assess and challenge online misinformation. The 4-hour workshop culminates in an interactive session where students collaborate to develop actionable antiracism initiatives for their schools and communities, fostering meaningful change and empowerment.

We have now recruited and trained a total of fifteen workshop facilitators, all young people with lived expertise from a range of backgrounds in activism, art, mobilising, anti-racism and education.



87.1%

of students said their understanding of race, racism, and anti-racism improved



80%

of students said they felt more confident to talk about racism



76%

of students said that they felt more confident to call out racism

ARTivate

More than 200 young people gathered at the Gumbamorra Hall for this year's hands-on, all-inclusive ARTivate event, providing a safe and accessible space for young people, including from the LGBTQIA+SB community, a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds, and First Nations youth. The atmosphere was filled with creativity and inclusivity. It was a peer-led, collaborative celebration, showcasing the depth of knowledge young people hold and the impact they can have sharing and working together.

Food Justice Juniors

2025 saw the launch of our very first children's program as a direct response to a community need highlighted at our Wednesday Night Lights community dinner, allowing parents and carers an opportunity to make use of the services on offer, knowing their children are well cared for. The new program "Little Sprouts Big Change" aims to engage powerful young hearts and minds in a fun and educational food justice program focused on sustainability and social justice; from shopping in the pantry, to learning about composting, to cooking with rescued food, to making climate change zines.



Addi Road Writers' Festival

by Festival Director and Addi Road's Communications and Media Manager, Mark Mordue

Our festival theme this year “free expression” found its earth and sky in artists talking deeply and widely about their creative commitment, craft and influences, problem-solving processes and meanings or messages (for themselves as much as for others).

With no green room there was a genuine camaraderie between audience and participants as everyone mingled between our two venues, the Gumbramorra Hall and the Greek Theatre.

Food stalls on the grass supplying everything from vegan meals to anarchist zines (or was it vegan zines and anarchist meals?) sat in semi-circle, with Addi Road's BBQ team (thanks Mark and Shiri) keeping things smoking while the drinks stayed cool.

Aunty Kathy Dodd Farrawell gave a beautiful Acknowledgement of Country sitting down afterwards with Festival Director Mark Mordue to talk a little about her life her family and the way her art works bridge the generations. Addi Road CEO Rosanna Barbero gave a powerful speech on the links between the festival's free expression theme and ideas of resistance and artistic responsibility.

The festival itself was turbo charged across our two stages by ideas and conversations that sailed into a panel on the ocean as a source of inspiration and an environment to be defended, through to a session on how dreams affect how we are feeling about the world and what artists articulate (and even have premonitions of) in their words and stories, there were also conversations on how we walk the line between the political and the personal, privately and in public, on the journeys made in storytelling between parenthood and writing for and about the next generation; and the complex patterns that artists weave for themselves, pathways to becoming and re-integration if they can get there; modes of mutual communication, too, where songs, books, poems and paintings speak to one another of who we are and can be.

Our “hot spots” proved to be popular bursts of energy with teenage sisters “The Birds” providing a perfect balance with our more mature brothers in music, Reg Mombassa and Peter O'Doherty of Dog Trumpet. The latter constructed a set that began with a song about comic books and peaked with another song called “Live Forever” (“we're trying to be optimistic as we get older”).

Over in the Greek Theatre, Cocoa the Conscious brought his spoken word to life with political and environmental lyrics and rhythmic power, ably supported by the drums and percussion of Gazan friends, Hala, Hoor and Habeeba.

In the meanwhile, back at the Gumbramorra Hall, the hardest working man in showbiz (aka the God





of Pens and Light) Gavin Blake illustrated each of the conversational and performing sessions live, projecting the outcomes onto the wall. Gavin's graphic reportage, termed "scribing" by him, was another original flavour in the day that made the ARWF 2025 something original to experience.

**We act local and think global;
we punch way above our
weight. As has been said
on a few occasions, we try
to reboot the idea of what a
writers' festival can be, coming
up with this beautiful beast
that has been described as a
"literary warehouse party".**

Mark Mordue
Media Manager

Once again, we were completely independent and unfunded. Once again, we were driven into being by our community and all the writers and artists who wanted it to happen in Marrickville.

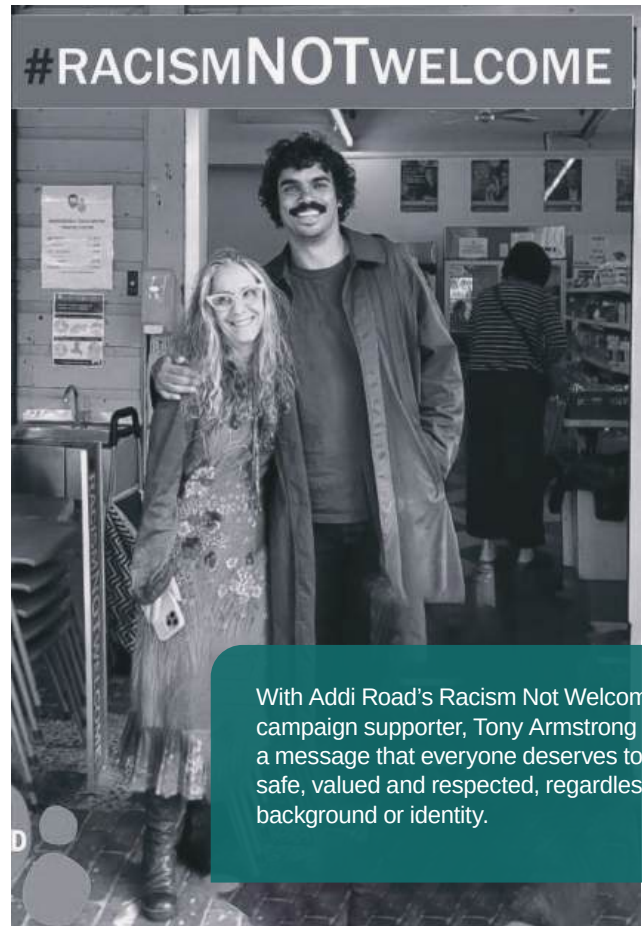
Our special congratulations should be passed on to James Bradley, who won the Douglas Stewart Prize for non-fiction book of the year for his masterwork 'Deep Water' just two nights later after being at ARWF2025. James, it was a privilege to have you here as a local writer and friend on our Ocean Blues panel.

