



greater Shepparton Foundation

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

WWW.GREATERSHEPPARTON.FOUNDATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Greater Shepparton Foundation acknowledges it operates on the lands of the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang peoples. We thank the Traditional Owners for the opportunity to serve the community on their country. We honour and pay our respect to Elders and leaders, past, present and emerging. Through meaningful and genuine relationship, we will endeavor to put First Nations' People first. We respectfully use the term "First Nations' People" to honour all First Nations' People who benefit from our activities and live on the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang.

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## Vision

**Inclusive, interconnected communities where everybody has equal opportunity to participate.**

## Purpose

**To amplify, assist and elevate community driven change across the Greater Shepparton region.**

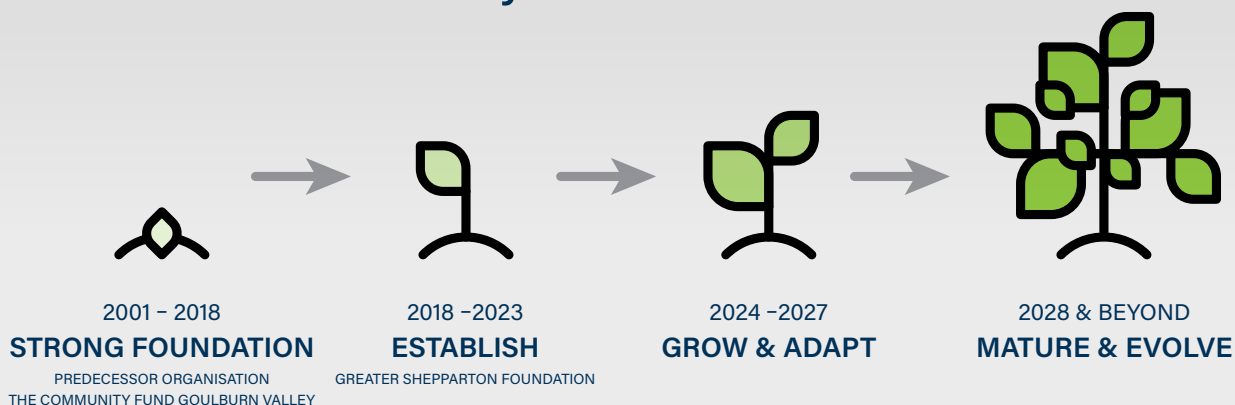
## Goals

- To be trusted as the leading philanthropic hub in the region
- To create partnerships with purpose to inform our decision-making framework
- To strengthen our commitment to research and learning for an evidence-based practice

## Achievements

- \$300,000 raised through Community Flood Recovery Campaign following the October 2022 floods.
- Our Victorian Early Year's award-winning Oral Language Intervention (OLI) and Little Learners (LL) programs recognised as significant place-based interventions positively impacting early years
- 120th Lift Off Education Scholarship awarded
- Nominated to Chair rights based, children-centred More For Children research, undertaken by Australian National University (ANU) in partnership with FamilyCare and local agencies

## Our Growth Journey



# Chair Report

I am delighted to present the Chair's Annual Report for the Greater Shepparton Foundation, GSF's fifth year of operation. It has been a year filled with progress, resilience, and significant achievements that have reaffirmed our commitment to the development of an even stronger, more inclusive and successful community that looks to remove barriers encountered by people facing disadvantage.

A few key points to reflect on the year have been:

**Smooth Transition of Leadership:** I would like to thank outgoing Chair Rhys Holloran for his leadership and dedication to our Foundation. I would also like to recognise the inspiring work of Cheryl Hammer as our CEO since the inception of Greater Shepparton Foundation five years ago. Rhys and Cheryl's tenure was marked by dedication and vision, including during the challenge of the lockdown years. In the year that has just been, I have been honoured to continue the position of Chairperson. This has been made all the easier through our committed and passionate team including new and existing board members, wonderful support staff in Kate Smith and Jeff Huddle but particularly through the leadership of our new EO, Amanda McCulloch. Amanda began as EO in our organisation just as flood waters took over our area. We are so fortunate that Amanda was able to understand the landscape of need in our area immediately from her commencement and also that she has been able to work so collaboratively with other community organisations and our council to provide practical and meaningful assistance to so many in our region.

**Board Self-Assessment Work:** Our dedication to continuous improvement led us to undertake a comprehensive Board Self-Assessment. This process allowed us to reflect on our strengths and identify areas for growth. The insights gained from this assessment have been instrumental in shaping our strategies, ensuring that we remain effective and responsive to the evolving needs of our community.

**Flood Recovery Work:** The challenges posed by flood waters in our region in October 2022 tested our community's resilience. We were humbled to receive generous support to our flood recovery campaign in the order of \$300,000. These funds have assisted people in crisis situations to keep food on the table, to gain financial advice to assist those affected to rebuild their lives and to rebuild community buildings and organisations that bring

people together. These efforts showcased the power of collective action and reinforced the spirit of unity that defines our community. Of course, flood recovery is far from over and we will continue to look for projects and funding to continue our support of people affected by current and future crisis situations.

**Community Health Educators Graduation:** One of the highlights of the GSF year was being able to attend and celebrate the graduation of our Community Health Educators program participants. This initiative empowers new Shepparton residents from diverse backgrounds with the essential skills required to become health information leaders for their own community. Witnessing their journey from new residents unfamiliar with the health landscape of their environment to becoming leaders of health information for the community they belong to has been truly inspiring.

