

STRENGTH AND SPIRIT

Annual Report 2021





Rockclimbing teamwork



Hi, wonderful people at MYST,

When I was in high school I attended several events that you hosted, including hangouts and a trip to Luna Park. I just wanted to say thank you so much for those opportunities. Your staff's support and enthusiasm at a time when I was emotionally vulnerable, and hardly even realised it, gave me strength. The activities gave me opportunities to try something new and a break from my routine. I valued this hugely, and still do. Thank you so much for the time, dedication and care you put into your work.

I'm now studying social work and community services, and my goal is to work in a community organisation like MYST. Please do keep up your wonderful work but also take care of yourselves in this weird and crazy time.

Thank you so much.

– Adam, former MYST client

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

MYST acknowledges and offers respect to the Gundungurra and Dharug peoples who are the traditional custodians of the Country on which we work. Their lands were never ceded and we acknowledge the deep, enduring and continuing connection of these custodians with their Country.



Learning the ropes – Outdoor Explore program

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Cover image: Building a fire at Outdoor Explore

SUPPORT AT ALL STAGES

“ The key to supporting young people is to support the health and wellbeing of our team and the Board has taken some practical steps to strengthen the organisation, increase its resources, and plan for the future.



BMX fun at Outdoor Explore



JOY CUSACK
BOARD CHAIR, MEMBER
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Young people are at the centre of all that MYST does, and during the turbulence of the past year we have supported young people through the many challenges they have faced.

When you're dealing with coalface situations you've got to be understanding and ready to respond. During the 2020 lockdown our team used diverse skills and innovative approaches to ensure continuous remote support to clients. When a second lockdown was enforced this year we realised we were going to be in for a rough ride in terms of its impact on young people. Having learned through our experiences in 2020, our team was able to quickly implement our remote support to help young people for the duration. We're very proud of MYST's early intervention approach, which means we can connect with young people and help them before they reach a crisis. During the early part of 2021 alone, our team helped avert the suicide of many young people by supporting them to gain new coping skills and resilience.

I just think we've got an amazing team of people who deliver MYST's programs and services. This is my first year as Chair, and I would like to thank Andrew Francis for his commitment and passion as Chair from November 2016 to October 2020. Andrew, together with treasurer Desmond Chin, provided valuable support and direction for MYST until their retirement in June 2021. I would also like to thank our frontline team, whose expertise, commitment and heart are the foundation of MYST's services.

The key to supporting young people is to support the health and wellbeing of our team and the Board has taken some practical steps to strengthen the organisation, increase its resources, and plan for the future. Late in 2020 the Board and the team leaders began the journey of discussing ideas and developing a strategic plan for growth and sustainability, ably facilitated by MYST Chair, Andrew Francis and Director Ruth Goldsmith. Given the scope of what MYST can achieve with sufficient resources, fundraising was deemed vital to supporting the strategic plan and helping our team continue to deliver great outcomes for young people and their communities. MYST also recruited several additional Board members whose skills, connections and enthusiasm have already enhanced the team. These new Board members appreciate that they have a great opportunity to be part of an innovative, effective organisation and a collaborative team encompassing all staff. To help support our team, MYST is also reaching out to the community by encouraging people to come and volunteer. There are myriad ways people can help the organisation and volunteers can help take care of many tasks that free our team to focus on providing programs and services.

My hopes for the coming year are that MYST will build greater awareness across the broader community, that we continue to create aspirational spaces for young people that they love to come to and where they feel good, and that through our early intervention programs we are able to keep reaching young people before their difficulties escalate so they can go on to flourish in their lives.

NAVIGATING TESTING TIMES

“ The past year has been very challenging, with the back-to-back community traumas of bushfires, floods, and a worldwide pandemic. These events have had significant impacts on the mental health of the young people we serve, and on our team.



Skate competition – 2021 Youth Week event



KIM SCANLON
MANAGER

The past year has been very challenging, with the back-to-back community traumas of bushfires, floods, and a worldwide pandemic. These events have had significant impacts on the mental health of the young people we serve, and on our team. MYST's focus has been on managing the balance between supporting our clients with their increased complex mental health needs, and supporting our team to remain effective and mentally healthy themselves.

Our team, as always, performed incredibly well when faced with the challenges of the past year. During lockdowns MYST adapted to offer different kinds of support, including releasing a calendar each fortnight with online events and games, and cooking and delivering food to young people all across the Blue Mountains. Although young people's engagement with our services declined during periods of lockdown, when lockdowns ended we saw a huge increase in engagement. During these busy times we've seen our team really step up to create safe and supportive environments in which our clients have been able to express and process their trauma.

This year we streamlined some of our processes, including simplifying referral pathways to improve access to our services. We also redesigned the Outdoor Explore management role to make better use of our team members' skills and balance their workload for greater sustainability. We reviewed and updated all our policies, procedures and risk assessments to ensure we're always following best practice in providing safety for young people.

Advocacy has also been a focus, as we recognise the increase in complex mental health issues our clients present, and the markedly high incidence of suicidal ideation and suicide plans and attempts. We collected data around these increases and shared this with our federal and state MPs and prepared a submission to the Federal Select Committee on Suicide and Mental Health. Our submission included recommendations to increase supports in the Blue Mountains LGA, to make mental health wards more youth-friendly, to create safe hubs in schools to support students' wellbeing, to provide training in crisis support to staff in all community organisations, and to conduct research into the effects of back-to-back community trauma on the mental health of young people.

MYST is a strong, resilient and connected organisation with a team that communicates well and works collaboratively. Our strength lies in being a home-grown, grassroots organisation that has been working in the community since 1992. By offering support to young people as often as they need it, and for as long as they need it, MYST continues to make a significant difference in the lives of young people in our community.

OUR IMPACT

“ MYST has helped me to identify my future options, including finishing my degree, pursuing an honours degree (which has been offered to me), or engaging in a graduate program within the banking and finance or NFP sectors.

– Former MYST client



Original artwork – MYST client, aged 17

MYST PROVIDES HIGHLY EFFECTIVE HELP AND SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

300+

hours of face-to-face counselling
and case work provided

1300+

hours of outreach at schools,
court and in the community by
youth workers

117

individual young people provided
with one to one counselling

400

hours spent by youth workers in
program delivery, including Outdoor
Explore, Stressless and RAGE

107

individual young people supported
by MYST case workers

16

eight week Outdoor Explore
programs delivered

400

individual young people supported
across our programs and services

128

individual young people supported
through Outdoor Explore programs

7

new referrals each week with
an increase in demand across
all services

160

attendees at 2020 Youth Week event

\$85,000+

in donated goods and services

250+

hours of skilled and non-skilled
volunteer time donated

WALKING MY PATH, WITH HELP

James, aged 19

In year 10, I suffered a breakdown after a panic attack during an exam. I was too scared to leave the house to go to school, and was not able to participate in my education. I was referred to MYST and began working with Amba, one of the counsellors. She was amazing in helping me understand what panic disorder, major depressive disorder, and anxiety are and how I could address my conditions and live a normal life.

