

YERONGA

COMMUNITY PROFILE AND PLAN

Introduction

- 1.0 Background
- 2.0 Yeronga: A Snapshot
 - 2.1 Beginnings
 - 2.2 Yeronga today
 - 2.3 The locals
 - 2.4 Key assets
- 3.0 Emerging Themes
 - 3.1 Data of participants at Yeronga Community Centre
 - 3.2 Trends and issues
- 4. Vision for Centre Development
- 5. Five Year Goal
- 6. References



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Yeronga Community Plan has been prepared by and primarily for Community Plus, as an initial guide and insight to assist our work in the Yeronga area, now and into the future.

This Community Profile and Plan focuses primarily on the suburbs of Yeronga, Yeerongpilly, Fairfield and Rocklea. It draws upon a wide variety of sources, including key national, state and local government documents, demographic data, existing reports and community research. It also draws upon input from local community leaders, business owners and residents, derived from ongoing engagement with the community.

The Community Profile aims to provide information and data that helps us to understand the people and area we are working with and for, the local residents. The Community Plan aims to provide specific responses and actions to these identified needs, and helps us to communicate our intentions with the whole community.

This is a living document that aims to support the work of the Community Development Workers of Yeronga Community Centre, the Community Development Team, Manager and the Management Committee of Community Plus in this district. It will be regularly updated as the district and the needs, opportunities and demands of the community change.

DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY PROFILE

A range of data sources have been used to develop the Community Profile, and plan for the needs of community members. These have included the following:

- Review of Queensland Treasury and Trade, Government Statistician, Queensland Regional Profile obtaining relevant demographic data to the community centre catchment area.
- Review of Australian Bureau of Statistical Data (2006 -2012)
- Community needs assessment survey conducted in late 2012
- Consultation with residents, local businesses and organisations as opportunities presented.
- Collation of service data from the Yeronga Community Centre from September 2012 until March 2013

2.0 OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Yeronga and the neighbouring suburbs of Fairfield, Yeerongpilly and Rocklea are situated between 4 and 9 kilometres south of the Brisbane CBD and are bounded by the Brisbane River. The area is in the Federal electorate of Moreton, State Electorate of Yeerongpilly and Brisbane City Council Ward of Tennyson.

LAND USE PATTERNS

The suburbs of Yeronga, Fairfield and Yeerongpilly and Rocklea have a combination of residential, industrial and business precincts. The areas closer to the CBD are predominately residential in nature, however moving south the Rocklea precinct is characterised by significant industrial and warehousing businesses, including the Brisbane Markets.

The area has a range of large parklands, sporting areas and community zone – many of these are in low lying areas prone to flood. Some of the major facilities include the Yeronga Memorial Park, Goodwin and Leyshon Parks, the Brisbane Tennis Centre and the Brisbane Golf Club.

LOCAL CULTURE AND HISTORY

There are significant Indigenous community links to the district. The extensive history of Yeronga began with the Aboriginal Jagera Tribe, which would have originally been a district from the larger Coorparoo or Yerongpan clan. The Brisbane River and river flats provided continuous food throughout the year, with summer rains developing a series of waterholes, which provided a reliable supply of water. The Jagera clan occupied the area before the arrival of Europeans in 1823, when three lost cedar cutters, Pamphlett, Finnegan and Parsons, passed through Yeronga to Oxley Creek. The Jagera Tribe was later pushed out by land clearing and farming, which took away their food and water supply. It is thought that the name Yeronga was derived from an Aboriginal word, 'yerongpa', describing a sandy place.

The Yeronga area was first colonised in the 1840's and at that time was primarily used as farm land. With the introduction of the Ipswich Railway in 1884, residential development of the area flourished, particularly in the flood free areas on the ridges and hills.

Key historical sites of Yeronga include the Yeronga Memorial Park, Rhyndarra (1889) and the Wanganui Gardens Villa.

It is thought that Fairfield was first colonised in the 1850's, with the low lying land predominately used for dairy pastures. Whilst there was early settlement of this area, including the first local Baptist Church during the 1860's, larger scale development of the suburb took some time, with residential subdivision and construction predominately occurring in the 1920's and 1930's and later periods.

