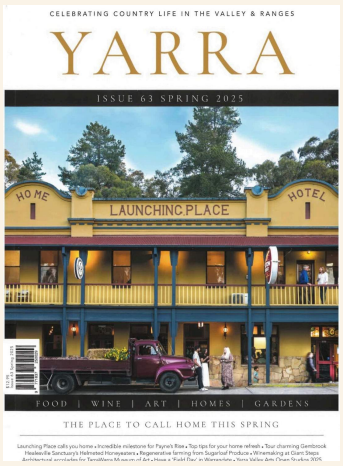


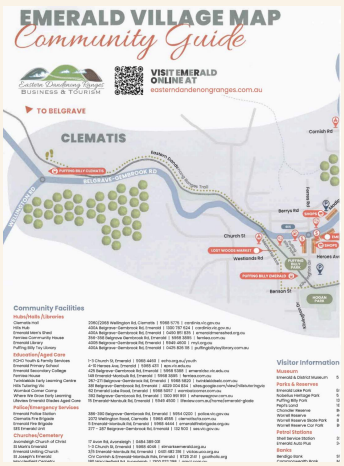




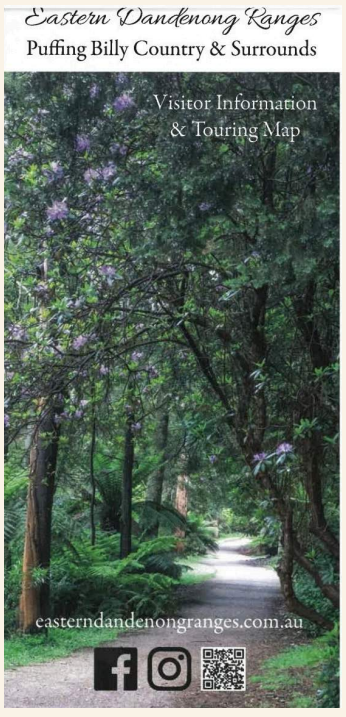










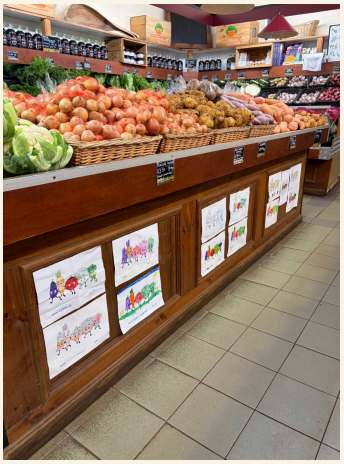












2026 ANNUAL REPORT

STRONGER TOGETHER, GROWING FORWARD

Eastern Dandenong Ranges
BUSINESS & TOURISM
EASTERN DANDENONG RANGES ASSOCIATION

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CHAIR REPORT

STRONGER TOGETHER, GROWING FORWARD

We titled the 2025 EDRA Annual Report “Every Challenge Brings a Chance for Growth”, having just opened The BASE – EDRA’s new home – and established a new social enterprise model and The BASE Subcommittee, bringing together the skills and services of EDRA, Emerald & District Lions Club, Hills Arts Alliance and Hills Community Gardens.

Well, 2026 certainly lived up to that title!

The past year has exceeded our expectations, with challenges turning into opportunities and opportunities into some significant successes for our members, community groups and the wider community – many of which are highlighted throughout this Annual Report.

The collaboration, commitment and dedication of the EDRA Committee and The BASE Subcommittee have been instrumental in everything we have achieved. I would like to sincerely thank each and every Committee member for the time, energy and skills they have contributed over the last year.

Daniela De Martino officially launched The BASE at our 2025 AGM and since then, we have continued to develop The BASE as a thriving community, business and service hub. Not long after our AGM, we welcomed our first hirers – two local artists and Intrinsic Midwifery – followed by the Christian School Event Network and the Copilot Group in November 2025. In March this year, Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service and Mind Australia joined The BASE, followed by Olivelaine Disability & Aged Care Services in April.



