

# 2018 ARCCO Annual Report



**ADDI  
ROAD**



# About Us

**The Addison Road Community Centre stands on the traditional lands of the Cadigal people of the Eora Nation. We pay tribute to the Cadigal people's care and custodianship of this land by hundreds of generations and acknowledge the ongoing struggle for justice, rights and recognition by and for Indigenous Australians.**

Addison Road Community Centre Organisation is an independent not-for-profit formed in 1976 to provide a community centre and recreation on 9 acres of Crown Land in Marrickville, Sydney. The Centre is located on the site of a former army depot that operated from 1916 until 1975, and is now a locally-listed heritage item. ARCCO manages the site and its 30-plus buildings, 165 trees, gardens, roads and facilities and provides subsidised rental spaces to other not-for-profit organisations, social services and creative sole-traders as well as delivering community development projects in the areas of social justice, arts & culture and the environment.

## Our Vision

Is a just, sustainable, creative and diverse community.

## Our Purpose

Is to help create lasting alternatives for social, economic and environmental justice.

## Our Values

We are committed to fostering independent sustainable and diverse communities based around our universal civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.







# Table of Contents

## Year in Review

Highlights Of 2018	7
From our CEO	8
From our President	10

## Our People

Our Board	13
Our Team	14
Our Volunteers	15

## Our Programs

Community Solidarity	17
Research & Conferences	17
Partnerships & Campaigns	18
Space For Solidarity	19
The Food Pantry	20
Community.A.Fair	22
Street Food Markets	23
Honour Roll for Peace	24
All About Art	26
StirrUp Gallery	26
Outdoor Art	26
A Vibrant Community Arts & Culture Venue	26
Subsidised Studio Spaces	26
Public Schools Arts Festival	29
Community Theatre	29
Living Museum	30

Community Gardens & Composting	33
War On Waste	34
Our Sustainable Site	35
Return & Earn	35
Community Solar Project	35
Urban Habitats	36

## Our Place

Site Management & Infrastructure	39
Conservation & Heritage Work	40

## Governance

Organisational Development	43
Finances & Auditors Report	44
Partnerships	46







# A Year in Review



# Highlights of 2018

2018 was an amazing year for us here at Addi Road. Although we keenly felt the gap left when long-serving staff members moved on, we were boosted by the energy and compassion of several new staffers and dozens of new volunteers. The spirit and enthusiasm of everyone involved in nurturing and enlivening the Centre has contributed to the many achievements made throughout the year, and builds on years of commitment to community development in our neighbourhood.

In the area of arts and culture, the annual Public Schools Arts Festival once again wowed with the quality of artwork being produced in our public schools. Dozens of concerts, exhibitions, performances and artists' market stalls at the Centre kept the creative life of the Inner West pumping and provided a welcoming venue for events run by grassroots groups and campaigns that would struggle for accommodation elsewhere.

Environmental achievements included an astonishingly successful first year of operation for our Return and Earn container recycling station, a huge amount of carbon saved by our solar roof panel system and an impressive tonnage of organic waste diverted from landfill thanks to our food rescue work. In addition, we were the drivers behind a community campaign that led to the adoption by the Inner West Council of a food waste resolution that commits Council to further supporting community and business measures to reduce food waste in our neighbourhood. And we published a research report into the legal framework for food justice and food security.

Working for social justice, our Community.A.Fair program has continued to grow, our Food Pantry project expanded its reach to target those most in need in our community and we were honoured with a Community Development recognition award from Settlement Services International. Based on Addi Road's own history as a centre created by and for a multicultural community, we have worked with the Marrickville Multicultural Interagency to lobby for Inner West Council to develop an ambitious and authentic multicultural policy, through extensive community consultation.

In a time of environmental degradation, rapid urban development, a rise in racism and increasing pressure on living conditions, the green, creative and inclusive haven that is Addi Road has become ever more precious and the work we do here ever more important.

We hope that you will be inspired by the work and the ideas documented in this report to get involved and to lend your voice and hands to your community centre in 2019.

## Some Key Achievements

- 900 people fed every week with free fruit and vegetables and low cost groceries from The Food Pantry.
- Over 9.6 million containers recycled at our Return & Earn station - one of the busiest in Australia.
  - Hosted 303 community events from fundraisers and multicultural celebrations to concerts, art exhibitions and training workshops.
- Launched our War On Waste campaign that prevented one tonne of food from going to landfill per week.
- Hosted 16 schools from across Sydney to provide quality arts, environmental and historical education experiences.
  - Worked with 36 partners to deliver services and support to the community with our monthly Community.A.Fair.

# From our CEO

In the last six years with your help, support and solidarity Addison Road Community Centre Organisation (ARCCO) has gone from strength to strength as a vibrant and cutting-edge community-based organisation with a strong long term strategic focus and plan in the midst of an ever-changing environment.

The Department of Crown Lands in 1976 gave the Head Lease to the newly established Addison Road Community Centre Organisation to serve the community. Along with hundreds of volunteers and other community-based organisations, ARCCO then proceeded to transform a tired old army depot into the thriving hub of community activity that it is now, some 42 years later.

In earlier days, the May Murray Community Centre and Newtown Neighbourhood Centre operated alongside ARCCO, and while Newtown Neighbourhood Centre is still going strong in its original location, May Murray has been through much change, eventually finding a home here at Addison Road. Today it partners with us to deliver programs to our culturally and linguistically diverse communities and women's groups through Community and Cultural Connections Inc. In the last 42 years, Addison Road Community Centre has seen many organisations come and go, but remains the only neighbourhood centre for Marrickville and surrounding suburbs of the Inner West.

Since 1976, both the mix of tenants and the management of the Centre have changed and evolved, even though the vision of community development and wellbeing derived through multiculturalism, environmental repair and arts and culture remains strong. Appreciably changed also, has been the level of government support for places and projects like Addison Road Community Centre. When the Centre



was born, there was significant federal funding available for the Centre's programs and its development – a situation that today seems like a distant dream. In the current climate of privatisation the state is retreating from its traditional role of funding not-for-profits and non-government organisations to provide services and programs to their communities.

Because the funding environment and demographic make-up of surrounding suburbs has changed, the Centre's organisation has, by necessity, needed to be increasingly flexible and responsive to new demands, the result being that the expectations of some of the Centre's long-term tenants have not been met. Whilst sympathetic to the consequences of decreased government funding and support to the not-for-profit sector, ARCCO has tried to realistically urge not-for-profits and non-government organisations on site to redevelop their service models so they are not reliant on ARCCO. Unfortunately, we have no mandate or capacity to support their ongoing operation and financial obligations.

Managing tenancies at Addison Road is but one part of what we do. Sub-licences generate approximately one-third of our revenue, which then translates into the care and management of the site, in so doing, reinforcing the work of the many and diverse tenant organisations that provide essential services and programs to the community. However, without this income the Addison Road site would not be able to continue operating.



Without receiving any recurring government funding, but carrying the responsibility of custodianship of the Centre, ARCCO is constantly balancing its financial and fiduciary obligations with our commitment to serve the local community as a neighbourhood centre, from which other organisations work and as a public recreational space – a balancing act that is a great honour and source of pride for those of us involved in the life of the Centre.

Despite the challenges, the Centre and its 43 tenant organisations have worked tirelessly in 2018 to support the most vulnerable members of our community, regardless of cultural background, race, gender, sexuality or ability.

In 2018 ARCCO has achieved amazing results which put us on track towards fulfilling the strategic initiatives outlined in our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. Our consistently improving administration, infrastructure and governance have made us resilient in our progress towards institutional sustainability.

Our experienced Board of Directors has led structural changes that have furnished ARCCO with the means to take advantage of opportunities for growth but remain authentic to our objectives and purpose and relevant to all socio-economic groups. Robust policies, compliance audits and administrative procedures allow ARCCO to be more resilient in the changing landscape, amid the pressures of rapid urban development and the peril of pressures on community lands.

I have always felt privileged to work with such a dedicated, passionate, creative and intelligent team as our Board of Directors, our staff and our volunteers. Every year, those who see our work or read our annual report are astounded by the broad spectrum of work we do, the diversity of issues we cover and what we achieve with very little. Our capacity rests almost wholly on the talents and commitment of our people.

In 2018, we farewellled Programs Manager Rosy Porter, a colleague who encapsulated the very meaning of excellence. Rosy's vast capacity contributed to significant and impressive results, recognition and awards for ARCCO. As a student Rosy joined ARCCO with the task of establishing composting on site, which we called the compost kingdom, subsequently managed by a TAFE Outreach initiative called

HoboGro. She went on to become head of programs at ARCCO, designing, implementing and managing successful projects across environmental, heritage, arts and social justice areas. Rosy's cleverness and dedication to social and environmental justice has propelled her to conquer wider terrains to make a difference statewide to the environment, and has left a wonderful green footprint at Addi Road.

As you turn each page of this report, the exceptional impact of our work is evident and the strengthening and growth of our organisation is laid bare for all to witness. Addison Road Community Centre continues to be the heartbeat of Marrickville and beyond, and as the 'heart', we are here to nourish and enliven the organism that is our home.