As the year comes to an end and we look ahead, we remain committed to our vision of an inclusive, interconnected community where everybody has equal opportunity to participate.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, board members, volunteers, supporters, and the entire Greater Shepparton community. Your support fuels our progress and emboldens us to amplify, assist and elevate community driven change.

Sincerely,



**Mark DePaola**  
CHAIR GREATER SHEPPARTON FOUNDATION

# Executive Officer Report

I am pleased to present the EO Report for the Greater Shepparton Foundation. This year has been a tough and transformative period for our community, who were impacted by the October 2022 floods, however I am incredibly proud of the resilience and self-determination demonstrated during what has been an incredibly challenging time.

The Greater Shepparton Foundation took immediate action to support those affected by the floods. Through our disaster relief efforts, we provided emergency assistance, and resources to organisations to scale up operations and assist those impacted.

We also collaborated with local authorities and community organizations to ensure a coordinated response for long-term recovery efforts. Together our community has shown resilience, compassion, and unity in the face of adversity.

Funds raised through the Community Flood Recovery campaign have supported relief payments, mental health services, financial services, the rebuilding of community facilities, supported sporting club memberships, and the purchase and distribution of mosquito repellent and in-language information, all in an effort to keep our community safe and supported.

GSF were nimble in response to the floods, with many small discretionary grants to empower those in our community who are best placed to look after the most vulnerable.

Our ability to adapt and respond in a timely manner for our community continues to be one of our strengths and as EO I witnessed first-hand the immediate impact our contribution had on our community through organisations like Giz a Break and Point of Difference.

While much of our focus has been on flood recovery efforts, we have also welcomed new partnerships this financial year with Mazda Foundation joining established partners Margaret Attwood Trust and Upotipotpon Foundation to build our flagship Oral Language Intervention Program (OLI).

OLI has continued going from strength to strength over the past year, and the evidence is mounting that this early, targeted intervention is resulting in remarkable improvements in the oral language capabilities of our Foundation students.

This evidence-based program not only empowers young learners but also paves the way for their future academic and personal success. We are so proud of the OLI program, and the wonderful partnerships brokered with Mooroopna Park, Mooroopna and Mooroopna North Primary Schools. We should also mention our wonderful Speech Pathologists Surabhi and Leah who have expertly led a team of fourth year speech pathology students through Melbourne University to support OLI this year.

In the coming year, the Greater Shepparton Foundation will continue to forge partnerships, explore innovative solutions, and champion initiatives that address the evolving needs of our community. Our commitment to creating a sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant Greater Shepparton remains unwavering.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, board members, volunteers, partners, and the Greater Shepparton community for their unwavering support. Together, we are building a stronger foundation for a brighter future.



**Amanda McCulloch**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# Flood Recovery Snapshot

## COMMUNITY FLOOD RECOVERY OVERVIEW

200 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

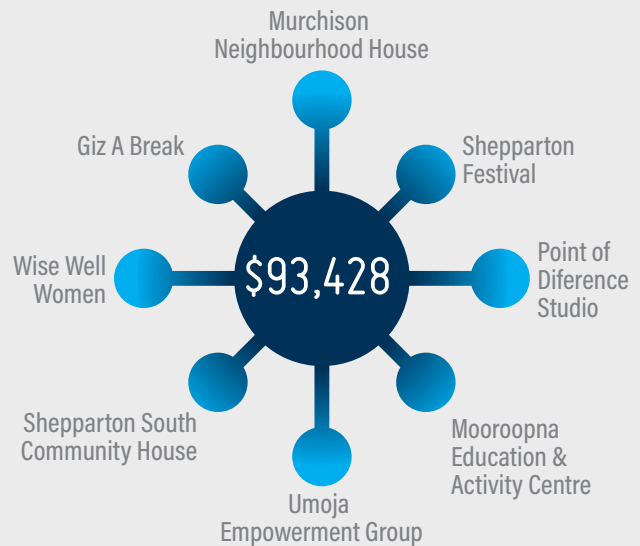
40 BUSINESSES

8 PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

\$300K+ RAISED

## GRANT ROUND

Donations supported 8 non-profit organisation to scale up operations and deliver flood programs for community.



## FOOD AND MATERIAL AID SUPPORT

These donations were promptly distributed to support areas of need following the floods. At the height of the floods, funds supported delivery of food and material aid through flood waters.

- Funds supported **19 children** in evacuation centres in temporary accommodation to participate in camps
- Funds supported the development and distribution of **in-language information** about mosquito-borne disease

## MAJOR PROJECT SUPPORT

- Specialist equine therapy support for **25 families and children** impacted by the floods
- Supported the employment of a financial counsellor who has assisted over **100 people** (and counting) to get back on their feet
- Support for **community infrastructure** Mooroopna Halls, Kialla Golf Club and Shepparton Swans Football Netball Club



# Flood Recovery Snapshot

## GIZ A BREAK

Giz A Break is an award winning registered health promotion charity that wraps mental and physical health and wellbeing initiatives into an off-road touring format.

Donations from the Community Flood Recovery campaign supported Giz A Break to use their 4WD vehicles to distribute medication and food supplies through flood waters to isolated community members.