In my early sessions we addressed a lot of the childhood trauma and family complexity which overlapped with my conditions. This was done by exploring what safe and healthy relationships are, along with strategies to mitigate and develop positive and respectful relationships to ease tensions and create healing. We also worked on identifying gaps in my understanding of my conditions and how I could use Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and psychotherapy to visualise myself responding and addressing situations. Both of my parents come from traumatic and low SES backgrounds. I relied on my sessions with Amba to provide me a safe space to learn that the world is not evil and there is hope and space to overcome poverty.

With Amba's guidance I was able to sit my Higher School Certificate, overcome my fears of exams, survive coming out of an unhealthy and toxic relationship, and find safe and secure accommodation. This would not have been achievable if it was not for my sessions with Amba and working on repairing and building the basic foundations to do the things my peers could do.

In 2019 I received an offer to study a Bachelor of Arts through an Indigenous alternative entry program. I am the first in my family to finish my HSC and the first to attend university. Amba played a crucial role in ensuring I received disability support via my Academic Plan— a critical resource that has provided my tutors and the university guidance.



Learning how to make a fire – Outdoor Explore program

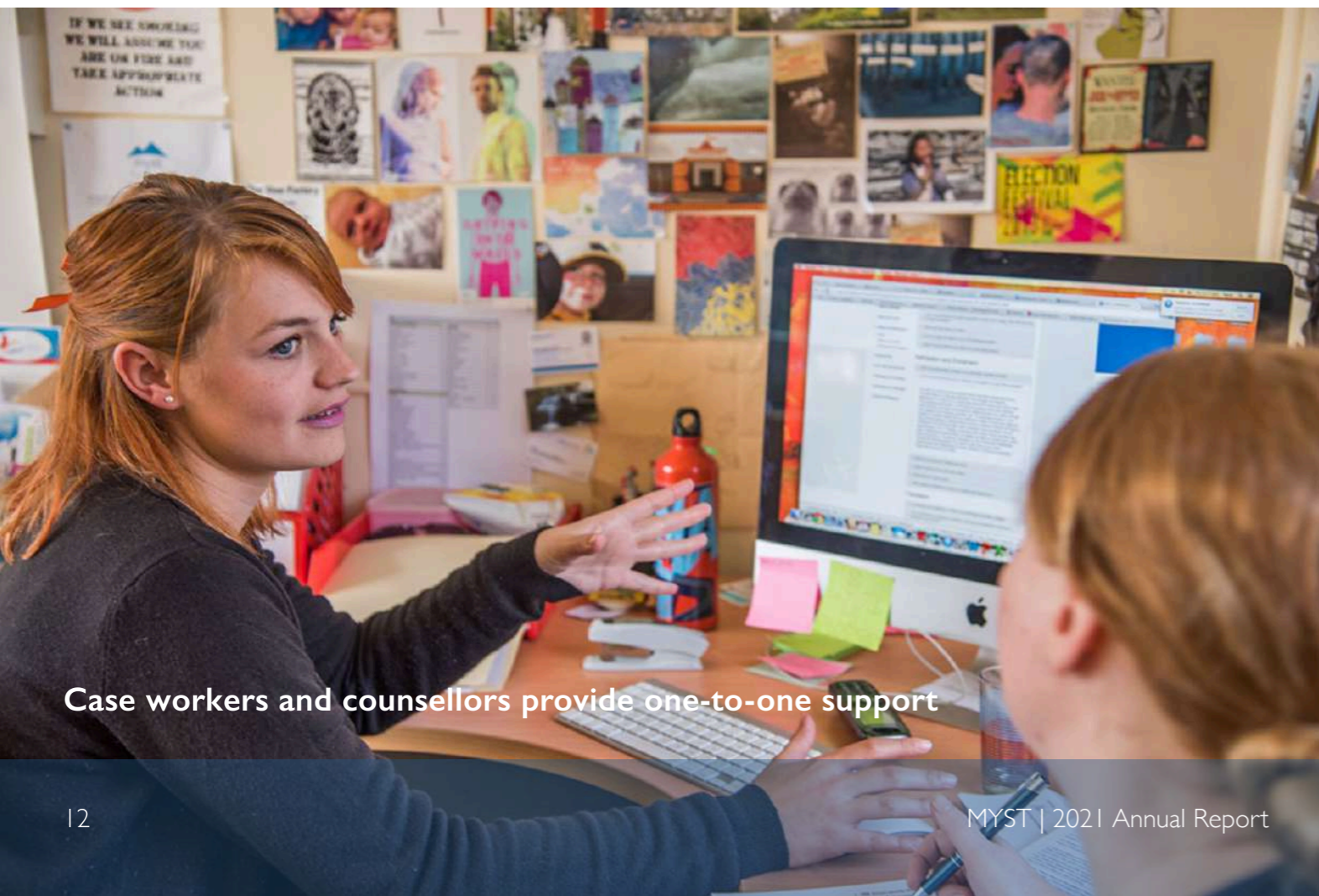
During my time at university I have had the help of my sessions with Amba to help me learn strategies so I can get up and debate in my seminars and then manage the anxiety around completing exams and papers. During 2020 when Covid-19 hit I relied on my sessions as a lifeline to get through the dark days of not being able to go to class! Amba also gave me a safe space to learn about domestic violence and how to support victims of sexual assault, enabling me to help my sister with her court case. I have been able to restore family relationships to new strengths as a result of the ongoing work around relationships and trauma.

In 2021 I have gone from holding my breath (being too scared to speak) and not being able to participate in educational environments, to receiving a distinction average. I have been able to use CBT techniques and relationship-building skills to support Year 11 and 12 Indigenous students in participating and applying to study at two prestigious universities through targeted pathway programs. I have been successful in advocating wellbeing and academic programs for Indigenous students entering the University and helping them to access tutoring and tailored wellbeing programs.

Most recently, I would not have been able to get through the Sydney lockdown if not for the ongoing support of Amba and MYST. I was at a breaking point in August when I was completing an internship with a law firm and felt isolated and cut off from the world. My sessions helped bring me back to a position of hope. My sister has now begun studying a law degree and I am on the cusp of finishing my Bachelor of Arts (International Relations).

Some people at university have told me that my 'kind' don't belong at university, and have asked how someone like me is able to get distinction averages. It is a clear result of having the psychological support of MYST and having a role model like Amba to give hope and practical steps to build a brighter future. MYST has helped me to identify my future options, including finishing my degree, pursuing an honours degree (which has been offered to me), or engaging in a graduate program within the banking and finance or NFP sectors. I am happy to endorse the critical role MYST's free and ongoing counselling has played in my life – thanks to MYST, I have had the support and toolkit to dodge the recipe for the cycle of intergenerational trauma, to help others, and to succeed.

(in order to protect client confidentiality names and some details have been changed)



Case workers and counsellors provide one-to-one support

THE NEED

The increase in mental health issues experienced by young people as a result of the devastating bushfires of 2019–2020, and of the ongoing changes to life due to the pandemic, has been alarming and is predicted to continue.



Campfire fun at Outdoor Explore

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ARE ON THE RISE AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE



In the Blue Mountains, young people with suicidal ideation has increased from **62%** in 2019 to **92%** in 2020.

