

COMMUNITY BASED GRIEF SUPPORT FOR BEREAVED CHILDREN

WOMBAT'S WISH

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2022 - June 2023



Date.: Thursday 26th October 2023 Time.: 6.30pm
Location.: via Zoom
Chair.: Casey Kaminskyj

Attendance

Apologies

Agenda

#	Item	Lead
1.	Welcome	Casey
	• Acknowledgement of Country	
	• Welcome to Meeting	
2.	Minutes Approval	Casey
	• <u>2022/2023 AGM Minutes</u>	
3.	Chairperson Report	Casey
4.	Treasurer Report	Tamara
5.	Manager Report	Nicki
6.	Election of Office Bearers	Nicki
7.	General Business	
8.	Meeting Close	Casey

Minutes of the Annual General meeting and Committee meeting held via Zoom
On Thursday 15th September 2022 at 6pm

Present: Casey Kaminskyj, , Nicki Dunne, Rebecca Scott, Norma Graham, Suzy Coad, Erin Lancaster
Via Zoom Brain Cook, Jill Crookes, Jo Betz, Farmer, Peter Burke, Norma Sip, David Trott,
Tamara Wright

Apologies Shari Liby, Hannah Dawes, Rebecca Moore, Liam Dunne, Rachal Bland, Marnie Holden, Rutti Loh

Welcome, acknowledgement of country

Chair Casey welcomed all the Annual General meeting of Wombat's Wish year ending June 2022 and did a welcome to country.

Minutes

Minutes for 2021 AGM moved by Tamara, Seconded by David

Chairperson Report

Tabled as read. Casey spoke about the growth of Wombat's Wish as being substantial over the past 12 months. Record performance was reached during the year for programs and financial sustainability. Acknowledgement to Nat for her service of 8 years. Welcomed three new board members throughout the year, Jo, Peter and Rutti, Hannah was acknowledged for her work as chairperson throughout difficult years. Thank you to the admin team for their hard work during the year. Thank you to Tamara for her work as Treasurer. Casey spoke about the board's commencement of the new strategic plan that will be published over the coming months. This plan has been set to 2030. Thank you to all of our sponsors and beneficiaries including key partners who have supported Wombat's Wish over the past 12 months. Moved: Casey Kaminskyj Seconded: David Trott

Treasurer Report

Tabled as read. Tamara comment on the financial sustainability of Wombat's Wish. Thank you to Casey for stepping into the role as Chairperson. A thank you to all of the Wombat's Wish board members for your support throughout the year. Financial growth has been huge – thanks to Nicki and Bec for their work in writing grants and corporate sponsorship. Casey thanked Tamara for her amazing forecasting and reporting over the past 12 months. Moved Tamara Wright Seconded Casey Kaminskyj

Manager Report

Tabled as read. Nicki spoke to her Managers report and the growth of Wombat's Wish over the past 12 months. Moved: Casey Kaminskyj Seconded: Peter Burke

Coordinators Report

Tabled as read. Rebecca spoke to her coordinators report. Supporting 56 children and 25 parents in total have attended our camp across the whole of Victoria. 2 new volunteer inductions. Thank you to team leaders and volunteers for your participation and care for children and parents attending camp.

Moved: Casey Kaminskyj Seconded: Tamara Wright

Election of Office Bearers - Nicki declared all positions vacant**Office Bearers:**

Chairperson	Casey Kaminskyj	Nominated David Trott	Seconded by Tamara Wright
Vice Chairperson	David Trott	Nominated Casey Kaminskyj	Seconded Tamara Wright
Treasurer	Tamara Wright	Nominated Joanna Betz	Seconded Casey Kaminskyj

Secretary	Joanna Betz	Nominated Tamara Wright	Seconded Casey Kaminskyj
General Board	Peter Burke	Nominated Joanna Betz	Seconded Casey Kaminskyj
General Board	Shari Liby	Nominated Rutti Loh-Farmer	Seconded Casey Kaminskyj
General Board	Rutti Loh-Farmer	Nominated Shari Liby	Seconded Casey Kaminskyj
General Board	Marnie Holden	Nominated Casey Kaminskyj	Seconded David Trott

(7) General Business

November camp each year is named the Rosemary Norman Foundation Camp.

Brian Cook thanked everyone for their hard work over the past 12 months.

Norma from Rosemary Norman Foundation – raised issue of sorting psychologist for camps.

