

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO VALUED COMMUNITY LIVES CONNECTING PEOPLE TO VALUED COMMUNITY LIVES



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1st 2017 – June 30th 2018

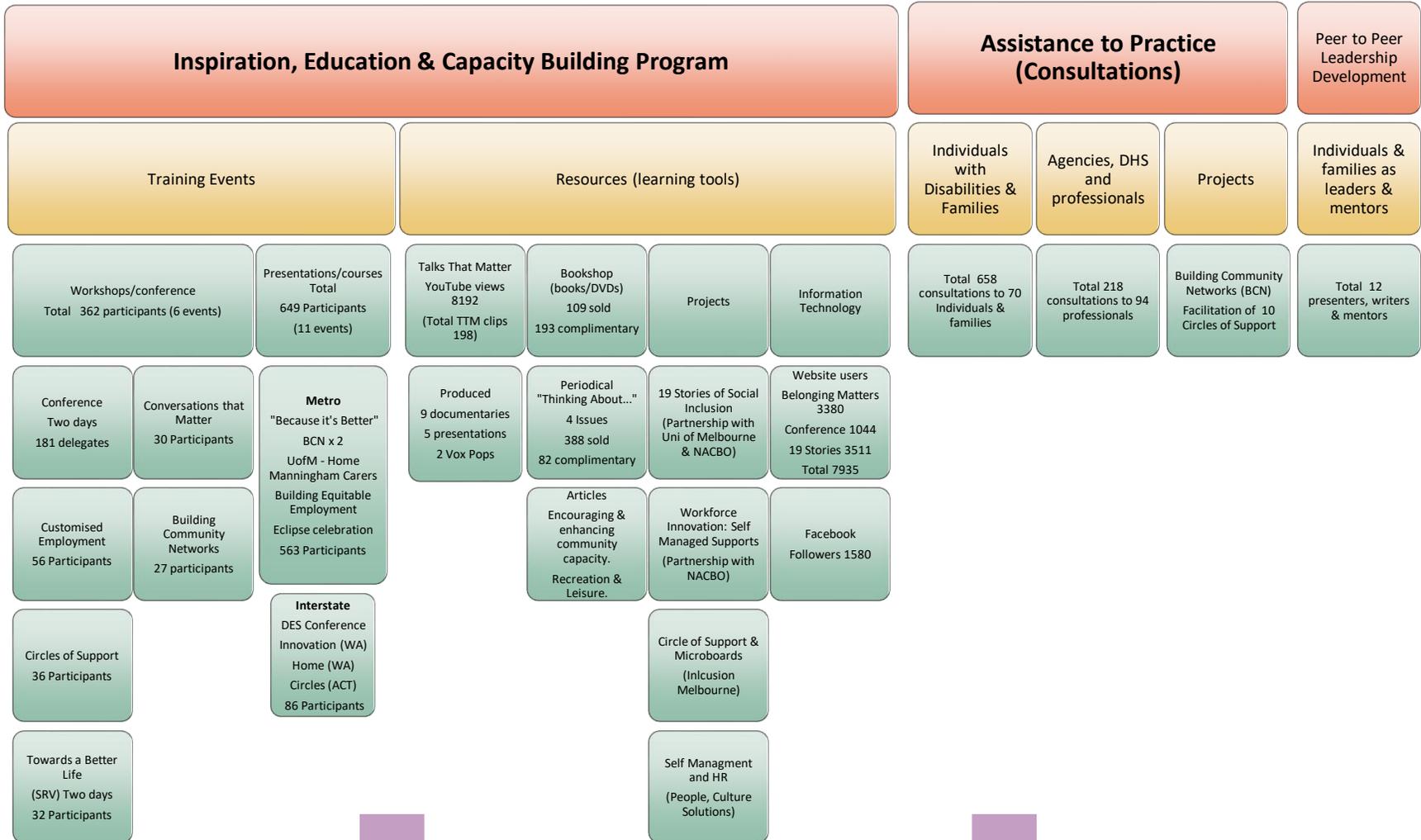


Enhancing the capacity of people with a disability and their supporters to create a community strengthened by the inclusion of all!

Belonging Matters Inc
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Belonging Matters

Overview of education & capacity enhancing investments delivered July 2017 - June 2018



Enabling typical pathways and opportunities for people with a disability that are personalised, purposeful and enhance valued contribution and social inclusion!

