**Chair Report 2022 AGM**

At the last AGM, I called on the community to celebrate the gift of the naming of this GCS place Wirraparingga. It was Senior Kaurna Elder Rodney O'Brien who graciously handed over the name, which translates to "Forest Place"

When Facebook posts were made, it caused a slight stir, and GCS was chastised for having an unapproved fixed sign by the door that recognised the First Nations. Agreed, the lease says we need permission to affix a sign, but it had been there for years and was an endorsed product by both First Nation communities and various governments. We were forgiven and allowed to have the sign. As a result, the sign of recognition of the naming has diplomatically not been permanently affixed but it is plentiful.

The naming is a recognition that for many, and First Nations in particular, that land is a place that completes identity and provides security and a place in the cosmos. In the western capitalist bureaucratic culture, we have lost that emotive spiritual link and replaced it with a monetarised relationship -a mortgage.

Sadly, even the mortgage is also out of reach for many and so they rent, they have a lease.

For GCS a lease is difficult.

GCS has been in this building, managing, or co-managing since the centre was built. This was well before 2000 when GCS helped the community drive the centre’s build, its plan, and its uses. Always the purpose was to have a community space.

At present, GCS has a further extension of a lease signed over six years ago. It ends in June 2023 but is subject to a 90-day termination notice.

This is not a good place to be. It has been a saga:

**February 2021**

GCS was informed that

* *As the Lease Agreement between GCS and the City of Unley due to expire on 16 May 2021, a Deed of Extension of Lease has been prepared for a period of six months to enable sufficient time for community consultation and consideration by Council*.

**April 2021**

Council required an expression of interest within seven days. After push back the deadline was extended, and a lease extension was granted subject to

* *information on the financial sustainability of GCS and*
* *Council undertaking community engagement (using a consultant) with current and previous hirers and the broader community to gather perspectives on the model in place.*

**In August 2021**

GCS was informed that

* *Elected Members requested a rigorous community engagement project to identify the cultural, social, recreational, and educational needs and interests of the community relative to Goodwood Community Centre.*
* *Democracy Co will undertake the consultancy.*
* *The current lease agreement will need to be extended to accommodate this.*

GCS spoke and met with Democracy Co. and then commented on the subsequent problematic report.

**October 2021**

After representations, GCS met with Council management. It was agreed

* *They would progress a report to Council seeking a new Deed of Extension of Lease, with the previous inclusion of an early termination clause removed. This extension will be proposed until 30 June 2022. We anticipate this report being presented to Council on 8 November 2021, or earlier if possible.*
* *The Holding Over clause in the existing lease will be enacted until this Deed is endorsed by Council and signed by both parties.*
* *Reporting on these remains a requirement, however it should be noted there was no expectation that GCS would necessarily achieve the targets set if impacted by Covid-related restrictions.*
* *Council will consider their preferred operating model for Goodwood Community Centre at its meeting on 13 December 2021*.

What happened – GCS is not sure as **it was all confidential** BUT:

**December 2021**

Council resolved:

*A tender for management of Goodwood Community Centre for a 2+3-year term is prepared with the outcomes returned to Council prior to negotiating a Lease Agreement and Service Agreement****.***

GCS was informed that the tender will be open to public submissions and GCS can respond at that time if they wish.

GCS did.

**January 2022**

*A tender was let via the Tenders SA website*

The process saw no contract awarded. GCS believes it complied with all aspects of the Tender

**May 2022**

*GCS was offered a 12-month extension to the current lease Agreement (noting the current extension lease expires 30 June 2022.)*

**July 2022**

*An extension was offered and agreed with a termination notice period extended, after representation, to 90 days from 60 days.*

**August 2022**

*Almost immediately on signing the extension, Council let an Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the management of the Centre, via Tenders SA to conclude COB 17 August 2022.*

**Which is now.**

As anyone can appreciate this process has frayed the Board and the staff of GCS. I thank the staff and many volunteers for their capacity to work under such distraction and particularly Gina the Co-Ordinator.

GCS has asked itself why? And as it is excluded from the discussion of the issues by the Council closing its meeting, GCS still waits outside to hear its fate. It is not as if GCS management costs Council; in comparison to other centres, it saves the Council many hundreds of thousands of dollars and allows the community a direct say in what they want and do.

Regardless of the distraction, GCS has grown as it recovered from Covid lockdowns and restrictions. Gina the co-ordinator has been assiduous in re-establishing GCS’ revenues through the Hall Hire and community use of the facilities. Regardless of the lease saga GCS is working hard at deserving and making a community place – Wirraparingga.