

Respect.Engage.Connect.

Corrections Victoria

2016 Community Work Partnership Awards



VICTORIA
State
Government

Justice
and Regulation

Authorised and published by the
Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place,
Melbourne, 3000
November 2016

Printed by RA Printing,
Carrum Downs
ISSN 1835-2820

For further information or additional
copies, please contact:

Corrections Victoria Department of
Justice and Regulation
121 Exhibition Street,
Melbourne, 3000
Tel 03 8684 6600

Also published on
www.corrections.vic.gov.au

Cover Design

“Respect.Engage.Connect.”

Community work provides an opportunity for prisoners and offenders to engage in work that would otherwise not be undertaken in their local communities.

It facilitates the development of new skills and connections with the community, essential components of prisoners and offenders’ rehabilitation.

There is mutual respect between the community and the prisoners and offenders, working together to achieve a common goal.

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Repay, Rehabilitate, Reintegrate

The role of Corrections Victoria is to manage and facilitate the successful completion of terms of imprisonment and community-based supervision orders imposed by a court or the Adult Parole Board. This includes developing partnerships with community organisations so that offenders or prisoners can complete unpaid community work. For prisoners this can mean either undertaking the work within the boundaries of the prison, or on the outside as part of a supervised team.

The work serves as a valuable way for offenders and prisoners to make reparation for the harm or damage caused by their offending behaviour, while also reconnecting and reintegrating them back into the community.

Sometimes a work placement is all that an offender or prisoner needs to make a fresh start in life as community work can contribute to increased self-esteem and well-being, and give them a new purpose and direction. Many projects also incorporate accredited training which may reduce reoffending by increasing work opportunities and skills.

Through community work, offenders and prisoners are involved in a wide range of projects around Victoria, many of which are included in this booklet, which summarises the projects nominated for a 2016 Community Work Partnership Award.



A Graffiti Removal Program supervisor and three offenders undertaking different tasks in the only statewide community work program.

Commissioner's Message

Participation in community work is a key way that offenders and selected prisoners can make reparation to the community. Through community work projects, offenders and prisoners assist a range of not-for-profit community agencies to perform tasks that they would not otherwise have been able to undertake. Importantly, these projects benefit not only local communities, but also those who carry out the work.

In 2015-16, offenders subject to Community Correction Orders completed almost 804,000 hours of unpaid community work across Victoria. This work represented around \$24 million in value to the Victorian community and in excess of 800 organisations across the State benefited from these efforts.

Through participation, offenders acquire life and work skills which support rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes that reduce the risk of reoffending. Community work provides offenders with an opportunity to engage in activities where they can connect with their communities and learn and earn respect. Hence our theme for this year's Awards being "Respect – Engage – Connect".

In 2016, we are celebrating the sixteenth occasion on which the Corrections Victoria Community Work Partnership Awards have been held. In total, 70 nominations for the awards were judged this year, representing those particularly selected by our regions for their innovation and excellence. These projects however, represent only a small proportion of the wide range of Corrections Victoria's community partnerships which are in place right across Victoria.

Described in this booklet are projects where the participants had involvement in the actual planning and design; multiple partnerships within single projects; more activities that are combined prisons and Community Correctional Services

endeavours; projects where accredited training features; and those with broader objectives related to engaging and involving people in their community. Our regional focus on local communities has seen our community work program continue to grow and develop.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our panel of 19 independent external judges, who so generously gave of their time to read and discuss the nominations in the categories they were judging. The quality and diversity of nominations each year makes the task of selecting the top candidates in the nine categories a challenging one.

I am delighted to again have the opportunity to present the Commissioner's Award, which recognises an outstanding partnership between a prison or Community Correctional Services location, selected from the winners in each category.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our people across the regions and their community work partners who, by establishing and maintaining these important partnerships, make a real difference in the community and in the lives of offenders and prisoners, as they meet the compulsory obligations placed on them by the courts. You are all winners!

We look forward to continuing our valuable community partnerships to make a positive difference in our community.



Jan Shuard PSM
Commissioner, Corrections Victoria

Acknowledgements

Judges

Andrew Balaam, Chairman,
St Laurence Housing Ltd

Andrew Tenni, Chief Executive
Officer, Magistrates Court of Victoria

Ann Goodman, Manager,
Contracted Delivery, Enterprise
Delivery, Box Hill Institute

Bernadette McCartney,
Executive Manager, Community
Support, Bethany

Christine Fuller, Chief Nursing
Officer, Correct Care Australasia

Cynthia Marwood, Chief Executive
Officer, Sentencing Advisory Council

Gauri Kapoor, Secretary/Public
Officer, National Council of Women
of Victoria Inc

Dr Julie Rudner, Senior Lecturer,
Community Planning and
Development, La Trobe University

Karenza Louis-Smith,
Chief Executive Officer,
Australian Community Support
Organisation Inc. (ACSO)

Kayla Ta, Manager, IAP and Quality
Services, Women's Housing Ltd

Sister Mary O'Shannassy sgs JP,
Director, Catholic Prison Ministry
Victoria, Catholic Care

Merv Ericson, Past District Governor
2013-14, Rotary District 9810

Nick Verginis, Assistant Director,
Criminal Law Policy, Department of
Justice and Regulation

Rachel Porter, National General
Manager, Whitelion

Rob Carroll, Technical Inspector-
Psychosocial Operations,
WorkSafe Victoria

Sandy Dudakov OAM, Vice
President, FareShare

Sheila Byard OAM, Past President,
National Council of Women of
Victoria Inc

Trieu Huynh, Program Manager -
Indictable Crime, Victoria Legal Aid

Vicki Sutton, Chief Executive Officer,
Melbourne City Mission

Acknowledgements

Reference Group

Jason MacLeod, Acting Statewide Manager, Community Work, Corrections Victoria

Aloma Davey, Project Officer, Information Management and Evaluation, Corrections Victoria

Erin D Kirby, Senior Projects Manager, Office of the Director, Strategic Policy and Planning

Kylie Welsh, Transfers Coordinator, Parole Central Unit, CCS

Melanie Burns, Senior Projects Manager, Operations Division

Terry Strates, Manager of Internal Communications, Strategic Communications

Annette Vawser, Business Manager, Awards Australia

Kristi Monk, Awards Administration Manager, Awards Australia

Other helpers:

Teresa Alexander, Malcolm Feiner and Jason Wilson, all of whom provided advice and support on media, print and design, and event aspects of the awards.

John Black for providing his time to be Master of Ceremonies at the Awards Ceremony.

The custodial staff who volunteered to provide support on the day of the Awards Ceremony.

1: Most Outstanding New Project

An award for projects that commenced operation in the 2015-16 financial year, and have provided community work placements for offenders or prisoners for at least three months.

Benalla Grow Your Own

The Benalla Grow Your Own project aims to empower disadvantaged families to improve their food security using wicking garden beds. Prisoners from the Beechworth Correctional Centre have designed the garden boxes, provided the labour, and made purchasing decisions based on a budget of \$200 per box. Due to their careful budgeting, the number of boxes built increased from 20 to 28, which led to the Tomorrow Today Foundation granting the program an additional \$4,500 to build another

20 boxes for Benalla families. The project encourages team work, and increases communication skills. The prisoners interact with members of the community, and a barbeque was held to recognise their work. The Benalla community benefited greatly from this project, with

the families involved increasing their fruit and vegetable consumption and spending more time with their families in the garden.

"An innovative and very successful project befitting the benefitters of the gardens; the prisoners, the agencies and the wider community."

Merv Ericson, Past District Governor 2013-14, Rotary District 9810



A wicking bed full of vegetables.

Buddy Bears

The Buddy Bears Program was established in September 2015 through a partnership between the Latrobe Community Health Service and Morwell Community Correctional Services. The program aims to provide comfort for children and adults who have suffered a traumatic experience. The Buddy Bears Program is female-

specific and provides offenders with sewing skills which are transferable for future employment. The women also learn to socialise, be responsible and on time for their work commitments. The finished Buddy Bears are distributed free of charge to a number of professionals, including General Practitioners, dentists, carer programs and counselling services. Providing the women with

new skills increases their self-confidence and they gain a sense of pride, knowing that the Buddy Bears are going to people in need. As of June 2016, the women had completed 1,750 hours of unpaid community work.

Most Outstanding New Project

"Valuable community program with benefits to wider community, including hospitals, schools, doctors, counselling services, carers and children who have been traumatised. In turn, program provides the opportunity for female offenders to develop social, communication, craft and creativity skills."

Kayla Ta, Manager, IAP and Quality Services, Women's Housing Ltd

This picture depicts Buddy Bears produced by the program for distribution to children who have suffered a traumatic experience.



Conservation on the Bellarine

Bellarine Bayside in partnership with local community groups, residents and Geelong Community Correctional Services are building sustainable projects, restoring and enhancing the northern Bellarine

Peninsula's natural and built coastal environment. The project began in August 2015, and involves up to 11 offenders a week participating in a full day of work. Over 3,500 community work hours were completed last year. The program allows offenders to preserve the environment for future generations.

The offenders see the results of their hard work, and know they are contributing by giving back to the local community and tourists, both now and in the years to come. The community work team has been an integral part of the conservation effort, which has seen the coastal environment improve from highly degraded to now representing some of the best rehabilitated land on the Bellarine coastline.



Millar Boys; foreshore area off Lower Bluff Road, conservation revegetation area worked on by the community work team.

"A very productive partnership. Project satisfied stakeholder business, government and prisoner interests. Offenders gain formal qualifications in horticulture and natural resource management."

Kayla Ta, Manager, IAP and Quality Services, Women's Housing Ltd

Most Outstanding New Project

Cultivating Place Cultivating People

The partnership with Working Heritage provides offenders with specialist skills in heritage fruit tree stock preservation and general horticultural skills. The fruit is donated to FareShare and distributed to disadvantaged communities, completing the food chain. Jesuit Social Services, Brimbank City Council, FareShare and the Cultivating

Place Cultivating People Program through Broadmeadows Community Correctional Services aims to address food insecurity and crime prevention in highly disadvantaged hotspot areas. Offenders work towards achieving accreditation in food handling, horticulture or hospitality and assist in the maintenance of community gardens. The intention is to build employability and social skills through engagement with local communities. The Community Lunches

Program sees offenders utilise all of the skills required of an industrial kitchen and café service. The program has been operating for seven months across seven sites, with more than 4,000 hours of community work being completed.

