



A brief history of
Murray ACE Swan Hill Inc.
1980 - 2021

(Murray ACE was originally known as Dowling House)

Source: Annual Reports and Annual General Meeting Minutes



Welcome to Murray ACE Swan Hill Inc.

Our Vision is to provide a vibrant sustainable community hub.

Our Mission is to offer flexible learning experiences and services to the community in a friendly environment.

Murray ACE prides itself on

- Providing a compassionate learning environment to all people
- Providing quality programs that meet the changing needs of the community
- Embracing the spirit of partnership with other providers and interest groups

Murray Adult & Community Education (Murray ACE) is a community owned not for profit learning centre providing relevant courses for the regional community. Our courses are intended principally for adults, including general, vocational, basic and community education, and recreation, leisure and personal enrichment programs.

We also provide Certificate in General Education for Adults – CGEA, usually with emphasis on the literacy, numeracy and social skills needed to function within the community or to gain employment. Many of the courses are Nationally Accredited and recognised throughout Australia.

The organisation is managed by a committee of management who meet bi-monthly. Their role is to direct policy, provide financial and management and leadership. Day-to-day management is carried out by a Centre Manager who directs other permanent staff. Trainers /Teachers are employed on a sessional basis as required.

Murray ACE Swan Hill Inc. facilities are accessible to community groups, businesses and individuals who are undertaking studies whether through Murray ACE or off campus with other training organisations and Universities.

The Dowling House Story

‘Dowling House’ is, of course, a house named after the Dowling family who were the last family to own and occupy the house but it all started with a man named Gould Walker, who had the house transported to Swan Hill from the Bendigo/Kyneton area in 1916.

The story goes that it was moved in two sections, by bullock wagon and the verandas and kitchen area were added on after being settled on the present site. At the time it is believed that the Carob Bean tree- which is now classified by the National Trust and the palm were planted along with much of the shrubbery which is still part of the garden. In 1988 the Carob Bean tree was classified under the Nation Trust as a Significant Tree of Victoria.

The house had another owner, a Mr. McLean, before it was purchased by Fred Dowling in 1945. The Dowling’s then lived in it until 1978 when after the death of Fred, son Norman moved to a smaller house across the road.

1979

In 1979 the “The Friends of the Gallery” rented the lovely old home for an art gallery and as an outlet for local artists. The only stipulation was that they must live within 100 miles of Swan Hill. It was hoped that it would eventually become a Regional Gallery but this was not to be. The transition from “The Friends of the Gallery” to the present Dowling House Incorporated has taken over 15 years and much work, worry and perseverance by small band of community minded citizens.

1981

A survey of Swan Hill was conducted and a public meeting was held in June 1981 confirming the decision to purchase the property. Mr Duncan Douglas put forward ideas and actions that led to the nucleus of a permanent collection of local art works. Regular painting classes were also being held at the House.

Originally, the aim of the House was to allow local artists to exhibit and sell their work in pleasant surroundings, shortly after crafts people also wished to present a range of articles for exhibition and sale, volunteers offered to keep the House open for increasing periods of time each day, in order that both locals and visitors to Swan Hill would have somewhere to view and purchase locally made goods.

Norm Dowling portrait



An archway was developed between two rooms to allow for visiting artists beyond the 100 mile radius to exhibit their work. These exhibitions were designed to increase the interest and expertise of the community in all cultural fields. On the 25th September 1981 a permanent display of paintings was on show for the first time at what was then called 'the Swan Hill Community Arts Centre,' now known as 'Dowling House'. The first Local Art Awards were held in December that year.

'We are achieving our aim of promoting our painters, potters, workers in ceramics, knitters and sewers, woodworkers and crafts people.' *(Extract from the annual report 1981/82)*

1982

'The Brian Harding Exhibition in May 1982 was most successful, together with a selling & display of Helen Cue's individual and artistic pots.' *(Extract from the annual report 1981/ 1982)*

The fund raising efforts, throughout the year attracted money from the Wheat-growers, sale of Carob bean seeds, a Scottish Belle Parade, Street Stalls, a LACE Party, catering for a dinner meeting of the Lady Lions, and a Market day street stall, individual donations plus hire of the facilities.