Most of our writers and musical guests had numerous literary awards and honours in their resume. People mistakenly assume a street-level event like ARWF2025 is mostly about amateur contributions, but each year we try to match the highest levels of formal achievement with writers and artists of all kinds – not least mid-career and outsider figures who rarely get a look-in, along with young artists fresh to the scene and still inventing who and what they are.

The 2026 Addi Road Writers' Festival will be held on Saturday 16 May, with the theme "Truth Beauty".

Training and Education

Addi Road in 2025 successfully built stronger connections with a wide range of institutions and educators, delivering on our commitment to help make training and education fair and accessible for everyone.



With Addi Road's Racism Not Welcome campaign supporter, Tony Armstrong sending a message that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of race, background or identity.

Highlights include partnerships:

- With TAFE NSW, this year offering free courses in Cooking; covering safety, hygiene, healthy meal preparation, and in Urban Food Growing; looking at plant propagation, plant biology, basic soil testing, garden bed preparation and maintenance, organic pest management, and sustainability.
- With UNSW through our on-site health and wellness services Addi Moves and Addi Eats, including nutrition assessments by students from the University of Sydney;
- With Macquarie University communications students filming a documentary for our 50-year anniversary, documenting our festivals and programs;
- With ANU through our Addi Sounds Recording Studio;
- With UTS where CEO Rosanna Barbero gave a visiting lecture to hundreds of Business and Social Impact students, sharing real-world insights about tackling food insecurity in Australia. After hearing Rosanna speak, one of the students commented: "I realised my initial idea of just giving food to hungry people completely missed the point. She showed me that real solutions require understanding the people you're trying to serve, building systems that preserve dignity, and creating sustainable models that can grow without losing their community focus. I want to learn to lead like that."

2025 Addi Road Multicultural History Award

This year, our annual Addi Road Multicultural History Award has been awarded to Dr Tim Briedis for his essay “Red and Black; Stories of Anarchists Across Borders.”

On winning the award, Tim said; “Red and Black is an essay charting the rich hundred-year transnational history of anarchists crossing borders through the continent of Australia. Anarchism – a powerful ideology challenging oppression and advocating for the abolition of hierarchy – animated the lives of Spaniards, Greeks, Bulgarians, Italians, Irish, Chinese, Malaysians, Japanese and more.

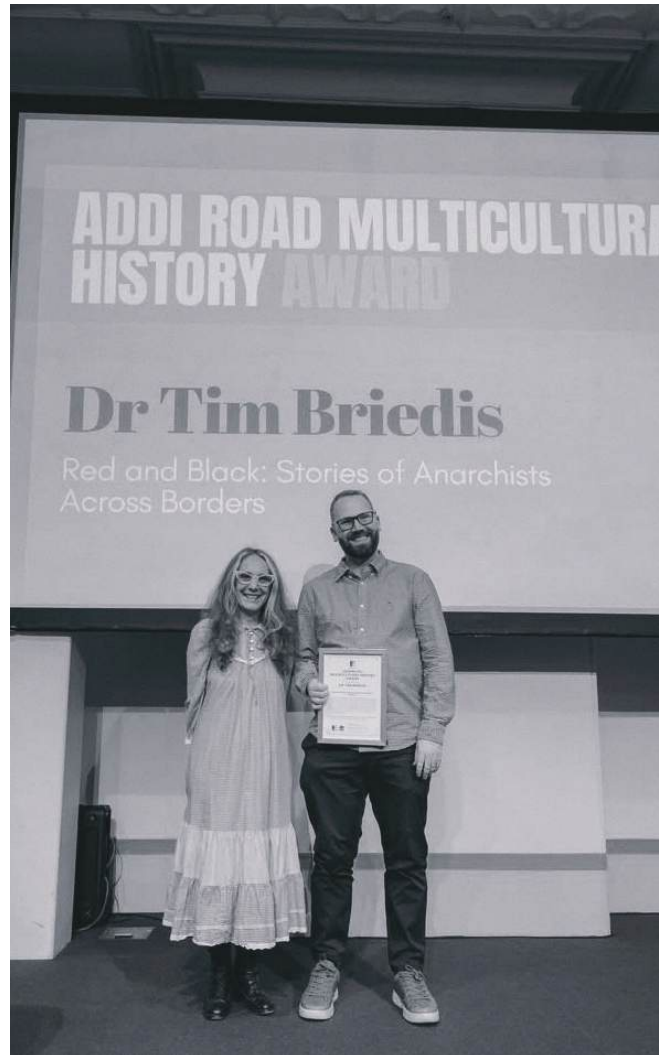
“These were people who fought fascism, who challenged war and colonialism and who organised for workers’ rights and for free education. As political protests and social movements rage across the world, now is the perfect time to reflect on the history of anarchism.

“I’m really excited to accept this award. Any support for historical projects is so vital. It gives me the encouragement to continue pursuing unexplored histories in the future, and to maintain the rage in historical endeavours.”

A commendation was also awarded to Dominique Jones for her essay “Rethinking Histories of Australian Multiculturalism: Diasporic Tensions and the Macedonian Question during the Bicentenary.”

“It is an immense privilege to receive a commendation for the Addi Road Multicultural History Award. Initiatives such as these are vital to encouraging critical engagement with the many alternative “Australias” that exist,” she said.

