



# 2024 Annual Report



## Who we are

RANCH is an association of Members in 34 Neighbourhood Houses located in:

- Central Goldfields Shire
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Loddon Shire
- Macedon Ranges Shire
- Mount Alexander Shire
- Shire of Campaspe

**And five unfunded services in:**

- Huntly
- Bendigo
- Bridgewater
- Harcourt
- Mt Macedon / Macedon

Here is a list of all Neighbourhood Houses in our Network:

[The RANCH Region | Regional Association of Neighbourhood Community Houses](#)

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## Our purpose

RANCH delivers governance and operational support to strengthen the capacity of Members and enable neighbourhood houses to achieve their community purpose and individual goals.

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## Our principles

***Inclusive*** – we encourage participation from all our members, and treat everyone equitably

***Collaborative*** – our strength is in working

together with the skills and knowledge of our members, stakeholders and partners

***Empowering*** – we work with our members in identifying opportunities, and look for inspired ways to build capacity

***Innovative*** – we are creative in seeking

opportunities and facing challenges

***Respectful*** – we treat everyone with

consideration and empathy, and foster and

support respectful relationships

***Learning*** – we provide opportunities for learning and skills development and focus on strengthening personal and organisational capacity

***Responsive*** – we are open-minded and receptive to the voices of our members, and respond with care and consideration

# What we offer



## Our Members

Membership of RANCH is an organisational membership. Participation is open to all staff, volunteers and Committee members of houses that are members of the RANCH Network.



## Our Resources

RANCH offers a range of important and helpful tools and resources to its members. Our toolbox is designed to support member houses, management and staff.



## Our Support

RANCH offers a wide range of governance and operational support services to its membership Houses including advice, training, capacity building, activity development, professional development, networking and more.

# Yearly reports

## President's report

### *A yearly review from Tracey Moss*

I'm delighted to present my President's report for 2023/24 sharing how incredibly proud I am of our achievements over the past year. The Committee, along with the Network Manager have made positive steps towards rebuilding after an unsettled period throughout the organization.

At the end of 2023 we said farewell to Martyn (Castlemaine CH). Martyn was our Secretary for 18 months and as we all know this position is difficult to fill and hard to deliver, especially when combined with a role as demanding as House Manager. So, Martyn's accomplishments absolutely proved he was the right person for the job at a time when his skills were most needed and we thank him for his outstanding contributions.

Additionally, in the beginning of 2024, we also farewelled Marg (Wedderburn NH) who is off jet setting the world and I'm quite sure is not thinking about us as we continue to navigate this interesting time around us. Marg's happy and bubbly personality and contribution to the function of RANCH is very appreciated and she will be sadly missed.

But as we all know, one door closes – or two in our case, and we were then able to share a big welcome to Louise (Boort Resource & Information Centre) and Melissa (Woodend NH). We know you will enjoy your time with RANCH and learn lessons which you will be able to take with you over the course of your careers.

Partnership and networking successes throughout the year include working with the City of Greater Bendigo to hold our RANCH Member Forum on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at the Capital Theatre. Multicultural Competency, was a major theme for this event, including a mini expo connecting Houses with local key likeminded stakeholders providing information and resources about services and support within our region. A very big thankyou to Pinar, Anne from the COGB and teams for assisting us to deliver a terrific event bringing RANCH Houses together for the day.

RANCH also supported the Greater Bendigo region Houses to attend the 'Be Well Get Connected' expo held at the Exhibition Centre, Bendigo and hosted by the City of Greater Bendigo for older adults and people with disabilities.

The Expo, which was free to attend, featured exhibits showcasing aged care and community and disability products and services, giving visitors the opportunity to meet face-to-face with service providers, advisors, and support groups.

Many of us have experienced violence and/or abuse in recent times within our roles and this has become a hot topic with the 16 Networkers across Victoria taking a stand on behalf of House Managers, COM and

connections preparing a 'Combined Networkers Letter' raising awareness and advocating to peak body NHVic and the DFFH, for a better level of support to ensure ongoing safety and security for all within our workplaces.

