



# Annual Report 2017-2018



## Acknowledgment of Country

*Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land where we live, work and study. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia. We commit to walking alongside Australia's First Nations Peoples in a spirit of harmony, respect and cooperation.*

Front cover: Walk Together, Oct 2017  
Photo credit: *The Border Mail*

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

The 2017-18 Annual report highlights the work of AWECC and its members. Images used in this publication are the property of AWECC or the source is cited. Published October 2018.

This report can be viewed online at:  
**[www.awecc.org.au](http://www.awecc.org.au)**

### **Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council**

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## POPULATION & DIVERSITY

### OVERSEAS BORN

Greater than

# 10%

of residents were born overseas

### PARENT BORN OVERSEAS

# 1 in 4



of us have at least one parent born overseas

### CULTURAL HERITAGE

Of the more than

# 93,000

people who call Albury-Wodonga home, most claim **English, Scottish or Irish** descent, while many others have **German** or other ancestry.

### COUNTRY OF BIRTH

# 75

is the number of countries residents were born



## LANGUAGE & CULTURE

### LANGUAGES SPOKEN

The number of different languages that locals speak at home is

# 55

### OTHER THAN ENGLISH

# 6%

of residents speak a language other than English at home

### FIRST AUSTRALIANS

# 2.6%

of our community are of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island** backgrounds. Australia was and always will be Aboriginal land.

### DESTINATION: ALBURY-WODONGA

Our multicultural community arrived as skilled migrants, partners or family members. Others settled as refugees or other humanitarian entrants. **Migrants make significant contributions** to the local economy, civil society and cultural life of our community

### SPEAK MY LANGUAGE

Other than English, the most common languages spoken in Albury-Wodonga homes include:

**Nepali** 717 residents  
**Punjabi** 394  
**Tagalog** 379  
**German** 305  
**Mandarin** 259

On behalf of the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council, it is my great pleasure to present to you the 2017-2018 Annual Report. As a community-led organisation, AWECC continues to work with our members to ensure lasting and beneficial outcomes for our communities.

It's hard to believe that AWECC is moving into its 5th year of operation. From our humble birth almost five years ago as a two-year project guided by the Wodonga Council and funded by the Victorian Government, to what is now a more financially and administratively independent organisation, our organisation has gone from strength to strength. It is through the hard work of our members and staff that AWECC has maintained vital bonds with established stakeholders and ignite new networks.

At our Annual General Meeting last year, I announced that AWECC had hired its first Managing Director, Ben Flanigan. Under his steady leadership we forged ahead, with our dedicated staff Brett Sanderson and Lucie Wallis able to focus on delivering projects, applying for grants, and interacting on a day-to-day basis with our communities.

In the relatively short time that Ben was with us – *his contract expired in June 2018* – he guided AWECC towards, what I believe is, a stronger and more sustainable organisation in the months and years ahead. Building on these interventions, I am grateful to AWECC's Secretary, Joseph Lumanog, who stepped in to fill the void of Ben's departure, providing expert operational and strategic guidance to the staff.

Brett and Lucie were very busy again this year with a great number of projects and community advocacy activities. Some of the activities included:

- Delivering on the *Ovens & Murray Multicultural Regional Area Partnership (OMMRAP)*.
- Establishing various policy focus groups, such as the Women's Advisory Group, and supporting other community-initiated activities.

- Consulting with stakeholders such as the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS), the Harmony Alliance, the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) and the Victorian Multicultural Commission.
- The 'Gambling Aware for Multicultural Empowerment' program funded by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation.
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Information Sessions delivered in several languages.

While there were many highlights this year, one of the best for me, was our office hosting Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC for NSW in August 2018. It was insightful talking to Dr Faruqi about her thoughts on racism, offshore detention, and the proposed interference with current citizenship legislation. She proved to be a mesmerising speaker, captivating those who attended the morning tea.

In closing, I'd like to thank the Board members who have given so freely of their time; our dedicated staff, past and present, for all your hard work; and, all of our members with whom we celebrate our cultural diversity and desire to have equitable community participation.

Good luck to our new Board and I wish you all the best in leading AWECC to new heights.



**Sue Portors**  
Chairperson



# WHO WE ARE

## WHAT WE DO

Established in 2014, the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council (AWECC) is the peak multicultural organisation for the Albury-Wodonga region and is a registered not-for-profit and charity. AWECC's service area includes Albury, Wodonga, and the Shires of Indigo and Towong.

