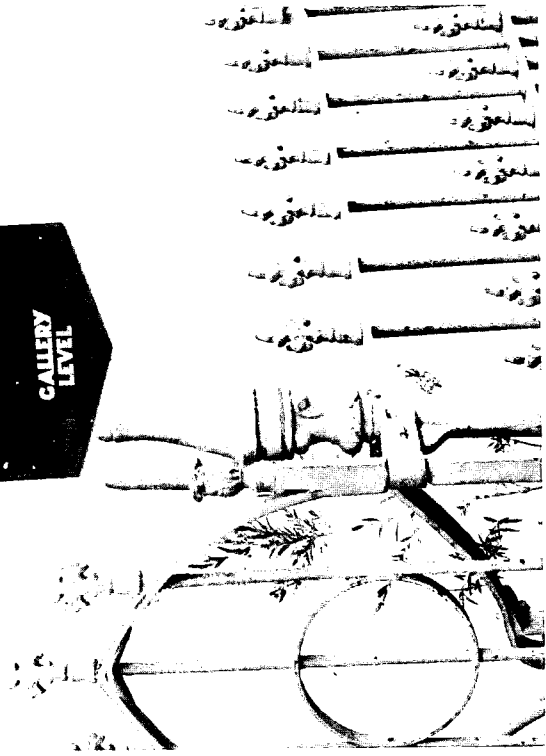
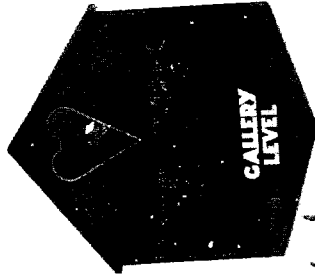
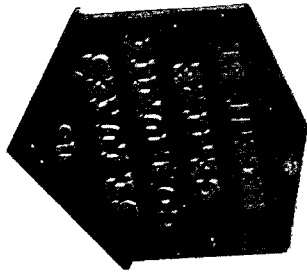


# SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID

## CO-OP

118 REGENT STREET, REDFERN, N.S.W. 2016  
TELEPHONE 699-4073, 699-2260.



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 1976-77

SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID CO-OPERATIVE LIMITEDBOARD OF DIRECTORS 1976/77

Alderman G.R. Ibbett (Chairman)  
 John Butcher (Secretary)  
 Rev. Ron Denham (Treasurer)  
 Margaret Barry  
 Frank Catford  
 Robert Drewett  
 Isabel Flick  
 John Floyd  
 Rev. Dean Eland  
 Mary Therese Folan  
 Colin James  
 Severene Olsen  
 Kim Pavlovich  
 Shirley Smith  
 Jo Wynter

(resigned 1/11/76)  
 (resigned 11/10/76)  
 (resigned 7/3/77)

John Hutchinson (Filled casual vacancy - R. Drewett)  
 Phillip Smith (Filled casual vacancy - John Floyd)  
 Elaine Glassick (Filled casual vacancy - Isabel Flick)

STAFF

Senior Migrant Counsellor	Vivl Koutsounadis
Aboriginal Field Officer	Richard Pacey
Aboriginal Welfare Officer	Meropy Bernhard
Secretary, Aboriginal Project	Sue Chilly
Administrative Secretary	Patricia McDonnell
Co-ordinator (from 3/5/77)	Robert Mowbray

Janet Whitehouse, previous Secretary to the Aboriginal Project resigned in October 1976, to have a baby.

\* The cover photograph shows members of the THURSDAY COFFEE SHOP, a current project of Community Aid.

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

In my opinion:

- (a) The attached balance sheet and statements of income and expenditure are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Co-operation Act, 1923 as amended, and so as to give the information required by or under this Act in the manner so required and give a true and fair view of :-
- (1) the state of affairs of the Co-operative at 30th June, 1977 and of
- (11) the income and expenditure of the Co-operative for the year ended 30th June, 1977.
- (b) I have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit.
- (c) Proper books of account have been kept.
- (d) The balance sheet and income expenditure accounts are in agreement with the books.
- (e) The register of members and other records which the Co-operative is required to keep by or under this Act or by its rules, have been properly kept.
- (f) The rules relating to the administration of the funds of the Co-operative have been observed.