In closing Casey spoke to Jill and thanked her for her involvement in Wombat's Wish during the past 12 months and wished her well for the future as she steps back from her duties with Wombat's Wish.

Hannah is currently taking maternity leave and will be returning in February in 2023.

Casey is taking maternity leave from November 2022 to February 2023. David will act as Chairperson during this period.

AGM Closed 7pm

2023 On reflection

It's fair to say we're all a little tired from this year... but we learnt ALOT. We had some speed and scale wobbles (and at times, bit off a bit more than we could chew), however, we celebrated some key milestones and looked back on the year with immense pride and positivity.

No major Covid disruption was great, but strange after 3 years of constant adjustment. Looking forward – 2024 will be a year of consolidation as far as our camp programs go, with some focus on our brand-new clinical arm. We'll also be looking to deliver on some of our key strategic priorities, which is more than enough to fill the year!

We adopted our new strategy at the year's commencement, focusing on 3 pillars: Programs, Capability and Growth, which is the format we use to plan, report, and reflect. We also refreshed our Mission and Vision, which will all be publicly available on our website soon. The changes highlight our desire to take a leadership position in the child bereavement space and support more stages in the lifecycle of grief.

Programs

We delivered 6 camps during the financial year, including our inaugural youth camp in Queenscliff and our Grantville camp to support families in the east and peninsula.

We've known for a while that camps don't suit all our families and that they currently don't reach every group in the Victorian community, which is something we would like to change. We'll still aim to deliver 8-10 camps and several family events in 2024; however, we'll be trying new clinical services and online lounges to support more families through various stages of grief. We'll also be focussed on community consultation around diversity to better understand the barriers for culturally and linguistically diverse children and families in terms of access to our services with the view to improve access. This work will likely inform some of our priorities and focus for 2025 and beyond.

Capability

2024 will focus on the incredible people in our organisation as we catch our breath a little. We recognise that the scaffolding needs to mould with the organisation in terms of its development, and the Board will be focussed on building out committees, delegations and decision mechanisms that support. We'll also invest in the professional and personal development of our teams, as well as recognition of the work we do.

We can't talk about capability without recognising key movements in our organisation, starting with two exceptional Wombaters who bid us farewell this year, Bec and Tamara.

Bec Scott joined our operations team not long after Nicki and has played a critical role in the delivery and development of our camp programs. Everyone loved dealing with Bec. Her colleagues, our volunteers, our families. She made people's days brighter and brought passion to everything she did. We wish her all the best in Queensland as she moves into a different life phase – I'm certain it will be sunnier with her up there.

Tamara and I joined the Board in 2019 and have had quite a journey - I will miss her immensely. Tamara not only changed how we manage our financial reporting as treasurer, but she also changed the way we do business. She improved data, planning, decision-making, and operations and is a huge part of why we've supported more families. She didn't just push us to improve at finance; she pushed us to improve. Period. From keeping me accountable in meetings to giving courageous feedback on how we turned up – Tamara leaves huge skis to fill (not shoes).

With a couple of key exits, we've also had some exceptionally special and talented people join our organisation, and we are on the hunt for a few more key roles. Kelsey & Suzy have joined us in our newly defined community liaison roles, and each brings diverse skills and experience that make our organisation better. They have already had an enormous impact, and I'm looking forward to seeing what they achieve in the coming years as they focus on their respective areas of expertise.

Growth

As well as the above roles, we have been incredibly fortunate to have our founder, Jill Crookes, join us to head up our clinical team, which is a game changer in the growth and delivery of our research and clinical service expansion. We wouldn't be here without Jill's vision and passion and the fact that she gets to lead such a monumental phase for us. We're incredibly lucky to be in such great hands to help us deliver on our strategy. This expansion will include 1:1 support for families (outside of the camp program) and research outcomes regarding service and support.

Wombat's Wish has continued to track substantial financial growth, and I invite you to refer to the Treasurer's Report for more information regarding the organisation's financial sustainability. The news is good, but the outlook is expected to be challenging as external economic conditions continue to impact the NFP space, and we need to continue to mature our planning, efficiency and how we manage our services to be sustainable.

Regarding our cultural growth, I'm also very pleased to share that we have started the consultation process for our own Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). We felt it was particularly important for us to contribute to national reconciliation this year and start listening and learning from the traditional owners of the lands that we camp and heal on. I'm most proud of this from 2023, and I look forward to sharing more about its progress next year.