DANIELA DE MARTINO - 2025 AGM & LAUNCH OF THE BASE

CHAIR REPORT - CONT'D

One of the most rewarding outcomes has been seeing the genuine collaboration, connection and referrals that have developed between the businesses, organisations and services operating from The BASE. While it is incredibly heartwarming to know that EDRA has helped bring these services together, the greatest reward is seeing the benefit to our community – providing local people with regular, convenient access to important services and support, right here in Cockatoo.

And one of our biggest opportunities presented itself in February, when the opportunity arose to deliver Neighbourhood House services in Cockatoo.

Looking back, we had already begun delivering many of the outcomes at the heart of a Neighbourhood House – bringing people together, reducing isolation, connecting people with local services and support, and creating opportunities to participate, learn and belong. The mix of community services establishing themselves at The BASE strengthened this even further, creating natural referral pathways and a network of organisations working together to support local people. We could see firsthand the difference that having these services available locally was making. So, when the opportunity arose to deliver Neighbourhood House services in Cockatoo, it felt like a natural next step – an opportunity to build on what we had already created and extend that sense of connection, support and community even further.



BUSINESS, COMMUNITY & WELFARE


OPENING OF DRERS



VISITOR INFORMATITON

CHAIR REPORT - CONT'D





There was a natural connection between this opportunity and EDRA's own history.

EDRA has its roots in the former Emerald Business Group, which operated as a subcommittee of Emerald Community House back in 2011. In 2014 EDRA formed to govern the Emerald Business Group. We recognised the opportunity to build on that history and knowledge of the Community House sector while extending our collective services and creating greater benefits for the wider community.

We knew that, if successful, taking on the Cockatoo Community House contract would require changes to our committee and operational structure, and we worked together to determine how we could best manage this.

In June, we received the exciting news that EDRA had been successful and was awarded a two-year contract through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to deliver Neighbourhood House services in Cockatoo commencing 1 July 2026.

Having previous experience as a Coordinator in the Neighbourhood House sector, I stepped down as Chair of EDRA to take on the role of Manager of the Cockatoo Community House. Non Blair stepped into the role of Interim Chair, providing continuity and leadership as EDRA entered this new chapter.

With the continued growth of EDRA, The BASE and managing the Cockatoo Community House, we recognised the importance of having a strong framework to guide our future. An externally facilitated review of our Strategic Plan was undertaken to assist this process.

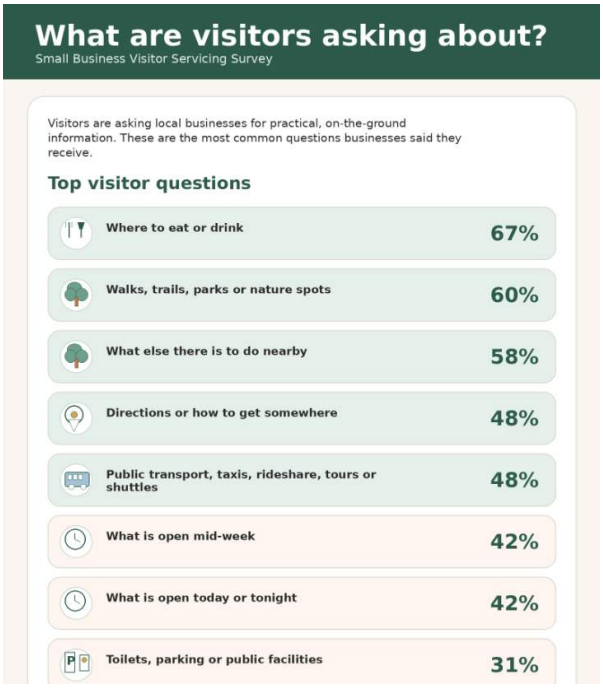
The new strategic plan establishes our strategic pillars and provides a clear direction for the next stage of EDRA's development to support our members and local communities.

