



Annual Report to Members

2016 - 2017

COMMUNITY TRIBUTARIES INCORPORATED

Annual Report to Members for the Year Ended 30th June 2017.

1. INTRODUCTION

This is Community Tributaries' (CT's) first annual report to members and covers the year ended 30 June 2017. It also includes information about the period from CT's inception on 13th April 2016 to 30 June 2016 as well as its future plans.

2. CT'S COMMENCEMENT

CT's founding members began meeting in Melbourne in April 2016. They shared a perception that in order to increase the social inclusion of individuals and communities there is a need for improved access to the resources available throughout society. CT was developed to address these needs by facilitating networking and knowledge sharing with people seeking employment or starting their own businesses. CT could also support initiatives leading to improvements in community well-being.



CT provides an umbrella under which a range of diverse activities can take place and is open to individuals of all genders, ages, residency status, nationalities and religions.

CT was founded and incorporated in Victoria on 20th May 2016.

3. MEMBERSHIP

CT had 26 members on 30th June 2017 and a committee of 6 members including 4 office holders.

The Office Holders in 2016/17 were:

- Clovis Mwamba (President),
- Ed Blake (Vice President),
- Helena Grunfeld (Secretary,
- Ali Abdallah (Treasurer).

In addition, CT had a growing number of active followers and participants in its activities as well as numerous others who have participated in CT's networking and skill sharing activities.

CT liaises with over 20 other organisations that are involved in community services or represent cultural groups.

CT members meet monthly at NAB Village Hub (Melbourne Docklands) in the form of an open committee meeting of around 10 attendees. Visitors are welcome to these meetings. CT members and associates also meet regularly at other venues to network with the community and drive projects

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

CTs purpose is:

- to promote inclusive societies;
- to facilitate research, support, skill development and networks to improve independence and well-being of individuals and communities.

CT's objectives are:

- to use the skills and networks of the members to help individuals and community groups to apply their skills in Australia;
- to identify and harness the many resources available in Australia to support the well being of individuals and communities from all backgrounds;
- to welcome new members to CT to increase the level of resourcing for a broader range of initiatives.

5. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

5.1 Drop In Centre

In March 2017 CT commenced drop in centre meetings at the Tarneit Community Learning Centre that are open to the public. The drop in centre was established with the kind assistance and support of the management of the Tarneit Community Learning Centre and the Wyndham Community Education Centre. It was widely promoted to the Wyndham community through direct marketing and through local organisations.



CT has found that participants have many creative ideas for businesses. Some are already conducting businesses on a very small scale but are looking for outlets through which they can reach larger markets. From the demand side, many participants have expressed the view that there is not enough competition in the provision of food, clothing and hairdressers from their home countries, particularly those from Africa.

In addition CT has met with a number of people seeking to tap CTs networks to access the resources they need.

A further purpose of these weekly sessions has been to engage with potential pop up shop participants, an activity due to commence in October 2017 (see Future Activities below).

5.2 Skills Development

CT has been seeking people who have skills in sewing who wish to update their skills especially in making clothing that reflects their cultural background and could be made locally instead of being imported. To date CT has identified a number of people who would like to attend sewing classes as well as a teacher skilled in traditional African clothes making. CT hopes to initiate a short course program with Wyndham CEC in 2018.

CT has also been seeking persons who have potential skills in hairdressing who would like to update their skills as part of their career development. The hairdressing focus is on African hairstyling which is popular with people from an African background, as well as the wider public.

CT continues talking to people who want to teach other product or service skills but haven't found a way to market them as well as people interested in learning new skills.

5.3 Member Activity

CT members are active in the community and talk to people, especially those who are new to Australia and who need help to get established. CT's experienced team is always helping people find the connections they need and provide support in other ways, e.g. with CVs and references. Where people may be able to benefit from networking with a wider range of members they are invited to the CT meetings, including the Drop In Centre.

Some success stories from this type of activity included:

- Amir successfully gained employment at Dialogue in the Dark,
- Ali gained an internship with a financial institution and now has experience to apply for paid positions,
- Lilian obtained a volunteering position as a first step to a teaching career in Australia,
- Maggy developed a local small business,
- Martine obtained a position as a community worker,
- Florence developed her network to include many new contacts through which she can find opportunities to perform her traditional dance skills and also improved her business skills,
- Mercy found accommodation and support to get started in Australia,
- Rick gained employment at a Community Council and the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre,
- Lucien was accepted into a university course in community development,
- Afshan started a business selling Kashmiri tea.

5.4 Participation with other Associates

Participation with Associates includes:

(a) Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC)

CT is a member of DECC and is represented on its Steering Committee by its President, Clovis Mwamba.

(b) Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health

CT has been invited to attend functions at the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health. Mr Tapuwa Bofu, the Centre's Community Engagement Officer, was invited to give a talk at a CT meeting about health issues in various migrant communities.

(c) Connect and Learn in Moreland (CALIM)

CALIM is a joint Brunswick Neighbourhood House and Brunswick Connect initiative to support asylum seekers and refugees with workskills and skills for starting their own businesses.

CT was invited to partner with these organisations and has provided support.

5.5 Events

(a) Presentation at the 1st International Social Business Symposium

CT's President Clovis Mwamba and Secretary Helena Grunfeld delivered a presentation "Community Tributaries – A Case Study" to the 1st International Social Business Symposium – Unleashing the Potential' organised by the Yunus Social Business Centre at La Trobe University on 19th August 2016.

