



2021-2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Everyone Needs Hope*



*“The kids will forever hold and carry those memories for life and reflect back on our first ever holiday as a bonding experience and be able to remember all the good times had.”*

*Liana*

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# A Message from Our Founder

Everyone needs **HOPE**.

As Dr. Judith Rich [writes](#), "Having hope is important to the very act of being a human being. Hope is the mother of change."

Since its commencement in August 2013, the Magical Getaway Foundation (MGF) continues to bring **HOPE** to vulnerable Australian children and their families through the gifting of **FIRST EVER** getaways/holidays.

“**Research tells us that providing families experiencing real hardship with their first ever holiday can be life changing. It's such a simple idea that can make such a big difference.**”

Kat Stewart, Ambassador, Magical Getaway Foundation

[Family holidays](#) have been linked to increased emotional and mental development in children.

Experiential gifts (like travelling) have more of an impact on a child's mental development than material gifts. Holidays are not only fun and relaxing, they also help a child to become smarter, build a stronger emotional foundation and they allow them to explore their natural curiosity.

I am very proud to report that we gifted first ever getaways to **9 families (12 parents, 31 children)** from late December 2021 (when the COVID lockdowns/restrictions eased) to June 2022.

“**Being that we have all been through bumps in the road with domestic violence relationships, mental health and suicide attempts with my 15 year old something that is absolutely soul crushing to witness and to live with, to disabilities with my youngest being somewhat hard to overcome, to the social anxiety of being locked up over the COVID times, it was extremely touching that we were nominated for this experience that was absolutely life changing and helped us bond as a family.**”

Liana, June 2022

These life-changing first ever getaways/holidays only happened 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 last but not least, heartfelt thanks to those individuals and organisations who continued to generously donate during the year, both financially and in-kind.

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

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.

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**



**Annalise Tumbas**



**Anastasia Misarvidis-Tyshing**



**Leanne Peros**  
Advisor



**Sarah Joyce**  
Advisor



# First Ever Holiday Recipients to Advisory Board Members

I am a proud Yorta Yorta woman and mother of four children.

In December 2018, my children who were then 7, 6, 3 and 16 months and I were sent on a MGF first ever holiday, which helped us to reconnect as a family unit.

Robyn from Uniting (referring agency) wrote;

**“Thank you so much for everything. What a difference you have made to this beautiful family’s life, a chance to relax and make some really happy memories together.”**

Since then I have become an advocate for the Foundation.

My children, Nevaeh, Nyah, Nakai and Nephi, were requested in November 2021 to design and hand-draw Christmas cards for MGF.



In February 2022, I joined as an Advisory Board Member to further support the Foundation with my lived experience.

In my role, I worked with the Board to receive a grant from the Dhelk Dja North Metro Action Group in April 2022. The money will be used next year to gift first ever holidays to vulnerable Aboriginal children and their families and to facilitate a post-holiday support group.

Sarah Joyce  
First Holiday Recipient 2018





## First Ever Holiday Recipients to Advisory Board Members

I have a small family. It's now just my adult son, Jack and I, and our lovely senior dog, Buster.

As an educated professional, I never could have imagined that I would be involved with an abusive partner, but, unfortunately, that is exactly what happened. My then teenage son and I managed to escape and as part of our healing journey, we were referred to MGF for our first ever holiday. It was amazing!

Since returning from our holiday, I saw a renewed confidence in Jack that had been lost for some time. He went back to skateboarding and the socialising that comes with that and he started to make plans for his future, including getting his driver's licence and employment.

I came back to Melbourne feeling like I was getting back to being myself and feeling more confident. Since returning from our holiday, I have been able to make some life decisions that I just couldn't have done if I hadn't had that time away from home where I could relax, reset and decide what direction my life was going to take.

When I was asked if I wanted to be an Advisory Board Member for MGF, I was hesitant at first, as I wasn't sure if I would be very helpful to the Foundation because I was still healing and recovering from my own trauma.

After some consideration, I agreed to join MGF because I believe there is more positivity and light that can be gained from giving to others. I really wanted to share the wonderful experience of going on a holiday with other families and I wanted to share in their excitement and joy of going on a holiday, just like everyone else!