The Addi Road Award for Multicultural History was awarded for the first time in 2019 and is one of several awarded annually by the History Council of NSW.



Public School ARTS Exhibition

This year Addi Road played host to our 11th annual Public Schools Arts Festival, showcasing the creativity of students from 15 schools, which was visited by an estimated 500 people over 10 days.

This popular annual event gives young artists in public schools an opportunity to display their artworks in sculpture, drawing, video, painting, drama, dance and music in Addi Road's professional exhibition space in the Stirrup Gallery, as well as on the stage of our Gumbramorra Hall.

The exhibition is part of our commitment to providing fair and equal access to opportunities and spaces for all young people and is made possible thanks to the efforts of their incredible, hardworking teachers, the Inner-City Teachers Association, and fellow artists at Drawn to Seeing.

Congratulations and thanks to all the artists, teachers and schools for sharing your incredible creativity, energy and talent.





NAIDOC Mural

As part of NAIDOC week's 50 year celebrations, Addi Road had the great honour and privilege to witness the dramatic transformation of an old fence into a spectacular 10-metre long mural with the theme "Next Gen, Strength, Vision, Legacy" led by local and visiting artists, and serving as a permanent reminder of Addi Road's commitment to solidarity with First Nations.

The mural was brought to life through the collective efforts of the Addi Road Community, local artists, and Aboriginal Community leaders. The project was led by Pitjantjatjara Elder and Artist Rene Kulitja, alongside fellow Pitjantjatjara Artists Aunty Beryl De Rose, Aunty Selena Kulitja, and Aunty Tarunna Sebastian, whose contribution strengthened the mural's message of intergenerational connection and cultural continuity. The artwork weaves together family stories of the 100,000+ year-old Seven Sisters and Two Sisters Dreaming, honouring Ancestral knowledge and the strength of women's cultural leadership across generations.

These stories are interlaced with depictions of young mob being supported and uplifted by the power of their Ancestors. Together, they celebrate the passing down of knowledge, culture, and resilience, while fostering the growth of emerging leaders and legacies. Between each artwork, the words "Next Gen, Strength, Vision, Legacy" and "Voice, Treaty, Truth" appear, symbolising our collective commitment to future generations, embedding the value young mob bring to our community and reaffirming our shared responsibility to ensure they are never left behind.

We are indebted to the artists for their generous sharing of stories, culture, and practices and we thank them for trusting us with this important and incredible artwork in the heart of the Inner West. This mural was a whole of community collaboration, and we're also grateful to Gadigal based Assyrian artist and activist Jordan (@realonesixone) for working with the team.

This mural will serve as a permanent reminder of our collective responsibility to stand in solidarity.

Our Place

A Living Museum

"Here we occupied the famous Addison Road barracks. We were the first troops to billet in the new buildings. Nothing could have been finer. For ninety days we lived in Sydney and made many friends. For ninety days we made whoopee."

A recruit to the 9th Field Artillery Brigade from Queensland, the first battalion accommodated at the Addison Road depot in April 1916 while waiting to leave for Egypt

The history of this 9-acres of green space in the heart of the now heavily urbanised suburb of Marrickville, is a long history of gathering, resting, growing, protesting, celebrating, commemorating and sharing.

For thousands of years before colonisation, the Gumbramorra wetlands was an important source of freshwater for the Gadigal and Wangal peoples; for the early colony, this site was a brickworks and market garden growing fruit and vegetables for Sydney's growing population; then in 1913 the site became an Army Barracks, accommodating soldiers – and their horses - for every major conflict of the 20th century, including WW1, WW2, the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

"Women made scones, soup and peas pudding to help feed the soldiers camped at the depot, and comfort funds organised dances, concerts and euchre parties for men about to leave for the front...between the wars the depot thrived. It became a vibrant centre for entertainment and sport, alert to the needs of neighbours and community,





and an integral part of life in the inner west...During the Korean War, women had wept at the gates of the depot, waiting for a last glimpse of their sons..” and when the Vietnam war broke out... “Save our Sons women stood vigil at the same gates to oppose conscription for overseas service. They protested at every intake from 1965 until conscription ended in 1972.” From “One Small World, the History of the Addison Road Community Centre” by Sue Castrique

With the withdrawal of the Army in 1975 came a tussle over the site’s future, between the federal government, state government and local council - who wanted the site for housing - as well as some well-organised locals who led the push for a place to express and share culture, and help new migrants adjust to life in Australia.

“Marrickville in the 1960s-70s was a marginal, working-class area that offered a special landing place for new Australians, particularly those from non-English-speaking backgrounds (NESB), and a way into ‘unskilled’ yet generally tolerable work. The Whitlam era saw the development of ethnic childcare services

and multicultural organisations like the Addison Road Community Centre. With cheapish rents, plentiful jobs, and ‘diversity in its DNA’, Marrickville – while far from perfect – was a multiculturalism success story.” “Marrickville’s sweatshops: An historical view” essay by Alex Wells

On 15 May 1976, the Addison Road Community Centre was officially opened by the Mayor of Marrickville.

With only a bare minimum of government funding, many would’ve doubted it could survive as a community centre so dire was the need of capital for the ramshackle collection of crumbling huts. But the community found a way, deploying an army of volunteers who spent hundreds of hours transforming the old depot into a thriving and dynamic cultural centre.

“The Addi Road community centre quickly became an important place for community and civic life, a powerful site of memory, and a compass point in the inner west.” From “One Small World, the History of the Addison Road Community Centre” by Sue Castrique.



Then Minister for Immigration, Al Grassby, described Addi Road as “one small world in Australia”. Forty-nine years later, we’re proud to say that hasn’t changed. Significantly, our front entrance is flanked by two pillars honouring those who have worked for Peace, standing on the very spot where thousands of service men, service women and anti-war protestors have been before. Every year we invite community members to nominate their “Peace Hero” for inclusion on what we believe is a one-of-a-kind tribute in Australia.