**Rosanna Barbero**  
Chief Executive Officer  
ARCCO



# From our President

2018 has again been a year of both significant achievement and challenge for Addison Road Community Centre Organisation.

In the area of programs, the War on Waste Inner West – Rescuing Food and Fighting Hunger campaign is an excellent example of the Centre's strength in development and delivery of relevant activities within our community. The Public Schools Arts Festival and the upcoming Rethinking the Urban Forest Conference in May 2019 both also represent the forward-thinking approach we are taking in all our program work to create activity that contributes positively to our community. While further details of these programs can be found elsewhere in this document, I must acknowledge the many hundreds of hours of volunteer time and the input by our small but extremely effective staff team which have made the achievements possible.

Our main responsibility aside from community activity lies with managing the Addison Road site to ensure safety and amenity for the community who use the Centre in a wide range of different ways and to the tenant organisations based here. The size and age of the site and the types of high-wear use historically undertaken in some of the buildings present huge challenges to us as a not-for-profit community organisation with no recurrent government funding. We have continued to make responsible decisions about expenditure on maintenance and improvements of the grounds and buildings. This year these included expenditure on major and urgent electrical improvements as well as upgrading storm water pits to prevent flooding of the roads around the Depot Theatre and StirrUp Gallery, among a number of other projects.

The increased frequency and severity of weather events in recent years due to global warming and higher density development in neighbouring 'upstream' areas is having a significant impact. This has meant that the site, which has always suffered from flooding, sees regular damage to roadways, open spaces and buildings. The assistance of Inner West Council in planning for mitigation and in some cases funding works has been very much appreciated, but it is certain that costs in this area will continue to increase and difficult decisions such as restricting vehicle access or levying parking will have to remain on the agenda.

Approximately one third of ARCCO's annual income comes from its tenancies and these funds along with others raised by other means are spent on the upkeep of the Centre and its assets. We are pleased that in 2018 most of our 43 tenants have signed new agreements under the amended rental policy. These new agreements reduce somewhat the size of the subsidy to tenant organisations by ARCCO and while we recognise that tenant organisations are also operating in a tight funding environment, they have been accepted by most as necessary to ensure the ongoing viability of the Centre.

A small number of tenant organisations have remained of the opinion that the Centre should continue to subsidise them at ever-increasing rates by maintaining their rentals at or very near to the historically very low levels of the past and have not signed new agreements. Valuable as all our tenants are to the community and to the Centre, ARCCO as a 9-acre community site cannot be put at risk for any individual organisation. In the interests of establishing a reliable income stream to keep



the Centre afloat into the future, the ARCCO Board of Directors has taken a firm position in requiring all tenants to sign agreements at or near to the rates established in the Policy. This has led to some very angry activity on social media, where the staff and the volunteer Board have been accused of everything from extreme stupidity to malicious pro-developer leanings.

After spending many, many hours working for the Centre and trying to reach the decisions which best balance its interests and those of the community against unpalatable financial facts, I can assure you that the Board's decisions are conscientious and based on solid information. We accept criticism, of course, by people with different views, but we are disappointed at the abusive behaviour engaged in by some people. In particular, our CEO Rosanna Barbero, who has been required, as is often the case in such matters, to take the main public-facing role, has come in for not only criticism but also significant abuse. The Board would like to place on record its very solid confidence in Ms Barbero to manage the Centre, its staff and to carry out our instructions in these difficult matters.

On behalf of the Board and the staff, I would like to thank those many members of the public and tenant organisations who have come forward to express support.

As so many of you have pointed out, the positive achievements of the Centre deserve our focus at the Annual General Meeting and going forward. With this in mind, we look forward to a very successful year in 2019.

## **Debbie Killian**

President

ARCCO Board of Directors



# Our People





# Our Board

The Addison Road Community Centre Organisation is a not-for-profit company governed by a Board of Directors under regulations set out by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). The Board members serve voluntarily, donating their time, skills, expertise and care to help guide the work of the Centre's staff and its overall strategic direction, providing fiduciary and regulatory oversight.

The Board is formed of a president and six directors, one of whom serves as treasurer. According to the ARCCO's constitution, four of the directors are elected from amongst the organisation's membership, and two are elected community representatives. Directors have defined roles and responsibilities and work towards ensuring ARCCO remains sustainable and that decisions benefit the majority.

In 2018, the Board welcomed two new members, Abdulla Swaiti and Matt Day. The Board seeks to have an appropriate mix of expertise areas and interests amongst its directors, to effectively carry out its responsibilities and endow ARCCO with good governance. To this end, the Board undertakes a skills audit, and makes decisions that are passed on to the membership regarding the skill sets that are required, with attention to diversity and balance of representation.

The staff at Addi Road would like to thank the Board of Directors for its dedication and support throughout 2018 and extend particular thanks and best wishes to its retiring President, Debbie Killian.

Every person who has served on the Board, past and present, has added value and helped shape and mould the growth and culture of ARCCO. But very few have left a greater footprint than Debbie Killian. Her leadership has never been about the next election, but always about the next generation.

## President

Debbie Killian

## Board Members

Matt Day  
Matt Stegh  
Max Burgess  
Ulrike Bartels  
Marion Lawson  
Abdullah Swaiti

Debbie's integrity is second to none, her vision has purpose and direction, her heart is focused on the greater good and her leadership has been about taking responsibility, not making excuses. She has always found remedy, never fault and transformed the vision into the tangible. As President of the ARCCO Board, she convinced, never dictated, and found ways of emboldening people to collaborate, pool their efforts, their talents, their insights, their passions and their inspiration to work together.

Debbie, you propelled us into the 21st century, reawakened a sleeping giant and equipped us with the resolve and the tools to continue your legacy at ARCCO. You planted a seed and the forest is growing.





# Our Team

The Addison Road Community Centre is an extraordinary place - an open, green and welcoming recreational space and neighbourhood centre in the heart of Marrickville, open to the public 364 days a year, from early in the morning until late every night, where a huge array of activities and events takes place.

None of this would be possible without the dedication, commitment and care of the ARCCO members, dozens of often unsung volunteers, our student interns, our small team of grounds crew and caretakers and our modestly sized team of office staff. Between them all, these people take care of managing the Centre's grounds and buildings, administration of licence agreements, financial management and reporting, managing venue hire and bookings, hosting community events and the ongoing delivery of multiple projects and programs in the areas of arts & culture, environment and social justice.

**Rosanna Barbero**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Mina Bui Jones**  
Programs & Living Museum

**Jack Carvalho**  
Ground Crew

**Des Dejrangsi**  
Social & Economic Development

**Mike Hayes**  
Finance & Operations

**Gurwinder Kaur**  
Administration & Venue Hire

**Kerrie Lindberg**  
Caretaker

**Kerry Lindberg**  
Caretaker

**Antonio Marques**  
Ground Crew

**Damien Moore**  
Food Pantry Donations

**Jo-Anne Ryan**  
Partnerships & Food Pantry

**Matthew Thompson**  
Digital & Design

**Sam Trinity**  
Accounts



# Our Volunteers

The Centre staff are very fortunate to be assisted daily by a range of volunteers and student interns working across our programs as well as on site maintenance and administration. As an independent organisation with no regular recurrent funding, the contribution made to our work by volunteers and interns is priceless. Not only do they help complete tasks and projects that would be delayed or impossible without them, they bring skills, experiences and outlooks that enrich the culture and community of the Centre.

Some of our volunteers sign up independently, some are on training or volunteer placements as part of the Work for the Dole scheme or Centrelink requirements, while others are completing student placements or projects as part of their tertiary studies. All make a contribution and we hope that all feel welcome, valued and enjoy working alongside our staff in a very special place.

**Many thanks!**

## Administration & Site Care

Mark Brady, Paul Campbell, Jay Dave, Sadia Marium, Paddie O'Leary, Doug O'Shanassy, Wit Yee Tun

## Living Museum

Fiona Arnold, Elizabeth Arrigo, Jordan Cavanagh, Graham Chalcroft, Sam Choy, Suzanne Clifford, Susan Conyers, Karen Goes, Jenny Harding, Meg Hibbert, Alan Hind, Shiri Jaheruddin, Natasha James, Jessica Kay, Jefferson Lee, Tarn Ljubic, Ona Makyvitis, Hannah Middleton, Mathilde Montpetit, Louise Muscolino, Francesca Simone, Tuan Nguyen, Emma Walsh, Alexander Wells

## Environment

Glenn Dawes, Shiri Jaheruddin, Miranda Millen

## Community A Fair

Mark Brady, Shiri Jaheruddin, Paule Mardaga, Miranda Millen, Maria Spano

## Public Schools Arts Festival

Robyn Chiles, John Gauci, Angela Hutchison, Paul Campbell

## Street Food Markets

Fernando Cortes, Soren-Dane Homme, Squizzy Rider, Paul Campbell, Sunara Hanzlik, Shiri Jaheruddin

## Food Pantry

Jen Bryant, Chervelle Carlton, Louise Chapman, Tracy Cole, Jay Dave, Loraine Ding, Zoe Eustace, Anna Gerdain, Szczepan Glewicz, Rimi Hague, Audrey Lee, Mark Locsei, Dennis Miller, Paule Mardaga, Rachel Mulley, Fiona Munro, Abby Pillay, Maaki Rakoia, Sue Rawling, Craig Reid, Phillip Scarf, Vince Taouk, Telma Tollemache, Meredith Weaver, Robyn White, Yant Woiderufeal

## Student Interns

From the University of Western Sydney:  
Cherie Stove.

