“Refugees have made a remarkable contribution to our country. Australia is a proudly multicultural nation, made stronger by the dedication & contribution of people who come here, whether as refugees or migrants.”

Former Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser

In tribute to the late former Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser.

Australia’s 22nd Prime Minister (1975-1983)

(1930-2015)
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Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council
Annual General Meeting
Friday, 30th October 2015
5.00pm

Welcome - President Peter Byrne OAM
Welcome to country
National Anthem by SMECC Multicultural Choir

Language Support Staff Members to give a brief intro to clients of SMECC AGM in other languages.

Apologies:
Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting - October 31st, 2014
Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 31, 2014 be accepted as true and correct.
Moved: Seconded:

Reports: President’s Report (Peter Byrne OAM)
Executive Officer’s Report (Dean Wickham)
Treasurer’s Report (John Braniff)
Motion: That the reports be adopted.
Moved: Seconded:
Motion: That the Financial Statements be adopted.
Moved: Seconded:

Special Business:
Special Resolution: “That the Rules of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council be amended” -
(a) in Rule 13.5 (b) by changing the word “three” to “five”.
(b) in Rule 16.3 the word “four” be changed to “five”.
Moved: Seconded:

Election of Board of Management:
Trevor Leighton to conduct elections.
President:
Vice President:
Treasurer:
Secretary:
Committee:
Committee:
Committee:
Committee:

Meeting Closed:
Julian Burnside AO QC

Julian Burnside is a barrister based in Melbourne. He specialises in commercial litigation. He joined the Bar in 1976 and took silk in 1989.

He acted for the Ok Tedi natives against BHP, for Alan Bond in fraud trials, for Rose Porteous in numerous actions against Gina Rinehart, and for the Maritime Union of Australia in the 1998 waterfront dispute against Patrick Stevedores. He was Senior Counsel assisting the Australian Broadcasting Authority in the “Cash for Comment” inquiry and was senior counsel for Liberty Victoria in the Tampa litigation.

He is a former President of Liberty Victoria, and has acted pro bono in many human rights cases, in particular concerning the treatment of refugees.

He is passionately involved in the arts. He collects contemporary paintings and sculptures and regularly commissions music. He is Chair of Fortyfive Downstairs, a not for profit arts and performance venue in Flinders Lane, Melbourne, and Chair of Chamber Music Australia.


In 2004 he was elected as a Living National Treasure. In 2009 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia. In 2014 he was awarded the Sydney Peace Prize.

He is married to artist Kate Durham.
Board of Management

Peter Byrne OAM
President

LSC Gary Pearse
Vice President

John Braniff
Treasurer

Katherene Carusella
Secretary

Redgina Balchin
Committee Member

Theresa Ketting
Committee Member

Sisilia Puku
Committee Member
Staff members that have left SMECC during 2014-2015:

- Pamela Bibby
- Kate Cotching
- Michelle Kelly
- Patricia Kelly
- Colleen Lewis
- Sinnakkili Nimalakaran
- Kevin Page
- Muhammad Siddiqi
- John Sunanthan
- Bish Zahinda
President’s Report

This time last year I started my annual President’s report by saying, “Let’s go back in history for a minute. Not too far, just to the middle of the last century, say 1948.” I then went on to wax lyrical about the newly created United Nations, the President of the U.N. General Assembly Dr H. V. Evatt, Australia’s Foreign Minister and the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Well let’s do it again, go back in history, a little further this time, to 1945 and the end of World War II.

When the war ended in 1945, and the concentration camps were liberated by Allied Forces, the whole ghastly truth about those camps became public. The reaction of many Germans was, “How terrible. We didn’t know it was happening!” In the closed society which was Germany under the National Socialists, I suppose that reaction is possibly true, although clearly many did know.

Fast forward to Australia in 2015. Concentration camps, first started by the British in the Boer War, and refined by the Germans in World War II, are now being run by and on behalf of Australia, in your name, in this country, and off-shore. Don’t tell me you don’t know about the camps. Anyone who can read or watch TV knows. They are prisons where people are gaoled (“detained” is the euphemism used by politicians) not for committing a crime, but because of who they are. So innocent people fleeing persecution and trying to reach safety in Australia are arrested (“detained”) and locked up in camps behind the wire, which is patrolled by guards, not knowing when, if ever they will be released. Stories of prisoners including children becoming insane with grief and worry, women being raped, attempted suicides, are everyday news. Again, don’t even contemplate saying you don’t know what is happening. And all this from a country which in 1954, under the Menzies Government, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 14 (1) of which says: “Every person has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries freedom from persecution.”

Mealy mouthed weasel words from politicians won’t change the situation, which has made Australia a pariah amongst civilised nations. The only thing to do is to speak up fearlessly, and slowly, but surely things will change. Because we do know what’s happening.

Let me now turn from the disgraceful things that are being done to Refugees by the Australian Government, to good news about what is happening to SMECC here in Mildura.

The good news is we now have a new home here at Twelfth Street, our third move in the last eight years. It is huge, and I reckon it will be the last time we have to move for many years. Full marks to our highly skilled and dedicated staff for making the move to these new premises so efficiently, and for putting in another very busy and important year in the care of our new and emerging communities. You are all doing great work for our fellow men, women and children. Thank you to the Board, who made my job as President so easy this year.

What drives us here at SMECC is our motto – “We are proud of our Multicultural Community. We are one, we are many. In diversity is strength.”
The year has been again an interesting one for the organisation.

In terms of the progress of the organisation, I believe we are beneficiaries of the work of previous community leaders in building a strong focus on diversity in Sunraysia. We continue as a vibrant rural community with challenges and opportunities ahead, I am very positive about the future of the Sunraysia region and of CALD communities to have a hand in further developing this area. SMECC will continue to work alongside private industry, education and health sectors to work towards access and equity.

We have now moved in to our new site and the feedback has been very positive from all stakeholders and staff. Now we have a home, something the Board has been working towards for some time and I congratulate the Board on this achievement. I acknowledge the support of the State Government through the funding provided to redevelop this site. No doubt, the major achievement for SMECC this year was to move in to the new site. However, I would like to thank the staff who continued to stay focused on their work in the midst of the ever changing plans and timelines, which is also a major achievement. We must ensure to maintain the site through continuation of use by our member groups, the boarder community and key stakeholders.

