



2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Changing Lives

“ I appreciate what you have done for me and my children. You created memories for us that will last forever. ”

Wendy



Contents

- 3** A Message from Our Founder
- 4** Our Purpose
- 5** Our Ambassadors
- 7** Our Board
- 8** First Ever Holiday Recipient to Advisory Board Member
- 9** Volunteer to Advisory Board Member
- 10** Sharing Our Insights
- 11** Trash to Treasure
- 12** Grants
- 13** Giving to Bring Hope
- 14** Our Referring Agencies
- 15** Magical Getaway Day
- 16** Financial Overview
- 17** Contact Us



A Message from Our Founder

This year, I thought it was pertinent to reflect on the Foundation's mission; *to provide hope and lifetime changes through a first ever getaway.*

Hope is a basic human need; it's intrinsic to the human spirit.

Without it, there is nothing!

"When there is no hope - when people cannot picture a desired end to their struggles - they lose the motivation to endure."

Professor Emeritus, Virginia Commonwealth University

Now, more than ever, vulnerable Australian children and families need hope.

Sadly, due to COVID-19 and its dire, quiet, unrelenting impacts including job losses, poverty, business closures, homelessness, a significant increase in family violence, mental health issues and suicide, the number of vulnerable children and families increases every day across Australia and will do so into the foreseeable future.

We all need, especially after another year of COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns, time to recover, reflect and to recharge.

Going on a getaway does just that, as the time away provides confidence and hope for the future.

The Foundation's gifting of first ever holidays/getaways to vulnerable Australian children and families changes their lives.

Sadly, we were unable to gift any first ever getaways this year due to COVID, however, we continued to organise and implement innovative fundraising initiatives. Further details about these initiatives can be found in this Annual Report.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to our wonderful volunteers, to our Ambassadors, Kat Stewart and Steven Bradbury OAM, and my present Board members who have all worked tirelessly 'behind the scenes' during both a rewarding and very challenging year.

To our accountant Simon Etheridge, Bell Partnership and auditor Ryk Eksteen, Collins & Co thank you for your tireless support and assistance.

Heartfelt thanks are also extended to those individuals and organisations who continued to generously donate during the year, both financially and in-kind (which includes personal holiday homes for use by MGF). Your support has been both invaluable and extraordinary.

We look forward next year to again bringing hope to vulnerable and disadvantaged Australian children and their families, through the gifting of first ever getaways/holidays.

"Hope changes lives - Someone has given me a chance and opened a door for me. Now I have to keep going and opening doors."

(previous first ever getaway recipient)

Rosemary Teed
Founder



Our Purpose

The Magical Getaway Foundation (MGF) exists to provide hope and lifetime changes through the gifting of first ever getaways/holidays.

It's not about the holiday;
it's what the holiday brings;
hope for the future.

We value integrity, respect
and compassion.

“ There are many worthy charitable organisations out there but the Magical Getaway Foundation is the only one of its type in Australia. They are changing lives. ”

*Steven Bradbury OAM
(MGF Ambassador)*





Kat Stewart

Born and raised in Bairnsdale, Victoria, Kat Stewart is an AACTA and Logie Award-winning Australian actress who has made numerous appearances in television series, movies and on-stage.

“ *I spent most childhood Christmas holidays with many cousins in a shared beach house in Phillip Island; 3 bedrooms, about 20 people, late summer nights, insect repellent, an old black and white TV and endless days playing on the beach.*

It was chaotic, carefree and glorious.

When I was eight years old, my family packed up for 12 months and travelled around Europe in a camper van. Until that point, like many fathers, my dad was a workaholic. My memories of him only really started that year. We became connected as a family in ways that stay with us today.

Holidays; time away from the grinding stresses, surrounds and restrictions of everyday life can do that. It is a kind of magic.

The Magical Getaway Foundation provides families operating under substantial strain who have never ever gone on a holiday, the chance to stop for a few days, be together as a family, reconnect and make life time memories. For many, it's the birth of real hope and possibility.

In return, families are asked to share their story. I challenge anyone not to be affected by these families' humility, grit, courage and honesty.

It turns out that Social Tourism - offering the vulnerable and disadvantaged an opportunity to travel and participate in the wider community - has been recognised for decades overseas as a powerful tool for change.

Like many great ideas it seems so simple and obvious, but the Magical Getaway Foundation is the only organisation of its kind here in Australia.