Rocklea was first colonised during the 1860's with the low lying land being highly suitable for farming, particularly due to the regular flooding of the creek providing loam and deposits. The introduction of the Railway to the suburb in 1885 prompted development of the Rocklea State School, and later the Brisbane Golf Club. The suburb has historically been characterised as an important transit point between the Cities of Brisbane and Ipswich.

HOUSING AND TENURE

The residential population of each suburb has been increasing over recent years, reflecting ongoing residential development of mid to higher density premises. A total of approximately 22 000 people currently reside within the suburbs. A combination of home owners, people who rent and people in social housing exists. In Yeronga, more than 40% of residents are renting their home, Rocklea some 38% rent their home and in Fairfield 45% have tenancies.

The State Electorate of Yeerongpilly has 1 161 registered social housing rental dwellings, as of 30th September 2012.

Each of the suburbs has unique character. Each area has a wide socio economic mix of residents and dwelling types. Yeronga and Yeerongpilly have enclaves of wealthy residents, many of these reside along the river bank or close surrounds. Fairfield has a higher population of people who rent, mainly due to its geographical proximity to educational institutions. Rocklea is physically divided by Ipswich Road and has a smaller population, with a greater portion of the area used for industry.

One common fact about each of the suburbs is that parts of each were severely affected by the January 2011 flood. This special feature is an influencing factor on the community and their capacity building and Yeronga Community Centre's engagement with the community.

WORK AND ECONOMY

The main occupation for residents in Yeronga and Fairfield is within the "professional" category, with more than 37% of the population employed in these industries, however in Rocklea this dips to just over 19% and is closely followed by technical and trades workers (17%).

In Yeronga, unemployment was registered at 5% and the median individual income was \$747 per week, significantly above the Qld average of \$587 per week. In Fairfield the median weekly income dropped to \$635 per week, and in Rocklea \$523 per week, some 10% below the Queensland median. Rocklea had more than 7% of the population unemployed, while in Fairfield this rose to 7.8%.

There are over 3000 registered businesses in the local community, with over 90% of those businesses being classified as small business.

ANCESTRY AND ORIGIN

The most common ancestries in Fairfield (Qld) (State Suburbs) were English 24.4%, Australian 22.6%, Irish 10.9%, Scottish 7.3% and German 4.3%. In Fairfield (Qld) (State Suburbs), 69.2% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth were England 3.2%, New Zealand 3.1%, Malaysia 1.5%, Vietnam 1.2% and China (excludes SARs and Taiwan) 1.2%.

The most common ancestries in Yeronga (Statistical Local Areas) were English 25.1%, Australian 24.2%, Irish 11.3%, Scottish 8.8% and German 4.4%. In Yeronga (Statistical Local Areas), 72.1% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth were England 3.2%, New Zealand 3.0%, India 1.4%, China (excludes SARs and Taiwan) 0.8% and Philippines 0.8%

The most common ancestries in Rocklea (Statistical Local Areas) were English 22.4%, Australian 21.0%, Irish 8.3%, Scottish 6.3% and German 5.8%. In Rocklea (Statistical Local Areas), 60.8% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth were New Zealand 5.2%, England 2.5%, India 1.9%, China (excludes SARs and Taiwan) 1.8% and Russian Federation 1.4%.

2.4 COMMUNITY ASSETS

FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION

All three levels of Government have representatives based in the area. The Federal Member for Moreton (the Hon Graham Perrett) is based in Sunnybank. The State Member for Yeerongpilly (the Hon Carl Judge) is based in Moorooka and the Councillor for the Tennyson Ward (Cr Nicole Johnson) has offices in Fairfield.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

There are relatively few government services permanently based in the local area. None of the suburbs have a permanently based police station, the closest currently being at Annerley and Sherwood.

Similarly there is no Fire Station in the suburbs, again the nearest being in the suburb of Annerley.

Post offices are located at Fairfield, Yeronga and Rocklea.

The Brisbane City Council Regional Business Centre building is in Yeerongpilly, providing access to information on licensing, permits and applications, local laws and compliance, rates enquiries, animal registration and paper bus timetables.

HEALTH FACILITIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Health facilities available in the local community include General Practitioners, Child Youth and Mental Health, Dentists and Allied Health providers. There is a Dental Hospital located in Yeronga. There is no Public or Private Hospitals in the suburbs. The closest hospital is Princess Alexandra Hospital situated at Buranda less than 5km's from the area.