What we currently have in the Community Cultural Centre is a facility for the Sunraysia community to bring people together to share what we all bring to Sunraysia; it is as simple as that.
SMECC closed off the 2014/15 fiscal year showing a surplus of $484,269, a total in contrast to the year before. Gross income includes property developments of our new premises at Twelfth Street of $350,000 funded by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship.

Without the additional costs of rent, utilities, rates, security, maintenance, in two properties will help reduce some major expenses over the next fiscal year. A majority of our expenses contributed to employee benefits expenses, administration expenses, occupancy costs and project costs.

The majority of our revenue was due to our settlement work totalling just over $1m from various programs.

The balance sheet remains strong with a total equity of $1.5m.

While we will see the benefits of moving to a larger site over the coming year the funding environment still presents challenges for our work. Program and revenue stream development will be the major focus going forward.

I thank my fellow Board members and also my Finance Committee members Katherene Carusella and Gary Pearse for their support throughout the year.
SMECC supports newly arrived refugees and permanent residents until five years after their arrival in the country under Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) and Settlement Grants Program (SGP).

Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS)
The Humanitarian Settlement Services program provides early practical support to humanitarian clients to help them settle into the community. This program is funded by Department of Social Services and SMECC has been sub-contracted by AMES to deliver the program on behalf of the Australian Government.

The HSS program provides initial practical support assisting newly arrived clients to build their independence, generally for the first six to twelve months. The HSS Case Worker assists clients to access other services or programs if needed.

Mildura has been selected as a regional settlement area by the Department of Social Services and during the 2014-2015 financial year through HSS SMECC assisted a total of 113 clients to settle in the community; their new home. Out of this, fifty six individuals and forty families arrived on Humanitarian Protection Visas (200). Fourteen individuals and three families arrived on Global Special Humanitarian Visas. The majority of these cases were from Afghanistan followed by Sri Lanka, Burundi, Congo and Iraq and included cases of family reunion from Afghanistan, Burundi and Congo.

For our clients, learning a new language is the first priority followed with finding a job, sponsoring their family to join them, study and others. Many of them are overwhelmed with the things they need to do differently and the choices they have to make. HSS Case Workers play a major role in guiding them, providing them with practical and class base information on various topics, and also information on topics they are interested in.

We had one full time Case Manager, Program Support Officer, and six casual Community Guides covering Hazaragi, Arabic, Persian, Kirundi, Swahili, and Tamil languages in the HSS program.

Settlement Grants Program (SGP)
The Settlement Grants Program (SGP), to be renamed the Settlement Services (SS) Program from July 2015, is a federally funded program that aims at assisting newly arrived refugees and migrants settle in Australia successfully. Additionally, the program assists these individuals and families to equally participate in, and feel part of mainstream society soon after arrival. Typically, after six months of intensive support through the HSS program, the majority of clients are transitioned into the SGP program for more limited support. However SGP does also receive additional client referrals from external services, particularly for clients on non-humanitarian visas.

SGP’s episodic case work support uses a strengths based approach to provide advice, and complex support if required in a range of areas including; employment and training services, family issues, legal aid, financial counselling, education institution enrolment, health services and accommodation services, and links with volunteer opportunities.

During this year, over 250 refugees and migrants were serviced by the SGP. Though many sought support on a regular basis, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of clients attempting to seek support due to factors such as: a decrease in the number of incoming referrals from the HSS program and an improvement in the level of resilience of the existing clients. As a result of this, through the year SGP has placed an increasing focus on supporting community engagement and in linking clients to participate in broader community projects.

In recognition of the above, from September 2014, SMECC established a new part-time Female Engagement Worker to support ongoing engagement of isolated female clients through playgroup and other SMECC community program activities. This position proved to be important in identifying individual support needs of clients to provide a bridge to additional case work support where required in collaboration with the SGP Worker.

Similar to the last financial year, most of the clients serviced this year were from Afghanistan. Other nationalities serviced were Burundian, Iraqi, Iranian, Sri Lankan, Congolese (DRC), Rwandese, Romanian, Thai, Kuwaiti, Vietnamese, Fijian, and Burmese. The program provided support to some non-refugee background migrants from countries such as Turkey, Vietnam, Burundi, Afghanistan, Thailand, and Sri Lanka who arrived in regional area under the Family Stream Migration Program and who have a low level of English.

We would like to thank all the organisations, schools and medical establishments with whom we liaised with and who provided support to our clients. Most importantly, we would like to thank our clients who accessed the program this year.
Status Resolution Support Services Program (SRSS)

Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program previously known as Community Assistance Support (CAS) and Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS). CAS/ASAS program transitioned to the SRSS program in January 2015.

This Program is designed to provide limited support to asylum seekers who are living in the community under financial hardship, while they are waiting for an outcome of their protection claim.

SMECC has assisted 125 clients including four families with children during the financial year 2014/2015. Children have been attending the Mildura English Language Centre, primary schools and secondary schools.

SMECC has two members in the team to support clients under the SRSS program, Client Service Team Leader and Case Worker.

Long waiting periods with uncertainty has been very challenging for this group of clients and the changes in policies announced by the current government has proven that their hope for the future is far from their imagination. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) announced a new policy on the 5th of December 2014: that asylum seekers in the community currently under Bridging Visa E would be granted work rights, and upon invitation from the DIBP, they can apply for a temporary protection visa (TPV) or a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV). If granted TPV visa, it will be valid for three years and has to be reviewed by the end of this period by DIBP. This visa has restrictions to sponsor or apply for reunion of family from overseas, travel overseas and applying for a protection visa. SHEV visa is valid for five years and the individual has to be non-reliant on Centrelink for a minimum of 3.5 years; then at the end of the period the individual might be eligible to apply for other types of visas. To date, Victoria has not signed up to be involved in the SHEV program.

Prior to 5th December 2014, people under Bridging Visa E (Sub class 050) did not have work rights and were not allowed to participate in the work force. Since the policy update, 30 SRSS clients have received work rights and received assistance to apply for a TFN. Unfortunately, SRSS clients are facing more challenges in securing permanent jobs because of their visa conditions as it is valid for one year only.

