





The Ballarat Foundation acknowledges the Wadawurrung people, the traditional owners of the lands and waterways in our region. We recognise their diversity, resilience, and the ongoing place that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hold in our communities. We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and commit to working together in the spirit of mutual understanding, respect and reconciliation.

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VISION AND MISSION



Ballarat Foundation United Way Inc is a DGR1 status, not-for-profit public benevolent institution which has been supporting the Ballarat community for more than 40 years.

VISION

Enabling giving to build thriving communities free from disadvantage in the Ballarat region.

MISSION

The Ballarat Foundation inspires positive community change by supporting programs and enabling philanthropic solutions which reduce disadvantage and encourage connection, cohesion and prosperity.

KEY VALUES



RESPONSIBLE

We are accountable to our donors, partners and the communities we serve. We are good stewards of the funds we raise and will ensure our distributions and reporting are transparent.



LEADERSHIP

We are a leader and innovator in philanthropy.



ENABLING

We amplify our impact by working in partnership with others to build a strong community.



INCLUSIVE

We embrace and promote inclusivity and equity. We are committed to actively supporting and promoting diversity across leadership, staff, volunteers, participants and grant recipients.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

A major milestone in the history of the Ballarat Foundation was marked in November 2024 with the official opening of the Ballarat Foundation Giving Hub at Hugh Williamson House.

This facility, in the heart of Ballarat's CBD, has been a long-term vision of the foundation, with a view of supporting volunteer-involved and community organisations through access to offices and meeting spaces which promote collaboration and engagement in response to community needs.

The \$2.8 million project is the epitome of the Ballarat Foundation's mission – bringing partners together to enable better outcomes. The substantial financial support of the Hugh D.T. Williamson Foundation and the Victorian Government was recognised at the opening, together with that of many community and philanthropic partners.

The Giving Hub will be a lasting legacy for Ballarat, reflecting the power of the foundation to deliver positive community impact through prudent and strategic management of the financial resources entrusted to us by the community.

The past year has seen more than \$1 million donated to the foundation, a record for a calendar year, for which we are incredibly grateful. That our community continues to trust and value the foundation's work by giving in challenging economic circumstances is reassuring and motivating.

As an example of our strategic response to community needs, the foundation announced a \$150,000 distribution to two projects proposed to respond to the growing homelessness crisis in Ballarat. The Zero Ballarat and Community Care Centre Ballarat projects work directly with people experiencing homelessness and provide both short and long-term methods of responding to this issue.

The first Ballarat Women's Fund grants were distributed in March, marking an important milestone in the foundation's leadership in response to gendered violence and inequality.

In October, the foundation launched the Future Shapers Fund, in partnership with the Committee for Ballarat.

These are examples of the commitments which help bring the foundation closer to our strategic plan goal of \$1 million in financial distributions to the Ballarat community by 2028.

Each day the foundation is building on its existing relationships through the Volunteer Coordinators Network, participating in the Ballarat Food Access Network and Central Highlands Homelessness Alliance, leading the Ballarat and District Funders Network and supporting the Future Shapers program. In October, the foundation was recognised as a finalist in two categories in the Commerce Ballarat Business Excellence Awards.

Like so many in our community and indeed the world, the foundation faces the ongoing challenge of supporting the community and our operations as we face ongoing economic instability.

Our operational team and Board of Directors, whose commitment, passion and skill serves to further our vision, mission and values, are working each day to enable a Better Ballarat. Our heartfelt thanks to each of you.

In 2025, Chair Wayne Weaire, Deputy Chair Ian Corcoran and Allocations Committee Chair Emily Sweet will depart, having served the maximum nine years on our board. The board has been working consciously on its succession planning, having introduced prospective directors as observers across 2024.

This approach recognises the remarkable service of our volunteer directors while providing the sustainable and transparent governance required to continue to deliver on our strategy.

Finally, thank you to each individual and organisation who donates or is a supporter of the Ballarat Foundation and the work we do – these relationships are even more vital during challenging times.

We look forward to continuing these great relationships into the future as we connect people, promote philanthropy in fresh and innovative ways and most importantly help build a community that is just, equitable and free of disadvantage.

**Wayne Weaire, Board Chair and
Andrew Eales, Chief Executive Officer**





The Ballarat Foundation partnered with the Committee for Ballarat to launch the Future Shapers Fund in October.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The continuing positive growth of Ballarat Foundation entities can be observed in the 2024 financial reports.

The Ballarat Foundation remains committed to making a positive and lasting difference to the people of the Ballarat region. A solid corpus forms the backbone of the Ballarat Foundation, empowering us to make substantial annual distributions.

The majority of corpus funds are held in perpetuity, ensuring that the growth of the corpus provides long-term, meaningful support to the Ballarat region.

In 2024, two significant sub funds were introduced: the Future Shapers Fund, which supports the leadership program operated by the Committee for Ballarat, and the Wimmera Primary Care Partnership Health and Wellbeing Fund, which benefits communities in Horsham and western Victoria.

