

ANNUAL REPORT

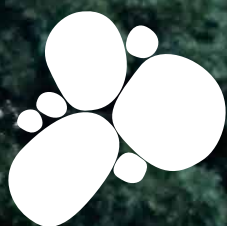
2015 - 2016



**Addison
Road
Community
Centre**



2015/2016 Annual Report



**Addison
Road
Community
Centre**

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Hut 1, 142 Addison Road Marrickville NSW 2204 Australia



Our Centre is on the land of the Cadigal people of the Eora Nation



About Us

The Addison Road Community Centre (ARCCO) is a Not-for-Profit organisation that cares for a 9 acre heritage site in the heart of the Inner West. We create innovative community development programs integrating environment, arts, culture, and social justice, and provide affordable spaces to NGOs, artists and community organisations.

Through managing the Addison Road Community Centre, ARCCO facilitates the provision of services and community development opportunities, working collaboratively with various levels of government, education institutions, community organisations and members of the public.

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General Manager Report

Reflecting the zeitgeist of the times, 2016 proved to be a year of many challenges, but with many heartwarming triumphs.

Our fortieth year was a tremendous time of celebration, reflection and renewal as we shared our story of forty years of helping people, helping NGOs and caring for the land and its resources.

We have continued to place an enormous emphasis on building up and diversifying our finances in order to be resilient enough to meet these many challenges. As of the end of the 2016 financial year we have approximately \$600,000 in the bank. Impressive as this may sound, the magnitude of our responsibility is nevertheless daunting. Essentially, we are responsible for 32 buildings, 167 trees, and the many liabilities we are legally obliged to shoulder. The money we have diligently accumulated represents just 3.5 months of our operating budget, and as such, we're still travelling uncomfortably close to the line.

One of our biggest challenge remains staying abreast of political changes in state government, as well as ensuring our own governance can react in a timely fashion. In light of the NSW Government's plans to privatise Crown land, it is vitally important we are well equipped to protect ever-dwindling community (and green) spaces. These events make it more critical than ever that we revisit our own constitution.

Our constitution is antiquated and increasingly less relevant to the needs of a community development organisation. In its current form the constitution limits and hinders our operations. Primarily, we need to be in a position to apply for Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR) status if ARCCO is to remain relevant to the community we are chartered to serve. For example, important initiatives, such as our Food Pantry, require constitutional change in order to survive. The Food Pantry is entirely dependent on grants and donations. Donors are deterred by our inability to offer tax deduction incentives, but are keen to participate if this changes.

Another problem that highlights our need for constitutional change emerged when we took our financial plight to the public in an effort to raise funds. The response to our crowd-funding endeavour was overwhelming, and also humbling. People expressed a desire to give not only money, but wanted to give of their own time and services to ARCCO. They asked how they could become more involved. Since our constitution does not allow for a broader membership, we cannot offer a more integral role to people who participate and contribute in significant and positive ways that advance ARCCO. Philanthropic groups have contacted us willing to support ARCCO only to be thwarted by our lack of DGR.

The Centre has been plagued by electricity and power supply issues for decades. However, this year it has become a major issue despite regular maintenance that we have carried out over the years and the allocation of additional resources.

Power is supplied to the entire site through a single box on Addison Road. Since October 2015 we have been working to refurbish the main switchboard and we hope to complete the works in 2017.

ARCCO has managed to reduce power consumption over the last three years. Next year we will launch our sustainable consumption program, to accelerate the shift towards sustainable power usage. This will be done in collaboration with tenants and members, to encourage practical changes. It aims to raise awareness of wastage and to change to more energy efficient practices – changing light bulbs, for example, and switching off lights and computers.

This year, by developing a new rent charging policy, we took an important step in finding the balance between generating the necessary revenue from our site and creating affordable spaces for organisations delivering vital services to the community. Developing the policy involved a comprehensive review of the rental rate structure. This more equitable system

maintains rents well below commercial rates (particularly in the context of rising commercial rents in the Marrickville area). At the same time, the rental structure will reflect a fairer portion of today's expenses, necessary for us to honour our commitment to care for our site for the benefit of the community. The new rental policy will be implemented from 2017.

The strategic plan will be available on our website in early 2017. Realising our vision means overcoming huge and complex challenges in an ever more volatile landscape. ARCCO will continue to ensure the democratic use and access to the commons, ensure we support and assist groups and NGOs that are under-resourced, while at the same time providing essential services to disadvantaged communities. At the core of our Strategic Plan vision to 2020 are practical programs that enable human development, dignity and wellbeing.

ARCCO is committed to supporting our community and civil society along the road of achieving our objectives. It's often bumpy, sometimes it deviates and occasionally there are obstacles. The next five years will be challenging but a clear direction has been mapped out. Working collaboratively and united, we will do all possible to reach our destination.

Another exciting development shaping up for 2017 is our intention to develop and lobby for legislation to ban Australian supermarkets from throwing away or destroying unsold food. We want them to donate their excess food to charities, or if appropriate to animal feed. It is shameful that so many people that are homeless, unemployed, under-employed or single-parent families are struggling with food security while food is ending up in landfill.

ARCCO is the heart of the centre. As holders of the head lease, we are the custodians of the site and have had the privilege, and responsibility, of maintaining its integrity for 40 years. Tenants come and go, but ARCCO remains constant. We are a steadfast conduit for growth and expansion for our varied tenants. Their success becomes our success. When they reach a position of no longer having to depend or rely on our ongoing support, they move on, creating a space for emerging creative endeavours, not

for profits, and human rights organisations.

Challenges aside, 2016 has proved to be a year of growth and some spectacularly successful initiatives. Our fortnightly Street Food Market embodies the core values of ARCCO. It's an initiative that offers a hands-up rather than a hand-out approach and provides a venue for new refugees to sell and showcase their various cultures through cuisine and craft. To date, 22,000 people have attended the seven markets that have been held. The Street Food Market program was acclaimed in the NSW parliament by Jo Haylen Member for Summer-Hill as a successful program helping refugees. ARCCO operates this event in partnership with IGNITE and STARTS, and we currently have a long waiting list for those vendors wanting to participate.

Another important fundraising partnership we formed in 2016 was with GetUp and Powershop. Both are environmentally conscious organisations, ARCCO receives \$50 towards a solar project with each new member that signs up to Powershop. This will take us a step closer to realizing our aspiration of converting to solar and accomplishing our commitment to renewable energy.

Visitors to ARCCO now enter through our new gate. There they're greeted by an honour roll listing peace heroes, befitting a site that's been used for military recruitment, billeting and anti-war activists. We proudly proclaim this to be a first in Australia to recognize all sides of the war efforts, including those protesting against militarization.

The third annual West African Festival goes from strength to strength. Each year the crowds are bigger. It's a community-based celebration that caters to newer migrants, reflecting more emerging communities in the local area.

In 2016, we rolled out our Living Museum project, which recognizes the rich and varied history of ARCCO. Correspondingly, it has added to ARCCO's growing importance, community relevance and legitimacy.

In my five years of walking through the gates of the Addison Road Community Centre, a few

things strike me. The capturing of our history, meaning and purpose, the establishment of the Living Museum and its significance and relevance to the community and the country, the ever-evolving honour roll for peace heroes, the beautiful gardens, the regal gates, the café that provides employment and livelihood opportunities for villages in Papua New Guinea and Kenya, and revenue that supports artists.

Most of all, my arrival at Hut 1 offers me a tangible daily experience of collaboration and partnership that makes our environment dynamic, creative, and productive. As you turn the pages the story unfolds and the truths, the evidence and the outcomes are manifested.

The ARCCO team has grown in size and strength. We now have the capacity to carry forward our work in a strategic and responsive way. For the ARCCO staff, excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.

