

1950	Alan Bickford built the Cottage as his family residence
1978	The Cottage was purchased by Lillydale Shire Council as part of plans for a recreation reserve
1980	<p>Residents formed an interim Management Committee. Office Bearers were Chris Couper, Co-ordinator; Sue Couper and Colleen Drew, Secretaries; Jenny Upton and Robin Dennis, Treasurers; Jean Upton, Housekeeper; a representative from each class.</p> <p>The Cottage became a meeting place for residents and a place for skill-sharing activities. It was open on average about 12 hours per week. At this stage the Cottage had acquired a heater, a rubbish bin (donated by the Residents' Association) and a potter's wheel. Fund-raising activities such as an annual Market were organised</p>
1981	<p>The fees were \$5.00 per term, no matter how many classes a person attended. Activities underway were a Youth Group (who also mowed the Cottage lawn), pottery, breadmaking, leadlighting, spinning and weaving, keep fit class and some 'one-off' and 'how to' classes such as Greek cooking.</p> <p>This year also saw the creation of a quarterly newsletter to publicise the Cottage activities, the first AGM and the first market with a 'good result' reported - \$71.70 raised</p>
1982	Classes operating were leadlighting, keep fit, spinning and weaving and macramé. Jazz ballet for children was held at the local hall, art at Yarra Brae and woodwork at 'Mr Nutbean's factory'. The Cottage was also used occasionally by local groups to hold meetings
1983	<p>In July a need for proper childminding facilities was discussed and a voluntary roster organised.</p> <p>Alan Bickford died in November 1983</p>
1985	<p>A submission was made to the Shire Council for extensions and the plans forwarded to Reserve Committee with request for support. The Reserve committee suggests that the Cottage considers ways and means to raise money to build an extra room onto the Cottage</p> <p>An application was made for a grant from Family & Community Services for a Cottage co-ordinator and was later rejected.</p> <p>Supervised playroom fees set at \$1.00 per child</p>

1986	<p>A portable building was acquired from the Council and was used mainly for Childcare. At that time child-minding was purely a voluntary arrangement among existing members. A feasibility study was conducted into the formation of a childcare co-operative</p> <p>A telephone was installed in the office, the same number as today, (without the "9" in front)</p>
1987	<p>An extension and renovation were completed to ensure the Cottage met the requirements for a 'public building'. And a new logo was created</p>
1988	<p>Officially registered for Childcare by Children Services Victoria, 'The Wonga Park Community Child Care Service' employed two part time staff. These staff worked for 10 hours per week under Day Childcare Workers Award - \$8.18 per hour</p>
1989	<p>Another application for Co-ordinator funding was submitted to Council. The Wongarro Child-minding centre took up temporary accommodation in the Annex whilst their centre was being constructed</p>
1990	<p>10 years since the Cottage started, Linda Hay became the first paid co-ordinator after funding from Council was provided for a paid co-ordinator for 10 hours a week – increased to 15 hours in 1991. A 10th Birthday party was held in March and a new kitchen was installed.</p>
1991	<p>The Childcare fee set at \$1.00 per family per hour and two playgroups started up in the annex. Unfortunately, vandals destroyed the mud brick shed built at one of the classes.</p> <p>The Cottage purchased a photocopier for \$900.</p> <p>Formal tennis coaching classes was added to the list of classes offered through the Cottage.</p>
1992	<p>In 1992 the committee discuss purchasing a computer</p> <p>At the AGM the President reported that Cottage would be incorporating</p>
1993	<p>The Cottage became incorporated, and the proprietorship of Childcare was transferred from Shire Council to the Cottage</p>
1994	<p>With the amalgamation of local Councils, the Cottage became part of Manningham City Council</p> <p>Dawn Tapper resigned after 13 years on Committee – 4 years as President</p>