The Ballarat Foundation United Way Inc (BFUW) corpus continued to grow, with income totalling \$1.150 million. Program and event income for the year amounted to \$1.175 million and income from funding for capital works totalled \$1.263 million. The surplus for BFUW was \$890,511.

Distributions in 2024 totalled \$467,036, including grants of \$390,706 and more than \$75,000 in Back to School vouchers and Dolly Parton Imagination Library books.

As of the 2024 year-end, the BFUW corpus holds assets totalling \$6,212,345, including property, cash, and receivables.

Thanks to the financial support of the state government, Hugh D.T. Williamson Foundation, and several other generous donors, we proudly opened Hugh Williamson House in November 2024. This modern facility serves as a hub for collaboration and the delivery of social impact initiatives.

This project establish a base for new revenue generation while delivering support and impact to community users.

The success of the Dancing with our Stars event, along with programs such as the TAC L2P program and Volunteering Ballarat, has been instrumental in the continued achievements of the Ballarat Foundation in 2024.

The Ballarat Foundation works closely with our local auditors CountPro to regularly assess the organisations financial position and provide guidance on financial strategies.

Nigel Jarvis, Treasurer

IMPACT DATA SINCE 2018

\$2,920,802



**TOTAL GRANTS
DISTRIBUTED**

8



**AT RISK YOUTH GAINED
ACCESS TO EMERGENCY
HOUSING***

439



**GRANTS AWARDED TO
COMMUNITY GROUPS**

**YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE
THE SKILLS TO GAIN
EMPLOYMENT***

89



**EMERGENCY MEALS
PROVIDED***

198,237



**PEOPLE HAVE THE SKILLS
TO IMPROVE THEIR LONG-
TERM FOOD SECURITY**

8,700

6,182



**YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE
THE SKILLS TO IMPROVE
THEIR MENTAL HEALTH***

**ABORIGINAL AND MIGRANT
YOUTH HAVE THE SKILLS TO
IMPROVE THEIR LITERACY***



166

1,939,719

**PEOPLE INDIRECTLY
BENEFITTING FROM GRANTS
EITHER ONCE OR MORE**

6,007



**PRE-SCHOOLERS
HAVE ACCESS TO PLAY
EQUIPMENT**



**PEOPLE DIRECTLY
BENEFITTING FROM GRANTS
EITHER ONCE OR MORE**

790,931



185

**COMMUNITY GROUPS
FOUNDED**

**YOUTH HAD ACCESS TO
SPORT THEY OTHERWISE
WOULDN'T HAVE***

366



COMMUNITY IMPACT

GRANT RECIPIENTS 2024

Ballarat Innovation Grant

The Ballarat Foundation announced that \$150,000 will be distributed to two different programs over the next two years via the Ballarat Innovation Grant.

- Community Care Centre Ballarat (CCCB): \$50,000 to provide household items to people and families in need.
- Ballarat Zero Project (BZP): \$100,000 to help reduce rough sleeping.

Ballarat Women's Fund Grant

Three shortlisted programs presented to members of the Ballarat Women's Fund to vote on and decide which grant would receive the funding.

- Raven Collective - \$20,000
- Child and Family Services – Create:Respect Ballarat - \$2,500
- WRISC – Frida's Daring Voices - \$2,500

Community Impact Grants Program

In 2024 the Ballarat Foundation proudly announced more than \$100,000 would be distributed to community organisations and projects from our annual Community Grants Program.

The projects funded in the general Community Impact grant round included:

- A Better Life For Foster Kids Inc - Crisis Cases - Emergency Foster Care - \$4,960
- Food Is Free Inc. - Deadly Sprouts - First Nations gardening \$7,800

- Hilltop Church - Breakfast Clubs \$7,861.28
- Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-Operative - BADAC Community School Uniforms \$7,275
- Ballarat Community Health - Expect Respect \$3,000
- Southern Cross Kids' Camps - Ballarat Southern Cross Kids Camp. \$3,000
- Ballarat Tool Library (auspiced by BREAZE Inc.) - Providing access to active lifestyles \$2,720.72

The recipient funded by the James Petrie Fund:

- Hand in Hand Ballarat - Open Parachute Program \$15,000

The recipients of the Wendouree-Delacombe Sub Fund grants included:

- Blue Light Victoria Inc - Blue EDGE program \$10,383
- Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre - Growing with the Community \$3,000

The Courier Charity Fund awarded the following grants:

- Uniting Vic Tas - BreezeWay Community Meals Program - \$10,000
- Goldfields Education (Berry Street Victoria Inc) - Goldfields Education Gold STAR \$15,000

The Peter Amor Sports Participation Fund provided support to:

- Ballarat Lawn Tennis Club - Tennis for Disadvantaged Children - \$1200
- Victoria Country Futsal - Ballarat Futsal Club (auspiced by Football Victoria) - USA Futsal World Championships 2024 - \$5000
- Ballarat Football Umpires Association - Ballarat Football Umpires Association Multicultural and Indigenous Umpiring Program - \$5000

COMMUNITY IMPACT
GRANTS DISBURSED
\$184,527



COMMUNITY
GROUPS FUNDED
21



GRANT STORIES

Supporting Vulnerable Families via the Ballarat Innovation Grant

The Community Care Centre Ballarat received \$50,000 through the Ballarat Innovation Grant, enabling it to expand its vital support for vulnerable individuals and families across Ballarat and the surrounding region.

