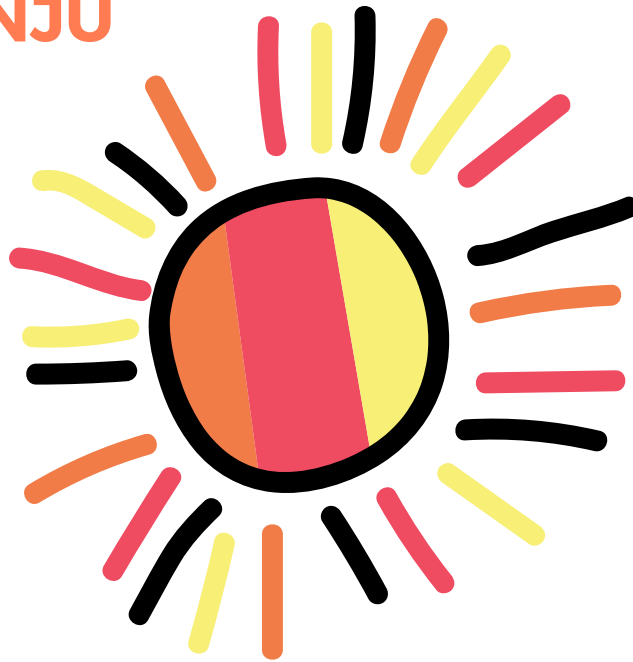




the underground collaborative
2021 annual update

KAYA WANJU



HELLO WELCOME

The Underground Collaborative acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present and are committed to a positive future for the Aboriginal community.

“I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realised I am somebody.”

WHY WE EXIST

The Underground Collaborative (TUC) exists to provide employment to empower and educate women and young people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in WA.

OUR MISSIONS

We aim to achieve our vision through:

Education

We are passionate about breaking stigmas, and raising awareness throughout our community.

We believe education is a contributing catalyst for change in breaking the societal taboos – when we understand, we connect. When we connect we are more compassionate. We have a greater awareness and are able to communicate with those in need, but also with the wider community to generate a circular economy of knowledge.

Employment

Our first employment initiative is Ground+Co, our cafe which provides employment and training to empower women and young people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and provide supportive pathways for transition into permanent employment.

We believe employment can help to break the cycle of homelessness by providing people with the necessary income, self-esteem, and sense of community connection. This will consequently enable them to access and, importantly, to maintain stable housing.

Empowerment

We have a vision which sees empowering our wider community, to empower those less fortunate. Through supporting our initiatives, the community are able to connect to the cause, and see the visible benefits they're making to someone's life.

When we empower others, we ultimately empower ourselves.

We believe creating change in our own lives empowers us to explore ways of helping to bring about beneficial change in the lives of others.

Through all of the above, we believe these small acts will lead to ripples and waves of change. Our community will feel inspired to take action, to collaborate and work together to help break the cycles of homelessness.

WHO WE ARE

THE BOARD



BROOKE DRAPER
Chairperson



KATIE LIEW
CEO, Secretary



**CHANDRA
SUNDARESWARAN**
Board Member



MATT DELMENICO
Board Member



JEFF HEALY
Board Member



TANIA CECCONI
Board Member



TAMARA COOK
Board Member



ROSS WORTHAM
Board Member



We believe...



In dignity, respect and freedom | In the inherent value of people | In human rights

We believe we can break the cycles of homelessness.

We strive towards applying these beliefs.

It is our motivation for everything that we do.

It is simple, *but this is our 'WHY'*



2021 has been one of magnificent growth and learnings; while it has been an incredible year and much to be celebrated, I am proud of how The Underground Collaborative has also risen to the numerous challenges presented to us while making an impact.

Throughout 2021;

- February - one of our beautiful employees from the coffee cart had saved up enough money to enter the private rental market, and moved into her own place! This is a huge achievement in itself given the tight rental market we're experiencing as a repercussion of COVID, but to now living independently and no longer reliant on government assistance or living in refuge accommodation is something to be so proud of. She has broken the cycle of homelessness.
- April - we signed an MOU with the State Library of WA and by...
- May - we officially opened the doors to our new flagship cafe!! 🎉
- Later that month, we were mentioned in Parliament by the Minister for Culture and the Arts, Minister David Templeman.
- August - welcomed a visit from Federal Labor Member for Perth, Patrick Gorman.
- October - we commenced exploring work to further our impact and create more employment pathways to further our mission in breaking the cycles of homelessness.
- November - we launched gift boxes which also features the beautiful greeting cards we introduced last year in partnership with St Pats.
- December - had the opportunity to be the voice for one of our employees; sharing her story and words around family and domestic violence to the Corruption and Crime Commission during the 16 Days in WA campaign



- December - celebrated the launch of Love, Bruises and Bullshit, a compilation of true life stories of survival from women who have experienced family and domestic violence, which one of our beautiful past employees very bravely shared her story in.



Over the festive season, the team at Ground+Co will be taking a much deserved break. I often reflect on what an incredible year it has been, and the contributions each employee has made in building the cafe to be the wonderful space it is today. I'm so proud of how everyone has really worked as a team with a true commitment to the cause, and I couldn't have done any of it without them.

I would also like to make special mention to the State Library of WA - the staff and Board who have played such an integral part in our journey and success this year. This is such a beautiful partnership and I pinch myself every day thinking how lucky we are.