1995	<p>A second-hand typewriter was purchased for \$10.00. At this stage the quarterly Program was being produced at the home of a committee member, so to produce these onsite a printer was hired, and the Cottage acquired a computer, courtesy of Manningham Council</p> <p>In December the committee resigned due to concerned about public liability insurance</p>
1996	<p>The Cottage goes high tech with the approval for purchase of a laser printer on condition it was compatible with existing computer, approval for purchase of a Fax/phone/answering machine, approval for lease of photocopier and the approval to purchase a new second-hand computer. There was also a discussion about purchasing Quicken accounting system to record financial transactions</p>
1997	<p>Proprietorship of childcare is taken on by the Committee and a steering committee was formed</p>
1999	<p>Computers are back on the agenda with a discussion regarding the cost of computer for \$1500.00 including a monitor, keyboard, mouse, CD Rom, internet speakers and Microsoft software</p>
2000	<p>A Bookkeeper employed for 3 hours per week and the Co-ordinator hours increased to 30 hours per week. A job description is produced for an Administrative Assistant for 10 hours per week to start Term 1, 2001</p>
2001	<p>An Assistant Co-ordinator commenced with DHS funding and a new computer purchased with DHS funding allowing email and internet access</p> <p>Discussions regarding renovations/extensions to Cottage commenced</p>
2002	<p>An evaporative cooling system was installed. Funding for a new building and extensions was approved - \$50,000.00 from ACFE</p>
2003	<p>The first qualified childcare centre co-ordinator was appointed, and everything temporarily moved to the Wonga Park Hall while extension/renovations proceeded at the Cottage</p>
2004	<p>A Staff restructure saw the position of Assistant Co-ordinator cease and a casual Admin person employed as an interim measure.</p> <p>The Cottage applied for funding from Manningham City Council for a Community Development Grant, to bring together intergenerational histories and stories from residence and record the outcome. Talking History in Wonga Park project was completed, and the Wonga Vine Newsletter distributed to the local community.</p>

2005		<p>Renovations are completed and operations moved back to the Cottage. An official opening of new centre was held in Term 2 and Don Thompson became a Life Member of the Cottage and was acknowledged at the opening.</p> <p>A new Administration Assistant was appointed and commenced and there was a discussion to introduce a computerised pay system</p>
2006		<p>Quotes received for new computer software system</p>
2007		<p>Credit card facilities were provided and installed, a new website was being created, a new shredder and dishwasher were purchased. An Assistant Coordinator commenced as Community Development Coordinator for 6 months.</p> <p>Discussions too place about establishing Men's Shed/Youth Shed at the old Pre-school building</p>
2008		<p>In 2008 Louise Schweiger was appointed as Asst Co-ordinator and Irene Truskett was appointed as office receptionist</p>
2010		<p>Linda went on long service leave.</p> <p>New computers purchased with grant from the Bendigo Bank to be installed and a new photocopier was installed and connected to the internet</p>
2011		<p>Toys upgraded in the Childcare room thanks to funds raised from the Christmas raffle. New incorporation Act updated to come into effect in 2012. A student who attended a First Aid course forwarded an email to the trainer as she was able to use the skills she learned after her mother had a heart attack.</p> <p>The 'All About Me' Scrapbooking project commenced for carers after a grant was received.</p>
2012		<p>Channel 31 came to do a 'House around the Corner' video special</p> <p>A pay equity case was seen in court that effected the community sector, workers were transitioned to Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010. A new payrate was introduced with incremental increases over 7 years.</p> <p>Sound clips from the Talking History in Wonga Park project from 2004 were compiled onto a single DVD containing the 7 hours and 10 minutes of stories and was released in 2013.</p>
2013		<p>Linda broke her leg and took 4 days off work, possibly the most consecutive days Linda had off in her time at the Cottage, it happened days before the Women's Health Event.</p> <p>A 'Survivor's' Morning Tea was proposed to the launch of the Talking History in Wonga Park DVD release.</p>

2015	After years of deliberation a Facebook page was created. Extraction fans were installed in the studio. Complaints were made about glitter on the yoga mats, a new vacuum cleaner was purchased to help overcome the issue.
2016	New guttering and downpipe installation threatened the climbing rose on the on the front porch. Thankfully Ross was able to give it a prune to and work went on around it. Unfortunately the heritage rose was removed by heavy handed gardeners a few years later.
2017	Working bee organised to start work on upgrading the childcare playground. Fees were increased to \$11 per hour to ensure it a viable service to offer the community.
2018	New shade sails were installed in the childcare playground.
2019	Linda retired after 29 years at the Cottage. Louise has taken on the position of manager.
2020	Covid-19 delayed the 40 th Anniversary celebrations. A new cloud-based management system was installed meaning the Cottage could take course bookings online. Restrictions saw online courses introduced via Zoom to keep the community connected during the pandemic as the Cottage was forced to close its doors for long periods.
2021	Louise Schweiger takes long service leave. The Cottage received a grant to turn the gravel carpark in front of the Cottage into a garden and outdoor seating. A coffee van utilises this space on a Saturday morning when Covid-19 restrictions permit. Our doors were forced closed again for a long period so classed returned to an online format.