Donations also supported young people impacted by the floods and living in temporary accommodation to attend Giz A Break camps.



## CASE STUDY

Donations to the Greater Shepparton Flood Recovery Campaign supported a collaboration between Shepparton Foodshare, Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre (MEAC) and Life Op Shop following the floods.

Life Op Shop, run by the Life Church, was inundated during the floods. A central connection point for many vulnerable people in the Mooroopna community, the closure of Life Op Shop presented a real concern that access to food relief in Mooroopna would be scarce following the floods.

Greater Shepparton Foundation, Foodshare and MEAC met with Life Op Shop to discuss options and find solutions for the Mooroopna community, while the Life Church focusses on restoring and rebuilding its own Church in Treacy Street, which was also damaged by the floods.

A partnership was established, to see MEAC a registered agency of Shepparton Foodshare, extend their food relief service to support the Mooroopna community throughout 2023.

## INDIVIDUAL PAYMENTS & SUPPORT

**\$50k** Mooroopna Education & Activity Centre support payments

**\$37k** Rotary Flood Recovery payments

**300** Fuel and grocery vouchers

**130** Supporting club membership subsidies

**1100** Bottles of insect repellent

**188** Heaters, water bottles and blankets

**38** Christmas hampers for families doing it tough

**12** Scholarships for flood affected students entering further education

# Flood Recovery

GREATER SHEPPARTON FOUNDATION'S COMMUNITY FLOOD RECOVERY CAMPAIGN RAISED \$300,000 TO SUPPORT THE MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM RECOVERY NEEDS OF THE GREATER SHEPPARTON COMMUNITY.



Established to support the place-based recovery efforts, and with our ability to be nimble in our response to immediate needs of the community, support was available to organisations including Giz A Break to deliver food and material aid through flood waters and to provide free camps to young people displaced by the floods; Point of Difference Studio to support the immediate response efforts to assist the multicultural community; and Shepparton Family and Financial Services to scale up their operations and put on an additional Financial Counsellor to support families navigate the flood assessment process and access emergency payments.

A Flood Recovery Grant Round was established to equitably and transparently distribute funds raised through the Community Flood Recovery Campaign to areas of need not funded elsewhere, and funds established a new Horses for Hope program to provide equine therapy to young people struggling with the aftermath of the floods, Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre to financially support flood impacted households with relief payments, the Mooroopna Halls with funds to repair and re-establish the much loved community facility, and Edi Celebrations at Africa House.

## MOSQUITO PREVENTION PROGRAM

Greater Shepparton Foundation's Mosquito-Borne Disease Intervention Prevention program formed an important part of our community flood recovery efforts.

This program saw every child attending local kindergartens in 2023 having access to free insect repellent, and in-language information to ensure more families in our community are informed and safe from mosquito-borne diseases and their life-long impacts.

This program was delivered with the support of Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, Pratt Foundation, Greater Shepparton City Council and Wise Well Women.

## WINTER WARMTH PROGRAM

The Rotary Club of South Shepparton in partnership with Greater Shepparton Foundation delivered the Winter Warmth Program over the cooler months, distributing 140 blankets, 15 heaters and 33 hot water bottles to those living in caravans or displaced from their homes, or struggling financially as a result of the floods.

Through their Winter Warmth Program, they are ensuring that those affected have the necessary warmth and comfort during these difficult times.





# Flood Recovery



## GIVIT TOGETHER NATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Our GIVIT Together National Christmas campaign, designed to support flood impacted families with vouchers, delivered over 300 fuel, grocery and toy vouchers to 146 children, across 53 families and five schools.

In excess of \$8,000 in vouchers were generously donated through the GIVIT platform and distributed through flood impacted Primary School households.

Delivered with generous donations from across Australia and in partnership with GIVIT.

## OZCHILD CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Greater Shepparton Foundation partnered with McColl's Transport and Athlete's Foot Shepparton to support the 2022 OzChild SafeCare program.

OzChild is focussed on providing support for children and young people in foster and kinship care and keeping families together where possible. The campaign provides Christmas hampers for families participating in the family preservation program and recognises the challenges faced by families this year with many families impacted by the floods.

Greater Shepparton Foundation also financially supported with funds raised through the Community Flood Recovery Campaign.

Delivered with the support of McColl's Transport and Athletes Foot Shepparton.

## SPORTING CHANCE

A partnership between Greater Shepparton City Council, FamilyCARE and Greater Shepparton Foundation, we supported in excess of 300 flood impacted individuals to re-engage with sporting clubs, dance associations and soccer clubs.

The benefits of engagement in sport and recreation are insurmountable. The floods, coupled with the cost-of-living crisis, saw a downturn in engagement with local clubs. Through this partnership we were able to reach out to flood impacted households and support their ongoing engagement with activities to support their mental health.

*"This funding provided an avenue to enable flood impacted members of our football and netball community a little leg up to assist them remain engaged in local sport, especially at a time of immense trauma to their lives." Bill Dowling - President, Mooroopna Football Netball Club.*



## MAJOR PROJECTS

# Little Learners

The groundbreaking Little Learners program has celebrated another successful year supporting and building confidence in families from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds to engage with early start to kinder from three years old.