The work of the Board of Directors, was particularly difficult this year with the need to respond to inaccurate information, and address legal matters. Our directors bear the brunt of carrying out their legal obligation to ARCCO sometimes at the risk of an antagonistic response, with precious little time to bask in the glory of the achievements and forward strides ARCCO has made with them at the reins. Their unwavering and stalwart focus on what is best for ARCCO does not go unnoticed. Their sense of ethics, equity and justice in all their decisions are admirable. Despite all, their sense of humour never wanes.

I would like to pay special tribute to our President and fearless warrior Vivi Germanos Koutsounadis as this year marks the 6th and final year of her Presidency. All of my Board join me in acknowledging Vivi's outstanding contributions from securing the site for the Addison Road Community Centre, establishing the Childcare Centre through to more recently leading the process for constitutional change. It is a pleasure to have had the opportunity to work with such a talented and passionate advocate of human rights and justice. Vivi's presence and leadership on the ARCCO Board of Directors has been outstanding in making significant progress towards strengthening ARCCO, and

inspiring the staff during moments of siege. As you turn each page of this report the tremendous accomplishments and phenomenal success are divulged. The Board and staff are the heart, soul and muscle of the ARCCO.

Sincere thanks go to our members and supporters for the role they have played in helping us become a stronger ARCCO. In 2016 we salute the 300 volunteers that have helped us in momentous ways. We appreciate their thoughtful contributions, engagement and inspiration. Thank you to all those both past and present who have made ARCCO such an iconic organisation.

Please enjoy this report on ARCCO's work in 2016 and thank you.

THE ADDISON ROAD STREET FOOD MARKET

142 ADDISON ROAD, MARRICKVILLE

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 4 - 9PM

SUPPORTING THE
START-UPS OF
REFUGEES & RECENT
MIGRANTS

STREET FOOD, ARTS,
IDEAS & MUSIC
FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

FOOD FROM IRAN,
ETHIOPIA,
COLOMBIA
& MORE!

WWW.ARCCO.ORG.AU



STARTTS

Addison
Road
Community
Centre

40 years:

When this site was handed over to our organisation in 1976, we became a precursor to the Neighbourhood Centre movement that flourished in the years that followed. We were granted the head lease and received funding to run programs and care for the site for the benefit of the community. Affordable childcare, training and holiday programs for youth at risk were established. Forty years on, we are building on the strong foundation of those early days as we nurture our current thriving community development programs.



Youth At Risk program (Hut 8)
Image by David Humphreys

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Vivian Germanos-Koutsounadis

ARCCO Representatives

Matt Stegh

Emma Couch

Ben Benazzouz

Community Representatives

Debbie Killian

Ulrike Bartels

Jennifer Killen



OUR PEOPLE

General Manager: Rosanna Barbero

Accounts: Sam Trinity

Administration: Gurwinder Kaur

Financial and Operations: Mike Hayes

Culture: Juan Carlos Rios

Environment: Rosy Porter

Communications: Alex McInnis

Cafe: José Romero

Museum: Mina Bui Jones

Food Pantry: Ruth Gamblin

International Intern: Janek Noah Wiesenthal

Care taker: Kerrie Lindberg

Care taker: Kerry Lindberg

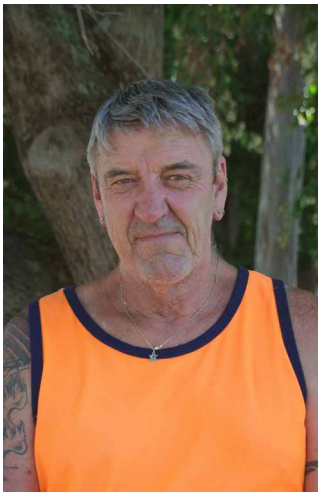
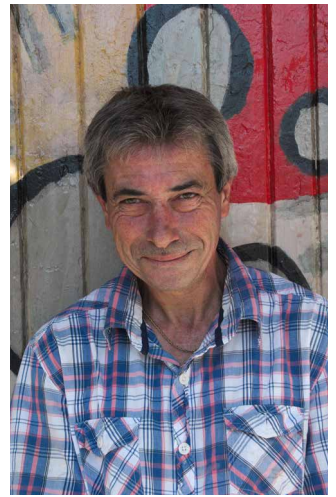
Ground crew: Jack Carvalho

Ground crew: Antonio Marques

Elisa has been volunteering with us on Food Pantry and Street Food Markets for all of 2016, after finishing her Work for the Dole with us early in the year.

“I love this place, I just love coming here and I feel good as soon as I walk through the gates. I look forward to Wednesdays at Food Pantry, it’s a good feeling to give to people and make them smile. Volunteering here has helped me mentally, emotionally, with everything, you can see it in my smile.” - Elisa, ARCCO volunteer 2015/16





Organisational Development

- Strengthen institutional capacity.
- Improved financial stability and independence.
- Build human resource capacity and collaboration.
- Improve sense of identity.





We are striving to be open and sustainable.

Organisational Development

This year our capacity and identity have been strengthened and improved through a strategic effort to build HR, collaboration, and programs. Additional staff and efforts to train and maintain committed volunteers mean our community is being better served, as we are able to develop our programs to address gaps. Our sense of identity exists in our actions, recognition, interactions and impacts - through our partnerships and the hundreds of people who have benefited from our programs. In the past five years we have nurtured our programs and formed over 90 partnerships.

At the heart of ARCCO is our vision and core values, which must be reflected in the work we do. Our strategic planning in 2016 involved changing our objectives to better reflect our work, and to prepare for the changes we need to ensure ARCCO's longevity.

Constitution

This year, with the help of pro-bono lawyers, ARCCO staff and directors have put a great deal of work into preparing for the next step to make ARCCO more sustainable, democratic, inclusive and accessible. We have reviewed and redrafted our constitution and objects, with the aim of removing the disadvantage of ineligibility for PBI and DGR status, and making ARCCO more inclusive. These elements are closely intertwined; while inclusivity is important in its own right, our eligibility for PBI and DGR in fact depends on it.

Our constitution is outdated, lacking, and makes ARCCO ineligible for PBI and DGR status. Many of our members have benefitted from PBI and DGR status themselves and thus understand how this is crucial to an organisation's sustainability.

For ARCCO, being granted PBI and DGR status will:

- Strengthen our sustainability.
- Enable us to obtain and enjoy tax concessions, and allow donations from the private & philanthropic sectors. This would be a significant increase to our funding pool, allowing us to achieve greater economic independence by moving beyond dependence on limited government grants.
- Make us eligible for a broader range of grants.
- Create more incentive for individuals to donate funds, as all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.
- Create greater flow on economic benefits and social development opportunities, including job creation & supporting livelihoods. For example, more investment in the Street Food Markets would mean increased success for stallholders and their families.
- All of the above help to grow our capacity to fulfil our statutory and cultural obligations recognised through the head lease title, but will only be possible with constitutional change. As the head lessor of the centre, and therefore the only organisation with the contractual obligations to care for this space, it makes it all the more important that we not remain at a disadvantage.

Exclusivity

The exclusive nature of our membership, as dictated by the constitution, is a major road-block in achieving PBI and DGR status. By limiting membership to tenants, ARCCO is impeded from serving the broader community. We will not be granted PBI & DGR unless our membership becomes more inclusive, and this requires constitutional change. Unlike most Not-for-Profits, managing conflict of interest has become a major responsibility of the ARCCO Board.

Becoming more inclusive will not only better serve the community and allow us to benefit from PBI & DGR status; a broader stakeholder representation also mitigates against the risk of new legislation such as crown lands privatisation.

