

# 2025 Annual Report



## Growing Winchelsea Inc

*...A thriving community*

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We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people and the Gulidjan people of the Eastern Maar, as the traditional owners and protectors of the land we now call Winchelsea. We acknowledge their ancestors who cared for the land and waters for thousands of generations. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and future.

## President's Report



As President of **Growing Winchelsea**, it has been a privilege to lead an organisation so deeply committed to our town's growth, spirit, and future. Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen our role as a vital community voice—championing local projects, fostering partnerships, and ensuring that Winchelsea's aspirations are clearly heard at every level of government.

I have always believed that a strong and constructive working relationship with **local government** is essential to achieving meaningful progress. Through open dialogue and advocacy, Growing Winchelsea has built trust and influence, ensuring that community perspectives are central in planning and decision-making processes.

As I prepare to **stand down from the role of President**, I do so with confidence in the ongoing strength and capability of this organisation. The upcoming **Winchelsea Place Plan** represents a pivotal opportunity to shape our community's future. It will require **strong leadership, active participation, and shared commitment** to bring this plan to life and ensure it reflects the heart and vision of our town.

I warmly encourage all members, residents, and partners to continue their involvement with **Growing Winchelsea**—to contribute ideas, energy, and leadership to this important next chapter.

This year has been another successful one for Growing Winchelsea, with achievements across four cornerstones — *community projects and infrastructure, advocacy and representation, events and community building and communications and partnerships* — each demonstrating our commitment to a vibrant and connected community.

Reports from our volunteer subcommittees will provide further detail of our successes, working in partnership with council staff to deliver a diversity of outcomes based around people, place, culture and heritage.

The continued sponsorship by Community Bank Winchelsea & District has been greatly appreciated. Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the **committee** for its dedication, hard work, and collaborative spirit throughout the year. Together, we have achieved much, and I am confident the organisation will continue to thrive and lead with purpose in the years ahead.

**JOHN TEBBUTT**

## Achievements & Highlights 2024 / 2025

The past year has been one of strong progress and collaboration for **Growing Winchelsea**. Building on our vision for a connected, thriving, and forward-looking community, we have continued to deliver meaningful outcomes across a range of initiatives. Our efforts this year reflect the shared energy, creativity, and commitment of our volunteers, partners, and residents. Together, we have strengthened community pride, influenced positive change, and laid the foundations for future growth and opportunity.

### Community Projects and Infrastructure

- **Cob Wall Installation (1–9 March 2025):** Successfully delivered with the participation of over **300 community members**, showcasing strong local engagement and collaboration.
- **Riverside Amphitheatre Project:** Ongoing community engagement demonstrated **overwhelming local support** for the proposed installation, reinforcing the community's vision for enhanced public spaces.
- **Corella Management Plan:** establishment of a project reference group

### Advocacy and Representation

- **Council Submissions:** Actively contributed to the **Surf Coast Shire's annual draft budget and four-year plan, Urban Futures Strategy, Social Infrastructure Planning Framework** ensuring Winchelsea's priorities were well represented.
- **Hinterland Community Planning Network** meeting
- **Meet the Candidates** forum
- **Australia Day Petition:** Coordinated an advocacy campaign resulting in **over 500 signatures** across the shire, highlighting community sentiment and promoting local voice in civic matters.
- **Community Forums:** Hosted informative sessions on the **Buckley Village** concept, **Urban Futures Strategy** empowering residents with up-to-date information on key local planning issues.
- **Destination Plan input:** promoting sustainable tourism and showcasing the region's unique heritage and attractions
- **Youth Engagement meetings:** strengthen youth advocacy and services
- **Winchelsea Place Plan Panel:** support inclusive, community driven development

### Events and Community Building

- **Carols by the Barwon:** A highly successful festive event with over **150 attendees**, strengthening community spirit.
- **International Women's Day Celebration:** Welcomed **65 participants** and launched a new **Women's Business Network**, fostering local connections and entrepreneurship.
- **Future Events 4 Winchelsea Forum:** planning committee formed incorporating 100 year grandstand celebration.

### Communications and Partnerships

- **Media and Promotion:** Published **over 40 media releases**, interview on radio by President, Informative spread in Melbourne Age - significantly boosting local visibility.
- **Social Media Growth:** Increased Facebook following from **800 to 947**, reflecting stronger community engagement online.
- **G21 Regional & Rural Resilience Forums:** - **Network & advocate** for Winchelsea's future.
- **Winchelsea Business Hub:** - Support **business development**.
- **Partnership Development:** Continued to **build relationships with local organisations**, enhancing collaboration and shared outcomes across the region.