## 3 Kindergartens

THREE KINDERGARTENS, COLLIVER ROAD, ARTHUR MAWSON AND LESLIE GRIBBLE WERE SUPPORTED BY THE LITTLE LEARNERS PROGRAM

## 87 Sessions

87 THREE-YEAR-OLD KINDER SESSIONS WERE SUPPORTED BY BILINGUAL WORKERS

## 535 Hours

DURING THE 2022 YEAR A TOTAL OF 535 HOURS OF BILINGUAL SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED TO THE 23 CHILDREN ENGAGED IN THE LITTLE LEARNERS PROGRAM AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS.



Children from a refugee and asylum seeker background have often experienced significant displacement and trauma impacting on their early development.

Extensive research and evidence indicates early engagement of vulnerable children in early childhood education services has a substantial impact on a child's cognitive, emotional and social development, yet the concept of leaving a child at kindergarten is a foreign to many Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) families.

Little Learners is about building trust with CaLD families, they see a familiar face and build the confidence to communicate with educators about their children's needs, while the children are getting vital support and growth opportunities to adequately prepare them for school.

The results are impressive -

### OUTCOME 1

Parent's felt supported through the enrolment process.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF BILINGUAL SUPPORTED FACE-TO-FACE ENROLMENT SESSIONS IN 2022 DOUBLED PARENTS' CONFIDENCE WITH KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT AND ORIENTATION PROCESSES.**

*"I was absolutely gobsmacked at the success rate of families turning up for their appointments. I could not believe it! I have experience booking translators for families for hospital appointments and was used to having a 40% hit rate of families turning up. I was amazed that, overtime, every family booked for an enrolment support session, aside from the one who was overseas, turned up... Having bilingual workers involved in the enrolment process is absolutely essential to the engagement of non-English speaking families and cannot be overstated. Without their input, half the children enrolled would not have ended up attending kinder at all!" Greater Shepparton City Council staff member involved with enrolment process. [GSC employee].*

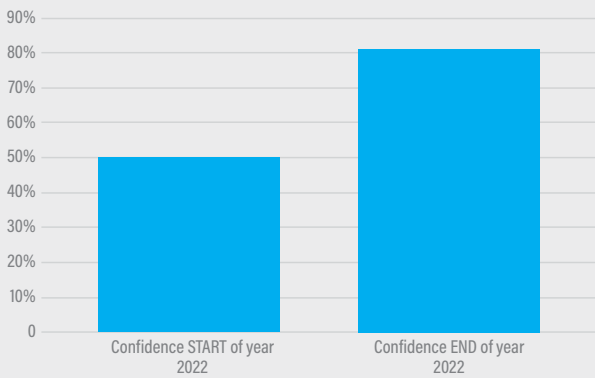


# Little Learners

## OUTCOME 2

CaLD parents feel comfortable communicating with kinder teachers about their child’s development with the support of bilingual workers.

### 2022 PARENTS’ COMFORT LEVEL IN COMMUNICATING WITH TEACHERS ABOUT THEIR CHILD’S DEVELOPMENT



*"I really appreciate the support of the bilingual worker because she helped me and my child to feel confident, happy, and safe at kinder with educators and other children. For my son, we feel love, supported and belonging to a family..." [Parent]*

## OUTCOME 3

CaLD parents build relationships with other parents, breaking down cultural barriers and bonding over their children's shared experiences at Kinder.

**PARENTS' PEER RELATIONSHIPS STRENGTHENED WITH 100% OF PARENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR INDICATING THEY WERE 'GOOD AT BUILDING A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP AND COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS' IN KINDERGARTEN.**

*"My daughter made a lot of progress in so many ways. She has got many friends in kinder, socializes, participating in different activities. She never used to talk in English prior going to kinder but now she speaks English at home and kinder. Now she talks about her days to me and her siblings which is beautiful. It makes me very happy to hear my daughter communicating in English language." [Parent]*

## OUTCOME 4

CaLD children are more emotionally and developmentally ready to start 5 year old Kinder by the end of the year.

*"...My daughter was isolated and did not know the concept of sharing and playing with other children and so on. After attending 3-year-old kinder, she started speaking English very well, became social and happy...she is now outspoken, able to express her feelings in English, no longer withdrawn. Kinder helped her to be self-confident." [Parent]*



# Little Learners

This program provides bilingual support to reduce language, social and cultural barriers to education. By providing culturally sensitive language support to parents and children, we aim to enhance CaLD children's experience and development in early education.

The bilingual support workers serve as a critical bridge to improving communication between the child and the educators; the educators and the families; and between non-English speaking and English-speaking children.

*"I would like to request my daughter be able to have more days per week to attend kinder. I think she needs more time to be well-prepared for school. I wish she had more time to grow and learn and have experiences to help her to have a better future. It would be beneficial for her, and for me, because she could teach me what she has been learning as well."* [Parent]



## OUR PARTNERS

Place-based programs like Little Learners align with our vision of "inclusive, interconnected communities where everybody has equal opportunity to participate". Our project partnerships with UnitingCare Goulburn North East and Greater Shepparton City Council are critical in delivering an inclusive and culturally appropriate response to the needs of CaLD children and families.

This program is made possible by multi-year grants from the Ross Trust and the Besen Family Foundation. GSF has a dedicated Evaluation and Data Manager and supports this innovative place-based early years education program through ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting back to our community, partners and funders.