From Ultimo TAFE:  
Lily Lampis, Paddie O'Leary, Matthew Thompson

From UTS Shopfront: Marketing and Communications team: Sheekha Vijayanti, Ebru Batik, Jason Nabytowicz, Christie Emeraldal, Tongta Hutasingh, Rachel Bertram, Lisa Andersen, Shrutiben Shridhar Iyer: Visual Design team: Us & You Creative (Mahalia, Alice, Nikki, Eloise & Caitlin)



# Our Programs

**Social Justice  
Arts & Culture  
Environment**



# Community Solidarity

As a community centre with a commitment to the environment, arts & culture and social justice, Addi Road is not only about delivering programs in these areas, but also about reflecting and responding to the changing needs, concerns and visions of the community. We do this through solidarity – providing social, strategic, material and in-kind support to community campaigns and initiatives, by standing with others in their efforts to create change and by contributing to research and policy development, as we work together for a safe, healthy, fair and green future for all. Some of the many community solidarity activities ARCCO was involved with in 2018 are detailed below.

## Research & Conferences

Addison Road's Food Pantry Team has been researching changes in poverty levels. A recent report 'Poverty in Australia' in 2018 by ACOSS and UNSW sets the poverty line in Australia at 50% of the median disposable household income (lower than European models which define it at 60% of the median income). This report shows that more than 1 in 8 (13.8%) people in Australia now live below the poverty line, including one in six children. Most people experiencing poverty are living below the poverty line by at least \$135 per week. For a single person this equates to \$432.73 before housing costs, for a couple \$649.10, a sole parent with 2 children \$692.37, and a couple with two children \$908.74. People receiving social security have an elevated risk of experiencing poverty, along with sole parent households (39% increase in risk) and people living with a disability (36% increase in risk). Public Housing tenants are 49% more at risk of experiencing poverty.

These figures have major significance for the Inner West, which has a large number of people living in public housing, on Newstart or some other form of social security payment, and adults born in a non-English speaking country. Our 2018 research has been focussed on the



feminisation of poverty and on residents of privately-run boarding houses and reports on these will be published in 2019.

Staff attended the Communities in Control Conference in Melbourne in May, and spoke at the 18th Australasian Bat Society Conference at the University of Western Sydney about the wildlife monitoring funded by Greater Sydney Local Land Services. In May, former environment coordinator Rosy Porter gave a presentation on our Urban Habitat Tree wildlife monitoring program at the 2018 Landcare 'City Living – Stories of Urban Wildlife' Forum at Circular Quay.

CEO Rosanna Barbero guest-lectured at University of Western Sydney on international development and working with communities.



## Partnerships and Campaigns

In 2018, we were honoured to form a partnership with YARN Australia, a young and growing group that uses storytelling and the appropriate sharing of cultural knowledge to build bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. YARN Australia held four public events at Addi Road and has offered to provide cultural competence training for our staff and volunteers. YARN participated in our Armistice Centenary event by sharing a beautiful Welcome song and smoking ceremony as part of the Acknowledgment of Country and a speech about the Indigenous contribution to Australia's military service by YARN's director, Warren Roberts.

Throughout 2018, ARCCO continued to be involved in the Community Reference Group for activating the Community and Refugee Welcome Centre in Callan Park, with our CEO Rosanna Barbero working with other members to shape the design of future programs for the Centre and successfully applying for an Inner West Council grant for a shared minibus.

ARCCO has also been active in the Inner West Council multicultural policy working group, supporting and building on the efforts of Councillor Sam Iskander to make sure that the Inner West Council develops an effective and visionary policy that reflects the needs and aspirations of one of the most multicultural local government areas in Australia. Our continued role as convenor of the 70-plus member Marrickville Multicultural Interagency has been instrumental in our contribution to this process.

Staff joined the Save Marrickville rally in early 2018 and the launch of the Marrickville Character Study later in the year. When possible, ARCCO staff have also attended community reference group meetings about Mirvac's Carrington Road development held throughout the year. We renewed our membership of the Marrickville Heritage Society and joined the National Trust.



Food Pantry staff and volunteers have worked alongside Inner West Council and local community service providers to support local communities living in the South Marrickville area as part of the Marrickville South Project. Addi Road volunteers have been attending Project events, providing free bread and distributing Food Pantry hampers, with funding support from Council's Quick Grants program.

In late November the government announced its intention to cut Foodbank's funding from \$750,000 to \$427,000. This would have been the third major funding cut to the service in the last three years and would have severely impacted on over 1,700 charities that rely on Foodbank providing good quality, affordable food for their clients. Addison Road Community Centre was one of the many groups involved in action to lobby against this cut. In response to community outrage, the Government reversed the decision and announced that Foodbank's funding would be retained at the current level.

In 2018, Addison Road Community Centre Organisation also joined the 'Raise the Rate' Campaign led by the Australian Council of Social Services. The Raise the Rate campaign is aimed at putting pressure on both the Federal Government and the Opposition to commit to raising the Newstart rate by \$100 per week. The Newstart unemployment benefit rate has not increased since 1994, a key reason why so many Australians are living below the poverty





## Space for Solidarity

Solidarity with community campaigns and support for community welfare action was also given through waiving or reducing the hire fee for Gumbamorra Hall – a large and flexible venue space suitable for fundraising events such as film screenings or music and dance performances.

Hire of the Hall is waived or substantially reduced, according to ARCCO's venue hire policy, several times each year to give community groups opportunities to fundraise for urgent causes.

As well as the Hall, ARCCO also regularly provides meeting space, venues or stall space at no charge to community campaigns and groups that need support. In 2018, these included:

line and experiencing food insecurity. Currently a single person receiving Newstart is expected to live on \$40 per day. People relying on Newstart have a 55% elevated risk of living in poverty. Reducing food insecurity (and poverty) remains a key social justice objective of Addison Road Community Centre.

In 2018, ARCCO auspiced the No WestConnex campaign, providing administrative support for a broad community campaign that led to a NSW Parliamentary inquiry into the controversial and destructive toll-road project.

Another important community campaign that we participated in was the campaign for marriage equality, for which the Centre was awarded a 'Rainbow RESPECT' certificate of honour in 2018 by Inner West Council. Our solidarity work in the campaign grew out of a special 'Yes! Garden' made from re-used materials that was 'planted' along the grass verge in front of the StirrUp Gallery. The multi-language Yes! Garden was led by Fiona Arnold, a local artist and '78er who said that the garden was a catalyst for heartfelt and transformative conversations about equality, diversity and respect.

And a small Addi Road team slept on the street to help raise funds to tackle homelessness as part of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre's Newtopian Sleepout 2018.

- Community Cultural Connections Inc. (Classroom for free English classes for migrants taught by volunteer Nicki Malinowski)
- Free technology classes run by CCCi and TAFE NSW
- Friends of Hebron
- Inner West Childcare Forum (hosted by Jo Haylen MP)
- Inner West Women's Shed Christmas stall (raising funds for local Aboriginal Women and Children's Crisis Service)
- Lock the Gate Alliance
- Marrickville Peace Group
- Refugee Action Coalition
- Solidarity Choir
- Stop Adani Enmore
- SWOP (Swap Wearables or Plants)
- TAFE Community Alliance
- Vegan NSW
- Victor Jara Foundation
- WestConnex Action Group

*...and many more.*



# The Food Pantry

Boosted by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and a new Partnerships Coordinator, the Addi Road Food Pantry's range and reach grew substantially in 2018. We now have approximately 400 customers per week, buying nearly \$15,000 worth of food at a fraction of the price. Without raising prices, takings have doubled on 2017 figures, while the volume of food rescued from landfill has reached an average of around one tonne per week.

Foodbank continued to be a major supporter and this year announced it would provide fruit and vegetables for free to all of its charity partners. This policy decision has made a huge difference to the Food Pantry, ensuring we are able to continue to provide our customers with free fresh fruit and vegetables on top of any \$5 shop - a vital part of our service.

This year we welcomed a new leadership team: Jo-Anne Ryan (Partnerships Manager), Damien Moore (Food Pantry Donations Manager), and Mark Locsei (Food Pantry Driver); which has been instrumental in securing some amazing wins, including new partnerships with Barilla Australia (pasta and sauces) and Holmbrae (eggs) that help us provide a consistent supply of staple items. We also welcomed some fabulous new volunteers with a wealth of skills and commitment to making a difference in the community. We couldn't run this service without them and extra thanks are due for their assistance as we temporarily relocated the Food Pantry to Hut 1 to allow renovation and repair work in the Pantry's regular home in Hut 9. We also greatly appreciate the kindness and enthusiasm of volunteers from SBS who have signed up to help at the Food Pantry on a regular basis, as part of the multicultural broadcaster's corporate community commitment.

In November, thanks to TAFE NSW, we offered Food Pantry volunteers training in Food Safety Supervision.

As well as providing a qualification, this training means our team now has an in-depth understanding of the principles and processes of serving and selling food safely.