R.B. BROWN

Chartered Accountant

Registered under the Public Accountants  
 Registration Act, 1945, as amended.

SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

TENANTS' RIGHTS PROJECT

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	300.00
Rent payments	154.79
S.W.C. Report	222.60
Printing	263.94
Telephone	76.05
Stationery	83.63
Postage	21.75
Advertising	5.00
Subscriptions	30.00
Hire Hall	33.40
Miscellaneous	20.00
Account Fees	
	<u>\$1211.16</u>
	=====
	300.00
	24.85
	16.80
	123.00
	194.20
	<u>\$658.85</u>
	552.31
	<u>\$1211.16</u>
	=====

INCOME

Rents	300.00
Donations	24.85
Reimbursement/Postage	16.80
Tenants' Union Shares	123.00
Tenants' Union Trust	194.20
	<u>\$658.85</u>
Deficit	552.31
	<u>\$1211.16</u>
	=====

ENVIRONMENT ACCOUNT

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	0.00
Bank Interest	0.10
	<u>\$0.10</u>
	=====
Surplus	0.10
	<u>\$0.10</u>
	=====

INCOME

Bank Interest	0.10
	<u>\$0.10</u>
	=====

3

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID

- Primarily provide social welfare by assisting in the relief of poverty, distress, sickness, suffering, destitution or helplessness;
- Provide an enquiry, answering, and advisory service to assist with the above project;
- Co-operate with and assist in the co-ordination of groups and agencies working in the area;
- Sponsor and encourage continued research into the needs of the community and apply those findings for the development of its program;
- Focus attention on any social needs in the area and enable local residents to meet these needs;
- Stimulate and provide channels for individual and group participation in the development of services in the area;
- Any other object consistent with community aid the Board and/or members may adopt from time to time at meetings called pursuant to these rules.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Every member shall hold at least five shares.
- Agencies actively engaged in social service in the area may apply, or be invited to apply, for membership and shall be designated 'Agency Member'.
- Groups and Organisations interested in social service in the area but not actively engaged may apply, or be invited to apply, for membership and shall be designated 'Society Member'.
- Each member shall have one vote only at meetings regardless of the number of shares held by that member.
- Individual, corporate, agency or society members in attendance at meetings called pursuant to these rules can vote at those meetings.
- Each 'Agency Member' and 'Society Member' shares will be held in an individual's name for and on behalf of the agency, organisation or society.

STAFF REPORT

South Sydney Community Aid Co-op employs six staff. Their main activities are casework and community development work. In an agency such as this one there is a continuing conflict for some workers between times spent on casework and community development work. Until additional staff is employed this conflict will remain unresolved.

There has been a heavy caseload on our social worker, welfare officer and field officer over the last twelve month period. During June 1977 alone over 200 clients were assisted. The commonest problems for migrant clients are legal (including workers compensation), social security, marital, psychiatric and employment. This contrasts with those of Aboriginal and White Australian clients whose commonest problems are financial, usual social security hassles, housing and food.

Comprehensive statistical records were introduced from May 1977 onwards. These detail characteristics of each case handled. They will allow for ongoing monitoring and better planning of the social welfare function of the agency.

Our Aboriginal Field Officer has been involved in varying community work activities. These include helping to organise country trips and holiday camps for children during school holidays, working with the Aboriginal Medical Service, visiting Karakumba as a member of its board, and providing some back-up for Aboriginal Children's Services in their initial stage. Other staff members of the Aboriginal Project have worked towards the establishment of a Funeral Fund and assisted Black Theatre with typing.