Belonging Matters' Overview

Vision: A Community Strengthened by the Inclusion of All

Mission: To inspire, educate and build capacity at the grass roots to assist people with disabilities to live valued lives in the community

Overview: Belonging Matters is a values-driven education, information and advisory service developed in 2003 by people with disabilities, families and others who were concerned about the systemic exclusion of people with a disability from their communities. Since then we have developed a range of capacity building resources using various mediums including film, publications, workshops, conferences and retreats. These resources are designed to shift attitudes and create opportunities for people with disabilities to pursue mainstream employment, education, authentic community inclusion and valued roles. We do not focus on a person's disability or diagnosis nor do we aim to sensationalise their disability or create pity. Instead we aim to portray people with disabilities as valued citizens with abilities, strengths and passions who have contributions to make to society. Thus, shifting mindsets positively and preventing the amplification of difference often portrayed through the media and other sources about people with disabilities.

Aims: To build the capacity and skills of people with disabilities, families and their supporters to encourage them to become better connected to their communities, pursue typical options and pathways that are available to other citizens, take up valued roles and pursue self-determination/direction. This will be achieved through a range of tools such as educational and training events and various informational resources and personalised consultation.

To give personalised, practical, follow up advice directly relevant to an individual's lifestyle, situation and culture to enable them to become better connected to their communities, pursue typical options and pathways that are available to other citizens, take up valued roles and pursue self-determination/direction.

To harness the strengths and skills of people with disabilities and families and build their confidence through information, reflection, supported decision making and practice.

To strengthen informal support networks and reduce the reliance on paid services through providing people with advice and information on community connection strategies, self-direction, Circles of Support, House Sharing with non-disabled peers; thinking creatively about support and the implications of paid supports.

To provide mechanisms for peer support and leadership through networking opportunities such as training events, referral to others who have pursued typical pathways and provide leadership opportunities for people with a disability and families/supporters to enable them to mentor and inspire other people.

Guiding principles: *Belonging Matters believes that people do better when they experience:*

- The same opportunities and rights as their fellow citizens
- Belonging and social inclusion in the community
- Valued social roles
- Lifestyles that enhance their individuality and uniqueness
- Self-determination and empowerment
- Lifestyle arrangements that focus on their strengths, abilities, interests and passions
- Freely given relationships from people who love and care about them (family and friends)
- Respect, self-worth, dignity and self esteem
- Compassion
- Welcoming environments and people in them
- Responsive, flexible and creative supports and opportunities
- Support processes that are people friendly



President's Report

Adam D'Arcy

Another year has rolled by and one of the highlights for the year for me was my continued involvement with the amazing people who make up Belonging Matters. It is very humbling, and inspiring, for me to be involved with a group of people whose skills and dedication to the values and philosophy of Belonging Matters contribute to positive outcomes for people with a disability.

The landscape of the NDIS is continually changing and with it the opportunities for service providers has had to change as well. This is especially true for Belonging Matters as the future of our government funding is unclear. Whilst Belonging Matters does not solely rely on the funding that is currently being provided by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), it is vital to ensure that we can continue the important work that we do for individuals, with families and within the broader community. The NDIS ILC grants process rolls out in Victoria in 2019, meaning that Belonging Matters will not know what funding will be accessible until those grants are allocated. Belonging Matters has continued to restructure as an organisation to ensure that we are able to continue our work within the available funding.

Belonging Matters has continued with the integral work that it does with individuals and families who look to Belonging Matters for support, education and leadership on how to best effect positive change in their lives. With the hard work that people put into achieving their goals, we have witnessed significant achievements for individuals, watching them take more control over their own lives and develop meaningful roles and relationships along the way. It is these outcomes that drive the organisation to keep working harder to ensure that the importance and value of capacity building is not lost in the roll out of the NDIS.

Now, as much as at any time in the past, it is important that the voices of people with disability are heard, valued and respected. For this reason, the resources that are provided by Belonging Matters, such as information sharing, workshops, Building Community Networks, Talks That Matter, community linking, participation in workgroups, involvement with peak bodies and other like-minded organisations are distributed, accessed and utilised to ensure they reach as many people as possible.