I am proud to be an Ambassador for the Magical Getaway Foundation and I urge you to support them in any way you can.

”

Steven Bradbury OAM

Steven Bradbury OAM is an Australian former short track speed skater and four-time Olympian. He was the first athlete from the Southern Hemisphere and Australia to win a Winter Olympic gold medal and was also part of the short track relay team that won Australia's first Winter Olympic medal.

“Every school holidays, we loaded up the F100 with the ski boat on the trailer and headed 2.5hrs drive south of Sydney to the small beachside town of Berrara. Out the back of my grandfather's house we set up a camp in the run-down fibro shack attached to the garage. The walls weren't sheeted, cold in winter and hot in summer. Didn't matter though as we were rarely inside.

Days with family, friends and my brother Warren were spent water skiing on Swan Lake, riding 2nd hand motorbikes in the bush and learning to surf. Speed skating eventually took the Bradbury family on a different ride, but holidays in Berrara will always be some of my most cherished memories.

Going on holidays is exciting. Age, gender, income, where you're from doesn't matter; that feeling of excitement about holidays is the same for everyone. It's a time to relax, take your mind away from your 'real world' and have some fun.

The Magical Getaway Foundation provides struggling families the chance to build life long holiday memories, hope and inspiration, to take back into the 'real world'.

There are many worthy charitable organisations out there but the Magical Getaway Foundation is the only one of its type in Australia. They are changing lives.

I am Australia's first Winter Olympic Gold Medalist and a proud Ambassador of the Magical Getaway Foundation. ”



Ambassador

Our Board



Rosemary Teed
Founder



Sarah Beck



Teague Rook



Grant Austen



Wayne Harper



Tony Johnson



Annalise Tumbas
Advisor



Anastasia Misarvidis-Tyshing
Advisor

First Ever Holiday Recipient to Advisory Board Member

Annalise is a mother to five beautiful boys. Unfortunately, Annalise and her children suffered severe domestic violence, before she was put in contact with the Magical Getaway Foundation. Annalise used to tell her boys that going to the refuge was like a holiday. Her five sons often found it difficult to make friendships with their peers, having so little in common. Annalise herself often spent her time at home, not wanting to leave the house.

“ I think the kids hadn't even been on a holiday and had been in and out of refuges. I used to tell them that that was a holiday. When other kids talked about their holidays the kids realised they were different. ”

For those experiencing domestic violence, isolation can be crippling. For Annalise and her boys, the experience left them with little confidence. In 2018, we sent the Tumbas family on their first ever holiday (unfortunately her oldest son was unable to go, as he had just commenced an apprenticeship).

The family was referred by their local primary school principal.

For Annalise the biggest change the holiday brought was the one seen in her sons. After the holiday, Annalise said her boys started making friends at school. For the first time they had something 'normal' to talk and laugh about with their peers. Prior to the holiday Annalise felt that, due to what they had experienced, she would have to fight to have respectful children for the rest of her life. Having experienced first hand the effect kindness can have on people's lives, her boys now aspire to carry that same kindness forward with them through life.



Since the first ever holiday, Annalise has secured two steady jobs and continued to support MGF as a volunteer. She was invited to join the Foundation as an Advisory Board Member in March 2021.

Volunteer to Advisory Board Member

Anastasia Misarvidis-Tyshing first joined MGF in May 2020 as a volunteer, whilst also studying a Bachelor of Arts/Law at Monash University.

“ I decided to volunteer with MGF to use the skills I have gained at university to make a material and tangible impact in people’s lives. Being able to receive a legal education has been an incredible privilege and it is important to me that I use those skills to help others.

As a kid having the chance to feel ‘normal’ and connect with your peers is fundamental. For that reason MGF’s work in assisting children to regain that sense of normality through their getaway programs resonated with me.”

In May, Anastasia joined a project to help recruit other like-minded volunteers to the organisation in a variety of positions, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were unable to commence the recruitment phase as all face-to-face fundraising had ceased.

Anastasia continued to support the Foundation in a variety of ways including, developing content for news articles and social media posts, interviewing family holiday recipients and coordinating the Foundation’s grant applications.

“ During my time with MGF, one of the most rewarding experiences has been helping the Foundation elevate the voices of getaway recipients.

While going on holiday or a weekend away for many may seem trivial, and is often taken for granted, for those without the ability to take a break from the everyday stresses of life, these holidays come as a much-needed break. From working with MGF, I have come to appreciate all the privileges that I have experienced in my life that I have taken for granted. It goes to show how important the little things in life are.

