CBTS
Annual Report 2023/24

Cottage by the Sea
QUEENSCLIFF



Every child deserves a break

Contents

Our mission & values 3

A message from our Patron 4

A note from our Chair & CEO 6

The impact & reach of our programs 8

The year in review 10

Stories to be proud of 12

Programs: Take a Break 16

Programs: REEF 20

Programs: Mentor 24

Programs: Scholarships 28

Programs: Alumni 30

Programs: Respite 31

In memory & celebration 32

Future giving 33

Looking ahead 34

Who we are: Board of Directors 36

Who we are: Cottage staff 37

Who we are: Melbourne Community Relations 38

Volunteers 40

Life Members, Ambassadors & Branches 41

Major donors 42

In-kind donations 44

Financials 46

Cottage by the Sea would like to acknowledge the Wadawurrung people, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the Cottage stands. Cottage by the Sea would also like to pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Wadawurrung Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people.

*Names have been changed.

Photography within Annual Report by Donna Squire and Deakin University.

Back to top

Our mission is to enhance the lives of more children by providing inspiration, fun and opportunity within a holiday environment.

We achieve our mission through our diverse programs, which take the form of short-stay experiences offered in a wide range of environments. During programs, we provide children and young people with opportunities to build positive relationships with peers and adult role models, which helps them to learn and grow when they return to their schools and communities.

Everything we do at Cottage by the Sea reflects our values:

Respect **Adventure** **Integrity** **Belonging** **Community**



A message from our Patron



Welcome to Cottage by the Sea's 2024 Annual Report. We hope you enjoy reading about the meaningful, transformative ways that Cottage by the Sea has supported children and young people this past financial year.

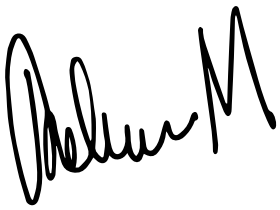
Children make up approximately 18% of Australia's population but are 100% of our future. We have a responsibility to offer every child the opportunities they need to thrive in these formative years and beyond.

Children who attend Cottage by the Sea experience many "firsts". From seemingly ordinary – their first time visiting the beach, eating a particular vegetable or wearing a scarf, to more extraordinary – seeing snow for the first time, watching a tennis match at the Australian Open or climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Regardless of where we label these experiences on the scale from "everyday" to "remarkable", their individual impact remains pivotal.

A child returns home remembering the comfort of a hand-knitted scarf or beanie, the textured feeling of sand between their toes or the joy of a meal that delighted their tastebuds. Etched in the memory of a young person is the unescapable awe of witnessing snow on a mountain, the excitement of watching a professional athlete in the zone or the magnitude of accomplishment from climbing 134 metres above sea level overlooking Sydney Harbour.

Research shows that these experiences do leave a lasting impact – on the children and young people, their families, their communities. Every conversation, act of generosity or funds donated also have an enduring impact to Cottage by the Sea – helping the charity offer its important, often life-changing, work to those who need it most.

Thank you for your support. Together, we will continue to pave this path of opportunity for children and young people.



Rebecca Maddern
Patron



Rebecca Maddern – Patron

A note from our Chair



Scott Chapman AM – Chair

Every time I walk through the front doors of the Cottage, a warmth of welcome envelops me in anticipation of children's laughter. I am never disappointed! The deeper I delve into the work of the children's charity over its 134 years of changing lives, the more importance I place on assessing and meeting the needs of children and families today. And the more we all must strive to expand our services for the ever-increasing demand of the future.

I am immensely proud of the work undertaken at Cottage by the Sea to enhance the lives of children and young people. Every child deserves a break, and the team is working tirelessly to make this possible. The recent report *The Impact of Cottage by the Sea: From Ripples to Waves* has helped galvanise the whole team with a greater understanding of how Cottage by the Sea does make a difference to the lives of many.

This feedback from a Take a Break participant, parent of a participant and visiting teacher speaks for itself:

- "Cottage by the Sea activities were on a whole new level. They tested all of my skills – my teamwork skills especially. My favourite activity was boogie-boarding. I loved seeing the dolphins and seals. You helped me build my confidence in trying new things. When I got back home, I had this feeling that any activity I got faced with I could handle. Cottage by the Sea is something I will never forget." – Take a Break participant

- "Thank you for providing such an amazing experience for my daughter. She absolutely did not want to attend, however she had such a positive experience that she could not stop talking about it!" – Parent of program participant

- "Throughout the camp, our students were fortunate to be immersed in the beauty of nature, stepping outside their comfort zones and engaging in activities that enhanced their confidence and self-esteem, while instilling a sense of adventure and resilience. We witnessed growth in their teamwork, problem-solving and leadership skills, which we attribute to your dedication to providing such enriching experiences." – Visiting teacher

It is important that we continue to strengthen the balance sheet, ensuring that all necessary funding can cover the program growth and increasing numbers of children to experience one of the Cottage's life-changing programs.

On behalf of the Cottage by the Sea Board of Directors, I would like to acknowledge the hard-working staff and Board behind this wonderful charity. We extend our thanks to all our supporters and stakeholders – volunteers, Branches, Ambassadors, our Patron, trusts and foundations, as well as our corporate and individual donors – whose ongoing support enables Cottage by the Sea to continue to benefit children, their families and the broader community.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this report that illustrate the dedication and care underpinning the work at Cottage by the Sea, and inspire you to continue your support.

Thank you.



Scott Chapman AM
Chair, CBTS Board of Directors

& CEO



Adam Wake – CEO

For the first time ever, Cottage by the Sea welcomed more than 1,700 children on program in one year. This does not include the children and families on a respite holiday, or those who have stayed over a weekend as part of a larger community group. Unfortunately, the numbers of those in need have grown in recent years to 216,000 children in Victoria alone living in "significant economic disadvantage", according to the Victorian Council of Social Services, and substantial growth in mental health issues.

Programs that these 1,700 children have had the joy to experience include trips to the beach – when so many have never before seen the ocean – a boat charter to watch dolphins and seals, surfing, rock-pooling and fishing, to name just a few. Children are supported by an amazing team – many trained in mental health first-aid, trauma-informed therapy, conflict resolution and cultural awareness – in the best facility of its kind in the country.

Deakin University has just completed its longitudinal study on the impact of Cottage by the Sea – going back as far as alumni from 1939 – which you can read about on page 12. The report, *The Impact of Cottage by the Sea: From Ripples to Waves,* illustrates the life-changing impact of our programs. Like the cumulative effects of a drop in the ocean, the ripple effects of experiences at Cottage become waves that carry children and young people through their lives.

The current challenges being faced in society are troubling for everyone and we, at Cottage, are committed to striving to still reach as many, and more, children and families who need our service. We do not wish to reduce our intake or the opportunities for inspiration that we offer every child. The depths of our programs, including those offsite, are exceptional and continue to have my support because the capacity of these experiences to build confidence and resilience, to those young people who need it the most, is difficult to quantify. We do this with complete autonomy to give the children and young people the best quality experience possible. The Cottage Foundation is doing what it was set up to achieve – to meet our administration needs and support funding to programs, as challenging times persist.

Communication is at the heart of everything we do. To improve this vital part of our operation, we have undergone a major digital transformation over the past 12 months that a member of the CBTS Board personally funded. We have adopted a new CRM (Customer Relationship Management) platform, marketing automation and developed a new website, and look forward to communicating with you in more thoughtful, innovative ways.

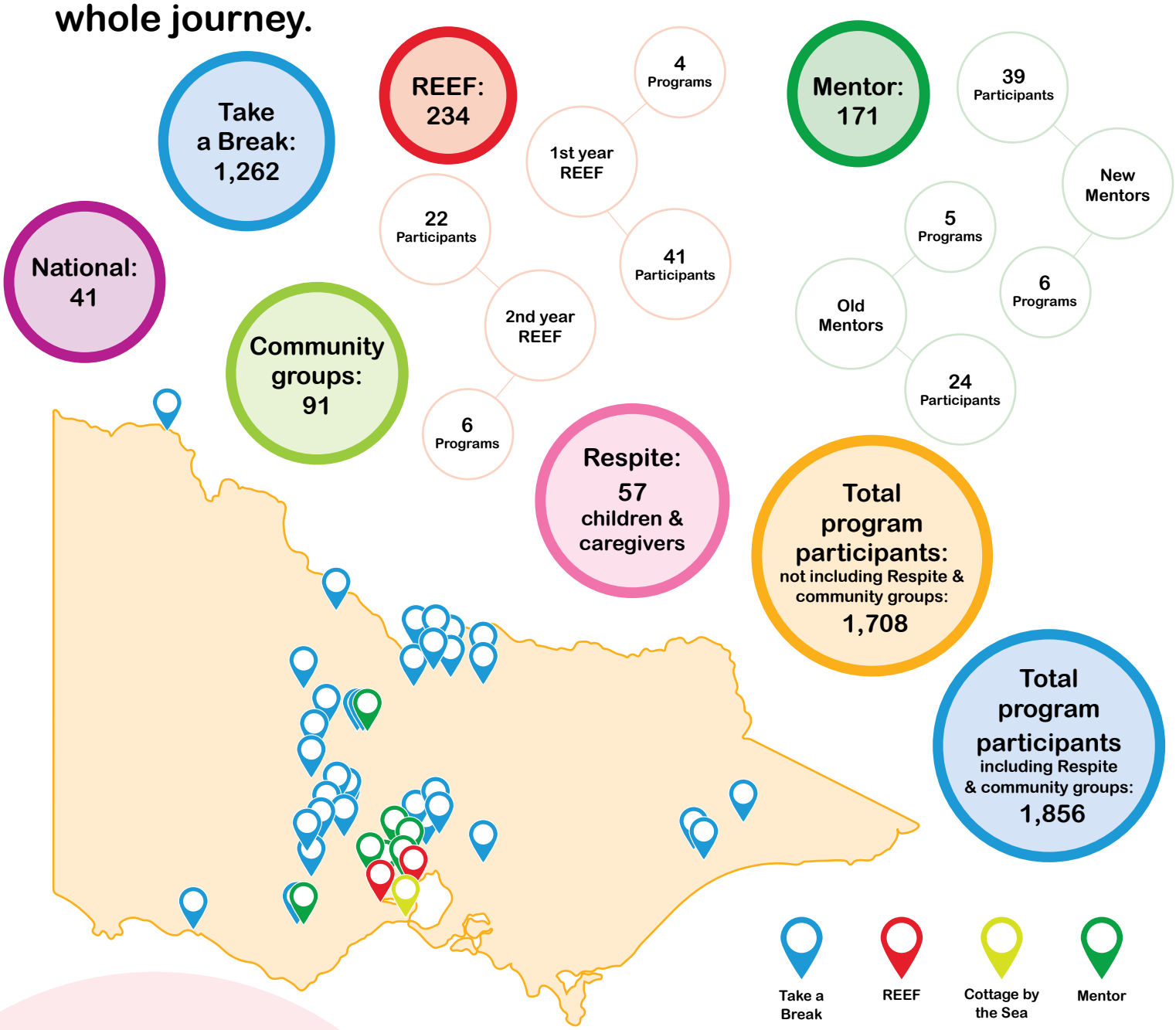
1,700+ children – thank you. Thank you because it is you, Cottage supporters, who make it possible as our programs are non-government funded. We appreciate you helping us achieve our mission of offering inspiration, fun and opportunity to more children.