Our current exclusivity is a thorn in ARCCO's reputation. Many locals are aware of it, and have reason to resent the lack of inclusion. We are not a co-op, and therefore are not set-up primarily for the purposes of our members. We are mandated to serve the interests of the broader community who benefit from our space, not just those organisations located here. We do our best to achieve this through our programs, but until membership is opened up it will fail to represent the interests of our constituent relationships.

Organisational biodiversity

ARCCO is comprised of a diverse set of components that determine our effectiveness and sustainability over time, which include:

- Vision, Values, Objectives, governance, strategic thinking & planning
- Program development, implementation &

evaluation

- Learning & accountability
- HR management
- Organisational culture, management systems & structures
- Legal compliance
- Fiscal management
- Public accountability
- Resource development
- Constituent relationship & collaboration

With these elements working together, ARCCO has a strong footing to weather challenges & mitigate against risks, and is better able to adapt in a rapidly changing political environment. Constitutional change is key to keeping all these organisational elements healthy, and without it our progress will be stunted.



Facility Development Strategy

- Improved management of the commons.
- Establish an equitable and effective governance system for tenants.
- Improve the infrastructure and building facilities.



Facility Development strategy

For most of this year, steady progress was made across our global management plan, which identifies works from high to low priority in the areas of tree management, stormwater, electricals, buildings, roads and traffic. The global management plan allows us to balance, prioritise and budget for these works. Balancing these priorities is key to caring for such a large heritage site, which has experienced some years of under-maintenance. ARCCO management and staff go to great lengths to seek funding, establish fair rates that don't disadvantage ARCCO, and form mutually beneficial partnerships with members to work with our plans to improve the centre's facilities. While this method of working has brought us much progress this year, we also suffered some disruptions that have caused setbacks in some areas of the management plan.

Did you know?

On average, ARCCO tenants pay 70% less than commercial rates.

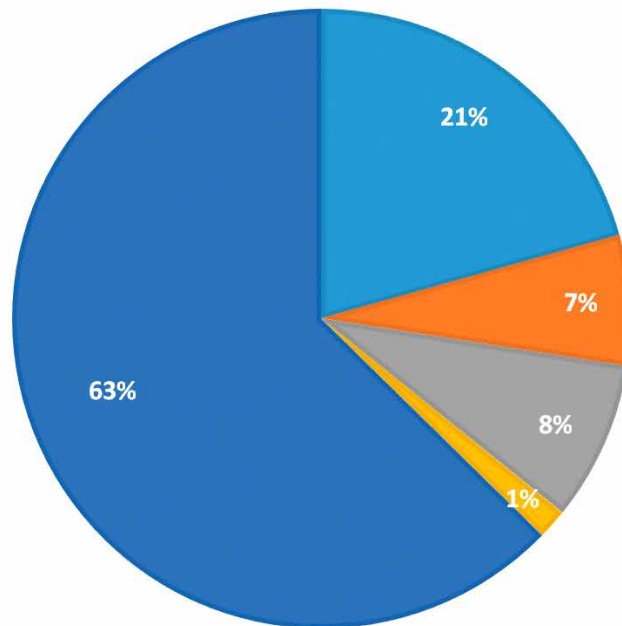
We worked with tenant members to apply for 6 grants related to joint infrastructure works. A successful outcome was our partnership with Youth Off The Streets, which secured funding for new showers and basketball courts. Work for the Dole clients provided invaluable help in the areas of maintenance and repairs, and many have stayed on with us as volunteers.

Other repairs and grants include:

- ARCCO Work for the Dole clients replaced the floors of the Greek Theatre.
- Youth Off The Streets and the Depot Theatre completed new decking - a great example of tenants collaborating to better the centre.
- ARCCO and Ultimo Projects repaired the UP roof.
- ARCCO successfully applied for grants for a disability pathway into the Gumbramorra Hall. The hall roof was repaired and new energy efficient lighting was installed. These are important works as the hall is the most multi-purpose building in the centre.
- Eco efficient streetlights installed.
- Hut 9 has been refurbished as part of ARCCO's Food Pantry program.
- A new gate - designed in house - was installed at the entrance. This forms part of works to improve centre security and create a more welcoming entrance.

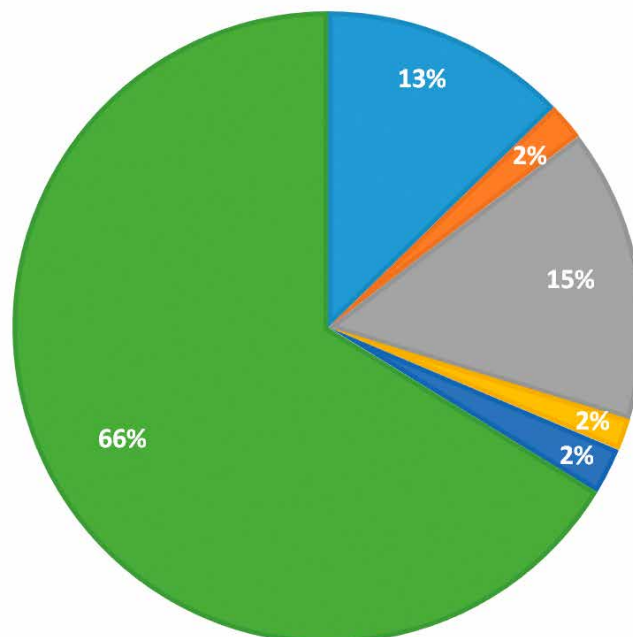
BUILDINGS REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE - 32 BUILDINGS