Again responding to the current financial difficulties faced by Neighbourhood Houses, with the now, long term cost of living crisis and many Houses experiencing stress and losses, the RANCH Committee elected to reduce the rate for membership fees throughout 2023/24 as our way of providing support, ensuring member Houses understand that we are listening and actively seeking ways to assist them throughout this difficult time.

This year we welcomed the Huntly Community Hub who are working strongly in their area to listen to the voices of their community members and respond positively. This now brings our House membership to 33 (with another new member House now onboard in the new financial year).

We need to also mention that like all Houses, RANCH has been working on updating our Model Rules, or 'Own Rules' as they will now be called. The Committee is working with a pro bono lawyer to review our PURPOSES as a funded not-for-profit Network and how we can accommodate the new ACNC requirements to obtain a charitable purpose.

On behalf of all RANCH Committee members, I wish to extend thanks and appreciation to our Network Manager Kaz Williams on another outstanding year. RANCH, through Kaz, has had an overwhelmingly positive response from Member Houses, in terms of connection and participation in RANCH activities and this is wonderful to see.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a member of the RANCH Committee. I would like to thank the current Committee, Network Manager Kaz and all House members for your support and assistance over the past two years. As I step down from the Presidents role, I would like to wish the incoming Committee all good wishes for a successful year ahead. Organizations are always nourished with the thoughts, ideas and styles of new participating members and I feel very confident that now RANCH will continue to move forward in a positive fashion and direction to the benefit of its member Houses which in turn supports staff, volunteers and all those that visit. I truly believe Neighbourhood Houses to be one of the most valuable resources to any community and that if we remain within achievable goals considering funding ability, volunteer capacity, participation rates and the calibre of skills and experience around and within each House, RANCH as a Network, of and for, support will continue to flourish.

Best wishes to you all

Tracey Moss

RANCH President

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## Network Manager's report

### *A yearly review from Kaz Williams*

When I look back to this time last year, it has been a great learning curve! I appreciate all the support from so many of our Members for working cooperatively with RANCH and being so welcoming of me when visiting your House.

I have visited over **70 Houses** in the past year and travelled many kilometres networking with so many of you. A key part of my role is to be there! We have worked well together, and it has been terrific to be invited to so many committee meetings and getting to know your individual House needs and providing governance and operational support at your request.

Being face to face and actually on site in each of your unique Houses, informs my practice and understand the intricacies of your unique environments and how best RANCH can advocate to meet your needs.

A highlight for me has been the **Network Meetings** in each of the Council regions and having the opportunity to meet with you as a group of peers, gaining support from each other, learning from each other's experiences, plus professional development from guest presenters.

The April **2024 Regional FORUM** in partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo was also a stand out event and brought together over 40 of us in Bendigo. Such a terrific opportunity for us to get to know each other as colleagues, and to remember we have support all around us.

We also **welcomed a new unfunded Neighbourhood Houses** into our membership ranks, with Huntly Community Hub as new members.

I continue to work collaboratively with the **Combined Network Group** and **Neighbourhood Houses Victoria**, who have been a great support to my own experience of being a stand-alone operative in the field. The liaison with **DFFH Central Office** has also significantly improved over the past year and I have a positive relationship with the new DFFH staff. RANCH continues to be a strong voice with these peak bodies and advocating the rural and regional experiences at every opportunity.

The strategic planning survey last year highlighted six key areas that Houses were requesting resources and **professional development** support through workshops and presentations. These were (in order of priority):

1. Committees and the Budget - financial sustainability in difficult economic times
2. Understanding Community Development and what it looks like on the ground
3. Strategic planning and community engagement
4. Management & Leadership skills for Coordinators
5. Social Prescribing - addressing community needs contributing to poor health, loneliness and social isolation
6. Committees and Staff relationships - how to work with a volunteer employer

RANCH has delivered on four of the key areas, with Social Prescribing and Strategic Planning being a priority for this coming year of online sessions and training. There were some significant sector

issues that presented themselves over the year and RANCH provided advocacy, resources and information on the new EBA / NHACE, ongoing ACNC / CAV changes, continuing Child Safe Standards implementation and ACFE changes.

I have delivered the free 90minute **Child Safe Standards Level 1 Training** to four Houses which has been a very positive experience to see the level of commitment by volunteers, committee members and staff to provide best practice in their roles to say 'NO' to child abuse.