The Community Care Centre provides essential household items, including furniture and electrical appliances, to people facing hardship due to crisis, trauma or financial difficulty. By ensuring access to basic living essentials, the service helped those in urgent need create a safe and stable home environment.

The grant allowed the Community Care Centre Ballarat to enhance its operations, including investing in warehouse staffing and streamlining its services to reach more people in need. This expansion ensured that more individuals and families could rebuild their lives with dignity and stability.

With this funding, the Community Care Centre Ballarat strengthened its ability to respond to growing demand. The impact of this investment will continue to be felt across the community, providing relief and hope to those facing difficult circumstances.



Community Care Centre Ballarat director Warren Payne and Ballarat Foundation Chair Wayne Weaire.



Berry Street's Goldfields Education program uses tailored techniques to engage young people in education.

Tim's Story: A New Path Through Goldfields Education

At just 17, Tim had already experienced more instability than most people face in a lifetime. Removed from his parents at age three, he moved through seventeen care settings, disrupting his education and sense of security. Tim's education level halted at a Year 6 or 7 level and he had multiple interactions with the justice system.

An opportunity came through Berry Street's Goldfields Education, a program designed for young people facing barriers to traditional schooling. Goldfields' trauma-informed approach provided flexible, real-world learning experiences tailored to his needs. Tim's education was no longer confined to a classroom, he now had the opportunity to learn through his own interests with real life experiences.

Goldfields helped Tim set personal goals, including his decision to distance himself from negative peer influences and avoid re-entering the justice system. With supportive, trusted teachers he was able to re-engage with education and began to achieve.

Through Goldfields, Tim gained a sense of control over his learning, his life and ultimately his future. His story is a testament to the power of flexibility, trust and tailored education in transforming young lives.

Expect Respect Program

The Expect Respect program, developed by Ballarat Community Health (BCH), is a dynamic initiative designed to prevent family violence by addressing harmful attitudes and promoting gender equality and respectful relationships.

The program engages Year 10 students in a practical and creative way through live theatre performances and an interactive Q&A session. A panel of local experts help students explore key issues related to consent, boundaries and communication. Many students praised the program as "fun, engaging and educational", with one saying, "It's one of the best performances I've seen." Teachers also valued the honest and approachable delivery, with one noting, "Our kids need to feel comfortable asking questions and getting answers from experts, not from their mates or the internet."

Part of a whole-of-school approach, Expect Respect also provides schools with policy support, professional learning, and clear referral pathways. By equipping young people with knowledge and confidence, the program fosters a safer and more respectful community.



The Expect Respect program



Raven Collective supports women who have experience family violence with work opportunities and skill development.

BALLARAT WOMEN'S FUND

Kristy's Journey: Finding Strength with Raven Collective

For years, Kristy lived in an unsafe relationship, trapped in fear and control. When her ex-partner was arrested, she was faced with overwhelming challenges of homelessness, financial hardship and raising her children alone. Crisis accommodation was too expensive and moving between family homes, hotels, and even different states left her feeling lost. She needed help to get out of this situation.

That's when Kristy found Raven Collective, an organisation that helps women recovering from domestic violence regain confidence, skills, and independence through on-the-job training. At first, she was hesitant. She hadn't worked in seven years and starting over felt daunting. But she knew she needed to move forward.

Through Raven Collective's 10-week program, Kristy received paid work experience, learning practical skills like managing stock and packing hampers. She also gained valuable training in resume writing, interview preparation and job searching, helping her rebuild her professional confidence. Most importantly, she found a safe and supportive community that empowered her to heal and take control of her future.

Today, Kristy has a stable home, secure employment and is studying for a Diploma of Nursing. Raven Collective gave her the tools and belief to rebuild her life, proving that with the right support, a fresh start is always possible.

BALLARAT FOUNDATION GIVING HUB OPENS

More than 20 years in the making, the Ballarat Foundation Giving Hub at Hugh Williamson House was officially opened on November 15, 2024.

The hub is located at 7 Lydiard Street South and provides low cost tenancies and meeting spaces in support of volunteer-involved and community organisations.

It will also be a centre for collaborative and innovative approaches to collective impact and philanthropy.

The project to create the hub was valued at \$2.8 million and included major contributions from the Victorian Government, Hugh D.T. Williamson Foundation, Mars Wrigley Foundation, Ross Trust, Percy Baxter Trust, James Kirkpatrick Trust, CVGT Employment and the community through the Ballarat Foundation.

The official opening recognised the contributions of the supporters and project contractors including Plan Group Ballarat and Brandrick Architects.

The first tenants of the Ballarat Foundation Giving Hub include Ballarat North Neighborhood House, Tiny Pride and the Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Committee.