(MYST)



In the past two years, the percentage of young Australians who felt anxious frequently or always has risen sharply from **36%** to **51%**.

(Australia Talks Survey, 2021)



148% increase in suicide attempts.

(CEO, Kids Helpline, Channel 7, 1 July 2021)



Young people are disclosing mental health crisis at every MYST early intervention group session since COVID.



Half of all mental health conditions in adulthood emerge by age 14, and three quarters by 24 which means early intervention is critical.

(Beyond Blue) Mental health conditions in young people
www.healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au



\$43-51 billion per year is the estimated cost to the Australian economy of mental ill-health and suicide.

Australian Government productivity Commission (2019)
Mental health Productivity Commission Draft report

MYST's early intervention approach can help reach young people before their difficulties escalate.

CREATING CULTURES OF CARE

Young people deserve environments which offer them opportunities for meaningful participation, and in which they are valued and safe. MYST works with individuals, groups, institutions and communities to help young people and to create the conditions in which they can shine.



Original artwork – MYST client, aged 17

MYST EXISTS TO HELP ENHANCE THE WELLBEING OF ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Our team is dedicated to supporting young people through therapeutic intervention, skills training and personal development, and to creating cultures of care in which they can flourish. Young people deserve environments which offer them opportunities for meaningful participation, and in which they are valued and safe. MYST works with individuals, groups, institutions and communities to help young people and to create the conditions in which they can shine.

Established in 1992, MYST is deeply connected with the communities of the Blue Mountains and continues to collaborate with a range of partners to develop and deliver a supportive constellation of services and activities for young people. We are committed to accessibility, inclusiveness, and sustained engagement with young people. Our partnerships and collaborations are vital to us being able to support young people, whether they need this occasionally or over many years, and we actively seek new connections to help us expand our reach.

The heart of MYST's approach is fostering connection – connecting young people with their strengths, with their peers, with diverse sources of support, and with wider communities and networks.

MYST appreciates that young people have differing needs and preferences and has designed a broad range of connected offerings to provide a variety of ways that young people can engage with sources of support.

SPACES

YOUTH CENTRES

MYST operates two unique youth centres, one at Katoomba and one at Springwood. Young people aged 12–24 years can drop-in to these spaces to relax, socialise with peers, participate in educational and recreational activities, have a snack or a meal, and connect with the youth workers on site.

MUSIC SPACE

With support from Rotary, Blue Mountains City Council, Future State Studios, Katoomba Music and other individuals, MYST has created a soundproof music rehearsal space (complete with drum kit and bass guitar!) which is free for young people to use.



MYST's music space

SERVICES

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING AND FAMILY THERAPY

MYST provides free specialist counselling support to young people and their families, including those with complex needs. Counselling can help reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, cultivate positive behavioural change, manage crises, and improve relationships and quality of life.

EARLY INTERVENTION CASE MANAGEMENT

Early intervention is crucial to helping young people who are experiencing difficulties. MYST's case workers offer holistic support in a range of areas including health, finance, education and training, employment, alcohol and other drugs, mental health, recreational resources, life skills, legal, accommodation, parenting and general welfare.

OUTREACH

MYST's outreach service engages young people in their own environments, including online, and offers help including court support and advocacy, help with fines, mentoring, home visits, school breakfasts, emergency food packages, and transport.



Abseiling - Outdoor Explore Group

PROGRAMS

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

MYST has developed specific personal development programs which are delivered in high schools in the Blue Mountains. These MYST programs include:

- **Stressless:** For year 11 and 12 students, this program aims to enhance resilience and help participants develop healthy strategies to cope with stress.
- **Steps:** This program for young women aims to enhance resilience by increasing engagement with education, community and self.
- **Step Up:** Building on content delivered in Steps, including conflict resolution, friendships, healthy relationships and personal development.

MYST also delivers well-known programs including:

- **RAGE (Renavigating Anger and Guilty Emotions):** RAGE is an award winning six-week anger management course for adolescents aged 11–17 years. RAGE is a strengths-based, solution-focused program that is hands on, practical and fun.
- **Love Bites:** A Respectful Relationships Education (RRE) program for young people aged 15–17 years which provides young people with a safe environment in which to examine, discuss, explore, and learn the skills to create respectful relationships.
- **Rock & Water:** Supporting young people in developing self awareness and self confidence. Topics covered include intuition, body language, mental strength, empathetic feeling, positive thinking and visualising.

OUTDOOR EXPLORE

MYST Outdoor Explore takes young people out of the classroom and into the wild with this therapeutic, adventure-based eight week program facilitated by highly experienced and qualified guides. The program encourages young people to push their limits, grow in resilience, and better understand their own social and emotional growth. While canoeing, rock-climbing, abseiling, bike-riding and bushwalking, participants learn new skills, confront challenges and fears in a supportive environment. As well as these activities, the program also includes discussion topics on personal development and wellbeing. Outdoor Explore participants graduate with new skills, as well as enhanced confidence, self-efficacy and peer relationships. Plus, they have heaps of fun!

STREET ART MURALS AUSTRALIA (SAMA)

MYST supports the careers of young street artists through its work with SAMA. Founded by Jarrod Wheatley (2019 Young Australian of the Year), SAMA connects artists with clients. Since 2008, young artists working with SAMA have painted several hundred commissioned murals, including for The Big Day Out, Amnesty International, Scenic World and RailCorp NSW. SAMA's local flagship project – the Street Art Walk in Katoomba – was created in partnership with young artists, the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Western Sydney University and stakeholders in the Beverly Place precinct where it's located. This ever-changing collection of artworks showcases the talent of its young contributing artists, legitimises the artform, enlivens the location, and has become a treasured local cultural asset.

SPEND A DAY WITH...

“ Young people need connections back to the community to help them to thrive. Youth workers build rapport and engage with young people, often becoming singular points of connection and trust which can facilitate connections between the young person and community.

– Maddy Forwood, Youth Work Team Leader



Music performances at Youth Week 2021

MADDY FORWOOD YOUTH WORK TEAM LEADER

- 10.00am** Arrive at Katoomba Youth Centre. Unpack the dishwasher and tidy the space.
- 10.30am** Check emails, phone and social media messages, and respond as needed.
- 11.30am** Program preparation for Katoomba High School – set the agenda, source the materials, pack a bag and buy some snacks (very important!).
- 12.30pm** Head to the school. The program I'm running is 'Stress Less' which supports HSC students in managing stress, both in and out of school. We cover a range of material including identifying support networks, study management skills, latest evidence in how the brain stores and uses information, and the impact of ongoing stress.
- 12.40pm** Meet the students and outline the program, including confidentiality limits and group responsibilities. The students fill in a wellbeing questionnaire. MYST uses the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) for all programs (www.acqol.com.au/instruments). The PWI scale contains seven items of satisfaction, each one corresponding to a quality of life domain: standard of living, health, achieving in life, relationships, safety, community-connectedness, and future security.
- 1.30pm** Back to the youth centre for some lunch.
- 2.00pm** Team meeting with the other youth workers. We discuss planning for programs and school holidays, training opportunities, new ideas, shared client outcomes, and navigation/exploration of issues presented by de-identified clients. MYST youth workers use strengths-based and trauma-informed practice.
- 3.00pm** Food shopping for drop-in.
- 3.30pm** Drop-in opens – all young people aged 12–17 years are welcome.