1983

As 1983 got underway, the first newsletter was produced. Dowling House had become an integral part of the life of Swan Hill and district people, thanks to the dedicated involvement of many members. In this year the first Board of Management was appointed by the Committee.

Many craft workshops were supported including leadlight, landscape painting, weaving, jewellery skills, cake decorating, machine knitting & mud brick making.

1984

'Dowling House Arts Centre Incorporated' was registered 21st March 1984. The Committee had put down a deposit of \$20,000, hoping raise the balance of \$65,000 by contributions and grants before June 1985, however this did not eventuate.

1985

Becoming an incorporated body, as Dowling House Arts Centre Inc. in 1985 enabled the Committed to enter into a Mortgage to purchase the house from Mr Norman Dowling. In conjunction with Swan Hill's 150th birthday celebrations, a garden party was organised on 23rd March.

1986

The Committee of Management was having difficulty repaying the loan for the premises. It was fortunate that the Swan Hill City Council took over the mortgage of Dowling House on 1st April 1986, with an agreement that this should be paid back over 10 years. A 10 year building development plan was established to provide new classrooms and larger administration area to cater for an increasing number of classes.

Sandra Trahar was employed as a Program Coordinator to manage the development of courses offered by Dowling House.

1987

In 1987, with the help from our then Regional TAFE Board, we received a grant of \$16,000 to extend the small southern veranda into a multi-purpose room measuring approximately 20 x 40 feet, thus tripling the area. This was opened by the then Minister for Education, Carolyn Hogg. During this development, as a planning requirement of the City Council it was necessary to provide 14 car parking places on the site. The City Council again assisted by using their staff and equipment to establish the car park.

1988

The **Ceratonia Siliqua – The Carob Tree** located at the front entrance to Dowling House was classified by the National Trust in 1988 as **“a tree of considerable significance to the heritage of Australia and must be preserved”**. The tree is the largest known example of the species in Victoria and due to its size and location makes a major contribution to the landscape.

1989

‘The overall maintenance of the property and the day to day running is practically a full time occupation. The upgrading of the facilities is absolutely necessary, if delivery of services is to be improved.’

(Eunice Kennedy annual report 89/90)

‘The Building Fund’ was of prime importance and focus and fundraising activities such as ‘a pleasant Sunday afternoon’, involvement in the ladies pavilion at the Swan Hill field days, and a garden fair all raised considerable funds contributing to the renovations and extensions, now necessary due to the increase use of the facility by the community. \$35,000 was raised towards the \$100,000 project, a masterful feat in itself!

The Committee decided to develop the whole back section to provide facilities for the heavier crafts such as woodwork, upholstery & pottery. Swan Hill City Council allocated \$14,000 towards the upgrade of the sewerage work and provided bridging finance so the works could start immediately.

1990

With the support of the City of Swan Hill a further loan for \$40,000 was secured and a \$100,000 rebuilding program was started. Demolition of the kitchen and the back area of the house began and the new extension included new toilets, a commercial class kitchen with teaching area and a large concrete floored workshop/painting area.

The organisation was successful in attracting significant funding for outreach projects and Lorri Lambert was employed as "Networking Officer" to manage the outreach program.

1991

1991 saw the name change from 'Dowling House Arts Centre Incorporated' to Dowling House Incorporated', this change opened up the image of the work to incorporate other services which are all part of the centre.

Work was completed on the extensions and in November 1991, was the official opening by Meredith Sussex, General Manager of the Office of Adult, Community and Further Education Board

1992

The organisation registered with VRQA as a registered training organisation. Volunteers continued to man the desk for 363 days of the year to operate the craft store. Classes were held both in Dowling House and in the field with the outreach program now in its second year. The accounting system was finally computerised.