EDUCATION

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Yeronga has a State Primary and High School and a Special Education unit. The Yeronga Early Childhood Development Program offers an educational environment for deaf and hearing impaired students.

Yeronga has a private Catholic School, St. Sebastian's. Yeerongpilly and Fairfield have no schools. Rocklea has a State Primary school. Each suburb has access to Kindergartens and child care. Childcare facilities are available in all suburbs, as are before and after school care.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

Yeronga TAFE was based in Yeronga until 2012 and relocated to Yeerongpilly in 2013. The TAFE provides a range of adult learning opportunities.

The University of Queensland is located across the Brisbane River from the area and is accessible via the Eleanor Schonell Bridge.

TRANSPORT

The suburbs offer ease of access to the CBD with regards to public transport. A train line connects each of the suburbs with stations at all four suburbs. An extensive bus service exists also but is currently under threat through Brisbane City Council changes. The major road thoroughfare is provided by Ipswich Road which connects the western suburbs to the city.

LEISURE

Each of the suburbs has extensive leisure opportunities for its members to access. Sporting clubs include

St. Stephens Croquet Club, Souths Rugby Club, Yeronga Junior football Club, Souths Junior Cricket Club, Yeronga Football Club (AFL), Brisbane Olympic United Soccer Club, Yeronga Bowls Club, El Salvador Soccer Club, Brisbane Golf Club, Yeronga Tennis Club Inc., Queensland Blind Cricket Associate and Yeronga Memorial Park Swim Club. Community organisations include Southside Community Craft Circle, Sudanese Community of Queensland, Aid for the Blind, Women's Legal Service Kurilpa Scouts and Yeronga Girl Guides. Neighbourhood Watch organisation is active within the area.

RELIGION

The area has a number of different churches accessible to the community members, approximately 10. Each church offers different programs and their involvement within the community varies for example, Yeronga Anglican Church has a Men's Shed Program in operation, Yeronga Uniting Church has extensive involvement with the local Sudanese community, Annerley Church of Christ runs a Food Pantry Program weekly and Fairfield Family Christian church offers Boys Brigade.

CRIME

Annerley Police Station is the local police station accessed by the community. It has an adopt-a-cop program with the local schools. Neighbourhood Watch, a community organisation developed to help people protect themselves and assist police minimise the incidence of residential crime, is active within the area. Fairfield and Yeronga have an above average rate of break and enter according to Police data provided.



3. A SNAPSHOT OF YERONGA COMMUNITY CENTRE

3.1 PROUD BEGINNINGS – THE YERONGA RECOVERY CENTRE

Yeronga Community Centre has evolved from the work of the Yeronga Flood Recovery Centre which was in operation from January 2011 until February 2012. The Yeronga Flood Recovery Centre, a local community initiative that was developed to respond to the Brisbane River Flood of 2011, provided information, referral, food and respite, access to key services, resources and activities to community members who were flood affected.

The first six months of operation of the Yeronga Recovery Centre were funded by donation from small business, charities, churches, community organisations and individuals. The use of the vacant Yeronga Pre-School site was given in kind by Yeronga State School. The site had office facilities, kitchen facilities and grounds suitable for public access. All workers were voluntary. The centre was open seven days a week initially from 6am to 6pm, providing free meals and access to provisions.

Hours of operation were reduced in April 2011 to six days a week 8am-4pm and meals and support continued to be provided to flood affected households. In June 2011 funds were made available through the State Government to fund staffing of the Centre and assist with operational costs. This funding arrangement and service development was managed under the governance arrangements of an existing community organisation Community Plus (formerly West End Family Care Services) and this partnership continues to date.

In the June 2011 Queensland State Budget, funds were allocated for the establishment of a permanent Yeronga Community Centre. This included funding for the refurbishment of Education Queensland premises and resources (\$450 000), staffing and annual operational costs for the Centre (\$100 000 per annum). Transfer of ownership of the building from Education Queensland to Department of Communities was also negotiated at State Government level.