In 2018, the Hilton Hotel kitchen continued to donate to the Pantry, allowing us to feed customers, visitors and volunteers and to divert kilos of good prepared food from going to landfill every day.

During the year the Food Pantry made arrangements with TAFE to expand their use of garden space at the Centre to supply fresh fruit and vegetables to the Food Pantry, as part of their Introduction to Horticulture courses. A generous donation from Bunnings Alexandria assisted the expansion of this Food Pantry Garden.

ARCCO was also successful in getting a grant under the Inner West Council's Stronger Communities program, with key partner Youth Off the Streets, to upgrade the kitchen in Gumbramorra Hall. This will allow the Food Pantry to run exciting 'garden to plate' cooking classes and other initiatives.

Seeking to ensure that those who most need services like the Food Pantry - the food insecure and isolated in our communities - we are working with the Marrickville South Collective and planning to expand our outreach projects, based on indications of growing inequality along with a rise in homelessness and hunger across the Inner West.

We believe that food security is an environmental and a social justice issue, and that no one in a country as wealthy and stable as Australia should be struggling to put food on the table. This belief underpins our Food Pantry project and motivates plans for 2019 to expand its operation to two other Sydney locations with a mobile service that combines low-cost groceries with community development activities.



Free with  
your shop

THE  
FOOD  
PANTRY

maopac



# Community.A.Fair

Addi Road regularly hosts free, friendly gatherings where local services and organisations provide information, offer assistance or just engage with the community in a relaxed setting. These events allow people to access services and information without the long queues or institutional atmosphere they might encounter at centres, offices or clinics. Community.A.Fair is about enabling our communities by bringing people of all ages, cultural backgrounds, abilities and incomes together to share information, resources and experiences in a festive and non-commercial environment – an increasingly rare type of event in Sydney these days.

Community.A.Fair is run in partnership with Centrelink's Department of Human Services and the Inner West Council. It was created by ARCCO in 2015 as a monthly event. In 2018 the format was adjusted, with three larger events held during school holidays that have focus-themes such as NAIDOC Week, Youth Week and Mental Health Awareness Week, and smaller 'mini-hubs' on the first Wednesday of each month run in conjunction with the Addi Road Food Pantry. At the mini-hubs, a customer-service staffer from Centrelink is always present to assist people with enquiries and resources, plus usually two or three other organisations offering services such as hearing tests or nutritional advice. The school-holiday Community.A.Fair events always include activities for children such as storytime, face-painting and a jumping castle as well as free music, tea, coffee, snacks and a sausage sizzle for all ages.

In addition to the school-holiday and mini-hub events, the Community.A.Fair format and its wide network of partners was activated in 2018 for the Inner West Council's 'End Violence Against Women' day. A highlight of that event was hearing Moo Baulch, CEO of Domestic Violence NSW and Mark Morey from Unions NSW, along with Mayor Darcy Byrne, speak to an audience

that included many high school students in Gumbramorra Hall on the 21st of November. We look forward to continuing these important partnerships and hosting similar themed Community.A.Fair events in 2019, such as 'It's a Seniors A Fair', scheduled for the 20th of February.

## Our 2018 Partners

- Department of Human Resources (Centrelink)
- Inner West Council
- Ability Links
- Aboriginal Women & Children's Crisis Service
- Australian Hearing
- Australian Taxation Office Migrant Education Program
- Bolly GoLightly
- Catholic Care
- Centre for Education & Workplace Development
- Connect Marrickville SaCC
- Community Cultural Connections
- Disability Services Australia
- Electricity Ombudsman
- Ethnic Community Service Cooperative
- Girls Rock Sydney
- Headspace Ashfield
- Hobo Gro
- Home Instead Senior Care
- Inner West Mums
- Inner West Police
- Koori Radio
- Law Access
- Leichhardt Women's Health Centre
- Marrickville Community Drug Action Team
- Marrickville Youth Resource Centre
- Marrickville West Community Centre
- Max Employment
- MTC Australia
- My Health Record
- Navitas English
- Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
- One Door Mental Health
- People Plus
- Playgroup NSW
- Radio Skid Row
- Reverse Garbage
- Youth Off The Streets





# Street Food Markets

Launched in 2016 in partnership with STARTTS (NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors), the Addison Road Street Food Markets provide a platform for businesses run by stallholders from refugee, asylum-seeking and new migrant backgrounds. Addi Road offers a local-market venue in a neighbourhood that welcomes refugees, values diversity and appreciates authentic food from around the world. Now part of Addi Road for three years, the Markets have many regular visitors and are known as a space where humanity is more important than religion, skin colour or political point of view, where deep cultural understanding and social harmony begins.

In addition to meals, sweets and drinks, the Markets also include live musical performances, often by artists adapting musical traditions from their own diverse cultural backgrounds. This makes a significant contribution to the local music scene, and is one of the few places



in Sydney you can catch live music with no cover charge. In 2018, thanks to bookings coordinator Squizzy Rider, the Markets featured a diverse range of sounds and moods including the Green Hand Band, Mariam Sawires and Family, Mi Hermano y Yo and Big Sky Mountain.

However, the Street Food Markets are not only a cultural and gastronomic event, but also provide a safe and supportive space for stallholders to learn about Australian business compliances, food and beverage markets, competitiveness, value for money, business planning and Australian multiculturalism. Since they first ran, more than 50 successful businesses have been established by Street Food Markets stallholders, several of them in catering or other food and hospitality areas. Many of the stallholders are supported by SSI's Ignite Business Start-Ups program and the Markets have played an important role in their settlement strategies. A great example is Yarrie Bangura, who bottled her first commercial-grade batch of Aunty's Ginger Tonic in 2018, a popular and delicious drink she has perfected at her Street Food Markets stall.

In 2018, at stallholders' request, the Markets moved from running monthly to the first and third Saturday of the month, but sustaining an audience and event infrastructure for fortnightly markets at a weather-dependent venue has proved challenging. For 2019, we are planning less frequent but larger, seasonally themed Street Food Markets. We also look forward to working with Ignite to support stallholders with business development beyond the Markets, such as the New Beginnings Festival and other events and catering opportunities.





# Honour Roll for Peace

A significant project of the Addi Road Living Museum is the Honour Roll for Peace, which is steadily accruing plaques dedicated to peace heroes nominated by friends, family and community members. The Honour Roll for Peace opened in October 2016, on the occasion of the centenary of the 1916 referendum in which Australians voted against conscription for service in overseas wars. It is installed on the two pillars that stand at the entrance to the Centre and used to hold gates of the army depot that operated on the site from 1916 to 1975.

Just like the Anzac memorials established across Australia following the First World War, those named on the Honour Roll for Peace may be living or may have passed away. The people honoured here are those who have worked for peace, often tackling the difficult social and political barriers to peace such as racism, colonialism or environmental exploitation. In 2018, the number of plaques on the roll reached 100, including World War One pacifist Eleanor May Moore, local indigenous art teacher Marlene Daly Philips and Manus Island detainee Behrouz Boochani.

On the 23rd of September 2018, members of Sydney's Chilean community and supporters gathered in front of the Honour Roll for Peace, which holds a plaque dedicated to Victor Jara, the renowned musician and activist murdered by the Pinochet regime in 1973.

They came to remember the birthday of one of thousands whose life and vision for a better world was cut short by the repressive military dictatorship. Flowers and candles were placed at the Honour Roll that day, as they were again a couple of months later, on the 11th of November 2018, when people came again to Addi Road to honour those who have shown courage and sacrifice in the name of peace, on the centenary of the Armistice of World War One, the 'war to end all wars'.

These spontaneous community ceremonies are what the Honour Roll for Peace is all about – a people's monument creating public history in the name of peace and a better world.







# All About Art

## StirrUp Gallery

In 2018 our StirrUp Gallery continued to provide attractive and affordable exhibition opportunities for artists, who pay a flat rate to hire the space and no commission on any sales. More than ten exhibitions ran at StirrUp this year, including Charlie Shead, Peter Mackie and group show Big Little Creatures, hosted by the Creatory and Reverse Garbage. The Gallery was also hired for a dozen or so school holiday art workshops, professional trainings, meetings and fundraising events, generating revenue that helps fund community arts projects such as our Public Schools Arts Festival.

## Outdoor Art

Our outdoor public-art platform, Art on the Slab, coordinated by volunteer Fiona Arnold, was the site for several works, including an extravagant milk-crate-based exploration of reuse created by Year 8 students from Burwood Girls High School. The visit from Burwood Girls was one of several school excursions to the Centre this year, some hosted in partnership with the Outdoor Education Group.

We also enjoyed seeing colour and energy released onto the walls of Gumbamorra Hall by young people working with spray cans and Marrickville Youth Resource Centre, at two Community.A.Fair events in 2018 – the Youth Week and End Violence Against Women gatherings – both of which focussed on supporting young people's vision of a respectful, fairer and more creative society for themselves and their peers.

## A Vibrant Community Arts & Culture Venue

We are delighted that in 2018, many community cultural groups chose Addi Road as their venue for special events, continuing traditions of multiculturalism and community development that started here more than 40 years ago. There were far too many to be able to mention them all, but among them were the Pachamama Festival, the Asyik! Indonesian Arts & Culture Bazaar, Australia's Salute to Victor Jara, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago Independence Day, Rainbow Families' Halloween Disco and a Refugee Action Coalition art auction and concert.