"Has required a lot of stakeholder engagement, which is part of a bigger piece of work. New way of engaging with the community (and those at risk of offending). Appears to be very sustainable."
Christine Fuller, Chief Nursing Officer, Correct Care Australasia



Offenders working together in the community garden which is the first step of the process for taking food from planting to kitchen to plate.

Evolve through Training

The Evolve Through Training program was developed by Shepparton Community Correctional Services to provide education and practical training to assist those offenders experiencing barriers to employment. The program provides offenders with a nationally recognised Certificate III qualification

in carpentry, as well as the opportunity to educate themselves and gain confidence, discipline, social skills and improve their cognitive functioning. The Evolve Through Training Program offers door-to-door transport, food and drink and supportive staff. Through the program, offenders have supported the Stefanie Alexander Garden Foundation in delivering three large

and innovative garden beds with two picnic tables and chairs. The program has expanded in order to assist community and not-for-profit organisations with maintenance and grounds development. Current projects with Albury Wodonga Parklands are benefiting the local community and wildlife through the construction of bird shelters.

Most Outstanding New Project



Offenders working together at Lutheran College, Wodonga installing custom made garden beds.

"An inclusive and supporting learning environment with plenty of new skills to learn. Fosters responsibility, team work, confidence and initiative. Offers employment opportunities along with sense of achievement."

Merv Ericson, Past District Governor 2013-14, Rotary District 9810

Housing Assistance Program

The partnership between Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) and the South East Metropolitan Region (SEMR) Community Work Team commenced in March 2016 with the purpose of addressing the issue of homelessness within the SEMR.

Offenders provide basic gardening and housing maintenance services to vacant and rundown AHV properties, which sees the offenders carry out duties such as rubbish collection and removal, weeding, planting new trees, mowing, removing old

carpet, and painting. The offenders participate in weekly training sessions relating to gardening and home maintenance skills prior to going onsite. The skills and knowledge of home maintenance and gardening enhances the offenders employment prospects.

Since the commencement of the Housing Assistance Program, in excess of 1,000 hours have

been completed by the offenders. Aboriginal Housing Victoria is currently looking to expand the program to other regions.

"Great application – an excellent initiative and worthy program. Though results at this stage are limited the program is sure to have quality benefits."
Trieu Huynh, Program Manager – Indictable Crime, Victoria Legal Aid



Offenders completing gardening work to assist maintaining AVH properties.

Painting until their (HE)ARTS content Project

This partnership between the Fulham Correctional Centre and the Traralgon

and District Art Society (TDAS) was formed in 2014 to restore the TDAS working studio and art gallery. Prisoners complete tasks such as replacing

and repainting external weatherboard cladding and repainting the fascia of the building. The community work team consisted of seven prisoners, providing a

Most Outstanding New Project

total of 500 hours of labour. The project has allowed the prisoners to gain useful work and employability skills, increased self-esteem and confidence. The positive interaction between the community work team and TDAS members has allowed the prisoners to gain a sense of integration into the community. The maintenance undertaken by the prisoners has significantly improved the profile and visibility of

TDAS, and membership has increased significantly from 35 to 85 as a result of the refurbishment of the premises.

"Project results are outstanding. Prisoners were provided the opportunity to learn and grow in a supportive environment. A commendable project."
Kayla Ta, Manager, IAP and Quality Services, Women's Housing Ltd



Interior of the art studio showcasing excellent work by the Community Work Team.

Wheels in Motion Program

The Wheels in Motion Program, which commenced in February 2015, provides an opportunity for offenders to refurbish old broken or discarded bikes by learning basic bike mechanics, using hand tools and bike restoration, in partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services. The finished bikes are then donated to many underprivileged families, giving children the opportunity to learn to ride a bike, which might not have been possible previously because of the financial challenges they faced.

Up to 12 offenders from Bendigo Community

Correctional Services are involved in the Wheels in Motion Program each week. They learn new employment skills, and gain self-esteem and satisfaction in knowing that they are making a positive difference to children's lives.

Bikes have been donated to five local schools and

a variety of community programs. Last year, 300 bikes were repaired and 433 were donated.

"Very successful initiative which promotes community respect, an active lifestyle along with understanding of road rules. Also helps offenders with developing vocational skills."
Trieu Huynh, Program Manager - Indictable Crime, Victoria Legal Aid



Community worker with Field Officer Donald Knight inside the bike shed working on a bicycle.

2: Initiatives with Local Councils, Shires or Utilities

An award recognising partnerships between local councils, shires or utilities and Corrections Victoria that are providing community work placement opportunities for offenders or prisoners.

Ballarat Rejuvenation Project

The Ballarat Rejuvenation Project is a joint partnership between the Ballarat City Council and Ballarat Community Correctional Services. Council-owned parks and reserves are rejuvenated to create a more environmentally sustainable environment for the Ballarat community.

The project allows offenders to not only engage in meaningful work, but also to enhance their landscaping and horticulture skills. Offenders feel a sense of fulfilment knowing that their work is benefiting the whole community.

The project has contributed to the improvement of health and safety in the community, and the rejuvenated spaces are now being utilised by the public. There has also been a noticeable decrease in the number of complaints made by the public. Although the partnership only commenced in February 2016, it is expected to continue well into the foreseeable future.

"Effective use of government resources, reducing fuel for bush fires and also reduce rubbish in the community."
Ann Goodman, Manager, Contracted Delivery, Enterprise Delivery, Box Hill Institute

A freshly painted wall at Yarraowee Creek which had heavy graffiti prior to the work team completing the project.



Beechworth Community Food Program

The Community Food Program was established to provide healthy ready-made meals to those in need in the community.

Quercus Beechworth, partnering with the Beechworth Correctional Centre, sees a team of four prisoners, preparing, cooking and packaging meals each week. The Community Food Program allows male

prisoners to give back to the community, resulting in a sense of pride within themselves. It also has a positive effect on their overall wellbeing and social skills, while at the same time developing their cooking and hospitality skills.

Initiatives with Local Councils, Shires or Utilities

Approximately 25 prisoners have been involved, with more than 1,600 hours of labour going into the program and over 6,000 meals being produced and provided to members of the Beechworth community.

Additional meals are provided to the local District Nursing Program, with nurses collecting meals and delivering them to some of the patients on their rounds.

"Participants have contributed to this program in a way which further enhances its value to those in the community who most need it."

Rob Carroll, Technical Inspector
- Psychosocial Operations,
WorkSafe Victoria

This picture depicts prisoners preparing food for community members with key health and welfare needs.



Dhurringile Community Centre

The community work team from Dhurringile Prison consists of up to nine prisoners undertaking tasks such as gardening, mowing, tree lopping, painting, floor polishing and cleaning of both the interior and exterior of the Dhurringile Community Centre. The program assists with reintegrating the offenders into the community, as they have the opportunity to engage with elderly members of the community. Education courses are provided for the prisoners to complete prior to commencing their

community work. These courses include obtaining a forklift licence, tractor operation, chainsaw license, occupational health and safety and food handling, all of which allow the prisoners to learn transferable skills that can be used to gain future employment. The project has now been running for five years and has provided thousands of man hours assisting not-for-profit organisations and the community.

"Being a small community the prison and its offenders become 'good' neighbours. Definitely a boost to this community."

Sandy Dudakov OAM, Vice President, FareShare

This picture is a before photo showing the trees that needed lopping around the tennis court.



Initiatives with Local Councils, Shires or Utilities

Graffiti Removal Program

The Graffiti Removal Program is a large-scale initiative, involving 13 Community Correctional Services locations in five Department of Justice and Regulation regions across Victoria. Up to 440 offenders attend the program every week, servicing 26 local councils and various Victorian Government agencies. The offenders' duties involve the removal of graffiti in the form of

paint-out, high pressure water and graffiti removal products and rubbish removal. Since commencement in November 2005, the program has removed 2,733,858 square metres of graffiti and 826,238 hours of community work has been completed by offenders. The program provides offenders with the fundamentals of structure, purpose, and developing a sense of pride in their work, along with the partners and

communities who see the reduction in graffiti and improvement to the aesthetic quality of local environments, which increases the community's perception of safety.

"Successful delivery of a service that focuses on community pride on a large scale, averaging 440 offenders per week in the program. Promotes team work among the offenders."

Ann Goodman, Manager, Contracted Delivery, Enterprise Delivery, Box Hill Institute



Offenders working in one of Public Transport Victoria's hot spots removing graffiti from a sound wall.

Initiatives with Local Councils, Shires or Utilities

Manningham Mulchers Program

The Manningham Mulchers Team was formed in partnership with the Manningham City Council and Dandenong Community Correctional Services in 2010, to assist with the maintenance of council

parks and reserves. The team is responsible for spreading and levelling mulch, pruning gardens and removing litter to enhance the appearance of these areas. The program allows offenders to enhance their basic trade skill level, and broaden their knowledge of horticulture. The team provides offenders with the

opportunity to undertake meaningful work and develop interpersonal skills which they can then utilise to assist with their reintegration into the community. The team has completed 4,000 hours of community work over the last two years. The tasks completed by the work teams have significantly contributed to improving the overall appearance and tidiness of many parks and reserves in the Manningham area, benefiting the local residents.

"Exceptional service to residents in the community. Meanwhile, offenders get to work in an outdoor environment and take ownership of their task."
Ann Goodman, Manager, Contracted Delivery, Enterprise Delivery, Box Hill Institute



Offenders working as a group to complete the mulching duties for the Manningham City Council.

Revitalising Braybrook Project

In partnership with Maribyrnong City Council, the West Metropolitan Region Community Work Team has developed partnerships and initiatives to address low employment and education opportunities in Braybrook. Offenders have

assisted in developing a community garden at the Braybrook Hub, where members of the community grow and harvest their own fruit and vegetables. Another work team also operates at the Quang Minh Buddhist Temple, maintaining a 3.7 hectare site and assisting with food preparation. This has helped Vietnamese offenders to engage in and support their local

community. Another initiative is the Food 4 All program in which offenders assisted in preparing and cooking food for distribution to disadvantaged community members. Other programs include Fix the Cycle, where young offenders refurbish bicycles which are then donated to the disadvantaged and the Recycle Reuse Donate Woodwork Program.