Acknowledgements

We want to acknowledge our generous sponsors and benefactors, the majority of whom have supported us for a long time. We got to catch up with some of them at our trivia night and through the rollout of our 2030 plan earlier this year. These critical relationships have continued to be invaluable regarding our growth and agenda for our 2025 and 2030 horizons. I want to acknowledge the Anthony Costa, Rosemary Norman foundations, Burke Brutton, Geelong Community Foundation, EnergyAustralia, Mortimers and Stockdale & Leggo Bellarine.

I want to give a massive shout-out to all our volunteers and employees – we simply wouldn't exist without the people in our organisation. I thank our Operations Manager, Nicki, for her tireless (and tiring) work and dedication to our organisation. We're a very different charity to the one she walked into over 3 years ago, and we wouldn't be in the place we are today without her. I'm thrilled that Nicki and Jill get to work together towards shared outcomes now, and I know they will achieve amazing things. I would also like to thank Board and Executive (including our Vice Chair David and Secretary Jo), who are generous with their time and skills to make the Wombats Eco-system better.

My last reflection is a deeply personal one –a massive part of my 'why Wombats'. At the end of 2022, after a 12-year journey, we welcomed our Son (Otis) into the world. For over a decade, we felt like parents without a child, so helping children who had lost a parent always felt like an important calling for me. The grief, loss and trauma we experienced getting to him here is something we will never forget, but it now gives me more purpose and connection to our work. When he's older, I'll be so proud to tell him about our work to support families who were missing someone... which is how his Dad and I felt until he arrived. If you plan on attending the Wombats Wish Family Day – feel free to come and say hello to us!

We have our Bi-annual Gala coming up again towards the end of Q1, and there are plenty of ways you can be involved in and around that key event (please reach out to Nicki and the team). We have donation and corporate sponsorship packages with all information on our website. Hope to see you there!

Best wishes to all of our stakeholders and community members,
Casey Kaminskyj
Chairperson
The Board of Management for Wombat's Wish Inc.

I am delighted to present the 2023 Financial Reports of Wombat's Wish Incorporated ("Wombat's Wish"). These financial statements have been meticulously prepared to provide a transparent and accurate depiction of the charity's financial status and performance as of June 30, 2023. I'd like to highlight the following points of interest for our stakeholders.

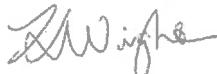
Wombat's Wish has been able to increase their operations and camps now that the COVID-19 pandemic has calmed in intensity. The pandemic had hindered their ability to fully realize some of the planned programs and camps during previous financial years. Wombat's Wish has remained dedicated to enhancing their administrative capabilities and strategic planning. The efforts in grant writing and corporate sponsorships have yielded positive results, resulting in increased revenue that surpasses the rise in expenses. In total, the charity's combined income and expenses amount to \$505,149 and \$313,853, respectively, resulting in a net profit of \$191,296.

Compared to the previous year, Wombat's Wish has achieved remarkable growth in income, witnessing a \$170,555 increase, marking a 51% growth rate. Furthermore, expenses have also risen, albeit to a lesser extent, by \$53,743, reflecting a 21% increase compared to the previous year. This growth in income is essential as services continue to be expanded beyond the Greater Geelong region to serve all of Victoria. The ability to diversify funding sources is paramount, given that donations, grants, and sponsorships are never guaranteed year after year. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated committee members, whose tireless efforts in our camps and community engagement initiatives have played a pivotal role in making this charity a resounding success. Without their dedication, Wombat's Wish might not have had sufficient funds to operate.

It is the responsibility of our committee members to ensure that the funds raised are utilised prudently. The charity incurs substantial expenses to support the execution of camps, community events, and administrative requirements. In 2023, total expenses amounted to \$313,853, representing a \$53,743 increase from the previous year. This increased expenditure is attributed to the continued expansion of programs and suffering the increased cost of living on some expenses.

The financial position of the charity remains robust. Net assets reached a very comfortable level of \$376,076. It is imperative for Wombat's Wish to maintain cash reserves that are equal to or exceed the principal operational requirements of the charity. Equally important is the preservation of these cash reserves, preventing their depletion through routine recurrent expenditure. Throughout 2023, Wombat's Wish maintained its commitment to effective management and sound corporate governance.

In closing, I wish to express my deep gratitude to all committee members, volunteers, and benefactors for their unwavering support. It is their dedication that ensures Wombat's Wish maintains a solid financial foundation, enabling Wombat's Wish to continue providing essential services for bereaved children and young people in the Greater Geelong region and beyond.