Leanne Peros  
First Holiday Recipient 2019



## Our Events & Marketing Assistant Volunteer Intern



I was born and raised in Novi Sad, Serbia, where I lived with my parents and older brother. Looking back at my childhood, some of the most meaningful memories came from our family holidays. Spending time together at a place away from home brought us closer and allowed us to take a step back from our day-to-day responsibilities and truly relax. I was fortunate enough to be able to go on holidays every year but never really thought much about the impact those trips had on me.

I graduated from Nova Southeastern University earning a major in management and a minor in marketing. Currently, I am studying at Griffith University completing a Master's Degree in Marketing. I wanted to use the knowledge I gained at university to help others experience a first ever holiday trip, which is why I joined MGF as a volunteer.

I truly believe that the organisation is making a meaningful difference especially during these times when families are still recovering from the setbacks caused by COVID-19. Since joining, I have been able to use and develop my knowledge in marketing and management to help MGF raise awareness about their purpose and upcoming events.

Volunteering at MGF has impacted me in many ways both professionally and personally. I have heard of different fundraising organisations, but this was the first time I have come across one that is dedicated to gifting getaways.

It has made me realise the true impact holidays have especially after reading the stories of the families that have been given a first ever holiday by MGF. It has been inspiring to hear how the getaways allow families to have a new start which brings hope for the future.



## Michelle Marks Fundraising Art Expo

Michelle's father (Laszlo) was a holocaust survivor. As a child Laszlo's mother, father, sister and brother were all taken away right in front of his eyes to the gas chamber. After the war, Laszlo was fostered to an Australian family. He came with nothing and no one, and that strength is what Michelle admires to this day.



Michelle initially started painting after her father passed away. Her grandfather painted, as did her mother and daughter. For Michelle, painting her father felt like a natural way to work through the grief of losing him. From there Michelle started to paint other people known for the adversities they faced.

When Michelle heard about the Magical Getaway Foundation and the

work they do, she knew she wanted to donate her paintings. In donating her art, Michelle hoped that for the families that purchased it, the art would serve as a reminder that while one day life may seem too much or too dark, the next day there is always the possibility of sunshine.



In November 2021, we held an art exhibition of the paintings donated by Michelle as a fundraising event. The day was an incredible success with encouraging support from the community. We would also like to acknowledge [Handled With Care](#) who told Michelle about the Foundation.

All of the paintings sold, helped MGF to send more vulnerable Australian families on their first ever getaway.





# First Ever Getaways

Families referred to the Magical Getaway Foundation (MGF) have never been on a holiday, not even a weekend away due to experiencing such things as homelessness, poverty, job loss, family violence, ongoing medical conditions, family breakdown and/or kinship care.

Gifting the fully funded **FIRST EVER** getaways/holidays are more than just time away. It is time given to families to start to repair and recover from what life has thrown at them, a start to look to a brighter future.

These getaways are more than just a holiday. They represent a clean break and a sign that things can change.

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

From December 2021 to June 2022, we gifted **9 families** with their first ever getaways (**12 parents and 31 children in total**).

## December 2021

Wendy and her four children, referred by Berry Street, were gifted their first ever holiday to Lorne.

Being all survivors of horrendous family violence, they enjoyed five nights at the [Mantra](#) and visited [Lorne Sea Baths](#), [Otway Fly](#) and the [Great Ocean Road Wildlife Park](#) during their getaway. Our thanks are extended to the four local businesses for their ongoing support which is so invaluable and greatly appreciated.

When the family walked into the two bedroom self-contained unit on arrival, Sam's (pseudonym) eyes were sparkling and from the bottom of his lungs he yelled, **"Wow, this is a dream come true! The beds are so soft."**

Wendy wrote after the holiday:

**"When we first arrived the hotel was very beautiful the view was amazing it was very quiet, the tennis court was very fun my kids enjoyed and played in it a lot. We went to a place called treetops and it was a really nice walk getting to the towers the view was amazing and the drive was relaxing. My kids enjoyed the food over there and the places we went to. Our favourite place we went to was Sheoak Falls. I have appreciated what you have done for me and my children you created memories for us that will last forever."**





# Dandenong South Primary School

March 2022

Six families (9 parents and 21 children), referred by Dandenong South Primary School, were gifted their **first ever holidays** to Phillip Island. They stayed at [Kaloha Holiday Resort](#) for five nights and visited the Penguin Parade, Antarctic Journey at the Nobbies, Churchill Island and the Koala Conservation Reserve, courtesy of [Phillip Island Nature Parks](#).