Electricity Plumbing Roofs Pests Renovation & Upkeep

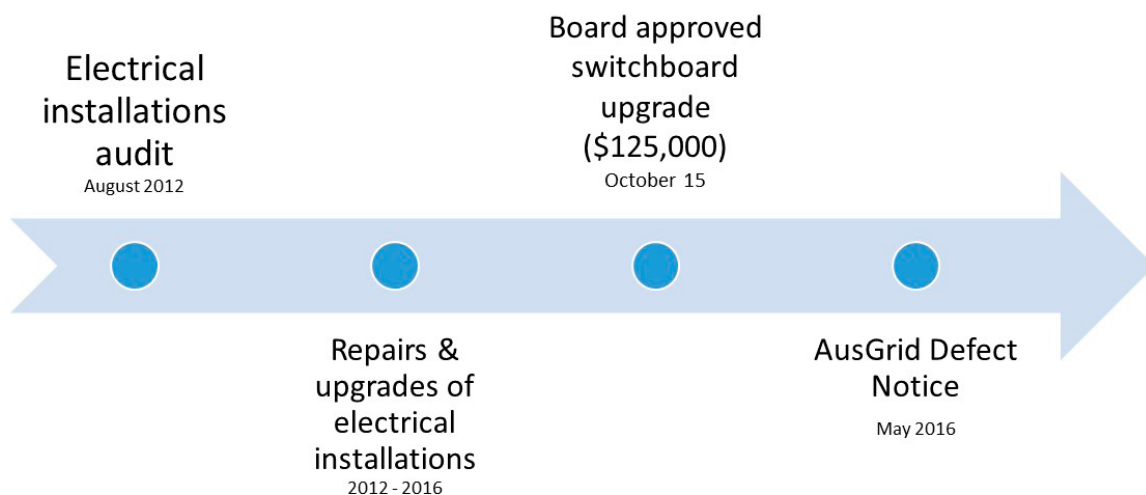


GROUPS REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE - 9 ACRES

Electricity Plumbing Trees Carpark Fences Landscaping & Upkeep



Electricals at ARCCO 2012 – 2016



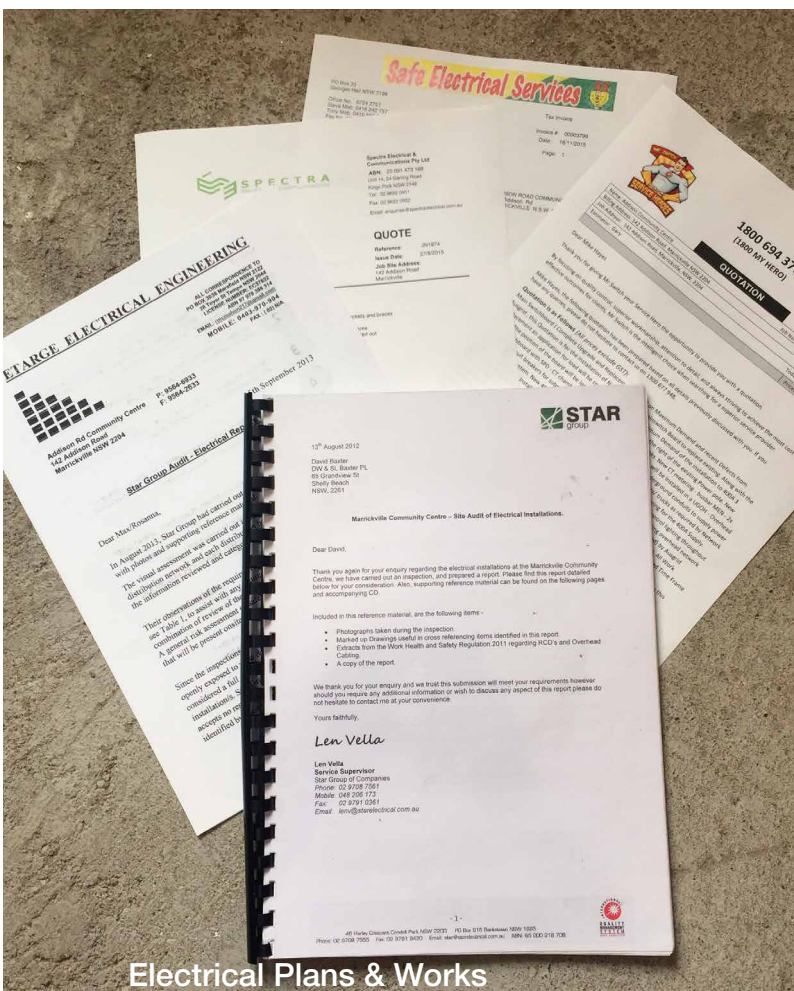
ARCCO continues to implement our electricals plan, with a few logistical setbacks due to street infrastructure and disruptions to our scheduled works and budget.

We have reached maximum capacity on site, and unfortunately our application to increase power to our site was rejected due to limitations of the infrastructure outside our centre on Addison Road. Our ongoing efforts to increase centre capacity commenced in 2015, and required other electrical works to be planned around it pending results - including plans for the main switchboard, load testing and pole inspections. As of December 2016, we are waiting for the decision on our second application to increase capacity by a lesser amount.

Reaching maximum capacity has put a limit on which kinds of organisations can be accepted as tenants, based on their power consumption. ARCCO will conduct a centre wide electrical appliance audit and will give recommendations on ways tenants can reduce their power consumption.

Major interruptions were made to our global management plan by ARCCO member, The Bower, submitting a report to Ausgrid without the prior knowledge of ARCCO management. In order to protect their own liability, Ausgrid was obliged to force us to accelerate certain areas of our electrical works - that were already planned and in progress. Prior to this we were on track not only with the electricals but with our entire global management plan, which was scheduled and budgeted to allow us to address priorities across our many responsibilities. Unfortunately, spending such a large amount on one area reduces the budget earmarked for other areas and has meant delays in other planned works.

This incident highlighted the importance of the mutual responsibility of communication between ARCCO and members. It demonstrated why acting unilaterally, without the knowledge of management, puts the entire centre at risk.



Electrical Plans & Works



The function of the board is to make all strategic decisions, approve budgets and approve strategic plans, and only the ARCCO staff and board have the information, provided by professionals, to provide facts and act in the centre's best interest. Regular communication with members to provide factual information was key to managing this risk. Members were invited to contact ARCCO to obtain further information or clarify issues, and most did so - showing best practice in their responsibilities as members to seek factual information.

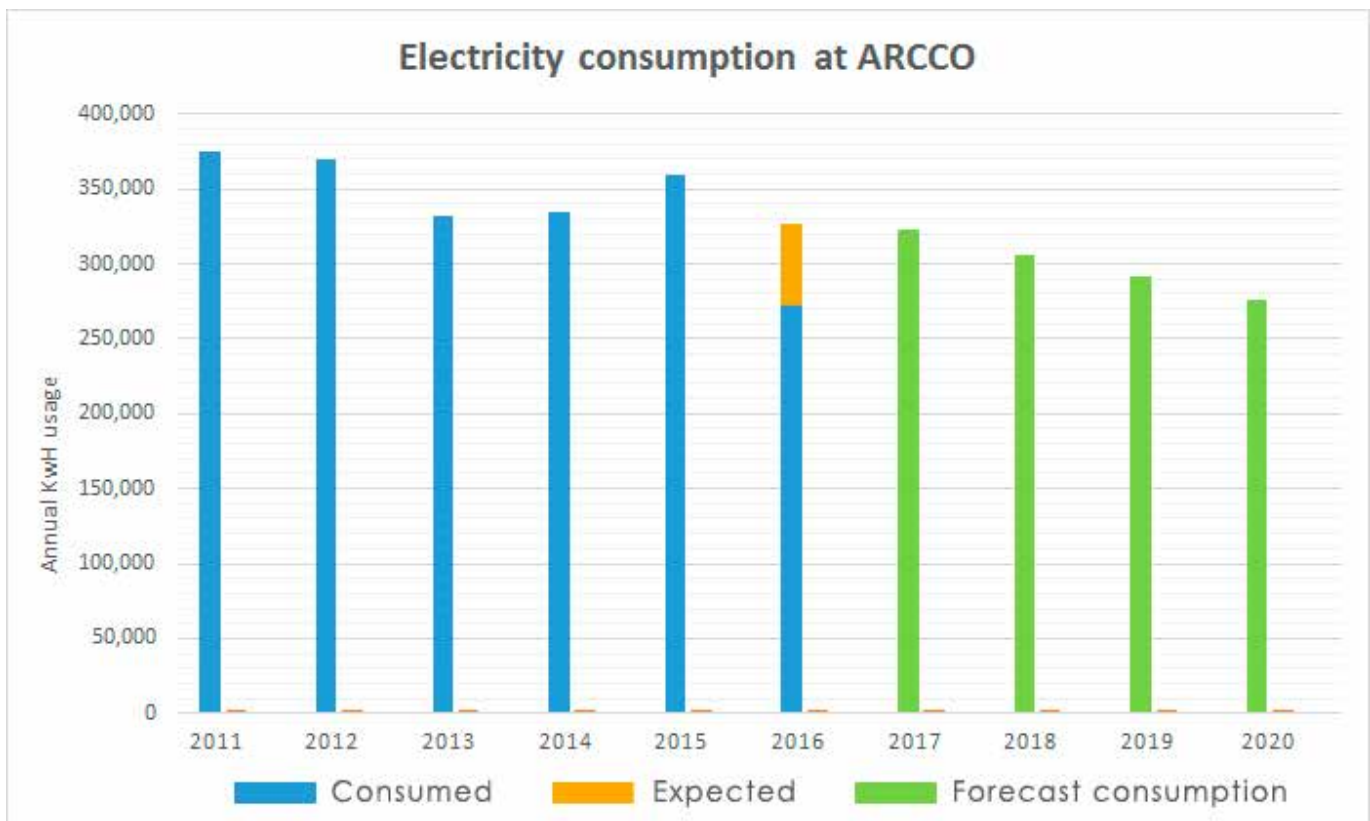
We are happy to see that ARCCO policy to reduce consumption has been effective, with an overall decrease since 2011 despite the centre becoming more active - with more buildings occupied.