To support our clients in understanding these policy changes, SRSS has also helped to organise information sessions, through the Refugee Action Program, with employment consultants and migration agents. These have focused on preparing clients for work and in understanding new rights, responsibilities and opportunities for asylum seekers, as a result of the above national policy changes.

In addition to the 1-2-1 client support SRSS provides, we also link our clients to participate in ‘meaningful engagement’ activities with other services, and with SMECC broader community programs including; SMECC playgroups, driving education and practice, mens’ light exercise classes, community garden, and RAP volunteer fundraising activities.
CLIENT SERVICES

Broader CALD Community Support

Home and Community Care - Access & Support (HACC - A&S)

At the end of March 2015, after over 10 years of running the program, SMECC stopped implementing its Victorian Department of Health (DOH) funded HACC Access & Support program. SMECC is proud of this program's achievements in the region over this period in its supporting of Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community members to reduce their barriers in accessing mainstream HACC services. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our staff over the years of successfully implementing this program, particularly of our HACC Team Leader Pamela Bibby who after a number of years’ service with SMECC, retired at the closure of this program in March.

The reason behind the decision of the SMECC Board to request the DOH to ask another agency to take over the program were varied, and the decision was not an easy one for the Board to take. The major reason for this decision however was financial, with the program making a significant financial loss for the organisation. This was particularly in light of the increasing process and reporting requirements of all DOH funded services placing a growing staff time burden on SMECC, which was not viable for the organisation in the long term considering health sector programs are not the core business of SMECC and unlikely to be in the future given the large range of other health services available locally.

Importantly the CALD HACC A&S services has not been lost to the region, with this service being handed over to the Rights, Information & Advocacy Centre (RIAC) who are also based in Mildura.

Assist

Each year the SMECC Board allocates a total of $5000 of the organisation’s own funds to provide small amounts of financial support for families and individuals in financial distress, and in emergency situations. It is dispersed at the discretion of SMECC Senior Management and the Board, and is focused on supporting CALD community members who for whatever reason ‘slip through the cracks’ of eligibility for assistance from other services. This support can either be through direct financial gifts, or through formal loan arrangements to be repaid by clients. Examples of how these funds were used in 2014-15;

- Medical X-ray
- Emergency assistance for accommodation
- Rental and medical assistance
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Playgroup

Harmony Playgroup and Rhythm and Rhyme playgroup throughout the years have met and exceeded the expectations we had set since we started in 2010. As they were once designed (and still are) for CALD families with young children isolated by language and cultural barriers, they have evolved to playgroups participated in and supported by families from different backgrounds. It has been our pride that our playgroups have continued to inspire us to think of ways to better support the families with their young kids, by engaging them in meaningful activities and projects that empower them in the process.

SMECC Multicultural Playgroups continue to grow with sessions regularly having over 15 parents and more than that number of children attending. We continue to run two successful sessions each week, one at Mildura English Language Centre (MELC) and one at the SMECC Office. Both playgroups provide support for newly arrived refugee families to improve their self-esteem, socialisation, conversational English, and very importantly, for our female clients to provide them with information and access to other services on a range of health and wellbeing issues. Playgroups are also valuable to our parents to just simply talk to other parents/women sharing their common experiences as mothers. The continuous engagement of children in activities through Playgroup is aimed at assisting them in their transition to Kindergarten; singing, dancing, playing, and making art and craft continue to be the favourite among the young ones and the highlight of both playgroups.

SMECC playgroups have grown over the past 12 months with the extra support of the Female Engagement Worker, and has become the main setting for SMECC to engage our isolated female clients. Through this early intervention model, we identify their issues and needs, and work with both other SMECC programs and other services to support these women and children. For more information on the range of activities that have taken place in collaboration with SMECC playgroups to help our female clients please refer to the Community Information & Capacity Building report. In addition, SMECC playgroups have also been successful in directly linking participants to SMECC client services for additional support, and referring them to a broad range of other SMECC Community projects and activities.

We are also blessed to have been given the physical space we have been dreaming of these past few years – our new home at SMECC on Twelfth Street. A generous space, an entire hall, is allotted for playgroup use. While we continue to hold our Monday playgroup at the Mildura English Language Centre, our plan is to use the new place to host more activities, which mums and kids can enjoy on Wednesdays. We look forward to visually making it as educationally enriching as possible for our young ones. We hope to turn it into a learning space.

I would like to acknowledge a number of people without whom SMECC Playgroups would not be thriving;

- SMECC Playgroup Assistant, Jean Reed for her unfaltering dedication and commitment - commitment which was recognised in late 2014, when she was short listed by Playgroup Victoria in the nomination for Playgroup Facilitator of the Year.
- Our volunteers for sharing their valuable time assisting us, in particular our regular volunteers, Melanie Payen and David Chapple.
- People who have donated toys from the Men’s Shed, and the quality hand me down clothes and other accessories from parents.
- Laura Parente from Mildura Rural City Council for her ongoing technical support.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the support of our parents and their children for regularly attending and participating in the two play groups. To all, thank you for making this another successful year for all of us. Let us look forward to another great year!
SMECC places a strong focus on its ongoing engagement with community members and leaders from our new and emerging community groups to help identify areas in which we can be of assistance. Sometimes this links back to providing extra support for individuals through our client services, sometimes working with groups of community members to develop new community projects, and sometimes helping these communities work with other services to develop their own initiatives.

Two examples of supporting communities to lead to develop their own opportunities and raise funds comes from our Victorian Government funded Refugee Action Program (RAP). SMECC has worked closely with Afghan community representatives to help them raise funds for their activities. This has included supporting the community with a successful application and auspice of a community grant from Mildura Council for cooking equipment for community events. We also assisted our Asylum Seeker clients from our SRSS program to run a Bunning’s sausage sizzle activity to help them raise funds for their community celebrations.

Outside of its individual client support, SMECC staff also stays on top of emerging issues, concerns and opportunities for our clients, which assists them by organizing a wide variety of information sessions, workshops, guest speakers and excursions for our new and developing communities. These are funded through both our RAP program, and Commonwealth funded Settlement Grants Program (SGP) and is aimed at building capacity and empowering individuals to support their long-term settlement in our region.