Prior to the getaway one of the fathers John (pseudonym), asked, **“Will there be pots and pans? Do we need to bring towels? Sorry, I don’t know all these things. I have never been on a holiday.”**

Following the holiday, the Foundation facilitated a post-holiday support group for the children and their families.

Sincere thanks are extended to The Andrews Foundation and the City of Greater Dandenong for the grants which funded this getaway and post-holiday support group.

*“It meant everything to me, to just be able to see my kids having an absolute ball meant the world. It was an absolute heaven sent this holiday. Especially after the last howwww long of this Covid, being isolated and confined to our homes. Was def a great change of scenery and the best for our mental health, even for the baby. Thank you ever so kindly Magical Getaway Foundation.”*

*Ashlee*



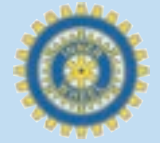
# Pakenham Springs Primary School

June 2022

Two single mums, together with each of their three children, were gifted their first ever getaways with a donation previously received from the Inner Wheel Club of Pakenham.

Both families, referred by Pakenham Springs Primary School, stayed at the [Island Breeze Resort](#) in Cowes, Phillip Island and visited [Churchill Island](#), the [Penguin Parade](#), [AMaze 'N Things](#) and the [Chocolate Factory](#).

Sincere thanks are extended to all four tourist attractions for their support and generosity.



Inner Wheel Club of Pakenham



“The memories I will forever hold closest to my heart is seeing my babies all get along and the joy that came from different experiences. Being able to spend time as family with no outside pressures of school, work and day to day stresses. The kids will forever hold and carry those memories for life and reflect back on our first ever holiday as a bonding experience and be able to remember all the good times had. The one on one time spent with each of my kids is something I'll hold onto for life as cherished memories, the hot tub being our most prized luxury at the resort.”

Liana





# Fundraising

In 2021/2022 we were able to increase the number of fundraising events, as COVID lockdowns and restrictions were less frequent. We would like to thank the incredible people who supported us.

All proceeds went to gifting more first ever getaways to vulnerable Australian children and their families.

## Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

During the year, we organised a sausage sizzle at Bunnings in Moorabbin.

The Foundation raised over \$1200 from the event. It was fantastic to see supporters come together to sizzle many packets of sausages.



We greatly appreciated the amazing volunteers and customers.

A big thanks also to Bakers Delight in Bentleigh for donating 15 loaves of bread and discounting the remaining to help support the fundraiser.

## Trash to Treasure

Again, for the second year in a row, we ran the Trash to Treasure initiative. During mid 2022 we asked the community to donate old items they no longer had use for, so that we could onsell the items.



The Foundation was humbled and staggered at the volume of secondhand goods people were willing to donate.

Trash to Treasure was an even greater success than the previous year and we are looking to continue this fundraising initiative in the years to come.

## Christmas Cards

In November, we launched a new Christmas initiative! We asked previous holiday recipients to design and hand-draw Christmas cards. We'd like to thank Mia, Cruz, Nevaeh, Nyah, Nakai and Nephi for their beautiful drawings.

The cards featured five unique designs.

These special pieces of artwork were a tangible reminder of the lives that have been positively changed due to the work of the Foundation. It was heartwarming to be able to share these cards with friends and family over the Christmas period.



## 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 2022-23.

Our referring agencies include, but are not limited to:

**Uniting**



**VACCA**  
Connected by culture



ELIZABETH  
MORGAN HOUSE  
ABORIGINAL  
WOMEN'S  
SERVICE INC



**Anglicare**  
Victoria

Pakenham  
Springs 



The Royal **Children's**  
Hospital Melbourne

**benevolent** SOCIETY

**BERRY**  
**STREET**

Believing In  
Children,  
Young People,  
Families &  
Their Future.