Our migrant social worker has been active in numerous areas. She has been a force behind the establishment of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, South Sydney Migrant Workers' Co-ordinating Group, and Greek Women's Auxiliary Group. She has helped in organising a regular Coffee Shop, a Christmas Party for children, and English Conversation Classes. She has maintained her involvement in the Home Tutoring Scheme. Our social worker has been particularly concerned with industrial problems as they relate to migrants. She has attempted to make employers and trade unions more aware of migrant issues. She has addressed many community groups and lectured students and Government agencies and assisted them with research. She has been involved in the State Multi-Cultural Education Committee working for the introduction of ethnic community languages in the school curriculum. She has been active in

SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID CO-OPERATIVE LIMITEDBALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 1977

	\$		\$
<u>ISSUED CAPITAL</u>	137.00	<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	
<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>		Leasehold improvements	6000.00
Balance 1.7.76	15536.97	at cost	
Less Deficit	<u>5060.70</u>	Less Amortization	<u>6000.00</u>
			0.00
<u>MIGRANT ACCOUNT</u>			
Balance 1.7.76	2551.47	Furniture, Fittings and	4373.42
Add Surplus	<u>1611.15</u>	Office Equipment	
		Less Depreciation	<u>874.68</u>
<u>ABORIGINAL ACCOUNT</u>			
Balance 1.7.76	7143.94		3498.74
Add Surplus	<u>5834.35</u>	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
		<u>ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT</u>	
<u>ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT</u>		<u>ACCOUNT</u>	
Balance 1.7.76	2746.50	Cash at Bank -	5079.96
Less Deficit	<u>1517.50</u>	General Account	4162.52
		Migrant Account	9354.50
<u>TENANTS' RIGHTS ACCOUNT</u>		Aboriginal Account	1229.00
Balance 1.7.76	1077.13	Aboriginal Employment A/c	627.32
Less Deficit	<u>552.31</u>	Tenants' Rights Account	3.50
		Environment Account	
<u>ENVIRONMENT ACCOUNT</u>		NSW Building Society	5555.96
Balance 1.7.76	3.40		
Add Surplus	<u>0.10</u>		
	<u>\$29511.50</u>		<u>\$29511.50</u>

Extract from page 53 of SYDNEY INSIDE INFO. a must in every home. It tells you how to eat cheaply, find accommodation, get legal aid, stay healthy and the government department that will help you get Sydney before it gets you. a good investment of \$3.35 from you local newsagent.

R. J. DENHAM  
Hon. Treasurer

South Sydney Community Aid was able to assist Ms Brown in searching for alternative accommodation. However, the emphasis here is on 'researching'. Twenty real estate agents were approached. None were able to offer reasonable accommodation at a rent within the means of the three girls. In one particular case it was suspected that the family was refused accommodation because they were Aborigines.

In this particular case, SSCA rang a local real estate agent who suggested over the telephone that Ms Brown visit a house in Redfern. The owner was there tidying up and doing some repairs. He appeared very friendly but advised Ms Brown that the house would not be available till the following Friday. She should go and see the real estate agent who was arranging the letting. When Ms Brown went to see the real estate agent on Friday she was told that the owner had just arranged a private letting.

Suspecting that Ms Brown had been knocked back on racial grounds, SSCA arranged for a white couple to visit the real estate agent after similar accommodation. This couple was shown over the same house and told it was still available for letting. A sign stating 'to let' remained on the property for at least another five days after these events. When confronted with the facts the proprietor insisted that a mistake had been made!

The matter is presently with the Counsellor for Equal Opportunity who is investigating what action might be taken against the real estate agent.

In the meanwhile a gentleman who had seen the plight of these girls on TV offered rent free accommodation until the end of the year in a house he owned on the South Coast. The girls have settled in happily.

(Of course, the names in this story have been changed to protect the innocent but not the guilty.)

