



# **YOUNG MINDS, BIG DREAMS, ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

## THE MYST VISION

# A BLUE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE THRIVE

## OUR PURPOSE

**MYST provides early intervention programs and services for young people 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.**

---

At MYST, we're all about enhancing the wellbeing of young people in the beautiful Blue Mountains! Our passionate team supports youth aged 12-24 through therapeutic early intervention, skills training, and personal development, all while fostering a culture of care where they can truly thrive.

We believe that every young person deserves a safe, valued environment where they can actively participate and shine. That's why we work closely with individuals, groups, institutions, and communities to create opportunities for meaningful engagement.

Founded in 1992, MYST has deep roots in the Blue Mountains community. We collaborate with a variety of partners to provide a vibrant network of services and activities designed for young people. Our commitment to accessibility and inclusiveness ensures that every voice is heard and valued.

At the heart of our approach is connection—connecting young people with their strengths, peers, diverse sources of support, and the broader community. Together, we're building a brighter future for the youth of the Blue Mountains!

# INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

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

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

MYST acknowledges and offers respect to the Gundungarra and Dharug 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.

# CONTENTS

Chair Message	6
CEO Report	8
Our Impact in FY24	10
The MYST Team	14
2024 Program Reports	16
RFS Water Tank Project	26
Striving for an Impact That Matters	30
Fundraising Highlights	34
The MYST Board	38
Our Finances	44
Annual Accounts	48

## Cover image: Street Art mural by Alex Grills – [insta@:alex\\_Grils](#)

My first experience with MYST was when they were called the Winmalee Youth Centre. It was here, my friends and I were lucky enough to use spray paint for the first time. I was 15 years old with no money and at the time was not allowed to buy spray paint. MYST provided me with the opportunity to use this medium which I still use regularly today in my job.

Without this opportunity from MYST, I wouldn't have been able to start something for myself. I often think of the other people from my school who also attended MYST. They are now pursuing their own work and careers and a lot of their opportunities also started because of MYST.

In 2015 I took part in MYST's SAMA program, this enabled me to work with different people and local companies, which gave me great exposure and experience, leading me to where I am now, paid employment in what I love, painting murals.

This recent mural was painted at the rear of the MYST youth centre in Springwood, with local street artists and young people also using spray paint to express themselves.



# CHAIR MESSAGE

Mural artwork at Springwood Youth Centre

**"IN THE PAST YEAR IT HAS  
BEEN ENCOURAGING TO SEE  
THE WILLINGNESS OF YOUNG  
PEOPLE TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THEMSELVES."**

**JOY CUSACK, BOARD CHAIR**



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

At MYST change is the norm – every day brings new possibilities as we help young people focus on their goals and dreams.

In the past year it has been encouraging to see the willingness of young people to learn more about themselves and each other, and to identify and work through their challenges.

MYST is keenly aware of the mental health issues faced by young people. The continuation of the mental health training MYST offers in local high schools is just one way that we support young people to help each other in identifying and seeking assistance to improve their wellbeing.

Young people also need support when facing financial challenges, and to meet this MYST has introduced a financial counsellor. This new service has been a huge success, helping young people to develop the skills and financial literacy to improve their lives.

During the year there has been growth in awareness of MYST in the community. The MYST annual Family Fun Day, supported by Blue Mountains City Council, is an effective outreach and awareness-building initiative, bringing like-minded local organisations together with young people for a great day of connection and good times.

The MYST team values practical productivity, and engages in training, development and evaluation to ensure that MYST's programs and services are based on best practice and benefiting the young people who engage with us.

The success and positive social impact of MYST's programs and services are made possible by the 'big dreams, endless possibilities' of our team, led by CEO Jodie Rollason, and by MYST's generous supporters in government, industry, and the community. Thank you all for the part you play in supporting young people to pursue their dreams.

Finally the oversight provided by a committed and passionate Board is paramount to the continuing development and growth of MYST, for which I thank my fellow Directors enormously.