SMECC has worked in partnership with a range of other services to run a number of information sessions and workshops open to all our new and emerging community members on a broad range of topics. Over the past year, these have included:

- participating in a democracy with the Australian Electoral Commission;
- fines & infringements with the Sheriff’s office;
- discrimination support services with Mallee Family Care;
- training course opportunities with Sunraysia TAFE;
- understanding Centrelink;
- two rounds of a series of sessions on Australian democracy & citizenship to support preparation for Australian Citizenship tests;
- energy efficiency/ money saving with the Sunraysia TAFE Centre for Sustainability;
- information sessions for Asylum Seeker clients on changing policies and rights;
- two female engagement events during the year particularly focused on engaging Afghan women (with the support of other services such as the Country Women’s Association).

Since late 2014, SMECC has placed an increasing focus on engaging our female clients, particularly mothers with young children, through SMECC’s multicultural playgroups. This has been highly successful for providing early intervention support not only through linking individuals to our client services case work, but also in providing a setting for representatives from other services to share information and refer participants on to additional support. These activities included:

- Regular visits from Sunraysia Community Health Services on a range of topics (oral health, immunization, women’s health, reproductive health, hygiene/ infection spread);
- Mildura Rural City Council early years team on kinder participation & visit to Playalong Early Years Centre;
- Department of Consumers Affairs on household child safety;
- Early Learning Association of Australia on child road & car safety;
- Mallee Family Care on Autism & Child Development.
- Visits of Playgroup families to the 2014 and 2015 Little Day Out family community events to expose participants to other children’s and educational services through the event.

As part of our membership of the Headspace Mildura consortium in recent months, SMECC has also placed a focus on ensuring that young people from new and emerging communities were aware of the new service. This has included organizing visits of our youth and introducing them to the new facility:

- Coordinating with students from Ranfurly Primary School, Mildura Senior College, Mildura West Primary School, and Chaffey College for 16 newly arrived students to attend the Headspace Mildura official launch on the 8th of May 2015.
- Supporting newly arrived young people enrolled at Mildura English Language Centre to have a tour of the Headspace facility to learn about the program, with 12 young boys and girls attending.

As you can see, community information and capacity building are vital areas of SMECC that need to be ongoing, as often there are changes in information and services, and Sunraysia receives new community members quite regularly.
Following the success of the inaugural 2014 Sunraysia Multicultural Festival, SMECC led the planning and coordination of the 2015 event with financial support from the Victorian government, *Unity Through Partnerships* initiative, *Refugee Action Program* (RAP), and Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC).

Unfortunately after almost twelve months of planning, the 2015 Multicultural Festival was cancelled at the last moment due to a major ‘rain event’ flooding Nowingi Place, which was to be the event site. While the event was cancelled, we do recognise the great support provided by the performers, stall holders and volunteers to help organise the event. Also, the Multicultural Festival Committee continued its support to help guide the events planning, with regular representation from local diverse cultures including; Burundian, Italian, Greek, Sri Lankan, Samoan, Tongan, and Turkish communities, as well as representatives from SMECC, and Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC).

While we were all disappointed that the 2015 Sunraysia Multicultural Festival did not go ahead, SMECC was happy to be able to organise a replacement *Community Cultural Open Day* event at its new Twelfth Street facility on the 13th of June 2015. As with the Festival, the main objective of the open day was to showcase the cultural and ethnic diversity of our region, through a vibrant event, which encouraged the participation and engagement of the whole community. It also served as an introduction to the Mildura community of the new SMECC community cultural centre, which the organisation moved into in May 2015.

We were very thankful for the ongoing support of all of our ethnic community representatives, who committed to support the open day after the cancellation of the festival. Many of the communities and groups who planned to participate in the festival continued on to be part of the open day, and for those who did not, this was only due to competing existing commitments. We were also happy to welcome additional community groups and performers to the open day program who were initially not part of the festival program.

SMECC was also particularly privileged to have the ongoing support of many of our funding partners and local sponsors in maintaining their support for the open day event following the cancellation of the festival. The Victorian government were flexible in allowing their remaining festival funding to support the open day, while local event sponsors; WIN, Community Sector Banking, Fishers Super IGA, Sunraysia Daily, First National Collie & Tierney Real Estate, and Mildura Development Corporation also continued their support for the open day. Of particular note has been the wonderful ongoing support of ABC Mildura-Swan Hill as media partners for both events, and personally of Sheridan Stewart, who was of huge value for promoting the events and support on the day.

This event included a full range of food & craft stalls, and a full program of stage performances from local community members from many different countries. It even included some service provider’s information stalls. The event also served as an opportunity for our local Nepalese community to raise much needed funds for their appeal to support victims of the 2015 Nepal Earthquake.

Below is an overview of the nationalities and groups represented who took part in the open day event, and SMECC sincerely thanks them all.

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<td><em>Traditional Greek Dancing</em></td>
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<td>The Cauldron</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td><em>Traditional Irish Celtic Music</em></td>
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<td><em>Bangladeshi Traditional &amp; Contemporary Music</em></td>
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<td>Rio Vista Social Club</td>
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<td><em>Ukulele/Instrumental Singing Group</em></td>
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<td>DI AU JAH</td>
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<td><em>Solomon Island Band</em></td>
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<td>Congolese Drumming &amp; Ban Bongo</td>
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<td>Congolese Community</td>
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The Mildura Community Food share pilot is aimed at recovering surplus and 'seconds' local fresh food (fruit & vegetables only) for redistribution to local emergency food relief providers, schools, and other groups offering breakfast/food programs. This is an important service for all members in need in our community, including our CALD community members who face financial difficulty and require support from these agencies.

SMECC partners with Healthy Together Mildura to appeal for donations of local fruit and vegetables from farms and packing houses. The Food share also receives great support from Foodbank Australia who currently provide the majority of produce for redistribution, through regular deliveries of donated items from the Foodbank facility in Berri, South Australia. The warehouse facility has also had significant support from ENZED Mildura through the donation of a forklift including pallet jack equipment to use on the project.