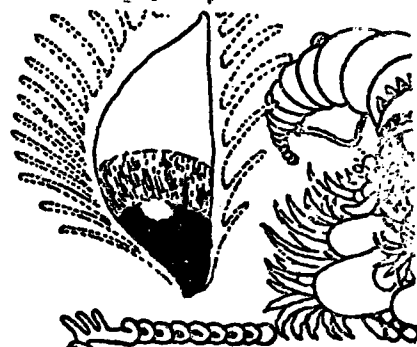
## WHAT'S ON

GOT A

Fete-Dance-Course Event-Festival-Exhibition-Meeting  
Lecture-Rally-Demo-Walk-a-thon-Education Course  
Seminar-Bazaar-Gig-Happening-Film-Theatre-Movie  
Drama-Puppet Show-Workshop-Macrame Rope-in

COMING UP?

Let everyone know about it by sending Who, What, When and Where details to the Horan Wall and Walker Daily Community Information Service, PO Box 8, Surry Hills 2010.



citizenship campaigns. She often acts as a spokesperson in the media on issues relating to migrants.

A number of the staff particularly the Administrative Secretary have been heavily involved in organising the Community Festival for South Sydney. They have helped ensure its continuing success each year.

In May 1977 South Sydney Community Aid Co-op employed a full-time co-ordinator. His role includes encouraging more individual members to join in the activities of the agency both as volunteers and through committees. He is responsible also for promoting the agency as a local resource centre. Local groups are encouraged to join the Co-op and thus have access to some of its facilities, hence more input when competing with established powers in the formulation of policies.

The staff look forward to a more active involvement by Co-op members in developing the agency's programs for the new financial year. This would be through an active Committee structure. Vibrant committees are needed to determine priorities and give direction to the agency's programs.

## SOUTH SYDNEY FESTIVAL

IN OCTOBER 1977

EXHIBITS  
DANCES  
FINE FOOD  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
PARADISE  
CONCERT

699 4073

The Migrant Committee met a number of times throughout the year to discuss the direction of the migrant projects; to evaluate whether we are meeting the needs of migrants in the South Sydney area and plan programs for meeting these needs.

At the beginning of 1977 the Committee produced the following ten point plan of needs and priorities of migrants in South Sydney:

1. English lessons to meet the needs of the migrants. Lack of English hampers adequate functioning in the community.
2. Migrants have no control over decision-making process on all levels because -
  - 2.1 they have no awareness of their rights
  - 2.2 no citizenship - therefore no vote
  - 2.3 no organisational power.
3. There is no awareness in the community of the problems faced by migrants and their diverse backgrounds and way of life, therefore there is need for education on local level.
4. Migrants in industry are unaware of their basic rights as workers, e.g. Industrial awards, safety conditions, trade unions - special emphasis should be placed on migrant women in industry.
5. Unaware of employment opportunities.
6. Inadequate vocational training due to lack of education of migrants and the education system.
7. Conflict between migrant parents and their children because of lack of cross-cultural awareness by -
  - 7.1 education system
  - 7.2 migrant children themselves
  - 7.3 migrant parents.

We can assist in this area by going to schools and having discussion groups with the children and their teachers as well as meeting with parents, teachers and children.
8. Social contact or recreation is needed in our area between -
  - 8.1 migrants themselves
  - 8.2 migrants and Australians
  - 8.3 specific groups like women/teenagers etc.

Proposed to set up a coffee shop at back room of St. Luke's to encourage them to come and talk about their problems.

The Aboriginal Project offers its thanks to Gail Lovelock and Myles Lator who provided voluntary and casual assistance over the year. Gail filled in lots of times where sickness or holidays was involved.....and very capably too.

Community Aid also began a Coffee Shop every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It all began as a project of the Migrant Committee with Kim Pavlovich as the main starter. It is now running very smoothly with assistance from Jo Wynter, Redfern House personnel, Council assistance, and volunteer Pam Laskar.....and others. Anyone and everyone is invited...why not pop in sometime when you are in the vicinity.

Lots of Co-op members have given voluntary assistance over the year, Julie Spies, Michelle Fletcher, Dal Whitting, Beth Mitchell, Janice Pacey, Daphne Thompson, Suzanne Wood, and of course some of the directors have manned the office on occasions when staff have fallen down on sick leave. We have also had assistance from non co-op members such as Maree Jones along with Willy, and Pam Mowbray. We thank all these voluntary workers who have greatly assisted during our times of need. What would we do without their generosity.