## Vision

We exist to advocate for, to listen to and support our community to achieve a thriving Winchelsea

## Mission

We will be advocates for quality growth, projects and strategies for Winchelsea. We will represent the community by earning their trust, being welcoming and inclusive and having good relationships with other organisations and councils

## Our Values

- Innovation
- Diversity
- Prosperity
- Quality
- Trust
- Inclusion
- Welcoming
- Belonging
- Pride
- Listening

## 5 Pillars for Projects

Growing Winchelsea will prioritise projects using the following pillars:

- People - We value inclusiveness and belonging and endeavour to create a culture which values all people in our community
- Place - We value quality in planning for future growth
- Planet - We value the environment
- Prosperity - We value a thriving and innovative economic, business community
- Participation - We value strong relationships and will endeavour to be broad in our partnerships

## Our Committee Members

- John Tebbutt  
President
- Elaine Atkinson  
Secretary / Treasurer
- Jane Bartier  
Committee member / Movie Club
- Graham Kenafacke  
Committee member / Stationeers Program
- Michelle Stocks  
Committee member / Winchelsea Arboretum Trail
- Aleisha Littler  
Committee member / Social Media
- Mitchell Parsons  
Committee member / Chairman Planning & Infrastructure, resigned January 2025
- Lesley Christie  
Committee member / Community Market, extended leave
- Megan Morris  
Committee member / Convenor School Facilities
- Fraser McCann  
Committee member / Coordinator Community Market
- Jack Henderson  
Committee member / Coordinator Community Market
- Jayde Walker  
Committee member / Youth Representative

## Our Subcommittees



A great deal of Growing Winchelsea’s success continues to come from the outstanding efforts of our **subcommittees and working groups**. Guided by clear **Terms of Reference (TOR)** documents—developed at establishment and reviewed annually—each group operates with defined objectives, timeframes, and resources, ensuring structure and accountability in every area of work.

These subcommittees reflect the **diversity, commitment, and passion** within our community. They bring together volunteers with a wide range of skills, strong partnerships, and valuable local knowledge, all working collaboratively to achieve shared outcomes for Winchelsea. Their efforts demonstrate what can be achieved when community members unite with purpose, creativity, and drive.

Throughout the year, our subcommittees have been **highly active**, delivering projects, strengthening networks, and contributing significantly to the town’s development and sense of connection. We extend our sincere thanks to every volunteer for their dedication, energy, and contribution to Growing Winchelsea’s mission.

Our current subcommittees are:

- **Winchelsea Arboretum Trail (WAT)**
- **Winchelsea Community Market**
- **Winchelsea Rail Precinct – Stationeers Program**
- **Winchelsea Movie Club**
- **Infrastructure and Planning**
- **School Facilities**

As we move forward, Growing Winchelsea welcomes the continued **passion, energy, and drive** of community members to participate in new subcommittees — helping to shape the future of our town and bring our shared vision to life.

- **Events Subcommittee** – bringing together creative minds to plan, coordinate, and deliver inclusive community events.
- **Marketing and Communications Subcommittee** – focused on promoting Winchelsea’s achievements, stories, and opportunities through strategic communication and media engagement.

Each Convenor has prepared an **annual report**, along with **financial reports** where relevant, outlining achievements challenges and priorities for the year ahead.

## Secretary / Treasurer Report



The past year has reinforced the vital importance of **understanding our community's needs** and ensuring those voices are heard through the right channels to **influence meaningful change**. In my role as Secretary/Treasurer, I have focused on strengthening Growing Winchelsea's connections, partnerships, and advocacy efforts to ensure our organisation continues to play a key role in shaping the future of our town.

A significant part of this work has involved **building partnerships** with community groups, service providers, agencies, and Council representatives. These relationships have been essential in supporting community engagement initiatives, expanding opportunities for collaboration, and ensuring Growing Winchelsea remains an active and respected advocate for local priorities.

Throughout the year, I have also prioritised **raising awareness and promoting the organisation** through frequent media engagement, both print and social media. By highlighting key issues, sharing updates, and keeping the community informed of developments, we have strengthened Growing Winchelsea's visibility and credibility across multiple platforms.

In addition, I have worked to **access funding opportunities** aimed at supporting service delivery and enhancing collaboration between business, community, and government. These initiatives continue to help us deliver tangible outcomes while aligning with our broader strategic objectives.

However, this year has also brought challenges. A stronger level of **collective support from the full committee** is needed to maintain momentum and deliver on our ambitions. To move forward effectively, we must attract **passionate, community-minded individuals** who are willing to embrace change, contribute ideas, and work collaboratively to build a dynamic, high-performing team.

From a financial perspective, we face a crucial period ahead. The coming financial year will begin with **no confirmed income**, making it essential to carefully consider our future direction and funding options. At the same time, we will be investing in important **governance updates**, including proposed changes to the **Constitution** to ensure it better reflects our current objectives and membership structure.