1993

Dowling House undertook the task of transcribing Oral Histories for the newly formed Mallee Oral History group. This was made easier by the loan of Dictaphones from the Shire and Swan Hill Secondary College and Margot O'Bree. Several organisations use the facilities for meetings and activities such as: Swan Hill Writers Group; Decorative Artists; Floral Art Group; Crafts Swan Hill; CWA Boren; Swan Hill LACE Makers; U3A; Adult Literacy Group; Herb Growers' and Tenants' Action group.

1994

1993-94 was a tense time for the Committee as funding was becoming uncertain for further education and reduction of Federal Government funding for projects.

The House was reorganised and the large multi-purpose room became the sales area. Items created by members of the communities within 170 kilometres of Swan Hill were for sale on commission. The three rooms in the older section of the house then became classrooms, giving staff an opportunity to set up a secure computer room for the 10 computers purchased. Administration areas were consolidated along the north veranda area, which allowed for better communication and security.

The building was painted in Federation colours to match its style, had air-conditioning installed covering most of the House. Stramit was installed in the workshop area to improve insulation and the old section of the House was re-roofed, due to damage from heavy hail.

Community organizations, such as Rotary, Apex and Jaycees, together with Skillshare and the Office of Correction workers, worked in the garden, removed an old shed and installed the pergola.

Isobel Hopkins, the first president for Dowling House, donated a painting of the House, by Stan Thomas, to the Committee of Management.

1995

It became increasingly clear that the future of Dowling House lay in the direction of being a community provider for Adult Education and after much discussion and rationalization, the decision was made to close the Art and Craft section of Dowling House. This area would now be used for much needed classroom and meeting space. Art supplies will continue to be sold as part of ongoing art classes. Craft sales, which had been a prominent part of the House's activities, were being serviced by other outlets. In addition the Gallery sub-committee discontinued. Art classes continued to be facilitated by Dawn Watts in the workshop downstairs.



Dawn Watts: painting tutor for 20+ years

1996

The Further Education sub-committee merged with the general Committee and the financial accounts were integrated, simplifying administration. Strong enrolments continued with computers and office administration the most prevalent. Sandra Black (Trahar), Executive Officer, achieved 10 years' service with the House.

1997

The structure of funding changed dramatically bringing with it a range of challenges for staff and Committee. The bulk of our funding was now in the form of set dollar paid for each Student Contact Hour whereas previously a set amount was given and allocated as we determined. A designated student lounge was established including an automatic urn, fridge and dishwasher.

1998

Quality Assurance has become a major focus of funding bodies and it was necessary to upgrade our facilities to include a wheelchair access from Gray Street. Six new computers with Windows 98 and internet access were purchased.

Funding options were being explored to extend the House to increase classroom space and upgrade the facilities. Computer Courses continued to be an integral part of the program. Swan Training and Swan Hill Community House became strong partners with the organisation.

1999

A new telephone system was purchased which gave four lines into the house. A garage sale was held and raised \$1,400 which went towards carpet for the childcare area located, in the workshop. Mrs. Sandy Black, Executive Officer, resigned after 15 years' service.

Lyn Breen, previously the manager of Kerang Learning Centre, was appointed interim manager of Dowling House and Owen Wilson was appointed as Program Manager.

2000

Owen Wilson was appointed to the Centre Manager's position.

To ensure we were offering the latest courses on the latest versions of programs, 20 new computers & software were purchased and a maintenance contract established. New furniture was purchased for the computer room. A number of tutors completed their Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment to enable the delivery of accredited courses.

An accommodation sub-committee was established to ensure that enough space of appropriate configuration was available. To achieve these, two separate grants were applied for and received to refurbish the House's hallway and commence the first stage redevelopment of Dowling House. In addition to this, new premises had been secured to cater for the increased accommodation needs of a greater number of courses.

2001

The new premises, formerly the SEC building was named Holmes House and the site provided space for accredited programs. The Dowling House building was being shared with the Neighbourhood House. The organisation's name was changed to Murray ACE Swan Hill Incorporated, to provide a better indicator of the core business – Adult & Community Education and to reduce the level of potential confusion between the two campuses – Dowling House and Holmes House (*extract from Pres. Report Laurie Eakin*).