Tamara Wright, CPA
Treasurer
Wombat's Wish Incorporated
ABN 97 044 710 392

10th October 2023

The Committee of Management
Wombat's Wish Incorporated
PO Box 2045
GEELONG VIC 3220

Dear Directors,

MANAGEMENT LETTER 2023 – WOMBAT'S WISH INCORPORATED

We have recently completed our audit of the above company for the year ended 30 June 2023. In accordance with our usual policy, we would like to inform you, that no issues of significance arose during the audit which needs to be brought to your attention in a management letter.

Please note that the purpose of our audit was to form an opinion on the financial statements of the entity and that this report only includes those matters which have come to our attention as a result of audit procedures. This report should not be regarded as a comprehensive statement of all matters that may have been identified following a more complete examination for the purpose of identifying such matters.

We wish to also take this opportunity to thank you for the co-operation and assistance received during the course of our audit.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any issues you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Wight
Director

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WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392
OPERATING STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023	2022	2021
		\$	\$	\$
INCOME				
Donations and gifts		103,144	46,701	53,724
Corporate Sponsorship		53,950	52,564	42,339
Workplace Giving		34,582	48,707	39,068
Grants		290,878	151,276	30,650
Fundraising Income		13,062	34,423	39
Investment Income		83	43	108
Other Income		9,450	880	-
TOTAL INCOME		505,149	334,594	165,928
EXPENSES				
Program Costs	2	79,982	55,902	12,685
Program Support Costs	3	8,073	7,725	8,901
Fundraising Costs	4	1,704	15,573	3,854
Accountability and admin costs	5	13,373	8,857	5,860
Other Expenses	6	7,596	9,949	12,814
Office Lease	7	8,594	6,138	7,592
Wages & Salaries	8	194,531	155,966	95,166
TOTAL EXPENSES		313,853	260,110	146,872
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)		191,296	74,484	19,056

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2022	2022	2021
		\$	\$	\$
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents		323,944	210,103	131,759
Debit Card		642	860	265
Trade Debtors		2,500	-	-
Term deposit	9	72,524	12,440	12,397
Prepayments	10	4,900	1,800	1,600
Total Current Assets		404,509	225,203	146,021
Non-Current Assets				
Equipment at cost		8,240	6,849	4,129
Less Accumulated depreciation		(5,118)	(3,384)	(1,115)
Total Non-Current Assets		3,121	3,466	3,014
TOTAL ASSETS		407,630	228,669	149,035
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable		2,907	-	-
PAYG Withholding		11,254	6,679	3,507
Superannuation Payable		4,784	-	2,202
Annual Leave Provision	8	12,609	12,210	6,029
Unearned Revenue	11	-	25,000	27,000
Total Current Liabilities		31,554	43,889	38,738
TOTAL LIABILITIES		31,554	43,889	38,738
NET ASSETS		376,076	184,780	110,297
EQUITY				
Reserves	9	8,000	8,000	8,000
Retained earnings		176,781	102,296	83,241
Financial year surplus or deficit		191,296	74,484	19,056
TOTAL EQUITY		376,076	184,780	110,297

The accompanying notes for part of these financial statements

**WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis for preparation

Wombat's Wish is a non-for-profit entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial statements for Wombat's Wish are special purpose financial statements which have been prepared in a prudent manner to reflect a true and fair view of the charity's financial position and performance.

The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency.

Comparative information has been reclassified where appropriate to enhance comparability.

The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on the 7th September 2022.

Historical cost conversions

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting.

Professional judgement

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of professional judgement and accounting estimates, which by definition will seldom equal actual result. There are no areas which involve a high degree of judgement or where estimates are significant to the financial statements.

Audit

As per the charity's rules, an audit of the financial statements is to be conducted every second year (i.e. odd years e.g. 2019, 2021, 2023 etc.) and any audit recommendations are reported and tracked by the board until resolution. Wombat's Wish Inc has taken a conservative approach to request an audit every year instead of on the second year as of 2021 FY.

Donations and gifts

A monetary contribution provided to the charity for the charitable purposes which is not a grant.

Grants

A sum of money obtained by the charity for a particular purpose.

Fundraising income

Income from fundraising activities and events.

WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Investment Income

Bank Interest.

Other Income

Uncommon sources of income not obtained from fundraising income, donations, gifts, grants or investments.

