

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

The Magic of Getaways



"The kids loved running around and collecting shells. They don't want to get out of the hot spa. It's so great because they'll have something normal to talk about at school. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity!"

Tammy





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A Message From Our Founder & Director

It's not about the getaway, it's what the getaway brings; hope.

All the children, young people and families referred to the Magical Getaway Foundation have experienced trauma. Experiences include, but are not limited to, poverty, sexual abuse, family violence, neglect, ongoing medical issues, homelessness and separation from a parent/carer.

These overwhelming experiences leave a person, feeling helpless, vulnerable and very frightened.

Children can develop an expectation that bad things will happen to them, forming relationships with other people is a huge challenge, they have trouble managing or regulating feelings and behaviour and find it hard to develop a positive sense of themselves.

Emotional and cognitive responses experienced by parents or carers include guilt and shame about their child's/children's experiences, reduced feelings of competence as a parent or carer, anger and blame.

Without a circuit breaker, the cycle continues, nothing changes!

Our FIRST EVER getaways stop the cycle by bringing HOPE.

During this year, our magical, first ever getaways only happened again because of the dedication, commitment and extraordinary support by so many!

Sincere thanks and gratitude are extended to our wonderful volunteers, to our Ambassadors, Kat Stewart and Steven Bradbury OAM, the Board Directors and Advisory Board Members.

To our accountant Simon Etheridge, Bell Partnership and auditor Ryk Eksteen, Collins & Co thank you!

And finally, heartfelt thanks to those individuals and organisations who continued to generously donate during the year, both financially and in-kind.

Rosemary Teed



Our Purpose

The Magical Getaway Foundation (MGF) exists to provide hope and lifetime changes through the gifting of first ever getaways. It's not about the getaway; it's what the getaway brings; hope.

We value integrity, respect and compassion.



The Magic of a Getaway:



Helps children become smarter, builds a stronger emotional foundation and allows them to explore their natural curiosity.



Regulates stress, builds concentration and increases attention span for both children and adults.



Increases emotional and mental development in children.



Provides positive childhood memories which are vital later in life when dealing with issues that make them sad, stressed, anxious or worried.



Improves mental and physical wellbeing, leading to an improved outlook and the belief to change their lives.

Board of Directors



Rosemary Teed
Founder/Director



Leanne Peros
Director



Sarah Beck
Director



**Anastasia
Misarvidis-Tyshing**
Director



Sarah Joyce
Director



Teague Rook
Advisory Director

Ambassadors



Kat Stewart



Steven Bradbury
OAM

First Ever Getaways

October 2022

For Ashleigh, Jasin and their two children, Jack in Year 3 and Charli in Year 1, their first ever getaway to Rye in October 'meant the world'.

Jasin had been unemployed for some time due to unforeseen circumstances and a family getaway was unthinkable.

The family stayed at a beautiful home with the accommodation donated. The Foundation gifted both children with a handmade bear. When the bear's hand was squeezed, the message was, *You're special. Believe in yourself and never give up!!*

During their stay, the family visited Peninsula Hot Springs, Enchanted Adventure and Boneo Discovery Park.

"Many thanks for providing this holiday. They looked as if they had a great time and Charli's face lit up when I spoke with her about it today. She was having some separation anxiety in the morning (as she sometimes does) but was clinging tightly to her bear and I managed to bring her around by asking her about the bear and its message and talking about her holiday."

Daniel Forster, Principal, Garfield Primary School



"I loved the holiday. It was fun. I spent a lot of time with my family."

Jack



“There is so much space in our cabin. The kids are loving running around and collecting shells. They don't want to get out of the hot spa. It's so great cos they'll have something normal to talk about at school.”

Tammy



November 2022

Four families (ie 4 adults and 9 children), referred by Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service, were gifted their first ever getaway in November.

The families stayed in self-contained accommodation at Kaloha Holiday Resort in Cowes, Phillip Island. The Foundation hosted a welcome BBQ. The families visited three local tourist attractions Penguin Parade, Chocolate Factory and A Maze'N Things.

A post-holiday support group activity, a day out at Funfields Theme Park in Whittlesea, was organised for the families in early January 2023.



“Thank you for our magical getaway, we had an amazing time. We had been really struggling emotionally and the trip away was not only something for us to look forward to, but it's given my daughter and I amazing lifelong memories that we will never forget.”

Jessica

May 2023

Teana, a proud Gamilaraay woman, and her three children, referred by Elizabeth Morgan House, enjoyed their first ever, six day getaway in May.

This transformative trip to Phillip Island allowed the family to create treasured memories and embrace the beauty of new experiences after overcoming the challenges of family violence.

During their stay, Teana and her children revelled in the Island's enchanting attractions. They laughed and bonded while navigating the intriguing twists and turns of A Maze'N Things, embarked on a journey through history at Churchill Island and were captivated by the awe-inspiring Penguin Parade.

This first ever getaway served as a transformative turning point for Teana and her family, offering a respite from their previous struggles and fostering a profound sense of healing and connection.

This getaway was not just a trip - it was a catalyst for a brighter future, where Teana and her children continue to inspire others by showcasing the strength that can emerge from adversity.

"We just got back from seeing the penguins and it was an absolutely, incredible experience. We loved it so much and this whole holiday has been amazing. I just wanted to say thank you so much."

Teana





Our Referring Agencies

All families must be referred by someone working with them in a supporting role. This ensures we assist those who most need our help and means the families get the support before, during and after their first ever holiday.

Referees work for a variety of organisations including:

- ★ Schools
- ★ Children / Family Services
- ★ Child Care Centres
- ★ Hospitals
- ★ Community Organisations
- ★ Not-For-Profits

We'd like to thank all our referring agencies to-date for helping to bring hope to vulnerable families.