The “Honour Roll for Peace” is part of the Living Museum program we run at Addi Road, and we welcome school groups for excursions and workshops to learn more about our history as an army depot and about those who have worked for peace, resisted war or fought for a more just and peaceful world.

The 32 former Army huts and buildings, many constructed ‘temporarily’ in the early 1900s as sleeping quarters, mess halls, munitions stores and stables, are now home to artists, writers and a wide range of not-for-profits we support through reduced rent.

The former Army parade ground, now our central carpark, was home to our **first food pantry** in a shipping container opened in 2015. At that time, there were only three food pantries in the whole of NSW, now there are hundreds.

Perhaps the single biggest illustration of how effective and dynamic Addi Road can be came in 2020. When Covid struck, Addi Road stepped up as an important



emergency food relief hub. We were one of the first organisations to pivot and mobilise support, packing and distributing more than 16-thousand boxes of food relief for people in need. Many of our long-term volunteers speak very proudly of their role in this emergency response, and we'll be forever grateful to everyone who worked so hard that year, including our Ambassador, Craig Foster and his campaign #PlayForLives which rallied sports people to assist charities and community groups; the current Governor-General Sam Mostyn, Australian icon Bryan Brown and the Sydney Swans, especially Kieren Jack and Nick Smith.

Packing and delivering hundreds of hampers with us in 2020, Kieren Jack summed up his experience: *"To come to Addi Road and make emergency food hampers every day, to be here and see the struggle, to see those hard yards being made and be part of it, and see all the cars from different charities lining up to get the hampers, well, it hits home."*

In 2025, Addi Road continues to showcase how much can be achieved when people work together, powered by connections, conversations and compassion.



170

trees on site



32

buildings



900m²

the largest floor spaces are Hut 8 and Hut 24 the two former "drill halls"



40

tenants



30

small business ventures on site



700+

people employed in all the organisations on-site

Major Project Hut 8

One of the largest buildings on-site, at 900 square metres, we are planning to give the currently empty, former drill hall a whole new lease on life as a vibrant community hub.

This will be our biggest project ever, and we are seeking supporters to revitalise this historic, cavernous hall, and make it a dynamic, community space which will allow us to offer even more health and well-being, education, training, and creative services for everyone.

It will also mean we can free up the entire floor space in the Gumbamorra Hall which is currently limited by pallets of food stored there for the food pantry. This will

breathe new life into this valuable community space as well. And by moving our existing office into the new community hub, our current office space adjacent to the food pantry will become our new, much more efficient food store.

We see this expansion and revitalisation of all three community spaces as an important evolution for Addi Road, and as part of our 50th birthday celebrations, we can't imagine a better time to tackle a project that sets us up for the next 50 years.

If you're interested in supporting and sharing our vision for dynamic community spaces, please get in touch.



Environment and Sustainability

As an important historic site, Addi Road has local heritage listing recognising its significance under the law, which places additional responsibilities on us as leaseholders to ensure every building and tree is maintained and conserved as best as possible. This includes only ever replacing like for like, which can be a challenge when dealing with 100-year-old buildings, the majority of which were built by the army as temporary structures. The army also funnelled the creek underground in the early 1900s, but we are still very aware of its presence through a collection of unforgiving and seemingly invincible potholes; (minor) flooding which can still be a problem in heavy rain, as well as an occasional issue with the sewerage pipes thanks to 150-year-old plumbing. Nevertheless, preserving our history is a responsibility we take very seriously, to nurture the echoes of the past, curate the stories and cultivate memories of all the lives that have passed over this site over many thousands of years.

Thanks to engineering firm, GHD Group for providing a comprehensive (and award winning) Asset Management plan, helping us prioritise our extensive workload of repairs and maintenance. Thanks also to Mirvac and a handful of generous small local companies and individuals for helping us overhaul our property management systems and processes.

We have also implemented a new licensing framework for all the tenant organisations to afford all parties a solid legal footing, with building inspections carried out to help get on top of repairs and maintenance.

This year the Addi Road team has been looking to secure partnerships to help extend the life of the buildings and infrastructure, including securing a significant contribution from NSW Crown Lands for repairs and improvements to Hut 8.

One of the largest buildings on-site, at 900 square metres, we are planning to give the currently empty, former drill hall a whole new lease on life as a vibrant community hub...stay tuned for more details in 2026.

Zero Waste Strategy

2025 saw an expansion of our #ZeroWaste Strategy, exploring new ways to prevent waste going off site. Perished food and garden waste is now being processed in a range of low-tech, low-CO2 composting systems which provide nutrients and minerals our grounds desperately need. We have also made headway with cardboard, paper and soft plastics and are exploring new recycling partnerships for all forms of waste.

As a new resident in the neighbourhood, I was immediately drawn to this place. Before I even knew exactly what was going on here, I felt this history of things getting done by civil society. This sense of a community mobilising to undertake action across a range of human rights at grassroots level – food security, asylum, social connectivity and environmental sustainability. Addi Road is a place where forward-thinking community-driven initiatives come to life, and for someone with a passion for urban ecology and a concern around modern living trends, it's a wonderful space to be in!

Ashley Wearne,
Site and Sustainability
Manager



100%

of organic food waste we compost
on-site



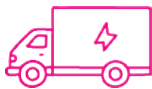
40m³

soft plastics recycled per year



300m³

of cardboard recycled per year



280t

of CO2 saved by our EV vehicle on the road
rescuing food five days/week (and charged
by power generated from our solar panels)



48mil

cans, bottles and
containers recycled



81,000

kWh of power being generated by
our solar panels, enough for the
whole site for two months





Located in the carpark is our EV charging station for 2 vehicles. Running off the power generated by the hall's rooftop solar panels, our own EV food rescue van is charged here five days/week, preventing an estimated 2.8 tonnes of additional CO2 from entering the air we breathe.