# CEO REPORT

Mural artwork at Springwood Youth Centre

**"THE YOUNG PEOPLE WE  
WORK WITH ARE FILLED WITH  
CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND  
A PASSION FOR CHANGE."**

**JODIE ROLLASON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



**JODIE ROLLASON**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In today's fast-paced, technology driven, and globally connected world, young people have more scope than ever to dream big and achieve their goals. This year MYST has had a focus on young minds, big dreams and endless possibilities, to celebrate the potential and vision of Blue Mountains young people.

The young people we work with are filled with creativity, innovation, and a passion for change. To help them realise their potential, this year MYST tailored its programs to help the young people we work with develop the skills to make the most of the opportunities available to them. We have supported their ambitions as innovators, change-makers, artists and activists, encouraging them to set goals and work hard to achieve them.

With access to information and resources, young people have opportunities to drive social change, advocate for equality, and imagine and work towards creating sustainable solutions to global issues. Whether starting a business, pursuing higher education, travelling the world, or making a difference in their communities, it is evident that young people have the potential to influence the world in a profound way.

MYST works to provide young people with tools and resources, to help them develop the skills and resilience they need to fulfill their aspirations and make a positive difference in the world. The future is in their hands, and with their energy, passion, and vision, the possibilities are truly endless.

As we reflect on a fulfilling year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the MYST Board for their unwavering support and guidance. I also extend my thanks to our leadership team for their steadfast commitment and to the wonderful team at MYST for their continued dedication to and support of the young people of the Blue Mountains, helping them pursue their dreams.



# OUR IMPACT IN FY24

Enjoying Outdoor Explore Adventure

"MYST IS AN AMAZING AND VERY  
SUPPORTIVE PLACE TO BE, THAT  
I HAVE FELT **SAFE** IN."

DROP-IN PARTICIPANT

**15,931**

Community members engaged with MYST at events and programs

**2,759**

Sessions young people attended for counselling, case management and mentoring/peer support

**2672**

Young people and families that have attended holiday programs and events

**1,376**

Young people attended drop-in sessions over the year giving them a safe place to hangout with peers

**2,265**

Individual young people attended programs through schools supporting mental health and wellbeing

**989**

Yr 10 students in the Blue Mountains Trained in Teen Mental Health First Aid

**1,191**

Hours spent running Community engagement programs and events facilitation to engage young people with MYST Services

**6,430**

Free meals provided at Breakfast Club improving student attendance and focus

**399**

Total number of enquires across all programs and services in last 12 months

**476**

Program sessions run in schools

**388**

New cases opened for individual support including Counselling and Case Management

**2,500+**

Adventure hours spent in nature by Outdoor Explore participants in the past 12 months



# 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 life skills for better long term 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 the 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 utilise 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.

