



Annual Report 2024

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 @blackwoodrecreationcentre

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Board Members

Garry Dolman	President	Carly Soutter	Committee Member
Neil White	Vice President & Rotary Club of Blackwood	Ron Boath	Committee Member
Maricel Becirovic	Treasurer	Cheryl Deguet	Committee Member
Zane Basic	Secretary/Public Officer	Anton Hawdio	Committee Member
Rhys Roberts	Committee Member & Lions Club of Blackwood	Vacant	City of Mitcham

Management Team

Steve Woods	Centre Manager
Pat Porter	Assistant Manager
Catherine Lyndon	Gymsports & Fitness Coordinator
Phoebe Cuthbertson	Sports & Event Coordinator



Message from the President



This Community Centre is an incorporated body, guided by a volunteer Board seeking to provide Community Services to the residents of the Mitcham Council. We have operated for over 121 years bringing a range of Community Services to the residents and members at an affordable cost and we hope to continue to provide and expand on these services to the residents for many years to come.

For the past 3 or 4 years I had hoped to be able to write in my President's Report, that we have a new underlease, with the Mitcham Council. Unfortunately I must report that we were not able to finalise the underlease in 2024. It has been and still is a long, drawn out process with discussions with the Mitcham Council continuing throughout the year. During the year we made two presentations on 5th March and 5th November to elected members and met with the Mayor, CEO of Mitcham Council and Administration on numerous occasions. At the presentation in March, we asked the Councillors to make a decision on 4 outstanding issues below. We realised that these decisions would be at a formal Council Meeting at a later date. The outstanding issues were;

- 1.Reduction in rent to a peppercorn rent, the same that the Council is paying to the State Government;
- 2.Council and/or the Department for Education to cover all Building Insurance. We were paying \$2,000 per year towards the Building Insurance;
- 3.The State Government and/or Council to accept responsibility for painting the exterior of the building. On a normal day we are not allowed on school premises without permission and 3 walls of the building are on school premises. Besides in a commercial lease the owner is responsible for the painting of the exterior of the premises;
- 4.and a contribution from the Department for Education for the maintenance of the car park as it is used by students and parents every day.

These points were still to be decided in November 2024 when we again made a presentation to the Councillors. In the meantime and in order to progress this issue, the Board made a number of compromises on the underlease, the most significant being the reduction in the term of the lease. Under the original lease we had another 45 years use of the building. The Department for Education has advised the City of Mitcham that the maximum lease term will be 5 years with two rights of renewal, resulting in a maximum term of 15 years from the date of signing the lease. We have also compromised on other issues such as responsibility for the fire safety panel, external and internal glass, maintenance of the roof guttering, maintenance of air conditioners installed by the Mitcham Council, maintenance of the rain water tanks used for the toilets and replacement of the floors in the gymnasium. As at 31st December 2024, it is a work in progress still.

In 2022 and 2023 the Board and Management made a number of decisions after the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant financial crisis. We recognised that the money members and patrons spend at the Centre is really discretionary spending, so we decided to again keep our fees and charges relatively stable. This was aimed at reducing the possibility of declining participation rates for all sections of the Community Centre from Gymnastics, the Fitness Studio and Team Sports. As a result, we had two years of significant losses. These continue to haunt us even today, with Council Administration now indicating that we will have Key Performance Indicators in any future lease that they will monitor. The issue of the losses were addressed in the budget for 2024 and everyone has experienced an unavoidable increase in fees in 2024. This has resulted in an improvement of almost \$100,000.00 in the bottom line. However, there is still a loss of approximately \$19,000 after provisions for annual leave, long service leave and depreciation.

Message from the President



The stadium floors were completely resurfaced in the April 2023 break and were maintained with more coats of lacquer in 2024. This maintenance is an annual expense to the Centre, which we aim to undertake in late December and early January each year to minimise the effect on team sports.

