



mountains youth  
services team

# HIGHER. FASTER. STRONGER.

Annual Report 2022





Local band performs at Mysty Music Fest

## WHO ARE WE?

MYST is a registered charity that provides early intervention programs and services for young people aged 12-24 in the Blue Mountains.

MYST supports the development of all young people in the community by providing relevant, dynamic and engaging programs and services that empower young people to grow emotionally, physically and intellectually so they build resilience and self-belief to lead happy healthy lives.

Our services include, after school Drop-in, Outdoor Explore, Case Management, Adolescent and Family Counselling, Teen Mental Health First Aid and a range of school-based programs

“ MYST has always been a great support to me and I love coming to these type of events as they give me the opportunity to meet new people and try new things.

Thank you for reminding me that I did not need alcohol or drugs to have a good time...

– Current MYST client, talking about their experience at the Mysty Music Fest ”

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 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. We acknowledge the deep, enduring and continuing connection of these custodians with their Country.



Outdoor Explore – Magical moment after rainshower

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Cover image: Outdoor rockclimbing

# LEARNING, ADAPTING AND BUILDING

“ We’re proud that MYST is a place where young people can come and feel good, and be accepted and feel confident to be themselves, and we want to widen our welcome. ”



Myst Chair Joy Cusack and Local Federal Member Susan Templeman meet young artists at Mural Launch



**JOY CUSACK**  
BOARD CHAIR, MEMBER  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

This past year has been all about strengthening our foundations to be able to provide young people with greater opportunities.

We’ve strengthened our team by recruiting our new CEO, Jodie Rollason, who has a record of success in growing organisations, established a new board who bring diverse skills and experience, and engaged a new accountant to streamline our finance processes.

An important promotion this year was Paige Thurlow-Want to the position of Youth Work Team Manager, recognising her continuous learning in undertaking a Bachelor of Youth Work and her commitment to improving the lives of young people.

This refreshing of our team prompted a productivity review of our programs and services, including seeking input from young people about what they want from these. Our team have been working together to evolve MYST’s Strategic Plan, to progress their personal goals and the goals of the organisation. We have a really great team who is committed to continuously improving MYST as an organisation in which people will continue to have confidence.

Over the past two years of the pandemic, we’ve learned a lot about nimbly adapting when faced with changing conditions. This year we’ve worked to ensure that our systems support our team to simplify regular reporting to spot trends shown by the data, quickly identify the emerging needs of young people, respond faster to anticipate and meet those needs, and measure the outcomes and effectiveness of our programs and services. With cyber security an increasing area of concern worldwide, we were grateful to win a grant with which to upgrade our IT equipment and systems, and engage ongoing IT support.

As we move into next year, we want to provide more services for young people, and to offer earlier intervention for mental health issues to connect young people with even more timely help. Our team is focused on caring for all young people in the Blue Mountains, and committed to embracing the diversity which serving this community involves. We’re proud that MYST is a place where young people can come and feel good, and be accepted and feel confident to be themselves, and we want to widen our welcome.

# CHALLENGES, STRENGTH AND SUPPORT

“ By nurturing our team and focussing on what we do best – supporting young people, each other, and our community – we can embrace the new year stronger than ever. ”



Idahobit celebrations at Drop-in



**JODIE ROLLASON**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The past couple of years have been particularly challenging for the Blue Mountains community, including fires, floods and multiple lockdowns. Through every challenge presented, I have deeply appreciated the many ways in which our staff, volunteers, and the local community have supported each other.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to our staff and volunteers, including our Board of Directors. For many of them, the past couple of years have been the most difficult of their lives – separated from families and friends for weeks and months, having their movement restricted, and with the majority impacted by floods and fires. I am grateful that through all of these challenges, our team has remained resilient. As the pandemic situation is gradually progressing towards a new stability, I know that by continuing to support each other we will be stronger as a result of our experiences.

MYST is a community not-for-profit organisation and all our programs and services are free of charge. MYST relies on government funding, grants and donations for our running costs and I would like to thank everyone who has supported MYST over the past year. The generosity and kindness of our supporters in providing donations and other financial support is crucial to MYST's ongoing viability.

Looking forward to next year, I know that we will continue to work through every challenge presented to us. To ensure MYST has the resources to meet these challenges, we have refreshed our organisational structure, welcomed new team members, and designed some innovative new programs. By nurturing our team and focussing on what we do best – supporting young people, each other, and our community – we can embrace the new year stronger than ever.

# COMMUNITY IMPACT 2022

“ James stopped by today, he’s about to start his apprenticeship and he’s so excited. He’s picked a small company so he can learn more, he’s been early to his pre-employment program every day, and he’s fully prepped for his 4:30 train every day.

I wanted to pass on how he spoke about MYST’s support. He said you were the only people who were able to help him as a kid, and he is so thankful for everything. He has only kind words for you.

– Support Worker, talking about a MYST client

”



Milkshake making competition at Drop-in

## MYST PROVIDES HIGHLY EFFECTIVE HELP AND SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

**2713**

Individual Case Management and Counselling sessions delivered

**720**

Hours of local young people using Music Space at Katoomba Youth Centre

**223+**

Individual young people supported by Myst Case Managers and Counsellors

**800+**

Additional young people supported through outreach at schools and in the community by Myst Youth Workers (including rage, stressless, court support and holiday programs)

**974**

Direct face to face Counselling and Case worker hours

**\$136,000+**

In donated goods and services including value of Volunteer time

**400+**

Young people attended 2021 Youth Week events

**355+**

Hours of skilled and non-skilled volunteer time donated

**627**

Young people supported through after school Drop-in programs (12-18yrs)

**1200+**

toasties made and consumed at Breakfast Club

**465**

Young people accessed breakfast club program at Springwood and Katoomba High Schools

**497+**

home care packs and meal deliveries (delivered during covid)

# CREATING CULTURES OF CARE

MYST is dedicated to support all Young People aged 12-24 years in the Blue Mountains by facilitating education and skill-based programs that are outcome focussed, and include a strength-based approach.

The effects of covid and floods have led to many young people feeling disconnected and isolated from their peers and community, having a significant impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

MYST programs are conducted in the local High Schools to enable young people to develop skills in resilience, self-confidence, community engagement, advocacy and social participation and connection.