We look forward to continuing and strengthening our partnerships in 2023-24.

Some of our referring agencies:



VACCA
Connected by culture



ELIZABETH MORGAN HOUSE
ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S SERVICE INC



Dandenong South
Primary School



Happy Place Art Exhibition

What better way to express the joy, healing and hope of a getaway than through art. From this idea, the Happy Place Art Exhibition was born.

With the financial backing from Dandenong Council's Arts, Festivals and Events Stream, MGF was able to hold this two-day event at the beautiful Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens in June 2023. Participants were encouraged to design on canvas their idea of a Happy Place.

Using paint as the medium, we sent the call out to Dandenong residents to start thinking and designing their happy place to put to canvas.

There were 260 participants from the Dandenong area alone and an additional 40 participants from elsewhere in Australia.



The art show was open to children, young people and adults aged from 4 to 80 years from twelve diverse organisations in Dandenong's municipality. The specific organisations were Bob's Place, Viv's Place, Burke and Beyond, Calvary Scottvale, Mercy Place Dandenong, Belvedere Aged Care, Dandenong South Primary School, Dandenong Primary School, Dandenong Valley Special Developmental School, Fifth Avenue Childcare Centre, Dandenong Day Nursery and Springvale Service for Children.

After sending out 260 canvases, paints and brushes to participating organisations and individuals, it was over to the artists to paint their version of a Happy Place. The community produced 300 paintings for public viewing at the Exhibition.

The event was officially opened by Greater Dandenong Council's Deputy Mayor, Lana Formoso. There was live music in the gardens, coffee and food trucks available on the grounds for all attendees to enjoy while wandering through the art work.

While the Happy Place Art Exhibition did not raise the funds the Foundation had hoped for, it was the relationships built with community organisations and individuals that was invaluable.



Fundraising

Trash to Treasure

For the third year in a row, we are thrilled to report the continuation of our Trash to Treasure initiative. In the midst of 2022, we reached out to the community, appealing for donations of items they no longer found useful. These donated items formed the foundation for our resale efforts. The community's response was nothing short of remarkable, with an outpouring of second-hand goods. We were deeply touched and inspired by the overwhelming generosity of our community.

We are pleased to announce that Trash to Treasure achieved even greater success than the previous year. The results exceeded our expectations and we are committed to maintaining this fundraising initiative in the years to come.



Spreading Festive Cheer with Christmas Cards

Last year in November, we introduced an exciting Christmas initiative! We invited past holiday recipients to participate in designing and handcrafting Christmas cards. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Mia, Cruz, Nevaeh, Nyah, Nakai and Nephi for their beautiful contributions. These cards featured five unique designs, each reflecting the creativity and generosity of our recipients.

These artistic pieces served as tangible reminders of the positive transformations brought about by the Magical Getaway Foundation's work. Sharing these cards with friends and family during the Christmas season allowed us to convey the profound changes the Foundation has enabled in the lives of many.





Outdoor and Indoor Markets

One of our new fundraising initiatives was the Magical Getaway Foundation Market.

We originally held it monthly at the Frederick Wachter Reserve in Keysborough commencing in October 2022.

There were over 25 stalls at our first market. With torrential rain and flooding in November, we regrettably had to cancel our 40 plus stall holders. Again, in December we commenced, but the high winds proved to be undefeatable.

Not to be defeated, our market commenced again in March 2023 at the Menzies Hall in Dandenong.

Unfortunately, we had the stall holders, but not the desired 'foot traffic'.

Our market ceased in May 2023.

We will be re-igniting our market at another location next year!!





Financial Overview

The Magical Getaway Foundation reported an operating surplus of \$13,110 for the financial year ending 30 June 2023 (a 60% increase from 2021/2022).

We gifted 6 families (8 parents and 14 children in total) with their first ever getaways. The grant received from Dhelk Dja North Metro Action Group funded the getaways in November 2022 and May 2023.

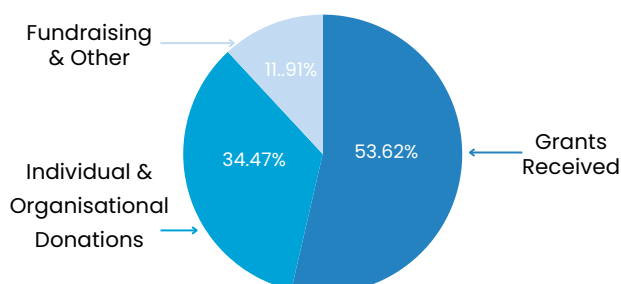
Our fundraising activities included Trash to Treasure, Happy Place Art Exhibition, Christmas Cards and our indoor/outdoor market.

We'd like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the generosity of so many individuals and organisations for their financial and in-kind support.

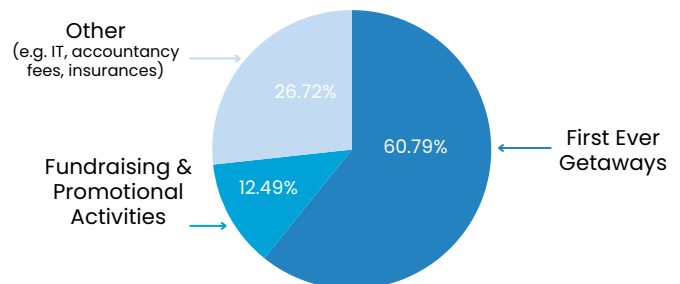
We will continue next year to strengthen our financial (and non-financial) position so we can gift more first ever getaways to vulnerable Australian children and their families to bring hope.

As a charity that currently receives no government funding, the Magical Getaway Foundation relies on the generosity of our supporters and fundraising to make first ever getaways happen; to bring hope. We couldn't do it without your support.

Our Income Sources



How We Use It





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