For SMECC though, this project is more than just about food. As part of our 'Skills Transition Shed' at our new Twelfth Street site, the Food share project will run out of a warehouse training facility. It will provide volunteering opportunities for our Refugee & Asylum Seeker clients to develop work and social skills by helping to operate the warehouse. This will be linked to our proposed future vocational skills focused ACFE pre-accredited short courses, and Certificate level accredited training courses to be hosted at the SMECC site in partnership with external Registered Training Organisations (RTO’s).

The Mildura Food share is already redistributing food to a range of local agencies, schools and projects. These include; Mildura Senior College, Living Waters, Dareton Public School, Chaffey Secondary College, St Vincent de Paul Red Cliffs, Mildura St Vincent de Paul, Digger Land Welfare Services, MASP, Mildura Salvation Army, Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen, Haven, Renew Red Cliffs, Curious Grace Community Café, Mildura South Kindergarten, Sunraysia Community Health Services, and to SMECC clients in need.

In addition to our regular deliveries from Foodbank, we have also received valuable food donations from following local growers:
- Raylene White - Squash
- Dianne Whitlaw - Pumpkins
- Hengsen Farms - Peas

Between April - June 2015 the Food share has received over 2.25 Tonnes of produce for redistribution and we hope to continue this valuable community project into the future with ongoing funding and community support.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
Healthy Lifestyle Activities

It is well known that recreational activities, which support healthy lifestyles can have a number of broader positive impacts on health and wellbeing. Over the past year SMECC has partnered with a variety of organisations through both our Refugee Action Program (RAP) and Settlement Grants Program (SGP) to provide opportunities to our clients to be active, social, and to connect with other support services through activities;

- SMECC has partnered with Sunraysia Community Health Services allied health and counselling teams to coordinate a range of weekly healthy lifestyle activities to support newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers. This has included regular exercise sessions for men at SMECC, a community garden and lunch program at the Mildura Ecovillage since late 2014. In recent months this has expanded to include additional regular women’s exercise sessions at SMECC. We also provide transport and children’s crèche support for participants as part of the women’s activities.

- “Culture moves”: This physical activity project aimed at engaging and supporting young women was established with additional financial support from the Grosvenor Foundation and the Victorian Women’s Benevolent Trust. Regular culture moves sessions have been running in collaboration with the Mildura Ballet & Dance Guild since January 2015, focusing on a range of different creative physical activities. The main participant group for this project has been young Afghan females aged 15-25, and the group has been averaging 5-7 participants per week. Moving into 2016, SMECC hopes to engage more closely with participants in the project and other youth representatives, to work with us to continue youth physical activities as part of an ongoing series of broader youth activities.

- Unisex Youth Soccer Program: in collaboration with the Mallee Sports Assembly (MSA) and Mallee Family Care (MFC), SMECC supported 28 young males and females to attend a four week soccer program targeted at young people aged 12-25, which supported positive interactions between individuals of different backgrounds, ages, and religions.

- SMECC has continued to subsidise the ongoing costs of the self-organised Mildura Afghan Men’s Volleyball group with their weekly activities, and in December supported their participation in a national Afghan Sports festival in Adelaide.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

L2P Supervised Driving Program

Over the past 12 months SMECC has placed an increased focus on driving education and support for our clients as it has become a growing area of need for CALD communities finding driving an essential skill to access other services and employment opportunities in our region.

Between August - December 2014, SMECC with funding from our Refugee Action Program partnered with Sunassist, Roadsafe Mildura, Mildura Driving School, and with the support of Victoria Police, supported our clients to improve their driving safety, and obtain driving licences to help them become more independent in their day to day activities. The provided sessions included a series of driving education lessons, followed by a small number of free driving instructions and lessons with bi-lingual support. Approximately 30 participants attended these sessions and lessons, the majority with learners permits, or who were about to sit the learners test. Of these 30 participants, 13 were female. By January 2015, 10 of these participants (including 5 women) had received their Provisional Drivers Licence, and others have continued on with additional support from the SMECC driving practice program to progress to their licences in the second six months of the year.

Following the success of these earlier activities, in January 2015, SMECC modified one of its fleet vehicles to reintroduce its L2P supervised driving practice program. This included training of 7 peer driving mentor volunteers, and the valuable work of SMECC staff member, Nawzad Sorani, who has been working part time since February for six months to help get this program back up and running. From January – June 2015 approximately 150 driving practice hours have been undertaken by CALD community members of all backgrounds, leading to at least 7 additional participants receiving their licences during this period.

Adult Community Further Education (ACFE)

Adult Community Further Education (ACFE) English as a Second Language (ESL) classes have continued both at the SMECC office and at the Mildura English Language Centre (MELC) throughout the year. These basic English literacy and numeracy classes have been aimed at helping increase not only the English language skills of students, but also their self-confidence to support their settlement in the region.

The regular classes at the SMECC office have been lead with much attention and care throughout the year by Trish Kelly, with the valuable additional support of regular volunteer, Luke Guthrie. Classes at MELC focusing on isolated Afghan female students have been led by Zainab and Battol Jaffri.

Over the final quarter of the year, SMECC has been reviewing the future delivery of its ACFE courses as part of the broader Learn Local initiative with other ACFE providers in the region, and also linking to new education program opportunities at the new SMECC facility. As a result of this reflection, SMECC placed on hold its ACFE English classes from May 2015, and is currently developing a range of ACFE ESL courses to commence later in2015 in short course formats with curriculum topics tailored to a specific theme, which we hope will be beneficial to a broad range of CALD community members.

Volunteers, Student Interns, Donations

SMECC is very thankful to have had support from the broader Sunraysia community for its programs and clients through 2014 – 15. All assistance is sincerely appreciated be it through volunteers or donations. We hope that in the next year we can put more focus on further developing our volunteer program and support to help ensure this is an important part of our ongoing work.

