



HOPE Whyalla

Wednesday, April 3, 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



CHAIR REPORT

Michael Edgecomb

HOPE Whyalla is more than just a group of activities and projects. It's not a service or a program. HOPE Whyalla is an invitation to do life together,

seeing each other for not just who we are, but for who we could become. It's about serving one another without anything in return. You see, it's in this serving that we discover the joy of being human, and we truly see people.

This is the HEART of HOPE Whyalla. It doesn't matter which activity you come along to, the HOPE Community Hub on Tuesdays, The Orchard Community Garden, a HOPE Whyalla Community Event, or one of the new and growing HOPE Whyalla activities, this is the HEART, we hope you experience. We love having a cuppa

and hearing about what's happening in your life, or digging in the dirt together to plant some new veggies, or flying a kite in the park, or learning something new together, or helping you find support you might need.

HOPE Whyalla (formerly HOPE Collective) has been around for over a decade, and we are so grateful for everyone that has welcomed us into their story. In this new season of HOPE Whyalla, we have the same heart, and we look forward to all the new stories that we'll be able to hear and serve.

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF GROWTH & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2024 was a massive year for HOPE Whyalla, marking a new chapter for the community group, launching the Communities of Focus (CoF) partnership with Mission Australia.

Rebecca and Kirsty from the Support Team visited Cairns to meet with Cairns South Together and learn about their successful place-based initiative. They then attended the Social Impact Summit in

Sydney to gain insights on creating real change in regional communities, and are excited to engage with communities in 2025 to support connection, belonging, and safety.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

WHYALLA SHOW

HOPE Whyalla participated in the 2024 Whyalla Show, seizing the opportunity to connect with the community and raise awareness about our initiatives. Throughout the event, we engaged in conversations about HOPE Whyalla, the Orchard, and the various supports we offer, such as equipment hire and the Hub. Leadership, the support team, and partner organisations worked together to make this event a success, strengthening community ties and enhancing brand visibility. The event was a success, contributing to a notable increase in social media engagement over the weekend.



MAY COMMUNITY EVENT

May saw the first HOPE event since the Communities of Focus (CoF) partnership with Mission Australia. Around 120 community members were in attendance at Norton Park, all of which who were able to vote on the new look HOPE logo design. The event was well supported by our community partners many who set up an activity for families.

Activities included face painting, balloon twisting, popcorn, fairy floss, kite making and silent disco.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



THE ORCHARD OPEN DAY

In October, HOPE successfully hosted an Open Day at the Orchard Community Garden, inviting services from across Whyalla to explore the space and consider how they might use it for the people they support. Orchard volunteers Paul and Tim were on hand to answer any questions.



Thanks to a generous new grant from Centacare, HOPE was able to purchase a brand-new pizza oven and bench seating. Attendees had the chance to create their own pizzas, featuring fresh produce grown right from the garden.

A special thanks to Colby Krawczyk for generously donating his time to cook the pizzas for the event.

OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

October saw HOPE host it's first ever school holiday activity at the Hub. About 35 children and families attended the Tuesday hub morning which featured rock painting, board and card games, colouring and drawing activity that saw children depict "what Whyalla meant to them".

A big thank you to our partners, the Whyalla Baptist Church for allowing us to use the facilities outside of our usual Tuesday school term times!



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

WHYALLA PAGEANT

After discussions with the Whyalla City Council, HOPE Whyalla partners, and local organizations, a community vote decided that HOPE Whyalla would join the Whyalla Pageant Committee.

This partnership allowed collaboration with local groups and businesses. To support the initiative, HOPE Whyalla formed a sub-committee to manage a funding program, distributing \$2,000 among five community groups to help create floats for the pageant. HOPE also donated the use of the marquees to provide shade for local residents.



MSC WORKSHOP

In early November, HOPE welcomed about 30 partners to the Baptist Church for a Most Significant Change (MSC) workshop. Froukje from Clear Horizon led the session, where participants explored a new approach to collecting stories that highlight real change. Instead of relying solely on traditional data, this method uses these stories to better understand what's working and what's having the greatest impact.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH: SUMTHIN' TASTEE

HOPE's support team worked with Sumthin' Tastee to provide community members with tickets for a free Christmas luncheon. HOPE supported Sumthin' Tastee to connect with appropriate community groups such as the Whyalla Christmas Relief to assist with creating and printing of posters, tickets and spreading the word. HOPE Whyalla was able to generously contribute on the day with the use of HOPE marquees to shelter those who attended in the 40+ heat. Generous local donations helped make the event possible,

from gifts to connecting with Mission Australia's funding team to fund a free bus for people to attend the event on Christmas day, from gifts to sponsored transportation for attendees. In the lead-up to Christmas, the team and partners assisted with gift wrapping, lunch setup, serving meals, and other tasks. The luncheon was a huge success, serving 270 sit-down meals, 50 takeaways, and delivering meals to the police and GFG shift workers, both days and night shifts..

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

HOPE REFRESH: CELEBRATING PARTNERS NEW AND OLD

In November, HOPE Whyalla, in partnership with Mission Australia, celebrated its relaunch with a vibrant day of fun, food, and connection. The day began with a breakfast gathering at the Hub for Mission Australia's executive team, as well as HOPE Whyalla's partners, neighbors, volunteers and supporters. The current partners and volunteers were celebrated with awards and thank you gifts for their ongoing support and commitment to HOPE.

Following breakfast, attendees were invited to explore key locations across Whyalla via bus tours, including the Orchard, Bottle and Bird, the ship, the foreshore, Stuart High School, Norton Park, and the Wetlands.