CHILD • FAMILY • CARE  
**bestchance**

# Financial Overview

As in previous financial years (2019/2020 and 2020/2021), the Foundation's financials and activities were fundamentally shaped and impacted by the pandemic.

A few 'windows of opportunity' opened in late November (Michelle Marks Fundraising Art Expo) and early December (the gifting of a first ever holiday), but it was not until mid-February when the COVID lockdowns/restrictions significantly eased.

The Magical Getaway Foundation (MGF) reported an operating surplus of \$7,914 for the financial year ending 30 June 2022 (a 55% increase from 2020/2021).

We gifted 9 families (12 parents and 31 children in total) with their first ever getaways from December 2021 to June 2022, which was an extraordinary achievement, as no getaways could be gifted in the previous year due to the pandemic's lockdowns/restrictions. The grant received from the City of Greater Dandenong funded the first ever getaways in March, together with the grant from The Andrews Foundation received in the previous financial year.

Our fundraising activities included Trash to Treasure (commenced in 2020/2021), a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Michelle Marks Fundraising Art Expo and Christmas cards, uniquely designed by children from previous first ever getaways.

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, especially with the apparent end of lockdowns/restrictions, 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.



**43** Number of children/parents/carers | Number of first ever holidays gifted **9**

All 9 families referred were experiencing complex issues, on many occasions more than one, as reported below.

- 5 families** ..... **Family Violence**
- 7 families** ..... **Single Parents**
- 7 families** ..... **Poverty**
- 5 families** ..... **Refugees**
- 9 families** ..... **Mental Health**



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/holidays happen; **to bring hope.**

We couldn't do it without your support.



## Our Income Sources

Grants Received

40.58%

Individual / Organisational Donations

38.21%

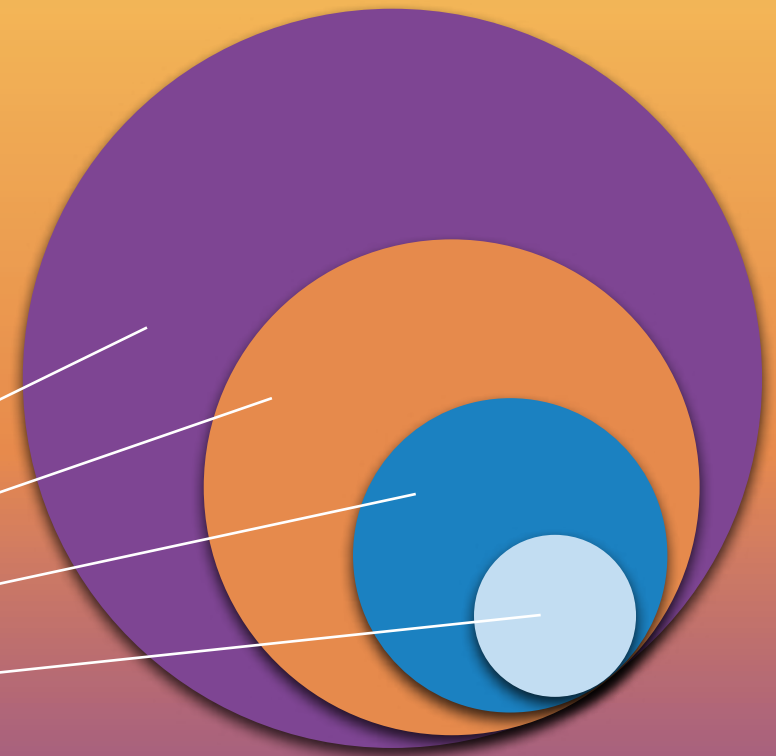
Fundraising Activities

21.19%

Interest Received 0.02%

## How We Use It

- First Ever Holidays 51.5%
- Fundraising 8.9%
- Promotional Activities 17.4%
- Other 18.2%  
(eg IT, accountancy fees, insurances)





**Mobile:** +61 419 372 629

**Email:** [info@magicalgetawayfoundation.org](mailto:info@magicalgetawayfoundation.org)

**Website:** <https://www.magicalgetawayfoundation.org/>

**Address:** PO Box 499 Bentleigh Victoria 3204 Australia