This past year we introduced quarterly **Committee Online Catchups**, for specific governance training sessions for Committee Members. There is no doubt that there have been significant challenges placed before all Neighbourhood Houses, particularly around the ACNC Charitable Status and reviewing the Rules of Association. The online sessions have provided targeted support to the volunteer committees that are so vital to the successful governance and compliant operations of your Houses.

**Managers Online Community of Practice** which was presented bi-monthly had good attendance and RANCH was able to introduce experts in their fields to support professional development and ongoing learning for Managers and staff.

The year ahead will be a challenging one for Neighbourhood Houses as we continue to experience the community and social effects of the current economic environment, and the recurring climate related emergencies, being faced by so many in our rural areas. A key focus for RANCH will continue to be the wellbeing of Managers and how best to support Committees of Management to meet these difficult and ongoing demands.

Lastly, I say thank you to the **RANCH Committee of Management** for your ongoing commitment to our regional Network whilst undertaking your own extremely busy roles at your Neighbourhood Houses! Wishing all the very best to Tracey Moss who is stepping down from the role of President at this AGM, and we thank you for sharing your passion and dedication to the network and Neighbourhood Houses.

I look forward to working with you all again for the coming year!

**Kaz Williams**

**RANCH Network Manager**

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## **Treasurer's report**

### ***A yearly review from Trevor Crane***

I present to you the Treasurer's Report for 2023/24 Financial Year.

This past financial year has reverted to more of a normal year, compared to the previous financial year. Which was what I predicted in my 2022/2023 Treasurers Report.

Total Income for the year was, \$144,980. Although the increase in revenue for the year was minimal it showed an increase of \$6,267 this financial year. This was because received an increase of \$6026 in grants received.

Total Expenses for the year was, \$143,791. The Expenses increased by \$70,842. This gave an overall profit of \$1,190, for the financial year. This was compared with a \$65763 profit for the 2023/24 financial year.

On the expenditure expense the major reason for such a turnaround was due to having the Networker position filled for the whole of the financial year. This seen significant increases in network meeting expenses, network travel, superannuation and salaries. Now that we have had a year of more normal activities, we should see minimal changes in profits/losses for coming years ahead.

The 2023/24 Financial Year seen RANCH be back to normal operations. However, we must be careful to pay particular attention to monitoring our expenses and strive for additional Revenue where and when possible.

Thank you.

Trevor Crane

RANCH Treasurer



# Our financials

## Financial Review from Neighbourhood Houses Victoria

Points to note from the FY24 financial review are as follows:

1. FY24 year-end journals for Long Service leave, annual leave, and reallocation of travel reimbursement from salaries were undertaken.
2. RANCH is solvent and has a strong cash position although surplus has reduced versus prior years.
3. One long outstanding customer invoice should be reviewed to either collect or write off (as this amount is immaterial, it can be actioned in FY25)
4. One long standing payable invoice should be reviewed to either pay or write back (as this amount is immaterial, it can be actioned in FY25)
5. Sharp decline of approximately 65% in membership fees from prior years.
6. Notable changes relevant to operations with increase in salary expenses in alignment with appointment of full year Network Manager.
7. Significant increase in travel activity was also noted from a financial perspective.

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## Supplementary documents

[Click here to download P/L and Balance Sheet 2023/24](#)

## Profit and Loss

RANCH Inc.

For the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>Account</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Trading Income</b>	
DHHS NHCP Grants	140,980
Income - Projects Grants	0
Interest	2,708
Membership Fees	1,295
Other Income	0
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>144,981</b>
<b>Gross Profit 144,981</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
ATO Cash Flow Boost	0
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Accounting Fees	4,817
Administration Expenses - Assets Purchased <\$5,000	0
Administration Expenses - Bank Charges	0
Administration Expenses - Membership Fees	580
Administrative & General Exp: Bank Fees & Charges	0
Advertising	0
Annual Leave Expense	3,484
Computer Expenses - Software Purchases/Subscriptions	1,108
Computer Expenses - Webpage Hosting & Maintenance	234
Depreciation	0
Insurance - Workcover	3,148
Long Service Leave Expense	314
Network Meeting expenses	8,207
Networker Expenses - Sundry Expenses	0
Networker Expenses - Travel Accommodation	1,247
PO Box Renewal	158
Portable Long Service	1,428
Printing & Stationery	442
Professional Development.	1,087
Project Expenses - Grant Funded	0
Salaries	92,831
Sundry Expense	24
Superannuation	10,189
Telephone & Internet	1,131
Travel Reimbursement	13,824
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>143,791</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>1,190</b>

## Balance Sheet

RANCH Inc.