In order to continue to reduce our carbon footprint, ARCCO will focus on renewables and energy efficiency into 2017. Our community solar project with GetUp and Powershop will enable us to install solar power on site, while our environmental policy for 2017 will integrate energy efficiency by monitoring the

use of energy efficient lighting and appliances.

This is a major responsibility of everyone on site, as reducing power surges is not only about infrastructure but consumption. Our unique position means that policy initiatives can result in meaningful community projects, with ARCCO and members creating a greater impact together than is possible for organisations acting individually. Collaboration in this area can create an inspiring example for the community.

Power



ARCCO is aiming to reduce its electrical consumption by 15% over the next 4 years.

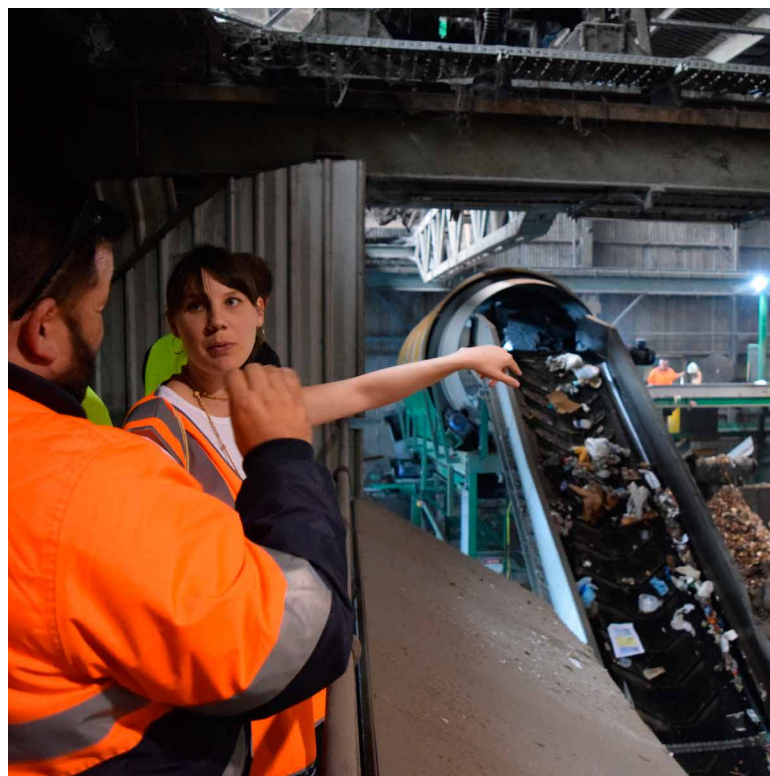
Resource Recovery

Since 2013, all waste collected from our centre is processed at a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), where it is separated into reusable resources. When we first implemented this system we were highly commended by council's Rethink Waste award for this method which recovered over 75% of all materials. Now, 97% are recovered – meaning a huge reduction in the amount going to landfill.

Materials that previously couldn't be recovered, such as, plastics and timber, are now being shredded down to make Processed Engineered Fuel (PEF). This provides Industry with a greener fuel alternative to coal, reducing emissions and landfill!

Importantly, this resource recovery includes food and organics, which are one of the most polluting waste products in landfill, releasing the highly potent greenhouse gas methane and leaching into groundwater. Food and organics collected from our centre are instead turned into compost.

Our chosen contractors are leading the way in sustainable waste management. They were the chosen tenderers by UNSW during a major review to improve the university's sustainability, as they were identified as the most sustainable, cost effective and innovative option.



**97% of our
waste is recovered.**

Clean Audit Report

Clean Audit Report for 2015/16 Financial Year Overview

- No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit: and
- No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit
- Auditor's opinion (dated 17th October 2016) – Bryan Rush & Co. Chartered Accountants

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion the financial report of The Addison Road Centre for Arts, Culture, Community & Environment Ltd is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

(i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and

(ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

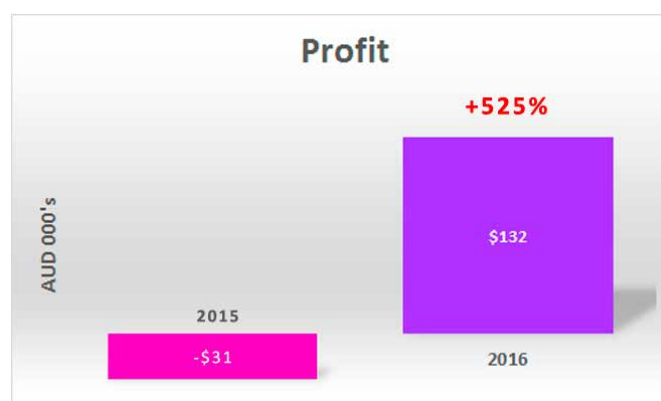
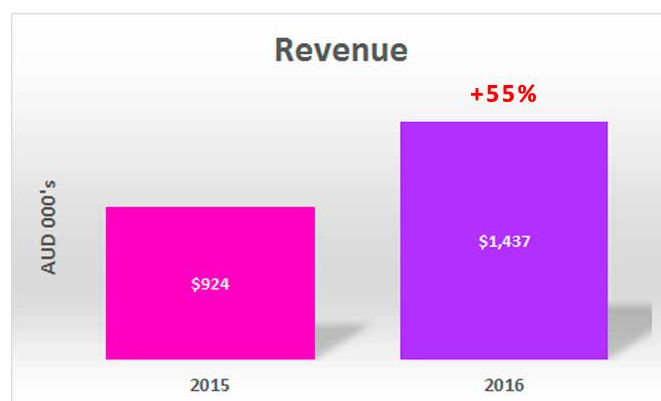
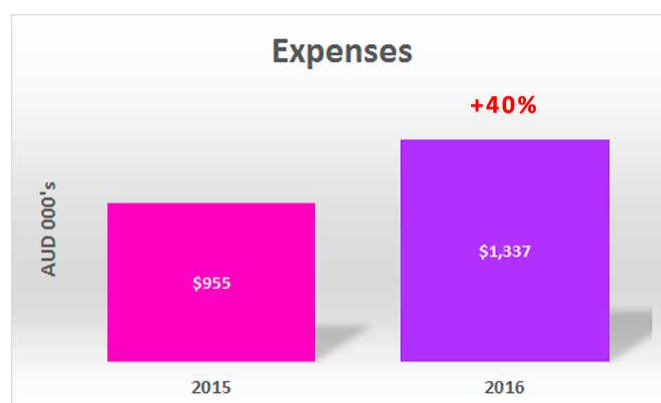
HIGHLIGHTS (Year on Year)

- Revenue of \$1,437k, an increase over last year of +56% (or \$513k)
- Expenses have grown +22% (or \$350k) to \$955k underwriting some essential spend to grow revenue
- A turnaround from an operating loss of -\$31k to a surplus of \$133k

The ARCCO funds comprise of Restricted Funds, Designated Funds and Undesignated Funds.

The latter exists in order to mitigate the financial effect of potential risks, in accordance with the ARCCO risk management Policy. This requires the organisation to maintain general reserves equivalent to at least three months' core expenditure, currently at \$600K.