As mentioned in 2023 President's report, the Association received \$40,000.00 from the State Labor Government to develop a plan for the possible expansion of the Centre. The concept plan was completed and a copy of the broad details of the improvements and expansion are available for the public. Unfortunately, the project has been shelved due the total projected cost and the fact that we are still without a long-term underlease for the premises. I look forward to the day when the Board can meet monthly and discuss the future programmes for the centre, without the need to report on lease negotiations.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board for their continued support, their willingness to embrace new ideas and for their contribution to the current and future direction of the best Sport & Recreation Centre in the City of Mitcham. The Board is committed to bringing the best possible programmes to our community. The Board and staff will strive to meet the needs of our community in the coming years and to bring new and interesting programmes for the enjoyment and benefit of the diverse community we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely
Garry Dolman
President 2020 - 2024

FOOTNOTE ON LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

Having met with Mayor of Mitcham, Heather Holmes-Ross, in November 2024 and a subsequent meeting with Mitcham Council CEO, Matt Pears, and Craig Harrison on 19th December 2024 a modified proposal for the future underlease of the Centre was considered at a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday 25th March 2025. Thanks to the efforts and support of the Mitcham Councillors, in particular Cr Karen Hockley and Cr Darren Kruse, an underlease of 5 x 5 x 5 years was approved. The motion includes the fact there will be reasonable and achievable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to be agreed upon between the Mitcham Council and the BCRAI. This was a major step forward in our negotiations and we look forward to the next meeting with administration to discuss the reasonable and achievable KPIs.

Treasurer's Report

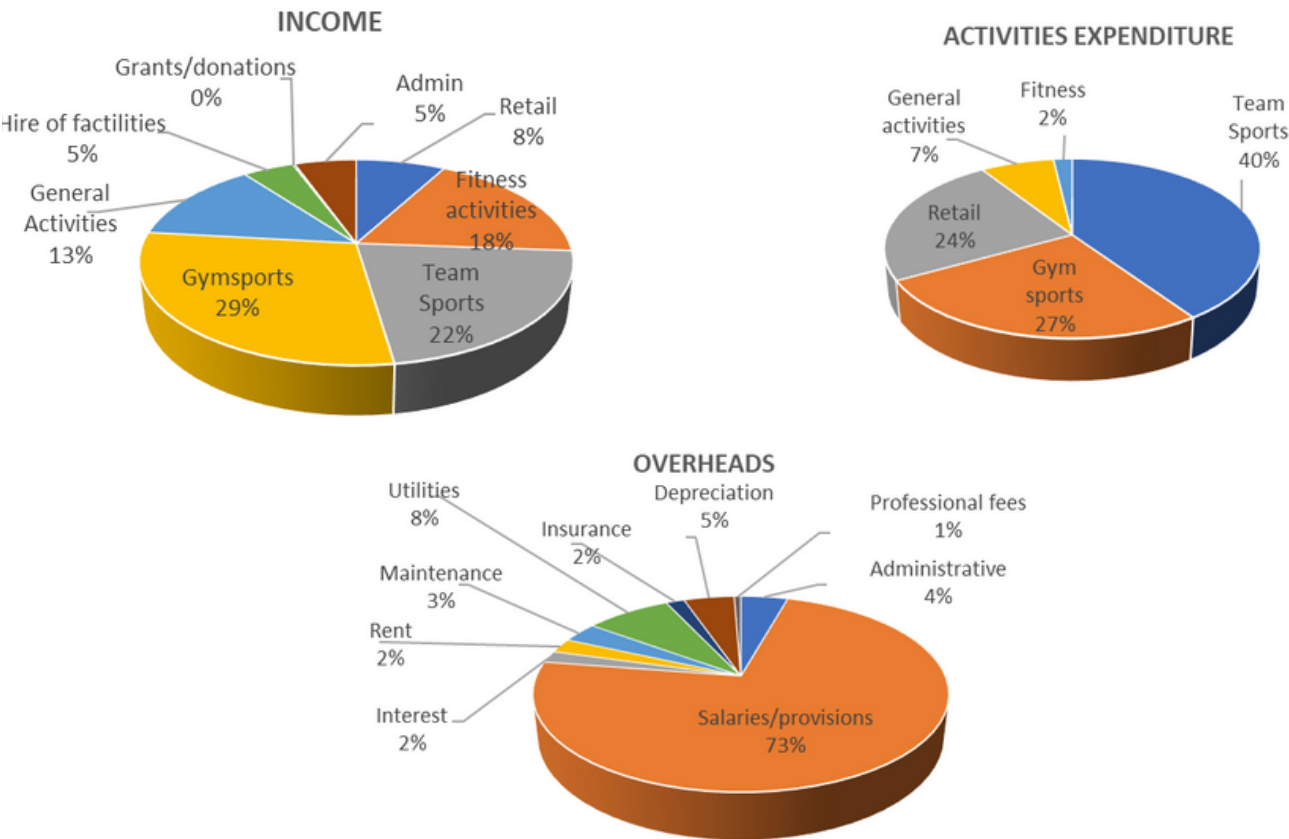
The Blackwood Community Recreation Centre recorded an audited trading deficit of \$18,188 for the 2024 calendar year. This was a significant improvement compared to 2023 which recorded a trading deficit of \$115,682.