Community Volunteers

**SMECC Multicultural Playgroups**
- David Chapple
- Mah Gul Ibrahim

**Driving Practice Car Mentors**
- Zamin Ali Safdari
- Mohammad Jawad
- Aziz Maysam

**Sunraysia Multicultural Festival**
- Irumva Apollinaire
- Marianne Van Dijk

**Adult Community & Further Education Classes**
- John (Luke) Guthrie

**Student Placements**
- Gabrielle Murphy – RMIT University Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) internship
- Zainab Jaffri – Latrobe University Bachelor of Social Work placement

**Donations (including cash and material donations)**
- YMCA, Mildura Department of Justice Office, Christie Centre, Sunraysia Men’s Shed, The Fernandez family and Menarock Aged Care Services
- Alison Fraser, Gary Pearse, Vicky Wynns, Sharon Stephens, Rachael Jaensch, Aiden Down Murray, Jenny, Sara

* Next year, we will need to improve collecting surnames of people who donate.
Family's new chance

Excitement about new community garden

Leftovers put to use

Partnership to help people in need

Refugees living healthy

WAIT OVER

Police praise for Muslim community

Community flocks to celebrate cultures

Hunger for festival

Day to share cultures
Between March - June 2015 SMECC underwent a full strategic planning process to help inform and guide its work into the future based on the changing needs and dynamics of our local CALD communities. SMECC was fortunate to have the services of intern, Gabrielle Murphy from RMIT University, studying Bachelor of Arts (International Studies), to lead this process with the support of SMECC Management.

Through extensive consultation with over 40 immediate stakeholders and groups, many provided insight as to what SMECC is doing well, how they could improve, and how broader environmental context impacts SMECC’s work. Participants in this process included representatives from: Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC), Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS), Chaffey Secondary College (CSC), Mildura West Primary (MWP), Migration Services, Department of Human Services (DHS), Mildura English Language Centre (MELC), Mildura Senior College (MSC), Victoria Police Mildura, Department of Justice (DoJ), SuniTAFE, Headspace Mildura, Healthy Together Mildura, Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMLLEN), the Twitezimbere Burundian Community, the Afghan and Muslim women’s community, the Sri Lankan Asylum Seeker community, the Congolese community, Migrant students (from MELC, CSC and MSC), SMECC Staff and the SMECC Board.

The full strategic plan document will be released in early 2016, however the key directions for SMECC moving forwarded have been summarised into the following ACCESS Plan.

**SMECC ACCESS Plan**

**Advocacy** refers to the public endorsement and representation provided for our CALD communities and the private support SMECC can deliver to clients.

- We will help local ethnic community groups and members to publicly promote and represent their own culture to foster the growth of a greater Sunraysia which is truly inclusive and representative of our multicultural community.
- We will stand as representatives for CALD community members, who are most in need, and strive for their fair treatment.

**Communication and Collaboration** refers to the exchanging of information between all stakeholders and the wider Sunraysia-Mallee community so as to work together effectively to find solutions.

- Both directly, and in collaboration with broader agencies, we will work to ensure that information on topics important to our clients is both available and appropriate for their needs.
- We will improve communication with other agencies, focusing on partnerships that support client access to services and programs in areas of need.
- We will focus on community engagement approaches which; promote our projects, highlight positive contributions of CALD community members, increase cross-cultural interaction, and support collaboration.
- We will improve our internal communication strategies and information sharing at all levels, building capacity and improving the integration of our work.
Empowerment refers to capacity building through teaching/learning of cultural diversity, gaining confidence and life skills primarily for our CALD community.

- We will provide information and pathway support to enable our clients to build their skills and confidence; to access other services and take control of their lives.
- We will encourage and help our clients find ways to improve English language skills.
- We will work with our clients and broader community to assist in improvement of their understanding of diversity and culture, and to increase opportunities for our client group to proactively engage with the broader community.
- We will focus on improving education, training, employment and economic independence outcomes for our client groups.

Support refers to the assistance we give to our CALD communities, other community services and each other as colleagues.

- We will continue to help newly arrived refugees and asylum seeker clients to be successfully orientated to and settled in the Sunraysia Region.
- We will focus our more intensive support strategies on isolated groups such as women, Asylum Seekers and those with mental health needs.
- We will work with broader agencies and services to improve the quality of their work to support CALD community members.
- As an organisation, we will encourage each other as colleagues to embrace our successes, and to be reflective and honest in areas in which we can improve.

Sustainability refers to the ability to maintain our organisation and make it as resilient as possible in terms of funding difficulties, political change, future migration patterns and relationships with stakeholders.

- We will aim to source non-traditional avenues of financial support for the operation of the organisation, be it through fund raising, social enterprise or alternate grants programs.
- We will aim to reduce dependency on SMECC for ‘additional’ work outside of our funded job commitments, due to financial necessity and its negative impact on our core work functionality. We will explain these limitations to clients and stakeholders to mitigate relationship damage.
- We will continue to be responsive to changing community needs to inform development services and programs; focusing on areas where mainstream services are unable/unwilling to provide effective services for CALD community members.
Our Program Partners and Funding

Mildura English Language Centre

Thank You!
Contents

Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc.
ABN: 38 282 486 762

Special Purpose Financial Report
for the year ended 30 June 2015

Independent Audit Report
Committee’s Report
Statement of Comprehensive Income
Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Changes in Equity
Statement of Cash Flows
Notes to the Financial Statements
Statement by Members of the Committee
INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
SUNRAYSSIA MALEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.


We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, and the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

The Responsibility of Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control as the committee and management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.
Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. as of 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

Chan and Naylor Southern Audit
Registered Company Auditors

Philip Shugg  FCA
Principal
MILDURA

Dated this 27th day of August, 2015
SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.


COMMITTEE’S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Peter Byrne OAM – President
LSC Gary Pearse – Vice President
John Braniff – Treasurer
Katherine Carusella – Secretary
Sisilia Puku
Theresa Ketting
Redgina Balchin

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

— To provide direct relief and assistance to emerging communities and refugees in the Sunraysia / Northern Mallee area.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus for the year amounted to $484,269.