Also in the carpark is the very popular "Return and Earn" bottle and container deposit machine which collects around 48 million containers every year and brings many people to the Addi Road site and food pantry. It's little wonder many people call it "the ATM" because, incredibly, it pays out around \$100,000 every week.



Along with a new and much-improved composting arrangement, 2025 saw a site-wide plant out, including a sensory garden trail showcasing threatened, edible, native plants which we hope will encourage visitors to try substituting exotic plants with more ecological local options.

We're continuing to plant for hydrological benefits in terms of flood mitigation, and we now have our eyes set on several bare spaces which require a bit of work. Please reach out if you're interested in assisting.

Many small, medium and large businesses, both from the local neighbourhood and further afield have donated time, materials, and expertise this year. These partnerships have helped us with landscaping, weeding, designing spaces and managing the site.

We've also had many visitors this year engage with our environment and sustainability, urban ecology, food rescue, composting, soil health and biodiversity programs including the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, the Department of Primary Industries and the Taiwanese Hsinshu City Government.



The Hollow Tree

Between the car park and the art gallery is a spectacular old blue gum tree, tall and stark, hollowed out, trimmed of leaves and limbs, yet full of life.

This is our award-winning “Urban Habitat Tree”, host to a noisy mix of rainbow lorikeets, sulphur crested cockatoos, magpies, kookaburras and galahs, as well as skinks, insects and microbats by night.

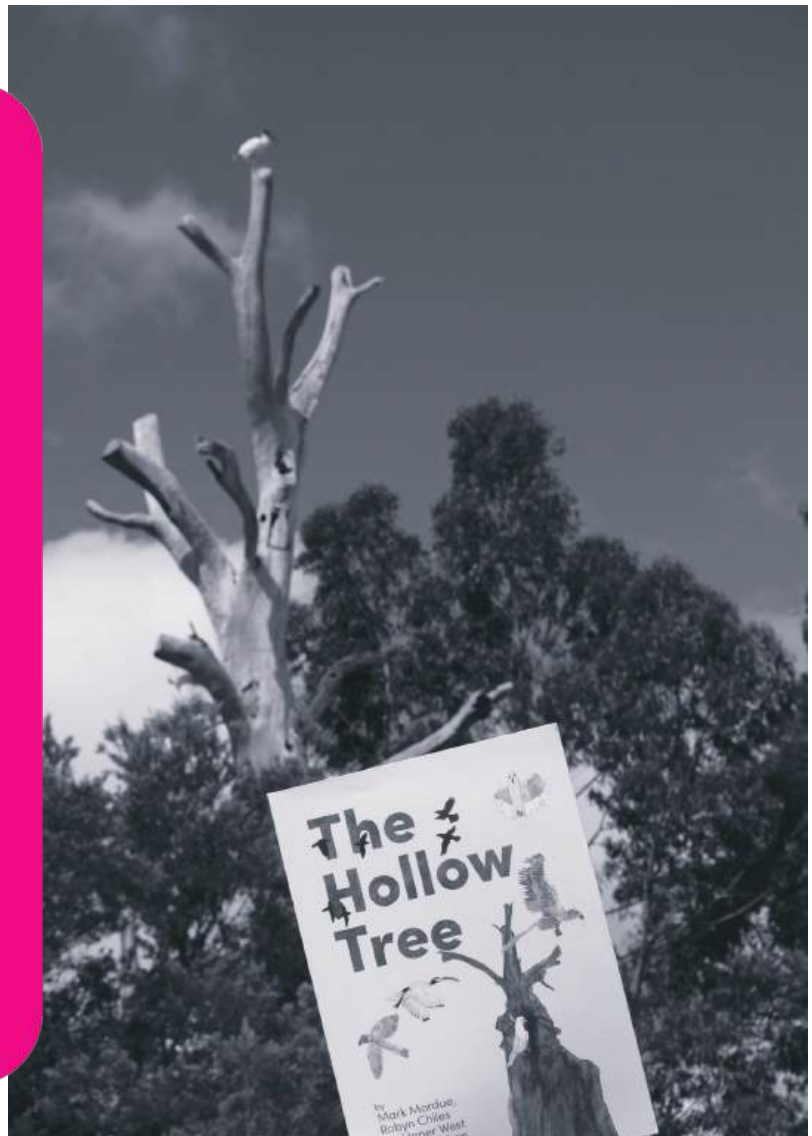
In one of the least green spaces in Sydney’s urban landscape, this “tree house” is providing vital habitat

for species under threat and has a long history of citizen science, even winning the 2017 Keep NSW Beautiful Blue Star Sustainability award for habitat and wildlife guardianship.

To help promote the importance all hollow trees play in urban landscapes, we also made it the subject of a picture book, “The Hollow Tree” written and illustrated by Mark Mordue, Robyn Chiles and school children of the inner west.

Instead of being a green tree with many branches and leaves, I’ve become a grey tree with a few strong branches and all these hollows where my friends can live. If you think the city gets crowded, it can feel the same for birds. They love the sky, but they love me too. I’m a home that they need.

Extract from The Hollow Tree by Mark Mordue, Robyn Chiles and Inner West school children



A Stitch in Time: Mending with Purpose

Inspired by one of our volunteers (shout out to Carol), Addi Road in Camperdown is now offering a sewing repair service, giving new life to clothing and textiles that would otherwise be discarded.

It's estimated that most garments are only worn between 7 and 10 times before being discarded in Australia, and

as a result, we currently produce around 300,000 tonnes of textile waste every year, 200,000 of which ends up in land fill.

The sewing team at Camperdown Addi Road are now fighting back against this mind-blowing waste, one stitch at a time.