Initiatives with Local Councils, Shires or Utilities

"This is an excellent, diverse and comprehensive program of works that Braybrook needs. This demonstrates a rich partnership between local government and corrections, with genuine shared vision about how to enhance the community through collaboration and creativity."
Nick Verginis, Acting Director, Criminal Law Policy, Department of Justice & Regulation



Revitalising Braybrook Project

Offenders working together with a Field Officer to complete gardening work at the Quang Minh Buddhist Temple.

Wodonga Waste Transfer Station

In partnership with the City of Wodonga since 2007, this program enables offenders from Shepparton Community Correctional Services to undertake community work at the Wodonga Waste Station to improve the

environment by recycling and repurposing waste. Offenders are assigned specific tasks, including unloading and sorting the waste into 17 different categories, and making informed decisions with regard to the sorting process, which improves their problem-solving and decision-making skills. The program has many different facets

that assist offenders in their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. By working as a team, following directions and problem-solving skills can be transferred into employment. Since the commencement of the partnership, this community work program has assisted the Wodonga Transfer Station by providing over 25,000 hours of labour, allowing the diversion of more waste from landfill, minimising associated costs and having a positive environmental impact.



Offenders are taught safety and risk management at the site to ensure they are able to identify hazards such as removing gas cylinders from waste and safely securing them.

"Impressive; innovative and extremely useful. Not a job everyone would choose but as stated 'when engaged' participants enjoy learning."
Sandy Dudakov OAM, Vice President, FareShare

3: Educational Institution/Educational Programs

An award recognising partnerships that facilitate programs between a school, other educational institution or Registered Training Organisation and Corrections Victoria, or program providers, agencies or individuals who positively contribute to the development of skills and awareness of offenders and prisoners.

ACspresSO Café Project

In 2015, the Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) partnered with the North Metropolitan Region on ACSO's newly-established coffee shop and social enterprise called ACspresSO, to provide offenders with meaningful work and reduce their risk of reoffending. Offenders from Reservoir Community Correctional Services are required to

complete tasks such as sweeping, mopping and clearing tables. They may also manage the cashier, take orders and serve the customers. Offenders sort and package food for another program-The Pantry-which provides over 5,000 food parcels each year for financially-disadvantaged people in the local community. All tasks require a high level of hygiene and adherence to food safety standards. The program provides

offenders with practical experience and skills such as food handling, coffee brewing, customer service and sandwich making, all of which can be transferred to future employment opportunities.

"From the enthusiastic account given, everyone has benefitted in this program."

Shiela Byard OAM, Past President, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc



The working kitchen which produces tasty sandwiches and wraps that are served in the café to community members.

Educational Institution/Educational Programs

Bully Zero Program

The Bully Zero Program was established in 2014, in a partnership between the West Metropolitan Region Community Work Team, Bully Zero Australia Foundation and Jesuit Community College. The aim of the program was to educate local and wider communities about the impact of bullying throughout Victoria and Australia.

The program incorporated both theoretical and practical components to design a booklet for the Bully Zero Australia Foundation's use in its ongoing anti-bullying campaign. The program also developed offenders' social skills and self-confidence.

The offenders participating in the program received a nationally accredited certificate of attainment or participation in General Education for Adults, which can be used for further education or future employment opportunities.

Some 23 offenders have completed 437 hours of

community work, and the booklet has been distributed to numerous schools and workplaces across Australia.

"Beautiful program that draws on personal loss of Mr Yildiz to create sustainable pathways out of offending and supports children on the issue of bullying."

Vicki Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, Melbourne City Mission



Offenders workshop together as a group to generate ideas about how they would be able to illustrate taking action against bullying.

Community News and Planting Seeds Programs

The partnership between the North Metropolitan Region Community Work Team and Preston Reservoir and Adult Community Education (PRACE) commenced in 2012, and has developed two successful programs-the Planting Seeds Community Work Program and the

Community Work News Program.

These programs provide an opportunity for women offenders to develop basic horticulture skills while working as part of a team to plant and maintain gardens. Offenders also research, edit and produce a newsletter promoting current community events and issues. These skills will assist the offenders with future employment and

educational prospects. The sales of the organic produce are directed to the charity 'Swags for the Homeless', and over \$3,300 has been raised for this cause. The gardening program has donated seedlings, plants and pots to local disadvantaged schools and the Community Food Sharing Festival.

"Very encouraging and nurturing – creating a sense of self worth."

Rachel Porter, National General Manager, Whitelion

Educational Institution/Educational Programs



Community News and Planting Seeds Programs

Showing the outcome of hard work completed by each offender during the planting of seeds, the produce grown is sold during the weekly market at their stall in the community.

Small Engine Program

The Small Engine Program was established in July 2015, through a partnership between Barwon South West Region and Community Veracity. The offenders restore donated outdoor power equipment, which is then distributed to not-for-profit and community organisations. The program provides the offenders with the opportunity to complete a nationally-recognised Certificate II in Outdoor Power Equipment Technology. The program provides hands-on work experience, and offenders have an opportunity to gain valuable warehousing skills. Working in a team develops the

offenders' social and communication skills, which will assist with securing future employment. Providing services to the local community allows the offenders to feel a sense of ownership, inclusion within the community, and aims to deter any future criminal

behaviour. It is expected that the program will become an ongoing partnership.

"Great project offering innovation and valuable work skills. Love that the program has the added bonus of giving back to the local not-for-profit agencies".

Vicki Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, Melbourne City Mission



A program facilitator working hands on with an offender to repair a small motor.

Educational Institution/Educational Programs

Water 2 All

The Water 2 All Program began in the South East Metropolitan Region in 2011 in partnership with Water 2 All and, due to its success, has expanded to other locations across Victoria. Offenders prepare nutritious packaged meals and label drink bottles, which are distributed to needy community members. The offenders learn to contribute to occupational health and safety processes,

implement food safety procedures and operate a production process. The program provides them with the option of completing a Certificate III in Food Processing and Food Handling qualifications and, on completion of the program, they can undertake a Certificate III in Warehousing and Logistics. Such qualifications will assist the offenders with securing future employment. During each program,

offenders pack and distribute over 1,240 bottles of water and package approximately 1,113 meals and contribute 3,000 hours of community work.

"This is an innovative project and social enterprise that supports and gives back to the community through the creation of food and meals for people in difficult situations, including people escaping from family violence."

Karenza Louis-Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Community Support Organisation Limited



Offenders learn new skills such as cooking in the kitchen. Their tasks range from preparing to packaging meals for those in need, including people affected by family violence.

4: Jennifer Cameron Award for Environmental Sustainability Projects

This award acknowledges the work offenders or prisoners do in partnership with the community and other agencies to create a positive impact on our environment. The award is dedicated to Jennifer Cameron for her 15 years' service in Corrections Victoria as an environmental champion. Jennifer made a significant contribution fostering environmental sustainability solutions and reducing our carbon footprint across prisons and community correctional services. Her work also raised the profile of environmental sustainability at the department and increased awareness both within the organisation and among offenders, prisoners and communities.

Environmental Sustainability in the West Program

With an increased focus on improving the environment across the Western Metropolitan Region, the West Metropolitan Region Community Work Team has developed a range of offender programs with various partner agencies. The Greening the West Program involves offenders in planting and watering new trees in local parks. Since 2014, 15,000 trees have been planted and they aim to plant one million new trees across six local council areas.

The Recycle Reuse Donate Woodwork Program provides offenders with carpentry skills, taking donated pallets to create furniture items which are then donated to disadvantaged areas or groups. Another innovation is the introduction of a female offender-only woodwork program. Other landcare programs include partnerships with local councils and it has been estimated that 468 cubic metres of litter has been collected in only one year in the Wyndham area alone.

"This program had a breadth of environmental initiatives and represented good stakeholder value."

Andrew Tenni, Chief Executive



Officer, Magistrates Court of Victoria

This picture depicts the planting of new trees along the Melton Creek bed, offenders must first prepare the area as shown in this picture.

Landmate Crew Fire Recovery Program

The Landmate Program was established through a partnership between the Langi Kal Kal Prison

and BlazeAid to assist with disaster recovery efforts following natural disasters. The Landmate teams assisted with the fire recovery after two significant bushfire events in 2015-16 in the Grampians Region.

The prisoners worked with over a dozen local landowners, providing fencing works and clean-up of the areas. Prisoners were required to repair or replace boundary fencing, use chainsaws, clean up debris and

Jennifer Cameron Award for Environmental Sustainability Projects

undertake other handyman activities. Providing prisoners with such significant work allows them to feel a sense of achievement, and enables them to give back to the community, along with developing work skills and working alongside members of the community. The program provides vital property fencing, benefiting the landowners, vegetation and waterways.

"This very new alliance created safety to property and livestock

by repairing and replacing affected boundary fences. Further, it expedited the cleaning up process. Offenders involved in this project detailed a palpable sense of pride in their work, particularly

appreciating the team work approach."
Bernadette McCartney,
Executive Manager –
Community Support, Bethany
Community Support



After the fires, prisoners assisted in rebuilding a new fence, carried out to professional standards.

Limeburners Historical Site of Interest Project

The program commenced in 2015 with the City of Greater Geelong and Barwon South West Region Community Correctional Services as an opportunity for offenders to upgrade and maintain the heritage-listed site, at Limeburners Point. The project has seen the planting of 800 trees and ground coverings, and restored the site through litter collection, weed removal and mulching. This has prevented soil erosion, increasing the sustainability of the habitat of the local threatened birdlife. The offenders learn to

take pride in their work, and gain important skills such as teamwork, following instructions, gardening and horticulture. These skills will assist them with future employment. The work completed by the offenders featured in an article in the City of Greater Geelong's Good News Stories, recognising the involvement of

Corrections Victoria and the improvements to the area.

"This work has transformed this site and made it an attractive destination for locals and visitors to the area for a range of recreational activities. This work has also encouraged the return of wildlife to the area including the orange bellied parrot - a threatened species."
Cynthia Marwood, Chief
Executive Officer, Sentencing
Advisory Council



Example of the quality work completed by offenders planting native plants at Limeburners Point Boat Harbour.

Jennifer Cameron Award for Environmental Sustainability Projects

Parklands Project

The partnership between Hume Region Community Correctional Services and Parklands Albury Wodonga commenced in 1999, and has been critical in assisting Parklands to achieve significant environmental improvements in a series of threatened species

conservation reserves. Offenders complete a variety of tasks, including fence installation and removal, nest box and reptile monitoring, planting of trees, shrubs and grasses, tree guard removal and repair, and brush cutting. In four years, over 15,000 trees and shrubs and 3,000 grasses have been planted, reducing carbon

emissions and providing nectar resources for threatened species. The partnership provides meaningful and inspiring work for the offenders, which promotes skill building and provides a sense of belonging and connection with the community. The program allows the offenders to improve their communication skills, and gain a range of new skills, increasing their ability to gain employment.



