



2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Community Impact Grants

Wendouree/Delacombe Fund

BASKATBALL BALLARAT – PHOENIX COLLEGE SPORT EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

This program by Ballarat Basketball has the goal of having long term impact for the Delacombe area. Utilising the brand new basketball court and facilities and Phoenix College, the program focuses on upskilling and training Phoenix students whilst bringing more children from the area into the sport of basketball.

In 2023, the Employment Training Program has enlisted 3 Phoenix students to learn how to manage a basketball court facility including cleaning of toilets, hardwood court upkeep and teaching and coaching basketball. They assist with the coaching of Aussie Hoops for children of primary school ages. The Employment Training Program equips the students with many valued work skills and increases employment opportunities. The program also enables many children from the Delacombe area to become active in sport, have a club they can belong to and help create a sense of community through basketball.



WENDOUREE WEST EXODUS FAMILY CAMP 2023

Wendouree West Exodus is an outreach community part of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Wendouree. The aim of the family camp is to provide a holiday environment where families are able to enjoy each other's company and strengthen bonds and relationships. The camp encourages participation, acceptance, empathy and communication through camp activities and games. Children from different families play together while parents and carers interact through meal preparation and joining in with family activities.

The camp was held for 5 days over January in 2023 at the Grampians. The camp is set amongst the natural beauty of Gariwerd and outdoor activities such as hiking, tennis, swimming and ping pong

was played amongst families. In the evenings board games, night walks and board games and craft were activities scheduled. This funding provided families a holiday that they may not be able to afford, whilst also providing support and friendship.

Courier Charity Fund

UNITING VIC TAS – BREEZEWAY MEALS PROGRAM

Breezeway Meals program is a morning tea and lunch program run by Uniting Ballarat. It operates 7 days a week, 365 days per year and offers nutritious two-course meals hot meals and sandwich takeaway meal packs. These takeaway packs, provide food security to those who are unable to access food due to homelessness, lack of cooking facilities, inability to cook or social isolation.

The program is largely run by volunteers who work in a small but organised kitchen to provide on average 100 meals per day. Funds from the grant are used to purchase fresh products such as meat and proteins, milk and dairy products. In the last year, 28,500 hot lunches were prepared and over 23,500 sandwich packs were distributed.



General Community Impact Grants

BADAC – INDIGENOUS YOUTH LEADERS CONNECTING TO CULTURE CAMP



Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-Operative took 25 Aboriginal youth to the Woorrangalook Surfing camp as part of the Indigenous Youth Leaders Connecting to Culture Camp. The purpose of the camp is to take young leaders to significant areas in Victoria to connect to culture, learn about the history and to develop a sense of community amongst their peers.

The surfing camp saw the youth learning cultural connections through the salt water, ochre, participating in a smoking ceremony and welcome to country by a Waddawurrung Traditional Owner. This project will impact the Indigenous youth of Ballarat by reconnecting them to cultural knowledge and people, promote a sense of pride, increase their connection to the land and give them an opportunity to celebrate and explore their identity.

BALLARAT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE – OUR GARDEN SUPPORTING OUR KITCHEN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The Garden at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre aims to grow and produce food whilst teaching food security knowledge to disadvantaged people in the area. Disengaged youth, CALD people, women and long-term unemployed can benefit from learning how to grow food, providing a social network and increasing employability.

Up to 10 people form the gardening group and learn how to grow food in a low cost and DIY format so that it can be replicated at home. Seasonal food is planted, simple infrastructure and sustainable watering methods and recycling such as composting are also key aspects to the garden. Food that is grown can be taken home by individuals and is also used in the Our Kitchen cooking program which upskills program participants and provides meals for those at risk of food insecurity.



ABORIGINAL LITERACY FOUNDATION – POST COVID LITERACY CATCH UP FOR YOUTH

This program is designed to assist Indigenous children in the Ballarat area who suffered during the pandemic with Home Learning. Many students from Aboriginal backgrounds had limited internet access and low literacy rates of parents meaning their at home learning was dramatically compromised. The Post Covid Literacy Catch Up for Youth Program will address these issues through tutoring from VIT registered teachers.