Each morning before the pantry opens, the gentle hum of sewing fills the air as volunteers work together in the middle of the shop, surrounded by the early bustle of unpacking and preparation. These small gestures reflect a growing awareness of sustainability and the shared desire to care for one another and the planet. The sewing space has become a place of connection and comfort, where volunteers chat, laugh, and quietly support each other while working. It serves as a gentle reminder that acts of repair can extend far beyond fabric- they help mend community ties too.

Katie Scarf
Camperdown Food
Pantry Manager

Chair's Report



As we approach the 50th anniversary of Addison Road Community Organisation, I find myself extremely moved by how far we've come and how much heart continues to guide every part of our work. Addi Road has always been more than a place. It's a living story of community, solidarity, responsiveness and courage.

I have been coming to Addison Road since I was ten years old. It's where I first fell in love with Marrickville, a neighbourhood rich in culture, activism, and heart. When I was old enough to begin my independent life, there was never a question of where I wanted to be. Marrickville called me, and Addi Road has remained a gathering place for the people and the causes that define us. This past financial year has been one of immense growth. We've seen the incredible rise of Addi Sounds and Addi Youth, two programs giving young people a platform to

express themselves, connect, and create in a time where such spaces are rare. In the Inner West, where youth programs are limited, Addi Road has stepped forward to offer a stage for emerging voices.

Our ongoing collaborations with First Nations activists, artists, organisers, and healers have been transformative. Acknowledging the cultural and spiritual roots as the first place. These relationships continue to shape Addi Road.

In the face of global injustice including the devastating genocide in Palestine, Addi Road has remained a safe space to gather, to speak out, and to act. Where prolific minds and front-line resisters come together in conversation, where we stood side by side in solidarity and care. We continue the legacy of Addi Road: feeding, and uniting people when the world feels divided.

It has been an honour to serve alongside a Board whose integrity and passion continually inspire me.

Melanie reminds us:

"Addi Road continues to be a haven. It is, indeed, a deep privilege to be part of such a caring, compassionate and inspiring community. I'm in awe of the dedication and hard work of the Addi Road staff and volunteers who make everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, feel welcomed, loved and supported."

Dina captures our purpose so beautifully:

"Every year is a privilege to be on the board of this brave, forward-looking social justice organisation. This year has marked a remarkable achievement for the centre, with acknowledgment and recognition of its food justice programs and defining moments giving access to voices which would otherwise not be heard. All testament to the hardworking staff and the leadership of Rosanna Barbero."

Juliana reflects the heart of our work:

"I am so in awe of the tireless, caring, hardworking staff and volunteers that ensure the centre continues to provide the valuable services it does to the most vulnerable amongst us. It is such a privilege to see the centre grow and thrive in a sustainable manner. It is my home away from home and for that, I am forever grateful."

I want to thank CEO, Rosanna Barbero, whose leadership, style and strategy has guided and connected so many. In the spirit of Eve, she leads with compassion and all who work with her know they're in for an inspiring ride.

We also mark the departure of our long-serving Treasurer, Sean O'Connell. Sean has been a wise hand through periods of financial challenge and renewal. As he shared in his final report:

"As I step down from the board having served the maximum allowable term, I am proud of the work of the

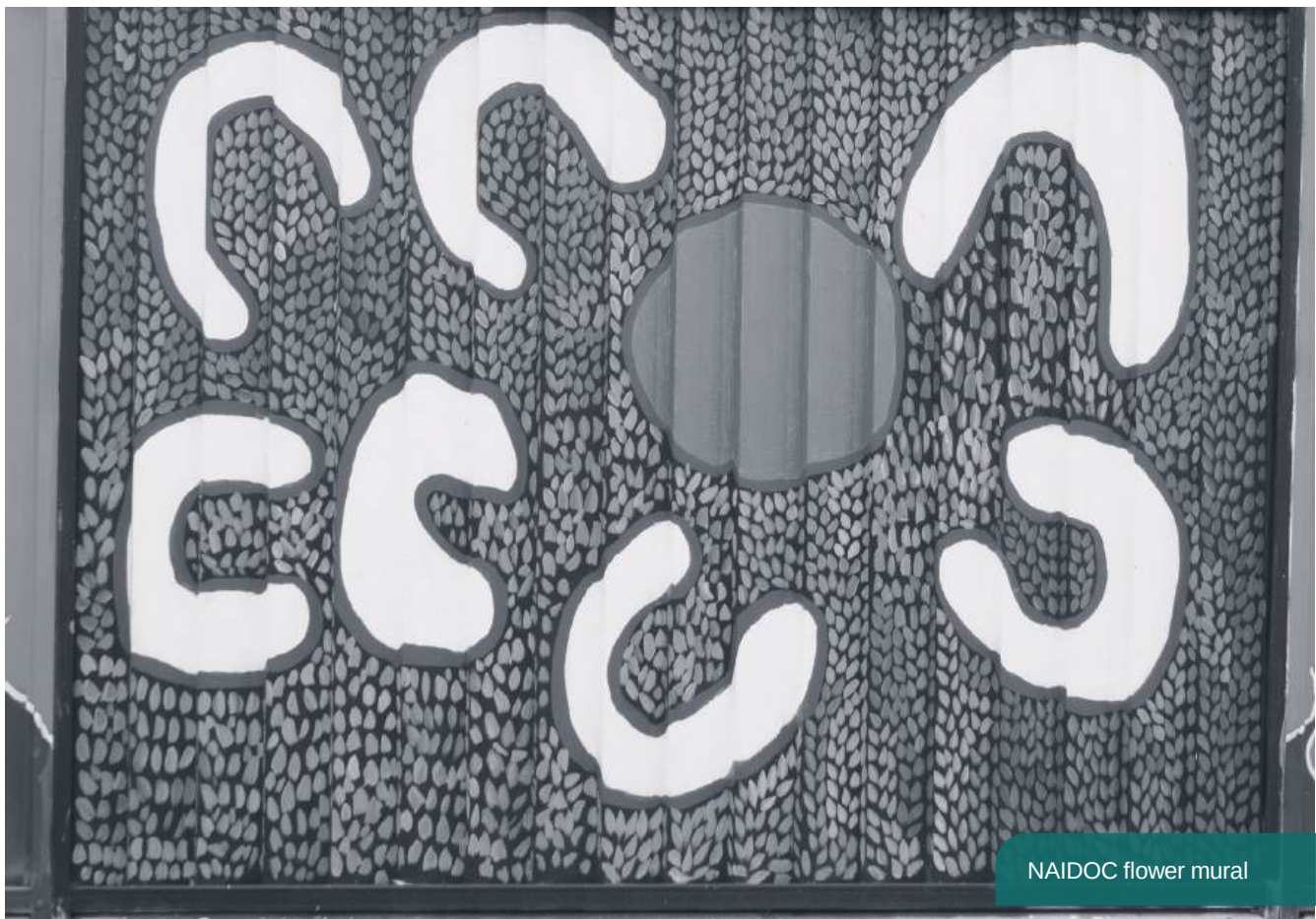
board and the management team to support ARCO." Sean's belief in the mission of Addi Road has been invaluable. On behalf of the board, I thank him for his dedication.

