



# Connecting Communities

# 2020 Annual Report



CLAN Midland  
COMMUNITY LINK & NETWORK

# Message from the Chairperson and Executive Manager

Well what a year it has been. 2020 will go down in the history books as one of significant change, learning and global adaptation. New words have been added to our vocabulary such as zoom and social/physical distancing. Most importantly, we have learnt new ways of connecting, of supporting each other and added to our toolbox of resilience. In Western Australia, we have fared better than so many in other parts of Australia and across the world. Our thoughts have been with them as they have traversed this journey.

For the team at CLAN Midland it meant several months of working from home and we were well placed to make the transition from the office to working from home. Sadly, our bigger face-to-face programs such as FAST (Families and Schools Together) and Baby FAST were stopped suddenly when lockdown hit. Our staff and volunteers rallied around providing food hampers and activity packs for families enabling them to maintain connection with CLAN and have some fun during lockdown.

Adapting to this COVID-19 world meant adapting many of our policies, procedures, and practices to suit our new environment. Our staff, volunteers, and Board are to be commended on their willingness and capacity to change and innovate.

At our 2019 AGM we proudly presented our new Strategic Plan for 2020-2022. This was a big piece of work, with many hours put in by Board members and staff, guided by Karyn Lisignoli. Karyn came to us through Leadership WA, whereby Leadership WA Alumni provide their services pro-bono to community organisations, through a program known as Skillsbank. This was an enormously valuable piece of work and already the resulting plan has served and guided us well. Our strategic plan clearly articulates what we stand for, our strengths and our direction – so fundamental to attracting and building partnerships.

2019-2020 was the first full year of our Community Links initiative funded through the Department of Communities Empowering Communities Program. Under the leadership of Lisa Cornelius, and taking an Asset Based Community Development approach the Community Links project has already seen a number of successes in the focus communities of Midland and Bullsbrook.

2019 also saw the celebration of 15 years and the twentieth program of Baby FAST in Midland. This means that over 200 families with babies have had the opportunity to connect, grow and learn together. This significant milestone would not have been achievable without the support of a huge number of people and agencies over the years (too many to mention) who have contributed time and resources to work collaboratively on Baby FAST. Special thanks to United Way WA and the Swan Alliance for supporting the programs with funding and resources over the last 15 years.

Together we sincerely thank the dedicated staff at CLAN Midland for rising to the occasion this year, all the students who have taught and learnt from us, our amazing volunteers who continually give so freely of their time, our incredibly supportive Board, and our generous funders. To all the wonderful people who have connected with us, walked alongside us and enriched our lives this year, we are truly thankful.

Roll on 2021!



## CLAN Board

Megan Dawson - Chairperson

Seanna Dempsey - Vice Chairperson

CLAN Ambassador - Jessica Shaw

Lesley Bremner Bell - Secretary

Ian Johnson - Treasurer

Claire Scanlon

Christopher Cable

Aman Singh

Mithun Parthiban

## PARENTING PROGRAMS

**Healthy Happy Families Program** - Meerilinga; **Lunchbox Session** - Brockman House; **Protective Behaviours** - Brockman House, Stratton Early Learning Centre, Malvern Springs Primary School, Arbor Grove Primary School and ECC Midland; **First Aid** - Ellenbrook; **Mums and Bubs Wellness Festival** - Ellenbrook; **PALS** - Arbor Grove Primary School; **Sing and Grow** - Ellenbrook and Bullsbrook; **Tuning in to Kids** - Arbor Grove Primary School; **Tuning in to Teens** - Malvern Springs Primary School; **Read Play Grow** - ECC Midland; **Supporting Children's Strong Emotions** - Brockman House; **Circle of Security** - Ellenbrook; **Herb Garden Session** - Ellenbrook and Midland; **Pen Pal Project** - FAST Arbor Grove Primary School and Meerilinga; **Baby** - FAST Midland and Ellenbrook.



**1595** attendees over 17 Parent/Child Activity Sessions at Midland Gate and Ellenbrook Central Shopping Centres



**99.3%** satisfaction across all parenting programs



**613** Parents/children attended programs or were supported by home visits and phone calls



*In a world of growing disconnect and a reliance on technology to manage our relationships, it's comforting to know that there are programs like COSP that support and cultivate our fundamental and biological need for security and connection.*

*COSP cannot be replaced by technology, and we personally feel that parents owe it to themselves and their children to learn its fundamentals/principles. It's a small investment in time, which will grow to a lifetime of reward and connection between parent and child.*

*We will never regret participating in this workshop.*

*“CLAN has made our community stronger, tighter, happier and richer. We are very thankful to the organisation and those that unselfishly give their time and energy to support our families. CLAN has given our school a heart - School Deputy Principal*



## COMMUNITY LINKS PROJECT

In early 2019, CLAN Midland was successful in tendering for the Empowering Communities Grant through the Department of Communities. The first twelve months of the project, known as Community Links, have been busy and exciting as we have engaged with both the Bullsbrook and Midland communities. The four CLAN pillars within Community Links focus on:

- Volunteering
- Developing and supporting networks
- Community Group development and support
- Developing partnerships and collaborations

Volunteers have been recruited for Community Links in administration support and Paint the Swan REaD (PTSR) and have contributed a combined total of 333 voluntary hours.