Drop-in services play a vital role in reaching and supporting young people. Drop-in provides open-access, flexible, no appointment necessary, early support for young people in the community. By providing young people with simple access to support, MYST's drop-in helps them take charge and manage their mental, physical and emotional health before they reach crisis point.

- 4.30pm** We give individual support for three young people who each requested to speak one-to-one. We make referrals for health service and Headspace. One young person just wanted to update youth workers on their latest positive achievement – we love celebrating wins!
- 6.00pm** Dinner time – staff and young people make and eat dinner together, and clean up afterwards.
- 7.30pm** The team cleans up the centre with the help of the young people.
- 7.45pm** The young people leave. I head to the office to upload the daily logs with stats and notes of interest from the drop-in session.
- 8.00pm** The team debriefs the days events, including noting comments or conversations of importance, client referrals that need to be made/followed up, and any issues that need to be resolved.
- 8.30pm** We close the centre and head home.

“Youth work...advocates for and facilitates a young person's independence, participation in society, connectedness and realisation of their rights.” Australian Youth Affairs Coalition 2013.

Young people need connections back to the community to help them to thrive. Youth workers build rapport and engage with young people, often becoming singular points of connection and trust which can facilitate connections between the young person and community. Youth workers help build these connections through resources, external service providers and warm referrals to staff and organisations they trust. It is a privilege to be allowed into a young person's life and we have a responsibility to give fullest expression to the definition of youth work practice.

ROMAN HOFMANN MANAGER, OUTDOOR EXPLORE

- 7.30am** The staff arrive bright and early at the Katoomba Youth Centre and go over the daily outline and prepare all the gear needed – multiple ropes, harnesses, helmets, lunch and more. This then gets loaded into our van and we depart for our group pick up location.
- 8.15am** Travel from the Katoomba Youth Centre to the group pickup location and then to the abseil area. Abseil areas are located in multiple regions of the Blue Mountains National Park.
- 9.30am** Group safety briefing, fitting of harnesses and helmets, walk in to abseil site and set up of abseils.
- 10.30am** Action time! Abseil demonstration and further safety briefings. We begin with beginner abseil of 2–4 metres, followed by medium abseil of 10–15 metres, and a final abseil of 30+ metres into the valley below.
- 2.00pm** Pack up, walk out, group lunch and activity reflection. Group drop off.
- 3.00pm** Staff return to Katoomba Youth Centre for clean and pack up, daily notes and debrief.

Abseiling offers young people a fantastic opportunity to push themselves past their comfort zones, trust in the unknown, and learn new skills which translate into approaches they can use in everyday life to better deal with stressful and challenging situations. Abseiling builds confidence and allows young people to explore the challenges of the vertical world in a safe and supportive environment. All activities are “Challenge by Choice” and give each participant the power to choose how far they want to push themselves. Abseiling days can be a huge emotional day as each person will find their own hurdles to overcome, some with tears, some with screams and some with hollers of delight. Time for reflection is important as each young person can identify what they have gained from the challenges of the activity and how this might benefit them in their daily lives.

LOCAL HEROES

Blue Mountains Adventure Company

Since 2011, Blue Mountains Adventure Company (BMAC) has supported MYST in the delivery of the Outdoor Explore Program. BMAC supports many of the activities, including abseiling and rock climbing, by providing experienced guides at no cost to MYST. This support greatly enhances the experience for the young people in the program and ensures the safety of the activities.

“MYST does amazing work in the community with vulnerable young people. BMAC is privileged to be able to support such a wonderful organisation and its very popular Outdoor Explore program. We love seeing the young people grow in confidence and skill before our eyes! We look forward to continuing to support MYST in providing these life changing opportunities to young people who are experiencing life challenges”.

This year BMAC have donated more than 18 days or 144 hours totalling \$5,850.

Andy Mein

Manager, Blue Mountains Adventure Company

Enjoying the Blue Mountains with MYST Outdoor Explore

OUR FINANCES

“

I was offered so much support by everyone at MYST and it gave me a new perspective on life. I second guess myself a lot but with what MYST has taught me, it has helped my confidence in my abilities. I am really grateful for all the hard work by the MYST team over the years. It helped me greatly in life.

– Participant, Outdoor Explore

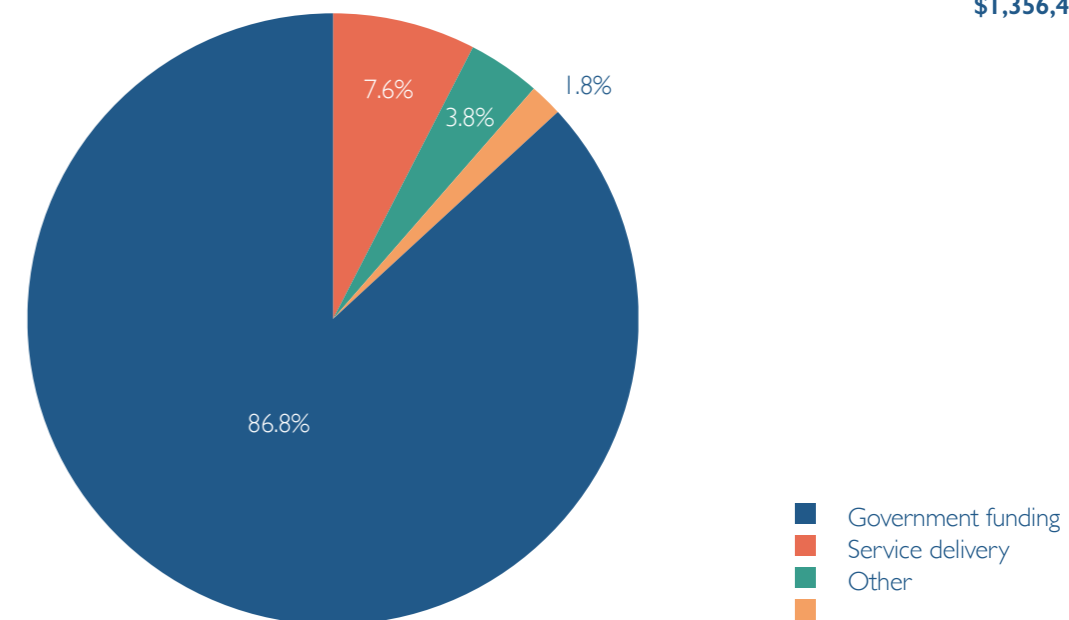


Street Art Murals Australia (SAMA) workshop

INCOME

Government funding	1,177,437
Service delivery (Outdoor Explore fee for service income, SAMA mural sales)	103,575
Other (one off COVID cash flow boost from ATO, interest received and Board membership fees)	51,607
Donations	23,833

