

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Clunes
Neighbourhood House

IMPACT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES

When people think about community organisations, they often think about programs, services or events.

Those things matter. But increasingly, what I have come to appreciate about Clunes Neighbourhood House is that the real work often happens underneath the visible activity - in the relationships, the trust built over time, and the willingness of people to contribute to one another.

During 2025, Clunes Neighbourhood House continued to demonstrate the important role Neighbourhood Houses play as local anchor institutions; organisations deeply embedded in the life of their communities and able to respond flexibly as needs and opportunities emerge.

At one level, people came to us for help with food relief, digital support, service navigation, community activities, volunteering opportunities and social connection. At another level, the organisation has begun thinking carefully about what the future may require of rural communities like ours.



Neil Newitt, President

I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, partners and fellow committee members for their ongoing commitment and care. Most importantly, thank you to the people of Clunes. The strength of this organisation has always come from the willingness of local people to participate, contribute and care for one another.

WWW.CLUNESNH.ORG





THE WAY WE WORK

2025 was a year of consolidation, reflection and renewal for Clunes Neighbourhood House.

Over the last decade we have worked steadily to strengthen the foundations of our organisation and our community - building relationships, restoring and activating spaces, supporting local leadership, and creating opportunities for people to connect, contribute and care for one another.

In practical terms, our impact can be measured in meals shared, volunteers supported, activities led, partnerships formed, services accessed, people connected and community spaces activated. In 2025 alone, Clunes Neighbourhood House generated more than \$1.24 million in measurable community value through social connection, volunteering, food relief, education, services and community support.

Our Committee:

- Neil Newitt, President
- Kira Annear, Vice President
- Peter Chandler, Treasurer
- Sean McLaughlin, Secretary
- Tim Jorgensen
- Lois Nichols
- Angela Flowers
- Fiona Patton
- Karima Baadilla (now Treasurer)



2025 also marked the beginning of an important transition for our organisation (captured in our Looking Forward strategy).



We have started asking deeper questions about the future - not just about what services communities need right now, but how rural communities like Clunes can remain resilient, connected and adaptive in the years ahead.

At the centre of all of this remains a simple vision:

A community actively caring for all people and place.

CLUNES VICTORIA THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

Map locations include: MEN'S SHED, NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, HEALTH SERVICE, Library, Post Office, 60+ ACTIVITIES, boom Retail, Central Highlands Rural Health, Alliance Street, Templeton Street, Fraser Street, Service Street, and Crawford Creek.

Services listed at the bottom:

- social activities
- exercise
- kids activities
- emergency relief
- volunteering
- meals
- tech support
- referral support
- venue hire
- events
- employability assistance
- carers club

QR code and website: www.clunesnh.org

Be a part of your neighbourhood and get involved.

In 2025, this community-led approach has continued to generate significant impact.

Each week:

- 117 people participated in programs, activities and events
- 82 volunteer hours were contributed across the community
- Three shared facilities were activated as welcoming and inclusive community spaces
- Hundreds of meals, practical supports and referrals were provided
- 550kgs of fresh food was distributed via #FoodisFree

More importantly, these activities help strengthen the social fabric of Clunes, creating a town where people are more connected, more supported and more able to actively care for all people and place.

Because ultimately, strong communities are not built through programs alone. They are built through relationships, participation, trust and shared responsibility over time.



NEW YOUNG MENS SHED

It has taken two long years to raise the funds and build the first Young Men's Shed in Australia. That vision is now being realised as young men in Clunes are now working to form a committee, and develop a program of work modelled around the Men's Shed movement.

Without the leadership of the Men's Shed, this initiative would never have been realised.



The Young Men's Shed proposes to focus on lost trades as they start up:

- Blacksmithing
- Furniture making
- Stain Glass

"Positive male role models and strong community connections are protective factors for young men's mental health and wellbeing."

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ENTERPRISE BOOM CLUNES



BOOM Clunes was never intended to be “just a shop.”

From the beginning, BOOM was designed as a social enterprise experiment - a way of exploring how a small rural town might think and act differently about its future. Launched during the uncertainty of the pandemic, it combined retail activation, co-working, creativity and entrepreneurship to test how community-led enterprise could strengthen resilience, local participation and economic opportunity.

Over the past five years, BOOM has helped activate the main street, supported local makers and suppliers, provided opportunities for volunteering and skill development, and created spaces where people could work, collaborate and experiment with new ideas together. Through the retail space alone, more than \$75,000 annually was returned to local makers and suppliers, income opportunities that did not previously exist locally.