As we plan for the year ahead, I am confident that with renewed commitment, clear priorities, and collective effort, Growing Winchelsea can continue to be a powerful advocate and catalyst for positive change in our community.

ELAINE ATKINSON



The majority of the Sub-committee's time and focus this year has been working with the Surf Coast Shire on their initiative of urban street planting, **Branching Out**. After many meetings relating to prioritising planting in certain streets and decisions about tree choices, there are now a number of streets in Winchelsea which have been planted out. More streets are in the pipeline for planting. The objectives of the Branching Out project include, heat mapping, and assessment of canopy cover and socio-economic data to ascertain which areas of the Shire are priorities for planting. The goal is to plant 1200 trees over the next 6 years, depending on funding availability.

In May 2025 we were notified our grant application to the Victorian Government **Tiny Towns** Funding Stream was successful. The grant of \$45,000 will be spent on signage of walks in the town, noting significant trees and some historical sites. Infrastructure will include at least one trailhead, approximately 9 informative plaques and several directional signs. To date extensive mapping exercises have been undertaken, feedback sought on sign positioning and design work commenced. We are grateful to the Surf Coast Shire for their guidance and support for this project. We are particularly grateful to the **Winchelsea Star** for funding of \$5,000, which money will go towards the project overall.



We are also working with the Surf Coast Shire on preparing a budget for the upgrade of **Bennett Reserve**. It is anticipated that this upgrade will be a light touch. Some trees which were not salvageable have been removed and plans are in progress for tree replacements. An important consideration when planning this Reserve refresh is the extensive area of Wallaby Grass, a protected grass species. This Reserve is an example of some important open space pockets of land in Winchelsea which our group is attempting to re-invigorate. It is also on the path to Barwon Park Mansion and as such lends itself to providing a place for rest and reflection.

The Winchelsea Arboretum Trail Committee works closely with the Surf Coast Shire, who unstintingly provide advice and material support, for example, funding for underground services scanning, mapping and engagement support. We are grateful for this support.

**NAIDA HUTTON**  
Convenor

## Winchelsea Community Market



The **Winchelsea Community Market** continues to be a valued part of our town's social and economic fabric — a place where locals connect, visitors explore, and small businesses thrive. This year saw several changes within the market team. We extend our sincere thanks to **Lesley Christie**, who stepped down due to her husband's ill health, for her dedication and leadership to Growing Winchelsea over many years. I stepped into the coordinator role, continuing to support stallholders and maintain the friendly, inclusive spirit that makes our market unique.

Behind the scenes, **Fraser McCann** and **Jack Henderson** have taken on the vital role of **set-up and pack-down**, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and a positive presence each month. Their efforts have helped attract new stallholders and kept the market running smoothly. Councillor **Joel Grist** has continued to support the market and we thank each one for their commitment.

The winter period brought challenges, with cooler weather affecting attendance and volunteer availability. We're extremely grateful to the **Modewarre Angling Club**, who stepped in to assist during the colder months when the **Men's Shed** team was unable to continue due to members' seasonal travels north. Their support ensured continuity and community connection through the quieter period.



A community market delivers much more than a place to shop — it creates **connections**, builds **relationships**, and supports **local enterprise**. Markets like ours allow people to **meet producers directly**, learn their stories, and develop ongoing relationships that strengthen our local economy. They also provide a relaxed space for residents and visitors alike to **reconnect, discover new products**, and enjoy the unique character of Winchelsea.

Looking ahead, the coming year will bring **new opportunities and challenges** as we look to link the market with local events and experiences. Plans to collaborate with initiatives such as the **Surf Coast Arts Trail** and **Christmas in Winchelsea** will help expand the market's reach, attract more visitors, and create vibrant community gatherings that showcase local creativity and enterprise.

This is **your community market** — it thrives on local participation, fresh ideas, and shared enthusiasm. We encourage everyone to **come along, support it, and get involved**. Whether you have a stall, a skill, or an idea, your contribution can help the Winchelsea Community Market continue to grow and succeed.

**KIM JOHNSON**  
Stallholder Coordinator

## Stationeers Program

In 2025 the Station Precinct Project continues to gradually come into its own with this part of the greater plan, **Platform Improvement**, renovating the existing garden beds and the new planter boxes.

The plants are flourishing, replacement plants have been added, plus additional plants where space allows.

The staff at the Railway Station are incredibly involved and interested in this project and are giving us, the volunteers, feedback that the public provide about how much they enjoy the improvement to the Station Platform.

A seat matching the seat currently on the Melbourne end of the Station has been reassigned from the Geelong Railway Station to Winchelsea. The seat has been renovated by the Men's' Shed and we are awaiting installation in the coming weeks.

The nature of this project means that we are always dealing with the elements and the availability of volunteers.



The grant acquittal date has been shifted back at least three times by the Surf Coast Shire to allow for the nature of the project.