The celebration culminated in a free community event, featuring activities such as a BBQ, face painting, fairy floss, coffee and hot chocolate making, and a hand-painted canvas project. The event brought together many of HOPE Whyalla's partners, including the Whyalla Show Society, GFG Alliance, Centacare, Whyalla Council, and Mission Australia. It was well attended, sparking meaningful conversations with the local community and strengthening connections for the future.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



LOOKING FORWARD

This year, HOPE Whyalla is focused on building a Healthy, Optimistic, Proud, and Empowered community. We'll be hosting neighbourhood barbecues, community events, and consultations to ensure everyone has a chance to connect, share ideas, and get involved. Our goal is to foster social connections, especially for those who may be isolated, and create opportunities for families and individuals to come together.

We'll also be expanding the HOPE Community Hub and The Orchard Community Garden, offering more activities and volunteer opportunities. Additionally, we'll explore ways to support local groups and address justice system issues, all while encouraging community-driven initiatives. Stay tuned for more ways to participate and help shape our future!



WHAT IS PLACE BASED COLLECTIVE IMPACT?

Sometimes it's easy to get lost in the community service jargon and not simply understand what it is HOPE is trying to achieve as a place-based initiative.

Imagine a group of people coming together to fix or improve things in their own neighborhood, whether it's through better schools, cleaner streets, more job opportunities, or safer spaces. They work together to make sure that the changes are meaningful and help everyone in that community thrive.

HOPE is hoping to achieve this by prioritising connection, belonging and safety for all local residents.

HOPE Whyalla is a group of passionate people with a heart for our community. HOPE Whyalla listens to, walks alongside of, and serves our community, finding ways to build connection, belonging, and safety for all.



Evidence strongly suggests that if we increase levels of connection, belonging, and safety, we in turn empower our community to address and respond to challenges. Less challenges give more space for our community to live a healthy, optimistic, and proud life.

HOPE PROFILE

BEN BIRRELL - LEADERSHIP GROUP

What made you become involved in HOPE Whyalla?

I've always believed in giving back to the community, and HOPE Whyalla aligns perfectly with my values.

The initiative focuses on making a real, tangible difference in people's lives, and that's something I'm passionate about.

Seeing the positive impact HOPE has in our community made it an easy decision for me to get involved.

Why did you then want to be part of the leadership team?

Leadership has always been a big part of my journey—whether in business, sports, or community projects.

I wanted to take a more active role in shaping HOPE Whyalla's direction and ensuring it continues to grow and support those who need it most.

I feel I offer a point of difference with a strong business background from the private sector, bringing strategic thinking, financial acumen, and a results-driven mindset to the team. Being part of the leadership group allows me to contribute my experience and network to

help drive meaningful change.

What does being a good neighbour mean to you?

To me, being a good neighbour is about looking out for others, offering support when it's needed, and creating a sense of belonging.

It's not just about being there for the big moments but also the small, everyday ones—checking in on people,

lending a hand and fostering a community where everyone feels valued and supported.

What are your hopes for Whyalla over the next 10 years?

I want to see Whyalla continue to grow and thrive—both economically and socially.

I hope for stronger local businesses, more job opportunities, and a community that continues to support one another.

Most importantly, I'd love to see Whyalla become a place where young people see a future, with pathways to success in their careers, education, and personal lives.



Any words of encouragement for anyone who has thought about coming on board as a HOPE partner?

If you're on the fence, I'd say just do it. Being part of HOPE Whyalla isn't just about giving—it's about being part of something bigger than yourself.

The sense of fulfillment you get from making a difference in people's lives is invaluable.

The more people we have on board, the greater the impact we can make together.

HOPE Whyalla Action Groups

Grow the Hub

Our priority:

- Increase our visibility and attendance
- Promote collaboration from organisations
- Break down community barriers with activities

Grow the Orchard

Our priority:

- Social and community participation on site
- Learn, upskill, sustainability and resourceful
 - Identify groups to invite to the space
 - Volunteer drives
- Consistent open days & volunteering
- Welcoming young people into the space to develop their own sessions

Community Sparks

Our priority:

- Helping to build the capacity of community to bring their own ideas and dreams for Whyalla to life.



If you are interested in participating in any of these action groups email connect@hopewhyalla.com.au

Justice System conversation

- Develop a deeper understanding of the local justice system context
- Listen to lived experiences and personal stories
- Learn from the insights of our local magistrate

Community connections & activities

- Deep listening in the community through conversation and connection
- Building the capacity of residents to make collective change
- Gathering ideas from the community to move forward with activities

CONTACT

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HOPE CALENDAR

NEXT WORKSHOP: Wednesday, April 9
11:30am - 1:30pm (working lunch, light catering provided)



HOPE Community Hub

WHAT: A place you can connect, share life and belong! Low cost barista coffee & snacks available. Don't worry if you need a little help, there's a pay it forward system available.



WHERE: HOPE Community Hub (BUNYARRA) 157 Nicolson Avenue (Look for the HOPE Banners)

WHEN: 9:30am - 1:00pm Tuesdays. Other activities will be offered on a regular basis. More information about these activities will be made available within the Hub and via social media

Gardening Equipment FREE HIRE

WHAT: Mowers, Trimmers, Blowers or Shovels Available

WHERE: HOPE Community Hub (BUNYARRA) 157 Nicolson Avenue (Look for the HOPE Banners)

WHEN: 10am - 2pm
Tuesdays

Keep an eye out on our socials for when our online hiring system launches



The Orchard



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Corner Knight Street & Bastyan Crescent

The Orchard Community Garden is currently open Monday afternoons and fortnightly on a Wednesday 11am - 1:00pm.

We would love to have the Orchard open more for the community, get in touch if you'd like to utilise the garden this year.

FOLLOW US!

Instagram: @hopewhyalla

Facebook: Hope Whyalla

Linkedin: HOPE Whyalla