# THE MYST TEAM

MYST Youth Workers Reuben and Vinnie at Wear It Purple Event

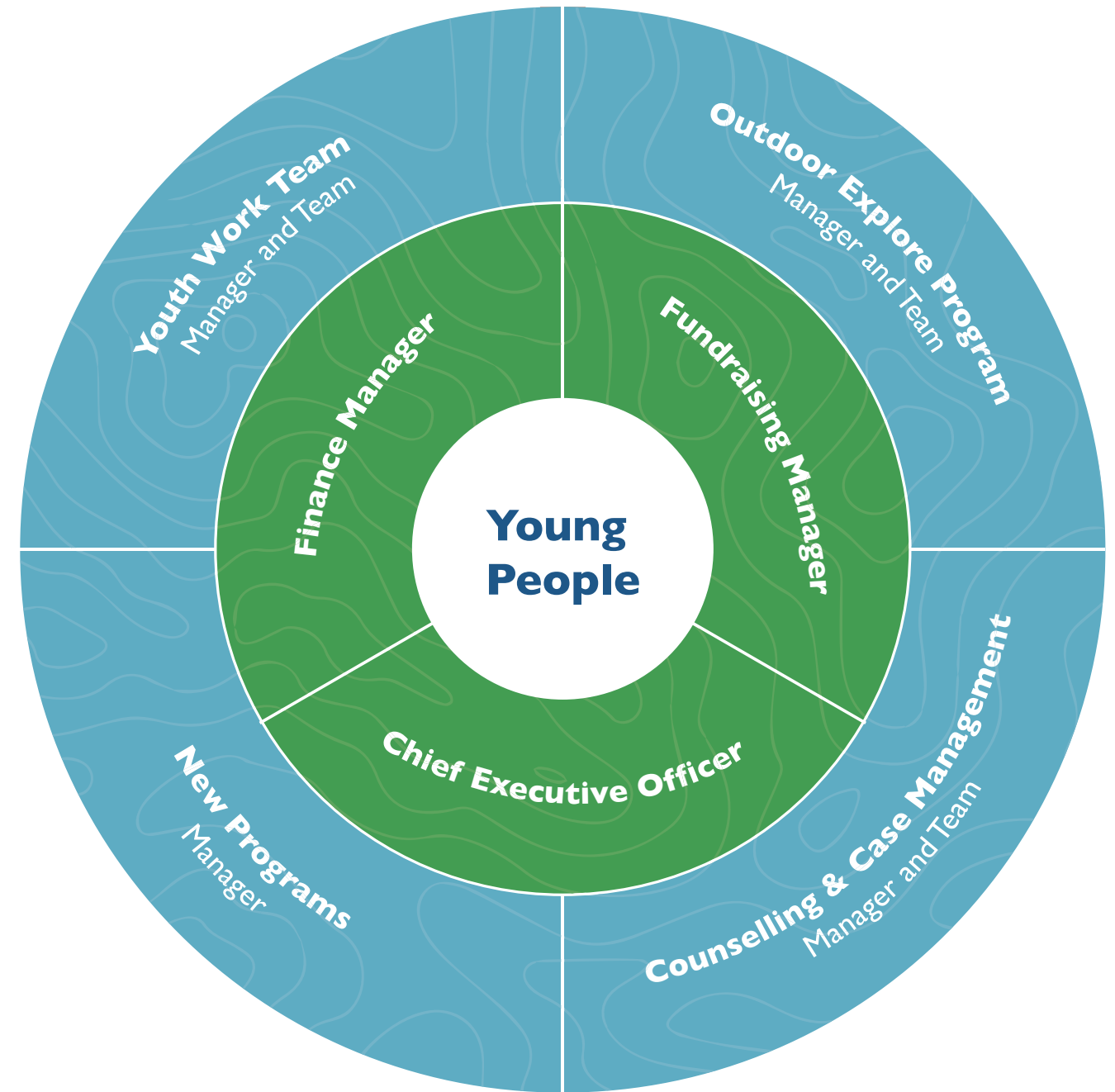
**"THE YOUTH WORKERS ARE  
AWESOME AND SUPER NICE  
AND FUN TO TALK TO AND THE  
SNACKS ARE AWESOME."**

**DROP-IN PARTICIPANT**

## SKILLED SUPPORT THE MYST TEAM

At MYST, our vibrant team – comprising dedicated board members, staff, and volunteers – bring a wealth of passion and expertise to the forefront of our mission. Together, we empower young minds to chase their dreams and create endless possibilities.

We celebrate the diverse skills and talents of each team member, recognising that it is this unique blend that enables us to deliver innovative and impactful solutions for young people in the Blue Mountains. With creativity, commitment, and collaboration at our core, we strive to strengthen our communities and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.





# 2024 PROGRAM REPORTS

Learning bush skills at Outdoor Explore

**"THE EXPERIENCE OF  
OUTDOOR EXPLORE IS TRULY  
SPECIAL. IT IS A MONEY CAN'T  
BUY EXPERIENCE."**

**OUTDOOR EXPLORE PARTICIPANT**

# 2024 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 AND CASE MANAGEMENT

## 2 NEW PROGRAMS, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

## 3 FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

## 4 OUTDOOR EXPLORE



# YOUTH WORK AND CASE MANAGEMENT



**PAIGE THURLOW-WANT**  
MANAGER YOUTH WORK TEAM

How time flies when you're having fun supporting the young people of the Blue Mountains, and that's exactly what these last 12 months have been. Through this year we have seen a greater number of young people requiring support both individually and within a group setting. These have included support with emotional wellbeing, mental and physical health, legal and support in how to navigate their challenges and needs in their everyday lives.