In February 2012, Yeronga Flood Recovery Centre was formally closed and Yeronga Community Centre opened in an outreach capacity whilst a temporary premises was identified. From May 2012, 4 Killarney Street, Yeronga was leased on a temporary basis for 12 months, with an extension of a further twelve months. 4 Killarney Street was a disused corner store, which had been extensively damaged by squatters and vandals. Over several months, a major refurbishment of the premises was undertaken with the support of the local community and business. This included donation of time, intellect, resources and labour from a wide range of sources, and included refurbishment of the both the internal and external of the premises.



Yeronga Community Centre Building in 2012

Before renovations.

3.2 FROM RECOVERY TO YERONGA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Since September 2012, the Yeronga Community Centre has been operating four days a week and providing services to local residents.

Building upon the work of the Recovery Centre, a number of the services and activities were immediately transferred to Yeronga Community Centre, based upon on-going demand and observed need, including the following:

Bread Basket	Free bread available on Mondays provided by local Moorooka bakery. Volunteers pack and distribute the bread to those in need.
Seniors Morning	Gathering of seniors for morning tea, chat and accessing information and referral. Volunteers pick up participants from the community area. Seniors can play games, read, or be involved in day-to-day operation of the centre.
Seniors Monthly Lunch	Once a month seniors meet for lunch at the Yeronga RSL. Participants pay for their own lunch. The RSL has a pick-up/drop off service available to participants at no cost.
Ducklings Playgroup	Ducklings Playgroup is held every Wednesday morning (9.30am - 11.30am) in the back garden of the centre. This activity is facilitated by a retired teacher and on average has three supporting volunteers. Children can be any age under five and must be accompanied by parent or carer.
Craft Morning	Every Thursday morning from 10am -12noon a craft activity is held. In 2013 the craft group members are focused on running the craft stall at Yeronga State School Fete in September. All levels of ability welcomed and instruction given. Morning Tea provided. No cost to participants.
Mudlarks Support Group	Monthly support group for women who are flood affected. Evening meeting for discussion, inquiry and sharing of circumstances. Have had guest speakers dealing with a range of issues such as mental health and recovery of children after a trauma.



Children's Gardening Workshop



Ducklings Playgroup



Craft Group

3.3 YERONGA COMMUNITY CENTRE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Building upon the services and activities that were transferred from the Recovery Centre, the Yeronga Community Centre has developed additional services and initiatives to respond to broader community needs.