Program costs

Costs directly related to providing the charity's services.

Program support costs

Costs indirectly related to providing the charity's services.

Fundraising costs

Expenses related to generating fundraising income.

Accountability and admin costs

Costs related to the execution of governance and administrative activities.

Other costs

Costs which do not meet our definition of program costs, program support costs, fundraising costs or accountability and admin costs.

Cash and cash equivalent

Cash provided there is no restriction on its use by the charity until 12 months after the reporting period.

Receivables

Contractual right or high likelihood to receive cash from grants, donations and gifts from another entity.

WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued
Overpayments

Payments made for program or program support costs over and above the required payments per the invoice/s provided.

Prepayments

Prepayments and deposits for goods or services.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment purchased at a cost of less than \$1,000 is directly expensed. It is carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment loss. Any gains or losses on disposal are retained by comparing the disposal proceeds with the carrying value, and the balance captured in the statement of financial position.

Accounts payable

These amounts represent current liabilities for goods and services provided prior to the end of the financial year which are unpaid at 30 June. These amounts are paid within 28 days of recognition.

No interest loan

An interest free obligation of the charity, which is not due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period. The residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all its liabilities.

2. PROGRAM COSTS

	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$
Program costs			
Camp leaders fees	38,627	24,846	7,187
Camp facilities and food	1,796	-	752
Camp activities and supplies	24,779	19,731	4,746
Other program expenses	14,780	11,325	-
Volunteer workers insurance	-	-	-
	79,983	55,902	12,685

WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

3. PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS

	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Program support costs			
Counselling	873	1,631	2,375
Family Fun Days	1,393	359	794
Stationery and equipment	-	-	699
Public liability insurance	3,902	4,006	3,305
Workcover Insurance	1,905	1,730	1,728
	8,073	7,725	8,901

4. FUNDRAISING COSTS

	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Fundraising costs			
Fundraising expenses	921	9,495	2,700
Corporate sponsor expenses	39	5,415	-
Advertising and marketing	744	664	1,154
	1,704	15,573	3,854

5. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Accountability and admin costs			
Board expense	2,576	1,405	247
Administration expenses	145	231	1,217
Association insurance	-	-	645
Subscriptions	3,564	2,087	923
Telephone & Internet	1,721	1,412	380
Printing & Stationery	2,955	1,703	1,137
Bank Fees	212	39	211
Audit Costs	2,200	1,980	1,100
	13,373	8,857	5,860

WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
6. OTHER EXPENSES

	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$
Other Expenses			
Gifts Given	-	-	215
Storage	-	-	1,020
Postage	853	345	447
Legal Fees	665	2,134	5,533
Equipment under \$500	439	1,624	647
Depreciation	1,735	2,268	1,115
Rates	2,540	1,968	1,861
IT Support	1,364	1,610	1,976
	7,596	9,949	12,814

7. OFFICE LEASE

A 12-month lease had been taken out on an office space in 2020 Financial Year. This lease expired in July of 2020 and was vacated in October 2020 and a new lease commenced. A new lease was commenced in a new office space with storage ability and a cost saving.

	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$
Office Lease			
Office Lease	8,594	6,138	7,592
	8,594	6,138	7,592

8. WAGES & SALARIES

The 2021 Financial Year was the first year we have taken on employees and have since had staff come and go therefore explaining the comparative difference between years. The Wages & Salaries in the Profit & Loss report is made up of the following costs.

	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$
Wages & Salaries			
Wages & Salaries	174,628	136,632	79,659
Superannuation Expense	15,549	12,713	7,526
Professional Development	3,955	440	1,952
Provision for Annual Leave	399	6,181	6,029
	194,531	155,966	95,166

WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
9. TERM DEPOSIT

The below no interest loan relates to the Katrina Memorial Fund. The Katrina Memorial Fund is an interest free loan which was provided to the charity to support program costs for participants which reside outside of the Greater Geelong region. The charity has invested this money in a term deposit account. The interest earned is available to be used to support program costs and the balance reinvested for future program costs.

	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Term Deposit			
Term Deposit at Period End	12,440	12,440	12,397
Katrina Plater Memorial Fund	(8,000)	(8,000)	(8,000)
Interest Earned on Bequest	4,440	4,440	4,397

10. PREPAYMENTS

A deposit is made to hold the dates for our campgrounds before each camp for the dates we require. These prepayments were made in preparation for each scheduled camp. These will therefore be recouped.