Offenders working at the Parklands Wodonga have been planting native grasses to stop erosion.

"Providing broad community contribution while enhancing the offenders environmental knowledge."

Andrew Tenni, Chief Executive Officer, Magistrates Court of Victoria

Parks Victoria Green Team Program

This partnership between Parks Victoria and the South East Metropolitan Region was established in 2009, and the first Koori Work Team commenced at Lysterfield Park in 2010. Up to 11 offenders complete tasks including tree pruning, installing post and gate maintenance, trail clearing, litter pick up, and painting, one day per

week. Accreditation in fencing and construction is offered to offenders through the Holmesglen Institute of TAFE. This year 5,000 hours of community work has been completed at various locations. The program provides purposeful work for the offenders, allowing them to develop a sense of pride in their workmanship. In 2012, a new mountain bike trail was established for approximately 400,000

riders to use. To date, 22,000 trees and shrubs have been planted at Cardinia Creek Parklands and 6,000 trees at the Dandenong Police Paddocks.

Jennifer Cameron Award for Environmental Sustainability Projects

"An innovative project in which the South East Metropolitan Region's Koori offenders conduct extensive environmental works at Lysterfield Park, Police Paddocks, Churchill National Park and Cardinia Creek Parklands with broad community benefits."

Dr Julie Rudner, Senior Lecturer, Community Planning and Development, La Trobe University



Parks Victoria Green Team Program

Offenders engaged in training at the Yarra View Nursery where the seedlings are grown for the Churchill Park Tree Planting project.

Parks Victoria Project

The Loddon Mallee Region Community Work Team in partnership with Parks Victoria aims to ensure the parks in the region remain beautiful and continue to attract visitors. Up to 10 offenders are allocated one day a fortnight to complete tasks including rubbish removal, weed eradication, painting picnic benches and mowing lawns. The program creates environmental awareness among the offenders, and increases their skill base, preparing them for similar employment opportunities. The project has increased benefits for the environment, with a reduction in waste and a more sustainable

environment for the flora and fauna.

Since commencement in 2015, the community work team has treated over 160 hectares of infested bush land, saved and maintained over 500 individual plants and rare species, reduced the number of illegal dumps, and removed over two

tonnes of waste.

"Through this partnership the Community Work Team has improved their environmental knowledge, contributed to community safety and improved the health of bushland in the region."

Dr Julie Rudner, Senior Lecturer, Community Planning and Development, La Trobe University



Rangers and Community Work Team working side by side and making a significant positive difference to the national park.

Jennifer Cameron Award for Environmental Sustainability Projects

Sew to Work Program

The Sew to Work Program was established through the Dallas Neighbourhood House to create a program to benefit the environment, the community and the offenders. Commencing as a women's only program, it soon became open to men. They are given the task of making re-usable shopping bags which are then donated back into the community,

designed for prolonged use. Offenders from the North Metropolitan Region learn to operate a sewing machine and how to mend and sew new clothes. They design labels on a computer, screen print onto bags and are educated about the impact that plastic bags have on the environment. At the end of the program each participant receives a certificate of participation and skills in

teamwork and problem-solving. The skills they learn will assist offenders in their personal lives, and provide future employment options.

"This program (although small and developing) is creating a very clear and tangible impact on the community. Great use of empathy and respect of offenders."

Bernadette McCartney,
Executive Manager,
Community Support, Bethany
Community Support



Two offenders participating in the Sew to Work Program, taking on the role of mentor and mentoree.

Upcycled & Art Program

The Upcycled & Art Program was developed from the Hume Region's 'Wood Recycle It' and 'On Ya Bike' programs. Community Correctional Services offenders source re-usable items from waste transfer stations and community work sites, which are salvaged and incorporated

into their artworks. Upcycling minimises discarded materials and waste going to landfill, reducing the amount of CO₂ emissions and greenhouse gases. The program provides skills to the offenders in construction, welding, teamwork, design, planning, recycling, and the environment. The program encourages the offenders to connect with their local communities,

seek employment opportunities and provides them with a feeling of accomplishment. The program donates items to their partner Teen Challenge Thrift Shop, which raises funds to support their rehabilitation program. To date, over \$1,000 has been raised through the sale of items made by the offenders.

Jennifer Cameron Award for Environmental Sustainability Projects

"This program reduces the volume of discarded materials going into landfill and gives offenders the opportunity to gain a range of design, carpentry and welding skills. The restored bicycles and the artwork are offered for sale at the Thrift Store. The money raised by the Thrift Store through the sale of these products is used to support the Teen Challenge Rehabilitation Centre in Kyabram."
Cynthia Marwood, Chief Executive Officer, Sentencing Advisory Council



Upcycled & Art Program

Offender using scrap items to produce a coffee table.

Winton Wetlands

The partnership with the Winton Wetlands Committee of Management and Beechworth Correctional Centre has been ongoing since January 2016. A team of prisoners undertakes tasks such as tree planting, installation and maintenance of tree guards, watering, fencing, road repairs, rabbit control, painting, weed and erosion control. The program enables the prisoners to develop a work ethic, meet timelines, and develop skills in bush regeneration, construction, carpentry, gardening and landscaping and painting. The prisoners learn about the environment while at

the same time providing a service which benefits the local community. The team watered 16,000 trees over the summer period and collected approximately 2,000 tree guards and stakes for reuse in new plantings. The work provided by the team has significantly improved the aesthetic appearance throughout the reserve, benefiting the wetlands and allowing members of the

community to enjoy the area.

"It has offered exposure to a diversity of skills that have included bush regeneration, carpentry, landscaping, painting and environmental pest control. It is a terrific example of collaboration between the Winton Wetlands Committee of Management, Landmate and Beechworth Community Corrections."
Bernadette McCartney, Executive Manager – Community Support, Bethany Community Support



Showcases the completed planting task conducted by the Beechworth Correctional Centre's Landmate teams.

5: Projects Involving Diversity, Indigenous, or Age of Offenders or Prisoners

An award acknowledging projects which, within the structure of the activity, specifically recognise minority groups in the offender or prisoner population, including those who are Aboriginal, young or aged, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), have a disability, are young or female.

Aboriginal Centre for Males Project

The Aboriginal Centre for Males has been operating since July 2011 in partnership with Reservoir Community Correctional Services. The aim is to improve local justice outcomes and increase community safety through place-based approaches to crime and violence. Offenders provide general maintenance of the centre, and assist with the swag packs, which are offered to those who are unable to find stable and suitable accommodation. Offenders are able to assist other people, providing them with an opportunity to give back to the community. Since the commencement of the program, 1,072 hours of community work

has been completed. The program allows the offenders to build relationships with members of staff and the community, as well as to receive support from professionals. Offenders participate in work they can take pride in, and learn to take ownership of their actions, develop a work ethic and make

reparation for their behaviour.

"Overall a very worthwhile project that takes a gendered and culturally appropriate approach to supporting male offenders in their community. A highlight of this program is the sense of pride that the work instils in participants."

Vicki Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, Melbourne City Mission



Josh Wanganeen, Centre Manager and Djaran Whyman, Case Manager at the front of the Aboriginal Centre for Males.

Bantick House Club Connection Project

Beechworth Health Service, in partnership with Beechworth Correctional Centre, developed the Bantick

House Club Connection project five years ago to assist the elderly in the community who were at risk of social isolation. The prisoners are of the older cohort, and work as volunteers and participate in activities

such as playing games, gardening, craft and meal preparation with the elderly participants. The program provides prisoners with an opportunity to give back to the community, while at the same time

Projects Involving Diversity, Indigenous, or Age of Offenders or Prisoners

developing social skills which will assist them on their release. The partnership greatly benefits the Bantick House Club Connection and the prisoners' involvement ensures that the program will continue to run. The elderly

participants also benefit, as they are able to spend time with others and establish friendships. Many of the prisoners report that they wish to return in a voluntary capacity following their release from prison.

"The prison is very much part of the community and contributes and gives back in a really powerful way. An amazing and innovative project."

Karenza Louis-Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Community Support Organisation Inc. (ACSO)



Two offenders and two clients of Club Connections socialising while gardening together.

Craft for a Cause Program

In partnership with North Shepparton Community and Learning Centre and Hume Region Community Correctional Services, the Craft for a Cause Program caters specifically for female offenders. Since 2011, they have made and donated 4,174 items to local charities and groups, including hospitals, aged care facilities, youth services, childcare centres, Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police.

The program provides on opportunity for offenders to learn new

skills and enables them to experience healthy relationships and form friendships with others, which has seen a significant positive change in the offenders' confidence and attitudes. The program offers the offenders an opportunity to give back to the community, in donating such large numbers of items to local charities,

and to those in need in their local community. The offenders not only learn new skills, but they are also able to pass those skills on to their children.

"Great community support and engagement while supporting women to re-build and change their lives."

Karenza Louis-Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Community Support Organisation Inc. (ACSO)



Offenders working alongside volunteers knitting craft items.

Projects Involving Diversity, Indigenous, or Age of Offenders or Prisoners

Healthy Pears – Healthy Body Healthy Mind Program

The Healthy Pears Program was established in October 2015 in partnership between Jesuit Community College, Frankston North Community House and the South East Metropolitan Region Community Work Program. This female-specific program entailed completing a set of A to Z cards about healthy and nutritional eating. The cards feature text and drawings promoting the benefits of healthy eating to children, and were donated to local schools.

The offenders were able to complete the Healthy Body Healthy Mind program, held in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence. The women cooked nutritious meals, which were donated to those in need in the local community. Food safety qualifications are offered and, upon attainment,

the offenders can gain employment as café attendants and kitchen hands. The two programs have provided 1,000 community work hours.

“Linking with the local community and schools is a key feature of this program.”
Shiela Byard OAM, Past President, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc



Female offenders eager to turn up and learn new skills which has made the program a success for everyone involved.

Indigenous Cultural Garden Project

The Cultural Garden was a joint project between Barwon Prison, Geelong Community Correctional Services and Box Hill Institute. The project commenced in December 2015 and was completed in July 2016. It aimed to enhance the prison entrance and strengthen the commitment to cultural spaces for visitors.