**Paige Thurlow-Want**  
– Youth Work Team Manager

## MYST PROGRAMS FOR 2021–2022

### RAGE: RENEGOTIATING ANGRY AND GUILTY EMOTIONS

RAGE is a strengths-based solution focused program that teaches the skills of reflective practice, recognising risks and factors and identifying the different faces of anger as well as self-care and wellbeing. The program aims to educate young people on managing their anger and how to have healthy relationships.

### STEPS

The program teaches young people to reframe their attitudes towards their own sense of body image, achieving outcomes of, increased self-esteem, empathy, the ability to build supportive healthy friendships and boundaries and understanding the nature of jealousy.

### BREAKFAST CLUB

With the help of local business donations MYST provides breakfast to students at local high schools to ease the financial pressure on families and ensure the students receive a healthy nutritious breakfast for enhancing concentration and learning.

### PARENTING YOUNG PLAYGROUP

Parenting Young is a support group for young people up to 24yrs old and their children. It supports the wellbeing of the parent and child and works in conjunction with a number of support services in the Blue Mountains that also co-facilitate the program. MYST attend the parenting group to engage with the young parents to provide support for mental health, relationships, health and wellbeing, mentoring and financial assistance. Identifying issues and needs required and implementing the necessary support structures to enable these young people to best feel supported in becoming a young new parent.

### MUSIC ROOM

With support from Rotary we successfully opened our Music Room last financial year. This year the music room has been utilised for practice by up and coming local bands. These local bands played at MYST events including youth week.

### DROP IN

Is a safe place accessible to young people aged 12-17 years and allows for participation and engagement through a range of activities in addition to learning life and education skills. The program runs after school at both youth centres so young people can build rapport with workers and peers, access a cooked meal and mental health support. It aims to, build social skills and connections and provide the opportunity for referral pathways for ongoing support in case management or counselling. Inclusive to all young people of the Mountains, we have young people that attend with disabilities and Young people who identify as Indigenous or LGBTQIA+.

### COVID ONLINE DROP IN

Throughout the pandemic MYST undertook to reduce the impact of lockdown on young people's physical and mental health. MYST created a safe consistent online space, with online games and social connection. This enabled the young people to feel connected and less isolated, providing them with support and access to services as well as social interaction with their peers.

### OTHER PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED DURING COVID LOCKDOWN 2021

Throughout covid MYST actively and consistently connected with the young people of the Blue Mountains supporting them with delivery to their homes of care packs, food boxes, Halloween packs, craft packs, bread packs and other essentials as needed.



Student enjoying Myst activities at Katoomba High

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

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Outreach requires MYST staff to attend venues such as community spaces, police stations, court houses and individual's homes. The program aims to reduce the barriers to assist with Mental Health Issues and transport, whilst utilising a space the young person feels comfortable and safe.

### GLENBROOK DISTANT EDUCATION SCHOOL

Youth workers from MYST attend the Glenbrook Distant education Hub to assist young people who have additional learning needs with managing their anxiety and stress in the education setting.

### BLACKTOWN YOUTH COLLEGE – LAWSON

MYST provide support to students who are unable to complete their education in mainstream education.

### COURT SUPPORT

MYST provides support and counselling to young people when interacting with police and in court. The program aims to provide appropriate support services to enable to young people to avoid any further criminal issues.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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### YOUTH WEEK 2022

This year to celebrate youth week we held a skateboard competition at Glenbrook Skate park. The event was run in conjunction with Resilience NSW and Council to enliven the Blue Mountains community and bring them together to start the healing process after the very difficult years of covid, floods and bush fires.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022–2023

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Approaching the new financial year brings new MYST programs to the forefront such as Teen Mental Health First Aid and Love Bites.

### TEEN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

The program equips young people with the knowledge and skills to enable them to recognise signs that a peer is developing a mental health problem, understand how to talk to their peer about mental health and seeking help, when and how to tell a responsible adult, where to find appropriate and helpful resources about mental illness and professional help, and how to respond in a crisis situation. The program increases mental health literacy, decrease stigmatising attitudes towards individuals with mental illness and improve mental health first aid behaviours.

### LOVE BITES

Love Bites is a Respectful Relationships Education Program for young people aged 15-17 years. The program equips young people with the knowledge needed to have respectful relationships, encourage and develop their skills in critical thinking and assist them in being able to problem solve and communicate effectively. This enables them to make the right choices about relationships that are free from violence and abuse.



Yum! Milkshake making competition at Drop-in



# COUNSELLING AND CASE MANAGEMENT

“ You have helped to support me to maintain a state of my inner balance and allow me a space to have my voice heard. ”

– Young person, aged 22.

*They have been engaged with MYST counselling on and off from the age of 17, with a breakdown in their family (kicked out of home), no friends, disengaged with school, instability at home, and a poor attachment and understanding of self.*

*They are now at university doing their undergraduate degree in primary school teaching.*



Skate competition at Youth Week 2022

**Amba Lewis-Rosman**  
– Manager Counselling  
and Case Management

## TEI – TARGETED SUPPORT AND INTENSIVE SPECIALIST SUPPORT

MYST provides early intervention Case management and Counselling services focusing on individual targeted support and intensive specialist counselling support, for the young people of the Blue Mountains and their families.

Both Case Management and Counselling involve a holistic approach which is client centred, confidential, and conducted in a supportive, trustworthy respectful environment with individually tailored support/therapies options, utilizing each person's inner strengths to resolve their concerns and reach their goals. The collaboration of teamwork, establishing safety and trust to build capacity is evident in MYST's objectives. The use of a variety of creative processes and expertise from Cases Managers, Counsellors and Art Therapists allow the individual the capacity of understanding self and themselves in the community.

Consistency and continuity of rapport and support with young people and families is evident in Case management and Counselling with 50% of clients engaging in longer term support and engaging in other services MYST has to offer, such as programs and drop-in centres. This young person support can be brief interventions, short to medium term support, using a variety of creative processes and expertise from the MYST staff customised to each individual young person.

Staff are all qualified to a high level and receive ongoing professional and accredited training with internal and external supervision support. This ongoing professional development allows staff to keep current with skills, techniques, and reflective practices.

MYST Case managers and Counsellors/Therapists offer a space to hold and walk along-side a young person to support their wellbeing.



“Play of Life” – A 3D method to fast-track insight and behavioural adjustment.