To our staff, volunteers, care takers, tenants, partners, and community thank you.

Addi Road is the place to be!

We do this not just for ourselves, but for the next generation so that they, too, may inherit a centre that welcomes, nourishes, and inspires them as it has inspired us all.

With solidarity,
Gladys Namokoyi - Kween
Chair



NAIDOC flower mural

Our Board



L-R Sanushka Mudaliar, Melanie Morrison, Tu Le, Kween G and Dina Patrakis

Dina Patrakis

Dina has worked in social justice, educational and aid programs in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. She improved educational standards for corrective institutions at the NSW Department of Corrective Services and Solomon Island Prison Service. She co-authored 'Literacy in Correctional Institutions' and 'Literacy in Transition'. Dina was the IGNITE Global Manager for Settlement Services International and developed their Small Business Start-up program. Dina is currently the CEO of Ethnic Community Services Co-operative (ECSC) and joined our Board in 2020.

Juliana Jamaluddin

Juliana Jamaluddin is a medical practitioner, working as an Emergency Medicine Registrar in the Sydney Local Health District. She has previously worked as a Medical Registrar in NSW, Queensland, the ACT and Tasmania and moved into Emergency Medicine during COVID. She also volunteers as a youth mentor and is an anti-racism and human rights advocate outside of her work in medicine and was part of the grassroots campaign of RacismNotWelcome. Juliana joined the Board in 2020.

Melanie Morrison

Melanie Morrison is an experienced not-for-profit leader and the Director of the newly independent Sydney Peace Foundation. She's a human rights advocate with a Master's Degree from the University of Sydney. She has led communications and research programs across the corporate, non-profit, government and university sectors. She is an award-winning journalist, researcher and producer for her work in Australia and overseas. Melanie joined the Board in 2023.

Sanushka Mudaliar

Sanushka has over 20 years of experience working in Australia, China, Cambodia, Singapore and the U.K, on policy advocacy, research and global program management. She has worked for international human rights NGOs, think tanks and academic institutions, and as a specialist consultant on labour migration and human rights advising United Nations bodies (ILO, IOM, UN Women) and regional intergovernmental bodies (African Union, ASEAN). Sanushka currently manages a global research initiative that supports humanitarian assistance and protection activities serving migrants and communities. Sanushka joined our Board in 2022.

Tu Le

Tu is a community worker, advocate and organiser who has worked across both corporate and non-for-profit sectors. She currently works in the community legal sector assisting victim-survivors of domestic and family violence and coordinating capacity-building and community legal education programs. Tu has experience working with youth, migrants and refugee communities and co-founded a youth-led organisation based in South-West Sydney. She is an advocate for greater diversity and justice in Australian society and politics. Tu joined the Board in 2022.

Sean O'Connell, Treasurer

Sean is currently CEO of the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA), providing strategic direction and leadership to deliver financial assistance schemes to NSW primary producers. Sean's background is in the government, corporate and not-for-profit sectors. He has previously worked as Chief of Staff to a NSW Cabinet Minister and Public Affairs Manager for Surf Life Saving Australia. Sean joined our Board in 2020.

Kween G Kibone, Chair

Kween G is a cultural leader, emerging Afro-Australian icon, hip hop artist, MC, community advocate and curator. With formidable commitment to her own artistry and support of emerging artists Kween G is described as "consciousness-raising". She is a versatile performer across live music, as a member of AfromBollo band, and theatre. Kween G is a cross-cultural communicator and facilitator and, for over 15 years, has worked as a producer/presenter and qualified community radio trainer. In 2021, Kween G and Lady Lash released a powerhouse track 'Love for my Sisters', which inspired the name for The Australian Women in Music Awards (AWMA) inaugural First Nations Women's Hip Hop Showcase. Last year Kween G created an introspective work Sensible Rebel EP that speaks to our time. Kween joined our Board in 2020.



Julianna Jamaluddin

Treasurer's Report

Sean O'Connell



On behalf of the board of directors, I am pleased to provide this Treasurer's Report for the period 2024-25 (FY25).

The financial position of ARCO remains sound. The financial

statements show a statutory loss (deficit) of \$200,228 on revenue of \$2,856,851 which represents a negative turnaround of almost \$340,000 compared to last year's surplus. This deficit is entirely due to a change in accounting treatment for depreciation of the Crown Land assets managed by ARCO. The organisation continues to generate positive cash flows from its operating activities.