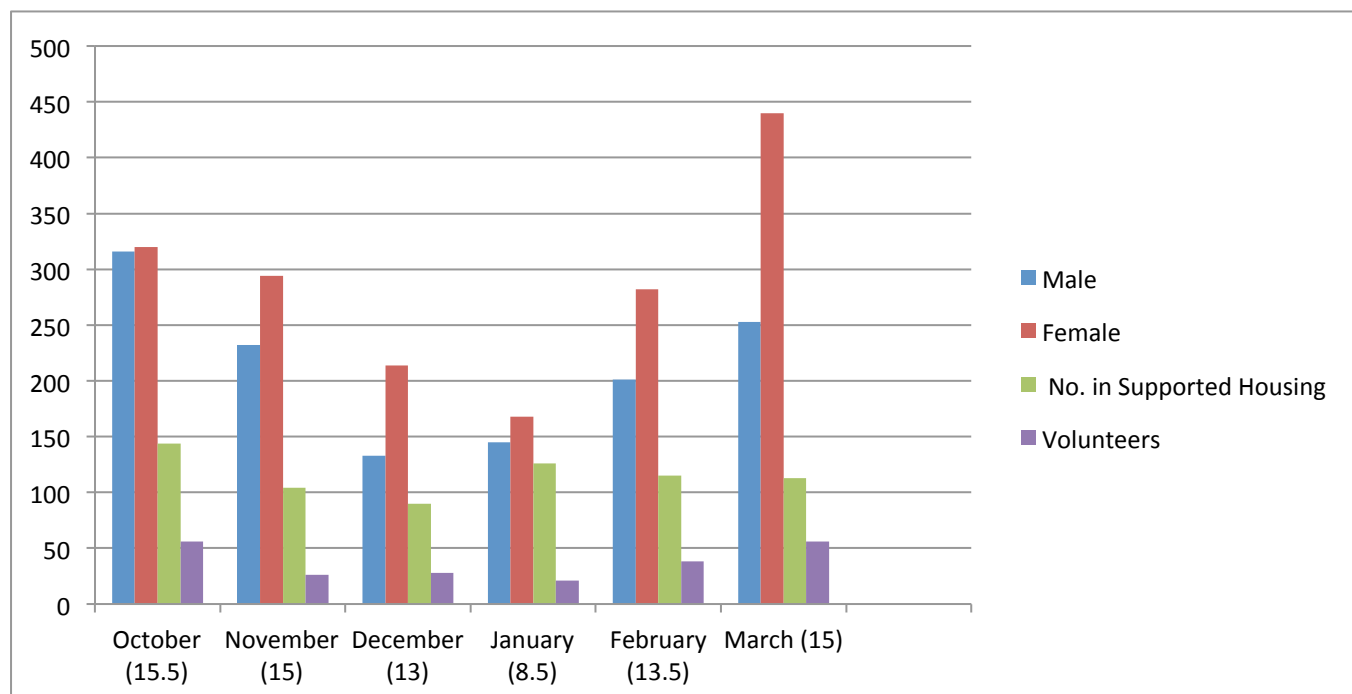
SERVICE ACTIVITY	LOOKS LIKE
Community information and referral and support	Distribution of information from service providers Telephone access Communication tool for local community groups Access to Tenants Advisory and Advocacy Service Commissioner for Declarations
Support for socially isolated	Provision of centre based activities to a variety of demographics Ongoing groups and activities
Avenues for volunteering	Volunteers involved in and supporting a broad range of Centre activities and services
Support for disadvantaged vulnerable community members	Advocacy around a broad range of social and community issues, including access to services and support
Community Education	Seminars and workshops including Children's Activity Day
Community Gardening	Backyard at Killarney Street has evolved into an active gardening space, providing community members a space to garden. A series of workshops have been developed around gardening in our community
Community Resilience	Building Resilience in Kids Seminar Program

3.4 THE YERONGA COMMUNITY CENTRE TODAY

COMMUNITY ACCESS

- On average 35 people are currently accessing the Yeronga Community Centre each day. The level of community access has continued to increase since the opening of the Centre.
- Statistical data indicates that one third of persons accessing the Centre are from socio economically disadvantaged backgrounds or are socially marginalised community members.
- Families and individuals from flood affected areas continue to access the Yeronga Community Centre. This cohort represents approximately 35% of visitors to the centre
- A significant number of persons accessing the Yeronga Community Centre are seeking volunteer opportunities. Approximately one quarter of community members who access the Centre regularly have offered to volunteer or have taken on a volunteer role. This reflects the statistical data which indicates that the local community have a higher than average participation in volunteer activities.
- The Centre has engaged with large groups of local residents through a range of programs including workshops and events – these activities have increased broader community access and awareness of the Centre.
- The Centre has engaged with the large cohort of social housing residents who are living within close proximity to Killarney Street. Approximately one third of all visitors to the Centre are currently resident in social housing.
- Local women are currently accessing the Centre in larger numbers than men.

COMMUNITY ACCESS – STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT



(N.B. The figures under each month represent how many days in the month the centre had the facilities available for public access. When staff members off site for meetings, or community consultation, this is not included as open.)

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REGARDING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

The Yeronga Community Centre has received feedback from Community Members who have received services, participated in activities and events, and volunteered at the Centre. The following represents a summary of some of the feedback received:

AREA	FEEDBACK
SOCIAL INTERACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors enjoy the social interaction with fellow community members Seniors living alone and with limited mobility are restricted in their access but still enjoy telephone interaction "Drop in" service provides interaction for the socially isolated and sense of belonging within the community A large percentage of people accessing the centre return for further interaction
FAMILY SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community keen to access activities for children The service provided by Yeronga Community Centre fills a void in the service provision in the local area and acts as a hub
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND NETWORKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target groups are seeking support from the Centre e.g. Multicultural Development Association, Gardening Groups, Women who have been retrenched. Community members are asking for support groups locally e.g. for domestic violence Working relationship with other organisations is positive e.g. Centacare, Impari, NEXT, OzCare, Yeronga Op Shop, and Brisbane Housing Company
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminars and workshops hosted and/or facilitated by Yeronga Community Centre are well received
COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yeronga Community Centre newsletter is a valued information tool Communication between Yeronga Community Centre and Yeronga State High School is proving to be an asset, with reduction of behaviour issues at the train station and greater engagement with the centre from the students.
VOLUNTEERISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of community members who enter for a defined purpose and become a volunteer in the centre is increasing. Yeronga Community Centre currently has a register of over 20 regular volunteers. Volunteers are pleased to be engaged with meaningful activity