Below is a tale of woe and perhaps hope in our day to day activities.

Dr. Casey of the Aboriginal Medical Service was concerned about the growth retardation of one of his clients children, Ms. Brown, the mum, was regularly depressed. Only in passing did Ms. Brown mention her housing situation. Ms Brown is a single mum with three children under the age of six years. She was sharing one large room with two other single mums with their two children under the age of six years. Together they paid \$48 per week for this room!

On visiting this room Dr. Casey was shocked by its dilapidated state. He immediately realised that this was at the crux of his client's problems.

Dr. Casey approached SSCA to seek alternative accommodation. He also asked if anything could be done to recover any of the excessive rent. Together the AMS and SSCA arranged for a TV crew from 'This Day Tonight' to film the shocking conditions in which these girls and their children were living. In the process the caretaker attacked the TV crew and coverage was given nationally to this example of exploitation.

SSCA discovered that the room was under rent control. However, because of technicalities due to antiquated laws nothing could be done to have any of the rent refunded.

STAFF CHIT-CHAT

Over the last twelve months we are pleased to announce the staff got on pretty well together as well as with clients. We have had a few changes though. Poppy went on holiday to Greece last year searching for a wealthy Greek husband. She returned with a sumtan but was otherwise unsuccessful.

Late last year the Aboriginal Project farewelled Janet Whitehouse who did a wonderful job as secretary/receptionist for the agency. Janet and her husband, Perry, are now the proud parents of a second son, Allan Michael.

Our next recruitment to the secretary/receptionist (and unofficially everything else) position, Suzie Chilly, was also a wonderful asset to the agency. Greatly enhanced the atmosphere and we fear the agency will never be the same again... Suzie has just resigned to return to Brisbane. We wish her all the best and much happiness ahead. We'll always remember you Suzie, after all, how could we possibly forget!

The Aboriginal Project is now the proud owner of a new Holden Station Wagon which has been long-awaited for and now much appreciated by the Field Officer, Richard Pacey, who decided to resign immediately after the car's delivery. We are extremely sorry to lose Richard who has been with us for three years and is well liked and respected by the community. His warmth and constant smile will be sadly missed and we wish Richard and his family all the best for the future.

Last, but not least, the Aboriginal Project finally lost its long-term, ever-present Welfare officer, Poppy Venardos, who was happily replaced by Merope Bernhard in June this year. Looks like same, behaves as strangely - only the name has changed... and the French look!

Mivi has been around all year. Didn't get her trip to Greece in this year. As usual she's been over-working herself and running hither and thither involving herself in all around her. What would the community do without her? What's more she's now known in England as Mivi received one of the Queen's Jubilee medals.

Irish is another still around... keeps herself busy running around in meetings in the night-time... mind you, she doesn't loaf around during the day. Presumably highly involved in that working community do... the South Sydney Festival.

Of course in May we added to our staff problems or are we this... Robert Murray could be say recruited the parks. He's been kept pretty busy too, adding volunteers, increasing do-up membership and generally non-combating... or

9. Cultural Centre - needed because there is no common ground for meeting of different cultures.

10. Regular meetings between migrant workers in South Sydney Municipality.

The grant in aid social worker has been responsible in implementing most of the points of the plan.

Voluntary workers have assisted in many of the projects undertaken. The plan involves mainly community development work. The social worker's time is limited by her increasing caseload.

However the Committee has agreed that casework should be maintained as it is one of the functions of the agency.

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### SOUTH SYDNEY FESTIVAL

As the sponsoring organization below is a report of last year's festival by last year's Secretary, Irish McDonnell.

The 1976 Festival was held over the period 20 to 23 October. The Street Fiesta ended up at Redfern Town Hall, thanks to Council for the very short notice, a little overcrowded with stalls etc, but fun was had by all. The Friday night Revue went off very well with lots of local acts. The Saturday fete and folkloric was a major success as was the new addition to the festival - the Arts & Crafts Exhibition. Our thanks to all local and outside groups and individuals who helped to make the festival so successful... workers, participants, donors of money and goods, exhibitors, and of course, the community that attended.