Each child will undergo literacy testing and be provided with a specialised program for their individual needs. The program will utilise games, technology, books and other teaching resources to enhance their learning. Raising literacy levels in early primary school age groups increases school retention rates in high school. This in turn increases the chance of further training and employment opportunities enabling them to break generational welfare cycles.



BALLARAT COMMUNITY HEALTH – GO FOR GREEN 2.0

Go 4 Green is a program by Ballarat Community Health which aims to support Ballarat schools to action innovative and sustainable project ideas that are healthy for our children, young people and planet. The program collaborates with 5 schools in the Ballarat area to create their own kitchen garden. Gardens at schools have been shown to foster healthy food habits, increase student engagement and knowledge about healthy eating and increase an understanding of seasonal gardening.

Forest Street Primary School is one school who has participated in the Go 4 Green program. The school has established a Green Team and is looking to install compost and recycling bins to help reduce general waste. Last September, the Green Team hosted their first event, a Nude Food Day. The Green Team delivered several short messages about the importance and health co-benefits of sustainability before serving food the students had prepared. Oranges, apples and pears were used to make fruit kebabs. All food scraps were composted for use in the community garden.



ART OF THE MINDS – LIVING WITH PURPOSE

This organisation delivered an evidence-based wellbeing program to young people in the Ballarat area. Three interactive sessions allowed participants to explore personal values, develop strategies to manage difficult emotions and learn skills to cope in challenging times.



The program was available to any residents of Ballarat between the ages of 16-25. The program consisted of activities, talks, discussion and videos. Participants benefited by finding a sense of purpose and learning to live in a way that reflects who they truly want to be. For nearly all the participants, this 'ideal self' was underpinned by values such as kindness, gratitude and forgiveness. Good mental health and wellbeing is a major issue for youth of today, this program supports the personal development of the youth in our community.

UNTIING VIC TAS – MEALS FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

Meals for Change is a program operated by Uniting and is a café style meals program that supports young people. Vulnerable young people are at greatest risk of isolation, so the program exists not only to provide nutritious meals but to also keep these youth connected to the community. In this program, clients receive a card with 12 café meals. They can eat at one of the participating cafes and order a meal up to the price of \$15 but only pay \$3. The program then reimburses the balance to the café.



This program is helping to decrease social isolation amongst vulnerable youth. The clients are treated with respect, the card is confidential and discreet, and young people have a chance to eat great food, in local cafes with friendly staff. The grant subsidised more than 600 of the meals enjoyed by members throughout the year.

HILLTOP CHURCH – PHOENIX BREAKFAST CLUB

Phoenix Breakfast Club is an initiative from Hilltop Church for the students at Phoenix College at the secondary school and the primary school. The main outcome of the breakfast club is for students to have regular access to safe and nutritious food before school. This in turn will help their development and learning and have a positive impact on their education. The breakfast club is inclusive, welcoming and friendly in its nature.

The program runs in a slightly different format since the pandemic, serving from a kiosk window at the secondary school and within the art room at the primary school. The funds received from the grant go towards the day to day purchasing of food, such as cereal, milks, bread, spreads, juice boxes and milo.

BADAC - BADAC BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The BADAC back to School Program assisted children with new uniforms and school shoes so that they are ready to return to school for the new year. 53 Aboriginal children were helped from the funding to this program.

Many of BADAC's families struggle to meet their financial needs so being able to provide new and school uniforms, shoes, lunches, books and stationery. This allows children to attend school feeling more confident and accepted by their peers. School attendance is critical for the Indigenous community in Ballarat to ensure children the best start to life through education. The aim is for Aboriginal children to fit in with their peers and hopefully make them feel more secure within the education setting. In turn, it is hoped that Aboriginal youth will show pride in themselves and their culture.