2002

After a vote of no confidence in the management of the organisation, the Committee of Management and the Centre Manager resigned. It was evident that the fixed costs, primarily in the form of rental commitments at Holmes House and the expanded staff structure was exceeding revenue. Neighbourhood house moved into alternative accommodation and the organisation was re-located back to 429 Campbell Street.

A process commenced to sublet the rooms at Holmes House. Dean Stanyer was appointed interim manager of Murray ACE.

2003

Sandra Lewis was appointed Executive Officer mid-year. A four year corporate plan was shaped by the members and 'Friends' of Murray ACE Inc.

It was recommended that 'Swan Hill Arts Inc.' be adopted as a name for a subcommittee. Later this was to be named Phoenix Arts Swan Hill as a subcommittee of Murray ACE.

Holmes House was a major drain on finances, it attracted excessive costs, its revenue raising capacity was small and its use was negligible. Fortunately the Committee was able to withdraw from the lease in September, however two staff members had to be retrenched to ensure viability of the business.

2004

A couple of crisis meetings took place to discuss direction. Unanimously the community wanted Murray ACE and its operations to remain as they were. A lot of hard work had to take place with the financials and systems to sustain the organisation.

Renovations to the gallery art room and the administration work stations were substantial which renewed support of the arts. Sandra Lewis resigned as Executive Officer in October of this year and Suellen Tomamichel was appointed interim Executive Officer.

2005

Suellen Tomamichel was appointed as the Executive officer with a goal of improving our image and perception in the community. Improvements were made to the garden and to the house itself.

The CGEA students worked with the arts classes and created their own art pieces which are displayed in the House. Exhibitions were scheduled every 6-8 weeks and openings were generally on Friday nights with Geoff Green as the pianist.

The funding obligations with ACFE were met clearly by August 2005 and planning for more courses and better management structure began.

2006

A weekend was held in September to celebrate 25th Birthday of Dowling House. The mosaic seat was created to mark this anniversary with many locals including those from organisations such as the Swan Hill Aboriginal Health Service; the Lake Boga Sea Scouts; Lake Boga Venturers; staff & tutors of Murray ACE; Dawn's Art Group and Mallee Artists Swan Hill. The Committee would like to acknowledge the contribution by Kathleen McLennan to ensure the completion of the seat.

Leanne Shannon-Kelson was appointed Centre Manager with 2 full time staff, 2 part time staff and 15 tutors employed. Profits returned to a sustainable level.

2007

The Scope of registration was expanded to include Certificate II in Hairdressing and Workplace Training and Assessment. Air conditioning and fans were installed to improve the amenity for students and there was an increase in contracted hours for delivery of courses. Signage was updated to improve visibility and to ensure Murray ACE is seen as a provider of education and training. The community Art Gallery was utilised well over the year.

2008

The 5 year ACFE audit was conducted and the organisation re-registered until December 2011. The Government Skills Reform package was implemented bringing with it a large number of new regulations and reporting responsibilities. A rainwater tank was installed to ensure the garden could be watered during the drought and a weather proof area created at the rear entrance for students. The contracted funded hours were met successfully and the Scope was again expanded to include Certificate III and IV Aged Care and III and IV in Disability. Several successful exhibitions were held in the community gallery.

2009

This was a very busy year with the Centre Manager and Program Coordinator working on policies and procedures and preparing for the VRQA re-registration audit. This required an overhaul of many procedures and after some work the requirements were met successfully.

We were successful in securing \$871,000 to extend the building and to upgrade the older parts of the building. This was a major project with the Chair, Lorri Lambert, Centre Manager, Leanne Shannon-Kelson and Program Coordinator, Deanne Earle working tirelessly to complete the finding proposal, obtain quotes and manage the building project.

The hairdressing salon was also upgraded as a separate project. The organisation delivered the contracted hours despite the disruptions during the year and changes as some trainer's retired and new ones were sought.