AWECC's core business is advocacy. Our role is to act as an information 'broker' between people from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds, ensuring their needs and interests are represented through collaborative and sustainable partnerships.

## THE AWECC BOARD

The AWECC Board provides direction and leadership to the organisation. Its role is to establish and maintain strategic goals and partnerships, make informed decisions, manage risks and oversee AWECC's overall budget. The Board consists of seven elected members who serve a two-year term.

### Our Board 2017-18



**SUE PORTORS**

Chairperson

Board member since 2014



**RUPINDER KAUR**

Deputy Chairperson

Board member since 2017



**JOSEPH LUMANOG**

Secretary

Board member since 2016



**SHAUN McFARLANE**

Treasurer

Board member since 2018



**MOHAMMED ALAMGIR**

Director

Board member since 2017



**Dr NIVANKA De SILVA**

Director

Board member since 2017



**Dr TAREK RANA**

Director / Treasurer

Board member since 2017



**Dr PAUL AMOATENG**

Director

Board member 2017 to 2018  
Resigned due to relocation

### *Our vision*

An inclusive and harmonious community, where everyone belongs.

### *Our mission*

To make multiculturalism work, by advocating for the needs of multicultural communities, supporting and empowering members, and promoting cohesion and unity.

## OUR STAFF 2017-18



## Organisational structure

The managing director, or delegated staff, is accountable to the Board and is responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of AWECC. Staff are supported by volunteers, interns, students and members.

## Our values

The core values of the organisation are;

- *honesty and integrity*
- *empathy and respect*
- *accountability and dedication*

## OUR MEMBERS

Our members are the lifeblood of our organisation and the reason we exist. Our members are from skilled migrant backgrounds to refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds; they are from well-established communities to 'new and emerging' communities. Our members are diverse and their needs unique. As the peak 'umbrella' body for local multicultural communities, AWECC offers its members exclusive benefits and representation. We thank our members for standing alongside us in 2017-18. New members are always welcome – visit [awecc.org.au/membership](http://awecc.org.au/membership)

In 2017-18 AWECC had six community members, two associate members and 48 individual members. Collectively, our membership base represents 23 ethnic backgrounds.

### Community and associate members

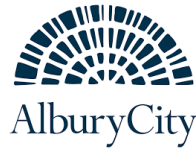
- Albury Wodonga Aus-Bangla Community
- Albury Wodonga Indian Australian Association
- Albury Wodonga Hindu Vaidic Sewa Samiti
- Bhutanese Association in Albury
- Bhutanese Australian Community Support Group Albury Wodonga
- Filipino-Australian Community Albury-Wodonga
- Gateway Health
- German-Austrian Australian Club (Wodonga)



# PARTNERS & SPONSORS

AWECC thanks its official partners and sponsors for their commitment to a diverse and inclusive Albury-Wodonga. AWECC acknowledges the ongoing financial support of the Victorian Government's *Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division*. We thank each of our sponsors and partners for joining with us for what was another productive year. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships in 2019.

## OUR PARTNERS



## OUR SPONSORS





AWECC understands the importance of being affiliated with likeminded organisations and peak bodies and has maintained its regional membership with the *Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council (FECCA)*, the *Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV)*, and the *Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECCNSW)*. This year, AWECC also became a member of the *Harmony Alliance: Migrant & Refugee Women for Change*.

AWECC continues to consult with members and represents their needs to members of parliament, local government officers, and other agencies by providing submissions and letters, participating in consultations and roundtables, and attending forums. Just a few of the activities AWECC directors, staff, and members have been involved in this year include:

- Australian Government's *Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education*;
- Contributions to the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children*;
- *Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace & Security 2012–2018*;
- Victorian Council of Social Service's regional roundtable consultations;
- Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) regional consultation's;
- Multicultural NSW Regional Advisory Council.
- VMC Regional Advisory Council; and
- *The Future of Transport Forum*.



Some of the key issues raised by AWECC during the past year, include:

- The strengthening of local settlement sector coordination and collaboration;
- Calling for renewed focus on capacity-building;
- Support for migrant employment;
- Local transport and accessibility issues;
- Proposed interference with the citizenship legislation, including changes to the English language test;
- The detention of refugees and asylum seekers on Australia's offshore immigration centres; and
- Concerns over racism and anti-migrant sentiments in some parts of Australian society.