Totems have been designed and painted by Aboriginal prisoners and placed in the garden. The Aboriginal prisoners are empowered to tell their stories, reconnect with, and raise awareness of their Aboriginal culture. The garden provides a recognised cultural space, giving visitors an opportunity to engage with the Indigenous culture.

The project provides prisoners and offenders with meaningful work, as well as helping

to strengthen and reconnect with Aboriginal culture, with offenders working towards gaining a Certificate I and II in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts.

“Fosters a feeling of belonging and reconnection to culture.”
Rachel Porter, National General Manager, Whitelion

Projects Involving Diversity, Indigenous, or Age of Offenders or Prisoners

Indigenous Cultural Garden Project

Corrections Commissioner Jan Shuard with Brett Ryan, General Manager, Barwon Prison and Uncle Dave Tounier, Elder, Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative at the opening of the Indigenous Cultural Garden at Barwon Prison.



Koori Community Hub Project

A partnership was established between the West Metropolitan Region Community Work Team and Victoria University in 2013 to create more accessible Indigenous services in the western suburbs of Melbourne. Offenders restore and transform spaces to create Koori Community Hubs. Activities include basic construction, landscaping and grounds

maintenance. The Hubs also provide a space for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members to engage in Indigenous specific services, in a culturally safe environment. By establishing these areas, the offenders feel a sense of accomplishment and gain skills, helping them to transition back into the community. Numerous programs, including an Aboriginal Men's and Children's

Parenting Program, have functioned out of the Hubs. Since the partnership commenced, a total of 7,986 hours of work has been completed by the offenders, benefiting both offenders and members of the Aboriginal communities.

"Smart thinking – cultural influences on a specific group of men. Clever outcome."
Sandy Dudakov OAM, Vice President, FareShare



Field Officer Dejan Rakic and an offender contracted for the removal of some discarded material in the fire break.

Projects Involving Diversity, Indigenous, or Age of Offenders or Prisoners

Rumbalara Baitja and Tiddas Mentoring Program

This partnership between Community Correctional Services and Rumbalara Aboriginal Corporation began in 2002. The partnership aims to assist in the rehabilitation of offenders by promoting culture and community inclusion.

The Tiddas Mentoring Program provides support and education to promote healthy lifestyles and relationships for female offenders. They are taught skills such as art, craft, sewing, knitting, cooking, and health education. The Tiddas program has established a community kitchen

and food bank service, where the offenders cook healthy meals which are distributed to members of the community.

In the Baitja Mentoring Program, male offenders create cultural native gardens and make traditional artefacts, which are displayed at the Rumbalara Co-Op. Offenders have also created a vegetable

garden for the Elders at the Rumbalara Aged Care Facility.

To date, almost 10,000 hours of community work has been completed.

"Programs provided for both male and female offenders, connecting them to their culture."

Shiela Byard OAM, Past President, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc



One of the many skills learnt by the offenders is the chopping and preparation of healthy foods.

Shine of Warrnambool Project

A partnership between Western District Employment Access, Steam and Clean and Barwon South West Region Community Correctional Services was established three years ago, and is now recognised as one of the strongest and most reliable community work sites in the region.

The offenders complete tasks such as car detailing, cleaning, polishing, vacuuming and polishing vehicles. The program allows offenders to gain new skills, be responsible and accountable and learn to show initiative, as well as gaining a sense of pride in their work when they see a customer collect their car. The Steam and Clean program supports people with disabilities, including a number of staff, which

provides offenders with an opportunity to work alongside these people and gain an insight into living with a disability. Offenders learn how to work as part of a team, assisting them with their future employment opportunities.

"Innovative and practical – opportunities are provided that will help with future employment and reconnection to the community."

Rachel Porter, National General Manager, Whitelion

Projects Involving Diversity, Indigenous, or Age of Offenders or Prisoners

Shine of Warrnambool Project

Offenders assist at Steam and Clean, cleaning, buffing and shining the cars parked in the sheds.



Waitangi Day at MRC Project

Members from the Victorian Maori Wardens help facilitate classes at the Metropolitan Remand Centre (MRC), which are held over a 8-10 week period, building up to New Zealand's National Day, "Waitangi Day." The annual Waitangi Day program has been held since 2011.

In these classes the prisoners are taught the Maori language, recite prayers, sing songs and learn the meaning of the traditional Maori Haka. Maori Elders oversee each class, which enables the prisoners to pay respect and listen to their Elders, who teach them how to better value themselves and their families upon release. The work from the Maori

language classes in celebrating Waitangi Day helps the prisoners to retain their new-found knowledge of the Maori culture and to share their experiences on release with Maori and Pacific Islander youths at risk.

"This is an amazing project, wonderful that the prisoners have asked for it."

Karenza Louis-Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Community Support Organisation Inc. (ACSO)



Prisoners performing the traditional "Maori Haka".

6: Supervisor Award

An award recognising excellence and continued commitment by a person or team of people not employed as Corrections Victoria staff, who have supervised offenders or prisoners performing community work for at least six months in the last two financial years (1 July 2014 - 30 July 2016). This may include a paid contractor operating as a supervisor demonstrating exceptional performance.

Gwen Jarvis – Sit and Knit Program

Gwen began volunteering as supervisor for the Sit and Knit Program in April 2014 at the Ballarat Justice Service Centre. Gwen oversees offenders making items such as blankets, scarves, beanies, jumpers and toys, which are donated to the 'Operation Cover-Up' program for underprivileged families. Gwen creates a welcoming atmosphere and encourages the offenders to respect one another, fostering a sense of comradeship among the female offenders. As a role model, Gwen

develops social skills, work ethic, respect, listening and other communication skills. Through Gwen's mentoring, two of the participants in the Sit and Knit team have gone on to act in a voluntary capacity supervising and mentoring another group of female offenders making quilts. With the assistance of these volunteers, the need for oversight from the community work team was significantly reduced and resulted in increased team productivity.

"Promotes culture of learning free from judgement. Gwen is amazing and patient with an understanding of women's issues and risks to reoffending."



Kayla Ta, Manager, IAP and Quality Services, Women's Housing

This picture depicts Gwen Jarvis with a hand-sewn quilt completed by offenders within the group at Ballarat Justice Service Centre.

Heather Loader - Lentara Uniting Church Project

Heather has been the lead supervisor at the Lentara Uniting Church for six and a half years. Heather works with the Judy Lazurus Transition Centre prisoners, assessing their skill

sets and allocating appropriate tasks to each of them. Heather teaches the prisoners real life skills, such as the current cost of living and how to act and behave in the community, all of which will benefit them in transition and post-release. Heather demonstrates non-

judgemental behaviour that allows the residents to build their confidence and self-esteem. Heather has a strong focus on occupational health and safety protocols, and teaches residents how to use specific tools and the importance of OH&S in a paid workplace. Further, Heather has successfully

Supervisor Award

formed relationships with real estate agents to ensure residents are able to obtain stable and secure accommodation upon release.

"Believes everyone has a chance to move on. Creates a welcoming and non-judgemental environment."
Kayla Ta, Manager, IAP and Quality Services, Women's Housing Ltd



Heather Loader, Lead Supervisor, Lentara Uniting Care standing in front of a project completed by the volunteers.

Jan Brearley - Kalkee Korner Op Shop Project

Jan commenced her role as Voluntary Manager at Kalkee Korner in 2009. Jan makes the offenders who work at the opportunity shop feel welcome and demonstrates a level of trust when leaving offenders to work as individuals. Jan helps the offenders to build self-confidence and believe in their self-worth. Jan matches offenders with work that most interests them, so that the offenders are more productive, co-operative and happy with their achievements.

Profits from the Op Shop go to various local aged care facilities and have supported the purchase of a bus for "Nangatta," an aged care home in Belmont. Jan encourages the offenders to seek employment after completion of their community work

hours, and a number of offenders have continued to volunteer at the Kalkee Korner Op Shop after they have completed their community work hours.

"Loves working with people and encourages offenders to seek employment."
Trieu Huynh, Program Manager - Indictable Crime, Victoria Legal Aid



Jan Brearley, Manager, Kalkee Korner Shoppe can often be found at the entrance greeting customers.

Supervisor Award

Laurie Kennedy - Moira Miniature Railway Group Project

Laurie has supervised offenders completing 320 hours of community work since a partnership was established with the Wunghnu Recreation Reserve. Laurie is working towards building a permanent miniature railway for the Wunghnu community, and assist in revitalising tourism since the town was devastated by flood and fire over the last few years. Laurie engages the offenders in completing job safety analysis and safe operating procedures, and

identifying potential risks. He encourages offenders to take pride in their work, and promotes a team-based working environment and, through his education style of guidance, enables offenders to participate in leadership, decision-making, land management, conservation and maintenance of infrastructure. Laurie's encouragement and praise helps offenders to develop a sense of self-worth and the skills he has taught the offenders have assisted them in re-entering employment.

"His style of education; including his passion, enthusiasm and skills, has

resulted in some offenders volunteering after completing their community service work."
Merv Ericson, Past District Governor 2013-14, Rotary District 9810



Laurie Kennedy proudly displaying his Regional Awards Day award.

Mick Turner - The heart of Hamilton Harness Program

Instrumental to the success of the Hamilton Harness Racing Club is caretaker and manager, Mick Turner, who is passionate about serving the community and rebuilding the self-esteem of offenders who work at the program. He works closely with offenders of all ages, who complete a range of maintenance and

gardening projects at the club. Mick has a high level of community involvement and regularly speaks at Rotary meetings about the work the offenders are completing. The Hamilton Harness Racing Club was nominated for seven awards in the 2015 Gordon Rothacker Medal. Mick emphasised that these achievements could not have been possible without the hard work of the community work team.

It is Mick's vision to one day build a children's playground, car park, water feature and a communal barbeque area at the club.

"Committed to individuals and giving his time and support to offenders."
Christine Fuller, Chief Nursing Officer, Correct Care Australasia

Supervisor Award

This picture depicts the Harness Racing Club regular meetings and the maintenance of the grounds and painting of front entrance is completed by program participants and always to a high standard.