Ballarat Foundation CEO Andrew Eales, Hugh D. T. Williamson chair Stephen Newton, Ballarat Foundation chair Wayne Weaire and Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison.

TAC L2P PROGRAM

The L2P program supports learner drivers who do not have access to a car or a supervising driver, helping them complete the 120 hours required to obtain their P-plates. The program aims to:

- Improve road safety
- Enhance access to employment and education opportunities
- Increase social mobility

A survey of past participants in the Ballarat L2P program revealed significant positive outcomes:

99% REPORTED IMPROVED ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS

SAID THEIR MENTOR HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR LIFE

100%

88% SECURED EMPLOYMENT AS A DIRECT RESULT OF OBTAINING THEIR P-PLATES

EXPERIENCED INCREASED DRIVING CONFIDENCE

100%

97% FELT LESS SOCIALLY ISOLATED

These results highlight the vital role the L2P program plays in empowering young drivers and improving their future opportunities.

A Road to Independence: The Story of Three Siblings in the L2P Program

Brothers James and Jonathan, along with their older sister Chantelle, are all proud graduates of the L2P program. Their journey to independence was not an easy one. Growing up, they faced significant challenges, including witnessing family violence, which deeply affected each of them in different ways.

After their parents separated, life became even more difficult. With their mother working 80-hour weeks to support them, James began testing boundaries and acting out at school. Jonathan,



too, struggled, feeling unsupported and lost at home. Chantelle says she “went off the rails,” shaving her head and turning to drugs.

Without access to a car and with their mother working long hours, all three siblings joined the L2P program. With the steady support of their volunteer mentor drivers, they gradually found direction and focus.

For James, getting his P’s meant the freedom to pursue employment. He took on a part-time job at KFC, and with encouragement from his mentor, Andy, he eventually secured a position as a Fitter and Turner. Having his license allowed him to get to and from work independently. “I also feel a lot less isolated and now have a strong friend group,” says James.

Chantelle longed for independence and the ability to move out on her own, but without transport, she felt stuck. Gaining her P’s was a turning point—she secured a full-time traineeship and built the confidence to take control of her future. She also repaired her relationship with her siblings and now feels stronger than ever.

Jonathan was the last of the three to get his P’s, but he quickly realised the freedom it gave him. With his newfound independence, he was able to secure work and take charge of his own future.

For all three siblings, the L2P program provided far more than 120 hours of supervised driving—it gave them a trusted adult mentor, someone to guide them and offer support when they needed it most. Their licenses didn’t just give them mobility; they gave them opportunities, confidence, and the ability to build a better future.

Today, Jonathan has proudly paid off his own car. James is saving for a house. And Chantelle, now with a full head of hair, says she’s the happiest she has been in as long as she can remember.

The road wasn’t easy, but thanks to the L2P program, all three siblings are driving towards a brighter future.

VOLUNTEERING BALLARAT

The Volunteer Coordinators Network (VCN), chaired by the Ballarat Foundation, is a collective of 80 volunteer organisations in Ballarat that share resources, information, and learning to strengthen volunteering services. Member organisations operate across various sectors, including health, disability, emergency services, aged care, education, animal welfare, and youth support.

Since COVID-19, volunteer numbers have declined significantly, with a 34% drop in the proportion of residents engaging in volunteer activities over five years—higher than the Victorian average decline of 19%. As a result, many volunteer organisations in Ballarat are struggling to deliver essential community services.

The Ballarat Foundation is working to remove barriers to volunteering by fostering a more diverse and inclusive volunteer base. This includes engaging people with disabilities, young people, migrants, and First Nations communities. In collaboration with the VCN, the Foundation identifies challenges to participation and implements practical solutions to improve access.

To support the VCN, the Ballarat Foundation hosted a Volunteer Expo at St Patrick's Hall, attracting nearly 200 community members. Additionally, the Foundation publishes a Volunteer Handbook on its website, providing a comprehensive guide to volunteering opportunities for the community.



Volunteering Ballarat hosted a “breaking down barriers” session in October.

Breaking Barriers: *How Volunteering from Home is Creating New Opportunities*

The Ballarat Foundation supports volunteering organisations in Ballarat by breaking down barriers to participation. In 2023, PINARC, a registered NDIS provider, introduced a new ‘volunteering from home’ model, allowing 20 people with special circumstances to contribute remotely.

Over the year, a person with a spinal injury, a new migrant mother who is a full-time carer, and an individual experiencing severe anxiety—who previously couldn’t leave their home—were able to volunteer.

Twelve months on, the model continues to thrive, enabling those who typically face barriers to volunteering to give back to the Ballarat community. This success highlights the power of rethinking traditional volunteer roles and adapting them for remote participation.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Ballarat Reads

The Ballarat Reads program is a fantastic initiative for fostering early literacy! By providing books from birth to age five, it ensures that children have continuous exposure to reading, which is crucial for language and cognitive development. Aligning with research on early literacy, the program’s emphasis on building a home library helps establish a strong reading culture within families.