Adam Wake
CEO, CBTS

Programs

Programs at Cottage by the Sea support children and young people aged 6–18. This financial year, for the first time in our history, more than 1,700 children and young people have attended one of our programs. Additionally, more REEF and Mentor participants are staying engaged throughout their whole journey.



The impact & reach of our programs

In addition to hosting children from all around Victoria here in Queenscliff, Cottage by the Sea has also taken our Mentors to Sydney and for a rural camping experience on the Edward River in Moulamein, NSW, thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors.

Bed-nights FY 2023/24

Take a Break: 3,772

REEF: 682

Mentor: 593

National: 174

Total bed-nights: 5,221

Feedback from participants & teachers about Cottage programs:

"Dear Cottage by the Sea, thank you for the amazing experience you gave me and my friends. The food was fantastic, and I loved the activities. The gift bag that you gave us at the end of camp was very nice – my mum and I love the blankets that the volunteers knitted!"

– Take a Break participant

"This week, I learned that trying new things are fun and can make you stronger."

– Take a Break participant

"Thank you for giving us an enjoyable experience and memorable time at Cottage by the Sea. My favourite activity was boogie-boarding – I especially enjoyed being swept up by the waves as well as boarding them. Thanks to all of you for being so supportive of us and helping us achieve our best."

– Take a Break participant

"The best thing about camp this week was going for walks along the beach."

– REEF participant

"Thank you for the best camp ever! … Big thanks for the knitted gifts – I will wear them any opportunity I get and will always remember the camp by them. My favourite was the lap blanket. Thank you for everything you did for us and for all the time you spent taking care of us. We all enjoyed camp and I hope I can come again someday. I love Cottage by the Sea!"

– Take a Break participant

"Thank you so much CBTS – for all you do for the Mentors and their passions."

– Mentor participant & scholarship recipient

"I am incredibly lucky to have this experience and I wish everyone could have it!"

– REEF participant

The year





SEPT 2023

Tenderprint hosts its 5th Race Day fundraiser for Cottage by the Sea.

OCT 2023

At Cottage by the Sea's 133rd Annual General Meeting in Queenscliff, Scott Chapman AM becomes the new Cottage Chair.

Cottage by the Sea wins Medium to Large Business of the Year at the Geelong Business Excellence Awards.

JAN 2024

Cottage by the Sea is the charity partner of the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour to Queenscliff. Community events take place across town and visiting children to Cottage hold the Cup.





in review







Cottage by the Sea welcomes a record-number of participants this FY – more than 1,700.

JUN 2024

The Winter Warmers Breakfast launches Cottage's Winter Warmers fundraising campaign.

MAY 2024

The Rippers annual May luncheon helps Cottage achieve its mission through building connections and helping to fund our programs.

MAR 2024

Annual Giving Day is our single biggest fundraiser. Together, thanks to the support of the community and matching donors, we will help more children.

Cottage by the Sea's 100-year-old fundraiser – the Annual Fair – brings more than 2,500 people to Queenscliff to support our children's programs.

The Rippers annual summer function facilitates and enables connections that help to raise funds and spread awareness about our children's charity.







Stories to be proud of

We are grateful to constantly see real outcomes of the work we do. This is an opportunity to reflect and share some of these highlights.

Partnerships

We have been developing new partnerships and nurturing existing relationships to help support and meet the requirements of growing our children's charity.

Deakin University

Our strategic partnership with Deakin University was formalised in 2020 with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This valuable research partnership has led to insights about the ways in which Cottage by the Sea programs impact and make a difference to the lives of young people through two studies.

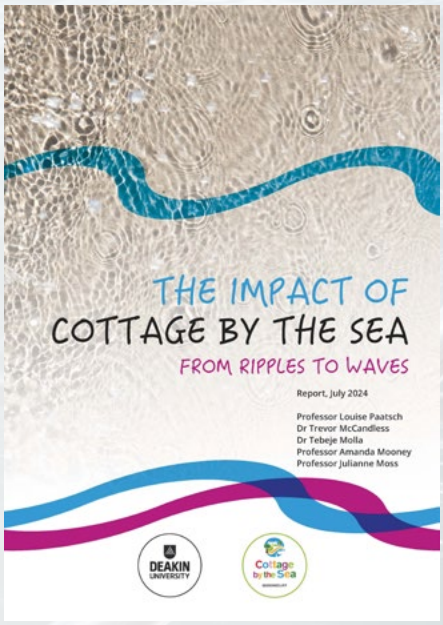
Cottage is thrilled to share its latest research report from Deakin University – *The Impact of Cottage by the Sea: From Ripples to Waves*. Published in July 2024, the research explored the medium- to long-term impacts of Cottage by the Sea through interviews with current and former program participants, going back as early as 1939. The research was undertaken throughout FY24.

"It was the most humbling and rewarding piece of research work I have been involved with," shares Professor Louise Paatsch, lead researcher on the project. "The research brings to life the enduring impact of Cottage by the Sea – insights that we have known anecdotally for some time but can be so difficult to quantify and articulate. The report shows how even the smallest of ripples can empower these children and young people to ride life's larger, more challenging, waves," says Adam Wake, CEO Cottage by the Sea.

"A former Cottage participant who was interviewed in this research has gone on to participate in the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games. She said that her experiences at Cottage have helped shape her life in a more positive way. This is just one example of how an experience at Cottage by the Sea is literally life-changing," continues Adam.

The findings of the study – summarised in the four broad themes below – validate the transformative impact of Cottage's programs and the opportunities they create:

- Fostering fun and enjoyment
- Building relationships
- Providing a safe haven
- (Re)Creating happy memories







Port Phillip Sea Pilots

Cottage by the Sea is proud of its longstanding community partnership with Port Phillip Sea Pilots (PPSP). In addition to collaborating on community events, such as the 2023 Melbourne Cup Tour of Queenscliff, PPSP supports Cottage in other ways.

PPSP Managing Director Captain Mike Hanson and PPSP Director Captain Damian Laughlin were invited to be guest speakers at a Bellarine Women's Network event. They took some boxes of Brendan Moloney's fantastic book *Pilot on Board*, which was published in 2018 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of PPSP. Guests at the event purchased 18 books – raising $720 – and donated the funds to Cottage. PPSP Chairman Captain Mathew Close is pictured above with Cottage CEO Adam Wake, handing over the funds in one of the books.

Both of our organisations date back to the 19th century – Cottage 1890 and PPSP 1839 – and we look forward to supporting our community together for many years to come.

Anthony Costa Foundation

If we don't take the time to stop and witness everyday moments, we miss the opportunity to appreciate the joy found in these experiences. An artwork featuring Cottage by the Sea highlights the impact of being mindful. Supported by Anthony Costa Foundation, the "Everyday Moments Make a Difference" illustration by local artist and illustrator Liz McGrath depicts visiting children at Cottage by the Sea playing in the sandpit. The artwork features illustrations of 12 charities in the Geelong and Bellarine region, highlighting how local organisations are working to support our community.

Overlooking the ocean, the sandpit has been an iconic touchstone of the Cottage playground for decades. It's where the children dig for treasure and while they're playing, they can hear the waves crashing in the background and native birds chirping in the trees above. As Liz was drawing, the children were enjoying witnessing the artist's creative process unfold.

"It was a really nice project," reflects Liz. To the illustrator, the concept of everyday moments making a difference is about using mindfulness to appreciate day-to-day life. "It's about stopping, taking time and really noticing things that you might normally walk past or not pay attention to."



Image is part of The Everyday Moments Make a Difference Project. © Anthony Costa Foundation. Used with permission.

Fundraising efforts & awards

Geelong Business Excellence Awards

The Geelong Business Excellence Awards (GBEA) is a prestigious and comprehensive program that supports and recognises clever, creative and innovative businesses.



In October 2023, the Cottage team attended the GBEA awards night at GMHBA Stadium. It was a fantastic night celebrating the wonderful work of regional businesses, business leaders and entrepreneurs in our community. We were thrilled to win Medium to Large Business of the Year Award. We were also one of the finalists in the Business of the Year Award.

Our CEO Adam acknowledged that winning this award was very much a team effort and by "team", that includes everyone within the Cottage community – donors, volunteers, staff and, most importantly, the children. We are of course a "charity", but it is very important to run the back-end of any charity as a business from money management, to donor and team support, and all things corporate governance.



Melbourne Cup Tour to Queenscliff

With Cottage nominated as a charity partner of the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour to Queenscliff, a spectacular celebration took place across local community events from dawn to dark with the 18-carat-gold Cup. Such a great community day reinforces the importance of "community" – one of our values at Cottage.

Visiting children met two Melbourne Cup-winning horses – Efficient and Twilight Payment – and felt the Cup in their own hands at Cottage. They also loved feeding carrots to the horses. We aim for experiences at Cottage to leave a lasting impact, and this visit was no exception.

A spectacular celebration like this doesn't come without a huge team working hard behind the scenes. Thank you to the generous support and involvement of the community organisations that helped bring this day of events to life, which included Searoad Ferries, Port Phillip Sea Pilots, Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club, the Bellarine Railway, Queenscliff Music Festival and Queenscliff Brewhouse. In addition, a big thank you to everyone at Cottage by the Sea – including volunteers, Ambassadors, Board members, our Patron, The Rippers, visiting teachers and participants, and Cottage staff – for giving our community an event to remember

Annual Fair

Our 100-year-old fundraiser – the Annual Fair – was held in January 2024 at Cottage. Thanks to the incredible support of our Board members, The Rippers, volunteers, supporters, sponsors, the community and staff, we raised enough funds to support three groups of children on program at Cottage by the Sea.

Giving Day

Our annual Giving Day was another successful fundraiser. The average donation was less than the year prior, but we had a higher number of donors. As a result, hundreds more children will benefit from an adventure of a lifetime. Giving Day wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our matching donors, who doubled all donations.

Winter Warmers Breakfast

Cottage by the Sea hosted its Winter Warmers Breakfast at GMHBA Stadium in May 2024. There was a great buzz in the room as guests learned more about our Winter Warmers fundraising campaign, along with wellbeing insights from guest speaker Paul Taylor. Cottage Ambassador Ian Cover OAM hosted the event and took the roving microphone to our Patron Rebecca Maddern, Cottage Ambassador Warren Davies and Cottage Alumni (and dual Olympian) Morgan Mitchell.

Take a Break

1,262
TaB program participants FY 23/24

Our Take a Break (TaB) program is focused on inspiration, fun and opportunity. Children aged 6–12 attend a program at Cottage for 3–5 days.