# OUTDOOR EXPLORE

Outdoor Explore is a therapeutic, adventure-based program designed to give young people an opportunity to participate in a range of outdoor activities facilitated by highly experienced and qualified guides, with activities such as canoeing, rock-climbing, abseiling, bike-riding, bushwalking and much more.

The program provides an arena for young people to learn new skills, to confront challenges and fears in a supportive environment and to grow in confidence and self-efficacy, where the outcome for the participant is a strong sense of belonging and team-spirit.

**Courtney Stedman**  
– Outdoor Explore Manager

## ACTIVITY OUTCOMES

### BUSHWALKING

- Perseverance to get from A to B
- Teamwork in tricky areas eg: passing bags, supporting each other
- Risk assessing as we walk eg: slippery areas
- Communicating to group members eg: watch the slippery area
- Management of self eg: hydration, clothing layers, bag packing
- Patience eg: with fast or slow people
- Fitness
- Pushed outside of their boundaries and comfort levels

### CANOEING

- Communication between front and back paddler
- Working together in teams of two
- Listening to instructions eg: how to paddle
- Break down social barriers as canoe couples are focused on a common goal
- Fitness

### ABSEILING AND ROCK CLIMBING

- Goal setting is conducted at the start of the session.
- Ultimate “mind-over-matter”
- Understanding that goals and challenges can differ from person to person
- Empathy encouraged towards group members that may be more nervous
- Being challenged
- Feelings of accomplishment and achievement
- Working together to transport gear from place to place
- Fitness
- Trust in themselves
- Trust in others
- Trust in the equipment



30 metre abseil at Mount York



Students enjoying raft making at Jellybean Pool in Glenbrook



Lithgow High students walking out to Dargan Arch

### BUSHWALKING

- Confidence building
- Fitness
- Constant risk assessments conducted by the young people on their choice of path
- Perseverance to master obstacles and techniques
- Observation and listening skills tested as young people watch guides run through skill sessions

### RAFT BUILDING

- Team building as everyone is brought together with a common goal
- Communication between young people to achieve end goal
- Patience in the process
- Patience in each other
- Trial and error is utilised. If the raft fails the first time, the team re-groups, re-plans, and has a second attempt
- Fun!

### BUSH SURVIVAL

- Teamwork to achieve common goals
- Perseverance in group activities eg: lighting fire, putting tarp up
- Individual achievements contribute to overall group achievement
- New skills learnt eg: fire lighting, putting a tarp up, using camp cookware
- Communication required between group members in order to achieve goal

Common concerns or topics that young people in attendance brought up were:

- Social anxiety
- Mental health concerns (most commonly depression).
- Sexual Health
- Sexuality and Gender

## CLIENT SUCCESS STORY 'THE POETIC MOTH', AGED 19

The below poem was recently shared by a young client with his Myst Case Manager; it reflects the young person's changing self-narrative as he develops self-confidence and navigates his challenges. We loved it so much we wanted to share it!

People say I'm kind but deep in my mind  
 theres no light that shines because I sit in a pit  
 with my wrist slit  
 split on fact or fiction you attack me with holy conviction  
 leading me to addiction  
 deeper in the hole  
 my thoughts grow  
 inside this cocoon  
 I ate away at the grey  
 spread my wings and cut the strings  
 I begin to take shape  
 so I chewed my (Fxxxxxx) legs off and made my escape

## MORE ABOUT THE POET

"I've only been working with him for a short time, but boy is he kicking goals. This young person was struggling with finding direction and hope at the start of the year. He aspires to work with youth as a result of his own experiences and hopes to enrol in the Diploma Community Services next year toward this goal.

Recently, he has gained a high risk work licence, is working full time saving to buy a car to support his independence and study, this should be achieved by the end of the year. We are currently working hard on skills for living – budgeting, cooking, healthy sleeping; eating; routines and perhaps most importantly looking in depth at the question "what does it mean to be a man"...

I am so proud of how much he has achieved."

– Kris, MYST Case Worker

# YOUTH WEEK 2022

Youth Week is an opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views, address issues that affect their lives, by creating and enjoying activities and events. This year Myst held a number of events around resilience and helping young people connect with their community.



Mysty Music Fest

## IT'S UP TO YOU'TH 4-14TH APRIL, 2022

### COMMUNITY MURAL LAUNCH/UNVEILING

We wanted to showcase the talents and efforts of our young people in transforming our basketball court at our Katoomba Youth Centre with an amazing Community Mural. The launch and unveiling of our Mural was the perfect kick off to our Youth Week Activities and brought together young people and the wider community in celebration.

The mural project was kindly funded by the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund and was aimed at connecting communities to help build resilience and healing from the Bushfires. The project entailed over 20 local young people from Katoomba High and Blaxland College (Lawson Campus), participating in a series of street art workshops with local street artists, to develop the skills required for the project. Participants also worked together to come up with a cohesive design for the mural. Each young person was allocated a grid to paint with their own design that was vital in the overall design.

The event was officiated by Susan Templeman MP, Federal Member for Macquarie and great Myst supporter who officially unveiled the mural to Collective Ooh's and Ahh's from those in attendance. Guests were served brunch and able to wander down and see the mural close up and speak to some of the artists!

The mural provides a vibrant focal point in the garden area of the Youth Centre – creating a safe and welcoming environment for all young people who attend the centre. A place to belong and be proud of our young peoples achievements.

### MYSTY MUSIC FEST

The mural Launch was immediately followed by our "Mysty Music Fest", an afternoon of live music provided by three young local bands, many of whom use the Music Space at the youth Centre as a rehearsal space. Over 100 young people attended the event despite the overcast weather and enjoyed the atmosphere with friends and peers.

A BBQ and snack bar was provided with the slushy and popcorn machines being the hit of the day! Other activities enjoyed on the day were a street art workshop, facepainting and basketball shoot out with some really great prizes handed out. The day was made possible thanks to the support of Wentworth Healthcare providing a Community Wellbeing Grant.

### SKATEBOARD COMPETITION

The youth weeks activities culminated in our Skateboard Competition event held at Glenbrook Skate Park. It was a wonderful day with over 300 people attending and joining in the fun.