In 2024, the Ballarat Foundation distributed 3,844 books, supporting 517 children through the program.

Back to School Program

The long-term collaboration between FRRR and the Ballarat Foundation really showcases a strong commitment to supporting local families. By providing \$50 gift vouchers to schools, the program aims to alleviate financial burdens and ensure that children have access to essential items necessary for their education, such as school uniforms, clothing, shoes, school bags, and stationery.

The scale of the program in 2024, with 600 gift vouchers and 100 technology vouchers for primary school families, plus the additional 300 gift vouchers for CAFS through matched funding from UFS, demonstrates partnerships with meaningful impact.



Members of the Measuring What Matters 2024 workshop attended by the Ballarat Foundation Community Impact Manager Nina Fitzsimons (pictured centre)

VITAL SIGNS IMPACT MEASUREMENT

Strengthening Our Impact: Measuring What Matters

As a community foundation, it is essential that we listen to community members to understand the issues that matter most in reducing disadvantage in Ballarat. In 2024, the Ballarat Foundation took a significant step forward in developing a framework to measure the social impact of our work. This included appointing a new Community Impact Manager with expertise in monitoring and evaluation and learning from community foundations across Australia and internationally about effective impact measurement.

A key outcome of this work has been the revision of our Vital Signs report. Previously, this report relied on limited big data to highlight core community challenges. Now, it will track up to 68 indicators aligned with the eight focus areas the Ballarat Foundation funds. These indicators will be complemented by Vital Conversations—engagement sessions with community groups to identify the areas of greatest concern. This approach ensures our funding is directed where it is needed most.

By analysing historical data, we have also assessed the effectiveness of key programs such as L2P, Ballarat Reads, and our grants initiatives. These insights will help keep our strategy relevant and ensure we continue to provide meaningful support to the community.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS & APPEALS



COMMUNITY RALLIES IN CRISIS

The Ballarat community continued to show its strength of generosity, providing record support across the Ballarat Winter and Christmas appeals, amid the cost of living crisis.

In mid-2022, the Ballarat Foundation and radio station 3BA 102.3FM announced the stewardship of the Ballarat Christmas Appeal and Ballarat Winter Appeal would transfer to the foundation.

The transition of the appeals will ensure the legacy built by 3BA over more than 40 years will live sustainably utilising the foundation's DGR1 tax status and fundraising capabilities.

The appeals directly support the Ballarat agencies of the Salvation Army, Anglicare, Uniting and St Vincent de Paul with vouchers, food, toys and goods which are provided directly to community members most in need.

More than \$120,000 was distributed through the Christmas Appeal in December 2024, with tens of thousands of dollars in food, clothing and essential items also supporting emergency responses.

For those contributions, we say a heartfelt thank you.

DANCING TO A RECORD

An incredible \$209,452 was raised for services to support the Ballarat community at the 2024 Dancing With Our Stars gala, a record breaking figure for the event.

Paul McGourlay representing Buxton Real Estate was the top fundraiser for the event, raising more than \$48,000.

Also participating this year were Annie Alexander, Judy-Ann Quilliam, Erin Harris, Kelly Bevan, Lara Jean Marshall, Charlie Begelhole, Matt Ives, Mitch Dower and Stephen Armati.

Dancing the Rumba, Passive Builders' Mitch Dower, partnered by Alicia Sheludko, was the winner of the judges' choice - decided by Paul Mercurio, Bruce Roberts and Peter Head.

Zumba Ballarat's Erin Harris, partnered by Adrian Misseri, was crowned the people's choice, after dancing the Cha Cha.

All funds raised from Dancing with our Stars support Ballarat Foundation program delivery, including the L2P Learner Driver program, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Back to School vouchers and the annual grants program.



OUR SUPPORTERS

DONORS

James Petrie was a respected, loved, community-minded, and compassionate man who tragically lost his battle with mental health in 2022, aged 33. The James Petrie sub-fund was set up by his family and friends with the Ballarat Foundation to raise funds for mental health programs and support youth engagement in Ballarat, and in 2024, the community rallied to grow his legacy.

In 2024, over \$47,000 was raised in his memory to support local mental health initiatives through fundraising, donations, and events such as Peach's Run and The Shed's Long Night Challenge.

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, hundreds of people took part in the second annual Peach's Run event, supported by fundraising efforts from his former students and sponsorship from local businesses.

Hand in Hand Ballarat also took part in Peach's Run after receiving funding from the Ballarat Foundation for its Open Parachute mental health training program, which equips children with the tools they need for life, including knowing where to find help.

The Long Night Challenge by The Shed also raised funds for the James Petrie sub-fund, with participants completing four marathons back-to-back on the SkiErg, rowing machine, Echo Bike, and run, either as individuals or teams.

Crucially, these initiatives sparked conversation in the community about the challenges facing men's mental health, how they can seek help, and how to support programs addressing mental health issues in Ballarat. The James Petrie sub-fund truly demonstrates what is possible when the community rallies to provide support and honor the legacy of James. "James was well known for being a lover of a physical challenge and that's why we believe that these initiatives are a great fit in order to honour him," Emma Petrie said.