2010

The new funding model was partially implemented and this, along with the re-registration process with VRQA meant a great deal of re organisation of administrative processes and delivery processes.

The building project was completed and officially opened in October with the gardens also being refurbished by volunteers for the opening.

The two smaller front rooms in the old building were rented to MADEC for the delivery of literacy and numeracy classes.

A business mentor assisted in the development of new business, strategic and marketing plans for the organisation. As part of the annual audit the property was re-valued and is estimated to be worth \$800,000.

2011

All courses ran well with good numbers and having the new rooms and resources made the teaching and learning experience very rewarding for both Tutors and Student alike.

a new fence was erected down the Gray Street side of the building with a gate for access to the classrooms down the back and a gate/fence on the south side, thus allowing for better security around the building.

2011 saw the Launch of Learn Local Awareness Strategy, the purpose of the new approach was to significantly raise the general public's awareness of our sector and thereby engage more learners in Learn Local education and training. This new brand has replaced Adult community education – 'ACE organisations' to 'Learn Local Organisation'.



2012

During the year we had the opportunity to apply for some extra funding through the ACFE Board Capacity & Innovation Fund and were successful in receiving a grant for \$23,740. This grant was used to engage an external consultant to look at and improve current processes in order to better meet the government's contractual requirements. By improving our current business processes this has enabled Murray ACE to successfully add to our Scope of Registration so as to meet Industry needs in our community. We worked on setting up a Salon in our rooms down stair in readiness for delivering the Certificate III in Hairdressing in 2013.

We had the opportunity to work with Swan Hill College and the FLO Program – Flexible Learning Options for 'At Risk of Disengaging' students from Years 8, 9 & 10. This proved to be a huge challenge for staff and trainers at Murray ACE as this is not our normal cohort of learners. With a lot of support from other organisations, we saw the program through to the end of the year with excellent outcomes.

2013

This year saw the introduction of Careers and Goals with Tanya Forrest which proved to be a very successful program and a good addition to CGEA. After a lot of hard work by Centre Manager, Leanne Shannon Kelson and Program Coordinator, Lorri Lambert, the operational hairdressing salon became a reality. Jodi Cole was employed to deliver Certificate III in Hairdressing and to develop the salon further.



Enrolment numbers continued to improve, finances were streamlined and some new procedures implemented to ensure that the organisation continues to improve and develop.

2014

The Committee of Management has developed in strength and diversity and continues to work on ensuring Murray ACE is offering quality training and is compliant with all Government bodies. Kerryn Zanker has worked with the accountants to provide a more transparent and effective financial management system.

There was continued increase in student contact hours and although there were many organisations closing their doors we have continued to consolidate our services and courses.

We were successful in gaining a grant to purchase a class set of 6 iPad's to be used by students in CGEA. The organisation also facilitated a working with young people project on behalf of ACFE delivering a 2 day 'Coaching Young People for Success' program.

Our 2014 VRQA re-registration audit was successful and as part of the process there has been a major overhaul in policies and procedures and review of the scope of registration.

2015

Growth in student numbers with an increase of 63% over the past 3 years. This was partly due to the introduction of program delivery in Kerang and partly due to the success of our transition to and management of the new funding arrangements. Lorri Lambert resigned as Program Coordinator and Megan Purtill was employed in the role, commencing in June.

Through the ACFE equipment grant of \$5,000 range of new resources were purchased including new First Aid mannequins, massage bed for beauty, additional storage cupboards and a new camera.



2016

Policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated to ensure we are compliant with our funding bodies and reporting requirements.

Registered and delivered new Certificate III in Individual Support, Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and the Certificate III in Individual support which replaces the Aged and Disability certificates.

VRQA re-registration successful and we successfully re registered to deliver Hair and Beauty courses under the new SHB training package.

New Branding project to modernize image and improve identity in the community. This included a new logo and large media campaign.

2017

Successfully delivered programs in Kerang including Individual Support and EXcellerate which included the Certificate in General Education for Adults.