Seeing the tangible impact these getaways have had on recipients’ lives has been very rewarding. The ways in which these getaway programs have impacted these families have been beyond my expectations. I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to the Foundation in helping to spread greater awareness of their phenomenal achievements.”

In June 2021, Anastasia accepted an invitation to join the Foundation’s Board of Directors as an Advisory Board Member.

We’d like to thank Anastasia for her commitment and dedication to the organisation and look forward to having her as part of the team in 2021-22.



In the Spotlight

In May, Rosemary was interviewed by the International Social Tourism Organisation (ISTO), as part of their '**In the Spotlight**' initiative.

The interview sought to bring MGF into the spotlight as the only national charity that gifts *first-ever* getaways/holidays to Australian children and their families.

During the interview, Rosemary shared a touching story from one of the families supported by MGF.

Other focuses were challenges faced by our organisation, as well as the potential for future collaboration with the ISTO. Finally, the impact of COVID-19 and the increase in demand for getaways was discussed by Rosemary.

Thank you to the ISTO for the opportunity to discuss the important work MGF does. Now more than ever, it is crucial that mental health initiatives are held in the spotlight.



INTERNATIONAL WEEK

**FAIR AND
SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM FOR ALL**

Sharing Our Insights

Rosemary was invited to speak for the second year at the International Week of Fair and Sustainable Tourism for All, hosted by the ISTO.

On 24 June 2021, Rosemary spoke alongside three other professionals from across the world on the topic "Tourism accessibility, inclusion and tackling inequality".

Rosemary's presentation was viewed by many and was very well received, including the following comment by the ISTO's President, Isabel Novoa:

“ As President of ISTO and in the name of all our team, I wanted to personally send you a few words to thank you for your participation as a speaker in our International Week, a double thanks since we kept you awake all night to be able to participate, we really appreciate it and I am very glad we were able to listen to your experience in Magical Getaway Foundation. I had the pleasure to listen to you and I found it really interesting, such a beautiful Foundation and very touching what you do and I truly hope many others found inspiration in your exposition as well. Thank you for contributing to the debate! I would like to thank you as well for your commitment and willingness with ISTO, and I hope we continue collaborating in the near future. ”

Isabel Novoa - ISTO President

Trash to Treasure



Trash to Treasure

Due to the ongoing lockdown and restrictions, fundraising activities were reimagined with many charities using online platforms to generate much needed funds.

In January 2021, the '**Trash to Treasure**' initiative was launched where MGF sold donated "trash" for profits to gift more first-ever getaways/holidays.

Through various promotional channels, MGF put a call out for items which were no longer needed by individuals. Items included furniture, jewellery, toys, electronics, plants, clothes etc.

The response was overwhelming including several businesses contacting MGF with items to donate. One of these businesses was the organisation, **Handled with Care**, who specialise in the coordination of bespoke relocations, downsizing and estate clearing. A major difficulty experienced by many of their clients is what to do with the pre-loved belongings that cannot come with them on their next phase of life.

In May, Handled With Care made an extremely generous donation to the Magical Getaway Foundation's Trash to Treasure initiative from several of their clients.

Handled With Care has further agreed to collaborate with MGF in order to initiate an art campaign from artist and Handled With Care client Michelle Marks, with all proceeds going towards MGF.

The total profit generated from the Trash to Treasure initiative will be reported at the end of the next financial year as it is still operational.

We'd like to thank everyone who was involved in the initiative and we look forward to continuing this as a fundraising campaign in the future.

Grants

Despite the Magical Getaway Foundation struggling through the global pandemic, like everyone in Australia and across the globe, we continued to strive to ensure that we could provide hope to vulnerable families.

The Foundation can only really achieve this with the help and support of other organisations and individuals.

One such organisation is **The Andrews Foundation** who, when they received our application for support to provide families with the opportunity of a first ever holiday, not only provided the assistance we needed but also ensured that we were able to use this financial support as, and when, the COVID restrictions in Victoria would permit.



With the grant received from The Andrews Foundation, we will be gifting four families their first ever getaway, as well as facilitating an eight-week post-holiday support group. We will also establish a Facebook Group to allow the recipients of these first ever holidays to be able to exchange feedback and experiences with previous Foundation holiday recipients.



If COVID restrictions permit, these families will stay at the **Kaloha Resort in Phillip Island** in early March 2022 and will be visiting four tourist attractions in the area.