CHAIR REPORT - CONT'D

Our longstanding commitment, over twelve years, supporting, promoting, connecting and advocating for our local businesses & townships continued to deliver new opportunities.

We were interviewed and selected by Yarra Ranges Tourism (now Tourism East) and Cardinia Shire Council as Cardinia Shire's Industry Partner on the Tourism East Board. Along with Tourism Network Yarra Valley, we provide a voice for the needs of small tourism businesses and contribute to support delivery of destination management of the region as the preferred destination for integrated food, wine, cultural, nature and activity based experiences.





The Small Business Survey we developed and undertook with Tourism Network Yarra Valley demonstrated small businesses have a big visitor impact, demonstrated in the results from a well supported survey by members. One of the strongest messages from businesses is that visitor support is still very people-led. Visitors are not only looking online. They ask business owners, staff and locals for trusted advice about where to eat, what is open, where to walk, how to get around and what else there is to do nearby.

We are pleased the recent Village Maps & Community Guides EDRA produced for Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook and Upper Beaconsfield, funded through a Cardinia Council Business Support Grant, and free to all businesses & groups will help to support businesses and visitors alike.

We are now discussing the findings of the Small Business Survey with the CEO & Chair of Tourism East as part of ongoing discussions about visitor information, visitor servicing and how local businesses and networks can be better supported.

CHAIR REPORT - CONT'D

We were successful in securing funding for a number of exciting initiatives, including the development of podcasting facilities to support local businesses and a Gembrook Visitor Activation Strategy through the Cardinia Shire Business Support Grants.

Two Tiny Towns Funded projects – Cockatoo: Stories in Many Forms, which will tell Cockatoo's history through art, and Gembrook Stories, an immersive digital history experience celebrating Gembrook's Main Street and local stories. Both of these projects require us to provide 20% financial contribution of which 10% can be in-kind. We will achieve this through fundraising events and will be seeking the support from our members to get involved.

The Tiny Towns projects, will be completed by July 2027, providing new visitor experiences that will increase dwell time, encourage visitors to explore our townships and will support our local businesses.

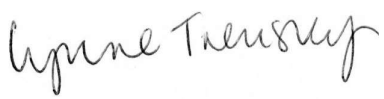
EDRA would not be in the strong and stable position it is today without the dedication, commitment and volunteer hours contributed by our Committee and Subcommittee members. Their willingness to share their skills, ideas and connections has been the driving force behind so much of what we have achieved.

As EDRA continues to grow, we need more of our members to become actively involved and help shape what comes next. We encourage you to consider joining one of our subcommittees – whether your interest is tourism, business development, events, marketing, operational or community initiatives. It is an opportunity not only to contribute your knowledge and experience, but to build stronger relationships, collaborate with other local businesses and organisations, develop new opportunities and experience firsthand the value of being part of the EDRA network. The more our members participate, the stronger our collective voice, connections and impact will be.

The strength of EDRA has always come from people working collaboratively, sharing their knowledge and contributing to the success of our businesses, townships and wider community.

2025/2026 financial year has been a year of considerable growth and change – but most importantly, a year that has demonstrated what can be achieved through collaboration.

As we look ahead, we do so with a stronger organisation, expanded partnerships, exciting projects underway and an even greater opportunity to support our members and the communities of the Eastern Dandenong Ranges.



LYNNE TRENSKY, CHAIR

2025-26 FINANCE REPORT

This year has been one of transition, growth, and continued financial responsibility for EDRA.

With The Base now fully operational, the organisation has focused on strengthening tenant numbers, maintaining a steady membership base, managing building-related costs, and preparing for its new role in operating the Cockatoo Neighbourhood House.

The Eastern Dandenong Ranges Association (EDRA) has seen several changes over the past year, including my appointment as treasurer in August 2025, taking over from Gerry. I thank Gerry for his many years of service to EDRA and The Base.