The day was run in conjunction with Blue Mountains Council and Resilience NSW providing a safe and fun environment for all young people and their families and the community to come together and celebrate acknowledging the struggles faced by young people over the last few years with the impact of Bushfires, floods and COVID. In addition to the skateboard competition where we saw some fierce competitors battle it out for some amazing prizes, attendees were also treated to a coffee cart, BBQ lunch provided by The Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains and some great live music provided by local young bands.

There was also a range of stalls by other local organisations who support young people in the community – running fun activities for the young people to participate in – even the Mayor, Mark Greenhill dropped by to enjoy the festivities. It was great to see everyone join in and come together to celebrate our Youth and all they do in the community.

We surveyed attendees on the day, and they provided valuable and positive feedback about the event. 100% of all surveyed said they would like to see more events like this held in the Blue Mountains and that they would access Myst's services in the future.

# THE NEED

In order to be able to deliver relevant and effective services and programs it is important for us to hear from the young people using our services as to what the issues are that they are currently facing, what they feel they need and what could be done better. Over the last twelve months MYST clients participated in a number of surveys to help with these insights.



LGBTQI+ fencing event with Mountains Fencing Club Inc.

## Key findings:

**39%**

tried alcohol at the age of 13 or younger

**15%**

had drunk alcohol in the last 30 days

**19%**

had drunk alcohol in their own home

**18%**

had drunk alcohol at a home of others

**31%**

had smoked an e-cigarette in their lifetime

**2%**

smoked cigarettes daily

**20%**

had used cannabis in their lifetime

**15%**

drink alcohol so they are not left out of peer group

**9%**

smoke cigarettes so they are not left out of peer group

**74%**

of young people feel safe at school

## GIVING YOUTH A VOICE

### YOUTH IN ACTION SURVEY

Youth Action (the peak body representing young people and the services that support them in NSW) wanted to hear from young people about the realities of being a young person in Western Sydney. The below feedback was heard directly from young people who attended Drop-in at Myst at Katoomba earlier in the year. Only three Questions were asked...

#### 1. What is not working for young people in the Blue Mountains?

- Main issues raised were school and Socialising/activities.
- Schools underfunded
- Not enough support for students
- Not enough qualified School Counsellors
- Not enough suitable social activities
- More drop-in opportunities needed
- Cost of living and bus and train access were an issue for young people

#### 2. What is working for young people in the Blue Mountains?

The most common theme in responses was that MYST Services were well received and working for young people in the Blue Mountains and that they felt a sense of belonging when attending Drop-in or other activities. Myst was recognised as a place where young people felt safe and could relax and get social and other support.

#### 3. What ideas do you have for making the Blue Mountains a better place for young people?

Participants highlighted the need for more areas for young people to hang out, and access to Gyms before school.

- The young people spoke a lot about school and the need for improvements such as:
- More acknowledgement of different learning styles
- Opportunities to learn a variety of languages
- Access to good Counsellors
- More funding for things like: air conditioning, disability support, support for students who cannot afford school supplies, more student learning support officers.

### PLANET YOUTH

Planet Youth Blue Mountains is a global and local community-centred project aimed at preventing substance use amongst young people by identifying and strengthening the things that protect them and help them to live their best lives. The Blue Mountains area is one of five Planet Youth pilot sites in Australia. The local project began in 2019 with a survey of Year 10 students in Blue Mountains high schools. The second Planet Youth Australia survey was conducted in April 2022.

Myst is a partner in this important project and our clients participated in the recent survey of year 10 students across the Blue Mountains to help gain understanding of the attitudes and behaviours of young people in the local community. The Blue Mountains survey highlights the link between 'protective factors' and substance use. Protective factors are things that are present in our community, and in the lives of our young people, that help to protect them from the risk of substance use. When a protective factor is absent, the risk of substance use is significantly increased.

The research shows us that a number of protective factors are present for the young people surveyed in the Blue Mountains. These protective factors include feeling safe at school, knowing parents disapprove of substance use, and good levels of participation in physical exercise.

The research also gives us some clues about the protective factors that need to be strengthened in our community. According to the Blue Mountains survey findings, the protective factors that can be strengthened to reduce the risk of substance use include adult disapproval of drunkenness, adult refusal to supply substances at home, parents spending time with children on weekends, parents knowing the parents of their child's friends, young people spending less time out late at night, and increased community connections.

Full report is available at: <https://planetyouthbm.net.au/survey/>

# OUR GOALS FOR 2023

“ The Street Art Workshop went Banana’s! it was definitely the highlight of the day. ”

– Quote from Mysty Music Fest



New mountain bikes generously donated by Trek Bikes

## EXCITING NEWS! GOALS FOR 2023

The MYST team are committed and ready to tackle the challenges of the year ahead alongside the youth of the Blue Mountains.

2022 continued to be a difficult one for the Blue Mountains Community with the ongoing impact of COVID, more devastating flood events and the lingering trauma of the bush fires. Myst has weathered these challenges with the Blue Mountains youth and under the Leadership of CEO Jodie Rollason is now focussing on increasing our community support and funding to assist more young people navigate life challenges. Our focus for the next 12 months will include the following key outputs:

- Improving and refining services to address the increased need for teen mental health services
- Improving and refining programs to improve teen socialisation
- Tailor more programs with a skills-based focus.
- Increase community engagement
- Broaden our geographical reach, to meet the needs across the blue mountains
- Increase the amount of young people assisted.
- A new focus on younger teens for early intervention
- Expansion of programs to create a more inclusive MYST for LGBTQIA+ and Aboriginal youth.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

The MYST team cannot achieve our goals without the continued support of the community. Thank you for your ongoing support – if you can help us by donating, volunteering or spreading the word you will be making a significant difference to the lives of the youth in the Blue Mountains.

Please contact **Gailene Keen** on **0417 469 401** or [gailene@myst.com.au](mailto: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.

# WIDENING OUR WELCOME

“ Just wanted to say I’ve been cramming numbers down. I feel more powerful than I have ever felt. I feel this sense of powerful energy is brewed into my consciousness. I feel good about life. ”

– MYST client



Our new yarning circle

**Flinn Donovan**  
– Manager, New Programs

## NEW AREAS OF FOCUS FOR MYST IN 2023

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

MYST will be working closely with YMISA (Youth Mental Illness & Substance Abuse) to achieve the following:

- Developing stronger links between clinical and community development services.
- Reducing the gaps in services in the mountains for young people living with mental health and substance abuse issues.
- Creating better links between mental health and drug & alcohol services.
- Developing a stronger, more coordinated approach between services in the NGO sector when responding to young people in crisis; and
- Delivering mental health programs in schools

### ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS

Our newest addition to the programs for next year is a Yarning and cultural craft circle for the local Aboriginal community. In collaboration with ACRC (Aboriginal Cultural Resource Centre) we will be running an Elders program where Aboriginal youth and Elders come together to discuss their issues. This will enable the Elders to impart their cultural knowledge on the youth as well as gain an understanding about the issues surrounding the Aboriginal youth of the Blue Mountains.

