



mountains youth
services team



DARE TO DREAM UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Annual Report 2023

THE MYST VISION

**A BLUE
MOUNTAINS
COMMUNITY
WHERE EVERY
YOUNG PERSON
THRIVES**

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

Our team is dedicated to supporting young people age 12-24 years through therapeutic early intervention, skills training, personal development and 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.

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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

MYST acknowledges and offers respect to the Gundungarra and Dhurag people 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.

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

MYST ensures that its programs create a safe and friendly space for LGBTQIA+ young people.

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THANK YOU TO OUR ILLUSTRATOR

We would like to thank Ruby Donovan, aged 18, for providing her skill and creativity for the illustrations for our 2023 annual report. Ruby lives in the Blue Mountains and has enjoyed drawing from an early age. These drawings celebrate the creativity of the young people we work with and are reflective of the collaboration we have with them in the design of our service offerings.

Cover image: Having fun at Outdoor Explore

CHAIR MESSAGE



JOY CUSACK
BOARD CHAIR,
MEMBER GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Dreaming can help us to imagine and visualise our future, and it can be a useful way to cope when life brings challenges. MYST provides opportunities and safe places to help young people dare to dream, and helps them build the skills to put those dreams into action.

2023 has been another defining year for MYST, with an emphasis on developing and implementing a strategy of innovative programs and services, continuing to place young people at the heart of everything MYST does by creating positive impact.

Young people have had it tough for too many years recently, and their mental health, wellbeing, school attendance, and academic improvement are top of mind for our staff. These areas of need inform MYST's strategy and service delivery, ensuring that our programs are relevant to young people, helping them develop the skills to be resilient and to take their place in the community.

As part of delivering on our strategy, we're also committed to recruiting qualified, skilled and experienced staff members, and to supporting our team in their professional development so they can offer the best service to young people.

Measuring the impact of MYST programs and services is also vital to implementing our strategy. The data we gather to assess our programs and services guides our development of these, helps us perceive trends and respond to changes, and tells a story of achievement and positive results.

Some of our successes this year have been in providing safe spaces and enjoyable opportunities for young people to engage with their peers and their communities through Family Fun Days, Battle of the Bands, drop in centres, and Breakfast Clubs.

As we look to 2024 and beyond, our dream is that MYST will continue to be the 'go to' safe place where young people are free to dream and turn that dream into reality. Loads of heartfelt thanks to Jodie Rollason and the MYST staff for their caring, compassion, and hard work, and to the Board for their oversight and guidance to help MYST to reach its goals.

Artwork by young person for Youth Week Exhibition

CEO REPORT

Young Person's artwork entry in Youth Week exhibition



JODIE ROLLASON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DARE TO DREAM, UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

This year, MYST made significant progress in delivering and expanding our services to meet the growing needs of young people in the Blue Mountains. It has been a year of innovation, resilience and unwavering commitment by our team – daring to dream and helping our young people feel empowered to unlock their potential.

One of our major accomplishments this year has been the successful implementation of MYST Breakfast Club, providing more than 6950 breakfasts for high school students across the Blue Mountains. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from young people, parents and school staff, and we're proud of the impact of the program helping students achieve increased attendance and focus at school. To help young people support each other, we delivered the Teen Mental Health First Aid program to four high schools. The program helps young people gain the skills to identify mental health issues and know where to access assistance. We also initiated several workshops and training programs to help equip young people with the skills and knowledge to advocate for themselves, including a CALD program for anti-racism, and LGBTQIA+ programs to promote inclusivity.

Other initiatives this year were our popular 'MYST with Flinn' radio program, and family fun days to help communities continue connecting and healing after the disruptions of the past few years.

Changes in our team include new hires, and increased skills. Financial counsellor Isis Khalil joined the team, enabling MYST to offer this service for the first time. With a Diploma of Counselling, Diploma of Education, and Diploma in Financial Counselling, Isis brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in debt management and budgeting to help young people in gaining financial independence. We also welcomed Kate Greenham as manager of our Outdoor Explore program. Kate holds a Bachelor in Behavioural Science (Psychology) and a Diploma in Community Services, and is well equipped to help young people work through challenges. Manager of our Youth Work team, Paige Thurlow-Want, commenced a Bachelor of Youth Work to build on her experience and engage with the latest approaches to helping young people.

I would like to thank the wonderful MYST team for their dedicated efforts in supporting young people. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, including our Board of Directors, as well as our donors and partners. Without their generosity and belief in the potential of young people, our work would not be possible.

Together, we will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of young people in the Blue Mountains.

OUR MISSION AND GOALS

"MYST HAS HELPED ME TO BE A LEADER, HELPFUL, RESPECTFUL AND A PEER FOR OTHERS"