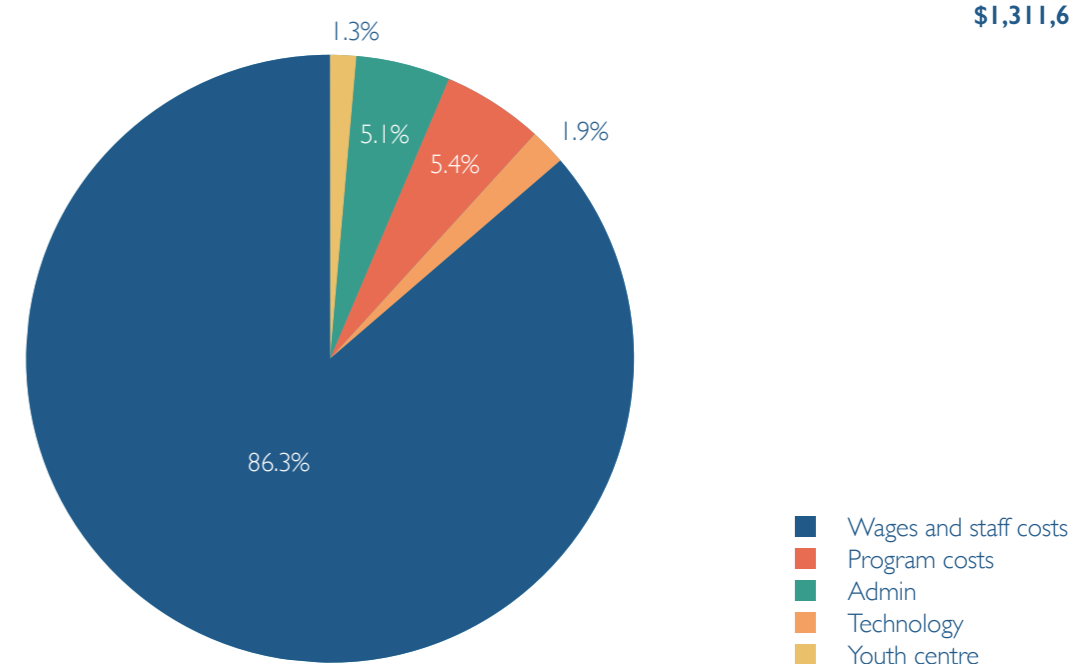
\$1,356,453



EXPENSES

Wages and staff costs	1,132,833
Program costs	70,908
Admin	65,619
Technology	24,975
Youth centre	17,280

\$1,311,615



STRENGTH & SPIRIT INTO 2022

“ He is still buzzing. He told me today was one of the best days of his life... Maybe even the best. I totally agree.

– Mother of attendee, aged 13 (2021 MYST Youth Week event)



2021 Youth Week event

In 2022, MYST will be celebrating 30 years of supporting the wellbeing of young people in the Blue Mountains. These years have seen significant growth and change, as MYST has expanded its capacity to meet the needs of the community and risen to the challenges of an increasingly complex world.

As we enter 2022 we all continue to face the ongoing pandemic situation, and many experts warn that its impacts may affect the mental health of young people for many years. MYST's core approach is early intervention – reaching young people and helping them develop skills and strengths to adaptively navigate their challenges – and we anticipate a surge in demand for our services, especially as the effects of the pandemic continue to affect young people's lives.

To strengthen our capacity to support more young people, MYST will focus on three key areas in 2022.

Delivering inclusive, purpose-driven programs that respond to changing needs, by:

- prioritising the inclusion of young people's voices through increased participation
- increasing the capacity of our core programs and services
- running peer-to-peer Teen Mental Health First Aid training in high schools in the area
- introducing a Saturday morning drop-in for 18–24 year olds at Katoomba Youth Centre.

Strengthening funding and sustainability, by:

- increasing fundraising income through establishing an annual showcase event and other new revenue streams
- establishing a volunteer program
- developing brand guidelines to help enhance recognition and build MYST's profile.

Becoming a leading provider of early intervention services for young people, by:

- engaging in continuous improvement in service delivery through evaluation of programs and review of policies, procedures and governance

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways to get involved, and your support will help MYST continue to provide vital services to help young people, their families and their communities.

Please contact **Gailene Keen** on **0417 469 401** or gailene@myst.com.au to find out how you can help.



Donate to MYST

It is only because of the generosity and support of our friends, funding bodies, community partners and local businesses that we are able to support young people in the Blue Mountains.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

OUR TEAM

“ I am now 27, a father of two boys and a husband. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the time and patience and everyone else you help along the way. People like you keep the world spinning.

– Former client



Kim Scanlan, MSYT Manager and staff from RAMS Springwood

SKILLED SUPPORT – THE MYST TEAM

The success of MYST's programs and services is possible because of the incredible team who delivers them. Our team has a diverse range of expertise including youth work, counselling, art therapy, social work and psychotherapy, and works collaboratively with a shared focus to ensure every young person is heard, valued and supported.

Supporting our team is vital to MYST's ongoing success and the past year has been particularly challenging for our team, as young people have been presenting with increasingly complex mental health issues due to the pandemic. To help support our team's wellbeing during this challenging time, MYST provided more clinical supervision hours, recruited an additional casual youth worker hours for weekly drop-ins, initiated monthly burnout assessments for clinical staff, and implemented wellbeing days and activities including an Easter wellbeing pack.

This year MYST also made some changes to the team in order to enhance the organisation's capacity to deliver programs and to support its sustainable growth. After Greg Watson, long-time Manager of MYST's Outdoor Explore Program, resigned, the full-time position was restructured into two part-time positions (25hrs per week). The Manager's role was filled by Roman Hofmann and we welcome Courtney Steadman to the newly created Co-ordinator role. This new structure will help MYST deliver more Outdoor Explore programs. Gailene Keen was appointed to the newly-created position of Fundraising and Marketing Manager, bringing decades of experience and expertise to help diversify and increase funding and build the profile of the MYST brand within the Blue Mountains and beyond.



THE BOARD

For the MYST Board, 2021 has been characterised by renewed energy and focus. Catalysed by a decision to shift to an expanded skills-based board to better support the growth of the organisation, the final quarter of the year was marked with significant Board member change. During this time, the Board farewelled some long-standing members, weathered and was impacted by the demands the June Covid lockdown placed on some of its new members, and jumped in headfirst to refine committee charters, establish a new Marketing & Fundraising committee, and improve governance. What remains evident is the Board's passion for MYST's purpose and its keen desire to ensure the Board continues to create MYST's future and increase the volume of services to support young people.



JOY CUSACK
BOARD CHAIR, MEMBER
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Joined 2015

Joy is an experienced Board Chair and Non-Executive Director with more than 20 years' experience in the not-for-profit area, in particular social enterprise businesses. Her lengthy corporate career included Dow Corning (now Dow) as a global team member across a range of business segments. Joy brings a wealth of experience including governance and strategy, crisis and change management, corporate communications, brand awareness, mergers and acquisitions, recruiting and mentoring directors together with performance management of CEOs. Her recent community emphasis has been on social impact measurement. Joy joined the MYST Board to utilise her experience and skills in continuing her passion for helping young people, especially those with special needs, to be able to fulfill their dreams be valued contributors to the wider



GLEN BABINGTON, CSC
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CHAIR AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE,
MEMBER MARKETING &
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Joined June 2021

Glen joins the MYST Board with significant executive experience from the defence, mining, water, education and consulting sectors having lived and worked in Australia, Indonesia and the USA. He is a seasoned leader in organisational transformations and joins the Board with the conviction that MYST has the obligation and opportunity to grow and meet the overwhelming demand for community-based youth services. He is keen to support MYST's commitment to a youth-centric strategy with measurable outcomes, "Our youth are our future and the investment our community makes in them is arguably its most important contribution and legacy for our Australian society as a whole".