The Base in Cockatoo has grown into a thriving township hub and business space. With more than five tenants, it now provides a solid working capital base and is one of our two funding streams for regular costs. However, ongoing building maintenance remains a financial challenge, particularly given the property was unoccupied for many years. These costs will continue to place pressure on our finances, and we will seek funding support from DEECA.

Membership remained solid throughout the year, and we aim to build on this in 2026–27. Fees have stayed at last year's level and will support efforts to raise EDRA's profile across the wider community for the benefit of all members.

EDRA continues to apply for a range of grants and was successful this year in securing Business Support grants from Cardinia Council. We were also awarded the tender to operate the Cockatoo Neighbourhood House (CNH) for two years from July 2026. The financial impact on EDRA is not yet clear, and shared facility use is still being finalised. EDRA has funded approximately $1,900 in initial CNH set-up costs, which will be reimbursed once the first CNH grant payment is received. Funds and finances for the Community House will be separated from EDRA.

In the year ahead, EDRA's focus will be on strengthening its financial sustainability, supporting the successful establishment of Cockatoo Neighbourhood House, and continuing to grow The Base as a valued community and business hub. With careful planning, responsible financial management, and ongoing support from members and partners, EDRA is well positioned to build on this year's progress and deliver lasting benefits for the wider community.



DAVID GRAHAM, TREASURER

2025-26 FINANCE REPORT

Profit and Loss

Eastern Dandenong Ranges Association
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
Trading Income		
Business breakfast	-	1,177.27
Christmas in July	750.00	-
DEECA	-	29,424.94
Donations EDRA	791.82	-
Facility Hire The Base	30,972.21	-
Grant - Board training	-	4,360.00
Grant - Community Map	4,240.00	4,620.00
Grants - Non GST	19,553.99	1,000.00
Membership EDRA	9,612.18	9,832.95
Other Revenue	(31.07)	3,199.99
Refreshment Sales	247.05	-
Total Trading Income	**66,136.18**	**53,615.15**
Other Income		
Bendigo Bank	-	6,000.00
Com Guide	252.73	5,344.86
Hidden Treasures- AUSPICE	-	3,068.98
Total Other Income	**252.73**	**14,413.84**
Operating Expenses		
Advertising	868.33	1,669.96
AGM	-	412.50
Bank Fees	74.63	94.89
BAse event Expenses	190.36	-
BASE Insurance	1,357.56	-
Business breakfasts	-	1,003.28
Catering Expenses	451.59	-
Christmas Breakup	(38.96)	553.70
Christmas grant	-	899.08
Christmas in July expenses	44.10	-
Cleaning	1,581.80	-
Community Map Exp	3,700.00	-
Consulting & Accounting	858.74	8,863.68
Consumer Affairs	44.55	74.28
DEECA Grant Expenditure	-	28,774.95
Easter promotion	505.04	-
Electricity	376.21	130.21
Furniture and Equipment	2,176.59	4,644.03
Garbage & waste	523.95	-
Gas - The Base	316.28	-

2025-26 FINANCE REPORT

Profit and Loss

	2026	2025
General Expenses	2,537.81	298.44
Grant Expenditure	16,524.15	-
Hidden treasures	-	3,498.95
Insurance	1,875.45	1,901.94
IT Expenses	9,307.72	5,828.09
Maintenance	7,376.21	47.55
Management	8,181.81	-
Meeting Expenses	57.46	75.62
Minor Equipment	470.37	-
Miscellaneous Office Expenses	1,023.19	-
Office stationay & supplies	347.96	-
PAVE Expenses All	-	3,878.69
Phone and internet	1,973.82	588.36
Postage	81.81	-
Printing & Stationery	1,032.55	274.32
Raffle	-	276.23
Repairs and Maintenance	-	795.00
Stripe Fees	99.24	64.95
Stripe Fees (no GST)	279.25	70.37
Subscriptions	197.88	599.03
Telephone & Internet	-	95.46
The BASE	69.65	-
Venue hire	-	24.00
Water	396.29	23.46
Webinar Acquittal	-	82.67
Woorilla Expense All	-	2,211.00
Total Operating Expenses	**64,863.39**	**67,754.69**
Net Profit	**1,525.52**	**274.30**