	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Prepayments			
Prepayments	4,900	1,800	1,600
	4,900	1,800	1,600

11. UNEARNED REVENUE

Amounts in this current liability represent income received but not yet earned. Examples of this are Grants paid to Wombat's Wish, but they are earmarked to be for the next Financial Year projects/camps. These amounts are current and are recognised as income in the following Financial Year.

	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Unearned Revenue			
Unearned Revenue	-	25,000	27,000
	-	25,000	27,000

**WOMBAT'S WISH
ABN 97 044 710 392**

**PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

In the President's opinion:

- a) The financial statements and notes set out above have been prepared in a prudent manner and reflect a true and fair view of the charity's financial position and performance.
- b) There are no reasonable grounds to believe that the charity will not be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable, and

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of Board Members.



Casey Kaminskyj
Chairperson

26th October 2023

As I complete my 3rd year at Wombat's Wish and with Rebecca Scott leaving and moving to Queensland, I have spent time reflecting on everything we have achieved together over the past three years.

Wombat's Wish has grown and has now become the leading grief agency in Victoria for parentally bereaved children/young people.

WOMBAT'S WISH

What we have achieved over the past 3 years



- Raised \$1,037,908.57 for Wombat's Wish programs and weekend grief camps
- Travelled 7,736.2km meeting 94 families and 189 children/young people in person throughout Victoria.
- Spoken to a further 146 families on the phone providing support
- Planned 17 family weekend grief camps and 2 youth camps.
- Facilitated 5 family days.
- Researched, developed, piloted new programs for Wombat's Wish families.




Over the past 12 months



- Developed our strategic plan
- Redeveloped our web page
- Developed a reconciliation action plan
- Employed additional staff
- Reached more families throughout Victoria
- Facilitated 6 weekend grief family camps
- Facilitated the first Youth Camp
- Facilitated 3 family days
- Spoken to numerous community organisations and networks.
- Held a successful Trivia night Fundraiser.



Our camps & programs ensure that children & their families don't have to cope with grief alone - we're here to help

Our 2022-2023 Financial Year.**Governance/Management**

- A full board was appointed for the 2022-2023 financial year. Our board members volunteer their valuable time to govern Wombat's Wish with their expert skills and experiences. During the 2022-2023 financial year, they have developed our strategic vision, provided guidance and support to the operational team and advocated within their networks the work Wombat's Wish facilitates.
- During the financial year, we have had some operational staff movements. Wombat's Wish farewelled Rebecca Moore, our trainee administrator and welcomed Kelsey Dattoli into a changed role. Kelsey was appointed as our first Community Engagement Officer. Her skills in communications, marketing and engagement of support have been invaluable to Wombat's Wish. Kelsey has redeveloped our webpage, increased our social media presence, developed our new marketing strategy and branding, created information sheets and social stories for families, attended 3 camps and developed Wombat's Wish reconciliation action plan. Kelsey is a welcomed and valued team member and has outstandingly achieved so much in the 7 months of her employment.
- Rebecca Scott, Co-ordinator, has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months planning camps, writing grants, developing new programs and connecting with families, and sadly we farewelled her in August 2023. Wombat's Wish is exceptionally grateful for all that Rebecca has achieved, Bec always maintained a professional, caring and welcoming environment. With Bec's departure, we welcomed Suzy Coad as the second Community Engagement Officer for Wombat's Wish. Suzy has been a valued volunteer and camp team leader for Wombat's Wish over the past 12 years and will be a valuable operational team member.
- Wombat's Wish appointed a psychologist in May 2023. Thank you to the Geelong Community Foundation P500 grant to commence our 1:1 counselling service at no cost to families. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we could not begin the 1:1 counselling service and are currently restructuring the clinical department of Wombat's Wish. As part of this restructuring, we welcome back Jill Crookes, our founder, into the Director of Clinical Services role and are currently advertising positions for a psychologist/mental health social worker and research officer.

Programs

- Family days held were a huge success and a way for families to reconnect pre and post-camp. They were facilitated at Inflatable World in South Geelong, and Fairy Park in Anakie. Our Xmas party was held at Rippleside Park with special guest visits from Tom Hawkins, Emily Mannix, Freeman and Santa.
- Wombat's Wish has commenced the groundwork to offer 1:1 counselling, online support Zoom lounges, and face-to-face group counselling for children/young people. These programs will be launched over the coming months.