The next stage is the installation of plant tubs at the entrance which will enliven the entrance and indicate the interest in care being given to the site.

The volunteers continue to meet the various workers from Vline and Vic Track and are guided by their requirements for the site.

We are looking forward to addressing the next manageable stage of this project, as outlined in our original plan for the Station Precinct Project.

Further grants will be sought to this end.

**LOUISE HALL**  
Committee member

## Winchelsea Movie Club



We have a Membership of 57 this year. 4 Autumn memberships & 11 Spring memberships.

Our Christmas Movie night last December was a great success showing the movie, The Duke starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren, a true story. Everyone enjoyed the delicious Christmas themed supper afterwards.

We've enjoyed a good year with Movie Club members happy with the movies shown during the year and socializing after the movie at supper time. Two of the very popular movies we showed this year were The Good Liar starring Helen Mirren and Ian Mc Kellen and the Great Escaper starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson.

Stage 1 of the new equipment to improve the audio has been attended to, but it still needs streamlining to be easier to use.

We have our Christmas Movie night in December.

We look forward to another year of good movies in The Globe, selected by our committee.

SUE HUTTON  
Secretary

## Infrastructure & Planning

The **Infrastructure and Planning Subcommittee** was re-established in **January 2025** under the leadership of **Mitchell Parsons**, former Secretary of Growing Winchelsea. While Mitchell's return was brief due to increased professional commitments and international travel, his **passion for Winchelsea's development** and his enduring belief in its potential remain greatly valued.

With new members joining in January, the subcommittee quickly set to work, preparing and endorsing **submissions to Council** on the **Annual Budget** and the **next Four-Year Plan**. These submissions reinforced local priorities around sustainable growth, infrastructure investment, and long-term community planning.

Early in the year, **Gareth Bellchambers** presented a proposal for the development of **Buckley Village**, outlining how it could help ease housing pressures in Winchelsea. This sparked a series of **Town Hall meetings**, providing the community with opportunities to learn more, share feedback, and explore innovative solutions to manage the town's predicted population growth.



The subcommittee also played a key role in **advocating for the Riverside Amphitheatre project**, a community-led initiative that embodies local creativity and collaboration. The proposal—focused on using **local expertise and materials**—received overwhelming community support and culminated in a **feasibility study submission** to Council in **June 2025**.

With the **Winchelsea Place Plan** community engagement process underway, it was agreed that the subcommittee would **enter a period of recess** while consultation and Place Plan Panel workshops progressed. This approach allows the subcommittee to reconvene with a clearer understanding of strategic priorities once the Place Plan is finalised.

This year also marked the **passing of Mike Tucker**, a dedicated supporter and long-time advocate for Winchelsea. Mike's optimism, insight, and commitment to community dialogue will be remembered fondly. As he often reminded us, *"every idea deserves five minutes of attention."* His legacy continues to inspire inclusive discussion and forward thinking within our organisation.

Infrastructure and Planning

## School Facilities

### Purpose:

The focus of this Committee is to lobby and campaign for New School Facilities to be built in Winchelsea within 10 years. The population is growing and with such growth the Committee will, on behalf of the Community of Winchelsea, endeavor to lobby for an education precinct that provides for a Prep- 12 School, pre-school facilities as well as maternal child health needs.

- 19 July 2024, VSBA forward correspondence advising it is aware of the enrolment pressures faced by the School. It provided suggestions as to maintenance and funding and advised that the next **Rolling Facilities Evaluation** will be completed in 2026. Winchelsea may need to expect to receive Portable classroom which will reduce the space for children to play.
- Petition submitted to Legislative Council supported by Dr Sarah Mansfield garnered approximately **1000 signatures** between electronic and paper signatures, not enough to trigger a debate but certainly sufficient for the issues surrounding the need of upgraded facilities to be tabled and recorded in the minutes in Parliament.
- 27 August 2024, we submitted a Question to Surf Coast Shire – Question Time asking what Council will do to **advocate** for land for a new school and a new school in Winchelsea. Department of Education were consulted by Surf Coast Shire and advised that a new school is not planned for Winchelsea at this time, but it will continue to monitor the situation and population growth of Winchelsea.
- School Council reviewed its fundraising targets and decided it was needed to fundraise to upgrade the '**Big Kids' playground** located near the LTC building on the school site. The school council consulted with the older students to seek their input as to what the playground should look like. Fundraising began with our committee reaching out to Growing Winchelsea to enquire if the town Christmas Carols could be held on site at the school with a Gold Coin donation at the gate being donated to the school.
- September 2024 our committee reached out to Leah Phillips who was responsible for lobbying for the new School in Bannockburn to discuss **strategy** and approach and also obtain details for moving forward and of people to contact for assistance/support with our campaign.
- September 2024 also saw us provide a survey to families of our students to get a greater understanding of what our current families would like to see change or improved within the school. The results were overwhelmingly positive with the majority of the families who participated (116 responses) confirming that they wish to see a **upgraded facilities on a new site** (64% of respondents). 91% of respondents would like to see a new P-12 school in town.
- Growing Winchelsea supported the idea of holding the town Christmas Carols on the School oval and fundraising toward a playground upgrade. Approximately \$100 fundraised.
- November 2024 – quotes were sourced for the Playground and Bendigo **Community Bank** partnered with us to offer a dollar for dollar fundraiser.
- An application for a grant to the Department of Education was submitted to upgrade the perimeter fencing but it was declined on 5 December 2024. School Council did not lose hope and proceeded to extend an invitation to the security division of the Department of Education to complete a site inspection to assess the fences and security measures provided at the school. This was a successful on-site inspection **resulting in improved security systems** being provided and installed by the DOE. Fencing remains a priority for our School Council.
- With fundraising underway in December 2024 toward a new playground, we obtained quotes for the playground and identified we needed approx. \$50,000.00 to complete construction