OUTDOOR EXPLORE PARTICIPANT



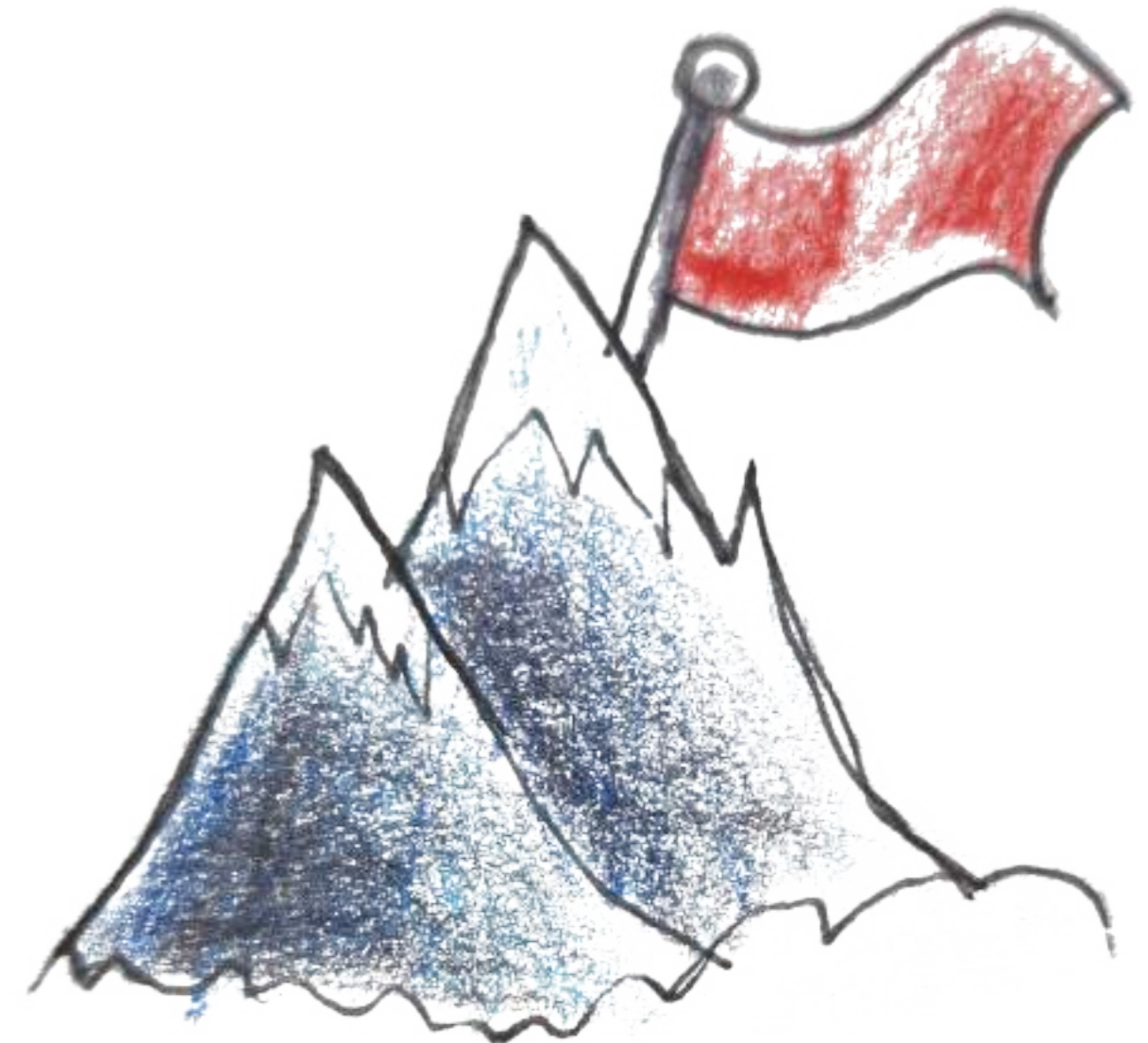
Breakfast Club

OUR MISSION

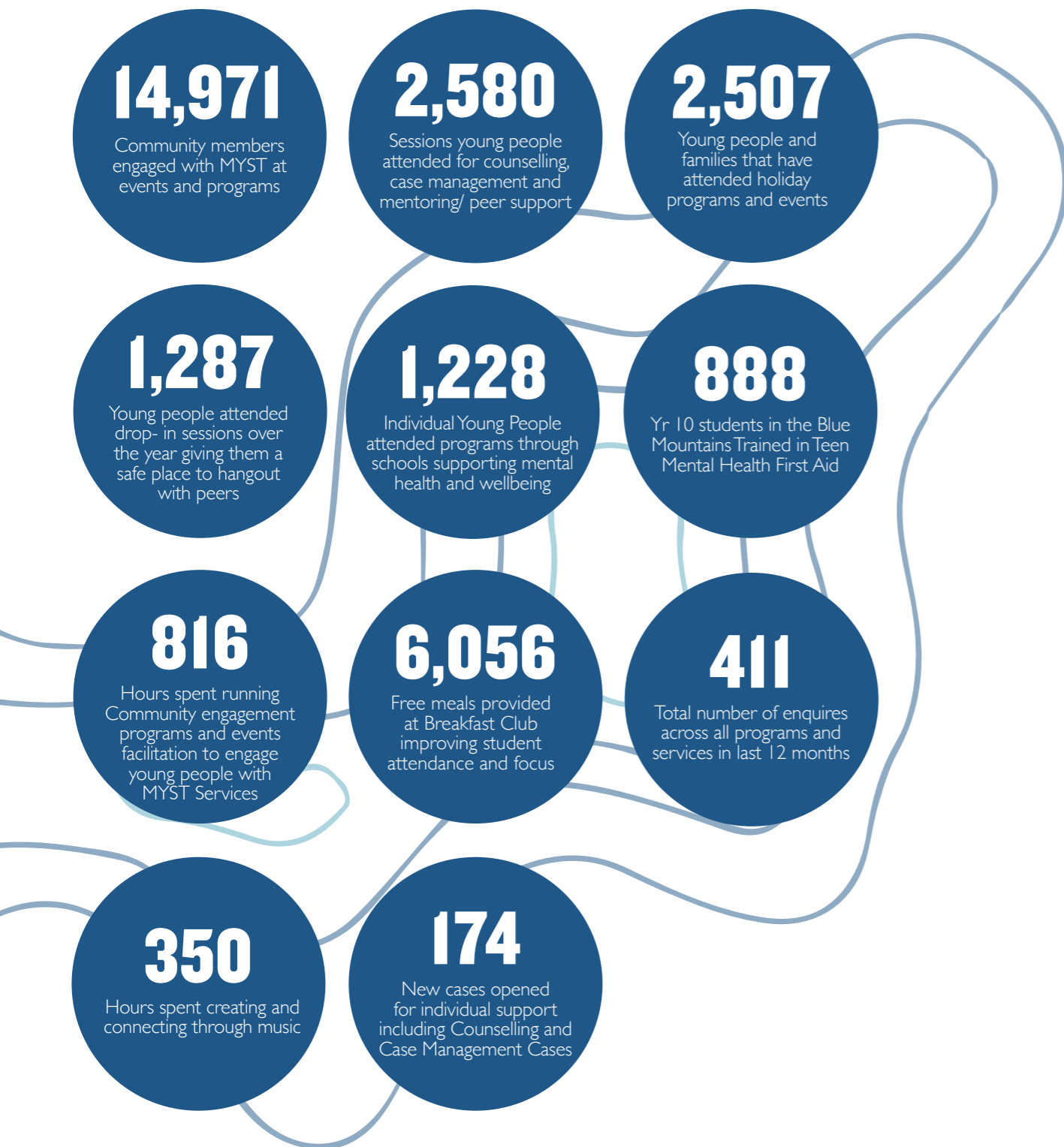
MYST provides early intervention programs and services for young people aged 12-24 in the Blue Mountains.

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.



OUR IMPACT FOR FY2023



STRONG GROWTH PLANS

As we embark on another year of service to young people in our community, we are delighted to share our vision and strategic direction for 2023-2026. Our 3-year strategic plan reflects our unwavering commitment to providing young people in the Blue Mountains with the tools and resources they need to succeed, not just today, but for years to come. A testament to the tireless dedication of our team, the generous support of our donors, and the belief that together, we can empower tomorrow's leaders. As we implement this plan, we invite you to join us on this journey towards a brighter future for our young people. Your continued support and collaboration are invaluable, and we are excited to make a lasting impact on the lives of the young individuals we support.

STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

- 1 INFORM & EDUCATE**
Inform and educate the local community about young people and their issues and concerns with a view to building community support and participation in initiatives to improve quality of life for young people.
- 2 SUCCESSFUL NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS**
Build successful networks and partnerships with organisations, workers and decision makers. This assists in the development and implementation of strategies for young people at risk of violence, addictions, poverty, mental illness, disability or helplessness, racism and gender identity to build resilience and lifeskills for better longterm outcomes.
- 3 INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS & TARGETED SERVICE**
Provide innovative programs and targeted services to young people to meet their needs and reduce the impacts of financial and social disadvantage.
- 4 HEALTHY ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE**
Build a healthy organisation culture that aligns with our Vision and Values which supports delivery of our strategy for a more resilient MYST.
- 5 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**
Deliver a strengthened balance sheet through diversification of funding sources and a focus on savings and efficiencies.

OUR VALUES

Our values shape the programs we offer, and our interactions with partners, supporters, our clients, the community, and each other. Our values are critical to the impact we deliver now and in the future.



RESILIENCE

We exist to build emotional, educational, and physical resilience in young people. We utilize our resources, strengths, and skills to overcome challenges and work through setbacks. Like the Mountains themselves, we embrace change, and adapt to disruptions while maintaining our focus on our young people recovering quickly and bouncing back better than ever.



EQUITY

We champion diversity. We believe in providing a fair and equitable workplace where everyone feels like they are treated with respect. We believe everyone should be seen, heard, valued, and empowered to succeed.



INGENUITY

We embrace innovation and creativity in all our programs to address unmet need. We think outside of the box to make it happen for our young people and the wider community. If there's a way to improve, we'll find it. If there's a new approach, we'll take it. We might not know the answers, but in finding them we solve tomorrow's problems for our young people.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We care deeply about delivering for our young people, peers, and stakeholders. In short, we own it. We support each other to deliver, without fail, because when we succeed, so do our young people. We know what's expected of us and we do our work well. We set our expectations high and do what we say we are going to do. We just nail it.



COLLABORATION

Working together takes work, but we love it. Individually, we create incredible solutions. But it's when we collaborate with each other and with other providers and community groups in our sectors that the really great ideas come to life and outcomes for our young people are amplified. We lend a hand, support each other, laugh and have fun. We're all playing on the same team here, and it shows.