# OUR IMPACT



## CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

AWECC continues to support our communities to lead and participate in various community and cultural celebrations. Some of the year's highlights include:

- Walk Together 2017
- Hume Bank City2City Run Walk 2018
- Harmony Day community dinner at the German-Austrian Australian Club (Wodonga) in March 2018
- Nepali Idol community event in Wodonga, January 2018
- Festival of Lights, October 2017
- International Women's Day 2018
- Refugee Week 2018 family day in Wodonga 2018
- Djembe drumming workshops

*Left: Local djembe drummer Joseph Ezou originally from West Africa;  
Below: Harmony Day lunch at the German-Austrian Australian Club.*



*“ People were dancing,  
hooting, singing  
together and taking lots  
of photos... the concert  
clearly demonstrated  
that our community  
needs entertainment to  
recover from past  
trauma.”*

*- Bhakta Bhattarai, speaking  
about the Nepali Idol concert -*



*Above: Nepali Idol concert performers and organising committee;  
Below: Dancers at Festival of Lights 2017 in Albury.*



# OUR IMPACT

## SETTLEMENT & CITIZENSHIP

Settlement and citizenship became key policy areas for AWECC this year. Some highlights of our work in these domains included;

- Hosting Professor Andrew Markus from Monash University (below left) for a public lecture at La Trobe University's Wodonga campus. The presentation highlighted the latest findings from the Scanlon Foundation's 'Mapping Social Cohesion' national survey and some insights into the recent 'controversy' surrounding the building of a mosque in Bendigo.
- In early 2018, AWECC conducted a review of the latest national Census data for Albury-Wodonga and presented a report highlighting the rapid growth in ethnic diversity in our cities.
- Built on our volunteer base, providing new opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to gain work experience and develop valuable skills. Visit [awecc.org.au/volunteer](http://awecc.org.au/volunteer) to become a volunteer.
- In mid 2018, the Rural Australians for Refugee's (RAR) hosted their national conference in Wodonga. AWECC was a proud sponsor and also had several members and staff participate.
- AWECC secured additional funding for its 'Turning Point: Migrant Driver Program' which is set to launch in late 2018.
- Supported Leadership Victoria's New & Emerging Communities Leadership Program.
- AWECC hosted a series of Justice Centre webinars on topics relating to not-for-profit governance and legal issues.
- AWECC's outreach program was rolled out this year with 'pop-up offices' operating at Mirambeena Community Centre in Lavington and the Thurgoona Community Centre.
- Funding received to deliver the Gambling Aware for Multicultural Empowerment (GAME) program funded by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation.



*Professor Andrew Markus (left)  
with local man Tika Poudyel.*

## WOMEN & FAMILY

This year, women and family become key focus areas for AWECC, with it delivering a number of programs and supporting a number of initiatives. These included:

- The launch of the *Multicultural Women's Circle (MWC)*, a program that provided opportunities for women from migrant and refugee backgrounds to build social connections and community networks and fostered the development of leadership skills.
- Throughout the year, the MWC led fundraising efforts raising money for *UN Women* and *Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia*.
- AWECC supported Gateway Health's *Keeping Families Safe* project, promoting respectful relationships, empowering women and raising awareness of violence against women. The project also involved filming of the music video *That Girl Wodonga* involving local Bhutanese and Indian women and girls.

- The establishment of a Multicultural Women's Advisory Group (MWAG) which has provided new opportunities for multicultural women to raise concerns and share information with each other, build community leadership skills and to also contribute to policy development.
- AWECC was this year awarded a small grant from Border Trust and White Ribbon to deliver a project in 2018-19 to raise awareness within local multicultural communities of local family violence services.



Inset: International Women's Day;  
Below: Filming for 'That Girl' as part of the  
*Keeping Families Safe* project.