Relief from the floods on a fishing charter

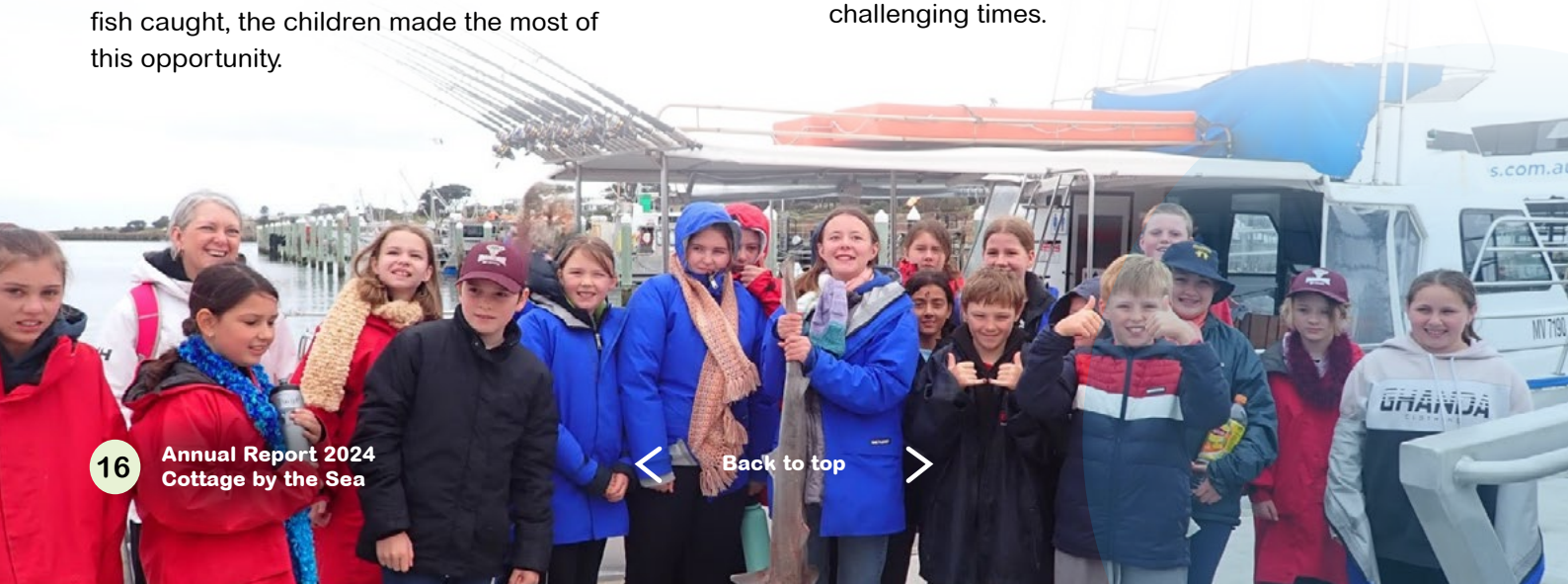
We have a rich history of supporting communities affected by natural disasters. On this Take a Break program, we welcomed children from Rochester Primary School in northern Victoria. Many of these children and their families have been affected by major floods over the past few years – some tragically lost everything in their homes.

Activities throughout the week focused on having fun outdoors, from swimming, learning how to boogie-board and surf (a highlight for many) to coastal walks and a fishing charter (another favourite). The children broke up into two groups and enjoyed their boat charters from Portarlington on different days. Naturally, this evolved into a huge competition on which group could catch the most fish and the biggest fish.

On Tuesday, a howling southerly wind and big swell on the bay kept fishing group 1 close to the shore. This meant more protection, but less and smaller fish. The children were amazing as they endured the cold, the wind and the rolling waves. Despite the challenging conditions out at sea and little fish caught, the children made the most of this opportunity.

On Wednesday, fishing group 2 had much nicer conditions – just a light breeze – so they headed out into deeper water. As the rods hit the water, the fish started to bite straight away – the flathead were hungry! Just as we were about to head back, a participant's rod started "going nuts", as she said, and she described the rod as almost bending in half with the line running out fast. As she started to reel in the rod, we saw a grey shadow in the water. "Shark! It's a shark!" yelled a participant. It was indeed a gummy shark – a big one. The noise and excitement from the children was amazing to witness. Group 2 most definitely won the fishing competition. Cottage Chef Kim was pretty excited to cook up a feast that day!

At the end of each Take a Break program, children return home with a goodie bag full of donated gifts. This week's goodies included hats, knitted beanies and blankets, T-shirts and toiletries, in addition to a brand-new fishing rod, fishing pack and skateboard. These gifts help the memories from Cottage come back to life at home, supporting a positive future ahead. "This is the best camp" reflected a participant, while another said "I loved it". This feedback reinforces the importance of giving children a much-needed reset after challenging times.





Visiting teacher feedback from this Take a Break program

"The kids have made lifelong memories."

"Students all felt comfortable to get in and have a go. This is one of the first camps in two years where we have not had any serious behavioural issues with students."

"Easily the best camp I have ever been on. Great food, engaging activities and enthusiastic and supportive leaders. Thanks so much for making this an amazing experience."





A magical week spotting dolphins and seals

This Take a Break program was truly a treat, with a serendipitous series of events in the water. Children from the inland town of Shepparton came to Cottage for a week of beach-filled activities, making the most of the light winds and winter sunshine.

Wednesday was especially magical for all three groups as, by a quirk of fate, they all spotted dolphins! While enjoying a donated marine biology cruise, Group 1 saw dolphins jumping in the distance as they headed out to see the seals at Pope's Eye. Meanwhile, Group 3 had a delightful surprise during a safety briefing when one of the children shouted, "I see dolphins!" The group watched in awe as dolphins leapt and played 100 metres away. Being from rural Victoria, many of these children had never been on a boat out at sea before, let alone seen dolphins or seals.

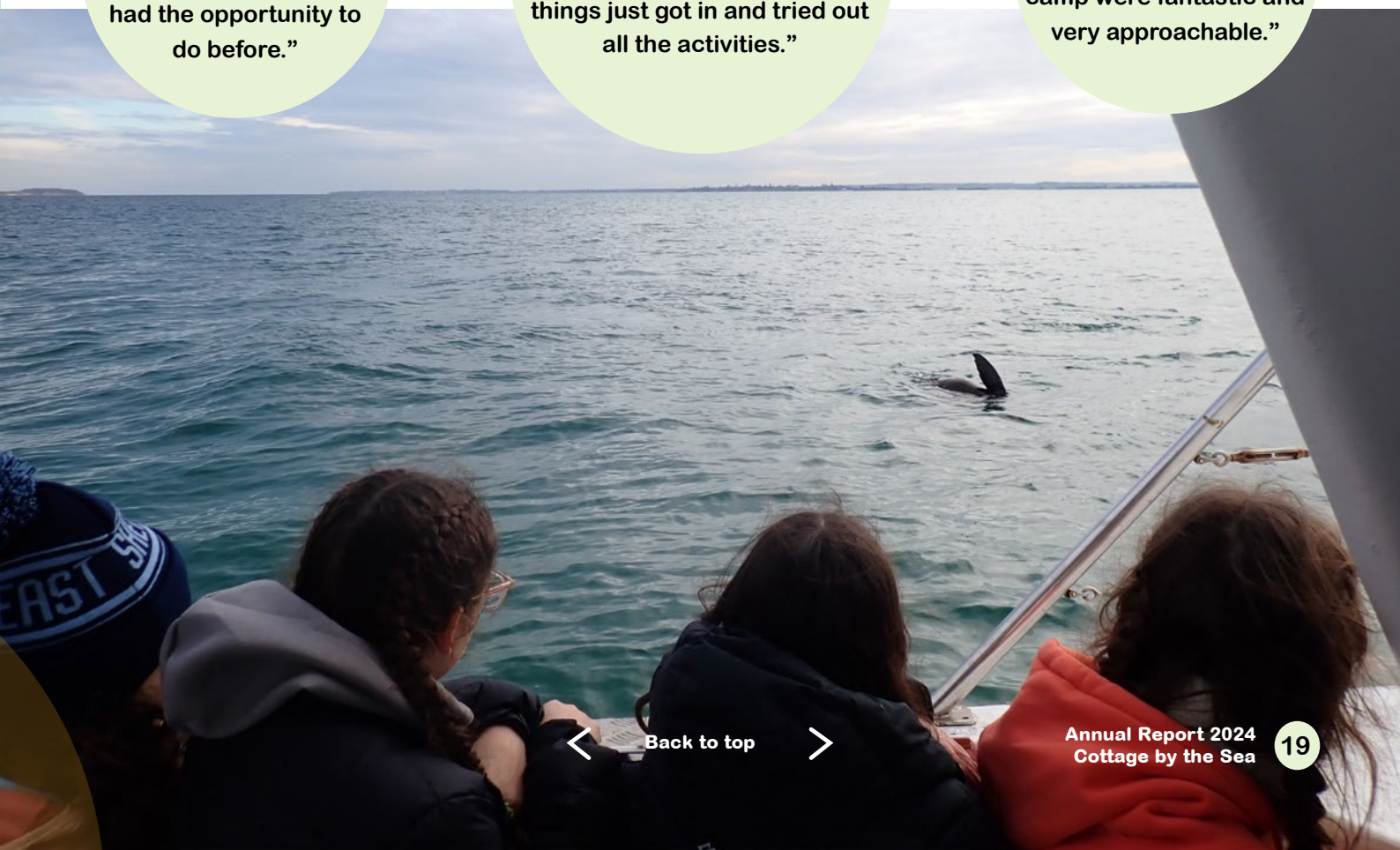
Group 2 had the most remarkable encounter. While out on the Queenscliff Pier, they heard a splash and saw a pod of dolphins bursting through the water, on the attack and rounding up a school of salmon. The pod of 8-10 dolphins swam right up to the shore – just an arm's length away from the children – and even swam underneath their feet as they stood on the pier. The children were captivated for the next half an hour as the dolphins cruised around, jumping out of the water and putting on an incredible show.

It was a spectacular experience that none of the Cottage team had ever seen before – everyone felt incredibly lucky to witness such an enchanting sight. The unexpected delight of these moments evoked awe, no doubt reminding the children of all the wonders in the world.

"Kids were able to just be kids and take part in many activities that they probably haven't had the opportunity to do before."

"The kids have had an amazing time and loved all the activities. Those students who are normally hesitant to try new things just got in and tried out all the activities."

"This was a fantastic camp, enjoyed by both children and staff. Staff at the camp were fantastic and very approachable."



Recreation, Education, Environment, Friendship (REEF)

234
REEF program participants FY 23/24

Our Recreation, Education, Environment, Friendship (REEF) program fosters confidence, leadership and personal development. Reefies aged 11–14 attend 10 camps over 2 years. The program is designed to support children through the transition from primary to secondary school.