1. Adjustment

The amount of $1761.91 was expended for the setup of the Cockatoo Community House pending the funding for the Grant - this amount is to be reimbursed to EDRA,

2025-26 FINANCE REPORT

Balance Sheet

Eastern Dandenong Ranges Association
As at 30 June 2026
Cash Basis

	30 JUNE 2026	30 JUNE 2025
Assets		
Bank		
Eastern Dandenong Ranges Assoc	19,952	20,354
New Stripe AUD	2,035	324
Sandhurst Cash Common Fund	867	-
Stripe AUD	-	451
Total Bank	**22,854**	**21,130**
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment	1,395	-
Total Fixed Assets	**1,395**	**-**
Total Assets	**24,249**	**21,130**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST	(865)	855
Historical Adjustment	-	40,092
Key deposit	320	-
Rounding	-	-
Stripe AUD	88	-
Suspense	(17)	(17)
Total Current Liabilities	**(474)**	**40,931**
Non-current Liabilities		
Hire bonds	3,200	-
Total Non-current Liabilities	**3,200**	**-**
Total Liabilities	**2,727**	**40,931**
Net Assets	**21,522**	**(19,800)**
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	1,230	274
Retained Earnings	20,292	(20,075)
Total Equity	**21,522**	**(19,800)**

TESTIMONIALS

Testimonials from our members & community reinforce why our work matters and highlight the value of being part of a strong, connected local business network. From advocacy, promotion and business support to networking, collaboration and creating new opportunities, EDRA is committed to helping our members connect, grow and thrive. Most importantly, your feedback reminds us that business is better when you're connected — and it is the involvement and support of our members that makes that connection possible.

EDRA have facilitated a business network with multiple ways to connect and meet other business owners in our local area. Lynne has been more than welcoming and encouraging of any businesses who would like to attend catch ups and events. These events and introductions always have a friendly atmosphere. They have enabled connections with other local businesses, which for us, have resulted in opportunities to network and collaborate for both professional and commercial benefit. Further to connections, EDRA actively focus on promotion of tourism locally, including producing brochures, guides and handouts to promote the area as well as individual businesses. This is not something we normally have time to do as a small business. Personally, I have enjoyed networking and being part of EDRA events, meeting others and feeling connected and part of the local business community who genuinely want to help each other. **Steph Davey, Over The Road**

Being part of the EDRA business group has been such a positive experience for my business. I genuinely feel supported and connected, and I really enjoy our Tuesday catch ups with other local businesses. One of the things I value most is connecting with other businesses and building relationships with people who can support my business, as well as having the opportunity to support others in return. It's a great feeling knowing you're not navigating your business on your own. Lnne is fantastic!! She is always encouraging, shares great ideas and helps guide you to think about ways you can grow and improve your business. She also does an amazing job promoting and connecting business. Edra is more than just a business group; it's a community. I am really grateful to be part of it and to have the support and connections that I am building. **Melissa Petrie, Olivelaine Disability & Aged Care Services**

The Eastern Dandenong Ranges BASE is a fantastic asset for Cockatoo and the Eastern Dandenong Ranges. The office spaces and amenities are consistently clean, quiet, friendly, and professional. Add in fast, reliable Wi-Fi throughout the entire facility, and it's the ideal spot for anyone looking for a productive workspace in the hills, alongside a great range of community services. **Steven Ross, PCHelp@home**

Friendly front of house, so much information is available via pamphlets, displays, website… Lynette is so helpful and knowledgeable. Plenty of parking and easy access. Love how bright, interesting and vibrant it is! **Maree Holmes**