## Subsidised Studio Spaces

As well as providing a affordable and accessible venues for community arts and culture events, the subsidised studio spaces that ARCCO provides to dozens of artists continue to make an important contribution to the cultural life and creative character of the Inner West. Subsidised studios allow artists to work in a neighbourhood that is increasingly expensive and feeling the squeeze on affordable rental spaces, as light-industrial areas are rezoned for residential development and real estate values rise.

Several of the Addi Road studios opened their doors to the public this year, with Latin American music-infused gatherings around El Taller Studio on a Sunday afternoon, to The Ultimo Project Studio, Anita Shirley and Drawn to Seeing participating in the Inner West Open Studio Trail.











## Public Schools Arts Festival

Encouraging schools to make the most of their community centre, Addi Road once again worked with the curators from Drawn to Seeing, working with a Youth Committee, and the Inner City Teachers' Association to host the annual Public Schools Arts Festival in August, 2018.

This year, the excellent student artworks in the StirrUp Gallery were complemented by several fabulous outdoor performances under the trees, by Marrickville High School's Shakespeare ensemble and three rock bands based in local public schools. The performances took place on the timber-decking 'Platforms for Connectivity' funded by a Stronger Communities grant from the Inner West Council.

Not only were the artworks from more than 10 schools produced collaboratively, they also reflected many of the concerns and interests of the young people who made them. Several of the works in 2018 were about the natural environment, peace and human communication across time and space. Students, teachers, family and friends were justifiably proud of the work and clearly took pleasure in seeing it exhibited in a 'real' art gallery, outside of the school setting.

The exhibition opening night was MC'ed by Marrickville High School students Hoagy Hayes and Imogen Aanensen and started with an Acknowledgement of Country by Aunty Ester Carrol, followed by speeches from our Federal Member, Anthony Albanese, and Inner West Mayor, Darcy Byrne, before the crowd spilled out of the StirrUp Gallery to enjoy the outdoor performances.

We look forward to next year's Public Schools Arts Festival, taking place around Education Week, and to once again showcasing the impressive creative and collaborative work being done by teachers and students in our public schools.

## Community Theatre

Word on the street is that community theatre in Sydney is experiencing a renaissance, and at Addi Road we are certainly sensing that's true, as more than 12 theatre groups have expressed an interest in making the Depot Theatre, one of two theatres at the Centre, their home base in 2019.

Following a fire safety audit that requires the theatre to be renovated to meet building codes, long-term Depot Theatre tenants decided to move on. At the close of 2018, ARCCO is seeking proposals from theatre groups and hoping to come to an arrangement that will help cover the cost of the upgrades while also making the theatre as accessible as possible, to help meet the growing demand for reasonably-priced performance venues in Sydney, especially for youth and school groups.

Meanwhile, the Hellenic Arts Theatre, usually known as the Greek Theatre, produced several plays in 2018 and hired its theatre out to several other theatre groups, including performances by Inner West Youth Theatre and Kid A Performing Arts Co., as well as hosting a fundraising production to help the victims of the wildfires that ravaged Greece in the northern summer.

The Greek Theatre was also successful in applying for a Community Builders grant from the office of Jo Haylen to help repair the floor on the World War One building that the theatre has been based in for 42 years.



# Living Museum

Throughout 2018, staff and volunteers contributed to Addi Road's community heritage program, the Living Museum. Special events included a pop-up museum as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, held during the April Community.A.Fair, with the theme of 'My Culture, My Story'.

Another pop-up museum was held on the theme of 'Journeys' on Cockatoo Island as part of a Biennale of Sydney family day. These pop-up museums are fun, flexible exhibition opportunities, where people bring along objects of interest or meaning to share with others, without the intervention of a curator or a glass cabinet. Thanks to all who participated!

Supported by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Sydney Trade Hall, 'War is Over! Armistice and the Dream of Peace 1918-2018' was a week-long exhibition that highlighted the efforts of Australians to create a peaceful world in the 100 years since the 'war to end all wars'.

Whilst honouring those who enlisted at the Addison Road army depot to serve in the 'Great War', the exhibition explored the question of why peace on earth is still elusive, and the call for treaty - another word for armistice - within Australia.

The exhibition closed with a moving remembrance ceremony, with speeches from Warren Robert from YARN Australia, life-long peace activist Dr Hannah Middleton, young historian Alexander Wells and Anthony Albanese MP, plus peace-songs from Solidarity Choir. The unusual and important approach to war history taken in the exhibition was much appreciated by visitors, and we hope to create a book based on the exhibition as a resource for teaching peace in schools, in 2019.

Ongoing Living Museum projects include expanding and transcribing our oral history collection, cataloguing our growing collection of images and objects and making these

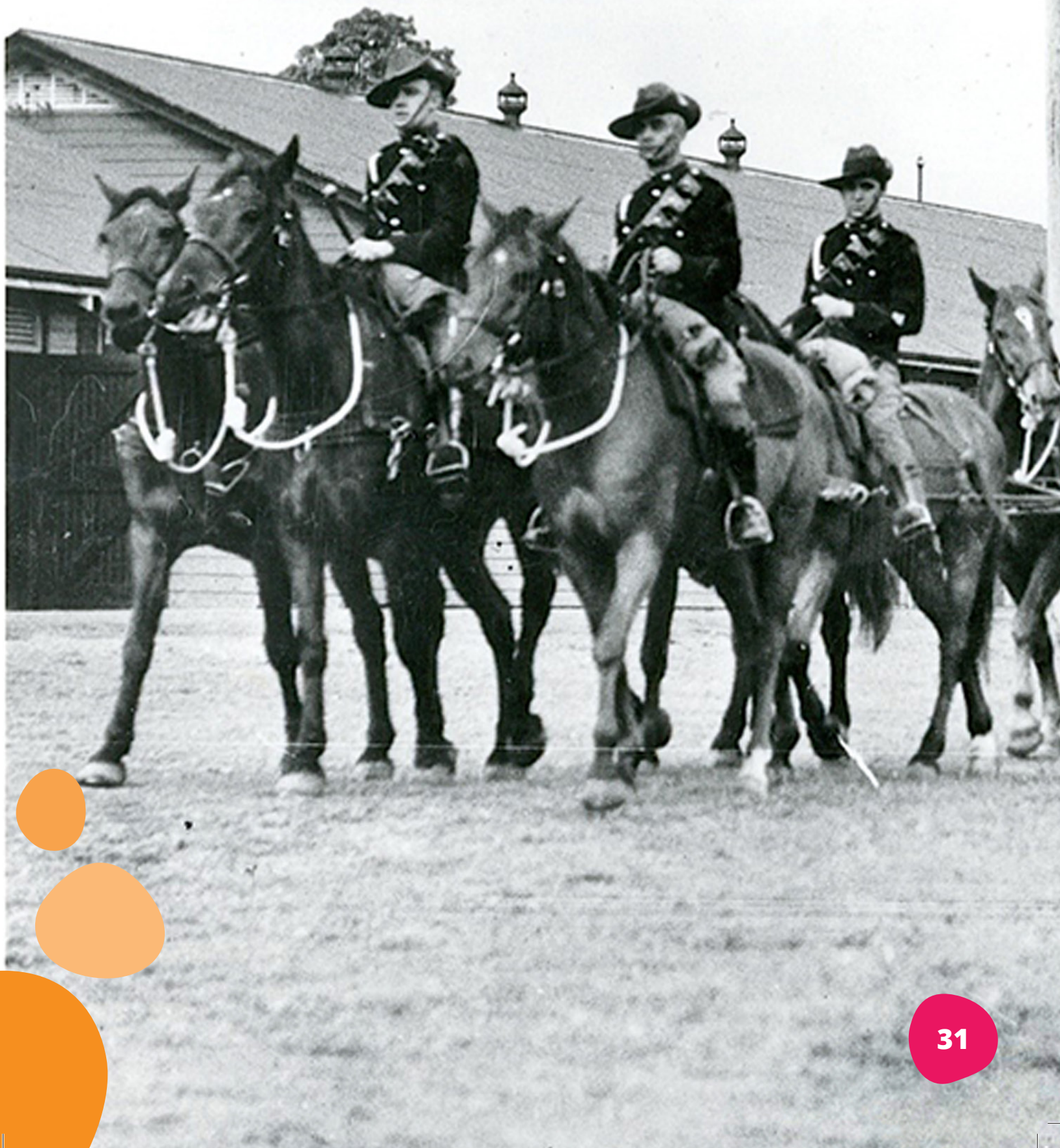
accessible through our new website and eHive portal in 2019. These tasks are wholly possible thanks to the generous efforts of volunteers.

The Living Museum also hosts school excursions, and in 2019 we plan to continue to engage young people in exploring art and culture, the urban environment and vital questions of social justice at Addi Road, through guided site tours and workshops such as those delivered this year in conjunction with Radio Skid Row, the Food Pantry, Drawn to Seeing and independent arts educators. We are delighted to have formed a partnership with a new arts education group, the Assemblage Sisters, to offer a range of workshops for school groups of all ages in the year ahead.