This 'statutory' (ie non-cash) loss nevertheless should highlight to members and stakeholders the marginal nature of the ARCO business model. Total revenue decreased slightly in FY25 compared with FY24 due to a number of factors including a decrease in rent received from tenants (more on this later). At the same time, expenses increased by around 12% during FY25 due to increases in repairs and maintenance (51%) and employee benefits (8%). The majority of these increases can be seen as non-discretionary investments in expanding ARCO's capacity and the board stands by them.

Put simply, it is costing more for ARCO to fulfil its mission: our expenses continue to increase while our revenue is subject to ongoing fluctuation. Revenue has almost doubled from \$1.5m to \$2.9m since FY19 when I joined the board, while expenses have increased by almost two thirds from \$1.8m to \$2.9m. It is important to note that the organisation delivered surpluses during the intervening years, so despite my time on the board being 'bookended' by deficits, the overall trend has been positive and there has also been substantial growth in the balance sheet - over the past six years total assets have

increased from \$1.4m to \$13.3m. Although a significant portion of this increase is due to the change in accounting treatment mentioned above, real financial assets (eg cash at bank) have increased from \$223,000 to \$3.3m.

Over these years, under the leadership of Rosanna and Mike, our Operations and Finance Manager, ARCO has stabilised and diversified its revenue streams to ensure it can continue to provide the services the community needs and expects. An ongoing dilemma for the board and management is the need for rental increases. Our tenants all build community capacity in some way and their individual missions deserve support. However, providing discounted rent is no longer financially sustainable for ARCO and over time all tenants need to be moved closer to market rates. The board acknowledges the difficulties this presents some tenants.

There are many highlights over the past six years including the success of the food pantries, the asset management plan prepared by GHD, and the significant community and corporate financial support received. Government support has principally been from the NSW Government – both Liberal-National and Labor. The board looks forward to the Commonwealth Government demonstrating its commitment to building local capacity by investing in this priceless asset for Sydney's inner west.

In conclusion, as I step down from the board having served the maximum allowable term, I am proud of the work of the board and the management team to support ARCO. My hope is the organisation continues to invest in revenue diversification, cost control and improved corporate governance. My thanks to my board colleagues led by Kween, to Rosanna, Mike and the ARCO team. Special thanks to previous chair, Matt Day, who invited me onto the board and under whose stewardship ARCO's balance sheet was stabilised.

Financials

OPERATING REVENUE	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	2,856,851	2,894,907
Finance Income	26,790	35,729
Other Income	457,175	416,868
Administrative Expenses	(227,960)	(253,820)
Employee Benefit Expenses	(1,671,100)	(1,543,854)
Program Distribution Cost	(476,978)	(467,737)
Repairs and Maintenance	(167,218)	(110,511)
Other Occupancy Costs	(162,923)	(141,799)
Other Expenses	(834,865)	(691,156)
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	-200,228	138,627
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,300,687	2,894,907
Trade and Other Receivables	338,832	35,729
Inventories	20,935	19,903
Other Assets	42,804	23,907
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,703,258	2,689,658
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment	2,083,203	2,200,377
Right-Of-Use Assets	7,493,170	7,760,780
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	9,576,373	9,961,157
TOTAL ASSETS	13,279,631	12,650,815
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Receivables	82,960	123,118
Contract Liabilities	970,648	181,200
Lease Liabilities	1,500	1,500
Other Liabilities	136,054	105,115
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,565,580	735,036
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease Liabilities	40,500	42,000
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	40,500	42,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,606,080	777,036
NET ASSETS	11,673,551	11,873,779
EQUITY		
Reserves	544,447	544,447
Retained Earnings	11,129,104	11,329,332
TOTAL EQUITY	11,673,551	11,873,779

Our Staff



- Amal Dib, Addi Road Youth Team Leader
 - Ashley Wearne, Site and Sustainability Manager
 - Az Fahmi, Communications Manager
 - Cocoa Deep, Addi Road Youth Co-ordinator
 - Damien Moore, Food Operations, Donor and Corporate Engagement Manager
 - Dan Chard - Food Pantry Driver
 - Gurwinder Kaur, EA to CEO, Office and Venues Manager
 - Heather Hancock, Kitchen Coordinator
 - Julia Doubleday, Food Pantries Manager
 - Katie Scarf, Camperdown Food Pantry Manager
 - Leo Cornish, Warehouse Co-ordinator
 - Mark Locsei, Food Pantry Driver
 - Mark Mordue, Media Manager
 - Mary Savva, Admin Assistant
 - Mike Hayes, Finance and Operations Manager
 - Miriam Pellicano, Executive Manager
 - Olivia Wilson-Zarganis, Programs Manager
 - Rosanna Barbero, CEO
 - Susan Conyers, Volunteers Manager
 - Yiana Roumeliotis, Community and Social Impact Manager
 - Zaid Alsaberi, Food Pantry Driver
 - Caretakers: Kerry Lindberg and Kerrie Lindberg
 - Grounds Crew: Jack Carvalho, Antonio Marques, Kerry Lindberg
- In alphabetical order*

AN INVITATION

“This is an open invitation to join us at Addi Road any Wednesday night at 6pm. Sit at our table. Share a meal with people whose names you don’t know yet. Or better still, come cook for two hundred people. Feel what it’s like to build community one plate at a time.”

Rosanna Barbero

CEO, Addison Road Community Centre

Every Wednesday • 6:00 PM

142 Addison Road, Marrickville NSW 2204



INVEST IN US

Help us secure the next 50 years of community strength and solidarity.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Our bank details are:

Name: Addi Road Foundation Limited

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 189 568 819

Please include your name/company name as the reference.
Once your donation has been received, we will issue you with a tax receipt.

Get in Touch:

(02) 9569 7633

info@addiroad.org.au





Addison Road Community Organisation

ABN 50001350152

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