# OUR IMPACT



Source: The Border Mail



## EMPLOYMENT & YOUTH

This year, AWECC was supported by many amazing young people from a diversity of backgrounds such as Congolese, Bhutanese and Sri Lankan and others. The Multicultural Youth Council (MYC) continued to meet throughout the year, discussing the local needs of multicultural young people and coming up with unique solutions to various challenges. The MYC also provided connections for young people to various local agencies, programs, services and activities. Some of this year's highlights included:

- More than 30 young people came along to a screening of the Marvel film 'Black Panther' followed by dinner, March 2018.
- The MYC hosted a poetry slam workshop in Wodonga with *Bankstown Poetry Slam* artists.
- Sponsored several youth excursions, including a trip to Africa House in Shepparton and a snow trip to Falls Creek.
- Co-organised a White Ribbon multicultural soccer cup in Wodonga raising awareness of violence against women, March 2018.
- Sunil Bhattarai completed a Youth Internship with AWECC which included participation in *The Mandala Project's* 'Emerging Leaders Summit'.
- Co-sponsored, with Junction Support Services, the Youth Ambassador category of the 2018 Wodonga Youth Red Carpet Awards which was awarded to youth advocate and former Congolese refugee, Atosha Birongo.
- AWECC also worked alongside some fantastic and enthusiastic work experience students.
- Pool party at Albury Swim Centre in December 2017.
- The MYC also explored future possible collaborations with various agencies, such as, headspace, NELLEN and the PCYC – watch this space!



# OUR IMPACT

## HEALTH & AGEING

As an advocacy organisation that cares about the health and wellbeing of our multicultural community, AWECC has continued to pursue and building partnerships and collaborations with local service agencies. Some of our activity this year, included:

- AWECC and Gateway Health's vibrant partnership was evident in a number of project collaborations this year.
- AWECC continued to support CALD seniors through our Seniors LINK program and by supporting the Astha Group, which both provided social and wellbeing activities for isolated older people.
- AWECC was successful in its application to continue its Seniors LINK program in 2018-19 which will be delivered in partnership with the Felltimmer Community Centre.

- Hosted a multicultural seniors expo in October 2017 with a range of local services and information stalls, as well as laughing yoga, henna and cultural foods.
- Delivered a 'Keys to Emotional Wellness' workshop series facilitated by the *National Academy of Human Values*.
- Delivered in-language information sessions about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in partnership with the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) and local NDIS service providers.
- Formed a partnership with Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership (UH-PCP) to undertake work to improve CALD access to healthcare.

*Below: NDIS information sessions for multicultural communities.*





Six months ago, I was delighted to take on the Treasurer role of the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council (AWECC). I had not long started supporting this organisation and the opportunity to contribute at this new level was exciting.

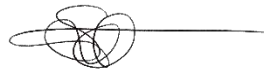
The board is made of some truly amazing individuals striving to better the lives of so many people, and to work alongside them humbled me. Since stepping up, it has been a steep learning curve to learn the position. I take great pride in what I do and take the responsibility seriously.

Together with the board, there have been noteworthy accomplishments that will enable us to better serve the AWECC community; Our Friends; You and your families. The greatest achievement, in my opinion, has been AWECC's assuming its own payroll function. While this may not seem like much on the surface, we have been able to save considerable funds, and in the process, be more autonomous. Just as AWECC strives for members' well-being, so too does the board wish it for the organisation. The more the organisation grows, the more we can help those that need its services.

Another development worth mentioning is the progression to establish a charitable function within AWECC. With the help of particular members, we have seen significant progression in opening our organisation up to additional funding and roles. Again, this will help AWECC to better serve the local multicultural community.

Though ensuring the financial health of the organisation gives me great happiness, I believe these advances go beyond and elevate the organisation. Taking on integral functions and expanding the businesses income streams and services are just some progressions that increase the self-sufficiency, professionalism and overall community standing of AWECC.

I endorse and present the audited financial report for 2017-18. Sincerest thanks and regards,



**Shaun McFarlane**  
Treasurer



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc

ABN 50 192 038 354

### Committee's Report

For the year ended 30 June 2018

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2018.

### Committee Members

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Sue Porters (Chairperson)      Rupinder Kaur (Deputy Chairperson)  
Shaun McFarlane (Treasurer)      Joseph Lumanog (Secretary/Public Officer)  
Nivanka De Silva (Director)      Mohammed Alamgir (Director)  
Dr. Tarek Rana (Director)

### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: Support services for ethnic communities in the Albury Wodonga region.