AMBASSADORS

The Ballarat Foundation Ambassador Program brings together passionate community members dedicated to driving positive change.

Ambassadors play a key role in raising awareness, advocating and supporting the Foundation's initiatives. By tapping into their networks, they help amplify important causes and encourage community giving. The current Ambassadors have contributed significantly in engaging with different community members and advocating on our behalf. We are thankful to these community leaders who help promote and support our events, appeals and programs.

Ambassadors pictured: Pam Sutcliffe, Melissa Farrington, Lee Martin, Jen Pollard, Val Sarah and Fiona Murphy. Not pictured: Tim Bone, Jules Zass, Lynne McLennan, Rob Croucher and Susana Yung.

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Major sponsors and supporters

3BA/Power FM
 Advanced Cabinetry
 Alexander Racing
 ArbTrack Australia
 Aunty Jacks
 Ballarat Golf Club
 Ballarat Nightlife Market
 Ballarat Turf Club
 Brandrick Architects
 Brown-Forman Corporation
 Brown Hill & District Lions Club
 Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation
 City of Ballarat
 Commerce Ballarat
 Committee for Ballarat
 Country Women's Association Webbcona Branch
 Elecservices Victoria Pty Ltd
 Emmaus Catholic Primary School
 Eureka Concrete
 Field Air Ballarat
 Fire Rescue Victoria (Lucas and Ballarat CBD)
 Freight Bar & Rooftop
 Gekko
 GIANT Ballarat
 GMHBA Ballarat Branch
 Haymes Paint
 Hullabaloo Events
 IGA Ryan's Group Supermarkets Victoria
 J & B Jackson Foundation
 John Ross
 Joyca Pty Ltd
 Lions Club of Ballarat
 Lions Club of Buninyong Mount Helen
 LJM Foundation

M & L McLean Cleaning Services
 Mars Wrigley Foundation
 Mars Wrigley
 McGrath Ballarat
 Mode Property Styling
 MrBrakes - Bosch Car Service Centre
 Norty Nom Noms
 Passive Builders
 Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
 Piano Bar Ballarat
 Plan Group
 Preston Rowe Paterson Central Victoria
 PV Studio
 Quilliam Developments Pty Ltd
 Red Lion
 Royal South Street
 Smith and Sons
 Sovereign Radiology
 The Hugh D.T. Williamson Foundation
 The Ross Trust
 Timbeck Charitable Trust
 UFS Healthcare Limited
 Unlock Possibilities Inc
 Victorian Government

Ballarat Women's Fund business supporters

Ballarat Business Women's Network
 Ballarat Hospice Care
 Ballarat Trades Hall
 Catholic Diocese Ballarat Foundation
 City of Ballarat
 Brown-Forman Corporation
 Gekko
 Licenses 4 Work
 Ludowyk Evaluation
 Preston Rowe Paterson
 McCain
 The Courier
 Tobin Brothers Funerals
 UFS

WRISC Family Violence Support

Workplace Giving

Ballarat Community Health

McCain Foods Pty Ltd

Barker & Jennings

City of Ballarat

UFS Ballarat

Powercor Australia Ltd

CE Bartlett Pty Ltd

MARS Wrigley

BRT Queens

Haymes Paint

Ballarat Group Training

Gekko Systems

UGL Ballarat

TRG Accountants

FMP Group

Loreto College

Ballarat Clarendon College

OzPress Pty Ltd

Pinarc Disability Support

Damascus College

Laminex

Ballarat High School

Ambulance Victoria

McCallum Disability Services / Ballarat

Regional Industries

Central Highlands Water

Australian Catholic University

CatholicCare Victoria

St John of God Hospital

Colliers International

Uniting (Victoria & Tasmania) Ltd

Byrne Jones Torney

Ballarat & District Trotting Club Inc.

Lake Imaging

Melba Support Services Incorporated

Good2Give

Campbell, Ewen

Department of Transport and Planning

CDC / Davis Bus Lines

St.Patrick's College

Ballarat & District Trotting Club

Child & Family Services (Cafs)

Corio Waste Management

GMHBA Health Insurance

Grampians Health

Named Funds

Ballarat Foundation General Fund

Janine Owen Fund

Peter Amor Sports Participation Fund

James Petrie Fund

Canny Family Fund

Val Sarah Fund

Van den Broek Fund

Matthew George Young Stockman Award Fund

The Courier Charity Fund

Wendouree Delacombe Fund

Feed Ballarat Fund

Housing Support Fund

Rotary Young Ambition Fund

Ballarat Women's Fund

Ballarat Botanical Gardens Fund

Future Shapers Fund

Wimmera Primary Care Partnership Health and Wellbeing Fund

Corporate Funds

Advanced Cabinetry Fund

Integra Group Fund

Adroit Insurance and Risk Fund Directors

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD



Wayne Weaire
Chair

Wayne brings over twenty-three years of experience in public and private hospital, health and community care sector executive management, as well as extensive experience with public and private philanthropy and is a founding Director of Australian Community Philanthropy. Wayne is a practicing clinical family therapist and holds Board positions including Director of United Way Australia and board member of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. He is the former chair of the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance.