SALVATION ARMY – LARF (LIFE SKILLS, ACTIVITIES RELATIONSHIPS, FUN)

LARF mentoring allows groups of children from vulnerable backgrounds a safe space to learn, grow and develop. Children have the opportunity to play, learn and engage in socially appropriate settings. Mentors are there to support the children’s development and guide them through sessions. The mentors are volunteers and assist with participants learning by validating their emotions and talking through problems they experience at home or at school.

Each session has an activity or fun task to complete and fresh fruit and healthy snacks are provided also. Funds from the grant pay for equipment and crafts for making things such as herb gardens, paintings and terrariums. During the activity, social skills are modelled by mentors and often explicitly discussed with the participants. The children have been exposed to emotional regulation techniques, learning appropriate responses to difficult interactions and how to be inclusive through language. Participants in the LARF program have left with a great sense of self, more confidence and have a greater understanding of their skills and attributes.



Ballarat Innovation Grant

RAVEN COLLECTIVE SERVICES AND TRAINING

Raven Collective is a paid work program offered to women who have experienced Domestic or Family Violence. Women are referred to the program from community support agencies such as WRISC. The program has two components, the first being that the women attend the Work Ready Program at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre which focuses writing emails and CVs, interview skills and skills needed to gain employment.

The main part of the program is completing paid work at Raven Collective which includes tasks such as packing gift boxes, unpacking stock, ordering stock, delivering boxes and administration. Guest speakers also come in each





week to share their knowledge on a particular subject that is relevant to the workplace or to their health and wellbeing.

The purpose of the work program with Raven collective is to offer participants a safe space to build confidence and skills so that they are work ready. The end goal is for women to gain ongoing employment and become financially independent.

Peter Amor Sports Participation Fund

REDAN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB – FUND FOR DISADVANTAGED

The funding for Redan Football Netball Club is used to provide uniforms and fee payment for disadvantaged players. The club also provides ongoing support to the players and often their families try to make sure that players continue to train and participate. This benefits the player but also extends to the football club and family with ongoing continuance of a player in a team, family interaction and ongoing volunteering support for the club. For the club it provides continuance and stability in football teams with players remaining constant in an age group, building friendships and a team environment. It also bonds a family to the club assisting in delivering the football program.

VIC COUNTRY FUTSAL – FUTSAL BALLARAT PRIMARY SCHOOL GIRLS COMPETITION

The funding for Vic Country Futsal is for a weekly program designed for primary school girls only. The aim is to provide an opportunity for girls in Ballarat to have a fun, safe and encouraging environment to be able to develop their skills and enjoy Futsal. There is currently a large gap between girls and boys playing Futsal, with only 11% being girls. A designated competition for the girls allows them to feel more comfortable and therefore more likely to remain playing the sport. The project is facilitated by female coaches and referees to create an encouraging, fun and safe environment for these young females to enjoy Futsal.



BALLARAT LAWN TENNIS CLUB – TENNIS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

The aim for this program is to provide free memberships for disadvantaged children to give them an opportunity to play tennis. The children also receive a free tennis racquet and are coached by a local PE teacher who is also a member of the club. The participants are placed into teams and learn general sports skills as well as tennis skills. They are encouraged and celebrated for successes big and small, and are made to feel welcome in the tennis club. The children learn lifelong skills and social skills, increased confidence and form friendships.



YMCA OF BALLARAT YOUTH SERVICES – RECRANKED BIKE RECYCLING PROGRAM

ReCranked is a bike recycling program providing refurbished bikes to disadvantaged community members. The bikes are unused or unwanted bikes that are donated to YMCA Ballarat Youth Services to restore and therefore are kept out of landfill. The program has used the funds to purchase new helmets that are provided along with the bikes. The program provides vulnerable community members a safe mode of transport to get to education or employment and also has a wellbeing impact through physical activity. ReCranked also has a great sustainability aspect, saving old bikes from landfill.