MYST has been working collaboratively on the radio program 'Yarning with Lana', hosted by First Nations radio host Kamilaroi, Yinarr- presenter Dr Lana Leslie. This enables conversations around topics of interest to young people such as cultural identity and self-reflection. It also enables MYST to promote their up and coming programs and events to further broaden our reach to young people.

MYST has teamed up with the Katoomba ANZAC hospital to provide an Aboriginal counsellor/case worker to visit Aboriginal youth in hospital. These youth will receive support from a culturally specific and youth trained expert to address their needs.

### CALD PROGRAMS

MYST is also working with SydWest Multicultural services on a CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) program to tackle racism and promote inclusion. The program will run in the local schools to empower culturally diverse and indigenous school students to learn how to respond to racism under the framework of inclusion for a better understanding about themselves and their environment.

### LGBTQIA+ PROGRAMS

MYST will be creating a 'Rainbow Library' with education books, films and resources for the LGBTQIA+ community. We are also working in collaboration with Pink Mountains to increase our programs and safe spaces for the LGBTQIA+ youth community.

# OUR FINANCES

“I am a peer support worker now doing my social work degree and I always tell my clients about the support I got from my worker at MYST, because your support system is crucial in increasing and maintaining mental wellness.”

– Former MYST client

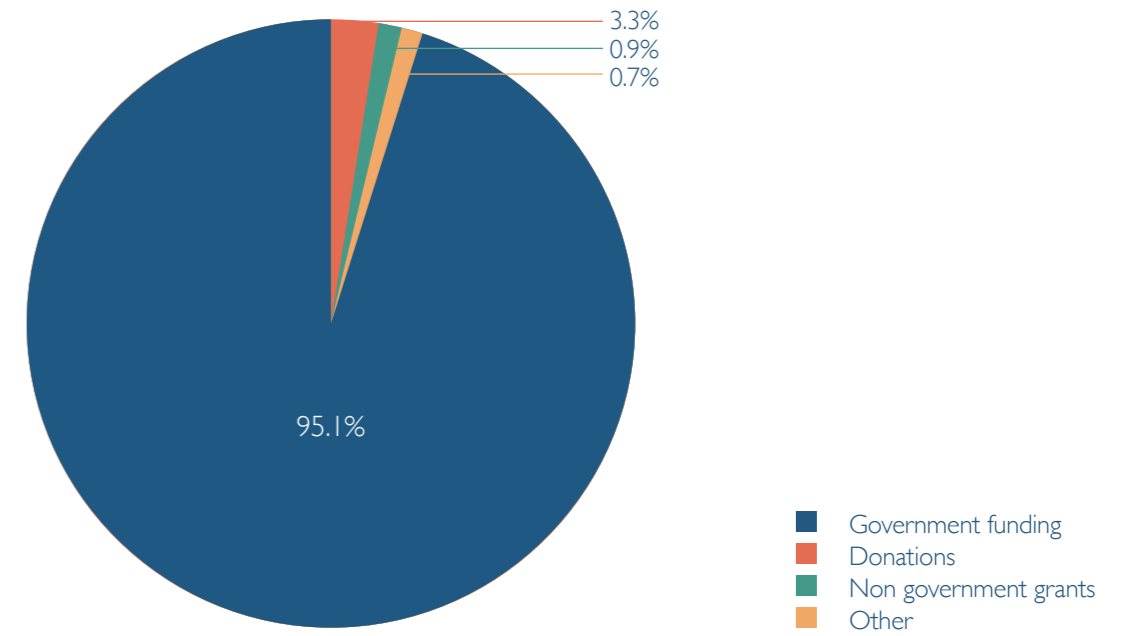


Mural created by young people on a basketball court at Myst Katoomba youth centre

## INCOME

Government funding	\$1,382,195
Donations	\$47,398
Non government grants	\$12,800
Other (includes Board Fees, Interest, sale of asset)	\$10,575

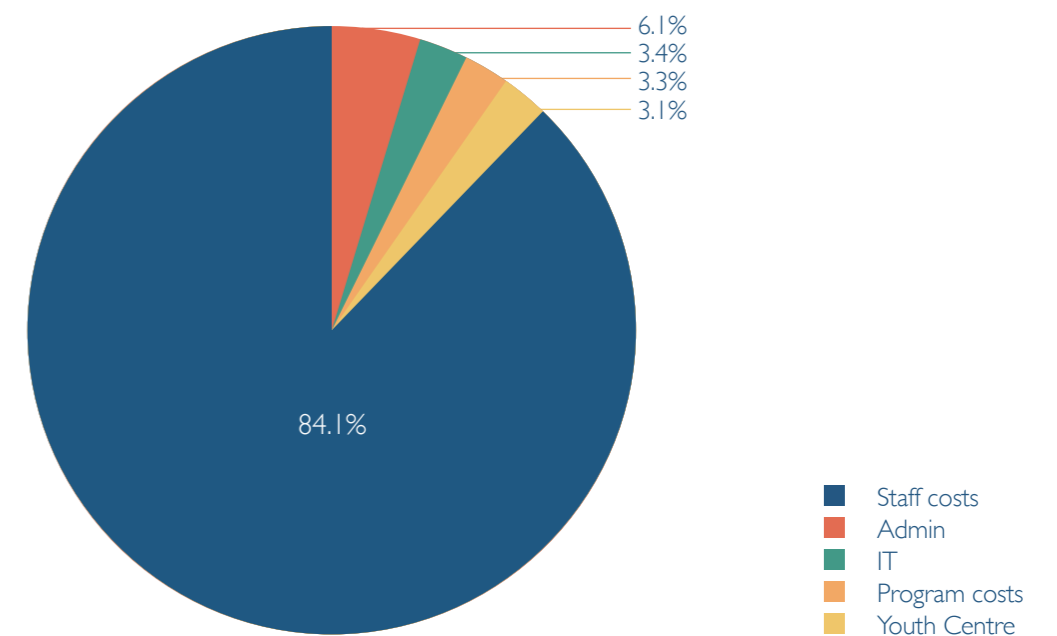
**\$1,452,968**



## EXPENSES

Staff costs	\$1,216,691
Admin	\$88,524
IT	\$49,890
Program Costs	\$47,989
Youth Centre	\$43,197