# OLI – Oral Language Intervention



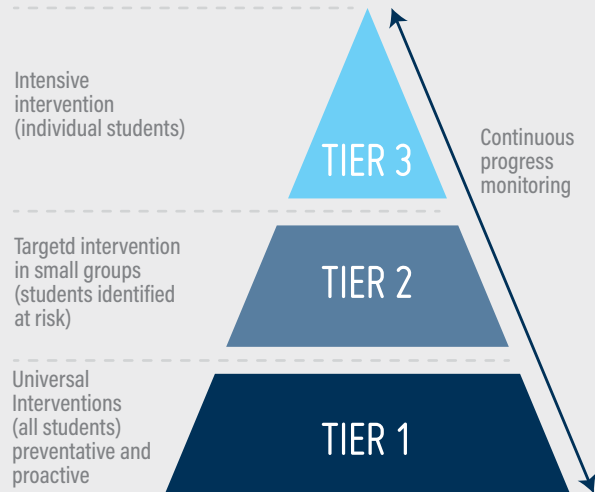
The award-winning Oral Language Intervention (OLI) program has been recognized as a significant place-based intervention, positively impacting participating children's early years development and delivering outstanding results.

In its fourth year in three Mooroopna public primary schools and two early education centres, OLI is supporting students' oral language and literacy progress by providing intensive, evidence-based assessment and interventions from the foundation years. This early intervention improves students' language and literacy skills, leading to more effective learning and engagement.

The program is a fabulous partnership between the participating schools and early years education centres, the University of Melbourne's Department of Rural Health overseeing the placement of the program's speech pathology fourth year students and our two Speech Pathologists guiding and supporting the delivery of the program including upskilling of education staff and placement students.

Using a multi-tiered system of support, the program offers a universal screening assessment and interventions for all students (Tier 1), while also supporting teachers to adopt best practice in oral language, reading and spelling in the classroom. Tier 2 provides targeted group intervention for students, requiring support to 'catch up' their oral language skills, and Tier 3 offers one-on-one intensive support for those students at risk of really falling significantly behind their peers.

## MULTI TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT



- 851** individual or group oral language interventions occurred in participating Mooroopna Primary Schools during the 22/23 financial year
- 454** individual or group interventions took place across Term 3 and 4, 2022
- 397** individual or group interventions took place across Term 1 & 2 2023 for Foundation to Year 2 students.
- 229** individual or group interventions took place across Term 1 & 2 2023 for Grades 3-6.
- 44** students at 4-year-old Kinder and Early Learning Centres participated in language intervention sessions in term3 & 4 in 2022
- 60** Foundation students were screened for speech and language delays (SOCS) in Term 1 and 2 of 2023.
- 138** Foundation to Year 2 children were screened for grapheme-phoneme knowledge, nonword decoding, heart words (optional) and unseen decodable texts (LLARS)
- 18** student placements across participating education schools/centres supported the delivery of the OLI program during the 22/23 financial year

# OLI – Oral Language Intervention



Congratulations to Mooroopna Park Primary School, on its integrated wellbeing program, which includes the Oral Language Intervention program, recognized with an excellence award at the Australian Education Awards in 2023.

This follows the program winning the Australian Education Pivot Best Student Wellbeing Award and the Victorian Early Years Promoting Children’s Health and Wellbeing Award in 2022.

We know early intervention in oral language development is key to changing educational outcomes of students, improving their readiness for learning and to take advantage of the opportunities education will afford them.

### CASE EXAMPLE

Owen\* (Foundation Year)

*“Owen is one of the younger Foundation students, turning five in Term 1. He commenced school with limited interest in reading and writing. Owen is unable to practice his literacy skills regularly at home therefore he relies on teaching and intervention at school to improve his skills. With his knowledge of sounds through the Little Learners Love Literacy Program his confidence has increased throughout the year, he is now willing to attempt writing tasks and his reading has progressed significantly in the second half of the year. To see Owen’s confidence in his own abilities and pride in his written work as well as his reading progress has been an exciting aspect of my role.”*

Assessment from Speech Pathologist delivering OLI program in schools.

*\*Not students real name*

EVALUATION IN 2022 SHOWED FOUNDATION STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED OLI SUPPORT WERE GENERALLY OUTSCORING, USING LANGUAGE METRICS, GRADE 1/2 STUDENTS WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED OLI SUPPORT IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF EDUCATION.



### OUR PARTNERS

We thank our valued partner funders, the Upotipotpon Foundation, Margaret Attwood Trust and our newest partner Mazda Foundation for their continued support as we embark on another year of improving oral language and reducing vulnerability across our schools and early education centres.

# Community Health Educators



The Community Health Educator's (CHE) program has been lauded by professional services as a valuable place-based response to improving access by non-English speaking communities to our western medical services and health agencies.

Following a successful pilot in April 2021, where 12 women from eight ethnic backgrounds participated in training as Community Health Educators to build the health literacy capacity of refugee and migrant women in Greater Shepparton, under the guidance of Wise Well Women, the program has expanded.

In 2023, thirteen migrant women from eight different nationalities, many multilingual (62%) participated in training covering topics including education, mental health, legal and financial services and trauma informed training.

*"I have improved my knowledge about many important things and how to support those who are suffering with mental health problems or family violence... I learned how to connect people to helping services"*

- [Trainee, Interview, 2023]

## OUR PARTNERS

This program is supported by Upotipotpon Foundation and lovingly delivered by Wise Well Women.