The ARCCO has continued to maintain comprehensive risk management arrangements in order to identify and assess, monitor and



AUD 000's

Revenue	2016	2015	Chg	%Chg
Donations	2	3	-1	-33%
Rent	548	455	93	20%
Rate and Rubbish Removal Recovery	103	93	10	11%
Hall and event Hires	114	94	20	21%
Organic Food Market	107	94	13	14%
Toll Gate	27	-	-	100%
Grants	338	32	306	956%
StirrUp Cafe	99	93	6	6%
Insurance Recovery	24	-	-	100%
Interest Received	7	6	1	17%
Other Incomes	69	55	14	25%
Total Revenue	1,437	924	513	56%

AUD 000's

	2016	2015	Chg	% Chg
<u>ASSETS</u>				
Cash At Bank	600	442	158	36%
Trade Debtors	106	51	55	108%
Sundry Debtors	28	32	-4	-13%
Provisions for Doubtful Debts	-11	-9	-2	22%
Property, Plant & Equipment - NBV	608	597	11	2%
Other Current Assets	3	1	2	200%
Total Assets	1,334	1,094	240	22%
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
Trade Payables & Accruals	100	65	35	54%
Employee Benefits	102	81	21	26%
Advances - Rents & Grants	121	72	49	68%
Bonds & Deposits	10	7	3	43%
Other Current Liabilities	-	2	-2	-100%
Total Liabilities	333	226	107	47%
<u>EQUITY</u>				
Reserves	544	544	0	0%
Retained Earnings	456	324	132	41%
Total Equity	1,000	868	132	15%

Community Development

- Increase our role as a leader in community development.
- Sustainability and growth of programs.
- Improved community engagement with ARCCO programs.
- Enhance and create social enterprises.



Community Development

Through our community development programs, we put our site to use to create positive outcomes for the community beyond our four walls. Our programs foster belonging, cohesion, advocacy and diversity for the community at large, with an emphasis on benefiting groups facing disadvantage. By accessing any one of our programs, participants have the opportunity to become further involved and to be informed about more services or programs available to them.

Our programs see people find a place of belonging; discover a service that changes their lives; grow their startup businesses; ease the pressures of poverty; show their art - perhaps for the first time; share and celebrate their cultures; learn about and document our unique history; contribute to new ecological research; and form lasting friendships.

We've strengthened all areas of our community development this year, with strong staff collaboration across program areas and longevity and crossover of participants and volunteers.

Casa de los Abuelos

Recent developments at Casa de los Abuelos are a great example of the potential for collaboration at Addi Rd. Through advice and guidance provided by ARCCO members Community and Cultural Connections, the Abuelos were able to link into My Aged Care, and now have access to:

- home improvements for increased accessibility and mobility
- help at home
- after hospital care
- respite for carers

Initiatives such as Casa de los Abuelos are helping to address issues of social isolation experienced by the elderly, which leads to loneliness, poor mental health and well being and reduced information and access to services - issues that were prominent in our Mind the Gap study. By bringing the elderly into the heart of our community they are able to enjoy company, music, food and dance from their cultures, as well as the opportunity to remain informed about services that can improve their lives.

We investigate important issues and create alternatives.

Advocacy & Research

Mind the gap

This year our research with the Marrickville Multicultural Interagency (MMIA) into local inequality was finalised, ready to be launched in conjunction with the new Food Pantry space. From the first interviews and focus groups, this research has been invaluable not only to ARCCO but to other organisations. It has grounded our community development work, influenced programs and policies, and provided evidence for grants.

We expect Food Pantry and our initiatives in advocacy and research to continue to grow together. Food Pantry was our first response to the stories shared with us by local people sacrificing food to meet other basic needs; as it grows and a community forms around it, it becomes more than 'charity' as opportunities to share hardships and develop solutions arise.

Creating these solutions from the ground up, based on a foundation of solid research, puts us in a good position to contribute to efforts to influence policy on food waste and cost of living. Apart from its immediate impact on people's lives, Food Pantry is changing attitudes towards the causes of waste and hunger.

Shalmali Guttal: Resisting Neoliberalism

In November we held an event with global justice activist and researcher, Shalmali Guttal, who was visiting Australia as a keynote speaker at a conference for Australian aid agencies. Shalmali shared with us her knowledge on neoliberalism and the new generation of proposed and operating free trade agreements. Our event brought Shalmali's visit and these issues to national attention, as she was interviewed by ABC TV's The World, as well as community radio stations broadcasting nationally. Activ-

ists, students and academics attended to learn about the destructive impacts across Asia - in particular for Indigenous people, women, workers and the environment - as well as the resistance and alternatives.

It was a wonderful opportunity for all who attended to expand their knowledge to apply to their own pursuits, whether in international solidarity or local sites of resistance to privatisation, environmental destruction and colonisation. Events such as these are one way our spaces and networks can support local grassroots efforts and learning.

We create opportunities
for expression for all.

Arts

Public Schools Arts Festival

This year we held the second Public Schools Arts Festival (PSAF), teaming up with the Inner City Teacher's Association and Drawn to Seeing.

The festival was a showcase of the hard work and talent of public school students from the Inner West and beyond. The theme, Lessons from the Past, encouraged students to engage with our Living Museum. They explored the layers of history in a chosen place, and the topics that arise, through painting, writing, digital media and more.

Partnering with local schools has created a forum for cross-schools collaboration, greater engagement with ARCCO programs and the centre, and is helping us to develop our Living Museum school excursions.

StirrUp Gallery

It's been a busy year in the StirrUp Gallery, with bookings almost every week. The StirrUp Gallery continues to add diversity and accessibility to the Sydney art scene, while raising revenue to assist with caring for our centre and running community development programs.

A few recent exhibitions that illustrate the diversity of the gallery include Deep Dirt Collective's 'you will not be easily erased' – a collaborative live-work by six women of colour artists as an offering and remembrance to ancestors, families, communities and descendants; Michael Sagan's Pemulwuy's Journeys; and Alison Winchester's Lovers and Dreamers, an exploration of the themes of cognitive testing and brain injury, and their impact on art.

For many artists it's given them their first taste at exhibiting, built their confidence, and has opened a pathway to choose a career in art. On average, artists have sold 40 - 80% of their works. It is a rare space in that it's uncensored - anyone is free to exhibit, and ARCCO doesn't take a commission. This has contributed to the gallery's evolution since opening and democratising the space. Art as awareness raising has organically become a strong theme of the gallery - for example, 2016 was the 3rd consecutive year that UNHCR held their photograph exhibition in the StirrUp Gallery.

Art on the Slab

Art on the Slab is a strong example of a successful partnership involving true community leadership. ARCCO provides the space and promotional capacity, while local artist Fiona Arnold has taken leadership of contacting artists and organising installation.

This year Art on the Slab has expanded, with a new art zone beneath the Habitat Tree, and sculptures finding homes among the gardens so that when they leave the Slab they don't have to leave the centre.

Like the StirrUp Gallery, Art on the Slab is open to anyone, and has attracted artists and community members voicing their experiences on issues important to them. The collaboration for Youth Homelessness Matters Day saw local youth at risk use the space to tell their own stories of homelessness. It was not only awareness raising but confidence building, as they were able to tell their story through art in a space that is not at the margins of society but in fact a central place of community gathering.



Art On The Slab



Public Schools Arts Festival

We research and reveal the layers of history and significance of our site.

Living Museum

Over the last couple of years, the history of both the community centre and its site have received more and more interest and recognition. ARCCO's success at obtaining a Department of Veterans Affairs Anzac Centenary Grant in 2014 helped us to undertake several projects and events that gathered and shared stories, images and information that may otherwise have disappeared without being recorded. These include an oral history interview series – our Talking History collection – and the installation of the seven Heritage Trail panels that visitors to the Centre pause to read and enjoy every day.