**\$1,446,291**





# PEOPLE AND CULTURE OUR TEAM

“ The excited buzz on the faces, the playful way I was able to interact with Young People I’d never met before, and the engagement I saw between Young People and the various tables – particularly family planning – reminded me of why it can be so uplifting to do this work. ”

– MYST Youth Worker



Rotary Volunteer helping out at Santa Paws event

## SKILLED SUPPORT THE MYST TEAM

Myst is more than just a place – it is a team of dedicated people who share a common passion for what we do. Our team includes some of the most experienced Youth Workers, Case Managers and Counsellors in the Blue Mountains, a highly skilled Management Team and engaged Board of Directors. We are also lucky to have the support of amazing students, volunteers and program collaborators who all help make us the organisation we are today.



# THE BOARD

In 2022, The MYST Board focussed on building solid foundations for MYST sustainability and ongoing service improvement to the young people of the Blue Mountains area. The first quarter of the year saw Board membership grow with the new appointment of Greg Forrester, a seasoned Director with vast experience within the community care sector. On 31st January 2022, the Board welcomed Jodie Rollason as CEO. A registered nurse and qualified lawyer with over 10 years' experience in the not-for-profit sector Jodie hit the ground running with a Board supported focus on culture, process, and community and DCJ engagement. With the Board's support, the organisation secured a pro-bono legal services partner, engaged in an IT & Security audit and improvement program, re-engaged with clients face to face post lockdown, focussed on fundraising to recover losses from severe weather damage, clarified employee roles and responsibilities, launched indigenous focussed services, and simplified accounting practices. With unwavering commitment, the Board remained passionate advocates of MYST's purpose and its goal to increase the volume and quality of services to support young people in the greater Blue Mountains area.



BMX bike riding at Youth Week



**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 Coming (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 and be valued contributors to the wider community.



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

Joined June 2021

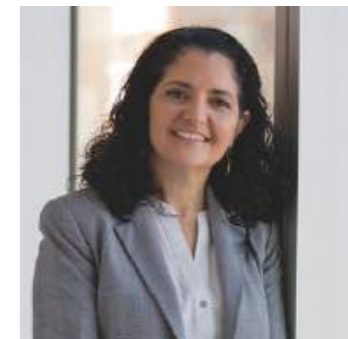
Glen joins the MYST Board with significant executive experience from the defence, mining, water, education and consulting sectors having lived and worked in Australia, Indonesia and the USA. He is a seasoned leader in organisational transformations and joins the Board with the conviction that MYST has 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".



**GREG FORRESTER**  
DIRECTOR AND MEMBER  
AUDIT RISK COMMITTEE

Joined July 2021

Greg is a collaborative leader with over 25 years' experience in executive management, and as non-executive director working mainly in construction, aged care, community care and disability services in domestic and international organisations. Greg's strengths lie in governance, developing strategies for organisation performance, change management and sustainability. Greg is passionate about implementing systems that are responsive and align with the organisation's mission and values. "The more we increase the active participation and partnership with young people, the better we serve them. And the more comprehensively we work with them as service partners, the more we increase our public value to the entire community. MYST is providing wonderful engagement services with young people, and I look forward to supporting MYST's valuable work.



**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."



**GARETH SCOTT**  
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
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.”



**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”.



Winmalee High Students abseiling at Yellowrock

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thanks to the generous support of philanthropists, businesses, corporations and community organisations, MYST is able to empower young people in the Blue Mountains community to build resilience and confidence which enables them to navigate life's challenges and find their way. A very special thank you to our Partners and supporters in 2022.



MYST CEO Jodie Rollason accepting donation from CommBank Springwood

## FUNDING PARTNERS



### GRANTS

NSW Department of Communities and Justice  
Bendigo Bank (Katoomba)  
Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund  
Comm Bank Flood Grant  
Energy Australia  
Social Sector Support Fund  
Social Sector Transformation Fund  
The Mary Vernon Foundation  
Wentworth Healthcare – Community Wellbeing Grant

### GENERAL DONATIONS AND SUPPORTERS

Benetatos White Solicitors  
Hotondo Homes (Blue Mountains)  
Rotary Club of Central Blue Mountains  
Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains  
Rotary Club of Blackheath (Upper Blue Mountains)  
Rotary Club of Springwood  
Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise  
Rotary E club (Greater Sydney)  
Rotary Club of Katoomba  
Bunnings Katoomba  
Rams Homeloans (Springwood)  
Grill'd Penrith – Community Matters Program  
Col Jennings  
Joy Cusack  
P Keen  
Michael Mackin  
Paul Karis  
Kara Cooper  
Alex Gooding  
ActiveCare Network  
Vanessa Gersbach  
Kerry Syms

### PROGRAM COLLABORATORS

ACRC: Aboriginal Culture Resource Centre  
BANC: Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre  
Belong Blue Mountains  
Blacktown Youth College, Lawson Campus  
Blaxland High School  
CAVA: coalition against violence  
Dr Lana Leslie, Gunnedah Hill Consultants  
Family Planning  
Headspace  
Katoomba High School  
LCP; Lithgow Community Projects  
LINC: Lithgow information & Neighbourhood Centre  
Lithgow High  
MMAV: Mountains Men Against Violence  
Mountains Outreach Community Service  
Planet Youth Initiative  
Rapid Relief  
Springwood Community Centre  
Springwood High School  
Sydwest Multicultural Services

## DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES

Acorn Press  
Arisit  
Audio-Technica Australasia  
Back Bone BMX  
Bakers Delight Katoomba  
Bakers Delight Springwood  
Bilpin Cider  
Blackmans Bicycles  
Blue Mountains Adventure Company  
Blue Mountains Kitchens  
Bunnings Katoomba  
Bunnings Valley Heights  
Car Signs  
DMX Photography  
De Longhi  
Dryridge Estate  
Fastimes  
Ford Millinery  
Globe  
Johnson Winter Slattery  
Kamdean Flooring  
Kingpin  
Krispy Kreme  
Little Bird Events  
Metromix  
Mountain Fresh Growers  
Mountains Made Hampers  
Now and Zen  
Opal Skip Bins  
Roof Rack and Towbar World  
Scooter Hut  
Shingleback  
SkaterHQ  
Sydney property Management  
The Glenbrook Greengrocer  
The North Face  
Totem Skateboards  
Trek Bikes Australia  
Tynan Motors  
Unitex Australia  
VR Laser Services  
Whisk and Pin  
Yakima Australia

## THANK YOU TO

**Susan Templeman MP**  
(Federal Member for Macquarie)

**Trish Doyle MP**  
(Member for Blue Mountains)

# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

“ It was lovely to meet you on the weekend! My kids loved being able to come along to your Youth Week Music event, they had a ball and I’m sure we will be back for more MYST Activities and events. ”

– Parent, following the MYST Youth Week Music event



Local Federal Member, Susan Templeman unveiling MYST basketball court mural

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the MOUNTAINS YOUTH SERVICES TEAM INC. for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

### Committee Members

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

- Joy Cusack
- Gareth Scott
- Emma Wong
- Glen Babington
- Ann Mackin
- Timothy Wong
- Greg Forrester

### 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 after providing for income tax amounted to

Year ended 30 June 2022	Year ended 30 June 2021
\$	\$
6,676	44,880

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on: 9 September 2022

*Joy Cusack*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joy Cusack

*Gareth Scott*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gareth Scott

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENT 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 9th day of September 2022



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

### Trading Income

Administration Income	360.00	0.00
CFB Income	0.00	50,000.00
DCJ ERO Payments	106,066.99	103,571.33
DCJ TEI Funding	1,107,682.52	1,073,866.06
Interest Received	905.83	1,567.37
Membership fees	69.09	40.00
MYST - Misc. Income	9,240.00	0.00
OE - Disability Service Fees	0.00	59,450.00
OE - Fee Paying	0.00	42,405.00
OE - Misc Income	0.00	280.00
Other Restricted Grants & Donations	196,245.00	18,644.94
SAMA - Mural Sales	0.00	1,440.00
Unrestricted Grants & Donations	32,397.92	5,188.35
Workshops	0.00	42.75
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>1,452,967.35</b>	<b>1,356,495.80</b>

### Cost of Sales

Advertising & Promotion (5600)	3,964.54	90.91
Cleaning Direct	9,340.78	8,861.83
Computer Software & Support	24,260.11	7,761.00
COVID Safety Expenses	264.02	1,052.04
Drop In - Food and Other Supplies	7,121.27	5,241.42
Education/Skills - Rock & Water	275.50	0.00
Education/Skills - School / Holiday	2,531.94	7,382.20
Education/Skills - Workshop	11.25	68.36
Equipment <\$1,000 (5630)	3,658.17	1,079.01
Event - Activities	1,395.13	0.00
Event - Advertising/Promotions	4,507.01	0.00
Event - Catering	1,749.50	0.00
Event - Entertainment	3,447.41	0.00
Event - Equipment	2,189.96	0.00
Event - Miscellaneous	630.00	0.00
Expenses - Music Mentoring	0.00	5,995.69
First Aid & Safety	3,350.21	0.00
Individual Client Support - CM&YW	7,675.20	10,957.28
Individual Client Support - Counselling	1,469.32	0.00
Katoomba Youth Centre - Consumables	1,323.23	2,220.90
Katoomba Youth Centre - Repairs & Maintenance	8,811.00	3,266.12
Leave Liability Direct	(45,264.60)	4,129.62
Management Fee (5400)	0.00	3,277.58
MV Staff Claims Direct	8,852.05	17,767.22
Outdoor Explore - SatPhone	545.40	545.40
Outdoor Explore - Food	1,996.38	8,739.58
Outdoor Explore - Other Program Cost	1,522.67	0.00
Outdoor Explore - R&M	804.11	281.09
Outdoor Explore - Transport	569.29	4,869.50
Outdoor Explore - Vehicle Expenses	3,015.86	2,289.85
Printing & Stationery	5,999.39	10,356.26
Professional Supervision (5410)	12,531.79	13,036.80
Publications & Reference Material (5670)	59.05	0.00
SAMA - Artist Fees	8,700.00	0.00
SAMA - Other Expenses	0.00	1,280.20
SAMA - Paint & Other Supplies	2,643.52	0.00
Social Participation - School/Holiday	63.64	0.00
Springwood Youth Centre - Consumables	605.21	1,511.57
Springwood Youth Centre - Repairs & Maintenance	1,399.37	0.00
Staff Amenities - Specific (5420)	100.00	0.00
Subscriptions & Memberships (5710)	3,128.10	2,881.51
Super (5440)	77,168.32	87,317.75
Super Casual (5445)	1,121.64	5,287.43
TEI - Community Engagement	163.00	52.44
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>432,711.60</b>	<b>110,844.62</b>

## Operating Expenses

Advertising & Promotion (6220)	495.00	0.00
Audit & Accounting Fees	14,427.13	5,270.87
Bank Charges	144.82	570.52
Computer Software - Shared	819.85	0.00
Depreciation	29,553.43	11,829.56
Electricity	2,964.49	5,805.20
Equipment <\$20,000 (6400)	24,310.00	0.00
Gardening	7,709.59	201.11
Gas	893.38	1,078.97
Insurance - Business	17,002.70	17,424.98
Insurance - Workers Compensation	28,238.29	17,803.13
IT (Website & email)	500.00	4,305.68
Legal Fees	0.00	700.00
Motor Vehicle expenses	450.00	0.00
Motor Vehicle Tarago	359.49	492.44
Recruitment	30,242.55	0.00
Staff Amenities - Specific (6120)	100.00	0.00
Stripe application fee	29.57	0.00
Subscriptions & Memberships (6760)	126.14	0.00
Super (6140)	24,138.30	0.00
Training & Meetings (6160)	190.91	0.00
Wages (6180)	242,833.66	0.00
Water	506.31	482.04
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>426,035.61</b>	<b>65,964.50</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>6,675.99</b>	<b>44,880.12</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