Many refugees have suffered trauma, conflict, family separation and significant human rights violations, including torture and physical and sexual violence. Settling in Australia can also trigger multiple stressors such as: navigating life in a new country, language barriers, housing and financial instability, difficulty accessing employment, changes in family roles, visa status, and loss of community, country and cultural connections.

*"...As a woman in my country I didn't have the chance to learn, to study, to work, which was my dream. And when I got here, I had the opportunity... When I'm supporting the community, when I'm encouraging them to come to sessions [health literacy] to come out and have some fun and get information, I feel like, 'over the moon.'"*

- [Interview, 2021 Graduate]

GSF believes this health program is ground-breaking in bridging the gap in our region between our first world health services and refugee and new arrival communities who face multiple barriers to accessing the services.



# Shepparton Family & Financial Services

Greater Shepparton Foundation supported the employment and training of a Financial Capability worker and Financial Counsellor at Shepparton Family and Financial Services (SFFS).

SFFS has seen significant growth, with the non-for-profit service becoming a 'catch all' when it reopened its doors immediately following the floods and new clients presented seeking financial services, emergency food aid and no-interest loans.

Presentations at this scale are more than double the normal number of clients seeking support, and it was essential GSF step in to support staff, volunteers and ensure adequate resources were in place so those seeking support were not turned away.

While the services of a Financial Counsellor were in-train before the floods, our ability to scale up our level of support for this important service proved vital in supporting those seeking financial support.

As well as supporting with funds from the Community Flood Recovery Campaign, Greater Shepparton Foundation has been lobbying the Victorian Government to recognise and support grassroots organisations, such as SFFS, that have stepped up during the flood crisis.

Minister for Government Services Danny Pearson and Minister for Housing and Cultural Affairs Colin Brooks took time to visit SFFS in November 2022 to gain a greater understanding of the important work SFFS does in supporting the Greater Shepparton community.

## AT A GLANCE

- 195 clients supported by Financial Capability worker through SFFS
- The main areas of concern were utility debts (28%) No-interest loans (26%) credit card or Afterpay debt (14%) relocation costs (12%) and replacing damaged, destroyed or lost items in the floods (10%) fines (4%) telephone or internet debt (3%) and rental arrears or eviction (2%)

## CASE STUDY

50-year-old male living alone on a property in his own caravan, which he lost in the floods.

He had been couch-surfing and suffers mental health issues and is in recovery.

With no insurance he engaged with Shepparton Family and Financial Services Financial Counsellor to assist with support for non-insured property, as his initial assessment was denied because the forms were not filled in correctly.

He has several debts outstanding a credit card, personal loan, ATO debt, sip money, cash converters and money 3 loans. The Financial Counsellor was able to secure a part waiver on credit card and monthly repayments of \$50 with no interest or fees attached until outstanding debt is paid in full. Client has been referred to mental support services.





# Lift Off Education Scholarships

We believe inspiring students to achieve their dreams through higher education is one of the most satisfying ways we can support our young people, and in the long term our community.

Our Lift Off Education Scholarship Program will turn 10 years old in 2024, and in that time, it has supported 120 students from the Goulburn Valley to achieve their aspirational further education dreams with more than \$500,000 in scholarships distributed.

The Lift Off Education Scholarship Program is having a life-changing impact on young people, financially supporting them with relocation costs, university fees, rent, school materials and providing a safety net between jobs.

Lift Off was established in 2014 as a response to the increasing number of our young people not able to afford the transition from secondary education to post-secondary education. A study has shown that young people from non-metropolitan regions in Victoria defer university studies at twice the rate of their metropolitan counterparts, and currently only half of our young people finish secondary school and a quarter go on to tertiary education.

Each year a volunteer advisory committee works with GSF to oversee the program and to make sure it is delivering on our goal of equal opportunity for everyone to participate in their chosen course in life. We thank the committee lead by Mary-ann Linehan and value our partnership with the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project.



## LIFT OFF SCHOLARSHIP EVALUATION 2022

**100%** of evaluation participants agreed Lift Off had positively influenced the trajectory of their life

**97%** by supporting them to participate in their chosen course

**95%** able to take advantage of opportunities not otherwise attainable

**75%** reported feeling more confident, appreciated and recognised, and better able to contribute to their community

## THANKYOU TO OUR 2023 SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS:

- The Margaret Attwood Trust
- Cobram Youth Op Shop
- Rotary Club of Shepparton
- La Trobe University Shepparton
- Greater Shepparton Connected Community
- Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance
- Early Childhood Professional Development Inc
- Shepparton Women's Health Centre

# Lift Off Education Scholarships



*"One of the most significant ways the Lift Off Scholarship has enriched my life is by helping me strike a healthier balance between my academic pursuits and personal well-being. With reduced financial stress and work commitments, I have been able to prioritize self-care, exercise, and leisure activities. This balance has had a profound positive effect on my mental and physical health, allowing me to approach my studies with renewed focus and energy."*

Morgan Vella – 2022 Scholarship recipient

## TEN YEARS OF LIFT OFF SCHOLARSHIPS

In May 2023 we held a fundraising dinner to reflect on the past 10 years of Lift Off Education Scholarships, but also to begin the momentous task of raising funds to support the next 120 students from the Goulburn Valley to achieve their further educational aspirations.