Building on these important first steps, in 2016 ARCCO appointed a part-time Museum Coordinator to manage the Living Museum program so it can continue to grow and to expand its focus, reflecting the diversity of the ongoing history of this unique place.

Thanks to the dedication of several independent and Work For The Dole volunteers, an enormous amount of time-consuming work has been done to transcribe nearly thirty of the Talking History interviews (most of them conducted by the Centre's 'resident historian' Sue Castrique). Having these transcribed means that we will soon be able to make them more readily available to researchers and students, and that as an organisation we are fulfilling our obligation to make material in our care accessible to the public. This process has also helped us recognise the significance of the collection as, sadly, some of the interviewees have passed away since they were interviewed; and to start identifying individuals we should interview in future.

A museum volunteer has also started cataloguing our small but growing collection of photographs and other items associated with the Centre's history. This is a vital first step to

publicising and sharing the collection. When the cataloguing is complete, we will be able to 'publish' items online, where people will be able to browse them and comment.

In April, ARCCO participated in the National Trust's Heritage Week with an exhibition of historic photographs. Several people who came along shared their memories of the Centre in times past; such as watching military parades in what's now the car park, or running arts activities for kids when the Centre was first won for use by the local community.

This year, ARCCO joined the History Council of NSW, which led to our participation in the Speakers Connect program for History Week 2016, with a fascinating lecture given by Hōhepa Ruhe on the Maori history of Sydney and some thoughtful reflections on the complex politics of the ANZAC legend.

ARCCO was also admitted to Museums & Galleries NSW, a professional network that provides advice, resources and information on funding opportunities to community-based institutions.

October 28 was the centenary of Australia's vote against conscription in 1916, in the midst of World War I. ARCCO's Living Museum marked this occasion with the creation of an Honour Roll For Peace at the gates of the Centre, where anti-conscription actions took place throughout the Vietnam War. The Honour Roll For Peace is the first of its kind in Australia – a tribute to those whose sacrifice and courage has been devoted to creating a more just and peaceful world. With very few restrictions, anyone may dedicate and purchase a plaque, so the Roll itself is a fascinating record of the diversity and creativity of the movement for peace that has been a part of our community for decades. This is a moving and inspiring project that is set to grow in the years ahead.

Looking to 2017, we are eagerly anticipating the publication of a history of the Addison Road Community Centre by Sue Castrique, whose first chapter has already won a literary award, and will be working on developing excursion programs that allow schools to make more use of the centre as the rich learning and exploration resource that it is.



Honour Roll For Peace



National Trust Heritage Week

We enhance the benefits of greenspace that exist at our community centre.

Urban Habitats

Our program is centred around our Urban Habitat Tree, with interlinking research, education and arts components.

ARCCO is responsible for 167 trees on site, many of which are large mature trees that contribute significantly to the urban forest canopy and biodiversity. We protect, conserve and enhance these biodiversity values through our Tree Management Plan that monitors and ensures best management practice of tree repair works. Funded by council, this year we undertook ecological monitoring of our trees and Urban Habitat Tree for wildlife activity. We also participated in activities lead by council and other organisations involved in urban habitat research, including the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney University, Local Land Services, Growing School Sustainability and NSW National Parks & Wildlife Services.

Urban Habitat Tree - research

The Urban Habitat tree (UHT), which was created in 2014 to conserve biodiversity values by installing artificial hollows for Australian wildlife, has become a well-known feature in the centre. Locals help us spot & monitor use of the tree by different bird species - sulphur crested cockatoos, rainbow lorikeets and galahs are seen on a regular basis, and we've even spotted black cockatoos. Partnering with the leading arborists who created the UHT, this year we received funding from council to purchase monitoring equipment and engage an ecologist to monitor wildlife activity. This is a pilot project which is hoped to be rolled out on all the habitat trees created to date. ARCCO was the 2nd in NSW to adopt the technique of UHT creation and there are now over 80 across Sydney! Our findings will contribute significantly to this emerging technique, enabling us to further advocate for UHTs as an environmental solution to support

wildlife habitat, which is increasingly needed as our urban environments become more built up.

Microbats and other creatures of the night!

Starting in late 2015 to mid-2016, we undertook citizen science microbat monitoring with the community. Funded through council, this project contributed valuable data to pioneering research that focuses on understanding the behaviours of microbats in urban environments. We found microbats at the centre and very nearby the Urban Habitat Tree – where we had installed microbat mazes. An ecologist analysed our data and confirmed we found three species on site, including the Eastern Bentwing Bat which is a listed vulnerable species. There's such a small number of microbats, and so little known about them, so any new knowledge on their whereabouts and activity will help with efforts to improve their urban habitats. We also spotted other nocturnal wildlife on site, including a family of Tawny Frogmouths. We're excited to find that our site is functioning as a stepping-stone for local wildlife!

In 2016, we look forward to integrating urban habitat research with the Living Museum and developing further education and research opportunities for school involvement. Furthermore we will build on partnerships with the Inner West Council, Drawn to Seeing, Growing Schools Sustainability and Sydney Arbor Trees to use this site as an educational ground and to increase awareness for urban habitats.



Microbat Monitoring using Echo Metres



Lorikeet bathing in the Habitat Tree
Image by Simon

We provide affordable groceries to over 100 people every Wednesday.

The Food Pantry

After trialling the Food Pantry monthly at Community A Fair in 2015, we were able to open weekly from February this year. We're now providing affordable groceries to around 100 people every Wednesday, and we've been incredibly lucky to have some regular and committed volunteers stick with us throughout the year, who now have the capacity and knowledge to fill key roles, and help manage the pantry and other volunteers. This year we received funding for a Food Pantry Coordinator, which has been vital in keeping the Food Pantry project up and running and plans progressing.

Many who come to shop quickly become regulars, and it's not only locals. We have regulars who travel from all parts of Sydney, which is testament not only to the quality and range of items, but the accessibility and welcoming atmosphere that our staff and volunteers have created.

Our Mind the Gap study showed us just how tight many locals' budgets were, with food the number one necessity being sacrificed to make ends meet. Food Pantry shoppers have consistently reported that easing the pressure of living costs is making a huge difference in their lives, meaning they don't have to choose between enough to eat and buying new school shoes or paying rent.

Funding

This year we were granted the Organics Infrastructure grant from the NSW Government's Waste Less Recycle More Initiative, which has allowed for some huge developments. We've been able to refurbish and set up Hut 9 with all the necessary equipment – fridges, freezers, shelving, POS and storage – to finally move out of the shipping container. The new space means we can stock more variety (including

frozen foods, dairy and meat) and quantity, meaning we can provide affordable groceries to more people, and shoppers can meet more of their needs at the Food Pantry. It will also allow us to open more often, and provide a more comfortable space for Food Pantry clients to sit and socialise, which for many is as beneficial and important as the affordable groceries.

People and planet

This funding has also allowed for the purchase of a refrigerated van to be used for food rescue, increasing the positive environmental impacts of this program as we reduce the amount of good food going to landfill – which is one of the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and groundwater poisoning. In 2017, we will be able to reach our goal of rescuing 4t of food a month. Including more food that we've rescued ourselves means our free section will expand, so shoppers will receive greater value and variety.

Our Food Pantry is a great example of what we strive for in our programs; by engaging with key issues of inequality and climate change, it benefits people and planet.

Vouchers

In May this year, 26 community service organisations participated in our Food Pantry Voucher information session. The vouchers enable us to partner with these organisations to better reach people in need. Many of these organisations already provide their clients with vouchers for large supermarket chains. By purchasing our vouchers as well, they can offer an alternative that provides value for money, as well as an entry point to increased social engagement, services and community activities. Many of these organisations have recommended the Food Pantry to clients, and we anticipate that with our new premises and increased variety and quantity of stock, the voucher system will take off.