The Committee funded a trial project to employ Salon Manager and the hair and beauty services were combined to create a larger salon.

Trainers have been working more effectively with industry, businesses and organisations. Two new beauty units were added to the scope of registration and we undertook an external audit for the State Government Skills First Program for our business process and transactional compliance.

2018

Successful in the application for Organisational Responsiveness Grant. This grant provided a strategic opportunity for Murray ACE to further develop partnerships with TAFE, align our business model with Governments announced Free-TAFE initiative and to develop student pathways from our courses to the FREE-TAFE initiative.

Throughout this process, we have worked with Di Davies from Solutions4All and with local industry visits; we have come up with some new areas for Murray ACE to more in to. We will be looking at adding the following courses to our Scope of Registration to commence late 2019 early 2020.

- HLT33212 Certificate III in Aboriginal and-or Torres Strait Island Primary Health Care
- FNS30317 Certificate III in Accounts Administration
- SHB50115 Diploma of Beauty Therapy

This also enabled Murray ACE to update our current webpage to include video footage and more user-friendly website, produce a colour Student Information Guide and update our current Business, Strategic Marketing Plan.

2019

Student numbers in 2019 slowed down due to the FREE TAFE courses on offer. Certificate III in Individual Support and Certificate IV in Disability. It was decided that Murray ACE would only change the resource fee to match the FREE TAFE courses.

Anne Murray commenced her new role as the Training Coordinator and Compliance Officer in August 2019, after teaching the CGEA class. Ann is highly qualified for this position and brings a wealth of knowledge in the training industry.

We successfully completed our VQRA Extension to Scope application for Farm Chemicals and White Card. We were delivering our First Aid under a partnership agreement with Allen's Training, however in October they were no longer offering RTO to RTO third-party arrangements. Murray ACE made the decision around delivery of our First Aid, that we needed to add the required units to our scope of registration and create an online assessment tool and deliver the First Aid ourselves, which Ann Murray was able to deliver all 3 courses.

2020

In March 2020 the COVID-19 Pandemic took hold across Australia and the world. Swan Hill was very lucky in the sense we were a remote region and we were spared from infection in large numbers. Victoria as a state was in lock down for many weeks, seeing the cancellation of many major events. Swan Hill, lost events, such as Tennis Week and June Long Weekend racing carnival. This had a significant effect on local businesses and community as a whole.

Courses continued as we moved through the COVID-19 pandemic. We maintained restrictions on class sizes for our FFS and ran extra classes to allow for smaller class sizes. Some of our accredited classes slowed back in Term 2, mainly hair and beauty due to client restrictions but our trainers used Zoom to keep students engaged. All other classes ran as normal with some using Zoom for those who could not attend. Most students chose to come to class and continue their studies, so classes continued as normal. We implemented our COVID-19 Safety Plan to keep all staff, students and visitors safe.

Murray ACE received some relief during COVID 19 with Commonwealth Government initiatives such as Job Keeper and Cash Flow Boost as well as the Skills for Economic Recovery initiative, the Digital Adjustment fund which provided one-off funding in response to COVID-19 eligible Learn Local Providers in regional Victoria

Murray ACE were successful in adding 2 new qualification to our scope of registration, this included the Certificate III in Accounts Administration and the Diploma of Beauty. We commenced the delivery of the accounts administration in October with 7 students, but are yet to commence the Diploma of Beauty.

2021

Once again, we were faced with Covid 19 restrictions and this saw some staff and trainers working from home. Work was done to ensure that the office was manned during lockdowns, including the purchase of new laptops. This enabled staff to work from home and have access to the Murray ACE server so there was limited interruption to our business operations.

Students learned to study from home with assistance from our trainers using Zoom for some course delivery. Courses continued to be delivered in both Swan Hill and Kerang and our students numbers remained good considering the environment. Our AVETMISS reported hours were up on 2020.

We lost a valued member of our staff in Jodi Cole, Jodi left us after 8 years service to follow her dreams in Real Estate.