Camps

- Wombat's Wish held weekend grief family camps in, Corop in September 2022 Angelsea in November 2022, Angelsea 2 camps in March 2023, June 2023, our pilot camp in Grantville for Eastern Suburbs, Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula families.
- The youth camp's development, pilot and first review were completed. The pilot camp was held in July 2022, with the second camp facilitated at Cottage by the Sea in July 2023. 94% of eligible young people (those aged between 12 and 17 years and who have completed a weekend grief family camp) have all chosen to return to Wombat's Wish for the Youth camp over the past two years.

Community Engagement

- Over the past 12 months Wombat's Wish has increased its community engagement. Wombat's Wish has a strong engagement on social media platforms, has created new resources for families, created social stories and videos of past families, redeveloped our website and developed strategies for ongoing support and communication with clients.
- We have had many opportunities within the broader community to speak about our services to families and raise awareness of Wombat's Wish throughout Victoria. These include guest speaking at 4 Geelong and Bellarine Rotary Clubs, 6 CWA clubs throughout Geelong and Western Suburbs of Melbourne, P500 donors, Bendigo Bank Foundation Donors and other community groups on the Bellarine Peninsula. The outcomes of this engagement have raised awareness of Wombat's Wish and resulted in donations to support our programs.

Financial

- Wombat's Wish has increased its financial position during the 2022-2023 year. This has enabled us to facilitate additional camps (an increase of 4 camps per year), and additional family days and develop new programs to support our bereaved families.
- Each year we are building on the number of corporate sponsors throughout Victoria that provide the funds to operate many of our programs.
- Our donations for the year have increased. This result is due to our social media campaign, marketing campaign, guest speaking throughout the regions and the presence in an accessible office space.
- We held our first bi-annual family trivia night in May 2023. 120 trivia buffs attended this fundraising event. Luke Maher hosted the night; we held a live and silent auction of items donated by local businesses and raised just over \$13,000.00. Thank you to everyone who attended, supported and planned this event.

To conclude my report, I thank the fantastic team at Wombat's Wish. As a relatively new team, we have worked together exceptionally well and exceeded all outcomes set on the strategic planning day. Thank you to Rebecca Scott (outgoing), Rebecca Moore (outgoing), Kelsey Dattoli, Suzy Coad, Jill Crookes, members of the Board and our extraordinary camp team leaders and volunteers for supporting me throughout the year. Your dedication and passion for Wombat's Wish shine through in every task or project you commit to for Wombat's Wish.

I look forward to working with the Board, Staff and Volunteers over the next 12 months in meeting and implementing our strategic goals.

Nicki Dunne
Manager
Wombat's Wish inc.

July 2022 to June 2023 Annual Coordinators Report – Writer Rebecca Scott

During this year, Wombat's Wish had the most growth it has seen, running a total of 5 family camps and one youth camp. During this time, Wombat's Wish successfully supported 40 families and 81 children/young people through our Goulburn Valley, Grantville, Anglesea, and Queenscliff Youth and Family Camp programs. This has grown from the last year of 15 families and 25 children.

We saw growth with the pilot Youth Camp, a brand-new program for Wombat's Wish. This camp is a follow-on for young people aged 12 – 18 focusing on coping strategies during adolescence and was run at Cottage by the Sea in Queenscliff. For this program, the young people attend without their parent/carer. Rather than having a paediatrician attend, we invited a Headspace GP to talk about youth mental health and ways to access Headspace and other youth services if needed. It was also lovely to note that with the reconnection of the young people after a family camp, the majority of them had mentioned that they often still look at the first aid boxes that they made whilst at the family camp.

Wombat's Wish welcomed our first Grantville camp to cater for families living in the Bass Coast region. Our second camp in Corop for the Goulburn Valley region and three camps at our home base of Anglesea.

Having Wombat's Wish moving to new locations has been an excellent way of working towards making Wombat's Wish more accessible to all parentally bereaved families across Victoria.

We want to thank all of Wombat's Wish Camp team leaders who, without their hard work and determination, the growth of Wombat's Wish Camp program would not be possible. Rachal Bland runs the parent's group at each camp with support from Jill, Steve and, over the last few camps Erin, Liam, Erin, Suzy, Rachel G, and welcoming back Nicki Copley, team leaders at the children's camp. We have a variety of volunteers who have been a great asset in supporting our team leaders.

It is now an exciting time to be a volunteer with Wombat's Wish as it is time to grow our team leader positions and train those volunteers who would like to become team leaders for Wombat's Wish. As our programs are growing we need the team leader pool also to grow, taking some of the pressure off our existing team.