Collaborating to solve problems at Outdoor Explore

THE MYST TEAM

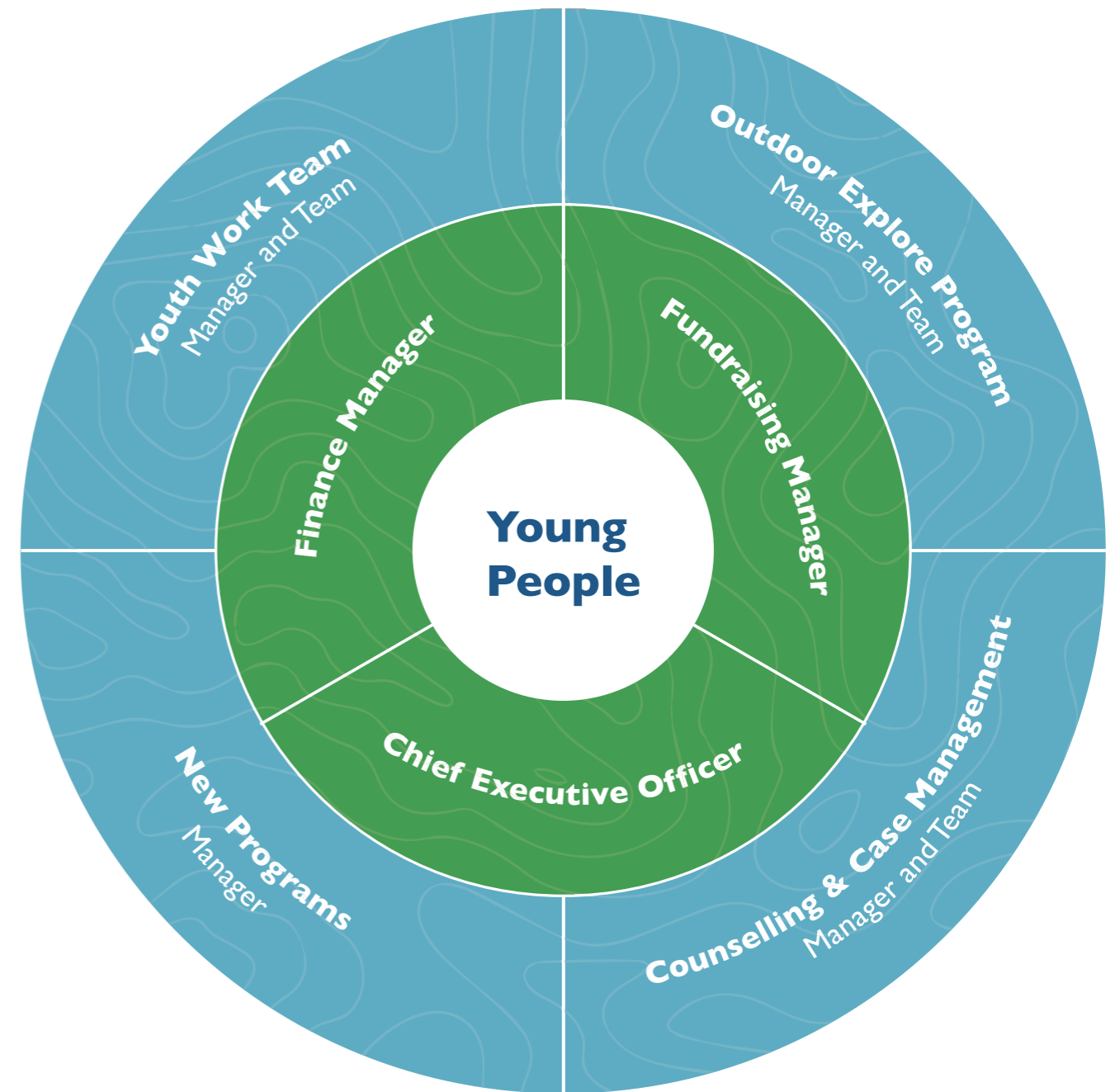
"THE OUTDOOR EXPLORE TEAM MET STUDENTS WHERE THEY WERE AT AND CELEBRATED EACH ONE WITH KINDNESS AND WARMTH. AMAZING HUMANS!"

PARENT OF OUTDOOR EXPLORE PARTICIPANT

Abseiling at Outdoor Explore

SKILLED SUPPORT THE MYST TEAM

Our Board, staff and volunteers demonstrate passion, skill and dedication as they work to empower young people and strengthen communities. We greatly value the variety of skills and abilities of all our staff. Through our combined talents we deliver innovative solutions to support young people in the Blue Mountains.



PROGRAM AREA REPORTS

**“THANKS AGAIN FOR THIS
WONDERFUL COURSE AND
YOUR AMAZING DEDICATION
TO YOUNG PEOPLE,
PARTICULARLY MINE.”**
PARENT OF COURSE PARTICIPANT



Youth Week April 2023 – “Battle of the Bands”

2023 PROGRAM SUMMARY

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.

- 1 YOUTH WORK AT MYST**
- 2 COUNSELLING AND CASE MANAGEMENT AT MYST**
- 3 OUTDOOR EXPLORE**
- 4 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS**
- 5 FINANCIAL COUNSELLING**

YOUTH WORK AT MYST



PAIGE THURLOW-WANT
MANAGER YOUTH WORK TEAM

The 2022 to 2023 financial year saw 240 program sessions and events run within the Blue Mountains Community. These included Family Fun Days, Holiday Programs, School Programs, Skate events, Art Competitions, Youth week Battle of the Bands, Drop In and so many more. Through these programs the MYST team have achieved great outcomes including social and community participation and connection, inclusion, resilience, advocacy, life skills and sense of belonging.

The Blue Mountains community has begun the process of healing after many years of pandemic and natural disasters. The community is gradually coming together to support each other and MYST was there to kick start this process. MYST obtained a Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative Grant (Storm & Floods) from the Department of Regional Youth to bring the community back together; and to rebuild social connection and resilience within our community. Through this grant we hosted 2 family fun days and 2 skate workshops for young people with a total number of 1352 attendees.

The Katoomba and Glenbrook Family Fun Days saw collaboration with local market vendors, performers, and community services to deliver activities for young people of all ages – bringing the community truly together. At our Skate Workshops held in Glenbrook and St. Ives, young people learned new skills, met new people and built relationships. Within our fully equipped and soundproofed Katoomba Music Room, young people continue to creatively express themselves and build confidence in their interest, talent, and music careers. Some of the regular bands that use the space include great local talent such as Tap Hammer, Acid Amora, Trash Baby and Menace who have gone on to perform live gigs in local and Sydney venues.

MYST Breakfast Club

This year we have been running our very popular Breakfast Club in some of the local High Schools, including Blaxland High, Springwood High, Winmalee High and Katoomba High. The Blue Mountains community has seen a significant increase in economic hardship impacting families and our young people with many turning up to school without food. Through our Free Breakfast program we have provided 6,056 students with toasties, cereal and fruit – delivering a decrease in truancy and behavior issues, and an improvement in academic focus.

Teen Mental Health First Aid

This year also saw the implementation of our new program to enable young people to learn techniques for identifying mental health issues amongst their peers. The program teaches young people how to look for warning signs, how to approach conversation, to reach out to trusted adults and connect their peers into support services before the mental health issues escalate. Students have indicated that they have been able to recognise the signs of a mental health problem in their peers, and have expressed confidence in knowing when to approach an adult for help. Over the last 12 months this program has been delivered in all Public High Schools including Katoomba High, Blaxland High, Winmalee High and Springwood High and through a generous Community Grant from EnergyAustralia the program will be rolled out to both Lithgow High and La Salle College in the coming months.

COUNSELLING AND CASE MANAGEMENT AT MYST



AMBER LEWIS-ROSMAN
MANAGER COUNSELING AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Early intervention Case Management and Counselling focuses on individual targeted support and intensive specialist counselling support, for the young people of the Blue Mountains and their families. The Case management and Counselling team work collaboratively to establish a strong network around the clients and their families, emphasising holistic approaches to change, with a strong focus on client centred and directed work. With this approach, it allows clients and their families to develop a better understanding of themselves and to make a positive change in their lives.

Our services are individually tailored to meet the client's needs and are supported in a way that is confidential, respectful, empathetic, and understanding. We understand that everyone's path is unique, so we take the time to get to know each client and provide them with the support and guidance they need.