Nathalie Tolbize - Healthy Pears Program

Nathalie travels for five hours every Friday to supervise and support women involved in the Healthy Pears Community Work Program. Under her supervision and creativity, offenders produce valuable literacy and learning resources about the benefits of healthy eating. Nathalie has worked hard to gain the trust and engagement of the women, while at the same time also improving their confidence and self-esteem. She upholds a desire to challenge herself and to find better ways to make the women

feel comfortable. Nathalie has built rapport, respect and trust with the women to ensure that their attendance rate is high. To date, 18 women have completed Certificate 1 in General Education for Adults as part of the program. Nathalie has been instrumental in extending the Healthy Pears Community Work Program model to other regions.

"Absolute commitment; raises awareness of social issues. Respects offenders and treats them as individuals."

Christine Fuller, Chief Nursing Officer, Correct Care Australasia



Nathalie Tolbize, Healthy Pears Trainer, Jesuit Community College talking to offenders and guests on graduation day.

Supervisor Award

Strutts Psyridis - Fix A Cycle Program

Since September 2014, Strutts has played an important role in the Western Metropolitan Region community work program, Fix the Cycle. The program involves young male offenders aged between 18 and 25 refurbishing old bicycles for underprivileged community members. The program also provides offenders with an opportunity to learn new skills while giving

back to their community. Strutts has a keen interest in providing a safe and enjoyable teaching environment for the offenders and strives to promote self-confidence by actively engaging with them. Offenders have stated that they are very appreciative of his patience. He has been instrumental in creating a bicycle mechanics and maintenance demonstration video for new offenders being inducted at the site.

To date, the program has donated over 300 bicycles and the attendance rate for the program is over 80 per cent.

“Builds self-confidence in offenders while maintaining a professional approach as a trainer.”

Christine Fuller, Chief Nursing Officer, Correct Care Australasia



Strutts Psyridis, Jesuit Community College provides opportunities for offenders to learn about the mechanics of refurbishing bicycles.

7: Field Officer or other Staff Member Award

An award recognising individual Corrections Victoria staff, staff at a location or prison, or staff within a region, who showed outstanding achievement in community work initiatives and in fostering community work partnerships in the community. This award is named after the late Peter Lindsay, as a tribute to his achievements as a staff member actively working in the community.

Andrew Vassiliou, Barwon South West Region

Commencing his role as Field Officer with Geelong Community Correctional Services in October 2015, Andrew has worked hard to build and maintain partnerships with community organisations and offenders. Andrew is always willing to go out of his way to help others and to ensure the quality of work being delivered. Partners have been so impressed with Andrew's professionalism and commitment to the program that he has

received offers to work for them directly. Recently, Andrew has undertaken a new initiative with the Greenway Project, which involves offenders working along bike tracks on the Ring Road in Geelong to beautify the area. Andrew has worked hard with the City of Greater Geelong to establish and maintain the project. Andrew demonstrates a high level of commitment to all aspects of his work and is a highly-valued team member.

"Appears to be an active, hardworking person who



contributes to the community. He has been dedicated and has good rapport."

Andrew Tenni, Chief Executive Officer, Magistrates Court of Victoria

This picture depicts Andrew Vassiliou, Field Officer at Geelong CCS.

Douglas Bowler, South East Metropolitan Region

Douglas has been a Field Officer for the South East Metropolitan Region Community Work Team since 2013 and became a Leading Field Officer in 2015. Due to his vast vocational experience, Douglas has been able to foster

strong partnerships with community organisations and offenders. Douglas says "he loves the feeling of satisfaction at the end of a day's work and enjoys the challenge of working with offenders and assisting them with their transition back into the community". Douglas mentors both offenders and less experienced Field Officers and staff and has been pivotal in the

region's Field Officer recruitment process. Douglas has been central to the success of the Graffiti Removal Program in the region, the garden renewal program at the Rosebud Community Gardens, the Alannah and Madeleine Friendship Seat Program and the Housing Assistance Program.

Field Officer or other Staff Member Award

"Doug understands how important it is to continue to engage in community partnerships. He is well regarded by managers, colleagues and offenders."

Bernadette McCartney,
Executive Manager,
Community Support, Bethany
Community Support

This picture depicts Doug Bowler, Lead Field Officer always having a smile on his face and making everyone feel happy.



Stephen Cadman, West Metropolitan Region

Starting as a student placement in 2004, Stephen is now the Regional Community Work Program Manager for the West Metropolitan Region. Stephen has worked hard to create and sustain a number of community partnerships and programs. In 2013, he initiated the Hospital Gowns for Kids Program, which has donated 250 children's hospital gowns to the Western Health Sunshine Hospital. He was also instrumental in developing a women-specific program as part of the Recycle Reuse Donate Woodwork Program, to balance gender inequality in offender programs. The Fix the Cycle project began as a 12-week project in 2012 and is now a continuing program

that has received state-wide recognition. In fostering new partnerships, Stephen researches their action plans, mission statements and organisational goals as a key way of assessing the role of Community Correctional Services in achieving their objectives.

"Stephen is a man on a mission; to link community work teams in West Metro Region with the fabric of the West."
Cynthia Marwood, Chief Executive Officer, Sentencing Advisory Council



Stephen Cadman, Regional Community Work Program Manager personally handing out donated completed bicycles.

Field Officer or other Staff Member Award

Terry Smith, Hume Region

Terry has been a Field Officer with the Hume Region since 2011 and has assisted thousands of offenders to complete their community work. In his role, Terry continues to exceed standards in all areas and encourages the same in others. He demonstrates a high level of skill in all areas of trade, design and environmental aspects in projects. Terry has been the driving force behind the region's recycling programs, which have raised over \$1,000 for the Drug Rehabilitation Centre Teen Challenge in Kyabram. He is well respected and known within the Hume Region because of his care, compassion and advocacy of those in need.

Since Terry has been part of the Hume Region Community Work Team, attendance rates have significantly improved and there has also been an increase in the level of positive feedback from the community.

"Terry has improved the Hume community's understanding of the community work programs. He is committed to building a network of partners throughout the community."

Cynthia Marwood, Chief Executive Officer, Sentencing Advisory Council



Terry Smith proudly displaying one of the many artwork pieces made from recycled materials at the Wangaratta Community Work Shed.

8: Most Outstanding Location Based Project (CCS Location and Prison)

An award recognising projects to the benefit of the community, with a defined community partner, conducted at a Community Correctional Services location and Prison during the last two financial years (1 July 2014 - 30 June 2016).

GEST and In-House Community Work Program, Morwell Community Correctional Services

In partnership with Australia Post and Gippsland Employment Services Training (GEST), offenders from Morwell Community Correctional Services are involved in unpicking logos from unused uniforms. The clothing is then donated to GEST to provide disadvantaged men and women with suitable attire to attend job interviews or when returning to the workforce. Morwell CCS was provided with the brand

new uniforms by Australia Post due to a printing error. The items ranged from tailored suits for men and women, shirts, socks, shorts and skirts and jumpers. The program is completed as part of the Morwell CCS 'In-House Light Duties Program' for offenders who have medical or other restrictions. The partnership

assists offenders with rehabilitation and develops employability skills such as sewing and mending. The program commenced in 2014 and is a continuing program.

"Offenders benefit – opportunity to do unpaid community work while benefitting the community."
Ann Goodman, Manager, Contracted Delivery, Enterprise Delivery, Box Hill Institute



Clothing prepared by CCS ready for donation.

Koori Art Trail Project, Langi Kal Kal Prison

Featured at Langi Kal Kal Prison, the Koori Art Trail is an artistic showcase designed by Koori prisoners to articulate cultural significance and

talent. In collaboration with the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative, the project has been used as a means of rehabilitation and self-expression for the prisoners. Eighteen artworks painted on large steel sheets have been

permanently mounted on cement boards throughout the prison. Koori prisoners have been involved in all aspects of the project, including creating the artwork and construction of the trail. All of the artworks have meanings attached to them, be it a personal

Most Outstanding Location Based Project (CCS Location and Prison)

journey for the artist, or symbolic meanings from their own tribes. The project has increased the visual aesthetics of the prison and adds interest and colour for visitors, prisoners and staff alike.

"Smart thinking – cultural influences on a specific group of men. Clever outcome."
Sandy Dudakov OAM, Vice President, FareShare



Koori Art piece mounted at the front entrance of the Administration Building.

Maroona War Memorial Project, Hopkins Correctional Centre

In collaboration with the Maroona War Memorial Committee, the Hopkins Correctional Centre's Landmate Crew has been integral to the construction of a permanent memorial for World War I and World War II servicemen and women.

Up to eight prisoners and two staff were involved in the planning and labour for the project. The prisoners removed existing fencing and trees and helped clear the designated site. They also marked the footings and trenches using shovels, crowbars and picks, giving them an insight into some of the tasks

completed by the armed forces. The project provided the prisoners with construction, chainsaw and fencing skills, while working as a team enhanced their interpersonal skills. With help from the community in putting the granite memorial slabs in place, the unveiling

ceremony for the memorial took place in November 2015.

"For a small community this partnership/acceptance is probably more important than just this project. Appears all participants in this project both enjoyed and gained something."

Sandy Dudakov OAM, Vice President, FareShare



Maroona War Memorial Committee supporting the opening ceremony on 16 November 2014.

Most Outstanding Location Based Project (CCS Location and Prison)

Melton Specialist School Trailer Project, Metropolitan Remand Centre

After being contacted by the Melton Specialist School in April 2015, prisoners from the Metropolitan Remand Centre (MRC) helped to manufacture a purpose-built bike trailer for the

school's students. The prisoners were involved in all aspects of the project, including creating a design, cleaning and repairing recycled parts and constructing the final product. The trailer was built to carry 12 mountain bikes for the school's excursions, as well as extra room for accessories, such as

helmets. In completing the project, the prisoners gained knowledge about welding and metal fabrication and also received training about the correct tools, equipment and machinery to use. The trailer took four months to complete and enabled students from the school to be more integrated into the community while also improving their fine and gross motor skills.

"This project achieved its goal. By reusing 'old' trailer parts an initiative of MRC kept cost to nil for the recipient."
Sandy Dudakov OAM, Vice President, FareShare



OH&S compliant trailer which can transport 12 bikes and was handed over to the school.

Quilting Angel Memory Quilts Program, Dame Phyllis Frost Centre

In 2014, Prison Officer Ruth Mundy approached the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre on behalf of the Night Owls Country Women's Association to seek assistance in making quilts for paediatric intensive care units. With support from the Centre, five sewing

machines were purchased for the Murray Protection Unit and ten women prisoners commenced making quilts from donated material. The quilts are 50 centimetres squared, and placed on cribs in the intensive care unit departments of hospitals for extremely unwell babies. They are also used as a cherished memory item for the parents of babies who have passed away, with some parents choosing

to bury their child in the quilt. Patchwork quilting has assisted the prisoners with their socialisation and sewing skills. To date, approximately 500 quilts have been made and supplied to families.