In May, an important article about Addison Road Community Centre and the changing conception and implementation of multiculturalism in Australia was published in Overland Online. The author is a Living Museum volunteer, young Canadian writer and historian, Mathilde Montpetite. Her article examines the history of the Centre, from its establishment in 1976 to the present, to explore the differences between multiculturalism and globalisation and to ask some hard questions about the changing nature of Australian society.

In March, our Living Museum coordinator joined GLAMSLAM 2018, the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums forum organised by the Australian Centre for Public History at the University of Technology, Sydney, and in September attended the History Council's Annual History Lecture and Awards at The Mint. The Living Museum program continues to provide the framework for ARCCO's membership of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Marrickville Heritage Society, the NSW History Council and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.











# Community Gardens & Composting

Community composting and worm farming, as well as community-run shared garden plots, have been a feature of Addi Road for many years. In 2018, ARCCO continued to provide garden space to the Addison Road Community Garden, a local association of gardeners, at no cost.

In 2012 ARCCO set up community composting and worm farming in partnership with TAFE Outreach and Hobo Gro, the not-for-profit action and education group that now manages Addi Road's community composting and worm-farming (and has now for several years). In 2018, many new and existing Hobo Gro volunteers stepped up to help out more as Bob Boyd, the group's founder and lead composter underwent a double-lung transplant.

Many would recognise Bob, who has been selling 'worm wee' and compost and the Marrickville Organic Markets on a Sunday and introducing children to worms for years, with his distinctive silver hair, long beard and colourful Kombi van. Whilst Bob was in hospital, the volunteers painted the Hobo Gro van in bright new colours and continued to run the compost bins, worm farms and education and outreach activities such as an 'edible

weeds' tour of the Centre's green spaces led by James Bretherton.

We look forward to continuing to share and promote the benefits of community-based composting and worm farming – reducing the amount of food and garden waste entering landfill and enriching local soils - with Hobo Gro and the many neighbours and Organic Markets traders involved, through 2019.

Another community garden space that has also been actively used in 2018 is the series of raised beds behind the Depot Theatre. This garden has been a productive training ground for TAFE Introduction to Horticulture classes for several years, and in 2018 TAFE teamed up with the Addi Road Food Pantry to grow herbs and vegetables for the Pantry.

In early 2018, community gardens around the Centre were also the focus of a sold-out 'Wild Food and Medicine' walk-and-talk given by The Perma Pixie.



# War On Waste

This year Addison Road Community Centre was successful in applying for a grant from the Environmental Protection Authority NSW to establish an integrated neighbourhood-based food rescue network.

Named the WOW Food! (Inner West) Project, it builds on the achievements and extends the donor relationships of the Food Pantry to reduce food waste and allocate it to food-security services across the local government area. The aim of the project is to rescue food by diverting it from going to landfill, and to use this food to fight hunger in the Inner West.

## The project has three key components:

- A food-donor study to identify the barriers that prevent businesses from becoming donors and to identify strategies to increase food donations to the Food Pantry and other charitable food-security services.
- A food-rescue campaign to encourage businesses to become donors and raise awareness amongst the broader community of the issue of food waste in our area.
- A Food Relief Alliance to ensure donations are distributed in a collaborative and efficient way across the local government area, and that those with the greatest need are prioritised.

The Food Relief Alliance will establish a coordinated approach to rescuing and re-distributing food to those experiencing food insecurity. To this end, the Food Pantry started a new support relationship with the Asylum Seekers Centre in Newtown.

As a result of our efforts to get WOW Food! Inner West going, in the second half of 2018, Addi Road's Food Pantry was regularly diverting around one tonne of organic waste from landfill per week. These results have been made possible by new partnerships formed with Second Bite, Metcash, Bob & Pete's, and IGA Newtown and are set to grow in both volume and the diversity of food-donor sources in 2019.





# Our Sustainable Site

## Return & Earn

Following the state government's adoption of a container deposit scheme late in 2017, Addi Road became one of the first locations in Sydney for a full-scale container recycling station, or 'reverse vending machine'.

The Addi Road Return and Earn station was a hit from the start and by March 2018 had just about reached the 2 million target of containers that operators TOMRA expected for the whole year. By December 2018, 9.6 million containers had been recycled at Addi Road, earning 10c each.

Thousands of dollars have been made by at the station by people living on low incomes and local community groups such as the Cooks River Mudcrabs or school students earning Duke of Edinburgh points. The refunds earned at the station can either be credited to a Paypal account, redeemed at Woolworths or donated directly to one of the rotating charities listed at the station, including Addison Road Community Centre itself, thanks to TOMRA's charity support program.

Litter reduction across NSW is an expected benefit of the container deposit scheme and early results suggest that Return and Earn is already helping tackle the 160 million drink containers that enter the litter stream in NSW per year. A report by Keep Australia Beautiful released in August 2018 found that drink container litter had reduced by a third since the introduction of the Return and Earn scheme.

The achievements of Addi Road's Return and Earn were recognised with a Sustainable Cities 2018 Award from Keep Australia Beautiful.

## Community Solar Project

This year the achievements of our Community Solar Project were recognised with a 'Renewable Energy Award', one of two Sustainable Cities Awards we received this year from Keep Australia Beautiful NSW.

Support for the project from Get Up's Better Power campaign and Powershop, along with individuals in the community, was gathered in 2017 and just before Christmas that year, dozens of solar panels were installed on the north-facing roof of Hut 1 (one of the busiest buildings at the Centre).

This has allowed the building to generate its own electricity needs most days of the week, and has seen carbon emissions saved at a rate of 16.25 tonnes this year.



# Our Urban Habitat

Many visitors to Addi Road would be familiar with the large seemingly dead Sydney bluegum tree that stands opposite the StirrUp Gallery and Waringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service. In 2014, the tree – deemed dangerous – was slated for removal and mulching until ARCCO's environmental coordinator Rosy Porter looked into an emerging technology: urban habitat tree creation.

With support from then-Marrickville Council's tree specialist Gwilym Griffiths and Sydney Arbor Trees, the tree was saved and transformed into a 14-hollow hotel for local wildlife. After being made safe, the tree had its natural hollows augmented and new artificial hollows added, as potential habitat for native species.

Given that it can take as long as 200 years for habitat-supporting hollows to form naturally in eucalypts and that hundreds of native species depend on tree hollows for habitat, this is an important and increasingly popular technology. When our urban habitat tree was created, it was only the second in NSW, while today there are dozens of them across the state.

In the last few years, a grant from Greater Sydney Local Land Services has allowed us to monitor the tree and, with the involvement of local volunteers, to run citizen-science data collection to see who was using the tree and how. A large amount of data has been collected – over 2,800 observations – some of which is still being processed by volunteers, and which feeds into the ambitious and exciting Hollows as Homes project, hosted by the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

Ten different bird species have been recorded in the tree, with rainbow lorikeets documented using one of the hollows for nesting (the first

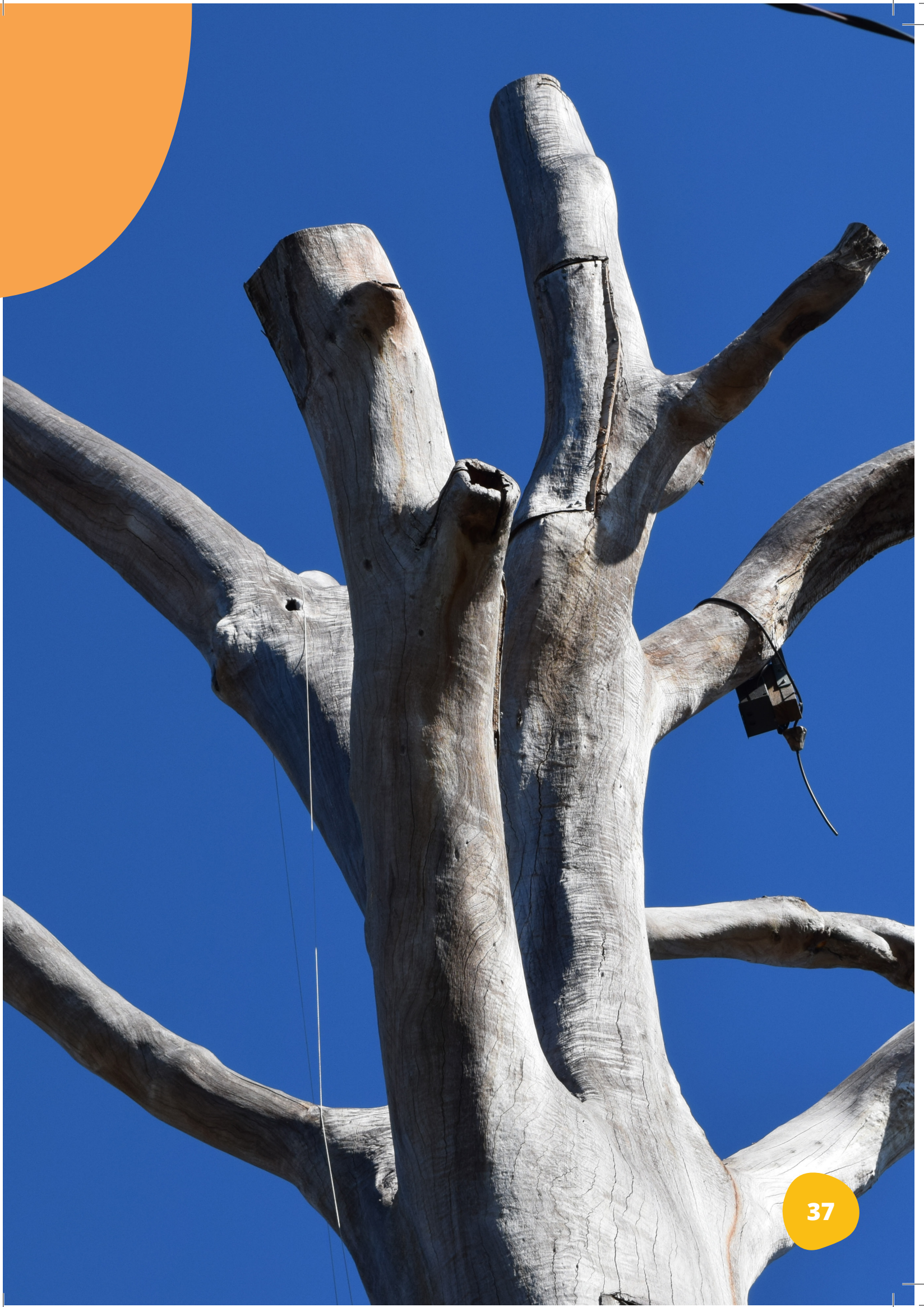
recorded use of an artificial hollow for breeding in NSW that we know of!) and a very lively pair sulphur-crested cockatoos who were enlarging and connecting two existing hollows throughout 2018, very likely for nesting purposes.