Despite the trading deficit for the year the Centre remains in a positive net asset position and we are actively exploring ways to keep attracting new members and increase community involvement. The Centre's operating income increased slightly by 0.7% over the prior year. The main sources of revenue are activities income from Gym Sports, Team Sports, Fitness and General activities which include roller skating and the VacFun Holiday program. Out of all areas, Fitness experienced the largest growth last year with significant increases in participating in fitness memberships and the Strength for Life Program.

The Centre's overall expenditure decreased by 5.9% over the prior year. The areas with the largest increase in expenditure over the prior year were costs associated with team sports and utilities. Salaries and provisions are the largest expense of the Centre representing 60% of the overall expenditure, however as a percentage of income have remained consistent with the prior financial year. Over \$13,000 was reinvested back into capital improvements and equipment for the Centre including 2 new split systems for the Rec Studio. Other capital expenditure included new seating for the stadium and new computer for the administrative staff.

We would like to thank our generous donors and sponsors for providing their support to our programs and community.

The draft audit of the 2024 financial statements has been completed and an unmodified audit opinion issued.



Community Events

20 Year Anniversary Celebration

We held an official celebration for the 20th Anniversary of the Blackwood Community Recreation Centre which opened February 29th 2004. We are so grateful to those who came to celebrate with us and honored to have had Catherine Hutchesson MP, Nicolle Flint, Sam Duluk, City of Mitcham CEO Matthew Pears and Cr Jane Bange, past board & staff members in attendance. It is only with the support of our community that we have been able to continue running with our community values remaining at the forefront of all our activities.



Movie Themed & Halloween Roller Discos

It was another successful year of Roller Skating events in 2024. Both nights did well with over 480 tickets sold in the Halloween Roller Disco and close to 350 for the Movie Themed Disco. It was great to see so many people in the Centre getting into the spirit of things with some amazing costumes on display. The events had face painters, DJ, prizes and giveaways and more.



Christmas Pageant

Once again it was great to see how many came out to represent Blackwood Recreation Centre for the Pageant. We had 6 staff, 20+ Gymsport participants and Kindergym families in attendance. We chose to not have a moving float again this year and walk the pageant which gave us a chance to interact more with the audience and give lots of handouts to our different programs. We are aiming for a even bigger turnout in 2025.

Gymsports

2024 was a huge year of change for Blackwood Gymsports. We expanded our club to cater not only to Artistic, Trampoline and Gymnastics for All athletes, but to Rhythmic Gymnasts as well! The launch of the Rhythmic Sparkles program took place in term 4 2024 and was received warmly by our athletes.

Rhythmic gymnastics offers a different side of gymnastics as it incorporates handheld apparatus and dance movements to create routines to music. Rhythmic Sparkles rose to 88% percent capacity in the first term and is still seeking interest with plans to have athletes representing our club at state sanctioned events in 2025.

In 2024, we launched our first Fundamentals Gymnastics Coach (FGC) program. This is a club run mentoring program to help new coaches gain their entry level coaching qualifications. This involved designing a whole 6-month program to help our FGCs understand the philosophy, psychology, and physiology of coaching alongside the practical applications. We were excited to put through six new coaches at the end of last year. All of whom will take up coaching in our Gymnastics for All programs.