As at 30 June 2024

Account	30 June 2024
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	
100. RANCH INC	148,745
101. Term Deposit Account no. 2	58,945
RANCH	2,419
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>210,110</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Accounts Receivable	426
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>426</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Plant and Equipment	(1,839)
Plant and equipment	1,839
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>210,536</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	204
GST	2,523
Long Service Leave Prov	338
PAYG Withholding	8,029
Provision for Annual Leave	5,412
Rounding	0
Superannuation Payable Liability	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>16,506</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>	
Wages Over-payment Kristen Proud	0
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>16,506</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>194,030</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Current Year Earnings	1,190
Opening Bal Equity	96,085
Retained Earnings	96,755
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>194,030</b>

# Income and Value Report

## Neighbourhood Houses in RANCH - Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funded only

Real Impact. Real Value.

**INCOME** \$9,755,607

**VALUE** \$40,150,601

### This figure includes the value of:

Improved quality of life through social connection:  
**\$8,402,213**

Volunteer contributions: **\$8,808,127**

Emergency relief provided: **\$9,320,618**

Services provided: **\$4,077,679**

Adult Community Education: **\$7,336,236**

Early childhood education and care: **\$1,808,018**

Kinder provided: **\$44,215**

Social enterprise goods & services: **\$261,769**

### This community value equates to:

**\$4.12** for every \$1 of income

**\$14.04** for every \$1  
of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program  
funding

Over **\$673.32** each for every hour the  
neighbourhood houses were in use on average

### Emergency relief value includes:

- Food and groceries: **\$8,977,214**
  - Food vouchers: **\$55,296**
- Cash/prepaid or gift card: **\$26,160**
  - Bill payments: **\$16,200**
  - Fuel Vouchers: **\$31,416**
- Public transport cards: **\$300**
  - Clothing: **\$112,104**
- Personal care & hygiene items: **\$97,332**
- Emergency accomodation: **\$4,596**

### Services value includes:

- Computer/internet usage: **\$16,728**
- Facilities use or hire: **\$1,680,132**
- Résumé assistance: **\$19,080**
  - Tax Help: **\$29,200**
- Auspicing other organisations: **\$30,358**
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals:  
**\$550,680**
  - School aged breakfasts: **\$375,661**
  - Fee for service activities: **\$749,589**
  - Power Saving Bonus: **\$626,250**

### Employment value

114.6 FTE jobs

including 82.5 direct and 32.2 indirect  
Full Time Equivalent positions



These values are produced by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria based on data provided by Neighbourhood Houses in RANCH - Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funded only in the 2023 Neighbourhood Houses Survey. Only a limited range of activities where a determinable valuation method exists are included.

Click here [NHVic RANCH Income and Value Report](#)

# What's next...

As the RANCH Committee of Management welcomes a new President and Secretary, and general committee members for the upcoming year, we are excited to share new perspectives, as we continue to focus on delivering on our key strategic priorities, and meeting the individual needs of our Members.

## KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

### Building Capacity

- We will continue to strengthen the knowledge base of our rural and regional Members in governance, management and operations practice, policy and procedures.
- We will continue to build the capacity of Members through sharing information, additional resources and sector knowledge.

### Being Responsive

- We will continue to respond to community needs as they arise.
- We will continue to identify community issues, prioritising emerging issues, economic, health and community wellbeing, i.e. loneliness, isolation, disaster preparedness, mental health, financial insecurity.

### An Advocate

- We will continue to raise the profile and the importance of Neighbourhood Houses for the health and wellbeing of local community.
- We will continue to advocate for increased support for the sector, representing rural and regional issues.
- We will continue to advocate for change through our connections with Councils, DFFH, community organisations, other NH stakeholders, Combined Networker Group and NHVic collaboration

# Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us at

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