VISION FOR CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

The Yeronga Community Centre provides accessible services for all community members and in particular local families, seniors, social housing residents, youth and marginalised people.

FIVE YEAR GOAL

In five years.....

The Yeronga Community Centre is a well known and flexible centre that listens and responds to its community. Programs in the centre will be reviewed regularly and adapted/changed when necessary.

Community members will refer other local residents to the Centre to seek information, contact, support and local knowledge.

Yeronga Community Centre will have a local identity and be a Centre that utilises the assets of its community to benefit its community.

The centre will be in operation five days a week and spaces are rented out to local groups and organisations for their programs.

A combination of paid staff and volunteer staff will work together to provide a well-informed service.

Yeronga Community Centre will be accessed as an example of good practice to other organisations.



Building Resilience in Kids Seminar-Yeronga 2013

THEME	LOOKS LIKE	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
COMMUNITY EDUCATION	Yeronga Community Centre actively develops and supports community education workshops on a variety of issues and topics determined by local community needs and preferences.	Investigate interest in budgeting workshops to address needs of lower income earners
		Continue to develop Gardening Workshop series, resources and links
		Investigate support for EALD classes
		Investigate interest in basic technology classes e.g. Phone and computer classes.
		Local history information and sharing.
		Cooking classes for Teenagers/Young People. e.g. sustainable cooking lessons, cooking on a budget.
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE	Yeronga Community Centre supports community resilience through a range of initiatives. The Centre will build on and develop these initiatives, and explore and support local and broader roles.	Development and establishment of support for BRIKS Program and engagement with other communities who have experienced a natural disaster
		Continued resilience work with the local community including Mapping and Documentary
		Local Community Mapping Project , recognising and establishing steps of recovery and preparedness for disaster.
		Documentary: A historical account and a learning tool on resilience, recovery and community spirit.
VOLUNTEERS	Yeronga Community Centre continues to increase its volunteer engagement and support.	Formalisation of volunteering program in accordance with Community Plus guidelines
		Continue to grow and diversify the Volunteer base and provide opportunities for all community members to volunteer and for all to support community initiatives
		Identification of volunteering opportunities in the local community to broaden potential activities for residents
COMMUNITY SPACE	Yeronga Community Centre will seek to make space available to local community groups both at the Centre and within the community.	Yeronga Centre has regular groups of “hirers” or “users” and seeks to increase its accessibility to the community
		A register of local community spaces available to groups is developed and maintained.
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION	Yeronga Community Centre supports and initiates local community celebrations	Establish calendar of events for local community
		Participation in annual local community events and celebrations including Family Fair, Neighbour Day, School celebrations , Anzac Day Ceremonies and community BBQ's
		Investigate establishment of Community Bowls Day with Yeronga Bowls Club
		Investigate establishment of Charity Tennis event with Brisbane Tennis Centre

		Launch of Yeronga Recovery Centre Documentary.
LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY	Yeronga Community Centre engages in six monthly formal and informal community consultations	Conduct bi-annual Community Consultation activities (Sept and March each year)
		Provide opportunities for continuous feedback eg suggestion box, website
		Establish Reference Group to promote and support YCC in the community
BUSINESS LIAISON	Yeronga Community Centre will liaise with the businesses in the area, which statistics show a large number are small businesses and identify any unique benefits and/ or concerns of this group.	Cross promote each other in various ways eg. Sponsorship of newsletter, raffles and events.



Yeronga Community Centre volunteers and staff 2013. All ages, welcome.

REFERENCES

Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury and Trade. 2013.
Queensland Regional Profiles – Yeronga, Fairfield-Dutton Park and Rocklea-Acacia Ridge
ABS Statistics. 2011 Census QuickStats: Yeronga.