Review of Operations

During the year the association relocated to newly refurbished facilities at 107 Twelfth Street Mildura. The total cost for the refurbishment project was $1,127,000. This was partially funded by a $350,000 capital grant and $300,000 in borrowings. The balance of the project costs were drawn from the association’s retained earnings.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

[Signatures]

Peter Byrne

John Braniff

Dated this 27th day of August, 2015
**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.**
**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant revenue</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>703,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,172,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration expense</td>
<td></td>
<td>109,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td></td>
<td>23,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>17,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>65,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>207,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project costs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>81,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits expense</td>
<td></td>
<td>867,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>19,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus (deficit) for the year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>484,259</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Comprehensive income:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total other comprehensive income for the year</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>484,259</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Comprehensive income (loss) attributed to the entity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>484,259</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**
- Cash and cash equivalents 4 559,096 999,324
- Trade and other receivables 5 265,422 126,718
**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS**

864,518 1,126,042

**NON-CURRENT ASSETS**
- Plant and equipment 6 1,403,873 395,590
**TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS**

1,403,873 395,590

**TOTAL ASSETS**

2,268,391 1,521,632

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**
- Trade and other payables 7 127,815 140,908
- Employee benefits liabilities 8 31,734 81,484
- Borrowings 9 27,712 19,956
**TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES**

222,261 242,348

**NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES**
- Employee benefits liabilities 8 4,880 4,377
- Borrowings 9 451,303 179,209
**TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES**

466,183 183,586

**TOTAL LIABILITIES**

688,442 425,934

**NET ASSETS**

1,579,967 1,095,698

**EQUITY**
- Retained surplus

1,579,967 1,095,698

**TOTAL EQUITY**

1,579,967 1,095,698

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
## SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.
### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Retained Surplus $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 1 July 2013</strong></td>
<td>1,100,325</td>
<td>1,100,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net deficit for the period</td>
<td>(1,627)</td>
<td>(4,627)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to / (from) reserves</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 30 June 2014</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,095,698</td>
<td>1,095,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 1 July 2014</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to / (from) reserves</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net surplus for the period</td>
<td>484,269</td>
<td>484,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 30 June 2015</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,579,967</td>
<td>1,579,967</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
## SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.
### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from customers</td>
<td>1,371,853</td>
<td>1,794,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to suppliers and employees</td>
<td>(1,382,373)</td>
<td>(1,561,666)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>18,578</td>
<td>20,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance costs</td>
<td>(17,946)</td>
<td>(12,676)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</strong></td>
<td>(10,088)</td>
<td>240,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of plant &amp; equipment</td>
<td>(1,044,991)</td>
<td>(93,309)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of plant &amp; equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from capital grants</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash used in investing activities</strong></td>
<td>(694,991)</td>
<td>(75,127)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayment of borrowings</td>
<td>(36,184)</td>
<td>(12,366)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from borrowings</td>
<td>341,035</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash used in financing activities</strong></td>
<td>304,851</td>
<td>(12,366)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</strong></td>
<td>(400,228)</td>
<td>153,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at beginning of financial year</td>
<td>999,324</td>
<td>845,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash at end of financial year</strong></td>
<td>599,096</td>
<td>999,324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements, except for cash flow information have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a. Income Tax

Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. is a not for profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under Section 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and is therefore not required to make any provision for income tax.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Property

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value (being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction), based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

Leasehold improvements are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The property situated at 107 Twelfth Street, Mildura is subject to College Lease. Under the terms and conditions of the lease agreement, the Landlord (Minister for Education) and the Tenant (SMECC) agree that all the Tenant's improvements being all buildings, structures, fixtures, fittings, plant, machinery, equipment, chattels and other materials or articles including fixtures and fittings of a structural nature now or hereafter erected or brought on to the leased land by the Tenant, or which the Tenant has bought from the previous tenant on assignment of the Lease shall remain the property of the Tenant during the term of the lease. On the expiry of the lease any improvements that have not been lawfully assigned to the incoming tenant and removed from the leased land will merge with the leased land and become the property of the Minister for Education.

The current lease agreement will expire on 31 July 2063.

In the advent that the association is wound up the full carrying amount of all such assets may not be realisable.

Plant & equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.
NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

d. Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to profit or loss.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

e. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. These cash flows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows.

f. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

g. Revenue and Other Income

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the association obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be reliably measured.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rate applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

h. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.
NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

i. **Comparative Figures**
   When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

j. **Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements**
   The committee evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the association.

k. **New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods**
   The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods and which the association has decided not to early adopt. The association does not expect that these changes will have a material effect on its financial statements.
**NOTE 2: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HACC – Access &amp; Support</td>
<td>109,804</td>
<td>150,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme</td>
<td>102,776</td>
<td>164,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status Resolution Support Services</td>
<td>136,237</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement Grant Program</td>
<td>140,227</td>
<td>134,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Action Program</td>
<td>137,800</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Community &amp; Further Education</td>
<td>13,221</td>
<td>15,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildura Rural City Council</td>
<td>33,555</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunraysia Multicultural Festival</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Grant Revenue</strong></td>
<td>703,620</td>
<td>583,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Street Property Development Funding - DPC</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>14,792</td>
<td>19,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Settlement Services</td>
<td>630,058</td>
<td>378,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Settlement Services – 2013/14</td>
<td>80,796</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent received</td>
<td>15,486</td>
<td>65,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMAC Skills shed funding</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small projects income</td>
<td>21,753</td>
<td>942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit / (loss) on sale of assets</td>
<td>(12,896)</td>
<td>9,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance recoveries</td>
<td>18,408</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>24,522</td>
<td>15,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Revenue</strong></td>
<td>1,172,919</td>
<td>988,096</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE 3: PROFIT FOR THE YEAR**

**Project costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSS Packages</td>
<td>51,254</td>
<td>148,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client assistance</td>
<td>24,481</td>
<td>20,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community services</td>
<td>5,832</td>
<td>15,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Costs</strong></td>
<td>81,567</td>
<td>185,532</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank &amp; on hand</td>
<td>350,692</td>
<td>505,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits at call</td>
<td>248,404</td>
<td>494,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cash</strong></td>
<td>599,096</td>
<td>999,324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Note 5: Trade and Other Receivables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade debtors</td>
<td>$157,865</td>
<td>$121,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued income</td>
<td>$87,631</td>
<td>$3,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>$13,399</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>$4,077</td>
<td>$933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowing costs</td>
<td>$2,450</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$265,422</strong></td>
<td><strong>$126,716</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Note 6: Plant and Equipment