I would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who provide donations, sponsorship and funding for the work we do and DHHS for their continued support of the work that we do.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the Belonging Matters team who worked throughout the year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Jackie Holmes for her contribution over the last six years. Her hard work has contributed greatly to the organisation. In addition, I would like to extend my gratitude to two of our departing Board members, Lisa Harris and Susan Dunne. I thank them both for their extraordinary contribution to the Board.

However, the biggest thank you goes to our CEO, Deb Rouget. Deb works tirelessly to ensure that the vision of the organisation is upheld. It is her passion and dedication to the outcomes for individuals as well as the service as a whole that makes Belonging Matters what it is. I am sure that I echo the sentiments of the board and all those who have benefited from her work when I say that I don't know what we would do without her and that our gratitude is immeasurable.



Treasurer's Report

Susan Dunne

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report and the audited financial statements of Belonging Matters Inc. for the year ended 30th June 2018.

Our Net Profit from Ordinary Activities was \$10,433.

Total Income was higher than in the previous year at \$330k (+10%). The most significant contributions to this year's income were from recurrent state government funding (\$199k), our biennial conference and other workshops (\$49k) and fees for services and projects such as Building Community Networks (\$63k). Total Expenses of \$320k were predominantly in staff and consultant wages, website, conference and workshop costs, and general operational costs. In the 2017-18 year, 97% of all income was reinvested into our capacity building activities with individuals and families and the associated staffing and operational costs. Sponsorship and donation income was minimal this year, but we particularly acknowledge the long-standing support of Holmesglen and the Disability Services Commissioner which has enabled Talks That Matter to continue to be a freely available resource for many years.

Total Assets at the end of the financial year were \$157,598, which was a 14% increase on last year's \$142,080. Our Total Liabilities were \$59,077, predominantly in staff leave provisions and other entitlements. The Net Assets of Belonging Matters at year-end were \$98,521.

Belonging Matters will continue to receive funding through the State Government of Victoria until June 2019. After this date our organisation will need to seek funding through the NDIS Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grant application process. As a Board and staff team we remain vigilant and financially strategic as we plan our transition.

As I retire from the Belonging Matters Board, I would like to thank my Board colleagues for their interest in and support for prudent financial decision making. I also recognise the dedication of Deb, Jackie and Tracy for the careful day-to-day management of Belonging Matters funds, along with the work of Graeme F Delany Pty Ltd (Certified Practicing Accountants) in preparing our audited financial statements.

If you would like to view the full financial statements for 2017/2018 financial year, please contact the Belonging Matters office.



CEO's Report

Deb Rouget

Our year started with a bang! In August, we held our [biennial conference](#) at St Kilda Town Hall. We had over 28 speakers talking about community and belonging. A highlight was a presentation given by Michael Callahan from Marc Gold and Associates in the United States who spoke about Customised Employment and the Supported Wage Fallacy. Michael reminded us that “people with a disability are worth more than how fast their hands work”! Michael also led a one-day workshop on Customised Employment. Other workshops held throughout the year included Circles of Support, Towards a Better Life, Conversations That Matter and Building Community Networks. These events reached 362 people with a disability, families and professionals. We also reached 649 participants through various presentations locally and interstate.

Our on-line resources continue to grow and develop, stretching our impact well beyond our physical presence. Our [web sites](#) attracted 3380 users and we had 1580 followers on [Facebook](#). This year we redeveloped [Talks That Matter](#) (TTM). It now has its own stand-alone website! TTM is an online video resource which shares a collection of almost 200 stories, presentations and interviews about social inclusion, self-management and the NDIS. This year TTM had 8192 views! We also produced a number of stories or documentaries. These included a series of videos for Manningham Council focused about Inclusive Employers and Dee's story about establishing her gift card business [Deezines](#). A highlight of the year was our collaboration with our National Alliance of Capacity Building Organisations (NACBO) on the Workforce Innovation: Self-Managed Support project. Along with interviewing people with disabilities, support workers and families about self-managed arrangements to contribute to a research report, we produced two clips about Self-Managed Supports - [Design the Life You Love](#) and [Bendigo Bickies](#). We also produced a video called [Brodie's Circle of Support](#) for the [Circle of Support and Microboards \(COSAM\)](#) initiative led by Inclusion Melbourne.