The Magical Getaway Foundation is extremely grateful to The Andrews Foundation for their support and financial assistance.



THE ANDREWS FOUNDATION

Giving to Bring Hope

Without the support of individuals, families, businesses and organisations, the Magical Getaway Foundation would struggle to achieve its goal of gifting first ever holidays to children and families who would otherwise never have the opportunity.

One such family we need to thank is Fiona and her children for their incredible donation! Inspired by the stories we share on social media, including Facebook and LinkedIn, their donation will assist us to make an unforgettable impact on underprivileged Australian families when COVID restrictions allow us to again gift first ever holidays/getaways.

Fiona wrote:

“ My dad passed away nearly 20 years ago now and the one thing I always remember about my time with him was our holidays - he would work just to be able to take us away.

We love our holidays and I now work so I can take my kids on holidays. It's where you are the most relaxed, where you can forget your 'real' life and make some great memories.

We put money away each week into jars and one of them is the Give Jar. Once I mentioned the Magical Getaway Foundation to my kids, Adrienne (12) and Grace (10), it was a no brainer, they wanted to donate!

Both of them were in shock and sad that some kids and families have never been on a holiday.

We will be making our donation at the end of the year.

I am confident that this will definitely change families lives! ”

Our heartfelt gratitude is extended for their support and kindness.

In addition to Fiona and her family, there have been many who continued to support us through a very difficult and challenging second year of COVID lockdowns and restrictions!

Thanks for helping us to bring hope!



Our Referring Agencies

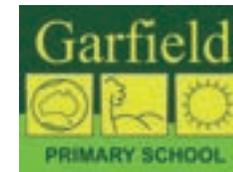
All families must be referred by someone working with them in a supporting role. This ensures we assist those who most need our help and means the families get the support before, during and after their first ever holiday.

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 2021-22.

Our referring agencies include, but are not limited to:



Magical Getaway Day

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST 2022



As Australia struggled through COVID lockdowns and restrictions throughout 2020 and 2021, the Magical Getaway Foundation looked for ways to continue to bring hope to vulnerable families and, as such, we initiated the concept of an annual Magical Getaway Day.

This event idea was raised at a Board meeting by one of our previous first ever holiday recipients, Annalise, who is now working with the Board, with lived experience, to ensure the Foundation continues to help more vulnerable families; to bring hope.

The event, to be held across Australia, is an opportunity for staff from schools, organisations and businesses to dress up in their favourite holiday gear to raise money to help the Foundation.

Only a gold coin donation is required to participate.

We invite you to join our Ambassadors Kat Stewart (renowned Australian actress) and Steven Bradbury OAM and Winter Olympic Gold Medallist in supporting this initiative by running a Magical Getaway Day at your school or place of work.

The gold coin donations will demonstrate your support for the 1 in 3 Australian children who have never been on a holiday. With your gold coins, the Foundation will be able to gift more first ever getaways to children and families facing incredibly challenging circumstances.

Our inaugural Magical Getaway Day will be held on Friday 26 August 2022.



Financial Overview

In the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic, similarly to the last financial year (2019/2020), the Foundation's financials and activities were fundamentally shaped and impacted by the pandemic.

Ongoing restrictions and lockdowns had a profound impact on the Foundation's ability to send families away on their first ever holidays and to generate revenue from normal face-to-face fundraising activities.

The Magical Getaway Foundation (MGF) reported an operating surplus of \$4372 for the financial year ending 30 June 2021.



Our total revenue for the year was \$15,639 (a 65% decrease from 2019/2020), while expenses also decreased to \$11,267 (52% decrease).

While the Foundation had planned for an increase in the number of gifted holidays for families during the year, this could not occur due to the ongoing restrictions and lockdowns. With the release of various COVID vaccines in early 2021, the Foundation is hoping to be able to recommence gifting first ever holidays/getaways towards the end of that year.

Due to the ongoing lockdown and restrictions, fundraising activities were reimagined with many charities using online platforms to generate much needed funds.

In January 2021, the 'Trash to Treasure' initiative was launched. The total profit generated will be reported at the end of the next financial year, as it is still operational.

We'd like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the generosity of so many individuals and organisations for their financial support this financial year and also The Andrews Foundation for their grant contribution.

We will continue to rise to the challenge of the current pandemic and to strengthen our financial (and non-financial) position in order to reach out to more and more families to bring hope.



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