Along with other local groups and individuals South Sydney Community Aid is again heavily involved in this year's big festival. Early in the year meetings began and the Committee agreed to bring the festival forward to fit in with 'Carnivale 77', planned by Premier Bran for festivals of ethnic groups to be held throughout the State at the same time.

So between 4 and 9 October 1977 there will be but of school project exhibits, Pre school Picnic, Community Social, Street Festival & Stalls, Festival Night at South Sydney Leagues Club, Grand Parade, Family Day Picnic and Pop Concert all happening in the South Sydney Municipality. The Arts & Crafts will again be on from the Thursday to the Saturday. We need all hands to help publicize the South Sydney Festival... so keep the festival on everyone's lips.

**ABORIGINAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

OF

'Life wasn't meant to be easy!'

The Aboriginal Project of South Sydney Community Aid Co-op maintains a program geared to work on both short and long term solutions to the social welfare needs of inner city Blacks. These problems have increased sharply with high unemployment, severe shortage of rental accommodation and rising food costs.

With an increase in clients the Aboriginal Project has not been able to give a proper service. We received an initial amount of \$1300 in cash assistance for clients in our 1976/77 budget. With an additional \$700 in June a Food Voucher scheme was instigated. However in less than two months it was abandoned because of no guarantee of proper funding. Funding from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has proved grossly insufficient. As a result we requested \$10,000 for a Food Voucher scheme and cash assistance for clients. We also sought funds for an additional Field Officer, so that more contact can be made with families in their homes and self-help programs developed directed at long term solutions. Without these problems will only mount....

We have written constantly to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs since the beginning of 1977 seeking funding for welfare purposes and additional staff. Yet the Department has seen fit to slash our budget by over 40% and reduce our grant for this year compared to last year by over 9%.

Secretary of the Project, Ms Sue Chilly, writes: 'Over the last 12 months there has been an increase in unemployment (Aboriginals being last hired, first fired) and in turn an increase in clients for the Aboriginal Project. This has meant the Aboriginal Project has become very aware of its lack of man/woman-power and adequate moneys to properly assist the clients. Therefore, our ideas of working on long term proposals as opposed to short term ones has been grounded.'

The work the Aboriginal Project is doing in the field of Aboriginal Social Welfare is of great importance, especially now with the economic and employment situations hitting such a low. With such a high percentage of Aboriginals living on or below the poverty line, a project such as this needs to function to its utmost with the short term assistance it gives and more importantly, work towards long term solutions. This can only be done from within the community, therefore, the Project needs to make its clients aware of the reasons why, in some cases, it cannot assist, e.g. lack of finance from DAA. It then has to work towards getting the clients themselves to protest about these hassles, and giving them full support, by signing

petitions, sending telegrams, etc.

It is the belief of the Aboriginal Project that no Commonwealth or State Department has ever understood Aboriginal clients because of their lack of any adequate community contact.

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**TENANTS' RIGHTS PROJECT**

The Tenants' Rights Project has continued to provide a Tenants' Advice Service each Wednesday evening from the offices of South Sydney Community Aid. Volunteers are rostered with the service and give advice and assistance to tenants having hassles with their landlords or real estate agents.

The commonest problems dealt with by the Service over the last 12 months period have been threats of eviction and bond disputes.

A report on the running of the Tenants' Advice Service whilst it was full-time and for the first six months of the part-time service up to November 1975 has been prepared and forwarded to the Australian Government Social Security. The second part of this report contains a manual for tenants' groups, social welfare workers, etc. who might assist tenants with problems.

The Tenants' Rights Project has prepared updated version of the booklet 'Your Rights as a Tenant in NSW' for distribution through the Tenants' Union.

The project has also provided a back-up role to the Tenants' Union in terms of its role in policy formulation and lobbying and in just doing the day to day typing for its activities.

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