Importantly, BOOM also demonstrated something bigger.

www.boomclunes.org

It showed that rural communities possess significant social and human capital - creativity, relationships, skills, adaptability and local knowledge - and that when these strengths are intentionally nurtured, communities can begin to shape their futures in new ways.

In 2025, the BOOM journey entered its next stage. With more retail businesses now operating in Clunes than before BOOM first opened, the social enterprise began transitioning away from running a physical retail outlet and toward deeper exploration of productisation, leadership development, creativity and pathways that support aspiration and entrepreneurship locally. This shift reflects changing conditions within the town itself, but also a growing understanding of where Clunes Neighbourhood House can have the greatest long-term impact.

Rather than focusing primarily on operating a shopfront, BOOM is increasingly becoming a platform for experimentation, innovation and capability building - helping local people test ideas, develop skills, connect with wider markets and explore new opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

Projects such as the Escape Room, Self-Care Journal, Rural Study Hub and collaborative publishing initiatives all reflected BOOM’s broader purpose: creating opportunities for people and communities to think differently, act differently and build resilience through experimentation and participation.

In 2026 we will close the retail operation, creating new space (literally and figuratively) for Clunes Neighbourhood House to explore these new pathways to a boom.



REPORTS FINANCIAL

2025 was a year of transition financially. As several major projects reached completion, the organisation made deliberate decisions to streamline operations, reduce some costs and reposition for the future. While resourcing pressures remain significant across rural community organisations, Clunes Neighbourhood House continues to focus on diversifying income, building partnerships and strengthening the social and physical infrastructure that supports our town.

In 2025, Clunes Neighbourhood House generated more than \$1.24 million in measurable community value through volunteering, education, food relief, social connection, practical support and community participation. This included:

- Social Connection - \$230K
- Volunteering - \$205K
- Education and Learning - \$63K
- Food Relief and Support - \$585K
- Services and Practical Help - \$85K

For every \$1 of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding received, Clunes Neighbourhood House generated approximately \$10.15 in measurable community value.

Peter Chandler, Treasurer

YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TOTAL ASSETS	\$34,362.00	\$32,910	\$32,046	\$207,620	\$110,936	\$102,644	\$43,413	\$51,455	\$101,584	\$40,750	\$64,887
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,218.00	\$11,510	\$19,671	\$12,122	\$14,419	\$15,455	\$3,173	\$819	\$17,862	\$18,027	\$12,959
EQUITY	\$32,144.00	\$21,400	\$12,375	\$195,498	\$96,517	\$87,190	\$40,240	\$80,399	\$83,732	\$22,722	\$51,928
TOTAL REVENUE	\$129,683.0	\$189,116	\$232,957	\$422,154.55	\$244,256	\$260,273	\$322,527	\$461,685	\$585,095	\$585,095	\$432,945
TOTAL EXPENDITUR	\$154,574.00	\$194,858	\$233,166	\$247,659	\$269,398	\$269,349	\$372,476	\$456,293	\$543,790	\$649,095	\$403,740
Net PROFIT/ LOSS	-\$24,890.40	-\$5,741.76	-\$208.51	\$174,495.89	-\$96,766.71	-\$9,075.57	-\$49,948.65	\$5,392	\$44,302	-\$61,000	\$29,205

Blue: \$200,738.27 of total revenue is Art Attack(auspiced project)
 Orange: \$173,433.32 of net profit is Art Attack(auspiced project)
 Green: \$42,848 of net profit is Living and Ageing Well in Hepburn (partnership project)





Thank you to Our Partners and Allies

Department of Health and Human Services, State Government of Victoria, Business Victoria, Social Enterprise Network Victoria (SEN Vic), Hepburn Shire Council, Asuria, The National Hotel, Long View Farm & Meats, Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, O'Haras Bakery, Clunes Primary School, Wesley College, Clunes IGA, Central Highlands Rural Health, Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre, Clunes Football and Netball Club, Clunes Agricultural Society, Central Highlands Rural Health, Creative Clunes, Creswick Neighbourhood Centre, FRRR, WRISC, Lifestyle Breakthrough, OCHRE Medical Centre, Clunes Pharmacy, Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses, Anglicare Victoria, Creswick & District Community Bank, the Daylesford Foundation, Western Victoria Primary Health Network, Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action and Health Futures Australia.

Clunes Neighbourhood House: 6 Templeton St, Clunes. VIC. 3370

Men's Shed: 18 Alliance St, Clunes. VIC. 3370

Living and Ageing Well Hub, 25 Fraser St, Clunes. VIC. 3370

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