Many REEF participants have been identified as being at risk of disengagement. A NSW Government report titled "The role of student engagement in the transition from primary to secondary school" highlighted a decline in student engagement during the transition from Year 6 to Year 7. The REEF program addresses this issue by offering young people a sense of belonging, hope for the future and valuable tools for growth.

More than a trip to the snow

Our snow camp is not only fun and exciting, but enriches the REEF participants' learning and development, and strengthens the bonds they have created with each other over the past 16 months on the REEF program. This offsite adventure gives the participants a greater sense of community and respect for each other, often resulting in improved behaviour, achievements and engagement back at home and school.

The ski trip provides excellent opportunities for participants to develop independence, confidence, self-esteem and leadership while adapting to new environments. Experiencing new cultures first-hand often brings to life topics they have been studying at school, such as art, history, languages and sport. This "real world experience" is thought to be a very successful learning mechanism.

The participants dug deep throughout the week. They navigated the challenges of walking in ski boots to pushing themselves on the slopes, getting back up every time they fell over, with the ultimate goal of getting down the Bourke Street run. Not only is there a physical challenge of learning to ski, there is also a mental challenge of living with a large group of people, sharing duties such as dinner prep and clean up and getting themselves ready to tackle each day that they are away from home.

So while the ultimate goal is to ski, and ski they did, the Reefies learned and gained so much more. As one participant shared, "This camp was amazing and I wouldn't trade this experience for anything in the world." Reflections from another participant reinforce the resilience cultivated on this adventure: "Even though you may struggle doing things, you can overcome them through persistence and patience." An Alumni spoke to our CEO and reflected on his experience sitting on the snow as the literal moment his life changed. He said, "It saved my life." The breakthroughs experienced throughout this week will stay with the Reefies for the days, weeks, months, even years, to come.







The rewards of perseverance

Activities on the REEF program are designed to build the participants' skills, confidence and capacity to grow incrementally. For our 2nd-year Reefies, the Great Ocean Walk adventure can be a real test of physical and mental fortitude as they hike 15 kilometres along the rugged coastline. The participants prepare for this adventure throughout their 2-year journey on the REEF program by building endurance and strength during other activities – coastal walks and camping, to name a few.

This offsite camp along the Great Ocean Road is a crucial development experience for the young people, offering an opportunity to bind together and with the Cottage team. So many benefits come from this – confidence, leadership, friendship, personal development. The learnings also extend beyond the individual, cascading through the group – "persevering with my pack" as one Reefie said and "checking in on each other when tired" said another.

Working as a team, the Reefies took turns in being the leader at the front and the support at the back. With one kilometre left to hike along Johanna Beach, there was a strong sense of determination, encouragement and respect among the group for the hard work they had put in together. As they took a moment to acknowledge the journey while at the destination, the true scale of what they had achieved started to sink in. The resilience cultivated from this adventure will be something the Reefies can draw on when faced with difficulties in the future.



Mentor

Our Mentor program is for graduates from the REEF program, and focuses on personal development and peer support. Mentor participants are aged 13–18 and attend 5–6 programs per year over 5 years. The underpinning goals of the Mentor program are for young people to be actively contributing to their community, school and home, as well as at Cottage.

Hiking "The Pinnacle" – an immersion in nature

This year, we introduced a new activity on the Mentor program – an adventure in the Grampians. The aims of this offsite camp involved experiencing a hiking journey, immersing in nature, embarking on new challenges and deepening leadership skills and connections with each other.

This trip involved hiking "The Pinnacle", which offered mental and physical challenges for the participants to overcome. The night before the hike, the Mentors opened up about the challenges they've faced this year and how they've overcome those obstacles. Our team, many trained in mental health first aid, trauma-informed therapy, conflict resolution and cultural awareness, will not shy away from talking about important subjects to support these young people with the difficulties of our modern world. The conversation then turned to the literal and metaphorical mountain to climb. It was a great open conversation about how some of the participants will find different parts of the hike challenging and that everyone can encourage each other to get through it together.

171
Mentor program participants FY 23/24

It really was an adventure – at one point, the Mentors were walking up rock faces on a 45-degree angle! As one participant shared, "I had conversations on the way up to keep my mind going but it was hard using different muscles on the rough terrain." Camp Leaders encouraged the participants to take regular breaks along the way so that they could both catch their breath and enjoy the journey.

With a sigh of relief at the summit, the participants sat down together and enjoyed morning tea. Everyone shared a pat on the back and congratulated one another before they ventured onto the lookout. For some, this was the biggest challenge of the morning – stepping out onto an overhanging rock-face looking over Halls Gap.

Feedback from the offsite adventure

"It was nice to be able to get away for a bit and re-centre myself."

"I enjoyed this camp. It allowed me to relax after a stressful term of Year 12 and working a lot."

"I would like to thank the crew that went on the Halls Gap camp. Molly* loved it and it was the longest she had been away from home in a long time. I cannot thank everyone enough for the care and compassion they had for her."
(Parent's feedback)

"It was a nice break from home."





"Thank you Cottage for everything you have done. The Mentor camps are amazing."

"I definitely enjoyed the camp … it was such a relaxing time – good for a switch off."



Unexpected, magical moments camping at Lake Elizabeth



There's something deeply invigorating about camping, especially in the wilderness where nature calls the shots. The Mentors explored Lake Elizabeth in the Otways – a hidden gem nestled in Victoria's lush forest. Known for its calm waters, abundant wildlife and scenic beauty, Lake Elizabeth was the perfect spot for our 4-day adventure. What we did not anticipate, however, was that our serene escape would turn into a stormy, wild adventure overnight.

We arrived at the campsite with the sun barely peeking through thick clouds. Overnight, the gentle breeze escalated into ominous gusts of wind. The first drops of rain came during breakfast, bringing with them a tangible chill in the air. It wasn't long before the skies opened up and a storm raged over the lake.

The howling wind whipped around the campsite, making the tent fabric snap like sails in a storm. The downpour was relentless, drenching everything in its path. Thunder rumbled through the valley. The group huddled under the shelter, listening to the pounding rain. Despite the chaos, there was something oddly calming about being caught in the middle of nature's fury. It reminded us of just how small we are compared to the raw power of the elements.

The storm had passed by in the blink of an eye, leaving the air crisp and the sky a brilliant blue. The campsite, however, looked like a battlefield. Tent ropes were slack and puddles dotted the ground. But the beauty of Lake Elizabeth, now washed clean by the rain, was more breathtaking than ever.

That evening, we took advantage of the calm weather by canoeing on the lake, which was an entirely different experience. The lake was tranquil, its surface like glass, reflecting the towering eucalypts and ferns that lined the banks. The water was so clear you could gaze into its depths, home to a variety of fish and plant life. As we paddled, mist rose from the lake, creating a dream-like atmosphere. The stillness was punctuated only by the soft splash of our paddles and the occasional call of a bird from the trees above.

As the evening got darker, the forest around Lake Elizabeth transformed once again. We'd heard rumours of glow worms hiding along the lake's edge, so we set out to see them. When we turned off our lights, the sight was mesmerising. Tiny blue-green pinpricks of light dotted the undergrowth, like stars scattered across the forest floor.

Glow worms are one of nature's quietest, yet most enchanting wonders. Their soft glow creates an atmosphere of mystery and magic, as if the forest is holding onto its own secrets. It felt like a reward, after the storm, to witness such a peaceful spectacle in the silence of the night.

The Mentors were given one last stroke of luck on this journey. As we paddled along the lake, we spotted ripples in the water. As we drew closer, we realised it was a platypus. These shy and elusive creatures are rarely seen, but Lake Elizabeth is one of the few places in Australia where they thrive.

We watched in awe as the little creature swam gracefully, diving beneath the water and resurfacing a few meters away. It was one of those rare moments in nature where time seems to stand still, and you're left simply appreciating the wonder of it all.

Camping at Lake Elizabeth during a storm was an experience we won't soon forget. While the storm was intense, it gave way to a series of magical moments that we couldn't have predicted. From the tranquil canoe rides to the surreal glow worms and the extraordinary sighting of a platypus, the adventure was a reminder that nature always has surprises waiting for those who are willing to embrace both its fury and its beauty.

Scholarships

Cottage by the Sea scholarships are funded by philanthropy and allow participants to pursue dreams that may have once felt out of reach. These scholarships are crucial to helping support a young person's dream by providing funding for approved training and equipment on our programs to explore new opportunities. These scholarships offer not just funding, but inspiration, hope and confidence for participants to reach for their goals, allowing them to flourish now and into the future.







Reaching their full potential in umpiring and beyond

Mentor participant Lucy*, a graduate from the REEF program, is a joy to have at Cottage and has greatly benefited from scholarship opportunities. During a school visit by Cottage Program Planner Dave, Lucy spoke of how the scholarship program helped with her football umpiring job on the weekends – she was even asked to umpire the Grand Final! Her manager commented that she had put in a lot of hard work and stood out with her new uniform and shoes. Lucy expressed how proud of herself she was for putting in the hard work and it paying off.

As part of her scholarship at Cottage, Lucy applied for a new iPhone to help her juggle work commitments at a fast-food restaurant and football umpiring, as well as improving her organisation and independence. "A big thank you for Lucy's phone! She was so excited, happy and thankful," shared her Foster Carer Nancy*. Lucy has been through a lot since her first REEF camp, and her ability to be confident and resilient through challenges in life has improved so much. Being in a Foster Care program has meant that Lucy has had to grow up a lot faster than other teenagers. Nancy has been a great support for Lucy, helping to provide stability at home. This, combined with her engagement on Cottage programs, has allowed the Mentor participant to grow into a wonderful young person with a very bright future. "Thank you for being in Lucy's life and supporting her and the other kids all of these years. They will have such beautiful memories of things they wouldn't have otherwise experienced," shared Nancy.

Nurturing a dream of lawn bowls

Mentor participant Luke* loves lawn bowls. He is a member of a local bowls club and has completed a national umpire course. To help him pursue his bowling passion further, Cottage has supported Luke with a scholarship to purchase some new bowls. At a local bowl club's Annual General Meeting, Luke spoke about his experiences at Cottage and how they have helped him achieve many goals.

Luke's speech:

The REEF program at Cottage by the Sea has helped me build my confidence to try new things and learn from experiences, and how to be a good friend and show consideration for others.

Cottage by the Sea has helped me with my bowling umpiring through an award for displaying the Cottage value of "community", which has allowed me to purchase my National Umpire Uniform from Bowls Australia.

