
Macedon & Mount Macedon Community House Inc. (MMMCH)

Strategic Plan

2027-2032

The MMMCH Strategic Plan 2027-2032 builds on a strong foundation and provides a roadmap for the next stage of the House's growth as a sustainable, inclusive, and community-led organisation.

1. MMMCH Purpose

To advance community wellbeing and mental health, and to build community resilience, by creating a safe, welcoming Community House that fosters connection, participation, and a sense of belonging. MMMCH creates opportunities for people to connect, participate and contribute, recognising that strong, connected, and resilient communities support individual and community wellbeing.

2. Who we are

MMMCH is a volunteer-led Community House, community connector, capacity builder, and incubator for community-led initiatives, helping to build community resilience. Where there appears to be a gap or opportunity, MMMCH may also start or pilot activities or programs itself, to test whether there is community interest or need.

3. Vision

A resilient, connected, and inclusive Macedon and Mount Macedon community, supported by a thriving Community House where people of all backgrounds, ages, abilities, identities, and experiences feel safe and welcome, belong, and have opportunities to participate, contribute, and flourish.

4. Mission

MMMCH works with the community, for the community, to:

- build community capacity and resilience;
- foster social connection, inclusion, and mental wellbeing;
- promote learning and the development of life skills;
- encourage community participation, volunteering and local leadership, and support community-led initiatives, while also starting or piloting activities ourselves where there appears to be a gap or opportunity, to test community interest;

- support environmental stewardship through sustainable practices and care of the community garden; and
- communicate with and listen to our community, and advocate for its needs and opportunities.

5. Values

In this Plan, “we” means MMMCH’s volunteers, members, Committee of Management, and staff.

MMMCH upholds the following values in its governance and in its activities and programs.

Inclusive: Everyone is welcome and treated with dignity and respect, and everyone helps keep the House safe and welcoming. We also endeavour to reach people in our community who are not yet connected with us.

Collaborative: We work with the community, for the community, openly and transparently, and value partnerships and shared responsibility.

Community led: We encourage and support community-led ideas, volunteering, and local leadership.

Sustainable and resilient: We act proactively and responsibly to support the long-term resilience and wellbeing of the House, our organisation and the Macedon and Mount Macedon community and build our capacity to adapt and respond to challenges.

6. Strategic Priorities

Priority 1: *Foster a connected, learning, engaged and resilient community:*

- Create opportunities for people of all backgrounds, ages, abilities, identities, and experiences to connect, learn, contribute and lead; supporting mental wellbeing while strengthening community resilience, inclusion, participation, and sense of belonging.

Priority 2: *Nurture community-led ideas and initiatives:*

- Create the conditions for community ideas to emerge and flourish, supporting local people to turn their interests, skills and aspirations into initiatives that benefit the community. Where the organisation identifies a gap or opportunity, MMMCH may also lead or pilot activities to test community interest.

Priority 3: *Protect and sustain our Community House:*

- Secure the long-term future of MMMCH as a valued community asset, ensuring the Community House and its surrounding site and garden remain welcoming, accessible, sustainable, and vibrant, able to respond to changing community needs.

Priority 4: *Build a sustainable and effective organisation:*

- Strengthen the financial, governance, partnership, communication, compliance, and organisational foundations needed to deliver the Plan and sustain MMMCH into the future.

Note: The above Strategic Priorities carry equal weight i.e. they are not listed in order of importance.

7. What Shapes this Plan

This Plan looks forward and, while informed by MMMCH's first four years of operations, it is open to new users and uses of the House. It complements rather than duplicates other service providers in this region and recognises that MMMCH's role is primarily to enable community participation and community-led activity. The Plan also reflects the capacity and constraints of the organisation in terms of volunteer, finance, time, and skills availability. The Plan is written to be consistent with our three charitable purposes as an Incorporated Association (advancing education, advancing social and public welfare, and advancing the natural environment) and to meet our obligations as a tenant of a Macedon Ranges Shire Council building.

The Plan draws on the Committee of Management's planning day on 23 May 2026, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Shaping the Ranges community insights plan, ABS Census data, conversations with other community houses in the region, and a Stakeholder Day held on 19 September 2026. Feedback from public consultation is also to be considered before the Committee of Management endorses the final 2027-2032 MMMCH Strategic Plan.

8. Our History and Key Achievements

Since 1949, the Council building at 47 Victoria Street, Macedon, has been an important community asset, supporting Maternal and Child Health services, pre-school programs, and connections among young families in Macedon and Mount Macedon.