The Reconnect Program commenced. This is designed to support Victorians experiencing disadvantage. The program assists participants to overcome barriers preventing them from engaging in education, training and employment. The program is funded for 2 years with the option for a further 2 years. One full time coordinator was employed to manage this program with the support of Finance and Administration provided by Murray ACE.

We were successful with our application for RSTF funding (Regional and Specialist Training Fund). This funding will support participants to gain employment in the Hairdressing Industry through delivery of the Certificate III in Hairdressing. The funding will assist students with their fees and provide equipment to be used in our MACE on Gray Salon. The funding application was for \$106,000.00 over the duration of the program (18 months). Part of the funding will boost our advertising through a new website being developed early 2022. As part of this funding, we engaged Mitch Barkman, a videographer to develop professional videos that have been shared on our social media and will be promoted on our new website.

Repairs and maintenance were carried out on our solar system to keep it working efficiently and another solar system was installed to help cover the rising cost of electricity.

Committee of Management
PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES 1981-2021

Year	President	Secretary
1981	Isobel Hopkins	Ruth Watson
1982	Isobel Hopkins	Ruth Watson
1983	June Wells	
1984	Pat Fraser	June Wells
1985	Ian Monkhouse/Ross Watts	
1986	Merril Taylor	Audrey Standen
1987	Dawn Watts	Audrey Standen
1988	Dawn Watts	June Wells
1989	Eunice Kennedy/Barbara Stewart	June Wells
1990	E. Kennedy (Vice)	June Wells
1991	Gillian Day	Audrey Standen
1992	John O'Bree	Audrey Standen
1993	John O'Bree	Audrey Standen Lyn Banks (Min sec)
1994	Maren Chandler	Audrey Standen
1995	Doug Laidlaw	Kerrie McDonald
1996	Lorri Lambert	Kerrie McDonald
1997	Kerrie McDonald	
1998	Lorri Lambert	Margaret Banks
1999	Lorri Lambert	Margaret Banks
2000	Laurie Eakin	
2001	Laurie Eakin	
2002	Laurie Eakin (Vice)	
2003	Suellen Tomamichel	Tricia Witney
2004	Suellen Tomamichel	Tricia Witney
2005	John Daniel	Tricia Witney
2006	Malcolm Heighway	Maureen Kennon
2007	Malcolm Heighway	Mark Bennett

Year	President	Secretary
2008/09	Lorri Lambert	Lynne Fletcher
2010	Lorri Lambert/John Daniel	Deanne Earle (Min sec)
2011/12	John Daniel (Vice)	Deanne Earle (Min sec)
2013	John Daniel	Derek Bowman
2014	Lyn Fletcher (Vice)	Ann Murray
2015	Ted Paynter	Russell Silvester
2016	Ted Paynter	Lorri Lambert
2017	Ted Paynter	Lorri Lambert
2018	Ted Paynter	Lorri Lambert
2019	Ted Paynter	Fiona Hawley
2020	Ted Paynter	Fiona Hawley
2021	Ted Paynter	Deanne Earle (Min Sec)

Office Hours are 9am – 4 pm Monday to Friday.

'Learn Local' Education and Training

429 Campbell Street Swan Hill Vic 3585

Ph: 03 50323719 F: 0350331580 Email: learn@macesh.vic.edu.au

www.macesh.vic.edu.au

ABN 48 439 003 506 ASN: A0000887K

Registered Training Organisation No: 3776

WHY DOWLING HOUSE?

By Pat Dowell 1990

“Why go to Dowling House?”

My old friend said to me.

It’s rather a tired old building

Hiding behind that tree.

But do you know it’s heart, I said

And the many interests there,

Somehow it has a welcoming face

And the folks there seem to care.

For they see the needs of the

Swan Hill folk

And they try to meet that need,

So if there is something you want to learn

Go there and I think you’ll succeed.

It may be something to do with your hands,

Or, something to do with your brain.

But, I really think if you went there once,

You’d be bound to go again!

Pat was a well-known face in the early years and continued to come to learn into her 80’s.

She was a member of the U3A group.

A History of “The House”