### Buildings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At cost</td>
<td>$285,000</td>
<td>$285,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>($24,578)</td>
<td>($16,524)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$260,422</strong></td>
<td><strong>$268,476</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Motor Vehicles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At cost</td>
<td>$50,635</td>
<td>$50,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>($39,246)</td>
<td>($35,450)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,389</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,185</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Plant and Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At cost</td>
<td>$81,292</td>
<td>$77,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>($69,588)</td>
<td>($65,655)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,704</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,574</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Property Development – 12th Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At cost</td>
<td>$1,127,987</td>
<td>$87,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>($7,804)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,120,183</strong></td>
<td><strong>$87,059</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rental Property Furniture & Fittings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At cost</td>
<td>$836</td>
<td>$61,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>($661)</td>
<td>($48,325)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$175</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,496</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total: Property, Plant and Equipment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,403,873</td>
<td>$395,590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Note 7: Trade and Other Payables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade payables</td>
<td>$52,824</td>
<td>$62,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>$26,498</td>
<td>$17,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued payroll liability</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$5,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry payables</td>
<td>$94</td>
<td>$10,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants received in advance</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$46,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$127,815</strong></td>
<td><strong>$140,903</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 8: PROVISIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual leave</td>
<td>37,565</td>
<td>42,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long service leave</td>
<td>14,179</td>
<td>38,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51,744</td>
<td>80,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long service leave</td>
<td>4,860</td>
<td>4,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,860</td>
<td>4,377</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 9: BORROWINGS

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo bank loan (107 Twelfth Street)</td>
<td>36,100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo bank loan (32 San Mateo Avenue)</td>
<td>18,312</td>
<td>19,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54,412</td>
<td>19,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo bank loan (107 Twelfth Street)</td>
<td>255,490</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo bank loan (32 San Mateo Avenue)</td>
<td>184,823</td>
<td>179,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>440,313</td>
<td>179,209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The loans are secured by a first mortgage over the property situated at 32 San Mateo Avenue, Mildura VIC 3500.

NOTE 10: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

Reconciliation of cash flow from operating surplus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / (deficit)</td>
<td>484,269</td>
<td>(4,627)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-cash flows in surplus / (deficit)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Depreciation</td>
<td>23,812</td>
<td>28,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Loss (Profit) on sale of assets</td>
<td>12,896</td>
<td>(4,881)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-operating cash flows in surplus / (deficit)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Capital grant funding</td>
<td>(350,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Decrease / (increase) in trade and term debtors</td>
<td>(138,704)</td>
<td>202,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables</td>
<td>(13,054)</td>
<td>7,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— (Decrease) / Increase in employee benefits</td>
<td>(29,267)</td>
<td>12,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10,068)</td>
<td>240,685</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE 11: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS
The following persons held office during the year.
- Peter Byrne OAM – President
- LSC Gary Pearse – Vice President
- John Bruni – Treasurer / Public Officer
- Katherine Carusella – Secretary
- Sisilia Puku – Committee Member
- Theresa Ketling – Committee Member
- Redgina Balchin – Committee Member

There were no related party transactions during the current financial year.

NOTE 12: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS
As at 30 June 2015, the committee is unaware of any liability or asset, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been elsewhere in this report.

NOTE 13: EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE
Since the reporting date, there have been no events which materially impact on the content and the result of the financial report.

NOTE 14: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE
The association’s activities are funded by various state and federal government departments, its core source of revenue is provided by the Adult Multicultural Education Services. At the date of this report, the members of the committee had no reason to believe that these government departments would not continue to provide financial support to Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc.

NOTE 15: ASSOCIATION DETAILS
The registered office of the association is:
Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc.
107-111 Twelfth Street
Mildura VIC 3500
SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND PERFORMANCE OF INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

We, Peter Byrne and John Braniff, being members of the committee of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc., certify that –

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc. during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2015.

Signed:  

..........................................................

Peter Byrne

Signed:  

..........................................................

John Braniff

Dated this 27th day of August, 2015
Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting
held Friday, 31st October 2014
5.30 pm to 7.05 pm

Location: 38-40 Madden Avenue, Mildura
Welcome All - Peter Byrne OAM
Welcome to Country - special guest Rudolph Kirby

Guest Speaker: Abeselom Nega - Commissioner of Victorian Multicultural Commission and CEO of iEMPOWER “Resettlement in Regional Areas”

Apologies: Mildura Rural City Councillors, Filomena & Domenico Caldarelli, Ramesh Kumar, Peter Crisp, Andrew Broad, Paul Naylor, Bob Simpson, Dane Huxley, Richard Garlick, Craig Stanbridge, Wentworth Councillors, Ciricolo Pensionati Italiani, Peter Hartmann, Sisilia Puku (board member) and Pamela Bibby (staff member)

Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting - held October 31, 2014
Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 31, 2014 be accepted as true and correct.
Moved: LSC Gary Pearse Seconded: Redgina Balchin Carried

Reports:
President’s Report (Peter Byrne OAM): 2014 as in the AGM Report
Executive Officer’s Report (Dean Wickham): 2014 as in the AGM Report
Treasurer’s Report (John Braniff): 2014 as in the AGM Report

Motion: That the reports as tabled be accepted as true and correct.
Moved: Theresa Ketting Seconded: Gary Pearse Carried

Election of Board of Management:
President declared all positions vacant
Joven Estacio RMA read the relevant sections of the Constitution and declared that as nominations did not exceed the number of positions those nominated were declared duly elected.

Chairperson: Peter Byrne OAM
Vice Chairperson: LSC Gary Pearse
Treasurer: John Braniff
Secretary: Katherene Carusella
Committee: Sisilia Puku
Committee: Redgina Balchin
Committee: Theresa Ketting

Special Business: No notice of any Special Business has been given.

Meeting closed: 7.05pm
SMECC Community Cultural Centre
107 - 111 Twelfth Street Mildura VIC 3500
PO Box 1213 Mildura VIC 3502
Tel: (03) 5022 1006
Fax: (03) 5021 2450
Email: reception@smecc.org.au