MYST Case Managers and Counsellors offer a space to hold and walk along-side a young person to support their wellbeing and independence. With the trauma of the past years of bushfires, floods and covid, the needs and support of young people are greater; with a higher level of involvement from the Case Managers and Counselling team required.

This past year has seen a significant increase in referrals from within the Blue Mountains Community and networks, seeking the expertise of the direct and interpersonal support that MYST Case Managers and Counsellors provide.

OUTDOOR EXPLORE



KATE GREENHAM
MANAGER OUTDOOR EXPLORE

This year MYST refined our long running and successful Outdoor Explore program to ensure alignment to MYST values, vision, and strategic plan and better meet the needs of our clients.

Focusing on governance and safety, we audited all operating procedures ensuring practices were up to date, locations and risks identified and mitigated, and equipment certified for use.

New protocols were introduced to manage emotional and social safety to ensure the program created a supportive and encouraging culture, centred around acceptance of individual participant limits. As one young person reflected "I was able to let go of the shame of not doing things because everyone was supportive. And I didn't have to do things I didn't want to do."

We introduced new ways of working with our High School partners, where school support staff make final referral and participant selection decisions.

This year MYST introduced co-design activities with participants increasing student value and commitment to the program. Outdoor Explore now encourages participant input to ensure the program reflects individual needs and is empowering. A "Needs Survey" was developed to understand what elements were desired, what students were wanting to achieve from the program, what important topics / themes needed to be addressed, and to identify barriers to attendance. The results are used to support construction of a refined Outdoor Explore program and support individual goals. This survey process provides young people with increased program ownership as well as develops important life skills of self-advocacy, confidence to speak up against the status quo, and learning to provide constructive feedback.

In FY23, MYST opened the program to be more inclusive of parents, caregivers, or significant others. Weekly photos and videos were sent to connect parents with the participants experiences and achievements, with commentary highlighting the strengths of the participants. At the conclusion of each program, parents/caregivers and significant others are invited to a celebration night to share in the success and pride of program graduates.

MYST will relaunch Outdoor Explore in Term 3, spending Tuesdays and Thursdays with two different teams of young people from Springwood High School. Each week, the 16 participants will experience a new and different challenge in the bush. Guided to set their own goals and reflect on their experiences, participants will be able to try canoeing, mountain-biking, abseiling and rock climbing, as well as connecting with nature through bushwalking, swimming, learning survival skills, and relationship building in a physically and psychologically safe environment.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS



FLINN DONOVAN
MANAGER NEW PROGRAMS

In line with MYST's 3 year Strategic Plan, this year MYST expanded its service offering by Launching innovative programs aimed at encouraging diversity and inclusion awareness, acceptance, and connection amongst young people in the Blue Mountains.

LGBTQAI+ Programs

In FY23 MYST developed several programs for LGBTQAI+ young people. We ran monthly Queer open-air cinema movie nights with an inflatable screen and bean bags. Movies screened reflected the queer cultural experience and our young people were able to connect authentically in a safe and supportive environment. The program will culminate with a finale at the end of the year, including families to show their support for the young LGBTQAI+ community. This fantastic program was made possible through grant funding from the Aurora Group. In October, we teamed up with the local fencing club supporting alternative skills development. Our young people learned fencing techniques and had the opportunity to engage in a fencing bout. Our Mardi Gras event was the highlight of the year with youth from as far as Lithgow travelling to attend. MYST televised the Sydney Mardi Gras event in a huge and beautifully lit marquee, serving attendees mocktails and hosting a candy bar.

CALD Programs

This year MYST launched a new program to address multicultural understanding and reduce racism. The CALD program was piloted at Winmalee High School this year and will be expanded next year with programs already confirmed at Katoomba High School and Portland Central. With a goal of increasing understanding and tolerance of different cultures, encouraging participant self-reflection on own behaviour and attitudes towards race, and reducing racism - the program focuses on identify, intersectionality, systemic racism, community diversity and belonging.

MYST with Flinn

Teaming up with Blue Mountains Community Radio, MYST hosts a weekly 2 hour radio program promoting MYST activities and building community awareness of key issues impacting youth. With regular guest interview spots, the program has promoted local service organisations such as Headspace,

**"BECAUSE OF OUTDOOR
EXPLORE, MY SON HAS BEEN
ABLE TO GROW HIS FRIEND
GROUP AND STRENGTHEN HIS
FRIENDSHIPS WHICH IS VERY
IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE,
BUT ESPECIALLY FOR A
YOUNG PERSON"**

PARENT OF OUTDOOR EXPLORE PARTICIPANT

Abseiling at Outdoor Explore

**"I THINK THE PEOPLE
RUNNING OUTDOOR
EXPLORE ARE JUST
FANTASTIC. MY SON ONLY
HAD GOOD THINGS TO SAY
ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS.**

PARENT OF OUTDOOR EXPLORE PARTICIPANT

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING



ISIS KHALIL
FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

In FY23, MYST identified Financial Counselling as a major gap in the services provided to youth living in the Blue Mountains, and appointed a financial counsellor to help clients build financial resilience and independence

The increase in the cost of living in Australia has had a major impact on youth, especially in regional areas such as the Blue Mountains affected by compounded bushfire, flood, and pandemic disasters. Research conducted by the University of Newcastle highlighted that 34% of children and young people, and 43% of young adults aged eighteen and over, who live independently, stated that they are experiencing mental health challenges resulting from high stress and anxiety levels due to financial hardship. The number of young people living independently and struggling financially has increased significantly. Added pressures of a severe housing shortage in NSW, interest rate hikes and rental increases are tipping many into homelessness.

MYST offers a free and confidential Financial Counselling service that empowers individuals to achieve a more financial future. We provide the tools and skills needed to make informed risk assessed financial decisions and develop future financial resilience.

In counselling sessions, a MYST Financial Counsellor assess individual financial situations and determines the underlying reason(s) for hardship before providing advice, referrals, advocacy, and support to people struggling with bills, fines, or unaffordable debts. The MYST service is connected to a Centrelink Community Engagement Officer to provide specialist advice and support to Blue Mountains youth eligible for income support and government entitlements. The service helps young people with complex needs including homelessness, addiction and food insecurity by providing options to deal with their hardship circumstances and advocating on their behalf with creditors. MYST's Financial Counselling service includes hosted workshops aimed to break intergenerational financial disadvantage and empower youth to achieve financial autonomy and resilience.

CLIENT STORY FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

James is a 19-year-old university student. He was referred for financial counseling after accruing a \$14,000 HECS debt. He failed every subject he had enrolled into in the previous semester. This not only meant it would take longer to complete his degree and start earning, but also that he would need to re-enrol into those subjects and accrue the extra cost for his degree.

Failing was so out of character for James as he was a high achiever in Year 12. He explained to his financial counselor that his brother had borrowed more than \$20,000 from his friends, gambled the money and lost everything. His brother convinced his friends to part with their money by promising high returns of up to 20% on the money they gave him to 'invest'. He did not tell them about his gambling problem and that he planned to achieve these high returns by gambling with their money. Unsurprisingly, he lost it all.

James was devastated to find out that his brother borrowed money from his friends to gamble. He knew about his brother's gambling problem. His brother had been relentlessly pursuing, pressuring, and emotionally blackmailing him and his sisters for money at every opportunity. He also knew that his brother would not be able to re-pay his friends as his total debt with family and others was significant. James decided to repay the money himself. He found employment and worked six days a week to repay his brother's debt to his friends. Predictably, this had a major impact on his university commitment, and he could not withdraw from the subjects he had enrolled into because Census date had passed. He therefore accrued a HECS debt for the subjects he failed and would need to repeat.

The financial counsellor wrote to the Board of Studies at his university, asked for consideration for James' circumstances and appealed for the debt to be waived or written-off. After considering his situation, the board agreed to waive the debt.