DESMOND CHIN
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TREASURER

Joined 2019, retired June 2021

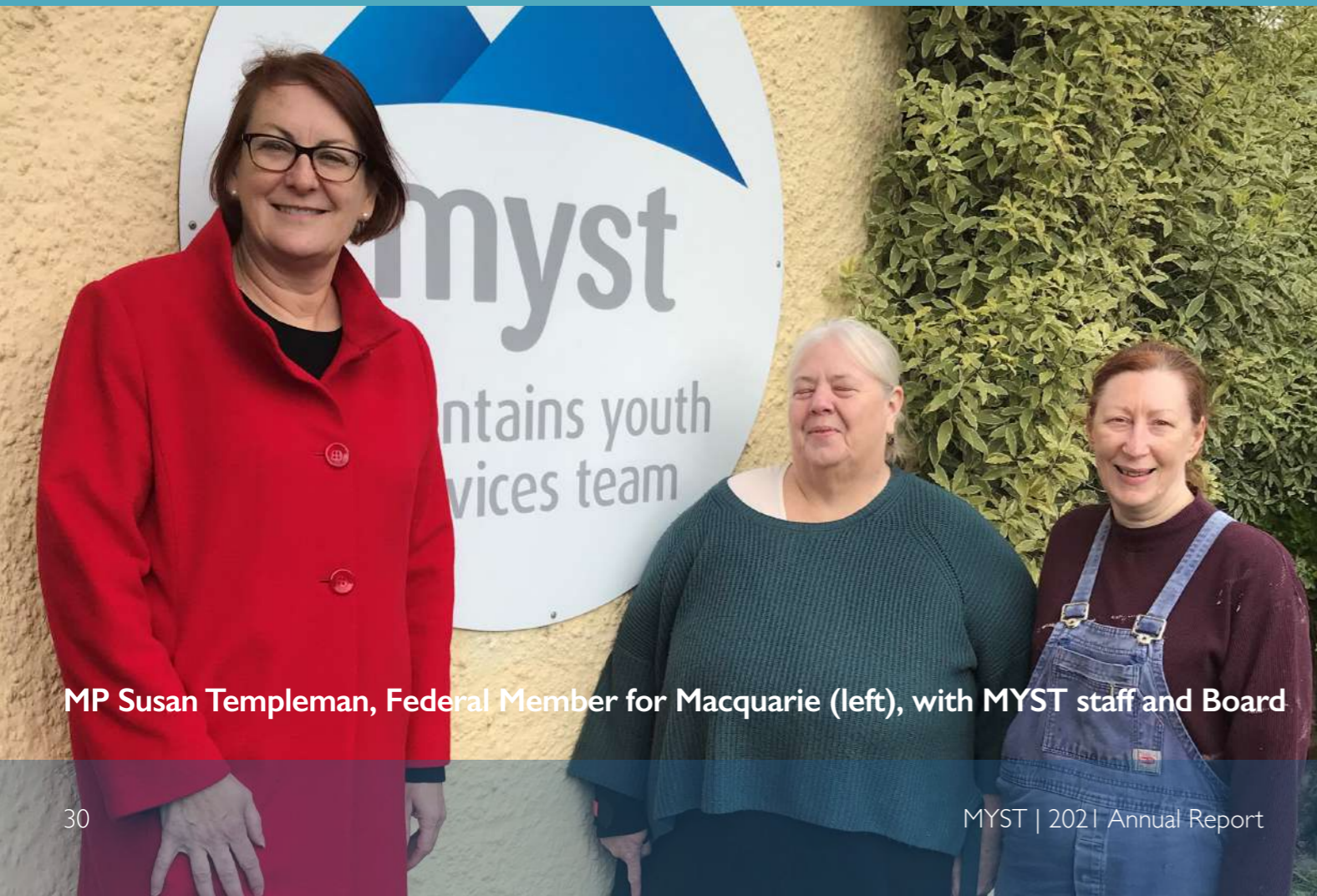
Desmond brought an analytical and finance background to MYST from his 10+ year career in the investment banking, mining, and government sectors with skills in strategic development, capital expenditure review, and operational efficiency program implementation. With a passion for MYST's purpose and the significant role it plays in delivering positive impacts to young people's lives, Desmond played a pivotal role in improving MYST's financial organisational capability.



LACHLAN DUNDAS
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joined June 2021, retired August 2021

Lachlan joined the MYST Board as an experienced senior leader with more than 20 years in financial services with demonstrated experience in leading regulatory engagement for large, complex organisations. Lachlan brought to MYST extensive skills in risk management and regulatory compliance.



MP Susan Templeman, Federal Member for Macquarie (left), with MYST staff and Board



ANDREW FRANCIS
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PREVIOUS BOARD CHAIR

Joined 2016, retired June 2021

An experienced Non-Executive Director with a distinguished executive career in manufacturing and supply chain within multinational companies, Andrew has played a significant role in shaping and steering MYST over the past five years as both Chair and member of the MYST Board. With a background in transformational improvement programs and a passion for developing high performing teams, Andrew played a fundamental role in establishing best-in-class governance capability, simplifying MYST's service offering and shaping its strategic vision.



RUTH GOLDSMITH
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joined 2019, retired August 2021

Ruth brought to MYST the experience of an extensive executive career in government, with skills focused on urban planning, strategic planning, corporate planning, collaborative government communications and stakeholder engagement. With a Master's degree in Dispute Resolution and one of six national Public Service Excellence Awards presented to women in 2012, Ruth develops strategic planning outcomes and builds connections, collaboration and co-creation through meaningful engagement. Lived family experience of mental health issues motivated Ruth in her quest to support MYST in ensuring young people get the help they need – "I know how important early intervention is for young people suffering from mental health crises and trauma. MYST helps build the resilience and confidence that young people need to thrive in this world."



GARETH SCOTT
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
INTERIM TREASURER, MEMBER
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE,
MEMBER AUDIT & RISK
COMMITTEE

Joined June 2021

With an accomplished career and a breadth and depth of middle and senior leadership roles in Education, Gareth brings a wealth of experience in wellbeing, people and culture and organisational operations to the MYST Board. As a hard-working leader, Gareth is recognised for excellence in leading wellbeing initiatives for individual and collective optimal growth and functioning, as well as being able to lead, coach and mentor others for improved individual and team performance. Gareth is looking forward to helping MYST connect its purpose and early intervention model with a far-reaching effect – "I am excited about the role that MYST plays within the community, and I am looking forward to helping to expand MYST's influence and impact reach."



GLEN TAYLOR
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joined June 2021, retired August 2021

A finance and credit executive with more than 20 years' experience across the technology and workforce training sectors, Glen brought to MYST credit control rigour, as well as a background in work health and safety and youth services provision.