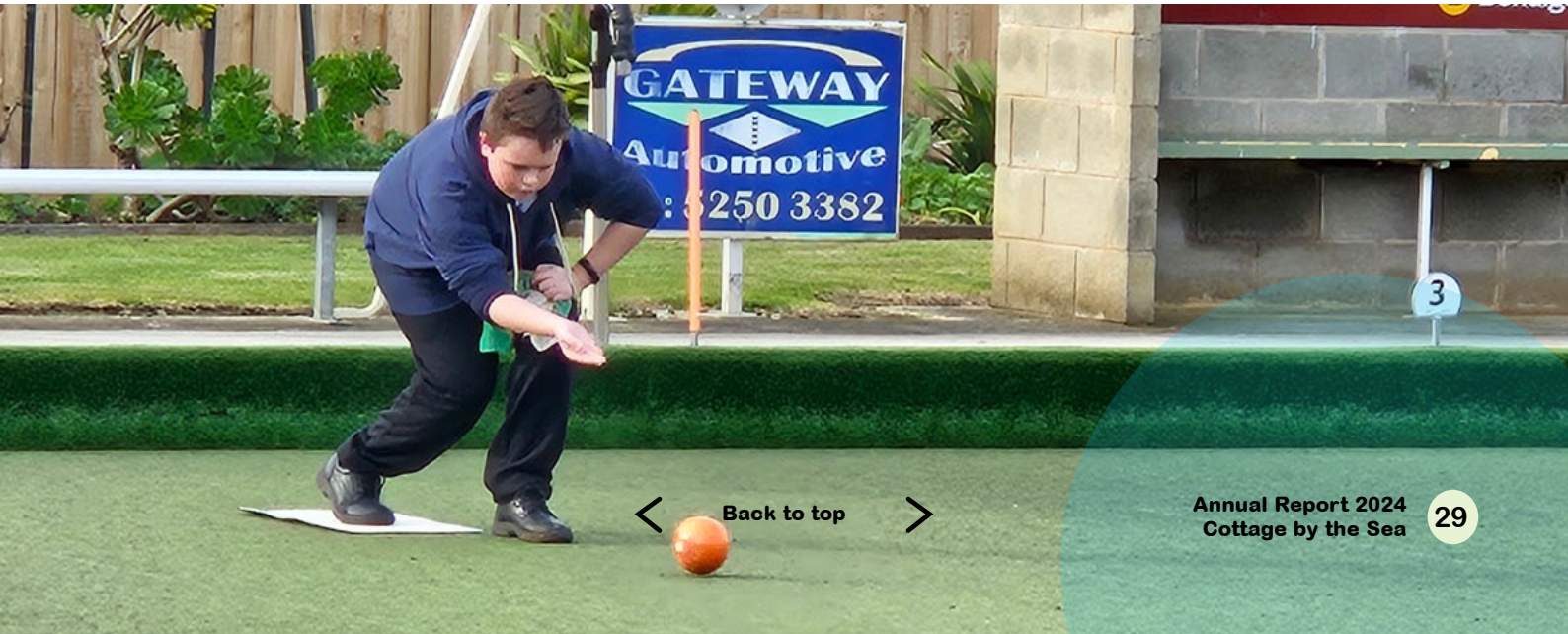
Mum and Dad bought me my own second-hand bowls a few years ago, but I have grown since then. Through the REEF program and its scholarship, Cottage by the Sea has helped me buy new bowls to use for many years to come. To show my thanks to Cottage, we have had the bowls custom made with the CBTS logo and lettering.

A few weeks after picking up his new bowls, they were put to good use. Luke won his first U/18 Club Championship! After coming runner-up 2 years ago, this year he was crowned the U/18 Club Champion. He is wrapped with the support from Cottage with the scholarship, and thanks everyone for their support.



Luke with his new bowls after winning the U/18 Club Championship.





Back to top

Alumni

Making the most of opportunities at Cottage

One of our Alumni participants, Billy*, has journeyed through 7 years at Cottage by the Sea on the REEF and Mentor programs. He was part of the 2017 REEF intake and has attended 30 camps over the years at Cottage, graduating from the Mentor program in 2023. In addition to participating in programs, Billy has volunteered at multiple Annual Fairs with his family and spoke at Cottage's Annual General Meeting in 2019. He also recently visited Cottage to drop off some donated goods – a full circle moment – helping to enhance the lives of visiting children to come.

In 2020, Billy received a scholarship that funded a new laptop to use while home-schooling during Covid-19 lockdowns. "Getting the laptop is one of the best things I have ever got," Billy shared in a letter to Cottage. Not only did the laptop support Billy's schooling, it also helped him pursue his passion for basketball. "I have been looking up all my favourite sports teams and players, looking at different results and stats. I'm hoping to do a basketball umpiring course when basketball goes back," he continued.

Billy has also won 3 Shine On Awards (previously called Shining Star Awards) during his time at Cottage – in 2018 (for learning), 2019 (for contribution) and 2021 (for community.) His 2018 award funded new basketball shoes which, when you learn more about Billy's background and personal circumstances, offered him so much more than a new pair of shoes. "Billy has dreams of playing higher level basketball and due to developmental delays and the tumours he has, anything to assist in his comfort and help his confidence is beneficial to fulfilling his dream," shared his mum Jane*.

"Billy is a well-mannered young man who gives everything a go despite his limitations due to health," shares Cottage Program Planner Dave. Billy has been diagnosed with a genetic disorder that has caused benign tumours to develop on his brain and leg. Despite this obstacle, Billy is a positive person with a very supportive family. According to Jane, Billy's commitment to Cottage programs has been from her son's caring nature. He still maintains friendships with other Cottage Alumni participants.



Basketball is one of Billy's passions. In 2023, he tried out for the Ivor Burge Victorian team to play in the National Championship, which caters for people with an intellectual disability. In 2023, he made it into the team as an emergency player. In 2024, he made it into the team and went on to win the National Championship! "It just shows how much perseverance he has and also love of the game," shares Dave.

"I have done some great things at the Cottage," reflected Billy. "The Cottage has done a lot for me with my education and everyday life."

The fruits of Cottage's labour, many years on

Kev* and his partner Cate* popped in to Cottage by the Sea all the way from Western Australia. Kev and his late older brother Graeme* stayed at Cottage roughly 60 years ago, when Kev was around 10 years old. Woven from the same cloth, these brothers share a tie with many other children who have experienced the inspiration, fun and opportunity of Cottage by the Sea.

Kev's strongest memory from Cottage was trying rhubarb for the first time. He remembers having rhubarb custard for dessert all those years ago. This memory lives on in Kev and Cate's garden at home, where they grow rhubarb.

While on holiday here in Queenscliff, Kev wanted to show his wife where he experienced some of his best memories – here at Cottage. As he admired the grounds overlooking the sea, he remembered fondly that all they did was play in this outdoor area.

Kev said to Cottage CEO Adam that he has had a successful life and, to say thank you, has decided to make an annual donation to Cottage. This symbiotic form of generosity will enable more children the chance to make treasured, lifelong memories at Cottage – just like Kev!



Respite

Our Respite program provides an opportunity for families to get away from their day-to-day life for a short and restorative seaside break. This FY, 57 participants – parents/ caregivers and children – had a much-needed getaway.

57
participants
FY 23/24

Feedback from Respite:

"Thanks [referring agency] for helping me through and topping it off with a fabulous house stay break. We enjoyed bike rides, walks and swims both days.☺"

"Thank you for the wonderful stay we had as a family. It was great being able to get away from work and the general pressure of daily life. Amy loved her welcome pack. She said, 'Thank you everyone.' Last of all, thank you for this opportunity for respite."

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to stay at Riptide – great memories created. Perfect location!"

"I spent 3 days with my children in this house and they are very happy. The house is wonderful in everything a child needs … thank you for everything."

In memory & celebration

Our 134-year history is built upon the hard work and dedication of many who have come before us. Cottage by the Sea honours the memories and gives special thanks to all our dedicated supporters who, during FY24, have passed away or we have received a donation in memory or in celebration of.

In memory of:

Beverley Shimmen

Lynette Joyce

Meg Chisholm

Gift in celebration of:

Adam Wake

Joyce Weinman

Phil & Ron Ward

Robyn & Alan Harper

Gift in memory of:

Anne Dawborn

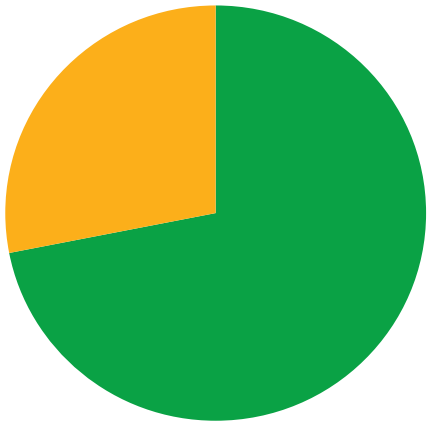
Len Jinette

Future Giving: gifts in Wills

In 2012, following the receipt of several bequests, the Board of Cottage by the Sea made a strategic decision to establish a Foundation. These generous gifts were carefully invested to “future proof” the ongoing work of Cottage. Interest and dividends from the Foundation are used to pay for Cottage’s overheads each year.

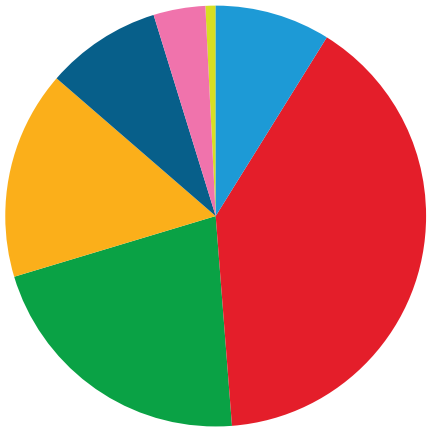
Community support is at the heart of our work. Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the many ways to support Cottage, without affecting your current income or bank balance. It allows you to leave a legacy of money, property, shares or goods beyond your lifetime, which will support generations of children to come.

Location of gifts in Wills pledged to CBTS



- Interstate
- Victoria

Age demographic of gifts in Wills pledged to CBTS



- Under 25
- Under 35
- Under 45
- Under 55
- Under 65
- Under 75
- Over 75



Free online Wills service for Cottage by the Sea supporters

Cottage by the Sea has partnered with Gathered Here, an end-of-life services website that hosts a free and easy step-by-step service to writing your Will via the QR code or online: http://wills.gatheredhere.com.au/c/cottage-by-the-sea

Already have a Will?

Cottage by the Sea has developed a Codicil style form, which will allow you to easily make changes, including leaving gifts, in your existing Will without incurring the expense of rewriting it.

We are always deeply grateful for any gifts left in Wills. They make a phenomenal difference to Cottage by the Sea, allowing us to protect our work for generations to come. For more information about gifts in Wills or a Codicil form, please contact Tony on 0409 535 863 or tony@cottagebythesea.com.au.

Tony Featherston
Future Giving, Cottage by the Sea

Looking ahead

Supporting more children

As more children and their families benefit through our programs, we are also experiencing a greater need for what we do. According to the Victorian Council of Social Services, more than 216,000 Victorian children live in significant economic disadvantage. We see this need every year during our intake for REEF and Mentor participants, and through the schools that we work with on the Take a Break program. The challenge remains for us to have the best staff to run programs and support the growth of Cottage, and to ensure that funding continues to meet the increased numbers.