James was so relieved, delighted, and grateful to hear the outcome. Even though he handled the situation so ethically and repaid his friends, the HECS debt would not only have disadvantaged him further, but would have also been a constant reminder, for many years to come, of the adversity and trauma he and his family had suffered.

MAKING AN IMPACT THAT MATTERS

"I'VE WITNESSED THE ACCEPTANCE OF DIFFERENCE, AT A GRASS ROOTS LEVEL, AND THE CHANGE IT CAN MAKE TO A CHILD."

PARENT OF MYST YOUNG PERSON



Skate Workshop, June 2023

OUR GOALS 2024

OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

The MYST Team continues to focus on reviewing and strengthening our core services and building on these new services we have implemented in the past 12 months to ensure the best outcomes for young people in the Blue Mountains.

Additionally, we are strengthening our business processes to help improve productivity and measure our social and economic outcomes.



Improving and refining our program and service offerings for improved outcomes for young people

Increasing community engagement with a view to establishing a skilled volunteer program



Increasing the number of young people we engage with across programs such as Drop-In and Breakfast Club

Increasing brand awareness and funding sources - including launching our new website and a weekly podcast



Refining processes and data management to enable more detailed reporting and outcomes measurement

PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT FROM TRISH DOYLE MP

Working closely with local Members of Parliament, Susan Templeman, Member for Macquarie, and Trish Doyle, Member for Blue Mountains, as well as the dedicated support of Mark Greenhill, Mayor of the Blue Mountains City Council, has played a pivotal role in advancing our mission to empower and uplift the youth in our community. Their unwavering commitment and collaborative efforts have significantly bolstered our capacity to effect positive change and create enduring impacts on the lives of young people in our community. Together, we have shared and addressed the unique challenges facing our youth, fostering a fruitful environment for idea exchange and continuous improvement.



STORY FROM SARAH MOTHER OF CLIENT

My daughter had struggled with school, socially, in her primary years, and transitioning in to the high school years proved more daunting. Like many kids, she was subjected to bullying, which saw her withdraw socially.

When the year advisor/counsellor identified her as an adolescent who was struggling, she introduced her to MYST through the school program, and suggested she may like to attend the local, after school drop-in, centre. She seemed very keen, and went along happily. From the outset she loved attending MYST's after school drop-in, and has been attending ever since.

As my daughter doesn't share her feelings openly, and holds her cards close to her chest, she doesn't talk much about MYST. From my perspective as a parent, however, I am pleased she has found a place among peers, even if she doesn't engage with them terribly actively, where she clearly feels comfortable and is keen to continue attending. I imagine, for her, the main benefit is a sense of belonging, where difference is accepted, however that looks.

I am so grateful for the support and service that MYST provides to my child. The staff are warm and welcoming, and there always seems like there's interesting activities for the kids to get creative with. I view MYST as a crucial service to our young people, and invaluable in our community, where there are few too little resources for mental health support. I would love to see more funding to provide more centres in the future.

THE MYST BOARD

"IF A CHILD CAN FIND A PLACE IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY, THEY HAVE A BETTER CHANCE AT FINDING THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD."

PARENT OF MYST YOUNG PERSON

Skate workshop – St Ives

OUR GOVERNANCE

In FY23, the MYST Board continued its commitment to strengthening foundations for MYST's sustainability and ongoing service improvement to the young people of the Blue Mountains area. With the support of the Board the Leadership Executive focussed on long term strategy development; risk governance, WHS, and compliance improvement practices; and continuing the simplification of financial accounting practices for improved transparency. Highlights of the year included the development and endorsement of a refined organisational Vision, Mission, Values, and 3-year strategic plan to better meet the changing needs of the community.

The year saw a focus on IT infrastructure policy to support cyber security, data integrity, and privacy. Additionally, aligned to the new strategic plan, The Board supported the organisation's new focus areas on LGBTQIA+ programs, a refinement of its Outdoor Explore offering, trial of a Financial Counselling offering, and wider rollout of its Breakfast Club school service. In October 2022, The Board welcomed the appointment of Rowan Clifford. Rowan's senior leadership skills and experience in Allied Health has provided a valuable addition to our skills-based Board.

The Board acknowledges the wonderful and tireless contribution of the MYST staff to the young people of the Blue Mountains community. What remains evident is the Team and Board's passion to deliver against our vision to provide individual and group support to young people in the Blue Mountains enabling them to build personal, social & educational resilience.



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 and be valued contributors to the wider community.



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

Joined June 2021

Glen brings vast 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".



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 the Associate Dean Scholarship and Civic Leadership of the International College of Management, Sydney. 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 serve the Blue Mountains community and contribute to the growth of this inspirational organisation."



GREG FORRESTER
NON-EXECUTIVE 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 organisational 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 centricity, business transformation, and 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."



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".



ROWAN CLIFFORD
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MEMBER GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE

October 2022

With diverse experience and significant achievements across the allied health and human services industries, Rowan brings a strategically focussed executive leadership perspective to the MYST Board. With a business leader and non-executive director background in NDIS, employment services, personal injury, health & wellbeing, and injury prevention. Rowan's experience compliments the Board's focus on governance and risk. Rowan is currently Group Executive – Health Service Operations for a Diabetes Australia. A believer in empowerment and authenticity – "As a long time Blue Mountains resident, I look forward to supporting the MYST leadership team in their quest to deliver life changing services to young people in my community."

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

"IT WAS THE MOST AWESOME DAY OF MY LIFE"

YOUNG PERSON ATTENDING FAMILY FUN DAY

Glenbrook Family Fun Day

KEY SUPPORT

In the past year our wonderful supporters have contributed \$161,000 in donated goods and services. Our dedicated volunteers have also contributed over 291 hours which is an added saving of \$8,540.

We would like to thank all our amazing supporters and funders for their incredible contributions this year.



BLUE MOUNTAINS LAW SOCIETY

The Blue Mountains Law Society generously supported MYST throughout FY23. Funding provided contributed to MYST's High School Breakfast Club Program which continued to grow throughout the year in response to community need. We are very grateful for the for the Blue Mountains Law Society's support and are delighted they have chosen to support MYST for a further 12 months.

SANTA PAWS

For the second year running, the amazing team from RAMS Home Loans Springwood organised the Santa Paws event in Manners Park, Springwood in December 2022. Locals from across the Mountains and beyond, visited the event to have their much loved pets photographed with Santa. With a cake stall, BBQ, raffle and pets dressed in their Christmas finest, the RAMS Home Loans event raised much needed funds to support MYST's local youth programs.



CALMARE CANDLES

Calmare Candles is a local Blue Mountains small business based in Winmalee producing luxury hand poured soy candles. Linda's (owner of Calmare Candles) son went through the MYST Outdoor Explore Program when he was in High School and she has never forgotten the positive impact this had on him as a teenager, inspiring her to support MYST. This year Calmare Candles produced a stunning MYST Limited edition Kakadu Plum candle available until the end of December 2023 with \$10 of the sale of each candle generously donated to MYST.

www.calmaresoycandles.com



ROTARY CLUBS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Local Blue Mountains Rotary Clubs have been long term supporters of MYST and our work with local young people. Clubs individually and through their Youth Hub have financially supported MYST's Teen Mental Health First Aid Program, Breakfast Club Program, and other services. Blue Mountains Rotary Members have given their time volunteering at MYST events and assisting with free meals at Breakfast Club. Blue Mountains Rotary Clubs support has been vital to ensuring MYST can continue improving the lives of young people in the Blue Mountains and we are grateful for their continuing loyalty to this endeavour.



RETURN AND EARN

MYST is also a charity partner on the Return and Earn App where everyone across NSW can choose to donate digitally. All funds raised support MYST Youth Programs.