I'm eternally grateful for our Chair and the Board who continue to go above and beyond in supporting the challenges and successes we have experienced, and development of our employment strategy so we can further our impact and achieving our mission to break the cycles of homelessness through education, employment and empowerment.

It's so easy to get caught up in the day-to-day without taking stock of how much has actually been achieved - I can't be more proud of our small but mighty organisation, our employees past and present, who continue to inspire me everyday, and our supporters with their unwavering belief and commitment - all of which helps get me through particularly tough times.

I'm super excited to see what next year holds for us! Thank you to everyone who has been, and continues to be part of our journey.



With a very full and grateful heart,

Katie Liew | Founder, CEO



OUR SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS



**Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the
following for their support;**

• Access Cardiology • Anglicare WA • Allens Philanthropy •
Business News • Community Broker Network • CT Group •
Delmont Insurance • Dulux • Five Senses • Focus AV • Glide
Accounting • GMA Garnet • K&L Gates • Known Associates Events
• Interface Orthotics • Lighthouse Capital • MGIB Insurance •
Milano Menswear • Perth Networking Club • PWC • Reshine
Painting • Stanlee Hospitality • Soroptimist International • State
Library of WA • Steinepreis Paganin Charitable Foundation •
StreetSmart • ToBe Advisory • Vivacity Marketing • Quest Perth •
Westpac • Zonta House • 10x10 Philanthropy •

And to all our individual supporters and anonymous donors!



GROUND+CO

-An Underground Collaborative Initiative-

a journey through time...



- 2019 -



It started as a little nameless coffee cart, which grew to become our beloved Billie

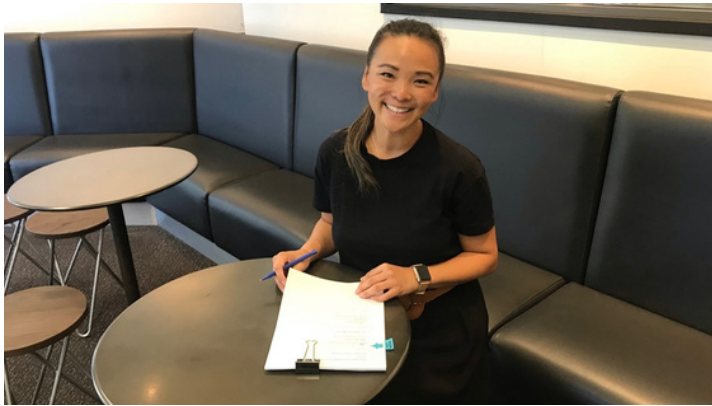
In **October**, Billie launched outside the EY Building with the support of Brookfield Properties



...employing three survivors of family and domestic violence, two of which have gone to permanent jobs

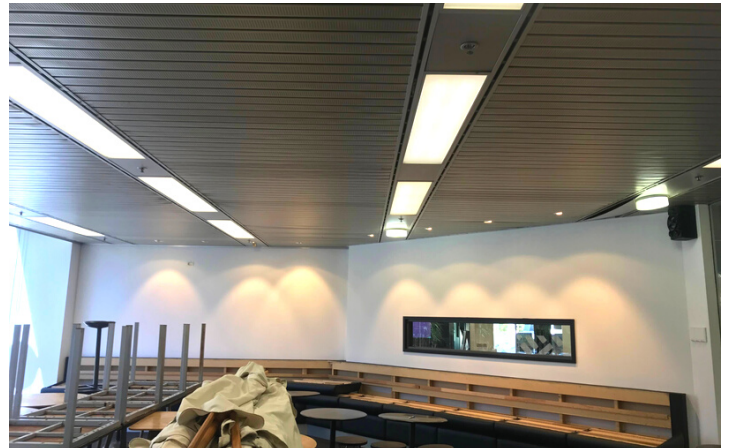
- 2020 -

Cricket. For the majority of the year, COVID-19 took over and Billie lay dormant as Ground+Co at the EY Building sadly stopped operating.



- 2021 -

In **April**, through the incredible support of the State Library of WA and their desire to partner with a social enterprise, we signed an MOU and started work immediately on refurbishing the previously very retro interior.



...In **May**, we soft launched! 🌟🌟



Despite launching a cafe amidst a pandemic, including 2 rounds of restrictions, 1 lockdown and cancelling our grand launch, we were still able to:

▶ Employ 4x core staff - our baristas / mentors

▶ Employ 3x team members - 2 young people who are currently or at-risk of homelessness, and 1 survivor of FDV

▶ Provide over 2,175 hours of meaningful employment and \$56,805 in wages + super

▶ Bring one of our team members to present with Katie not having done any public speaking before; sharing their journey and time at Ground+Co to the Department of Treasury and Steinepreis Paganin



▶ Sell \$154k of coffee, food and other ancillary items

▶ Dip our toes into catering, which may be our next employment pathway social enterprise....!



Ethan is 19 years old and spent the majority of his teenage years sleeping rough, at Banksia Detention Centre or in foster care.

Working at Ground+Co allows Ethan to;

- Undertake his Cert III in Hospitality
- Secure a spot with supported housing provider, Foyer Oxford
- Be part of a team
- Learn to manage emotions
- Integrate into society
- Rediscover and understand who he is
- Provide stability and have meaningful employment in a compassionate workplace

“When things get bad, I'd normally binge on drugs and alcohol or get sent back to Banksia. I wanna get back into a stable routine and Ground+Co helps me do that. It is a safe space for me.

“Thank you for the opportunity and being one of the only ones to give me a chance to live a 'normal-ish' life.