### Assets

<b>Bank</b>		
AUD PayPal	364.66	377.02
CBA 10276041 Savings	409,418.95	482,431.18
CBA 28009953 Chq	69,392.20	22,364.46
CBA Card payments account	0.00	814.20
CBA Drop in 18s 8415	17,741.29	19,260.78
CBA Street Art 8394	4,902.49	15,470.07
CBA TMHFA 8407	30,492.00	30,492.00
PC - Amba 1811	377.87	602.82
PC - Closed 1846	0.00	132.84
PC - Closed 1870	0.00	137.32
PC - Courtney 7594	8.12	128.80
PC - Gailene 7850	5,822.64	369.85
PC - Jim 1926	11.03	271.80
PC - Jodie & Lize 1889	385.37	191.42
PC - Kristian 1790	424.11	148.84
PC - Leah 1803	8.25	194.52
PC - Paige 1897	50.03	67.33
PC - Roman 1838	436.65	1,831.99
PC - Sara 1918	213.75	262.62
PC - Skye 1934	52.49	410.62
PC - Sue 1301	342.33	291.00
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>540,444.23</b>	<b>576,251.48</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	50,480.65	1,455.15
Prepayments	83,568.26	10,197.19
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>134,048.91</b>	<b>11,652.34</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<b>Software</b>		
Software	13,410.00	0.00
- less accumulated depreciation	(13,410.00)	0.00
<b>Total Software</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Office F &amp; F Disability Springwood</b>		
Office F&F Disability Springwood	3,273.61	3,273.61
- less accumulated depreciation	(2,381.92)	(2,088.41)
<b>Total Office F &amp; F Disability Springwood</b>	<b>891.69</b>	<b>1,185.20</b>
<b>Equipment - KYC</b>		
Equipment - KYC	7,940.04	3,885.49
Equipment - KYC Accumulated Dep'n	(7,940.04)	(3,885.49)
<b>Total Equipment - KYC</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Equipment - Outdoor Explore</b>		
Equipment - Outdoor Explore	15,244.50	4,645.41
Equipment - Outdoor Explore Accumulated Depreciation	(4,032.88)	(3,545.63)
<b>Total Equipment - Outdoor Explore</b>	<b>11,211.62</b>	<b>1,099.78</b>
<b>Leasehold Improvements KYC</b>		
Leasehold Improvements KYC	34,574.03	30,374.03
Leasehold Improvements KYC Accumulated Dep'n	(29,349.67)	(29,330.11)
<b>Total Leasehold Improvements KYC</b>	<b>5,224.36</b>	<b>1,043.92</b>
<b>Personal Computers</b>		
Personal Computers	36,987.70	30,765.70
less accumulated depreciation	(36,987.70)	(30,765.70)
<b>Total Personal Computers</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>		
Motor Vehicles	67,447.18	53,798.18
Motor Vehicles Accumulated Dep'n	(32,774.42)	(53,798.18)
<b>Total Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>34,672.76</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Office Fixtures - KYC</b>		
Office Fixtures - KYC	4,939.08	4,939.08
Office Fixtures - KYC Accumulated Dep'n	(3,911.27)	(3,750.95)
<b>Total Office Fixtures - KYC</b>	<b>1,027.81</b>	<b>1,188.13</b>
<b>Office Furniture and Equip Office SYC</b>		
Office Furniture & Equip Office SYC	54,286.92	53,286.92

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>Cash Flow From Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from funding bodies and other sources of income	1,511,411	1,508,753
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(1,517,561)	(1,278,518)
Interest received	908	1,567
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 3)	<u>(5,242)</u>	<u>231,802</u>
<b>Cash Flow From Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(55,495)	(3,599)
Disposal Plant	24,930	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(30,565)</u>	<u>(3,599)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(35,807)	228,203
Cash at the beginning of the year	576,251	348,048
Cash at the end of the year (note 2)	<u>540,444</u>	<u>576,251</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity as it is unlikely there are users of these financial statements who are not in a position to require the preparation of reports tailored to their information needs. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the Committee have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

#### (a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The carrying amount of an item of PPE shall be derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of PPE shall be included in profit or loss when the item is derecognised.

#### (b) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

#### (c) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

#### (d) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reasonably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

#### (e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.



**(f) Leases**

For leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the association to further its objectives (commonly known as peppercorn/concessionary leases), the association has adopted the temporary relief under AASB2018-8 and measures the right of use assets at cost on initial recognition.

MYST does not have any contracted lease expenditure for any of its leased premises.

**(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

**(h) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**(i) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue includes income received for services provided in relation grant income, outdoor explore programs, donations and other income.

Revenue is measured at the value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed.

Grant and donation income is recognised in accordance with AASB 15 after assessing whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations under AASB 15. When both these conditions are satisfied the entity identifies each performance obligation in relation to the grant, recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement and recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Interest revenue is recognised upon receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**(j) Income Tax**

The Association is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax in accordance with Section 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The Association is a public benevolent institution and holds deductible gift recipient status.

**(k) Key estimates and judgments**

Plant and equipment - as indicated in Note 1(a), the association reviews the useful life of plant and equipment on annual basis.

Employee entitlements - as indicated at Note 1(c), employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The association exercises judgment in the classification of employment arrangements in order to assess any obligation for employee entitlements.

**(l) Economic Dependence**

The Association is dependent on the Department of Communities & Justice (previously known as Family & Community Services) ("the Department") for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. On 22nd May 2020 the Association renewed its agreement for funding services with the Department for a five year term commencing 1st July 2020. At the date of this report the Committee has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support the Association.

## STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE 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 2022 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*

Joy Cusack  
Chairperson

*Gareth Scott*

Gareth Scott  
Treasurer

Signed on this 9th day of September 2022

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of MOUNTAINS YOUTH SERVICES TEAM INC. (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022, 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 2022 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and 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 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.

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.

Signed on 9 September, 2022:



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

66 Emu Plains Rd Mt Riverview 2774

“ I just want to say how much I enjoyed my experiences with MYST. I thought you and Roman were really helpful, and kind. I really appreciate the advice you gave me. MYST also gave me a chance to build up a now long lasting friendship with Jaz. I also very much enjoyed 90% of the activities you took us on (Outdoor Explore). I really loved the water activities especially. I would definitely do it all again any day (apart from the walking). ”

– Outdoor Explore Participant, aged 15



School Holiday Program rainy day bushwalk



mountains youth  
services team



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