OUR FUNDERS

MAJOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING PARTNERS



GRANTS

Aurora Group – Ignite Pride Foundation
 Blue Mountains City Council
 Bushfire Resilience Fund
 Club NSW – Katoomba RSL
 Department of Regional Youth
 Energy Australia Community Grant
 Goodridge Foundation
 MaryVernon Foundation
 Wentworth Healthcare

DONATIONS – INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE

Active Care Network
 Agent Blue
 Anonymous Donor
 Bendigo Bank
 Bendigo Bank – Katoomba
 Blue Mountains Law Society
 Calmare Candles
 Col Jennings
 Commbank Springwood
 Grill'd Penrith
 Gunnedah Hill Consulting
 Helia
 IGA Springwood
 Linden Barnes
 P Keen
 Paul Karis
 Peter Howarth
 Rams Homeloans (Springwood)
 Return and Earn
 Rotary Club of Blackheath (Upper Blue Mountains)
 Rotary Club of Central Blue Mountains
 Rotary Club of Katoomba
 Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains
 Rotary Club of Springwood
 Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise
 Rotary E-Club (Greater Sydney)
 SlumberTrek
 Springwood High School
 Tony Sheldon
 William Pooley

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

It is only with our amazing supporters who provide services and in-kind gifts, that the MYST Team can keep focussing on helping local Young People.

Thank you to all these wonderful supporting individuals and organisations. We couldn't do what we do without you.

Acorn Press
 Active International
 Alessandra Wollaston
 Arisit
 Audio-Technica Australia
 Bakers Delight Katoomba
 Bakers Delight Springwood
 Bali Flags Australia
 Blue Mountains Foods
 Blue Mountains Kitchens
 Blue Mountains Rubbish
 Brown Bear Plumbing
 Bunnings Katoomba
 Bunnings Valley Heights
 Calmare Candles
 Candida Envelopes
 Car Signs Australia
 Central Blue Mountains Garden Club
 Fielke Designs
 Glenbrook Art Centre
 Globe International
 Go Get
 Grill'd Penrith
 Gunnedah Hill Consulting
 Haymans Reece
 Hoyts
 IGA Springwood
 Ilve Australia
 Jimmy Wong
 Johnson Winter Slattery
 Katoomba Music
 Local Hire Valley Heights
 MACS DACS
 Meyer Cookware
 Mid Mountains CrossFit
 Mountain Fresh Fruit Growers
 Mwah
 Near and Far Transport
 Now and Zen
 Plusrite
 Roof Rack and Towbar World
 Slumber Trek Australia
 Slumbertrek
 STUFF
 The Glenbrook Greengrocer
 Trek Bikes Australia
 Tribetech
 Tynan Motors
 Whisk and Pin

OUR FINANCES

"IT HAS GIVEN ME PEACE OF MIND THAT MY DAUGHTER HAS A TRIBE."

PARENT OF MYST YOUNG PERSON



Outdoor movie



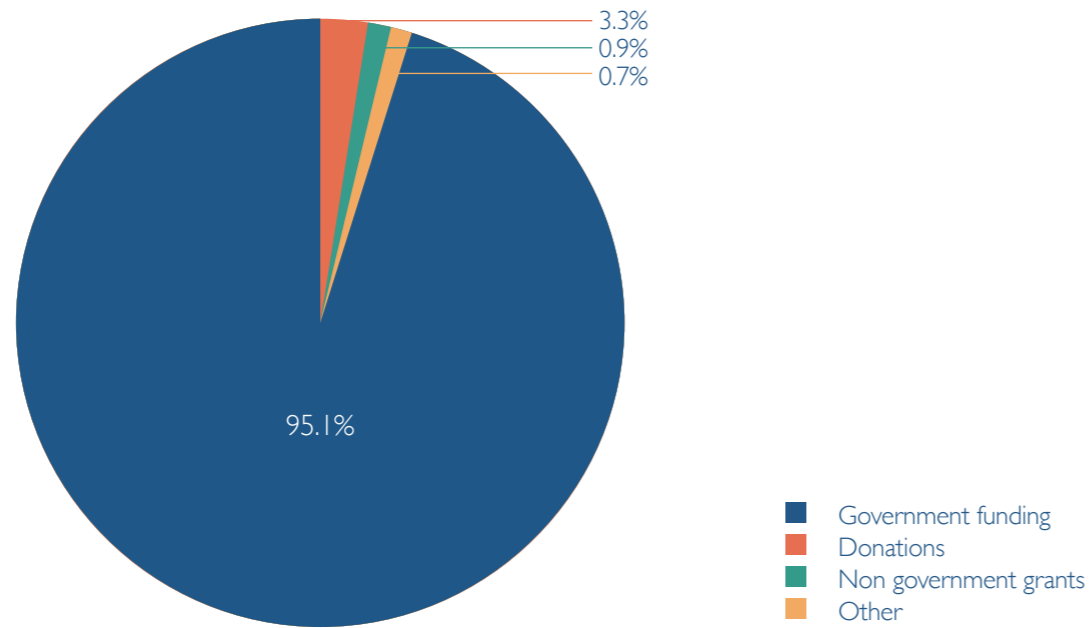
BLOOMING WITH GRATITUDE

Flinn Donovan (Manager New Programs) attended and spoke at the Central Blue Mountains Garden Club who presented us with a donation to support our youth programs. It is only with the generous support of the local community that we can continue to support all young people in the community.

2022

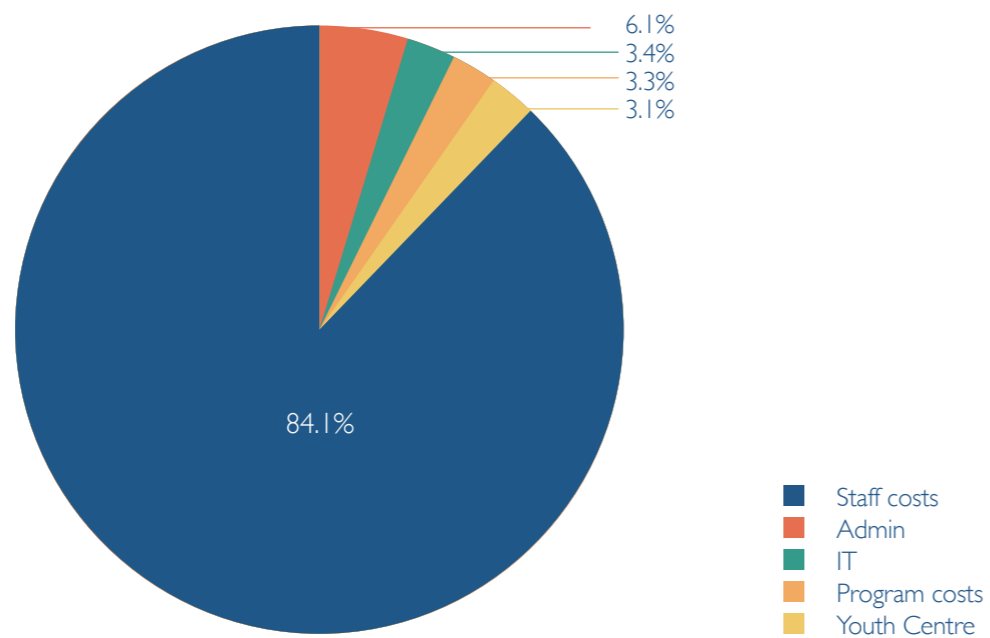
INCOME

Government funding	\$1,382,195
Donations	\$47,398
Non government grants	\$12,800
Other (includes board fees, interest, etc.)	\$10,575
Total	\$1,452,968