The Community Chess dinner, held at the Shepparton Brewery, generously donated 100% of ticket proceeds towards our fundraising efforts. Thank you kindly to Matt and Daina for all your support.

As we reflect on the past 10 years, we have to mention some of our significant supporters over the past 10 years including:

- Bendigo Bank
- Connected Communities
- Early Childhood Professional Development Inc.
- Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Alliance
- Helen Sleep
- La Trobe University
- Margaret Attwood Trust
- Rob & Lyn from the Youth Op Shop Cobram
- Rotary Club Shepparton
- Sampson Trust
- The Ainsworth's
- The Andreadis family
- The Dobsons
- The Fairless Family
- The Footts
- The Furphys
- The Gaylards
- The Johnsons
- The McCamish's
- The McKenzies
- The McNabbs
- The Montgomerys
- The Onleys
- The Phillips
- The Quinns

## ACE COLLEGE BURSARIES

Year 12 students at ACE Secondary College, an independent school that offers safe and secure education pathways for students to find success in learning, were offered bursaries to support their further education goals.

With the financial support of Margaret Attwood Trust, five students received bursaries to support the purchase of books and further education costs as they continue learning in post-secondary education pathways.

We thank our valued partner Margaret Attwood Trust for providing support to ACE Secondary College students.



# Board of Directors



**Mark DePaola**  
CHAIR

Mark moved to Shepparton in 1997 to begin his optometry career and is currently the director of Graham Hill Eyecare. Mark was a Board member of The Community Fund Goulburn Valley from 2008 until the transition to the Greater Shepparton Foundation. Mark also serves on the regional advisory board of La Trobe University. His aim as a Director of GSF is to make a positive difference in his community.



**Julia Thomas**  
VICE CHAIR

Julia has spent nine years in the local Agri-finance industry and is a 2016 Fairley Leadership Graduate. Originally hailing from Sydney with a Business Degree, Julia has spent her career working across rural and regional Australia, in agriculture, mining and finance. Now living with her husband and young family on their cropping farm at Youanmite, Julia is passionate about improving youth outcomes across the Goulburn Valley region.



**Rhys Holleran**

Rhys has long been a leader and active Board member in both the corporate sector and within his community. He has held Managing Director positions and led mergers in the radio sector, including the merger of Austereo and Southern Cross in 2011, and remained its CEO until 2015. Rhys is a founding Director of the national appeal, Give Me 5 For Kids. He lives in Kialla, and is a horse breeder.



**Kara Shields**

Kara is a Chartered Accountant at local business, MB+M. Kara is the current Chair of GSF's Audit, Risk and Finance Committee. The mother of two is a former Board Member and Treasurer of the Shepparton Festival and has volunteered as a member of the Shepparton Toy Library Committee. She is a keen runner and enjoys the lifestyle of Greater Shepparton, which she has called home for 15 years.



**Gracia Musafiri**

Gracia is a young leader in our community. She joined the GSF Board in 2021 and has experience in working with our diverse community having volunteered and been employed at local community organisation, St Paul's African House. Gracia also brings valuable marketing skills to our board and is currently employed by Southern Cross Austereo as a Digital Marketing Specialist.



**Neha Samar**

Neha is employed by an education organization supporting young people re-engaging with education, specialising in Vocational Education and Training in Schools compliance and coaching. She has qualifications in vocational education, management, adult language, literacy & numeracy. Neha established The Flamingo Project, a free program to connect women from all walks of life. In 2023 was the state finalist for the Rural Women's Award and nominee for Greater Shepparton Women's Award. Neha is an active community member and volunteer on various committees.



**Lauren Donnellan**

Lauren is a local solicitor, who has previously worked in private practise, Local Government and In-House Legal Counsel. Passionate about community engagement, she is actively involved in sporting communities as a player, volunteer and coach. She serves as an Executive Member and By-Laws Officer with the Kyabram District League and volunteers with the Lighthouse Project Sister Program. Lauren joined GSF to contribute to the wider community and support ways to engage youth in other community opportunities across the GV.



**Fatima Naseem**

Fatima arrived in Shepparton in 2019 with her two sons aged 6 and 8 years old. Shortly after she commenced an internship at Chemist Warehouse and now works as a clinical Pharmacist – Respiratory. In 2021 Fatima's husband joined her in Shepparton from Dubai easing the challenges of settling without support. Fatima's aim is to help the community, especially those that are new arrivals as she understands firsthand the difficulties of being new and along in a new country.

# Our People

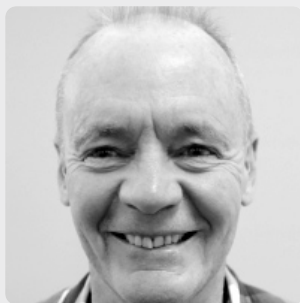


*\*Absent from photo Fatima Naseem*



**Amanda McCulloch**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Amanda has worked in the non-for-profit and philanthropic sectors and is the current Deputy Chair of the Goulburn Regional Partnership. Amanda's background has seen her deliver strong outcomes for organisations in the community, local, state and federal government spaces. With a diverse skill set and experience in project management, economic development, event management, tourism and marketing communications, she has a wealth of experience to draw upon as she advocates for the needs of our local community.



**Jeff Huddle**  
FINANCE MANAGER

Jeff manages all accounting and financial reporting to the Board and CEO including payments and receipts, regulatory financial reporting and tax management. Jeff had been in senior financial management roles in a range of businesses prior to joining GSF and is a Bachelor of Business (Acc).