Did you know? When food breaks down in landfill, together with other organic materials, it becomes the main contributor to the generation of methane – a gas 25 times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere.



Relieving everyday stress for families.

“I have five kids, three are biological and two are fostered and by the time you pay for their school and sport there is not much left” - Food Pantry shopper

Food Rescue



The Food Pantry Van

We provide a platform for livelihood and self-determination for refugees.

Street Food Markets

This year we began a partnership with STARTTS, which has seen the Street Food Markets become one of our core projects. The Street Food Markets makes use of our space to bring together our networks and community, creating a welcoming and supportive event for refugees and recent migrants to grow their skills and trial their small businesses. For many of the stallholders, Street Food Markets was their first time trading, and continues to provide them with a supportive training ground and community to grow their skills. Stallholders come from Ignite, STARTTS, House of Welcome, Lakemba Community Centre and Bankstown Council, who provide training and business development support.

Thousands of people have come along from all over Sydney, with many of them forming a regular crowd as the event has become established as a go-to night out in Marrickville. Apart from the primary purpose of supporting the stallholders towards their desire for independence, the markets also create a space to bring together and celebrate diverse cultures - invaluable as we hear the volume of xenophobic rhetoric being turned up around us.

The Street Food Markets gained considerable media and community interest, with a number of university students creating videos or articles for projects, and Sydney culture guides featuring the event. The markets have been a great opportunity to expand our community, and we look forward to forming and strengthening partnerships through the event and utilising its community engagement potential.

“When we came here we didn’t get a job, very hard to find a job. When I joined this program I am relaxed, small help for my children and me”

- Street Food Market Stallholder

“It’s my dream to start some small business, since we are unable to start... to you know, invest in something... So Addison Road has given us the opportunity to start something. The more money we are getting, we are going to use for our daughters, our family, to support our family”

- Street Food Market Stallholder

“Food Market is really helping us to start our business and we’ll be able to be independent to do our own business”

- Street Food Market Stallholder



Street Food Market Stallholders





Networks Advocacy Partnerships

- Facilitate mutually beneficial networks.
- Become a leading voice in the community on justice.
- Promote awareness of ARCCO and its role in the community and the heritage value of the site.



Networks Advocacy Partnerships

This year we've had a strong focus on community engagement and opportunities to communicate about the Centre and our work. We've strengthened in both our online and direct outreach communications, with a growing online audience and increased understanding of ARCCO's role in the community.

Print and broadcast media interest has remained strong, with all program areas and major events receiving coverage. We established a weekly spot with Streetline on Radio Skid Row, announcing upcoming events around the Centre and program updates. Our newsletter readership, as a percentage of the mailing list, has remained well above industry average, and along with our social media has made a significant contribution to the success of our events, fundraising and programs.

Programs such as the Food Pantry, Street Food Markets and community solar project provide us with the opportunity to be a leading voice and example on important issues.

Community Engagement

Community engagement at our events and the Sunday markets has been a valuable exercise, informing the community about the Centre and giving us insight into community perceptions. We were happy to find a strong awareness of the Centre's heritage value, and a growing understanding of ARCCO's role and the diversity of activities and organisations to be found here - two areas we've been working hard on through our programs, by integrating messaging and producing informative materials.

Chuffed Campaign

Crowdfunding was one way we responded and recovered after our budget and planned works were disrupted by a defect notice, creating a huge cost for ARCCO.

The community was incredibly generous and we were able to raise over \$20,000 through the Chuffed campaign, with other donations being made directly to ARCCO. Apart from helping us to meet the costs to the electrical repairs - paid for in the meantime from small reserves already earmarked for other expenses - and therefore lessen the blow to our resilience, the campaign had a wider impact. Our communications around the issue helped us to deepen community understanding and awareness of how the centre is run and the challenges we face; boosted interest in our programs; and brought us new opportunities and partnerships.

One exciting outcome from the Chuffed campaign was the community solar project with GetUp and Powershop, which could see us slashing our carbon footprint and saving thousands of dollars a year. It's a far-reaching and ongoing project that involves more than solar power for the centre; it entails more people switching to cleaner energy, and raises funds for a campaign for a just transition to clean energy and to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Partnering with an organisation with such a big reach is a huge boost for a community based organisation such as ourselves, further raising our profile and therefore our resilience and the success of our programs.

The Chuffed campaign confirmed for us that locals and centre users take an interest in the issues and challenges we face. Our partnership with GetUp and Powershop is a reminder of the ability of strong communications to attract new opportunities with tangible results.

Thank you to The Henson, The Cornersmith Cafe and all donations great and small!

Partners

- Foodbank NSW
- Environmental Trust
- NSW EPA
- Community and Cultural Connections
- Marrickville Multicultural Interagency
- History Council of NSW
- Museums and Galleries NSW
- STARTTS
- Community A Fair Network
- Hobo Gro
- Red Planet
- Inner West Council
- Ignite
- Youth Off The Streets
- TAFE Outreach
- Tafe Community Alliance
- NSW Fair Trade Association
- NSW Health
- Ethnic Community Services Coop
- GetUp & Powershop
- Drawn to Seeing
- Inner City Teachers' Association
- Growing Schools Sustainability
- Sydney Arbor Trees
- SSI
- West African Festival
- Half Moon Yoga
- Tress Cox Lawyers
- Henry Davis York Lawyers
- Herbert Smith Freehills Lawyers
- Colin Biggers and Paisley Lawyers
- and more!

Partnering with local musicians

- Gervais Koffi and the African Diaspora
- Johnny G and the E-types
- Errol Renaud and Caribbean Soul
- Papalote
- Moussa Diakite and Wassado
- The Protestors
- George Baraliakos Quartet
- Afro Moses
- King Tide
- Keyim Ba
- Chris Gudu
- Solidarity Choir
- Oriente Tres
- Trippy Hippy Band
- Musica Linda
- Dennis Aubrey
- Greg North
- and more!



HELP ADDISON ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE GO SOLAR!

GetUp has teamed up with Powershop to help the Addison Road Community Centre install up to **\$50,000 worth of solar.**

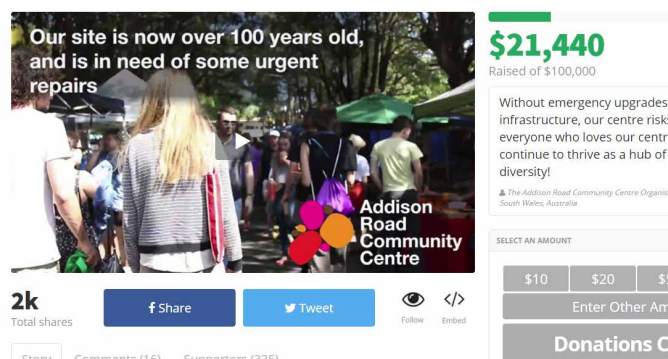
Powershop - a greener affordable electricity retailer - will make a financial contribution to the project for the first 1000 people that switch their power to them before January 31st 2017.

Find out more at betterpower.com.au/betterpowerprojects

BetterPowerProjects Addison Road Community Centre

Protect our beloved Addison Road Community Centre

By The Addison Road Community Centre Organisation



Our site is now over 100 years old, and is in need of some urgent repairs

\$21,440
Raised of \$100,000

Without emergency upgrades to infrastructure, our centre risks everyone who loves our centre continue to thrive as a hub of diversity!

▲ The Addison Road Community Centre Organisation
South Wales, Australia

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\$10 \$20 \$50

Enter Other Amount

Donations C

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