In 2010, residents opposed plans to consolidate services elsewhere and gathered more than 500 signatures to support developing the site as a community hub. Maternal and Child Health services and playgroups continued there until 2013-2014, when they relocated to Gisborne and Woodend.

After MRSC signalled its intention to sell and subdivide the property in 2018, local representatives formed the Victoria Street Neighbourhood House Working Group to keep the site in community hands.

MMMCH was incorporated in January 2020 to save, renovate and manage the House. The community raised the required \$43,000 contribution, alongside Council and Commonwealth funding, enabling the renovation to proceed.

The renovated Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House reopened on 15 November 2022. Since reopening, the Committee of Management has expanded volunteers, programs, and organisational capacity, completed Stage 1 of the Landscape Master Plan in 2024, and appointed a part-time administrator and achieved DGR tax status in 2025.

Today, the House is again an active, accessible, and inclusive community hub, offering activities such as playgroup, permaculture and community gardening, craft, Warhammer Club, a street library, yoga, adult education, children's story time, as well as a meeting and function space.

9. Monitoring and Review

This Strategic Plan will guide the work of the Committee of Management from 2027 to 2032. It sets direction through the four priorities rather than listing five years of projects. Each year,

the Committee will determine the projects and initiatives to be undertaken in support of the four priorities, taking account of community needs, available resources, and organisational capacity, and will share them with the community and welcome feedback and ideas. The Committee will review progress against the indicative actions in Attachment A, which cover the first twelve months, at least annually. Some ideas raised during consultation, such as taking on a stronger advocacy role, are longer-term aspirations for years four or five of the Plan rather than immediate actions. The Strategic Plan may be updated during its life to respond to changing community needs, funding opportunities, legislation, and emerging priorities while remaining consistent with MMMCH's purpose, vision, and values.

10. Attachments

Attachment A: MMMCH's current activities and indicative 2027 actions

Acknowledgement of Country

Macedon & Mount Macedon Community House respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work, and gather, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and the Dja Dja Wurrung People. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and recognise their continuing connection to Country, culture, and community. We are committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful community where First Nations peoples, cultures and knowledge are recognised, valued, and celebrated.

MMMCH Contact Details

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Attachment A: MMMCH's current activities and 2027 indicative actions

MMMCH's current activities:

MMMCH currently offers gardening and environment activities (the Friday Garden Crew, Permaculture courses and the Macedon Fruit Crew), wellbeing activities (Hatha and Yin yoga), and activities for families, learning and creativity (Playgroup, Craft Circle, Warhammer Group for youth, a street library, and adult education workshops/courses). The House can also be booked as a meeting and function space

Feedback from the Stakeholder Day, held on the 19 September 2026, was that the five-year priorities should stay as they are, but the actions themselves should be realistic for what is achievable in the first year. This Plan therefore stays high level. Each year the Committee of Management will choose the initiatives it will take on under the four priorities. The table below sets out the indicative actions for the next year.

Indicative activities for 2027

As well as managing the House's business as usual (including grant applications and acquittal), the Committee of Management intends to consider the following in 2027. These actions are indicative only. The Committee will confirm each year what it takes on, depending on community input, funding, volunteer capacity, and any approvals needed from Council.

Activity	Strategic Priority	When
Complete Stage 2 of the Landscape Master Plan: finalise design, secure funding, and complete construction.	3	End of 2027
Develop an annual fundraising plan covering grants, sponsorship, philanthropy, local business support and tax-deductible donations	4	2027, then annual
Secure ongoing funding for priority activities such as the Community Garden	1, 2 & 3	First half 2027
Review and update the Volunteer Policy with a view to simplifying processes	1 & 4	End of 2027
Develop an inclusive Code of Conduct	1 & 4	First half 2027
Develop an annual communications plan to reach more people in the community, including piloting a regular MMMCH Newsletter	1 & 4	First half 2027
Explore options for additional support for program coordination, subject to funding	4	Second half 2027
Lead or pilot new activities, for example a community resilience and/or emergency preparedness program	1 & 2	End of 2027

Activity	Strategic Priority	When
Lead or pilot new activities that reach groups not yet connected to the House, for example men's wellbeing, older people's daytime activities, or foreign language conversation groups	1 & 2	End of 2027
Explore ways to support people starting community initiatives, such as developing leadership and project planning skills	2	Options in 2027