We distributed and sold 470 copies of our periodical “[Thinking About...](#)” this year. Editions published included 2 special editions – 19 Stories of Inclusion, Thinking About What Keeps People Safe and Thinking About Recreation. Our periodical not only contributes to people's thinking about social inclusion but provides a channel for our many leaders with a disability and families to share their stories, wisdom and insights. A huge thankyou to our authors who generously contributed their time, stories and wisdom.

Having information and inspiration is important but having someone to walk alongside is instrumental. Our [consultation service](#) provided 658 personalised consultations to 70 people with a disability and their families. This year, we continued to develop Building Community Networks (BCN) and facilitated 13 Circles of Support. BCN focuses on assisting people to build and implement a vision for a full, meaningful and inclusive life. Many great things happened for people as a result. For example, playing in a band, enrolling in a mainstream hospitality course, becoming a gym member, gaining employment at a sports stadium, becoming a crossing supervisor, working in a construction firm, volunteering at a local footy club, taking a cooking course, and expanding a small business. Two people, after years of planning moved out of their family home into a home of their own and one person shifted into a new apartment! We also provided 218 consultations to 94 agencies, professionals or researchers, stretching the thinking beyond programs and group homes.

We finished our wonderful project with the University of Melbourne called [19 Stories of Social Inclusion](#). The idea behind this project is to share 19 Stories of people with a disability living lives of connection, belonging and contribution.

We continue to invest in the leadership of people with disabilities and their families with 12 people sharing their story through our periodical and in presentations.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is one of the largest system reforms in Australia. This year, as the roll out continues throughout Victoria, we have spoken to many people with a disability and families as they enter the scheme. It has been a huge

change for people and in some instances a disruption to the flow of innovation created by people with a disability and families. From June 2019, Belonging Matters will no longer be funded by the State Government. We will need to apply for an annual grant through the NDIS, Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC). The total amount of these grants available Australia-wide equate to only 1% of the entire NDIS budget. We have spent considerable time, again this year reviewing our structure, budgets and the way we operate.

Keeping our mission and work focused on authentic social inclusion, with few resources and a significant change in the way we will be funded has been a challenge. However, together with the leadership of people with a disability, their families and allies, we continue to make a difference. I'd like to thank our Board of Management (BOM) for their clarity, leadership and contribution this year. I would also like to thank Lisa Harris, our Vice President and Susan Dunne our Treasurer who retire from the BOM this year. Lisa has been on our BOM since 2012 and has made a huge contribution to up-holding our vision and values. Susan has been remarkable in the role of Treasurer so we can maintain our values-based focus in the midst of much change. Their presence will be missed.

A huge thankyou to our staff team - Teresa Micallef for her thoughtful leadership in regard to BCN and our new facilitators Justine Hall, Jodie Blobel and Lauren Mandel. Owen Hourigan for his enthusiasm and wonderful film production, editing and publishing work. Emily Raymond for helping us to run the office. Tracy Ireson for superb bookkeeping, and Leigh Harrison for always being at the end of the phone to solve our IT problems. I'd also like to extend a special thankyou to all those who volunteered at our conference. Such a big event would not have been possible without your generosity.

I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of Jackie Holmes, who retired at the end of the financial year. For six years, Jackie has held the role of events management and administration. We will always remain grateful for Jackie's dedication and contribution, especially in regard to our service transition and the many workshops and conferences she has organised. Jackie's presence always grounded us in the experience of families and we will miss her a great deal. We would like to welcome Caroline Towers who will be replacing Jackie.

The year ahead is full of uncertainty however as Ken Robinson said "You create your life, and you can recreate it, too. In times of economic downturn and uncertainty, it's more important than ever to look deep inside yourself to fathom the sort of life you really want to lead and the talents and passions that can make that possible".

Financial Reports

Directors' Report

Your Directors present this report on the entity for the period 1st of July 2017 to the 30th of June 2018

Directors

The names of each person who has been a Director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Adam D'Arcy (President)

Lisa Harris (Vice President)

Toni Reeves (Secretary/General Member)

Tina Whitmore (General Member/Secretary)

Susan Dunne (Treasurer)

Jon Adams (General Member)

Piers Gooding (General Member)

Mark Glascodine (General Member)

Peter Symonds (General Member)

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the entity during the year was in the provision of capacity building services, information and advice to assist people with a disability and their families. No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activities occurred in the period.

Operating Results

The profit of the entity was \$10,433 for the period.