It was hoped that endangered species of micro-bats would use the hollows that were specially designed for them, and the calls of four species of micro-bat calls were detected by volunteers near the tree in 2017, but no evidence of their presence in the hollows has yet been found. In 2018, the arborist from Sydney Arbor Trees made adjustments to the two micro-bat hollows to reduce light-bleed and we hope to conduct a second monitoring project in 2019 to determine if this has been successful in attracting micro-bats.

In 2018, the Addi Road Urban Habitat Tree was the focus of drawing workshops with several local schools, run by the artists from Drawn to Seeing. After visiting and learning about the tree, students sat down to closely observe and draw some of the many creatures that use the tree and the rich and complex leaf litter around it that fosters life. The drawings produced will provide the illustrations for a children's book about the Urban Habitat Tree to be published in 2019, thanks to an Inner West Council environment grant.

Presentations on our urban habitat wildlife monitoring were given by Rosy Porter in April and May 2018, and she participated in the Wildlife Citizen Sciences Forum at the Royal Botanic Garden in February and the Wolli Creek Preservation Society's annual Bat Watch Picnic in March.







# Our Place





# Site Management & Infrastructure

2018 was a year of continued investment in the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Centre's infrastructure by ARCCO, with more than \$250,000 expended on capital works, across several projects outlined below.

## Electricity

### *Switchboard Upgrade*

Early this year we arranged the installation of a new main electrical switchboard at the front of the centre. The new switchboard completes the necessary electrical upgrades to Australian standards to ensure the safety of the entire site and caps the total amount of electricity the Centre can draw from the mains. Since the upgrade, we have seen an improvement in the reduction of electrical consumption across the Centre this year.

### *Solar Power*

With the completion of the 30kw solar panel system installation on the roof of Hut 1, we have seen a year's worth of electricity savings. The solar panels have produced savings of 16.25 tonnes of CO2 which is the equivalent to 417 trees being planted or a car driving 108,355km.

## Civil Works

### *Stormwater Pits Upgrade*

Early in the year, we completed a project to upgrade stormwater pits on the eastern side of the Centre. The pits were a response to major flooding experienced on site, mainly due to the small size of pipes installed in the Centre over 100 years ago, and their location was determined with reference to Council's local Flood Management Plan. The new stormwater pits were installed thanks to a Community Builders Grant awarded through the office of our State Member, Jo Haylen. Since they were completed, we have not experienced any flooding take place in the areas of the Centre that they target, despite several very heavy rainstorms.

### *Accessibility Path*

In 2018 our Heritage Trail accessibility path was completed, providing wheelchair, scooter, pram and safe pedestrian access to the Trail and most of the Centre. 300sqm of pathway now connects the seven panels of the Heritage Trail as well as audio posts and bench seats along a loop throughout the Centre. These works were made possible with a Heritage Activation Grant from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and significantly improve access to and enjoyment of the site.

### *Fire Safety Upgrade*

Each year we continue to improve and keep up to date our fire safety measures. In 2018, all of the fire hydrants, hose reels and exit lighting that we are responsible for around the centre were inspected and certified by relevant contractors. These bi-annual fire safety audits ensure we fulfil our obligations as the leaseholder for the site.

### *Stone Shed Roof*

The old armoury (Hut 14) which is now the Fair Trade Emporium received a new Colourbond roof in April 2018. The new roof includes skylights on the northern side, a great way to reduce electricity consumption, as well as being a huge improvement on the previous leaking and rusty roof.

### *Directory Signage*

Our partners at Signwave Newtown have recently installed directory signage across the road from the StirrUp Gallery. The directory now lists and locates all the organisations and artists who are currently working at the Centre.

### *Heritage Signage*

Buildings identified in our Conservation Management Plan as having heritage significance have been highlighted with signs that detail what the building was used for and when it was built.



# Conservation & Heritage

A significant step was made along the path of the long-term care and management of the heritage of Addison Road Community Centre in 2018 with the completion and adoption of the site's first ever Conservation Management Plan. This is a comprehensive plan that documents the history of the site, identifies and ranks the significance of its heritage buildings and landscapes, surveys the Centre's living cultural heritage significance and recommends policies to guide the enhancement, preservation and care of the heritage values of the Centre for five years.

The Centre stands on land that has been a seasonal wetland, a dairy farm and market garden, and an army depot from 1916 to 1975, as well as playing a role in the story of Australian multiculturalism and arts-based community development born out of the Whitlam era, but until now there has been no global plan that deals specifically with its heritage conservation.

A huge task, researching and writing the plan took more than a full year, but was completed with great dedication and enthusiasm by PhillipsMarler, a Sydney-based specialist landscape and heritage architecture firm. The Addison Road Community Centre Conservation Management Plan is a valuable planning and management tool for the Centre's staff and Board. It has already helped guide the design and implementation of an accessible pathway along the Addison Road Heritage Trail and installation of heritage signage on the most significant of the Centre's buildings.

The Plan has also highlighted the importance of the 'World War One group' of buildings: the two Drill Halls that bookend the site, three 'gun parks' along the southern fence line, the Depot Theatre and associated buildings and the only remaining two-story army building near the

Centre entrance on Addison Road. A couple of these buildings are likely to require major repair work, something that we hope to seek specific funding and community support for, so that they may continue to help embody, record and transmit the history and heritage of this very special place into the future.

Improving pedestrian and wheelchair access to the Heritage Trail, as well as improving interpretation and enjoyment of the Centre's heritage values, which include safety, green space, diversity of use and accessibility, are also priorities emerging from the Plan, which involved community consultation and exhibition as part of its process.

The CMP is now lodged with Inner West Council and includes a proposed updated statement of significance prepared by PhillipsMarler for the Centre's local heritage listing that we hope Council will accept. The process of creating the plan also brought the Centre's heritage significance to the attention of the National Trust NSW, which is currently investigating the site and considering it for listing on its Register of National Estate.







# Governance





# Organisational Development

It is imperative that ARCCO is effective and transparent in the way we manage our funds to support our many users and to this end, we are committed to continually improving our financial governance and management processes. In recent years, we have focused on strengthening our financial controls and implementing better systems to reduce arrears. We have also focused on developing new organisational policies that improve staff conditions and build capacity, as ARCCO is committed to human rights and labour rights.

Other improved policies deal with venue hire, rentals and volunteering. We have also focused on improving the procurement function aimed at strengthening our internal controls, increasing efficiency, reducing costs and meeting our contractual obligations to donors.

We have also introduced a more rigorous risk management system that meets current state and federal laws and will be strictly implementing its recommendations in 2019. In 2018 we formed a tenants' sub-committee to discuss maintenance priorities and building repair needs.

2018 saw a successful grant application submitted by the Greek Theatre, with support from ARCCO, to repair its damaged floor, a collaborative approach to funding building works that started in 2016 with committed members and will be encouraged to continue in 2019.

In 2017-18, ARCCO developed and implemented an organisational-wide monitoring, review and evaluation methodology. This will enable us to measure impact, improve programming and community engagement, ensure relevance and continue our progress as an open and learning organisation. Results and analysis will provide evidence for our grants and advocacy work.

The financial outlook for 2018-2019 is positive, and recent amendments to our Constitution to better reflect our purpose and to make us eligible for charity status have yielded great results for ARCCO's humanitarian and environmental programs as well as for the organisation itself. These changes allow for a more inclusive membership body, diversifying and democratising representation by no longer being restricted exclusively to licence-holders that are also registered NGOs.