We also saw staff growth in our KinderGym program. With the help of Gymnastics South Australia (GSA), Blackwood Gymsports hosted an Intermediate KinderGym course in the second half of 2024. Blackwood was fortunate enough to put forth four coaches to help expand our team to five leader – the largest staff base we have ever had in KinderGym. Together with our four coaches, we hosted a total of twelve coaches from multiple clubs, ensuring we are giving back to our community and helping sustain KinderGym in our state.

Blackwood GymSports athletes showcased another incredibly successful year in 2024. In our senior season, our athletes brought home 28 podium places at the GSA Senior State Championships. Our senior MAG boys went on to compete at the Australian National Championships, bringing home a bronze medal in the Level 7 open Pommel Horse final. Our MAG boys were also instrumental in securing the Level 7 Open and Level 8 Open silver medals in the team competition. Our junior athletes put forward a strong season as well, taking home 24 podium placings at the GSA Junior State Championships.

Blackwood GymSports was recognized on a state level at the GSA Awards Night. Blackwood KinderGym was recognized as a finalist for the KinderGym Program of the Year with KinderGym leader Catherine Lyndon recognized as a finalist for KinderGym leader of the Year.



Fitness Studio

2024 was another year full of community, fun and of course health and wellness for our Fitness Studio members. Starting the year with our Summer Challenge, we had 20 participants join us to get 2024 off to the right start by prioritising health and wellness. The Summer Challenge wasn't only about the fitness side of things. Together we held multiple community events including a group walk and an end of challenge party to further instil the incredible sense of community that we offer here at the Blackwood Rec Centre. We thank our incredible sponsor Cheryl from Mindful Body Fitness and Massage for her help throughout the challenge and the incredible value she added by offering two free personal training sessions to challenge members.

In 2024 we saw some huge support from our community. The Rotary Club of Blackwood gave a generous donation of \$450 to help us purchase new equipment for our No Falls Program. After the success of No Falls last year, we were in need of additional equipment to keep up with the rising demand. This donation helped us purchase new foam balance equipment, resistance bands and a new BOSU – all of which has added invaluable assistance in running our classes and catering to the needs of our clients.

The new equipment could not come soon enough! From 2023 to 2024 we saw huge increase of 21 percent on our total membership numbers. This means we gained over 100 new members in our incredible Blackwood Rec community. To keep up with our increased member base, we added on additional Strength for Life, RecFit, Pilates and Yoga classes. All of which have been extremely popular and filled up quickly!

We are so proud of the atmosphere and values shared amongst our members and 2024 was a prime example. We look forward to continuing to grow our sense of community in the years to come.



Team Sports

Another strong year was had from our team sports programs in 2024. Participation remained high as capacity of all sports sit around 80% or more. We had some upgrades to our equipment with refurbished Rebound Soccer Goals and new Volleyball Stands/Nets purchased. Pickleball continued to grow in popularity with now 3 morning sessions a week running. It is great to see the forming of a regular community enjoying the program. Thanks to all the teams in all our competitions for another great year!



Sponsors

Gold Sponsors



Catherine Hutchesson MP
Member for Waite



Northway Plumbing



My Dentist Blackwood



Molechecks Australia



MINDFUL BODY
FITNESS & MASSAGE
Mindful Body
Fitness & Massage



Leading Edge
Podiatry



Intersport Blackwood



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Ever After Celebrancy
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Cooinda Blinds & Curtains



Foto Swift



Blackwood Hire



Fire & Rescue
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We continue to be supported by many local businesses and their contribution to the centre is greatly appreciated.

Partners & Community Groups

- City of Mitcham
- South Australian Parkour Association
- Mindful Body Fitness and Massage
- Reach Exercise Physiology
- Flinders University
- Australian Institute of Personal Trainers
- Skate SA
- Blackwood Gymsports
- Blackwood Blaze Inline Hockey
- Carer's SA
- Speed Skating South Australia
- Blackwood High School
- AH Trophies
- Gymnastics South Australia
- Lacrosse South Australia
- AUSactive
- The Science Collective
- Flinders Uni Volleyball Club
- 2 Hoops Basketball
- United Gymsports