"This is a very emotional partnership, the challenges are enormous and it should be commended for overcoming these obstacles."
Nick Verginis, Acting Director, Criminal Law Policy, Department of Justice and Regulation

Most Outstanding Location Based Project (CCS Location and Prison)

Quilting Angel Memory Quilts Program

Completed quilt by the Melton Country Women's Association as part of the program.



Recycle, Reuse and Donate Woodwork Program, West Metropolitan Region

The West Metropolitan Community Work Team recently introduced the Recycle, Reuse and Donate Woodwork Program, which sees male

and female offenders creating wooden furniture from donated wooden pallets. The furniture is then donated to help disadvantaged community members. Operating two days a week, offenders learn how to pull apart the pallets safely and to reconstruct them into wooden items. Offenders on this program are

required to use a variety of tools such as drills, hammers, circular saws, mallets, wrecking bars and chisels. Offenders then paint and varnish the completed items to provide a good quality final product.

In partnership with Jesuit Community College, offenders also complete a Certificate I in General Education. Commencing in 2015, over 3,000 hours of community work have been completed by offenders through the program to date.



The final stages of the creation of wooden barbecues that will be donated to local kindergartens.

"Demonstrated the community need, high level of community engagement, appropriate risk management and training plus clear career opportunities for offenders."

Nick Verginis, Acting Director, Criminal Law Policy, Department of Justice and Regulation

Most Outstanding Location Based Project (CCS Location and Prison)

The Basin Community Connections, South East Metropolitan Region

The Basin Community House and the South East Metropolitan Region Community Work Program have partnered together to run four programs for both male and female offenders. These programs focus on visual arts and provide pre-accreditation opportunities for offenders.

The four programs: Creative Crafty Sewing for Women, Creative Card Making for Women, Knitting for Kitty for Women, and Book Folding and Paper Crafts for Men all involve offenders using their creative skills to make items for donation to not-for-profit charities. The Basin Community House has worked hard to establish partnerships

with local businesses and organisations for donations of materials for the programs.

Commencing in 2015, the partnership between The Basin Community House and the South East Metropolitan Region is now expected to continue to develop and grow into 2017, due to its current success.

"Shows a comprehensive approach to needs in the local area; great rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities."

Nick Verginis, Acting Director, Criminal Law Policy, Department of Justice and Regulation



High quality work being completed by the women. They are eager to learn new skills and to make a positive contribution to the community.

9: Best Ongoing Partnership

An award recognising partnerships that have operated successfully for over 12 months as at 30 June 2016 and continue to deliver positive outcomes for either group, or individual offender/prisoner placements for community work.

Alannah and Madeline Friendship Seat Project, South East Metropolitan Region

The partnership between the Department of Justice and Regulation and the Alannah and Madeline Foundation was established in 2012, giving prisoners and offenders an opportunity to play a major role in reducing bullying in schools. Friendship Seats are a way for students who feel lonely to make friends in the playground. By sitting on the seat, teachers and other students are alerted that they would like to be included. The project led from the South East Metropolitan Region Community

Work Program office involves prisoners from Marngoneet Correctional Centre assembling and building Friendship Seats and offenders in the South East Metropolitan Region installing them. Offenders and prisoners have completed over 1,500 hours of work, building and installing 150 seats. This project gives both

prisoners and offenders an opportunity to participate in an initiative to reduce bullying in schools.

"This is a wonderful initiative which aids prisoners' rehabilitation while also raising awareness of children and schools of the negative consequences of bullying and violence."

Andrew Balaam, Chairman, St Laurence Housing Ltd



Offenders working as a team to get the job done, taking pride in installing the friendship seat at a primary school.

Beechworth Football and Netball Club, Beechworth Correctional Centre

In 2014, Beechworth Football Club partnered

with Beechworth Correctional Centre to seek players for the upcoming season in the Tallangatta and District Football League. Without this assistance it was likely that the Club may have to disband. The expectation of the

program was to provide assistance to the club to field two football teams and prepare prisoners for reintegration back into the community on release. Teamwork, taking direction and being provided feedback on their performance

Best Ongoing Partnership

also benefits prisoners preparing for release. Volunteers from the Club underwent security induction training in order to help transport and supervise the prisoners on training nights and game days.

The Club has since improved its performance, reaching the finals in 2015. Given the success of the program, prisoner player numbers were doubled from four to eight in 2016.

"This project played an important role in reinvigorating the local football club. Such a partnership serves as an excellent model for establishing strong connections between different types of people in our society."

Gauri Kapoor, Secretary/Public Officer, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc



Displaying the team spirit of both prisoners and community members playing together as a team without barriers.

Beechworth Men's Shed, Beechworth Correctional Centre

Prisoners from Beechworth Correctional Centre have been instrumental in assisting and working at the Beechworth Men's Shed. Most recently, they helped the Men's Shed construct a new workshop, and move and relocate tools and fittings from the old workshop. Due to the advanced age of many of the Men's Shed members and a lack of funds, the prison's

community work team has helped with tasks that are too heavy or difficult for the members. This has included moving and installing workbenches, collecting and delivering timber, as well as preparing and laying concrete pavers. The members also obtain satisfaction in seeing the prisoners enjoy being part of their group and interacting with them. The prisoners learn new skills which will benefit them upon release into the workforce and help them socially in reintegrating into the community.

"It is great to see an initiative where the main focus is on men supporting other men."

Gauri Kapoor, Secretary/Public Officer, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc



Reveals the extent of the work that was carried out by the prisoners under guidance. Six cubic metres of concrete was poured.

Best Ongoing Partnership

CFA Bushfire Prevention Work Team, Morwell Community Correctional Services

After the Black Saturday Bushfire struck the Gippsland community in 2009, claiming 145 houses and eleven lives, a partnership was established between the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Morwell Community Correctional Services.

Commencing in 2013, a Bushfire Prevention Work Team has included offenders assisting in fuel reduction clearing and burning. Offenders

have developed their skills in mowing, whipper snipping, raking and general clean up. The CFA provided training sessions for offenders about understanding bushfire prevention and community safety.

The work being completed by the Bushfire Prevention Work Team assists the CFA so that they can use their resources and volunteers

for other prioritised tasks. It also allows the CFA to prepare for the upcoming bushfire season and to reduce the risks of another bushfire starting in the areas where the teams have been active.

"The offenders benefited greatly from participating in the CFA's work in an environment where close teamwork was essential."

Gauri Kapoor, Secretary/Public Officer, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc



CFA volunteers in the middle of a burn off which is made possible by access points cleared and maintained by offenders.

Crossway Baptist Church Program, South East Metropolitan Region

In 2007, a partnership between South East Metropolitan Region Community Work Program and Crossway Baptist Church was established which sees offenders completing maintenance and garden work at the church on a daily basis.

Crossway Baptist Church is one of Australia's

largest Baptist churches, with its Sunday services catering for up to 3,900 people. It is situated on a six hectare property. The work undertaken by offenders includes gardening, landscaping, mowing, litter pick-up, general cleaning, building maintenance, administration work, room set-up for meetings and assistance in the café.

New offenders coming into the Crossway environment are assessed for their skill sets, and where possible

are matched with tasks that utilise their skills. Up to 17 offenders are involved in the program each week and a total of 5,046 hours of community work was completed last financial year.

"This is an outstanding program directly impacting on thousands of lives each week and providing the offenders the love which they need to help rehabilitate their lives."

Andrew Balaam, Chairman, St Laurence Housing Ltd

Best Ongoing Partnership



Shows how the site engages and brings the best out in each offender while they complete their unpaid community work hours, such as working in the Crossways kitchen.

Fix the Cycle Program, West Metropolitan Region

Male offenders, aged between 18 and 25, from the West Metropolitan Community Work Team are involved in refurbishing donated bicycles for disadvantaged community members. The partnership involves several community agencies such as Diabetes Victoria, Phoenix Youth Hub, Western Bulldogs Fresh Program, Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Youth Junction Inc., Jesuit Community College, Ted Cycles, Victoria Police, Brimbank City Council, Maribyrnong City Council and McAuley Refuge, as well as many more.

The program operates across two days and consists of up to 10 male offenders who engage in both theoretical and practical components. Once the theory component has been completed, offenders are assigned their own bicycle to restore. Having first commenced in 2012, the Fix the Cycle program has operated at an 83 per cent attendance

rate and 7,303 hours of work have been completed. 323 bicycles have been donated to disadvantaged communities to date.

"Growth of this program over the years is phenomenal, many benefit from the contribution made by the offenders. Group working so successfully together have achieved great outcomes all round."

Sister Mary O'Shannassy sgs JP, Director, Catholic Prison Ministry Victoria, Catholic Care



Community Work Officer takes a hands on approach in handing over the donated bikes as they also deliver a brief about bike safety.

Best Ongoing Partnership

Kinfolk Café Project, Judy Lazarus Transition Centre

As part of their community work program, prisoners from the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre (JLTC) volunteer at Kinfolk Café, a not-for-profit community café located in the Melbourne Central Business District. The partnership provides residents with an opportunity to develop and enhance their social and hospitality skills, which aids their employment options upon release from the centre.

While Kinfolk plays an important role in the residents' transitional process, they are also integral to the day-to-day functioning of the Café as it relies heavily on volunteers to keep operating. The residents participate in duties such as serving customers, providing water and cutlery to tables, explaining the menu to customers, taking orders, delivering food and drinks to tables, and clearing tables.

The partnership creates a safe environment for the residents and has been proven to be integral to their reintegration back into the community.

"This is a great initiative assisting charity, officers, social enterprise and the broader community."

Andrew Balaam, Chairman, St Laurence Housing Ltd



Lilly Morgan, Volunteer Coordinator and Jarrod Biffa, Kinfolk Founder the faces behind the café.

Lions Club Respite Centre, Loddon Mallee Region

Working in partnership with the Castlemaine Lions Club, the Loddon Mallee Region Community Work Team collects, splits and loads wood to sell and raise funds for the Lions Club Respite Centre. Given the advanced age of most of the Club's members, this is not a task that the club members could manage alone.