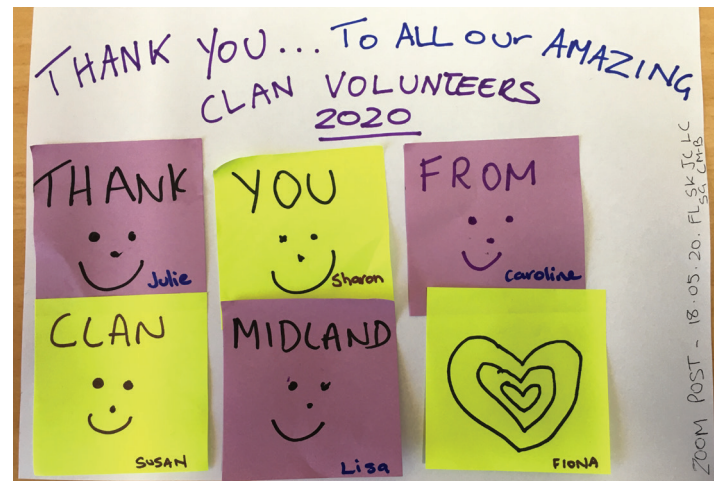
There has been a range of projects completed by volunteers this year including the Bullsbrook Community Group Directory which was distributed throughout the City of Swan. The directory became an invaluable tool when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. With the aid of the directory the Community Links Coordinator (CLC) was able to reach out via phone calls, emails and zoom meetings with each of the Bullsbrook community groups providing a vital connection and information sharing resource for the community during difficult times. In response to COVID-19, a Bullsbrook-based volunteer joined a group of fellow residents and created the Bullsbrook Community Help Group (BCHG) reaching out to vulnerable and isolated people in Bullsbrook, Lower Chittering and Muchea. 53 volunteers aged from 9 to 60 assisted with flyer deliveries, and call outs for services and goods during the pandemic. This was a Bullsbrook community led response to a global crisis.

Other projects included Bullsbrook's first Bring and Swap event in partnership with the Bullseye Youth Committee, Bullsbrook Country Women's Association, City of Swan and Meerilinga. 53 people attended the event and there were 10 staff and volunteers contributing and learning the process of the event delivery.

Wonderful work also continues to be done by volunteers and local agencies as part of the Paint the Swan REaD Collective initiative in Midland and Ellenbrook. The key focus is promoting the importance of **TALK, READ, SING, RHYME AND PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD EVERYDAY FROM BIRTH**. Volunteers have been actively placing and replenishing red Swap Boxes full of second-hand books in the community.

During COVID-19 lockdown Midvale Neighbourhood Centre (MNC) closed in March and re-opened with reduced numbers of people able to attend in May. During this period groups were supported with phone calls and an E-Newsletter focusing on Asset Based Community Development learnings, COVID-19 information and some ideas for different community celebration opportunities.

In the next twelve months, we look forward to building on the foundations established in developing social connections, increasing community participation, providing a safe space to learn new skills and abilities and contributing to community life.



**1683 Student hours**



**2910 Volunteer hours**



**4208 attendances**  
Midvale Neighbourhood Centre



**673 Bullsbrook community engagements**  
**686 Midland community engagements**



*I joined the amazing team at CLAN Midland as an Admin volunteer. The team as a whole are so friendly which made me settle in very quickly. I felt being a part of the team which is doing an amazing work for their community. In December 2019, I was offered a paid role in another not for profit organisation. It was sad to leave CLAN Midland which gave me an opportunity to rise and shine. However, I would consider volunteering with them in the near future. - Volunteer*





# THE YEAR IN PICTURES



## Our Sponsors



### CLAN Midland has been proud to work with a variety of practice partners and collaborators including:

- Arbor Grove Primary School
- Brockman House
- Bullsbrook CWA
- Bullsbrook Residents and Ratepayers Association
- Bullsbrook Youth Group
- Centrecare
- Child and Parent Centre Swan
- City of Swan
- Edith Cowan University
- Foodbank
- Indigo Junction
- Malvern Springs Primary School
- Meerilinga
- Mental Illness Fellowship WA
- Mercycare
- Midland Women's Health Care Place
- Midvale Hub Parenting Service Perth North - East
- Ngala
- North Metropolitan TAFE
- Paint the Swan REaD Collective
- Royal Lifesaving WA
- Sing and Grow Australia
- Swan Volunteers
- University of Western Australia

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