Providing Cottage by the Sea staff with the knowledge, experience and training to best support children is one of our top priorities. This has resulted in 1:1 staff support for some participants, as well as the team undertaking specialised training and professional development. It has also meant additional work and dealings with Child Protective Services (CPS).

Children attending Cottage by the Sea will experience some of the best memories of their lives – our team is working tirelessly to ensure that more children have this opportunity.





Riptide Cottage

The redevelopment of Riptide Cottage, which is our secondary building onsite at Cottage, is underway. Riptide has served us well, being used for small groups and our family Respite program (as mentioned on page 31). The new Riptide will honour the past while creating an exciting future.

Funded through philanthropy not tied to programs, a redeveloped Riptide will enable us to support more children and their families. This has never been more important. Once complete, it will offer the opportunity to welcome additional families in our Respite program and up to 700 children a year.

Deakin University

From Ripples to Waves

As mentioned earlier in this report, Deakin University has recently published a second study on our children's charity – *The Impact of Cottage by the Sea: From Ripples to Waves*. This research explores the longer-term benefits of an experience at Cottage by the Sea through interviews with current and former program participants, going back as early as 1939.

The report will allow us to strengthen our sense of community, provide younger children with opportunities, expand our reach and secure more funding, and engage more with our past participants (Alumni). Ultimately, the research will allow us to develop and enhance our programs further so that we can continue to achieve our mission of offering inspiration, fun and opportunity to more children.

Additionally, Deakin University's support will help us add "the voice of Cottage supporters" to our growing bank of research articles.

Centre for Learning

In collaboration with Deakin University, Cottage by the Sea is planning to redevelop its onsite "activity hut" to transform it into a two-storey, state-of-the-art multipurpose facility called the Centre for Learning. The "hut" building is currently used for children's activities in wet weather and as a space where our volunteers pack donated items for the children. The hut has passed its useful life and is non-compliant under current standards.

The Centre for Learning will:

- Be located on the south-east corner of our property, overlooking Port Phillip Bay.
- Host activities for children, especially in wet weather.
- Operate in conjunction with Deakin University as a site for academic staff and PhD students to continue their evidence-based data and research into the transformative work we do with children in need, through multiple programs.
- Provide a space where our volunteers can work to pack donated items for children.
- Feature a fully-serviced upper level with meeting space capacity for up to 60 people; available pro bono to community groups.
- Provide storage areas on the lower levels.
- Be light-filled and thoughtfully designed to ensure a low carbon footprint.
- Be used by Social Enterprise Group to conduct business activities.
- Be consistent with existing facilities and complement the Master Plan for the site.



Who we are: Board of Directors

Cottage by the Sea's Board of Directors kindly volunteer their time, skills and knowledge to help steer the governance of the organisation.

Scott Chapman AM – Chair

Scott has recently stepped down as the Chief Executive of the Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria after 14 years. He has had a lifelong involvement in the outdoors and camps during his exciting professional and voluntary career. Scott and his wife Jacqui's favourite part of the world is Point Lonsdale.

Jerome Walsh – Deputy Chair

Jerome is a Chartered Accountant and Fellow of FINSIA with more than 20 years of experience in the finance industry. He and his wife Alison enjoy the company of their adult children.

Don Rankin – Treasurer

Don was a Founding Partner of Pitcher Partners and National Chairperson of the Pitcher Partners Association for 11 years. With over 30 years' experience advising private and family businesses, he specialises in assisting clients in the management, growth and evolution of their business. Don, his wife Megan and family have holidayed in Point Lonsdale for almost 40 years.

Natalie Hickey

Natalie is a barrister at the Victorian Bar, specialising in commercial law and intellectual property. She is an alumni of Point Lonsdale Primary School.

Liam Petrie-Allbutt

Liam is an award-winning designer who consults on large-scale projects providing design and engineering solutions. Liam was raised in Point Lonsdale and is from a 6th generation Queenscliffe/Point Lonsdale family. He was the Borough of Queenscliffe's Young Citizen of the Year in 2016 and Citizen of the Year in 2022.

Michael Randall OAM

Michael has been in the securities industry for more than 30 years and is a Founding Director of the Financial Services Foundation. Along with his wife, Nikki Coghill, and two daughters, Michael enjoys spending time at his holiday home in Point Lonsdale.

Dr Priscilla Seyfort

Priscilla's entire professional and academic life has focused on the wellbeing and interests of children. She has a particular interest in supporting disadvantaged children, and has a PhD from the University of Melbourne. Priscilla holidayed at Queenscliff as a child, and she and her husband, Anthony, own a house in Queenscliff where they enjoy holidays with their four children.

Dennis Smart

Dennis has a career spanning more than 30 years as a Managing Director of the Woods Auto Group. Now retired, Dennis and his wife Sue spend time with their five grandchildren, travelling and enjoying their Queenscliff beach house and the community.

Board meetings held

Board member	Scott Chapman AM	Jerome Walsh	Don Rankin	Natalie Hickey	Liam Petrie-Allbutt	Michael Randall AM	Dr Priscillia Seyfort	Dennis Smart
Meetings attended	6/6	5/6	6/6	4/6	4/6	3/6	4/6	5/6

Cottage by the Sea also has a range of Sub Committees – Audit & Risk, Investment, Marketing & Fundraising, People & Culture and Program – that meet on a regular basis. Sub Committee membership includes Board members, Cottage by the Sea staff and independent advisers.



Who we are:

Cottage by the Sea staff

The Cottage team is made up of full time, part time and casual staff members.

Programs Team

A Programs Manager, Program Planners, Camp Leaders and Chef make up Cottage by the Sea's Programs Team. The primary focus of our Programs Team is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young adults attending our programs.

Our Programs Team come to Cottage with a variety of relevant experience, including teaching, outdoor education, community welfare and youth work. In addition to holding a Current Working with Children Check and Police Check, staff are qualified in First Aid, Safe Food Handling, Mental Health First Aid and Community Surf Life Saving. Over the past 12 months, our Programs Team members have completed their snorkelling qualifications for new water safety requirements, Youth Mental Health First Aid and Conflict Resolution Training. In addition, the majority of the team has or will undergo training in Cultural Awareness, Trauma-Informed Therapy and Remote Area First Aid.

This experience and professional development enables Cottage by the Sea staff to deliver a wide range of camp and outdoor activities that help build confidence, respect and resilience in children and young people.

Professional support

Cottage staff members who don't work in the Programs Team are in professional support. The work of this team encompasses the day-to-day operations at Cottage, which involves administration, community relations, gifts in Wills, grant writing, facilities (including health and safety), finance, the kitchen, marketing and communications, reception and strategic partnerships.

Who we are: Melbourne Community Relations

Our Melbourne Community Relations representative Donna appreciates everyone who has invited her to their events, meetings and homes, allowing her to share what Cottage by the Sea is accomplishing and how they are supporting many children. When Donna speaks with new community groups about Cottage by the Sea, their compassionate hearts lead them to rally together, offering ongoing support through donations for the children and our needs at Cottage.

Highlights of the past 12 months

- We cheered the **Hadfield Community Activities Group** as winners of the 2024 Lions Club Volunteer Award. For over 35 years, they've met weekly, crafting cherished gifts for our children – knitted items, toys, puzzles, toiletries and more – while fundraising generously with a weekly stall. With 22 dedicated members since 2009, their gatherings are filled with laughter and warmth. We're grateful for their invaluable contributions and congratulate them on this well-deserved award!



Hadfield ladies at awards day

- From the above award ceremony, the audience – especially the **Glenroy Lions Club** – showed increased interest. They donated their Australia Day event profits to Cottage. Additionally, they joined together with the **Broadmeadows & District Garden Club** and **Hadfield Community Activities Group** and invited Donna to their Cancer Council Biggest Afternoon Tea in June.



Women of the University Fund – knit a square

- **Women of the University Fund** have been generous donors since 1992, supporting Cottage by the Sea with goods and funds year-round. They are seeking more knitters to contribute squares for blankets. **APCO Service Stations** have generously provided 3 drop-off points in North Geelong, Grovedale and Epping for knitters to donate their squares.

Special mentions

- We bid farewell with heartfelt gratitude to the generous **Probus Club of Blackburn South Ladies**. They have been steadfast supporters of Cottage for many years, but as their club comes to a close, they graciously donated from their remaining funds to Cottage. We deeply appreciate their dedication and extend our best wishes to them for the future.

- The **Kingston Heath Probus Club** has also closed its doors. Donna presented to them for the first time in February 2024, and despite being new to Cottage, they showed great enthusiasm by generously donating their remaining funds to support our cause.

Growth

- Following the twice-featured article about Donna's speaking engagements and tours in *The Victorian Probian* Aug/Sept 2023 issue, **Probus Clubs** responded eagerly, and Donna reached out to others we had not previously connected with. As a result, Donna attended many new Probus Club meetings around Melbourne as a guest speaker to spread awareness about Cottage. Thank you for your enthusiasm.

- Thank you to the new community groups from **Lions Clubs, View Clubs, CWA Grops** and **Rotary Clubs** for joining us and showing their support in Melbourne. We also extend our gratitude to private Melbourne community groups who have all become dedicated supporters of Cottage over the past year.



Chirnside Park Senior Citizens



KOGO team

- We are grateful for our new community partnership with the generous **Knit One Give One (KOGO)** team.



Silvie from Good Vibe Society

"It's been a pleasure getting to know our loyal supporters and making new acquaintances who are enthusiastic about our team's incredible work for children at Cottage by the Sea."
– Melbourne Community Relations representative Donna

Donna Campisi
Melbourne Community Relations



Volunteers

Serving others forms the backbone of Cottage by the Sea as an organisation, which includes our volunteering program.

Cottage by the Sea volunteers provide up to 160 hours of support each week with day-to-day operations, from administration to archiving, donations, the kitchen, morning and afternoon teas, gardening and maintenance.

While our volunteers don't work directly with the children, their support is integral to ensuring that children make the most of their time at Cottage.

On Tuesdays, for example, you'll see Kos cleaning the windows so that children can enjoy the beautiful view out to sea while they eat their meals. Robyn is busy in the kitchen baking Anzac biscuits so that participants taste the delight of a homemade snack. You'll also find Sandra at reception, ensuring that administration needs are met.

"Without our volunteers, we could not offer the quality of what we do – it would simply be impossible," shares CEO Adam Wake.

This year, we have welcomed the following new volunteers:

- Brenda Benge
- Danette Morrison
- Trish Martin
- Wayne Chrimes

Each year, we acknowledge the generosity and support of our volunteers by celebrating Volunteer's Week in May and enjoying a Christmas lunch in December. These annual events provide an opportunity for us to thank our volunteers for their dedication and service.

Sharing knowledge, wisdom and joy through volunteering may be one of the most rewarding things you do in life. "It's the best thing I've ever done, actually," reflects Cottage volunteer Julie.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Cottage by the Sea, please call us on 03 5258 1663 or email info@cottagebythesea.com.au.