aiming to raise **\$35,000.00** by mid-2025 to be in a position to contractors to commence the works in Late 2025.

- March 2025 – **Trivia night** held to fundraise for the new playground facilities
- By May 2025, our fundraising efforts and lobbying efforts were rewarded. We held a very successful Trivia Night at Eastern Hub in March with a silent Auction. By 20 May 2025, we had successfully raised **\$12,500.00** (via the trivia night and donations from the Lions Club of Winchelsea) toward the playground construction. On 20 May 2025 we also received welcome news that we were to receive a share of an allocated \$10,000,000.00 budget being approximately **\$500,000.00** to plan and design future upgrade and modernization works. This news was a welcome relief. The school is now well into discussions with the DOE and Victorian School Building Authority architects planning new facilities to upgrade Block A at the school site. Block A is the current Grade 5/6 rooms down to the toilet block/Artroom on the main school building. The bluestone building is to remain.

#### Future Committee Plans

- 1) Future events – Playground construction and official re-opening Mid November 2025
- 2) Planning and design underway for upgraded facilities
- 3) Lobbying State Parliament to secure additional funding to be committed in the 2026/2027 budget for building works to commence
- 4) Further develop our strategy and plans moving forward – with a view to engage more parents of students to join the School Council Sub-Committees

**MEGAN MORRIS**

Convenor

## Carols by the Barwon



8 December 2024 - with the threat of rain overhead and **strong winds blowing** the organisers together with many willing helpers had everything set for a great night of entertainment and families and community members were not disappointed.

**MC Rob Davies** welcomed everyone and introduced our first set of entertainers - the littlies - Girl Guides, Occasional Care and Mainly Music. There were plenty of photos as proud parents captured the fun moments.

The **Colac City Band** entertained the crowd followed by **Nicholas Ridiculous** - that blasted broom moustache just didn't want to behave not to mention the bowler hat creating mischief. There was raucous laughter as the children enjoyed the zany antics and catchy songs - Nic had them mesmerised.

Then a series of singers captured the essence of Christmas kicking off with **Abbey Geddes** of Monarch Music accompanied by two of her pupils **Louis Koehne** and **Elizabeth Humphries**. Families were then entertained by **Kingsley Sabado** and **Rob Davies** with **Zinaida Champion** finishing with an outstanding operatic performance of O Holy Night.

Throughout the evening food vans catered well with the Lions providing a sausage sizzle, Smooth Vibes providing smoothies and vegan food, Pizzas and popcorn from The Topsy Colt with Alex Cunningham preparing coffee and crepes. The Winchelsea Country Women's Association had lots of sweet treats with raised funds going to the school to aid their fundraising efforts.

Guess what - Santa found his way to the oval with children coming from everywhere to meet Santa.

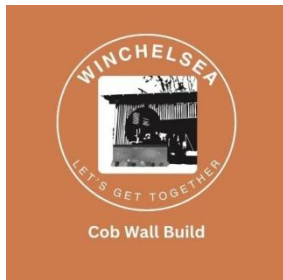


As dusk started to come, so did the cold with dark threatening clouds passing by just when the community carols were due to start. Many families left, going home with weary children and **lots of good memories**.

Our thanks go to the **Community Bank Winchelsea & District** together with **Surf Coast Shire** who provided grants to support Carols on the Barwon. A big thank you to **Jason Nogueira** for the photos and to our wonderful MC Rob Davies and planning committee members Judy Staples, Megan Morris and Elaine Atkinson.