A team of six offenders works at the club grounds every Friday, and undertakes additional tasks such as gardening, mowing and assisting elderly and disabled people with physical work.

Club members and the offenders have established a good rapport and mutual trust with each other. The offenders gain a different social outlook on life, learn manual skills and also what it takes to sell quality wood. Many

offenders continue as volunteers once they have completed their community work hours. Since 2004, the Castlemaine Lions Club has raised over \$240,000 for the Respite Centre.

"This is an outstanding long-running program which has numerous benefits. Congratulations"

Andrew Balaam, Chairman, St Laurence Housing Ltd

Best Ongoing Partnership



Lions Club Respite Centre

Wood prior to splitting and loading.

Living Legends, Reservoir Community Correctional Services

The North Metropolitan Community Work Team in partnership with Living Legends assists with the ongoing maintenance of the Woodlands Historical Homestead and Park,

covering some 61 hectares. Living Legends took ownership of the homestead in 2006 and has carried out extensive renovations and new displays at the site, which is open 364 days a year, free of charge. Offenders help to maintain the historic homestead, cottage gardens, paddocks and fence lines, the horse

memorial garden, creek banks, walking paths and picnic areas.

Working at the site, offenders learn transferrable skills such as painting, woodworking, landscaping and general site maintenance and gain the confidence to pursue employment opportunities.

Due to the success of the partnership, new initiatives are underway including expansion of vegetable gardens and the establishment of a new workshop.



An offender working with the Field Officer in the vegetable garden, which then allows the site to utilise the vegetables.

"Offenders are afforded an opportunity to broaden their skills and discipline. They're equipped with key knowledge and education benefits them for the rest of their lives."

Gauri Kapoor, Secretary/Public Officer, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc

Best Ongoing Partnership

Mow & Go, Shepparton Community Correctional Services

The South Shepparton Community Centre and Shepparton Community Correctional Services have partnered on the Mow & Go program since 2010. The program involves offenders from the Hume Region Community Work Team providing gardening and lawn-mowing services to aged pensioners, carers and people on a disability support pension. Run on a weekly basis by referrals received by the South Shepparton Community Centre, the offenders complete

tasks such as lawn mowing, weeding, whipper snipping, raking and general garden maintenance. The offenders actively work with various community members who often play a mentoring role and share their garden knowledge with them. Over 800 hours of work has been completed since the program began. Due to its ongoing success, it is anticipated that Mow & Go will be expanded to many other municipalities in the Hume Region.

"A valuable contribution that greatly assists people in the local area especially the elderly and people with a disability."
Sister Mary O'Shannassy sgs JP, Director, Catholic Prison Ministry Victoria, Catholic Care



Offender assisting at South Shepparton Community House, while also learning a new skill - paving.

Social Inclusion Evenings Program

As part of Leadership Ballarat and Western Region's annual leadership program- Leaders Forum-Social Inclusion Evenings are run at Langi Kal Kal Prison to help participants gain a greater understanding of the complexities that prisoners face when re-integrating back into the community upon their release from custody.

The program gives Leaders Forum participants an opportunity to speak with six prisoners who articulate their personal challenges, fears and hopes for re-integration with their families, friends and local community. In preparation for the evening, the prisoners meet regularly in one-on-one sessions with program staff to discuss what they would like to present and how they would like to present on the night.

As a result of the evenings, Leaders Forum participants have offered their services to prisoners upon their release in areas such as resume preparation and employment information.

"This is a new and refreshing program thoughtfully created by Committee for Ballarat as part of their leadership program, enabling prisoners to voice their state of mind challenges. Congratulations for this initiative."
Andrew Balaam, Chairman, St Laurence Housing Ltd

Best Ongoing Partnership

Social Inclusion Evenings Program

Participants in the 2016 Leadership Ballarat and Western Region Social Inclusion Program.



Where there's a Will(derness), there's a way, Fulham Correctional Centre

Originally opened in 1973 as a youth camp for disadvantaged children and special needs groups, Licola Wilderness Village has provided rewarding and life-changing experiences for over 40,000 children. Between 2006 and 2007, Licola experienced severe floods and the Village was dormant for 16 months until a partnership with Fulham Correctional Centre was established in 2009. More than 165 prisoners have completed in

excess of 16,000 hours of community work in resurrecting the Village into a family adventure attraction for disabled and disadvantaged children and their families.

Prisoners have assisted in the refurbishment of 16 accommodation units, debris removal, erecting and painting fences, painting, working alongside tradespeople and Lions members,

garden maintenance and landscaping.

This program offered a wide range of transferrable employability and work skills for prisoners in preparation for their release.

"This project transformed a community devastated by natural disasters."

Gauri Kapoor, Secretary/Public Officer, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc



Completed product of hard work by the team with finished renovations on the entrance ramp, landscaping and fencing.

Winter Warmth Good Will Program, Tarrengower Prison

Since 2014, Tarrengower Prison, in partnership with the Salvation Army Castlemaine, has donated knitted clothing and toys to disadvantaged families

in the local community. The Winter Warmth Good Will Program involves women prisoners from Tarrengower Prison creating knitted woollen scarves, beanies, sewing

Best Ongoing Partnership

toys for children and crocheting blankets throughout the year. The annual donation is scheduled for July each year to ensure that disadvantaged people in the local community have direct access to free beanies, scarves and blankets at the coldest time of the year. Women participating in the program are able to present their items to the Salvation Army at the prison's Town Hall meeting. The women participating in the program experience a sense of pride due

to their contribution. It also has social benefits because the women generally knit together in their recreation time and mentor each other.

"Congratulations on a thoughtful program which aids the disadvantaged in the community and enhances the skills and confidence of the prisoners."

Andrew Balaam, Chairman, St Laurence Housing Ltd



Lieutenant Judy Shaw and Will Dodson, Community Supervisor, Tarrengower working together at the annual donation day of beanies, scarves, blankets and toys.

YMCA Docklands, Judy Lazarus Transition Centre

Prisoners from the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre (JLTC) take part in meaningful volunteering opportunities at YMCA Docklands as part of their community work program. The YMCA provides the residents with an opportunity to develop and enhance their customer service and fitness-related skills, increasing their employability skills upon release.

Residents are trained to complete a variety of tasks at YMCA Docklands, including health centre support,

answering telephones, personal training, fitness instruction, website building, administration tasks and motivational speaking. These tasks instil a sense of community connection and self-worth while also developing the residents' communication skills and work ethic.

After eight years of program operation, both JLTC residents and the

YMCA remain committed to the program which directly supports and embodies the Y's vision and contributes to JLTC's aim of assisting residents to build pro-social and connected lives to reduce their rate of reoffending.

"Mutually beneficial friendships have been established through this program."

Gauri Kapoor, Secretary/Public Officer, National Council of Women of Victoria Inc



Andrew Ward, Health Centre Manager is the face behind this community work site.

10: Best in Region

Introduced in the 2010 Community Work Partnership Awards, the Best in Region Award recognises the eight Department of Justice and Regulation regions. In the normal course of the judging process, each nomination receives points from the judges. In this category, all nominations received, no matter in which category, will be grouped according to their Department of Justice and Regulation region and the judging points allocated to each nomination aggregated to establish the highest score. The winner in each region will be so determined, resulting in eight winners, one for each region.

The Winners of Best in Region are listed on the Winners Postcard that is to be inserted into the back cover of this booklet, and details for each of these projects can be found earlier in this booklet.

Commissioner's Award

Introduced in the 2006, Community Work Partnership Awards, the Commissioner's Award recognises an outstanding partnership between a Prison or CCS location and a community agency or individual. The Commissioner, Corrections Victoria selects the recipient of this award from the winners of awards in categories 1 to 9.

The winning project for the Commissioner's Award is listed on the Winners Postcard that is to be inserted into the back cover of this booklet, and details for each of these projects can be found earlier in this booklet.

Contacts

Community Correctional Services and prison staff are available to discuss any queries regarding community work programs and can assist community groups to set up a community work site where offenders and prisoners can repay the community.

Contact details are available below.

Prison Contact List

Name	Location	Region	Telephone Number
Barwon Prison	Lara	Barwon South West	5220 8222
Beechworth Correctional Centre	Beechworth	Hume	5728 0055
Dame Phyllis Frost Centre	Deer Park	West Metropolitan	9217 8400
Dhurringile Prison	East Murchison	Hume	5824 8800
Fulham Correctional Centre	West Sale	Gippsland	5124 3800
Hopkins Correctional Centre	Ararat	Grampians	4309 3333
Judy Lazarus Transition Centre	West Melbourne	North Metropolitan	9320 7888
Langi Kal Kal Prison	Trawalla	Grampians	5349 4900
Loddon Prison	Castlemaine	Loddon Mallee	5471 1211
Marngoneet Correctional Centre	Lara	Barwon South West	5282 0600
Melbourne Assessment Prison	West Melbourne	North Metropolitan	9321 4111
Metropolitan Remand Centre	Ravenhall	West Metropolitan	9217 7777
Port Phillip Prison	Truganina	West Metropolitan	9217 7200
Tarrengower Prison	Maldon	Loddon Mallee	5479 8200

Community Correctional Services (CCS) Contact List

Region/Location	Position	Telephone Number
Barwon South West Region	Regional Community Work Program Manager	5564 1000
Gippsland Region	Regional Community Work Program Manager	5116 5706
Grampians Region	Regional Community Work Program Manager	4301 7030
Hume Region	Regional Community Work Program Manager	5858 7670
Loddon Mallee Region	Regional Community Work Program Manager	5440 6100
North Metropolitan Region	Regional Community Work Program Manager	9633 5600
South East Metropolitan Region (East)	Regional Community Work Program Manager	9735 6666
South East Metropolitan Region (South)	Regional Community Work Program Manager	8765 5222
West Metropolitan Region	Regional Community Work Program Manager	9300 6344
CCS - Graffiti Removal Program	Manager	8684 7134
CCS - Community Work Statewide	Manager	8684 7137
Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place	Manager	5188 0000

Further Information

For more information on the services and programs delivered by Corrections Victoria email corrections@justice.vic.gov.au or visit corrections.vic.gov.au

For information on the services offered more broadly by the Department of Justice and Regulation, visit justice.vic.gov.au

If you would like any further information in relation to offenders and prisoners undertaking community work, contact Corrections Victoria on phone: 8684 6600, email: corrections@justice.vic.gov.au or visit corrections.vic.gov.au