In 2019, ARCCO will continue to pursue Public Benevolent Institution and Deductible Gift Recipient status to provide tax deductions for our increasing pool of donors, particularly corporate donors, but also to secure better salaries for our committed staff.

ARCCO takes seriously our commitment to organisational governance, transparency and accountability, which are fundamental to our long term impact and sustainability and achieving the best outcomes for members and stakeholders. Our regular reviews of our governance processes are in line with our organisation's Strategic Plan, ethical principles and the external regulations under which we operate.



# Finances & Auditor's Report

During the 2017-2018 financial year, ARCCO achieved solid revenue levels of around \$1.5 million. The revenue growth was in keeping with ARCCO's long-term trajectory and follows 2016-17 increases that result from our five-year strategic vision to re-establish ARCCO as a vibrant and relevant community centre, attracting more funding and reviewing our service provision and the cost of services.

The audited financial statements for the financial year highlight revenue decline from the 2016-2017 financial year, but despite the decline, ARCCO still achieved a net surplus during 2017-18. In line with this slight dip, ARCCO has reduced operating costs. Staffing levels continue to represent around 48% of total revenue, down on previous years.

While overall revenue declined compared to the previous year, the figures still reflect a strong underlying core result, and ARCCO is making good progress in achieving a more balanced revenue source mix.

Revenue streams that are reliant on donor funding have inherent variability, driven by changes in government policy and the availability of funding for non-government organisations, and these represent around one-third of ARCCO's revenue.

Another third of ARCCO's revenue derives from licence agreements (or rental earnings), a revenue stream which also experiences variability. Factors that affect this revenue stream include tenants' refusal of rental increases, tenants' payments falling into arrears and tenants leaving substantial waste-removal and repair costs to the Centre when they

move out. Contributing to the impact on rental revenue are the growing costs associated with compliance and insurances.

ARCCO has worked effectively over the last several years to develop a sustainable revenue base. Our 'portfolio' is therefore weighted towards programs that have an employment and income-generation component to them. These also provide around one-third of our total revenue and continue to produce robust outcomes for ARCCO's community and our organisation's strategic vision. These programs, too, are heavily dependent on compliance and development approvals.

The financial results reflect both challenges and strategic opportunities, such as strong additional revenue-generating activities outside of rental revenue.

## In Summary

- Annual revenue of \$1,490,862 was down 2.85% (\$43,293) from \$1,534,155 in 2017. Factors which influenced this decrease include: Café was not operating throughout the year; less from grants and donations; less monies received from insurance recovery.
- Expenses decreased by 8.8% (\$128,673) to \$1,334,710.
- Capital improvements to the value of \$279,560 were made to the Centre through the year, including the upgrade of the main electrical switchboard, the upgrade of stormwater pits, the new Heritage Trail pathway and the solar panel installation. ARCCO has prioritised levels of urgent repairs within the centre which continues to mitigate the financial effect of potential risks, in accordance with the risk management policy.
- Current-year surplus before income tax was \$88,353, a decrease of 61% from 2017. This allows the organisation to maintain general reserves equivalent to at least three months' core expenditure, currently at \$435K.



	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
Donations	2,160	25,261
Rent	669,626	598,756
Rate and Other Recovery	141,710	96,140
Hall and Event Hires	90,253	93,270
Organic Food Market	184,880	116,938
Toll Gate	40,176	41,343
Grants	179,785	298,262
Food Pantry	110,355	47,995
Insurance Recovery	-	62,584
StirrUp Cafe	2,241	92,002
Interest received	3,483	4,102
Other Incomes	66,193	57,502
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>1,490,862</b>	<b>1,534,155</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	435,180	598,103
Trade and Other Receivables	194,769	141,223
Other current assets	-	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>629,949</b>	<b>739,326</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	992,767	794,273
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>992,767</b>	<b>794,273</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,622,716</b>	<b>1,533,599</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and Other Receivables	240,698	178,213
Provisions	137,115	144,255
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>377,813</b>	<b>322,468</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>377,813</b>	<b>322,468</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,244,903</b>	<b>1,211,131</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	544,447	544,447
Retained Plus	700,456	666,684
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>1,244,903</b>	<b>1,211,131</b>



# Our Partners

**Thanks to the following partners, donors and collaborators for your support in 2018!**

- A1 Instant Printing
- Anthony Albanese MP
- Arab Council of Australia
- Batch Brewery
- Biennale of Sydney
- Botany View Hotel
- BWS Newtown
- Callan Park Community Refugee Welcome Centre
- Canterbury-Hurlstone Park RSL
- Colin, Biggers & Paisley Lawyers
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Dr Hannah Middleton
- Drawn to Seeing
- Ethnic Communities Council
- Ethnic Community Services Cooperative
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Forward Thinking Design
- Greek Atlas Culture & Community Centre
- Green Living Centre, Inner West Council
- History Council of NSW
- Hobo Gro
- Henson Park Hotel
- Ignite Small Business Start-Ups
- Inner City Teachers' Association
- Inner West Council
- International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
- Jo Haylen MLA
- Konnect Employment
- Law Access NSW
- Love & Peace Catering - Ethiopian Food
- Marrickville Heritage Society
- Marrickville Multicultural Interagency
- Marrickville Peace Group
- Merja Media
- Mission Providence
- Mohamet Mayet & Mark O'Bryan from PA
- Museums and Galleries NSW
- Mums4Refugees
- The National Trust (NSW)
- NSW Fair Trade Network
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Outdoor Education Group

- Public House Petersham
- Radio Skid Row
- Refugee Action Coalition
- Red Planet webhosting
- Royal Australian Historical Society
- Sam Iskander, Inner West Councillor
- Settlement Services International
- Shirley Lasky, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
- Signwave Newtown
- Special Broadcasting Services (SBS)
- Sydney Arbor Tree
- Sydney Latin American Film Festival
- Sydney Trades Hall
- TAFE NSW
- Teachers' Federation NSW
- TOMRA
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of Western Sydney
- Vertebrae
- YARN Australia
- Young Henry's
- Youth Off the Streets

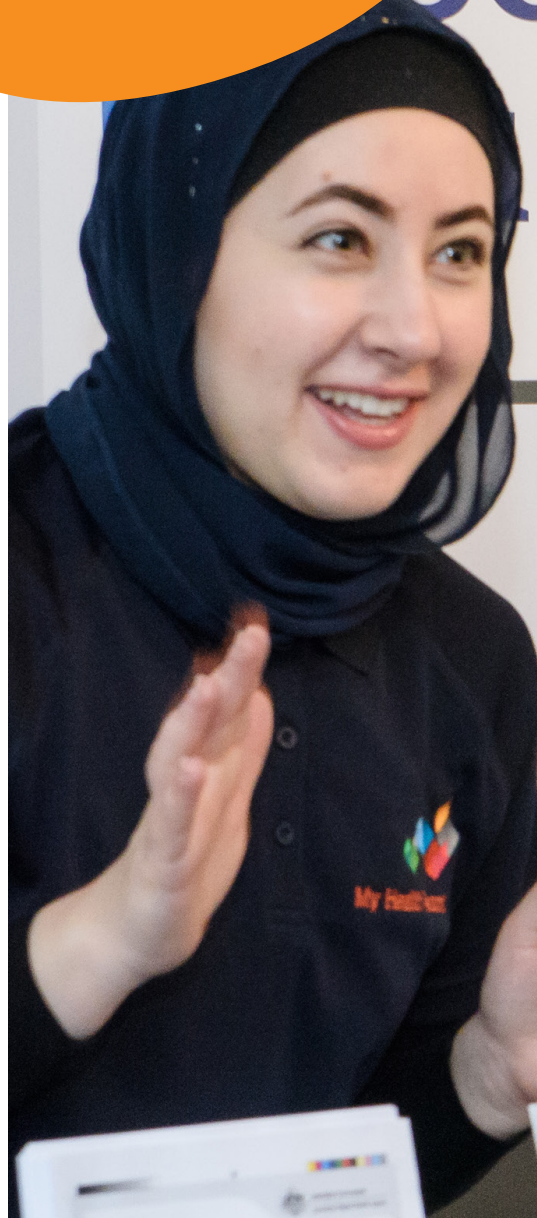
## Food Pantry Donors

- Barilla
- Bread and Butter Project
- Bakers Delight, Marrickville Metro
- Bob & Pete's
- Bunnings Alexandria
- Commonwealth Bank Marrickville (staff and customers)
- Foodbank NSW
- Good 360/Big W Eastgardens
- Hilton Hotel
- IGA Newtown
- The Italian Bowl
- Less Mess
- Lucas Meats, Bronte
- Lullaby Cottage
- Marrickville South Collective
- Marrickville Organic Food Markets stallholders
- Metcash
- Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
- Panificio, Marrickville
- Second Bite
- Serendipity
- Village Wholefoods

*... and dozens of individuals and households in the Inner West that have donated items.*



# My Health Record in your hands





# Rethinking The Urban Forest Conference 2019

## When

24th May 2019

## Where

The Addison Road Community  
Centre, Marrickville

## Sign Up

[www.addiroad.org.au/rethinking-the-urban-forest-conference/](http://www.addiroad.org.au/rethinking-the-urban-forest-conference/)