Our volunteers are also made up of our Board members who generously donate their time and expertise, as well as our Branch members, Ambassadors and Patron who support Cottage by spreading awareness and helping to raise funds.

Life Members

Beverley Davies
Eril Deighton
Eva Milne
Gillian Gough
Gillian Gubbins
Gloria Joan Longden
Gwen Pitfield
Heather Moore
Jean Diment
Jean Williamson
Jill Bell
Michael Randall OAM
Prue Forster
Robyn Harper
Roma Balaam
Ros Leigh OAM
Sue Armstrong
Sue Reilly
Sue Richardson
W.G. Philip

Ambassadors

Alan Harrison
Andrew Cannon
Andrew Simms
Annie James
Curtis Stone
David McDonald
Eric Black
Glynn Harvey
Ian Cover OAM
Jade Augustine
Jan Wilkinson
Joel Selwood
Louisa White
Mal Campbell
Patrick Dangerfield
Phil de Fégely
Rod Laver MBE
Warren Davies

Branches



Bellarine

President: Penny Hawker

Secretary: Julie Duffield

Treasurer: Jo Baker



Queenscliff

President: Robyn Eadie

Secretary: Cynthia Eunson

Treasurer: Janet Finlay



Highton Ceres Acorn

President: Rosalind Leigh OAM

Secretary: Lesley Robinson

Treasurer: Coral Laing

Branch Liaison Officer: Julie Werrett



Geelong

President: Rhonda Rotherham

Secretary / Treasurer: Robyn Harper

Major donors

$300,000 and over

Shine On Foundation

$150,000 or over

Anonymous Donations
Campbell Edwards Trust

$100,000 or over

Cottage Branches
Rado Family Foundation
Peter Latham
The Anthony Costa Foundation
The Sir Wilfred & CH (Roger) Brookes Charitable Foundation

$50,000 or over

Dennis & Sue Smart
Estate of the late Judith Blackett-Smith
Handbury Foundation
Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
The G W Vowell Foundation Ltd
The Rippers Club

$40,000 or over

Bulls & Bears Golf Group
Fundraisers (Cottage by the Sea)
Michael Vickers-Willis
The Marian & E H Flack Trust

$20,000 or over

Ansvar Insurance Ltd
Australian Communities Foundation
Ducas-Paul Foundation
Estate of MP Robinson
Geof & Alison Nash
Liz Hooley
MFS International Australia Pty Limited
Ralph & Barbara Ward-Ambler
Randall Foundation Pty Ltd
Steadfast Foundation
The Eric & Elizabeth Gross Foundation P/L
The Grangers Foundation
The Ricketson Foundation
The Stuart Leslie Foundation
Walter Campbell Memorial Trust

$15,000 or over

Estate of Margaret Anne Abley
Geelong Community Foundation
Marion Isabel Thomas Estate
Pierce Armstrong Foundation
Social Enterprise Group Ltd
The Eirene Lucas Foundation
Women of the University Fund

$10,000 or over

Apco Foundation Pty Ltd
Dimmick Foundation
Ian Leckie
Janet Torney
John & Elaine King Foundation
Millbrook Asset Management
Millbrook Funds Pty Ltd
Rosemary Norman Foundation
Smartgroup Foundation
The Dawn Wade Foundation
The Lyone Foundation
The William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund
WSSK Family Trust

$5,000 or over

Ainslie Cummins
Andrew M Cannon AM
Applewood Retirement Village Craft Group
Barwon Heads Golf Club Inc
Bruce Edmunds & Associates P/L
Farm Foods
F.E.D Buckley Trust
Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited
Geelong United Basketball
Jean Williamson
Keith Roderick
Lago Corporation Pty Ltd
Mona Georgina Harris Perpetual Charitable Trust
Probus Clubs of Victoria
SPS-Corporation
The Gray Family Charitable Trust,
The Isabel & John Gilbertson Charitable Trust
Toy Run Geelong

$4,000 or over

Allan Wilkins
Andrew Welsh
Count Charitable Foundation
Dougal Ramsey
Paul Upham
Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club
Rotary Club of Essendon North Inc.
Wakanyanas

$3,000 or over

Illabrook P/L A/C J.Roach, R.Roach & Sally Gough
Drummond Street Services
Geelong Bowls Region
Helen Evans
Jan Short - Reiki Rose
Peter Steele
The Ray & Joyce Uebergang Foundation
Valerie Osbourne

$2,000 or over

All Saints Anglican Church Opportunity Shop
Andrew Balaam
Anne Read
Beverley Shimmen
Catherine Gray
Coralie Erwin
Eril Deighton
Hutchinson Builders
Ian Cover OAM
Ivanhoe Freemasons Lodge
Jim & Judy Allen
Johnson Family Foundation
Mt Waverley Uniting Church
Peter Carah
Phil de Fégely
Public Record Office Victoria
Randall & Lynda Lewis
Rotary Club of Whittlesea
Sally Eastoe
Scott Lyons
Sir Charles Hotham Hotel
Stella Haigh
Wesley Uniting Church
William & Anne Huffam

We have recently updated our CRM – please contact us if any details need to be updated. Thank you for understanding.

$1,000 or over

Adam Koch
Ameropa Australia
Amicus Ivanhoe Freemasons Lodge
Andrew and Pam Crockett
Ann Perrott
Ann Summers
Australian Government Department of Social Services
B'nai B'rith Hatikvah
Barry Gilbert
Bob White Electrix
Cameron McLean
Catherine Vickers-Willis
Chirnside Park Senior Citizens
Combined Probus Club of Geelong East
CWA Boroondara Branch
Debra Wilson-Hipworth
Dr Christina Cheers
Dr Priscilla Seyfort
Elizabeth Bush
Elizabeth Koch-Taylor
Gabrielle Mann
Gayle Narita
Geelong Harley Owners Group Inc.
Gill Hunt
Hadfield Community Activities Group
Henry Berry Estate and Trust
Ian & Margaret Hunter
Ian Henry
Impact Fertilisers
International Trade Management
Jacqueline Birrell
Jane Normoyle
Jennifer Murchie
Jill Maddox & Ian Evans
Kaye Nixon
Lavinia Cuming
Macquarie Bank
Mary Davidson
Mary Patricia McKenzie
Megan Burzacott
Michael Randall
Mt Duneed Lifestyle Village
Noel Boniface
Ocean Grove Uniting Church Outreach Centre & Opportunity Shop "The Dove"
Page, Tim, Carly, Cole, Blu and Cairo WALTER
Patricia Lowe
Patricia White
Peace of Mind Foundation
Pico Cafe
PIXO
Prestige Jayco
Probus Club of Blackburn South Ladies
Probus Club of Hamlyn Heights Combined
Rosemary Wilkinson
Routleys Bakery
Sasha McGregor
Times News Group
Trevor Edwards
Vauna Jaensch
Warrenheip Primary School

$500 or over

Adrian Fitzpatrick
Alison Moore
Andrew Gati
Barry Medew Building Supplies Pty Ltd
Bill Pretty
Bob Bellhouse
Bob Neill
Cameron & Leanne McBurnie
Carmen Carew
Catrin Taylor
Clifton Springs Garden Club
Craig Partington
Daniel Wake
David McGuinnes
Dawn McDonald
Deirdre Barnett
Dianne Cheevers
Don & Judy Cameron
Dr Peter Gates OAM
Elaine Forde AM
Gerard White
Gina Muscat
Glen & Sandra Hickey
Hadfield Ladies Gymnasium
Hardware Foundation
Jane Caldwell
Janet Koch
JBWere Limited
Jenny Blencowe
Jerome Walsh
Jill & Peter Heinz
Joan Hammonds
John Boundy
Joy Raftopoulos
JS & L Anderson
Kate Robinson
Kathleen Coutin
Kim Belsar
Legrand Australia Pty Ltd
Leopold News & Lotto
Littlewood Charities Club Inc.
Lorraine Peck
Louise M Gourlay
Margaret Cash
Margaret Watson
Mark & Jennifer Gingell
Moira Kairys
Moonah Home
Nevett Ford Lawyers
Nick Mitchell
Nigel Wake
Pamela Thomas
Patricia Lever
PayPal Giving Fund Australia
Peninsula Parklands Craft Group
Port Phillip Sea Pilots Pty Ltd
Pt Lonsdale Bowls Club Inc
River of Life Apostolic Church
Robert Vickers-Willis
Robyn Harper
Rock-E-Road Pty Ltd
Sally Steele
Simon Holloway
Sitetech Solutions Pty Ltd
Spiros Hrambanis
Spotlight Foundation
Sue Reilly
Syndal Thursday Friends
Thomas Cameron
Tim Dennis
Tim Straford
Torquay Golf Club Ladies
Wendy Michell
Women's Friendship Group

In-kind donations

Here are some of the supporters who have assisted, volunteered and donated their time, skills and energy to Cottage by the Sea over the past year.

Acacia Trefoil Guild
Adriana Dye
Adrienne Rowland
Altona Day VIEW Club
Anonymous
Ann Magee
Anna Numberson
Anne Martin
APCO Foundation Pty Ltd
Applewood Retirement Village Craft Group
Barbara & Chris Tippett
Barbara Foenander
Barbara Mackey
Barbara Pike
Barrabool/Modewarre Uniting Church
Barton van Laar
Barwon Heads & Bellarine Knitters Group
Belgrave CWA
Bellarine Country Butchers
Bellarine Peninsula Church of Christ Craft Group
Belmont Uniting Church
Ben Blair
Bennett's Intersport
Bernice O'Connor
Beth
Beth Hamilton
Beth Jones
Betty Down
Bev Archdall
Bev Crosthwaite
Bev Shimmen
Beverley Coomber
Big Balloon
BlueCross Highgrove
Boronia Uniting Church Craft Group
Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary
Bree Turnbull
Brighton Central Combined Probus Club Inc
Bronwyn L Currie
Bunnings Leopold
Burke Britton Financial Partners
Busy Bees
Carmel Turner
Carol & Lou Scholten
Carol McRandall
Carole Zarb
Cate Edwards
Catherine Hoich
Chef Fresh
Chirnside Park Senior Citizens
Chris & Pam Wintershoven
Christina Ward
Christine Parrott
City of Monash
Claire Dalton
Cliff & Irene Shelton
Collingwood Children's Farm
Cottage Branch Geelong
CWA Boroondara Branch
CWA Drysdale Branch
CWA Glen Waverley
Cynthia Eunson
Daphne Briscoe
Darren Thomas
Dawn & Brian Smith
Dawn Macdonald
Deakin University
Deb Forth
Deb Townsend
Delamates
Denise Doolan
Denise McTighe
Denise Morris
Denise Tyler
Diana Lambley
Dianne & Peter Kemp
Dianne Perrett
Diane Veditch
Dina Cantamaglia
Doris Bremner
Dorothy & Ian Knight
Dorothy Wendleman
Drysdale Community Health Centre
Drysdale R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary
Drysdale Uniting Church
ecoDynamics
Edrington Park Retirment Village Ladies Group
Ego Pharmaceuticals
Elaine Freer
Mrs Elaine Hatty
eManaged
Essendon Central Probus Club
Essendon/Buckley Park Ladies Probus Group
Essendon North Rotary Club
Essie Chapman
Fab Friends
Fagg's Mitre 10
Fay Meenks
Faye O'Brien
Felicity Lee
Geelong Community Foundation
Geelong Flower Farm
Geelong Food Relief
Geelong Grove Retirement Village - Craft Group
Geelong United Basketball
George Kalpakis
Gitta Opassi
Gladys Wilson
Glenda Pitcher
Glenroy Ladies Probus Club Inc.
Glynn Harvey Fruit & Veg Wholesalers
Good Vibe Society Charity Group
Gwenda Antcliffe
Hadfield Community Activities Group
Hadfield Ladies Gymnasium
Hastings Combined Probus Club
Heather Clarke
Heather Knight
Heather Moore
Helen Hannan
Helen Jurevic
Helen Ure
Helen Van Beek
Holy Trinity Anglican Ladies Guild
Hoppers Club Ltd Social Travel Club
Hub Hikers
Ian Loader
Ikebana International - Melbourne Chapter 29
Inner Wheel Club of Geelong Inc.
Irene McAdam
Jackie Massouris
Jazwares
Jeanette Shaw
Jeanette Wallace
Jennifer Hearsum
Jennifer Mizrahi
Jenny Furletti
Jill Brown
Jill Jackson
Jo Hassett
Joan Courtney
Joan Orelli
Joan Owen
Joan Yates
Jodie Walters
Josie Pisana
Joyce Gray
Judy Thompson
Julie Davey
Julie Erwin
Julie Keeghan
June McLaughlin
K rock
Kaisercraft
Karen Joyce
Karen McGowan