### Significant Changes


No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

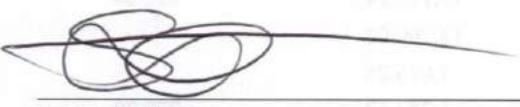
### Operating Result

The deficit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2018	30 June 2017
\$	\$
(27,292.89)	72,285.52

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on 17 October 2018:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Porters

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shaun McFarlane

**Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc****ABN 50 192 038 354****Statement by Members of the Committee****For the year ended 30 June 2018**


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The Committee has determined that the association 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.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.


This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



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Sue Porters

Chairperson



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Shaun McFarlane

Treasurer

17 October, 2018

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc

ABN 50 192 038 354

### Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Fundraising	127.32	873.00
Grant - Albury City Council (Com & Cul)	2,000.00	
Grants - Border Trust (White Ribbon)	2,500.00	
Grants - Victorian Women's Trust	10,680.00	
Grants - VRGF	15,000.00	
Grants - Victorian Government (OMMRAP)	106,768.03	95,447.00
Grants - Wodonga Council (Com P/Ship)	6,000.00	
Grants - Wodonga Council (M.C. Events)	5,000.00	2,926.11
Grants - Wodonga Council (PMO)		30,000.00
Interest	707.33	692.64
Memberships	713.57	719.05
Reimbursements	194.86	85.16
Sales	302.73	1,113.64
Total income	<u>149,993.84</u>	<u>131,856.60</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accountancy	1,300.00	363.60
Administration & Office	8,518.76	4,964.64
Advertising & Promotion	3,660.37	2,583.61
Bank Charges	125.21	5.13
Community Enabling Grants		11,000.00
Community Events	11,531.05	8,033.12
Community Transport	2,143.10	924.41
Compliance	56.90	209.18
Depreciation	2,315.00	
Insurance	3,936.09	2,585.23
Interpreter & Translation Services	670.00	1,875.00
Program & Service Delivery	13,197.94	812.84
Rent	18,200.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	1,616.26	
Subscriptions & Memberships	1,282.62	278.79
Telephone & Internet	2,062.68	1,558.53
Training & Development	6,216.28	4,613.08

## Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc

ABN 50 192 038 354

### Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Travelling Expenses	6,859.13	1,435.42
Wages/Contract Labour	93,595.34	18,328.50
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>177,286.73</b>	<b>59,571.08</b>
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<b>(27,292.89)</b>	<b>72,285.52</b>
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
<b>Net profit (loss) attributable to the association</b>	<b>(27,292.89)</b>	<b>72,285.52</b>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<b>(27,292.89)</b>	<b>72,285.52</b>
Opening retained profits	133,063.32	60,777.80
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(27,292.89)	72,285.52
<b>Closing retained profits</b>	<b>105,770.43</b>	<b>133,063.32</b>

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc

ABN 50 192 038 354

### Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Cash Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank - Community Link		101,354.18	128,406.92
Cash at Bank - Business Account		1,343.29	
Visa Card - Load & Go 1		767.00	287.37
Visa Card - Load & Go 2		61.84	900.00
Petty Cash		266.01	14.05
		<u>103,792.32</u>	<u>129,608.34</u>
<b>Receivables</b>			
Trade Debtors		470.00	380.00
		<u>470.00</u>	<u>380.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b><u>104,262.32</u></b>	<b><u>129,988.34</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>			
Office Equipment		8,122.00	1,556.31
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(2,315.00)	
		<u>5,807.00</u>	<u>1,556.31</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b><u>5,807.00</u></b>	<b><u>1,556.31</u></b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u>110,069.32</u></b>	<b><u>131,544.65</u></b>

## Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council Inc

ABN 50 192 038 354

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
<b>Unsecured:</b>			
- Trade Creditors		4,119.89	
		<u>4,119.89</u>	<u></u>
<b>Current Tax Liabilities</b>			
GST Payable		179.00	(1,518.67)
		<u>179.00</u>	<u>(1,518.67)</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u><b>4,298.89</b></u>	<u><b>(1,518.67)</b></u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><b>4,298.89</b></u>	<u><b>(1,518.67)</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>105,770.43</b></u>	<u><b>133,063.32</b></u>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		105,770.43	133,063.32
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u><b>105,770.43</b></u>	<u><b>133,063.32</b></u>



[www.awecc.org.au](http://www.awecc.org.au)