ANNIE MACKIN
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CHAIR MARKETING &
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Joined June 2021

With a distinguished career in senior leadership roles across the telecommunications and technology arena, Annie brings deep functional experience of marketing, digital innovation, customer experience and a commercial orientation to the MYST Board. A high energy leader, Annie is renowned for leading transformation strategy and execution with a focus on building team achievement and performance cultures centred around the customer. Originally hailing from Silicon Valley, Annie looks forward to helping MYST better connect its purpose and brand with its young clients, donors and the local community – "Now more than ever before it is fundamentally important for NFP brands to tell their story in a compelling way that connects emotionally with their audiences. MYST is doing some incredible work supporting young people in the Blue Mountains with innovative programs that help young people grow – it's time to raise increased awareness of this in the community."



KIM SCANLON
MANAGER

Joined January 2018, retired June 2021

For more than a decade, Kim has worked in the community services sector, serving communities in the Blue Mountains, Penrith, and Lithgow in leadership roles. Kim has a passion for supporting young people to have a voice and the opportunity to reach their full potential. Joining MYST in 2018, Kim is a strong believer in community-based, grassroots organisations to support communities, as the investment is personal. As centre manager for MYST, Kim's passion for the organisation's purpose, as well as her belief in the team, was unwavering – "The team at MYST are a dedicated, hardworking group of professionals with a strong commitment to providing strength-based support to young people in the Blue Mountains."



DR EMMA WONG
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MEMBER MARKETING &
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Joined June 2021

Dr Emma Wong is an Associate Professor of Tourism and Program Director at the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School of Torrens University Australia. She has more than two decades of experience in research and higher education, teaching hospitality and tourism management in universities in Australasia, Europe and Asia. She brings to MYST her expertise in working with young people from diverse backgrounds developing their skills and realising their potential – "I am excited about the opportunity to give back to the Blue Mountains community and contribute to the growth of this inspirational organisation."



TIMOTHY WONG
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CHAIR GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Joined June 2021

For the past 25 years, Tim has been CEO and Managing Director of numerous medium-to-large enterprises in Australia and New Zealand. This commercial leadership, along with multiple M&A completions, adds a different perspective to advancing and growing MYST. Tim is a strong advocate in self-belief and building self-confidence, particularly in young people, which aligns strongly with the MYST philosophy – "I look forward to helping to ensure MYST can continue to serve young people in the community through establishing a strong governance culture."

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

MYST is immensely grateful to all our partners, donors and supporters and volunteers who have contributed so generously to MYST this year to ensure that we can continue supporting young people, especially during such uncertain times.



New basketball court, Katoomba Youth Centre

MAJOR PARTNERS



Communities
& Justice



Susan Templeman MP
(Federal Member for Macquarie)
Trish Doyle MP
(Member for Blue Mountains)

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Able 2
Belong Blue Mountains
Blacktown Youth College, Lawson Campus
Blaxland High School
Headspace
Katoomba High School
Mountains Outreach Community Service
Planet Youth Initiative
Springwood Community Centre
Stronger Families Alliance
TAFE Western-Blue Mountains
Uniting
Winmalee High
Youth Hope
Youth Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Interagency

DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES

BBQ Rescue
Billabong
Blue Mountains Adventure Company
Blue Mountains Kitchens
Boardrider
Bunnings
Fast Times
Globe
Hovia
Ikou
Max Firepits
Mitre 10
Now and Zen Landscaping
SBS Fence Hire
Spalding
Springwood Neighbourhood Centre
Sydney Epoxy Flooring
Volcom Australia
Whirlpool
Whisk and Pin
Yakima

DONORS

Cr Brent Hoarey
Dominika Rajewski
Jeremy Whitelaw
Joshua Ormes
Joy Cusack
Mathew McLeau
Melody Davis
Michael Macken
Mitsubishi Electric
Noni Devitt
Noni McDevitt
Paul Karis
Roslyn Agar
Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise
Susan Templeman
Wentworth Falls Country Club

GRANTS, TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Bendigo Bank
Bushfire Community and Resilience and
Recovery Fund – NSW Government
Resilience NSW
Slater and Gordon Community Fund
Strong Communities Programme

GARDEN MAKEOVER

Now and Zen Landscapes

MYST is in awe of the amazing talents and support from the crew at Now and Zen Landscapes and their suppliers who helped us tame and transform the garden at our Katoomba Youth Centre. The transformation included installing a ball court and hoop, which were on our wishlist for a long time, as well as creating a tranquil space for the young people who come to the Centre to enjoy. The value of support their is over \$10,000.

www.nowandzenlandscapes.com.au/

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

“ My son had been severely bullied at school and was too afraid to leave the house alone. He was refusing to go to school. A friend encouraged him to come with him to MYST drop-in. Although he was really nervous about it, he had the time of his life and made some new friends. The MYST youth workers were amazing! He is now back at school and is a regular attendee at drop-in.

– Grateful parent



Original artwork, MYST client, age 17

COMMITTEE REPORT

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: provision of youth services.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The profit from ordinary activities amounted to

	Year ended	Year ended
	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	\$ 44,880	\$ 86,403

During the 2020 financial year the association experienced changes to the provision of client services and internal operations due to the impact of the coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 is unprecedented and has a profound impact on charities and Not-for-profit organisations both financially and operationally. The first confirmed case in Australia of COVID-19 was identified in January 2020 and resulted in induced lockdown in NSW in March 2020 due to public health orders.

The lockdowns impacted group activities which ceased in Term 1 including Drop-in, School Programs and Outdoor Explore. However, where possible client services continued remotely via an online interface.

The association renewed its agreement for funding of services with the Department of Communities & Justice (previously known as Family & Community Services) on 22nd May 2020 for a five year term from 1st July 2020 until 30 June 2025.

The association received \$50,000 of Commonwealth Government support by way of a Cash Flow Boost incentive included in operating profit.

After Balance Date Events

The COVID19 pandemic continued to impact New South Wales businesses post year-end and during July 2021 a COVID-19 lockdown was enforced across Greater Sydney and extended until Saturday 28 August 2021. At the date of signing of this financial report there is still significant uncertainty over how the outbreak and lockdown will impact the domestic economy, however, as at the date of signing of the financial report MYST have continued provision of its operations.

Apart from the matter noted above, no other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the association in subsequent financial years.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 has been included.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on this 23rd day of August 2021:


Joy Cusack - Chairperson


Gareth Scott - Treasurer

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the Directors of Mountains Youth Services Team Inc..

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Signed on this 23rd day of August 2021.