Carols by the Barwon Committee

## Let's Get Together



The building of Winchelsea Community Cob Wall took place in March 2025, the result of more than 2 years of planning coming to fruition. The cob wall was an important part of connecting community to the new picnic shelter, which replaced the Winchelsea community's beloved **Mud Hut**. With the community building of the **cob walls** within the hut, established the new picnic shelter as Winchelsea's new Mud Hut. This was an important part of community feeling ownership of this community space as their own. The Mud Hut is a special place of community connection, and a favourite friends and family gathering space. This space is also an important space for the health and welfare of our community, made possible with a **Community Initiatives Grant** of \$5000 from the **Surf Coast Shire**.

An all-ages festive summer event took place over a week from 1 to 9 March 2025 around the creation of a beautiful hand sculpted wall around three sides of the Winchelsea Mud Hut.



There were drummers drumming, music and dance ensembles playing along, a sing a long combined with a group of barefoot mud mixing community members, rhythmically stomping mud with their bare feet to churn the mud mixtures in a synchronised manner, thanks to **Mud Fun** creators of the Musical Mud Stomp.

The mud mixtures were then formed into blobs and passed rhythmically from the mud pit to where they were formed into bricks and walls for the purpose of building the walls.



Many people need to be thanked for their contributions throughout the 2 years. Firstly to **Alison Dean** - her tenacity and commitment to community engagement saw not only the mud hut redesigned but through the negotiation process with council to the end product we see today.

The students of **Winchelsea Primary School** were instrumental in building the cob walls, they should feel proud for their mud dancing, mud blob making, team work in moving the blobs up the hill and building of the cob wall. They will have learnt invaluable skills in ancient natural building methods.



**Leah Nicholls** organised and directed the creation of the celebratory bunting in honour of the cob wall build and helped build the cob wall.

**David Stewart** of **Thermobuild** generously donated his time and expertise. He and his team volunteered to add steel rods to attach the cob wall to the concrete footing, also as Team Leader helped build the cob wall.



**Charlie Earl** generously donated time and materials to the project including, soil, clay, rocks and water which he transported to the build site.



**Surf Coast Youth** - The Youth night was a big success and the funding from SCY helped the team to be able to provide a healthy dinner for 15 local youth aged from

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10-22 that attended. The opportunity provided a chance to connect and feel a sense of ownership through their participation.

Both **Jess Boccia** and **Marcelle Renkin** utilised their knowledge in community events to help facilitate the cob wall build with Marcelle preparing the final report.



All in all 507 volunteers and participants contributed to the build, some participating daily. This project highlighted the value of community led projects demonstrating there *is* willingness amongst our community to **connect**, **commit** and be **engaged** in key initiatives.

**MARCELLE RENKIN**  
Organiser

## International Women's Day 2025



The **Winchelsea & District Women's Brunch** brought together over 60 local women for a morning of **connection, conversation and celebration**. Held at The Hub and catered by local business La Caseta, the free event contributed approximately \$4,000 directly to women-led businesses in the region.

Guest speakers **Olivia Tipler** (CORA), **Aleisha Littler** (Emeraude Hair Studio), and **Leah Alstin** (@being\_leah) shared powerful personal stories that touched on themes of resilience, health, creativity, business and advocacy, sparking both laughter and thoughtful reflection.

The key theme for IWD 2025 was **Accelerate Action** - as individuals we can all take steps in our daily lives to positively impact women's advancement. We can call out stereotypes, challenge discrimination, question bias and celebrate women's success.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback highlights the community's appetite for **more events** that foster genuine connection and support for local women in business and life.

This event was part of a broader project which will see the development of a **Women's Business Network** in Winchelsea, a collaboration between Growing Winchelsea, Winchelsea House, Country Women's Association, Community Bank and the Economic Development Unit of Surf Coast Shire.

Feedback collected from 24 attendees after the event reinforced the positive response, with 83% of respondents rating the **event five stars**. The remaining 17% rated it four stars. Attendees highlighted the **inspiring speakers, welcoming atmosphere** and **delicious food**, and provided some practical suggestions to help shape future events.

### Highlights & Recommendations



Attendees overwhelmingly loved the **inspiring speakers**, sense of community and the high-quality food and event setup. Many found the event **uplifting**, with a strong appreciation for the organisers and the stories shared. Suggestions for improvement focused on timing, event

length and adding practical elements or activities in the future.

This overall initiative has been made possible thanks to a *Health and Wellbeing* grant of \$5,000 from the **Surf Coast Shire** and a \$2,000 grant from the **Community Bank Winchelsea & District**.