(b) CT's First Birthday Celebration



Over 70 members and guests from many different cultures attended CT's first birthday celebration at Walker Close Community Centre in Altona North on 6th June 2017. The attendance was a reflection of the breadth of CT's membership, support and its wider community network.

CT members demonstrated their professional entertainment skills with special thanks to Leonard Kabemba and Aurora Van Mourik on vocals and Florence Shinanduku who performed her traditional Congolese Mutuashi dance. Congratulations and thanks also to Muna Fshaya and Martine Kalela for their excellent catering.

The birthday celebration also showcased the growing number of businesses of people associated with CT with a number providing displays and demonstrations of their products and services.

(c) Forum on intergenerational issues among refugees for Multicultural Week

As part of Multicultural Week, CT conducted a forum exploring intergenerational issues among refugees. CT's President opened the forum with an address that highlighted how the often difficult relationships between teenagers and their parents are compounded among migrants from diverse backgrounds.

(d) Forum exploring parental experiences of school engagement in rural Victoria

As part of Refugee Week, CT conducted a forum "Exploring parental experiences of school engagement in rural Victoria" on 23 June that addressed the perception that parents from refugee background have about their children's school based on personal experiences. The forum was addressed by a psychologist Brenda Aguilar, who shared the results of her research in Victorian country schools. The resulting discussion is expected to result in the formation of a Parents Support Group (see Future Activities below).

6. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

6.1 Drop In Centre

CT 's current drop in centre at the Tarneit Community Learning Centre will continue until September 2017. Following the completion of this project and based on the information gained, CT will explore the establishment of Drop In Centres in new locations in Melbourne in 2018, whilst maintaining our relationship with the Tarneit Community Learning Centre, which has been very supportive of CT.

6.2 Pop Up Shop



Community Tributaries (CT) members are aware that there are people, many of whom have migrated to Australia but still have limited participation in the community and economy. To facilitate their increased participation, CT will invite the public to join its pop up shop, which will commence in October 2017 in the Wyndham council area. This initiative is supported by a grant from Wyndham City. The pop up shop will be principally located at the Laverton market at the busiest retail season and is expected to attract a wide public interest.

It will facilitate participants engaging with the community in a way that allows them to express their cultural identities. The shop will showcase a wide range of products and services based on the skills that people from diverse cultures have brought to Wyndham and that can now be offered to people of their own culture as well as the wider community.

The pop up shop will continue as a CT project until Christmas 2017 and will thereafter be continued by the participants. It is expected that many of the participants in the pop up shop will go on to conduct successful long term businesses.

We expect participants in this project will benefit through:

- ongoing development of expanded networks;
- establishment of ongoing businesses;
- increased participation in the wider society;
- financial benefits;
- skill and business management development;
- pride in their accomplishments.

The Wyndham community will benefit from the establishment of new businesses that serve the needs of local people and add to the local economy.

The CT project team itself expects to learn from its experiences in the pop up shop project, through participating in regular activities and an evaluation at the end of the project. This will assist CT in developing an operating model for the future. CT would expect to establish new pop up shop projects in 2018 after the Wyndham pop up shop has reached maturity.

6.3 Parents Support Group

As a follow up to the forum held in June 2017 “Exploring parental experiences of school engagement in rural Victoria”, CT intends to establish a parents support group when the required professional and other resources have been recruited and a suitable school community engaged.

6.4 Skills Training

CT will liaise with Wyndham CEC in relation to sewing training for potential students identified as a result of Drop In Centre discussions already under way.

7. CT MILESTONES

May 2016	CT incorporated in Victoria on 20th May 2016 and committee appointed
June 2016	Banking facilities established
July 2016	Website established thanks to the technical skills of Frances Nolan and the support of Multicultural Health & Support Services, Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health
August 2016	Presentation delivered to the 1st International Social Business Symposium – Unleashing the ‘Potential’ at Latrobe University on 19th August 2016.
September 2016	CT’s Health & Well-Being Group had a successful meeting during the Hobson’s Bay Community Event conducted by the Walker Close and Brooklyn Hall Association on 27 September
October 2016	CT’s president Clovis Mwamba addressed attendees at the Multicultural Action Network (M-CAN) Family Fun Day on 8 October CT held its first Strategy Planning Sessions on 1 October and 19 October 2016
November 2016	CT participated in the Multicultural White Ribbon Day event at Darebin Intercultural Centre on 25 November– say no to violence against women
December 2016	CT members attended the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council Annual General Meeting
March 2017	Drop in Centre commenced at the Tarneit Community Learning Centre on 3 March with support from Wyndham CEC Darebin Ethnic Community Council approved CTs membership of DECC on 16th March CALIM Project , supported by CT, launched on 23 March CT Forum on intergenerational issues among refugees held on March 24 as part of the Cultural Diversity Week, coordinated by the Victorian Multicultural Commission
April 2017	CT became a registered Australian Business on the 5th April 2017.

June 2017

CT celebrated its first birthday on 6 June at Walker Close

CT awarded a grant of \$3,409 by the Wyndham City Council as part of its Wyndham Identity Inclusion and Connection Grants program to support CT's proposed pop up shop project planned to commence in October 2017

CT conducted a forum "Exploring parental experiences of school engagement in rural Victoria " as part of Refugee Week on 23 June