We have recently updated our CRM – please contact us if any details need to be updated. Thank you for understanding.

Kate Austin
Kaye Davidson
Keilor View Club
Kerry Wicke
Kim Smith
Knit Club
Knit One Give One (KOGO)
Knit4Charities Inc
Knox Combined Probus Club
L Prendergast
Ladies' Probus Club of Hoppers Crossing
Laila Schenk
Leanne Conway
Len & Audrey Milligan
Leopold Ladies Midweek Tennis Club
Libby Allen
Libby Posadas
Lilydale Ladies Probus Group
Lions Club of Leopold
Liz Marvelley
Lois Harding
Loose-ends Craft Group for Women
Loris Harris
Lorna Buckmaster
Lorna Church
Lorraine Collison
Lorraine Jackman
Lorraine Perry
Lucy & Johanson Buysen
Lyn Hill
Lyn Kemp
Lyn Kennedy
Lyn O'Brien
Lyne Holmes
Maggy Morris
Margaret
Margaret & Malcolm Campbell
Margaret Ash
Margaret Jones
Margaret Kehoe
Margaret Kerr
Margaret Safstrom
Margaret Schneebeli
Margaret Stewart
Margot Mason
Maria Luxton
Marie Molloy
Marilyn Fahey
Marine Discovery Centre
Marion Begg
Marjorie White
Marlene Lamont
Maureen Firth
Maureen Koch
Meg Hayden
Merle Ziguras
Mernda Retirement Village
Merri Winter
Miriam Gray
Mission & Outreach Committee
Monique Holmes-Richardson (M&R Distributors)
Mooroolbark CWA Vic
Morgan Mitchell
Mr John & Mrs Elaine Hatty
Mr Roger & Mrs Sue Colvin
Mt Waverly Uniting Church
Naomi Chittock
Ocean Grove Nightlights Branch of CWA.
Ocean Grove on Barwon Ladies Probus Club
Ocean Grove Uniting Church Fellowship
Pam Davis
Pam Timmins
Patricia Engels
Patti Stewart
Patty Angles
Paul Taylor
Pauline Bradley
Phyllis Hoffman
Pinchapoo
Pinewood Combined Probus Club
Pitcher Partners
Plasmould Business Enterprises
Point Lonsdale Newsagency
Port Phillip Sea Pilots
Portarlington Guardian Pharmacy
Probus Club of Bacchus Marsh
Probus Club of Belmont Central Combined
Probus Club of Blackburn South Ladies
Probus Club of Drysdale Ladies
Probus Club of Fawkner/ Merlynston
Probus Club of Hamlyn Heights Combined
Probus Club of Keilor East
Probus Club of Queenscliffe Combined
Probus Club of Rosanna Ladies
Probus Club of Torquay Ladies Inc.
Probus Club of Waurn Ponds Combined
Probus Club of Woodlands Ladies Inc.
Rado Family Foundation
Rennus Crossley
Rhonda Knight
Rhonda Symon
Richard Briggs
River of Life Apostolic Church
Robyn Harper
Robyn Holt
Robyn Maggs
Roger and Sue Colvin
Rohan Bennett
Roma Julian
Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria
Safari 4x4 Engineering Pty. Ltd.
Salford Park Community Village Social Club
Sally Hamilton
Sally Wilkinson
Sandy Ziebowski
Scott Meddings
Sea All Dolphin Swims & SOEL
Seaholme Probus Club
Searoad Ferries
Sew What So Good
Sharon Murray
Sheila Madden
Shirley Grace
Social Inclusion
Southern Ocean Environmental Link
Spectrum Group
Sports Courts Victoria
St Paul's Lutheran Church Ladies Fellowship
St Peters Anglican Church Craft Group
Star of the Sea Retirement Village Craft Group
Sue Robertson
Sue Thompson
Sue Wood
Suma Park
Susan Haey
Swimgirls, Ocean Grove
Sylvie Berchick
TAC
Talent Share Group
Tenderprint
The Book Grocer
The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.
The Gordon
The Ladies Probus Club of Sunbury Inc
The Rippers
The Royals
Thea Stephenson
Times News Group
Toy Run Geelong
Trish Gillard
Trish Hockley
Ursula Cross
Vail Resorts
Van Loon's Nursery
Volunteering Geelong
Wakanyanas
Wandarrah Arts & Crafts
Wantirna Village
Waverley Auxiliary the Royal Children's Hospital
Waverley Day View Club
Wellness Group, Lifestyle Village
Wendy Cooke
Wesley Uniting Church
Westgate Diners Group
Whittlesea Happy Yarners Craft Group
Windsor Park Retirement Village
Women of the University Fund
Women's Friendship Group
Woodcraft Manningham
Wyndham Vale Ladies Friendship Group
Xtreme Technology
Yvonne Miller
Z Habersberger
Zorica Platts

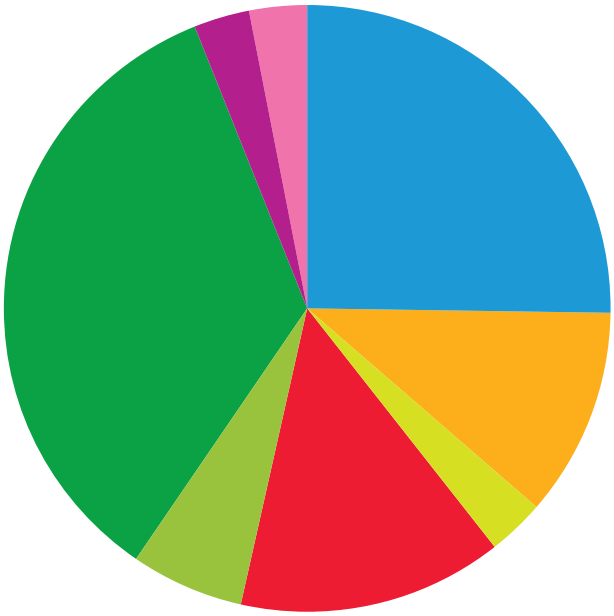
Back to top

Financials

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of Cottage by the Sea over the past year. Cottage had a busy year and achieved most of its strategic ambitions.

We continue to be challenged by increasing costs and have seen operating costs go from $3m to $3.4m over the year due to general cost pressures and the costs of funding additional children.

As noted in the addendum accompanying the Financial Report, Cottage operations ran at a shortfall of $309,000. Strong returns from our Foundation more than offset this shortfall, but it does indicate the continuing challenge as we grow our intake of children: the ongoing need for significant funding support.

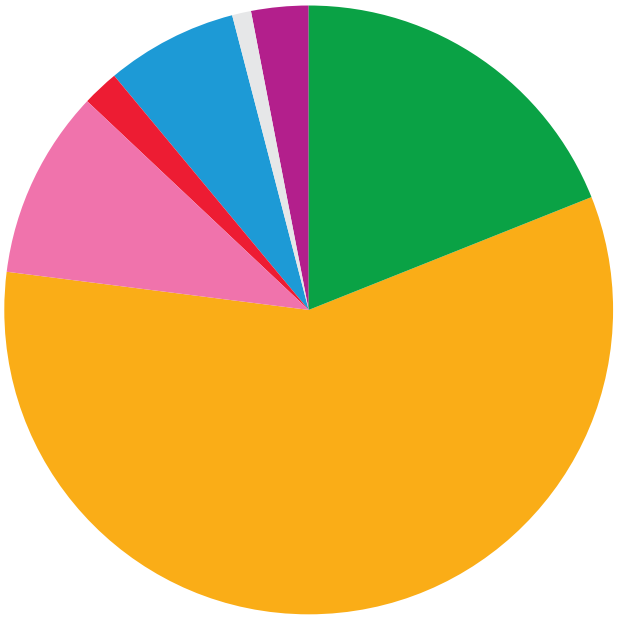


Sources of revenue

- 34% Trusts and foundations
- 25% CBTS Foundation dividends & interest
- 14% Individual
- 11% Fundraising & events
- 6% Cottage Branches & community groups
- 3% Cottage generated income, hire & sales
- 3% Bequests
- 3% Corporate

Allocation of funds

- 58% Operating & program expenses
- 19% Administration & fundraising
- 10% Foundation investment
- 7% Future site development
- 3% Capital purchases
- 2% Program sub fund
- 1% Future children's services & programs



Cottage by the Sea
QUEENSCLIFF

Thank you for your support in 2024

Thanks to all of Cottage by the Sea's community for the support this past financial year. Together, we can continue to achieve our mission of providing inspiration, fun and opportunity to more children, and increase our impact over the next year.



Give a child a break

Cottage by the Sea

QUEENSCLIFF

www.cottagebythesea.com.au

ABN: 21 987 748 593

29 Flinders Street
Queenscliff, Vic. 3225

+61 3 5258 1663
info@cottagebythesea.com.au

The Australian Tax Office endorses Cottage by the Sea for charity tax concessions, including donations $2 and over, which are tax deductible. Cottage by the Sea is entered in the public register maintained by the Australian Business Register at www.abr.business.gov.au.