ELAINE ATKINSON / BEC LANE  
Organisers

## Financial Reports

### Growing Winchelsea - General Account

Items	Yearly Total
Balance carried forward 1/7/24	<b>\$25,768.24</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Sponsorship - Community Bank	\$4000.00
Bank interest	\$-
Grants	\$31,800.00
Project Management	\$690.00
Sub Committee contributions - Market (Storage)	500
Fundraising - Mothers Day Market raffle	168.65
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$31,158.65</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Advertising & marketing	\$-
Bank Transfer - Term Investment	10,000
Catering	\$327.47
Debit Card Transfers - pay accounts - Storage; PO Renewal; G21 Forum; Incorporation Fees	1911.38
Grant Expenses	21,984.39
Incorporation Fees	\$-
Insurance - AON	\$1,402.21
Membership - G21	\$55.00
Stationery & printing	\$312.00
Venue Hire	\$240.00
Website Email Accounts	\$447.04
Website Maintenance	\$1,056.00
Website - Domain Name	313.80
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$38,049.29</b>
<b>Balance 30 June 2025</b>	<b>\$20,877.60</b>

Assumptions: Figures include GST; Debit Account Balance \$19.07

Term Investment account \$10,000 initiated October 2024

# Financial Report

## Winchelsea Community Market

Item	Yearly Total
Balance Brought Forward 1/7/2024	<b>\$3171.91</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Stallholder fees	\$8,350.00
Bank interest	\$0.37
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$8,350.37</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Advertising & marketing	\$615.97
Entertainment	\$46.15
Refunds	\$30.00
Stationery & printing	\$48.32
Storage	\$500.00
Venue Hire	\$2,640.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$3880.44</b>
<b>Balance 30 June 2025</b>	<b>\$7641.84</b>

Assumptions: Figures include GST

Some stallholders pay 3 months in advance - spread over period paid

## Financial Report

### Winchelsea Movie Club

Item	Income \$	Totals	Item	Expenses\$	Totals
Membership	3485.00		Royalties	795.50	
Sweets	348.40		Hall Hire	210.00	
Christmas Wine leftover - sold	30.00		Wine	359.81	
-SCS Positive Ageing event refund - Royalties	66.00		Food	676.80	
			Sweets	312.36	
			DVD	162.12	
			Xmas	444.43	
			Misc -inv book, sweet bags	28.19	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$3929.40</b>			<b>\$2989.23</b>

### Net profit/Loss

Income	\$3929.40
Expenses	\$2989.23
Net Profit	\$ 940.17

### Bendigo Bank

Opening Bank Balance	1 July 2024	\$6730.42
Closing Bank Balance 30 June 2025		\$7670.59
		<b>\$940.17</b>

## Financial Report

### Winchelsea Stationeers

Item	Yearly Total
Balance carried forward 1/7/24	\$5,000.00
<b>Income</b>	
Sponsorship	
Bank interest	\$43.90
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$43.90</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Supply of materials	\$3,007.37
Equipment Hire / Contingencies	\$278.75
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,286.12</b>
<b>Balance 30 June 2025</b>	<b>\$1,757.78</b>

Assumptions: Figures include GST

# Financial Report

## Arboretum Account

Item	Yearly Total
<b>Income</b>	
Balance Brought Forward 1/7/2024	\$2,933.30
Bank Interest	\$0.22
Grants - Tiny Towns	\$25,000
Winchelsea Star	\$5,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$30,000.22</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Printing	<b>\$186.88</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$186.88</b>
<b>Balance 30/06/2025</b>	<b>\$32,746.64</b>

Assumptions: Figures include GST

## Community Action Plan Goals & Achievements

### 1. Connecting Our Community

A series of town-wide community activities and initiatives strengthen the sense of community and bring together younger and older generations.

Improve public transport services to assist residents access the activities and services they need across the region.

Access and inclusion for people of all abilities promoting a healthy and active community.

Events to foster the community spirit within the town.

To hold regular community conversations that connect and mobilise our assets, capacities and skills to make things happen in our community.

A range of communication channels including print, online, social media and in-person opportunities keep us informed and connected.

We encourage and support our young people and their active participation in the community.

A selection of affordable venues and spaces enable our community activities, meetings and events to take place year-round.

PRIORITY PROJECTS	LEAD GROUP	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. Bring back Christmas Carols	1. Growing Winchelsea	1. Christmas Carols held December 2023 & 2024
2. A Youth Hub for Winchelsea preschool to late Teens	2. To be promoted	2. 2/6/25 community meeting held to advocate for youth services
3. Develop a sustainable operational model for the Shire Hall.	3. Winchelsea House	2. Youth representation on committee 3. Co-working space initiated, Business Network planning underway, continued lobbying
4. Community initiatives - strengthen & connect our community	4. Growing Winchelsea	4. Let's Get Together 507 community participants 4. IWD 2025 - 65 women

## 2. Actively Building Resilience

Community members join in a range of programs to develop skills, capacity and resilience within our community.

We strive for sustainability and support of the environment.

Local and targeted learning opportunities are well supported. Our community is prepared and ready for emergencies and subsequent recovery.