Appointed in 2016, Wayne will complete his 9-year tenure as a director at the 2025 AGM.



Nigel Jarvis
Treasurer

Nigel joined the board in April 2018 and is currently the Executive Director Finance & Corporate Services and Company Secretary at Western Victoria Primary Health Network. He has previously worked as Director of Commercial Operations Services St John of God Hospital Regional Victoria, Director of Business & Finance at Ballan District Health & Care and as Senior Financial Accountant for Ballarat Health Services. He is also Deputy Chair & Treasurer of Beaufort & Skipton Health Services and member of the Finance Consultative Committee Ballarat Catholic Diocese Education.



Ian Corcoran
Deputy Chair

Ian is a past Chair of the AICD Ballarat Regional Committee and has held the role of Chairman of Community Bank Buninyong since 2019. He works in an advisory capacity as a mentor to the greater Bendigo Bank network of Community banks. Ian brings a deep knowledge of the consumer and retail sector as well as private sector Board experience in banking, hospitality & gaming, NFP charities and golf sports industry. He is an active community member having held leading roles in Rotary, Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Red Shield Appeal and other community organisations.

Appointed in 2016, Ian will complete his 9-year tenure as a director at the 2025 AGM.



Scott Sherritt
Company Secretary

Joining the board in 2022, Scott is a long-term Ballarat local with a strong commitment to the community. He has diverse qualifications in areas including corporate governance, accounting, risk management, financial planning and insurance. He is also a registered Victorian Bail Justice. With a recognition of the benefits of strengths-based development of people he has supported community improvement through work in the health sector and local government as well as through a number of not-for-profit Board and Committee positions. The Ballarat region and its people continue to prosper through not leaving people behind and giving everyone a chance and Scott is dedicated to contributing towards this continuing.

BOARD



Lee Miezis
PSM

Appointed to the Board May 2019 Lee has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Environment Protection Authority Victoria Since May 2021, and brings over 25 years' experience in the public sector in NSW and Victoria, working in executive roles across policy, service delivery and regulation. Accomplished at both strategy development and execution Lee brings strong commercial and financial acumen with a focus on good governance and managing risk.



Emily Sweet

Emily is a digital news leader with 18 years of expertise in regional media and is currently the acting Managing Editor of The Courier. At a volunteer level, Emily is a member of Deakin University's Ballarat Medical School Community Advisory Board and co-chair of the Ballarat Childcare Co-operative. In 2022 Emily took to the dance floor as a participant in Dancing with our Stars.

Appointed in 2016, Emily will complete her 9-year tenure as a director at the 2025 AGM.



Christine Shaw

Christine is a leadership educator with experience in Melbourne, Brisbane and Ballarat and is Deputy Principal at Loreto College. Her professional focus is organisational development leading curriculum, pastoral care, strategic planning and presenting on education both nationally and internationally. Believing in the importance of positive organisational culture, wellbeing, and its value in the lives of young people, Christine has a passion for creating cultures and environments that allow young people to thrive.

Appointed in 2021, Christine will depart the board at the 2025 AGM.



Jacki Whitwell

Joining the Board in January 2021, Jacki is an executive leader with more than 15 years experience in the not-for-profit sector in a variety of strategic policy, research and advocacy roles working with some of Australia's largest and most respected not-for-profit organisations. She is passionate about youth empowerment and ensuring all children and young people can reach their full potential. Jacki owns and manages her own social impact consulting company and has lived with her two children in Ballarat since 2019.

BOARD



Angus Pryor

Joining the Board in 2022, Angus is the Founder and CEO of Dental Marketing Solutions and an outsourcing company, Dental Stars. He brings a background in small business and marketing. In 2014, he founded a multi-award-winning marketing agency using the venture to support various charities. Before his time in business, Angus held managerial positions in the pharmaceutical industry and served as a diplomat with postings in Washington and Suva. His family has a long history of serving in the Ballarat community.



Catherine Ross

Appointed to the Board in 2022, Catherine has a passion for making an impact in the community through fundraising and philanthropy. Catherine has a broad experience in the sector having had worked at Oxfam Australia, NAB Foundation, i=Change and The Reach Foundation. Catherine is committed to making a difference to the lives of others by creating change in communities.

Catherine has resigned from the board effective March 2025.



Rochelle Kirkham

Joining the Board in 2022, Rochelle is a digital producer with the ABC and she brings a deep understanding of social issues and a passion for helping the community to the Ballarat Foundation Board. Rochelle has been a community member of Committee for Ballarat and completed the Future Shapers leadership program in 2021, working with stakeholders to host a forum on homelessness. She also participated in Dancing with Our Stars in 2021 and 2022.



Board Directors Nigel Jarvis (left), and Ian Corcoran (right) with Plan Group Manager Jarrad Anderson at the opening of the Ballarat Foundation Giving Hub at Hugh Williamson House.