EXPENSES

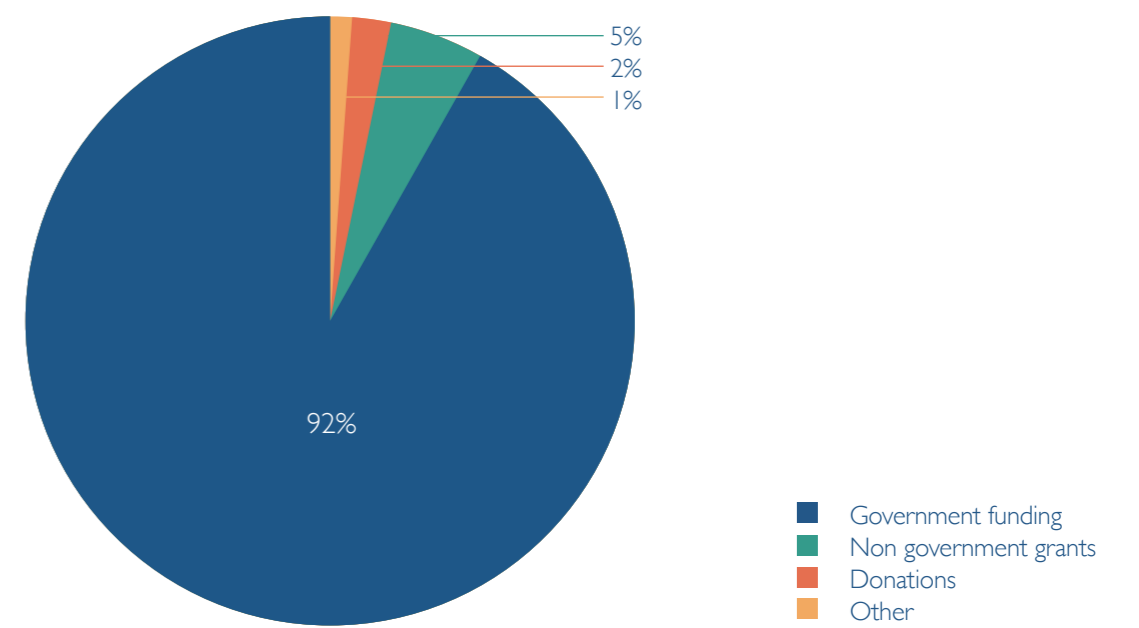
Staff costs	\$1,216,691
Admin	\$88,524
IT	\$49,890
Program Costs	\$47,989
Youth Centre	\$43,197
Total	\$1,446,291



2023

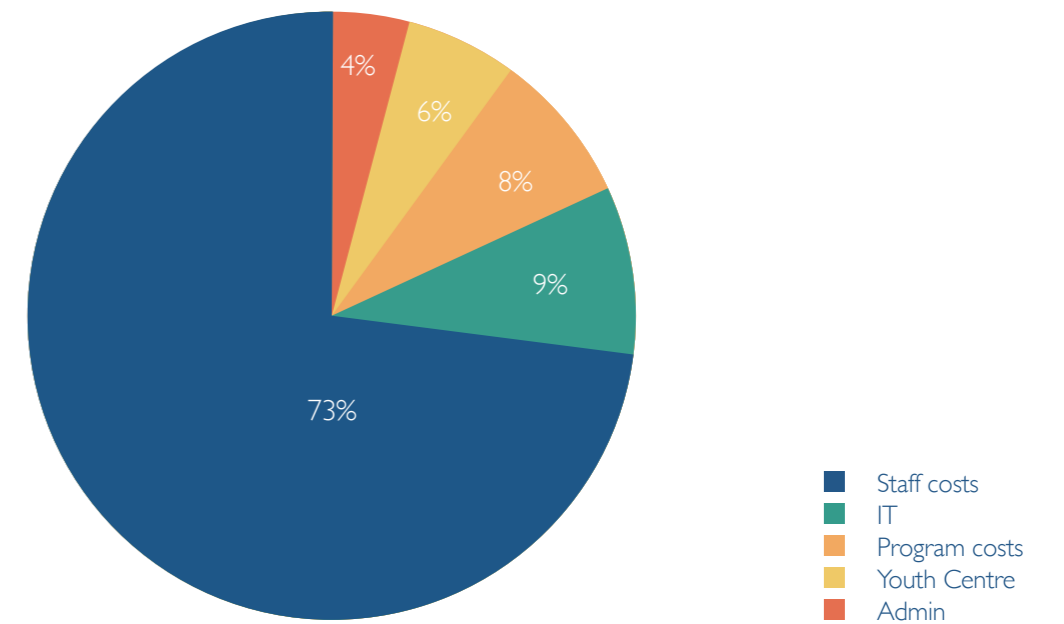
INCOME

Government funding	\$1,497,856
Non government grants	\$79,970
Donations	\$33,604
Other (includes board fees, interest, etc.)	\$7,366
Total	\$1,618,796



EXPENSES

Staff costs	\$1,086,205
IT	\$139,518
Program Costs	\$123,011
Youth Centre	\$76,871
Admin	\$60,286
Total	\$1,485,891



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

"MYST'S YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE EXACTLY WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE NEEDED AFTER COVID"

PARENT OF MYST PROGRAM ATTENDEE

Canoeing on Outdoor Explore Program

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the MOUNTAINS YOUTH SERVICES TEAM INC. for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

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
Rowan Clifford (appointed 25 October 2022))

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 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
\$ 132,904	\$ 6,676

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on: 23rd August 2023

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 :23rd August 2023



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

Account	2023	2022
Trading Income		
4100 - CYFS & SSTF Funding	145,750.00	0.00
4110 - DCJ TEI Funding	1,280,505.73	1,107,682.52
4111 - DCJ ERO Payments	0.00	106,066.99
4190 - Other Restricted Grants & Donations	151,570.04	196,245.00
4300 - Administration Income	1,300.00	360.00
4340 - Unrestricted Grants & Donations	33,603.53	32,397.92
4380 - MYST - Misc. Income	0.00	9,240.00
4385 - Membership fees	54.54	69.09
4390 - Interest Received	6,011.92	905.83
Total Trading Income	1,618,795.76	1,452,967.35
Cost of Sales		
5010 - Event - Entertainment	9,916.29	3,447.41
5011 - Event - Activities	13,329.04	1,395.13
5012 - Event - Equipment	9,510.39	2,189.96
5013 - Event - Catering	1,505.52	1,749.50
5014 - Event - Advertising/Promotions	2,045.04	4,507.01
5015 - Event - Miscellaneous	5,562.66	630.00
5142 - Education/Skills - Rock & Water	0.00	275.50
5147 - Social Participation - School/Holiday	0.00	63.64
5151 - Expenses - Lithgow	3,230.77	0.00
5153 - TEI - Community Sector Coordination	14.38	96.35
5154 - First Aid & Safety	914.11	3,350.21
5175 - Outdoor Explore - Vehicle Expenses	1,361.18	3,015.86
5260 - SAMA - Artist Fees	0.00	8,700.00
5270 - SAMA - Paint & Other Supplies	0.00	2,643.52
5445 - Super Casual (5445)	0.00	1,121.64
5490 - Wages Casual (5490)	0.00	11,216.27
5615 - COVID Safety Expenses	0.00	264.02
Total Cost of Sales	47,389.38	44,666.02
Gross Profit	1,571,406.38	1,408,301.33
Operating Expenses		
6120 - Staff Amenities - Specific (6120)	0.00	100.00
5437 - Super-Admin	28,867.80	24,138.30
6160 - Training & Meetings (6160)	0.00	190.91
5431 - Wages-Admin	329,635.67	242,833.66
6220 - Advertising & Promotion (6220)	5,683.79	495.00
6260 - Audit & Accounting Fees	7,999.97	14,427.13
6280 - Bank Charges	66.68	144.82
6320 - Computer Software - Shared	0.00	819.85
6360 - Electricity	7,338.50	2,964.49
6380 - Equipment <\$1,000 (6380)	746.50	0.00
6400 - Equipment <\$20,000 (6400)	0.00	24,310.00
6420 - Gardening	0.00	7,709.59
6440 - Gas	1,830.42	893.38
6480 - Insurance - Business	17,074.71	17,002.70
5495 - Insurance - Workers Compensation	21,567.20	28,238.29
6520 - Internet Expenses	342.48	0.00
6540 - IT (Website & email)	71,657.50	500.00
6610 - Motor Vehicle expenses	4,251.83	450.00
6620 - Motor Vehicle Tarago	0.00	359.49
6640 - Postage	139.09	0.00
6710 - Recruitment	0.00	30,242.55
6720 - Equipment - Repairs & Maintenance	263.18	0.00
6750 - Bank Fee - Other Funding source	381.91	29.57