PRIORITY PROJECTS	LEAD GROUP	ACHIEVEMENT
1. Run regular basic emergency management scenarios to both alert and encourage more input/cooperation from community members	1. Emergency Services	
2. Form a Sustainability Initiatives Working Group	2. To be initiated	
3. Development of a social enterprise, focused upon food security, provision, shared and provided by locals	3. Hesse Rural Health	3. Foodbank introduced

## 3. Linking Community Organisations and Networks

Our community organisations collaborate to enable positive local development

We regularly recruit volunteers to join our community organisations and provide opportunities and recognise their contributions.

Our local organisations partner to create a calendar of community events for both the local community and visitors.

We develop partnerships with other communities and external agencies for shared actions and learning.

We actively seek and find the resources that enable things to happen and get done.

PRIORITY PROJECTS	LEAD GROUP/S	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. Improve communication across the breadth of organisations and with the community	1. Growing Winchelsea	1. 40 media releases published & 947 Facebook friends 1. Regular dissemination of information through database
2. Engaging the new families moving into town to connect with the local groups	2. To be initiated	1. Ongoing update of website 1. Meetings with range of service providers
3. Funding - finding the resources that enable things to happen and/or get done	3. Growing Winchelsea with Winchelsea Star	3. \$31,800 in grants secured 2024/2025 with WAT securing \$45,000 Tiny Towns funding
4. Future Events 4 Winchelsea	4. Growing Winchelsea	4. Events forum - Planning committee formed

#### 4. Celebrating the Barwon River

The riverfront is celebrated as a natural asset and community focal point, with paths to walk or cycle along and with pockets of land regularly used for Cultural and recreational activities throughout the year.

Access to the Barwon River and surrounding environment is enhanced so that it can be enjoyed by all now and into the future.

Developments are linked and connected in each of the four quadrants of town, with the Barwon River as a focal point.

There is improved awareness and visibility of the Barwon River environment, encouraging its active use by residents and visitors in healthy outdoor activities.

PRIORITY PROJECTS	LEAD GROUP/S	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. Arboretum Trail	1. Arboretum Trail subcommittee	1. Tiny Towns Funding secured for signage, Branching out project partnership
2. An outdoor open-air stage on the other side of the new foot bridge would be amazing. Built by locals. Simply, natural, beautiful.	2. Growing Winchelsea	2. Amphitheatre - overwhelming community support led to SCS Community Development Proposal
3. Community Activities and Events	3. Growing Winchelsea	3. Carols by Barwon in 2025 planning underway 3. SC Arts Trail expansion in 2026 planning underway

#### 5. Retaining Country Authenticity

Winchelsea differentiates itself from its urban and coastal neighbours by articulating a unique identity. This strong sense of identity encourages tourism and passers-by to call in to town.

The country town feel provides residents with a firm sense of safety, identity, community and familiarity.

Winchelsea is characterised by its relationship to the Barwon River and surrounding countryside, supported by open spaces and a mix of housing.

A mixed economy strong on tourism, green industry, farm to table initiatives and servicing the growing population is supported.

New Neighbourhoods are well connected to the existing township and contribute in a positive way to Winchelsea's rural character.

Design elements in new subdivisions contribute to the country feel of Winchelsea (e.g. some wide streets, open spaces, space for gardens).

PRIORITY PROJECTS	LEAD GROUP/S	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. Place Advocacy – Growing Winchelsea	1. Growing Winchelsea Inc	1. Panel representation Place Plan
2. Knowledge Tourism Introduction to Western Victoria	2. To be promoted	2. Input into Destination Plan
3. Visit Winchelsea for the Day!	3. To be initiated	4. Submission to Council re 4 year plan and 2025 Financial Plan
4. Let's make a real effort to make the industrial estate truly great.	4. To be promoted	

## 6. Valuing a Rich Cultural Landscape

We acknowledge, deeply appreciate and celebrate the ancient and continuing cultures of the Wadawurrung People and Gulidjan People.

Local history is a key element of Winchelsea's identity and we protect, promote, connect with and learn about this history.

Wayfinding tools and delineated trails provide links between cultural assets.

Artists, makers and creatives are valued and supported as key contributors to our community.

PRIORITY PROJECTS	LEAD GROUP/S	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. Reinstate the Old Library – move the mobile library to stop outside the Old Library and open that building as a reading room/gathering space to be used for book clubs, story times and small meetings.	1. To be promoted	
2. Develop a Cultural Centre to provide permanency infrastructure for the cultural and artistic needs of the town.	2. To be promoted	
3. A First Nations Identity Public Artwork commission.	3. To be initiated	
4. Way finding tools for delineated trails	4. Arboretum Trail	4. Tiny Towns funding secured for Arboretum signage project
5. Artists, makers & creatives are supported	5. Growing Winchelsea	5. Future Events 4 Winchelsea planning underway