**Kate Smith**  
GRANTS MANAGER

Kate joined the GSF team in 2020. She's worked in private business and government however the majority of her career has been in the community sector, including many years with local disability and welfare agencies. It's here where she relishes the opportunity to use her communication and grant writing skills to make a real difference.



**Elizabeth Kelly-Dalgety**  
DATA AND EVALUATION MANAGER

Elizabeth is a psychologist specialising in program design, research, and evaluation. She has over 20 years' experience supporting organisations in the health, community, and not-for-profit sectors to improve service delivery and outcomes to people in their care. Youth wellbeing and resilience has been a key focus of her work.

# Supporters

Greater Shepparton Foundation brings people, resources and ideas together to support Shepparton's most vulnerable and we do this with the generous assistance of individuals, businesses and other organisations such as government, Trusts and Foundations.

Greater Shepparton Foundation sources funding to enable our impact primarily from the generosity of the wider Greater Shepparton community.

We also receive financial support from Greater Shepparton City Council to underwrite our operational costs. It is due to this support that we can guarantee 100% of community donations support your nominated local community projects, with no overhead, administration or fees taken from your donation.

The Foundation thanks the following partners for their generous financial contributions.

## TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

These Trusts and Foundations have provided grants in support of the Foundation's work.

- Anthony Costa Foundation
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Besen Foundation
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)
- Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- Margaret Attwood Trust
- Mazda Foundation
- Orloff Family Trust
- Ross Trust
- Rotary Club Shepparton South
- Rotary International
- Shout for Good
- Sir Andrew and Lady Fairley Foundation
- Upotipotpon Foundation

## BUSINESS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Art of Living
- Athletes Foot Shepparton
- Australian Schools Cup
- CVGT Employment
- Fawkner Soccer Club
- Graham Hill Eyecare
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Guthrie Street Primary School
- GV Plumbing
- House of Siam Thai
- LoanWeb
- MB+M
- McColl's Transport
- Primary Care Connect
- Rose Landscaping
- The Scotia Group
- Shepparton Brewery
- Shepparton Real Estate
- SPC Factory Sales
- SPIIRE
- Tegan's Custom Cakes
- The GV Wardrobe
- Trevaskis Engineering
- Verney Road Special School
- Village Cinemas
- Vision Radiology
- Warragul Lifestyle



# Supporters



## INDIVIDUALS

Over 400 individual donations were received through the Flood Recovery Campaign, our Workplace Giving Program, our End of Financial Year campaign, our Lift Off Scholarship program or through the donation tins located at Fryers Street Cafe, Schmitz and John Andersen Pharmacy.

If you were one of the individuals who donated through any of these channels to Greater Shepparton Foundation, we see you and thank you sincerely for supporting your community.

On behalf of the Greater Shepparton Foundation, to all who have donated,

*Thank you*

## WORKPLACE GIVING

- Camerons Lawyers
- Chris Smith and Associates
- City of Greater Shepparton
- Data Parts
- Dawes and Vary Riordan
- Food Factory Sales
- Goulburn Broken CMA
- Goulburn Ovens TAFE
- Goulburn Valley Health
- J Furphy & Son
- Jones Mitchell
- McPherson Newspapers
- Prominent Press
- Shepparton News
- SPC

## SHEPPARTON REAL ESTATE

In early November 2022, Ryan O'Connor and the team at Shepparton Real Estate hosted an auction at Shepparton Golf Club and raised more than \$50,000 for Greater Shepparton Foundation's Community Flood Recovery campaign.



# Financial Statements 2022/23

**GREATER SHEPPARTON FOUNDATION**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**ABN 42 627 935 040**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities	2	813,013	572,810
Employee benefits expense	3	(153,414)	(168,416)
Other expenses	4	(494,235)	(430,771)
<b>Profit/(loss) before income tax</b>		<b>165,364</b>	<b>(26,377)</b>
Income tax expense	1	-	-
<b>Profit/(loss) for the year</b>		<b>165,364</b>	<b>(26,377)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>165,364</b>	<b>(26,377)</b>
<b>Profit attributable to members of the entity</b>		<b>165,364</b>	<b>(26,377)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>		<b>165,364</b>	<b>(26,377)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# Financial Statements 2022/23

**GREATER SHEPPARTON FOUNDATION**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**ABN 42 627 935 040**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	982,830	878,720
Receivables	7	71,331	10,914
Total current assets		<u>1,054,161</u>	<u>889,634</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u><u>1,054,161</u></u>	<u><u>889,634</u></u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	8	7,971	7,622
Leave Liabilities	9	12,389	14,555
Total current liabilities		<u>20,360</u>	<u>22,177</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Leave liabilities	9	4,631	3,651
Total Non-current liabilities		<u>4,631</u>	<u>3,651</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><u>24,991</u></u>	<u><u>25,828</u></u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>1,029,170</u></u>	<u><u>863,806</u></u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		<u>1,029,170</u>	<u>863,806</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		<u><u>1,029,170</u></u>	<u><u>863,806</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements







GREATER SHEPPARTON FOUNDATION

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[WWW.GREATERSHEPPARTON.FOUNDATION](http://WWW.GREATERSHEPPARTON.FOUNDATION)