6760 - Subscriptions & Memberships (6760)	990.91	126.14
6780 - Telephones - Landline	229.14	0.00
6790 - Water	485.84	506.31
5640 - Equipment <\$20,000 (5640)	5,157.33	0.00
5146 - Outdoor Explore - R&M	3,357.47	804.11
5176 - Outdoor Explore - Transport	328.38	569.29
5710 - Subscriptions & Memberships (5710)	736.09	3,128.10
5480 - Wages (5480)	583,081.35	811,289.71
5290 - Education/Skills - Workshop	13.64	11.25
5148 - Katoomba Youth Centre - Consumables	2,552.30	1,323.23
5100 - Program - Food and Other Supplies	38,584.93	7,121.27
5178 - Outdoor Explore - Other Program Cost	678.50	1,522.67
5695 - Springwood Youth Centre - Repairs & Maintenance	20,958.73	1,399.37
5410 - Professional Supervision (5410)	8,065.87	12,531.79
5144 - TEI - Counselling	170.38	352.78
5185 - Outdoor Explore - SatPhone	227.25	545.40
5161 - Individual Client Support - Counselling	307.33	1,469.32
5680 - Rent (5680)	12,500.00	0.00
5670 - Publications & Reference Material (5670)	0.00	59.05
5550 - Telephones	14,739.84	9,282.50
5660 - Printing & Stationery	3,906.94	5,999.39
5630 - Equipment <\$1,000 (5630)	3,608.62	3,658.17
5152 - TEI - Community Engagement	118.70	163.00
5440 - Super (5440)	60,505.83	77,168.32
5460 - Training & Meetings (5460)	27,105.22	14,031.92
5565 - Transport / MYST Vehicle	3,220.88	286.48
5140 - Equipment Hire	277.27	0.00
5180 - Outdoor Explore - Food	3,103.88	1,996.38
5481 - Leave Liability Direct	19,756.58	(45,264.60)
5280 - Education/Skills - School / Holiday	1,226.22	2,531.94
5600 - Advertising & Promotion (5600)	5,621.13	3,964.54
5240 - Outreach	5,324.94	0.00
5690 - Katoomba Youth Centre - Repairs & Maintenance	20,566.25	8,811.00
5420 - Staff Amenities - Specific (5420)	2,121.44	100.00
5160 - Individual Client Support - CM&YW	3,870.58	7,675.20
5610 - Computer Software & Support	52,548.93	24,260.11
5425 - MV Staff Claims Direct	13,563.65	8,852.05
5605 - Cleaning Direct	8,718.28	9,340.78
5149 - Springwood Youth Centre - Consumables	2,546.68	605.21
Total Operating Expenses	1,428,724.53	1,372,071.91
Net Profit	142,681.85	36,229.42
Other		
5620 - Depreciation	9,777.46	29,553.43
Total Other	9,777.46	29,553.43
Net Profit	132,904.39	6,675.99

BALANCE SHEET

Account	30 Jun 2023	30 Jun 2022
Assets		
Bank		
AUD PayPal	402.72	364.66
CBA 10276041 Savings	508,794.11	409,418.95
CBA 28009953 Chq	10,952.78	69,392.20
CBA Drop in 18s 8415	0.00	17,741.29
CBA Street Art 8394	0.00	4,902.49
CBA TMHFA 8407	0.00	30,492.00
PC - Amba 1811	576.97	377.87
PC - Courtney 7594	0.00	8.12
PC - Gailene 7850	20,989.50	5,822.64
PC - Jim 1926	0.00	11.03
PC - Jodie & Lize 1889	298.58	385.37
PC - Kristian 1790	0.00	424.11
PC - Leah 1803	0.00	8.25
PC - Paige 1897	9,624.30	50.03
PC - Roman 1838	0.00	436.65
PC - Sara 1918	0.00	213.75
PC - Skye 1934	0.00	52.49
PC - Sue 1301	0.00	342.33
Total Bank	551,638.96	540,444.23
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	35,657.75	50,480.65
Prepayments	10,407.62	83,568.26
Security Deposits	(500.00)	0.00
Total Current Assets	45,565.37	134,048.91
Fixed Assets		
Software		
Software	13,410.00	13,410.00
- less accumulated depreciation	(13,410.00)	(13,410.00)
Total Software	0.00	0.00
Office F & F Disability Springwood		
Office F&F Disability Springwood	3,273.61	3,273.61
- less accumulated depreciation	(2,618.89)	(2,381.92)
Total Office F & F Disability Springwood	654.72	891.69
Equipment - KYC		
Equipment - KYC	7,940.04	7,940.04
Equipment - KYC Accumulated Dep'n	(7,940.04)	(7,940.04)
Total Equipment - KYC	0.00	0.00
Equipment - Outdoor Explore		
Equipment - Outdoor Explore	15,244.50	15,244.50
Equipment - Outdoor Explore Accumulated Depreciation	(6,178.85)	(4,032.88)
Total Equipment - Outdoor Explore	9,065.65	11,211.62
Leasehold Improvements KYC		
Leasehold Improvements KYC	34,574.03	34,574.03
Leasehold Improvements KYC Accumulated Dep'n	(29,769.67)	(29,349.67)
Total Leasehold Improvements KYC	4,804.36	5,224.36
Personal Computers		
Personal Computers	36,987.70	36,987.70
less accumulated depreciation	(36,987.70)	(36,987.70)
Total Personal Computers	0.00	0.00
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Vehicles	67,447.18	67,447.18
Motor Vehicles Accumulated Dep'n	(39,708.97)	(32,774.42)
Total Motor Vehicles	27,738.21	34,672.76
Office Fixtures - KYC		
Office Fixtures - KYC	4,939.08	4,939.08
Office Fixtures - KYC Accumulated Dep'n	(3,951.24)	(3,911.27)
Total Office Fixtures - KYC	987.84	1,027.81

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from funding bodies and other sources of income	1,767,157	1,511,411
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(1,761,974)	(1,517,561)
Interest received	6,011	908
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 3)	<u>11,194</u>	<u>(5,242)</u>
Cash Flow From Investing Activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(55,495)
Disposal Plant		24,930
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(30,565)</u>
Cash Flow From Financing Activities		
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	11,194	(35,807)
Cash at the beginning of the year	540,444	576,251
Cash at the end of the year (note 2)	<u>551,638</u>	<u>540,444</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.

(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.

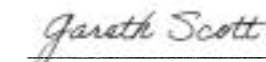
In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of MOUNTAINS YOUTH SERVICES TEAM INC. as at 30 June 2023 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 2023

AUDITORS 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, Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023, 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 2023 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

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2021.

Signed on this 23rd day of August 2023



William Tomiczek F.I.P.A., Registered Company Auditor 1425
66 Emu Plains Rd Mt Riverview 2774



**"FROM THE FIRST TIME IN
DROP-IN, I FELT LIKE I HAD
A SECOND HOME."**

DROP-IN PARTICIPANT

**"I REALLY DON'T WANT TO
GROW UP AND LEAVE THIS
HOME, BUT I AM SO GLAD TO
HAVE THESE MEMORIES."**

DROP-IN PARTICIPANT

Our home, the Blue Mountains

"YOU HELPED ME SO MUCH, AND I CAN SAY I HONESTLY WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM TODAY IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOU TO GUIDE ME THROUGH ALL OF THOSE TOUGH TIMES AS BEST YOU COULD. I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOU AND YOUR SUPPORT – NO AMOUNT OF THANK YOU'S COULD EVER BE ENOUGH!"

CASE MANAGEMENT CLIENT



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

Facebook: Mountains Youth Services Team

Instagram: [myst_blue_mts](https://www.instagram.com/myst_blue_mts)