From left, Board Director Rochelle Kirkham, incoming Director Ellen Jackson, Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison, SES Community Resilience Coordinator Jane Patton, ambassadors Lynne McLennan and Pam Sutcliffe at the opening.

STAFF



From back, left -

Lucy Ibrahim, Donor Engagement and Development Lead

Padma Giri, L2P Coordinator

Rae Godfrey, Administration Officer

Nina Fitzsimons, Community Impact Manager

Donna Fotheringham, Administration Officer

From front, left -

Melissa McShane-Murphy, Finance Manager

Odette Wells, Administration Officer

Ricci Shepherd, Communications and Engagement Manager

Andrew Eales, Chief Executive Officer

Wendy Kendall, Administration Manager



Inset:

Lisa Hall, Volunteering Ballarat Coordinator and Vital Signs Project Officer

FINANCIAL REPORTS

BALLARAT FOUNDATION UNITED WAY INC. STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue - Operations		
Corporate Donations	4,140	9,918
Donations	225,858	189,072
Sales and Sponsorship	140,491	269,362
Government Grants	1,283,005	758,653
Grants - Other	72,294	234,350
Other Income	5,460	8,234
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	6,914	23,878
Total Revenue from Operations	2,438,162	1,493,467
Expenses - Operations		
Advertising Expense	(6,141)	(38,233)
Audit Expense	(8,300)	(11,150)
Back to School Vouchers	(47,500)	(34,750)
Bad & Doubtful Debt Expense	-	(500)
Book Distributions	(28,830)	(28,710)
Depreciation Expense	(49,693)	(28,794)
Distribution to Beneficiaries	(29,805)	(10,000)
Event Costs	(140,242)	(174,251)
Interest Expense	(27,389)	(380)
IT Expenses	(14,285)	(11,462)
Loss on Revaluation of Land and Buildings	(792,014)	-

Other Operating Expenses	(256,553)	(232,111)
Superannuation Expense	(88,849)	(64,395)
Training Expenses	(30,844)	(35,536)
Wage Expense	(793,560)	(650,974)
Workers Compensation	(22,510)	(13,447)
Total Expenses from Operations	2,336,515	1,334,693
Surplus from Operations	101,647	158,774

Revenue - Sub-Funds

Corpus Donations	1,012,598	341,632
Investment Income	137,167	164,951
Rent	-	5,841
Total Revenue from Sub-Funds	1,149,765	512,424

Expenses - Sub-Funds

Depreciation Expense	-	(7,726)
Distributions to Beneficiaries	(360,901)	(248,795)
Financial Investment Fees	-	(25,140)
IT Expenses	-	(7,462)
Operating Expenses	-	(5,453)
Wage Expense	-	(65,338)
Total Expenses from Sub-Funds	(360,901)	(359,914)
Surplus from Sub-Funds	788,864	152,510
Surplus for the Year	890,511	311,284

Other Comprehensive Income

Gain on Revaluation of Shares	274,693	219,179
Loss on Revaluation of Land and Buildings	(122,779)	-
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	151,914	219,179
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	1,042,425	530,463

Please Note: The Summary Statement has been derived from and are consistent with the full independently audited Financial Statements which are available by request to the Chief Executive Officer. All Ballarat Foundation financial statements can be viewed on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission website www.acnc.gov.au

INSTAGRAM

107,950

INSTAGRAM REACH

204

NEW FOLLOWERS



14,600

PAGE VIEWS

EVENT FUNDRAISING
DANCING WITH OUR STARS $\$143,952 + \$65,500 = \$209,452$

DONATIONS

SPONSORSHIP

TOTAL

DISTRIBUTIONS

\$467,036

INCLUDES GRANTS, AUSPICE,
VOUCHERS, DPIL, APPEALS

LICENCES GAINED

66



DIRECT MARKETING

54,141

EMAILS SENT

53,466

TOTAL RECIPIENTS

23

INDIVIDUAL CAMPAGINS

FACEBOOK

108,041

FACEBOOK REACH

366

NEW FOLLOWERS



8,293

PAGE INTERACTIONS

LINKEDIN

36,448

REACH

228

NEW FOLLOWERS

WEB DONATIONS

1,271

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONATIONS
VIA THE WEBSITE

WORKPLACE GIVING CONTRIBUTIONS

44

ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATED
IN WORKPLACE GIVING

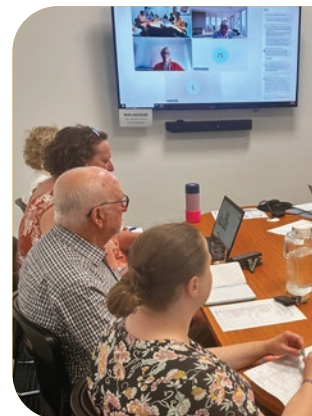
\$56,515.68

RAISED BY
EMPLOYEES

DONATIONS

\$1,242,595

TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
AUSTRALIA



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