William Tomiczek F.I.P.A., Registered Company Auditor 1425
William Tomiczek & Associates
66 Emu Plains Road, Mount Riverview NSW 2774

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

	30 Jun 21	30 Jun 20
	\$	\$
Income		
Funding Income		
Administration Income	-	791
Cash Flow Boost Income	50,000	50,000
Comm Builders Funding	-	509,139
CYFS Funding	-	637,750
DCJ TEI Funding	1,177,437	-
Interest Received	1,567	-
Membership fees	40	-
MYST - Misc. Income	-	397
Other Restricted Grants & Donations	18,645	15,551
Outdoor explore fee income	102,135	124,800
SAMA - Mural Sales	1,440	5,050
Unrestricted Grants & Donations	5,188	13,716
Workshops	43	-
Total Income	1,356,496	1,357,194
Less Operating Expenses		
Advertising & Promotion	91	-
Audit & Accounting Fees	5,271	10,455
Bad Debts	-	3,651
Bank Charges	571	301
Cleaning Direct	8,862	7,599
Computer Software & IT expenses	12,067	10,835
COVID Safety Expenses	1,052	-
Depreciation	11,830	40,476
Electricity and gas	6,884	5,628
Equipment <\$1,000	1,079	2,716
Expenses - Direct programs	17,970	36,989
General and Misc. expenses	68	113
Individual Client Support	10,957	7,987
Insurance - Business	17,425	15,117
Insurance - Workers Compensation	17,803	17,208
Leave Liability Direct	4,130	21,316
Legal Fees	700	12,992
Management Fee	3,278	-
Motor Vehicle expenses	20,550	35,905
Outdoor explore expenses	13,890	16,519
Printing & Stationery	10,356	9,137
Professional Supervision	13,037	9,730
Repairs & Maintenance	3,467	8,034
School / Holiday Programs	7,382	1,591
Subscriptions & Memberships	2,882	3,528
Superannuation	92,605	82,626
Telephones	9,983	9,326
Training & Meetings	11,687	19,017
Travel Public Transport	-	46
Wages	1,005,259	881,147
Water	482	802
Total Operating Expenses	1,311,615	1,270,791
Net Profit	44,880	86,403

BALANCE SHEET

	30 Jun 2021	30 Jun 2020
	\$	\$
Assets		
Bank		
AUD PayPal	377	96
CBA 10276041 Savings	482,431	229,242
CBA 28009953 Chq	22,364	10,683
CBA Card payments account	814	5,027
CBA Drop in 18s	19,261	-
CBA Street Art	15,470	-
CBA TMHFA	30,492	-
Staff debit cards	5,042	3,000
Term Deposit - 8 months 2701	-	100,000
Total Bank	576,251	348,048
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	1,455	20,020
Prepayments	10,197	7,651
Total Current Assets	11,652	27,671
Fixed Assets		
Equipment - Outdoor Explore	4,645	4,645
Equipment - Outdoor Explore Accumulated Depreciation	-3,546	-2,617
Leasehold Improvements KYC	30,374	30,374
Leasehold Improvements KYC Accumulated Dep'n	-29,330	-26,811
Motor Vehicles	53,798	53,798
Motor Vehicles Accumulated Dep'n	-53,798	-53,707
Office F&F - Springwood	56,561	56,561
Office F&F - Springwood Acc Depn	-55,375	-54,721
Office Fixtures - KYC	4,939	4,939
Office Fixtures - KYC Accumulated Dep'n	-3,751	-2,763
Personal Computers	30,766	27,168
Personal Computers Depreciation	-30,766	-24,119
Total Fixed Assets	4,517	12,749
Non-current Assets		
Advance Staff loans	117	5,400
Total Non-current Assets	117	5,400
Total Assets	592,538	393,868
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	6,732	15,376
Accruals	19,818	19,626
Annual Leave Provision	96,156	111,368
Bushfire Resilience Fund	59,294	-
Funds Raised Project 460	2,832	-
Grants received in Advance	88,800	-
GST	36,927	18,312
Invoicing in Advance	8,240	18,220
Katoomba Renovations	10,000	-
Music Mentoring Project	-	6,510
PAYG Withholding	26,007	21,768
Provision for future expenses	-	9,177
TIL Payable Provision	2,660	1,889
Total Current Liabilities	357,466	222,246
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provision - Building Maintenance	3,864	3,864
Provision - Long Service Leave	69,237	50,667
Total Non-Current Liabilities	73,101	54,531
Total Liabilities	430,567	276,776
Net Assets	161,971	117,091
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	44,880	86,403
Retained Earnings - Prior Years	117,091	30,688
Total Equity	161,971	117,091

CASH FLOW

Cash Flow From Operating Activities

Receipts from funding bodies and other sources of income	1,508,753	1,426,945
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(1,278,518)	(1,257,893)
Interest received	1,567	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 3)	231,802	169,052

Cash Flow From Investing Activities

Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(3,599)	(20,432)
(Payment)/return of rental bonds		
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(3,599)	(20,432)

Net increase (decrease) in cash held	228,203	148,620
Cash at the beginning of the year	348,048	199,428
Cash at the end of the year (note 2)	576,251	348,048

CHANGES IN EQUITY

	30 Jun 21	30 Jun 20
	\$	\$
Equity at start of period	117,091	30,688
Surplus and Revaluations		
Net Surplus	44,880	86,402
Total Surplus and Revaluations	44,880	86,402
Equity at end of period	161,971	117,091

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

Note 2. Reconciliation Of Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash At Bank	576,251	248,048
CBA Term Deposit		100,000
	<u>576,251</u>	<u>348,048</u>

Note 3. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Net Profit

Operating profit	44,880	86,403
Non-cash balances:		
Depreciation expense	11,830	40,476
Provision for bad and doubtful debts		(13,886)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	18,565	41,078
(Increase) decrease in other debtors		
(Increase) decrease in prepayments	(2,546)	(688)
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	(8,453)	(29,157)
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	28,137	4,814
Increase (decrease) in grants in advance	135,259	11,520
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	4,130	28,492
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>231,802</u>	<u>169,052</u>

STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of MOUNTAINS YOUTH SERVICES TEAM INC. as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
3. the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013 on behalf of the Committee by:



Joy Cusack
Chairperson



Gareth Scott
Treasurer

Signed on this 23rd day of August 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of MOUNTAINS YOUTH SERVICES TEAM INC. (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021, statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2021 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Whilst the financial report has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2021. We draw attention to wage expense within the Profit and Loss Statement.

During the course of audit, it was noted that administration wage expenses of the entity were significantly higher than in comparison to our experience with other entities of a similar size, core purpose and geographical location.

Whilst the audit opinion is unmodified, this issue has been communicated to the Committee for immediate attention to ensure that income is applied solely toward the promotion of the objects of the Association as per its Constitution and that the financial affairs of the charity are managed responsibly. The Committee have subsequently advised that this matter will be addressed promptly.

Signed on this 23rd day of August 2021.



William Tomiczek F.I.P.A., Registered Company Auditor 1425

66 Emu Plains Rd Mt Riverview 2774



She came home from canyoning today on the biggest adrenaline high. Smiling ear to ear, unable to contain herself.

The experiences she's had through the MYST Outdoor Explore program have been incredible. Seeing her confidence and sense of self grow each week has my heart screaming with happiness for her.

I can honestly say it's been years since I have seen my girl smile like she has since joining your program. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

– Grateful parent of Outdoor Explore participant



Abseiling – Outdoor Explore group



mountains youth
services team



Donate to MYST

It is only because of the generosity and support of our friends, funding bodies, community partners and local businesses that we are able to support young people in the Blue Mountains.

ABN: 19942569473
www.myst.com.au

www.facebook.com/MountainsYouthServicesTeam/