The locations of the families that attended Wombat's Wish camp programs through this period are:

Geelong, Belmont, Marshall, Newcomb, Leopold, Norlane, Ocean Grove, Clifton Springs, Colac, Portland, Bannockburn, Teesdale, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Bacchus Marsh, Burwood, Mordialloc, Keilor East, Carrum Downs, Cranbourne, Pakenham, Greensborough, Officer, Frankston, Somerville, Lakes Entrance, San Remo, Maffra, Alfreton, Eaglehawk, Strathfieldsaye, Alexandra, Kialla, Mooroopna, Kyabram, Fairy Dell.

Wombat's Wish pilot youth camp program at Cottage by the Sea, July 2022.

I am thrilled to report that this camp was an enormous success; we initially had 12 young people booked in to attend this camp. Unfortunately, COVID hit again, causing 2 young people to miss out just days before the camp. We also had one young person on Friday night contact her carer to come and get her early as she was highly nervous about staying at the camp alone.

The team leaders who attended this camp were Nicki, Bec, Liam, Rachal, Suzy & Erin, and a clinical governance committee member. As Steve, our psychologist, also came down with covid, we were lucky enough to have Ragu, who is a psychiatrist for Barwon Health, join the youth camp on Friday night and Saturday.

The number of young people in attendance at the youth camp was 9, and after half an hour of camp, you would have had no idea that these young people had never met before, as the instant connection of these young people was amazing to see.



Wombat's Wish Corop Camp September 2022

Wombat's Wish has successfully run our second Goulbourn Valley Family Camp at Camp Kookaburra in Corop. This camp is proving to be such a valuable service for the Goulbourn Valley; there are a lot of deaths by suicide in this region, and a lack of accessible mental health support services. The current waitlist for an appointment with a paediatrician in the area is up to 2 years.

Camp Kookaburra is such a well-kept clean campsite and very accommodating on Friday night and Saturday.

With eight families in attendance, nine families were originally assessed for this camp. One of the families contacted us on Tuesday to inform us that due to a child's mental health concerns, they would not be attending; this family have been moved to a camp at a later date.



Wombat's Wish Anglesea Camp November 2022

This camp was the final family camp for 2022 at Burnside in Anglesea, and what a camp to end the year. Jill coming back to join us again in the parent's group and Joel and Zoe coming down from Darwin for the children's groups. Along with the commitment from our regular team leaders Rachal, Liam, and Suzy.

At full capacity for Burnside with eight families, all of the deaths on this camp were fathers and we had a total of fourteen children. The age range for this camp was relatively young, with the youngest age being six and the oldest thirteen. With families arriving on Friday evening, they all had the opportunity to spend time together before the official program started on Saturday morning.



Wombat's Wish Anglesea Camp March 2023

Wombat's Wish welcomed 2023 with our first camp of the year on March 3rd to 5th at Camp Burnside in Anglesea, due to the cancellation of the August 2022 camp, we had to accommodate all of the families on our waitlist doing this, we booked two camps for March. 7 families attend the first camp for 2023.

Wombat's Wish Anglesea March 2023

Another great camp for March 2023, with a short break between this camp and the last camp, we were able to fill this camp with eight families in attendance successfully, and within these eight families, we had 16 children making this one of the bigger Wombat's Wish camps I have attended.

At this camp, we had seven mothers attend and one maternal grandmother all families had complex needs, and significant trauma involved with the death of their important person, Jill and Rachal worked extremely hard in the parent's group at this camp, providing the best possible outcome for the parents/ carers providing one of the more challenging but rewarding parent's groups to date.

**Wombat's Wish Grantville Camp June 2023**

Wombat's Wish has welcomed their pilot camp at Grantville Lodge, to cater for Wombat's Wish families in the Bass Coast and southeastern suburbs of Melbourne. It was a wonderful location, although quite chilly at this time of year.

At Grantville Lodge we can accommodate ten families at this camp comfortably. We originally had nine families assessed and booked in for this camp. On the morning of the camp, one family pulled out due to illness. Making it eight families in attendance, with sixteen children/ young people aged between 5 and 15



As I finish at Wombat's Wish, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board, Nicki, Bec, Kelsey, Suzy, the camp teams and volunteers for your support and wish you continued success.

Rebecca Scott
Co-ordinator
Wombat's Wish

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