Auditor's independence

The Auditor's declaration of independence can be found below.

Signed in accordance with the resolution of the Board of Directors.



Adam D'Arcy (President)

10.10.18



Susan Dunne (Treasurer)

10.10.18

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Income		
Trading profit	65,949	9,856
Grants received	209,229	223,997
Contributions received - members	1,118	1,945
Conference & presentations	50,092	50,919
Donations received	1,930	708
Sponsorships & licensing fees	682	12,091
Interest received	1,068	614
Other income	331	702
Total income	330,399	300,832
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	3,733	2,526
Audit fees	2,795	2,627
Bank fees and charges	140	143
Eventbrite fees	1,566	1,723
Paypal Fees	595	581
Bookkeeping fees	5,427	4,600
Client Support Services	86	2,115
Computer & website costs	7,697	8,616
Conference and seminar costs	59,015	23,363
Consultants fees	33,608	31,655
Delivery	93	-
Depreciation-office equipment & computer	7,128	8,328
Entertainment	42	-
Fees & charges	114	266
Insurance	1,337	1,305
Light & power	4,180	2,525
Meeting expenses	1,416	2,052
Office administrative costs	(6)	288
Postage & courier fees	565	970
Printing & stationery	6,543	6,660
Provision for annual leave	(2,142)	(660)
Provision for long service leave	5,467	1,605

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditor's Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Profit and Loss Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Rates & land taxes	969	1,635
Rent on land & buildings	15,806	16,806
Repairs & maintenance	259	312
Staff amenities	811	794
Staff training	2,802	1,706
Superannuation	12,364	11,982
Telephone	4,677	3,459
Travel, accom & conference	3,839	4,186
Wages	137,497	134,465
Workcover	1,543	3,221
Total expenses	<u>319,966</u>	<u>279,855</u>
Net Profit from Ordinary Activities	<u>10,433</u>	<u>20,977</u>

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditor's Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Service's Funds			
Opening balance		88,088	67,111
Net profit		10,433	20,977
Total Service's Funds		98,521	88,088
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Cash at bank		21,609	5,032
Cash at bank		69,026	44,704
Csh at bank - Event Brite		198	8,225
Security Bond on Premises		2,926	2,926
Cash at bank - Bendigo Entitlements		40,914	35,168
Paypal account		1,512	2,509
Paypal rolling reserve		-	355
Cash on hand		77	117
		136,262	99,036
Receivables			
Trade debtors		1,783	17,717
		1,783	17,717
Inventories			
Finished goods - at cost		13,827	13,902
		13,827	13,902
Total Current Assets		151,872	130,654

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditor's Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018	2017
		\$	\$
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment			
Office & computer equipment		33,586	32,158
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(27,860)	(20,732)
		5,726	11,426
Total Non-Current Assets		5,726	11,426
Total Assets		157,598	142,080
Current Liabilities			
Payables			
Unsecured:			
Trade creditors		2,969	3,498
PAYG withholding payable		3,104	1,653
Superannuation payable		3,515	2,382
		9,588	7,534
Financial Liabilities			
Unsecured:			
Paypal rolling reserve		36	-
		36	-
Current Tax Liabilities			
GST payable control account		7,043	8,862
Input tax credit control account		(1,296)	(2,785)
		5,747	6,077
Provisions			
Provision for annual leave		14,625	16,767
		14,625	16,767
Total Current Liabilities		29,996	30,378

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditor's Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

BELONGING MATTERS INC
Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions			
Provision for long service leave		29,081	23,614
		<u>29,081</u>	<u>23,614</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>29,081</u>	<u>23,614</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>59,077</u>	<u>53,992</u>
Net Assets		<u>98,521</u>	<u>88,088</u>

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditor's Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30th June 2018 there have been :

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the Audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

GRAEME F DELANY PTY LTD

GRAEME F DELANY, CPA

Suite 27, 545 McDonalds Rd South Morang

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme F Delany', with a stylized flourish at the end.

SOUTH MORANG

07/08/2018

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Belonging Matters Inc. Board of Management Declaration

The Board of Management has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements

The Board of Management declares that:

1. The financial statements and notes present fairly the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and its performances for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting practices described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the Board of Management's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Adam D'Arcy (President)

10.10.18



Susan Dunne (Treasurer)

10.10.18