Programs facilitated included Teen Mental Health First Aid, Renegotiating Anger and Guilty Emotions, Breakfast Club, Fitness and Wellbeing for young males, afternoon drop-ins, LGBTQIA+ Drop In, mentoring, music recording, street art and year 6 meet and greets to support the transition into High School, just to name a few. Our collaborative partnerships in facilitating programs included the Rural Fire Service Water Tank Project.

We have coordinated and participated in events such as Winter Magic, and the Annual Youth Week event which takes place in April. This year's event saw over 300 attendees participate at Glenbrook skate park. This provided a place for the community to come together, connect, gain awareness of services available within their community and celebrate the diverse youth culture within the Blue Mountains. The event included 15 local service providers and engaged youth bands and performers with bikes, skates and scooter competitions.

Network and collaboration with other services and stakeholders in the community service space is vital to providing support and advocacy to the young people we engage with. Throughout this year we have helped advocate for better support for young people and their mental health. Our team met with the Deputy commissioners from the Mental Health Commission where we were able to express the gaps, issues and mental health struggles facing our Blue Mountains youth.

MYST was invited to a round table discussion with Minister Kate Washington (NSW Minister for Families and Communities, and Disability Inclusion) to provide an understanding of the needs of youth in the Blue Mountains area. MYST raised concerns for our youth in the areas of mental health and wellbeing, cost of living crisis, homelessness, lack of support for young people and their families experiencing domestic and family violence, lack of services capacity or criteria to engage with support, lack of transport options and lack of Indigenous and cultural support for young people around their heritage and connection to country.

Last year MYST was contacted by Thrive International to participate in an evidence-based research and review of key tenets in youth programs that successfully engage young people. This program review provided the opportunity to hear directly from young people and a selection of youth service providers about their experiences in youth programs and their perspectives on what common approaches are needed for good practice in youth work to review socio-emotional wellbeing, agency and empowerment. The results of this review are now available on the Department of Communities and Justice website to provide youth services with evidence-based programs that are effective to enable the best possible outcomes when supporting young people.

The Youth team and Case Management team have provided great determination, empowerment, consistency, facilitation and advocacy in the work they have done to support the young people here within the Blue Mountains. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work over the last 12 months in providing their skills and support to help our young people reach their goals, and provide them with the tools they require to make informed and healthy decisions.

# NEW PROGRAMS, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



**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

This year saw the creation of our Trans & Gender Drop-in at Katoomba Youth centre. We are planning an expansion of this in conjunction with the Gender Centre in Marrickville, in the coming year. Our 2nd annual Mardi Gras event was the highlight of the year, with youth from as far as Lithgow travelling to attend and have a great time with like-minded young people. Live streaming the Sydney Mardi Gras Parade, serving attendees mocktails and hosting a candy bar provided an enjoyable and safe space for our young people to participate. Multiple local community services provided additional activities for the young people attending; of course, the fashion parade contestants were all winners.

## MYST with Flinn

This year saw the continued collaboration with Blue Mountains Community Radio and our MYST with Flinn program. The program aims to build community awareness of critical issues impacting our youth. Each week we have interviewed local services providing information and insight on all aspects of youth!

Some key speakers this year have included:

- Our very own financial counsellor providing financial insights
- A guest speaker from headspace on teen mental health
- A representative from the Neurodiversity hub on assisting young people who are neurodiverse
- Guest speakers from Thrive and Platform Youth Services on local programs for our youth

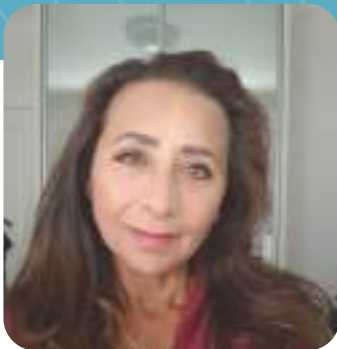
Don't forget to check out the Spotify podcasts on past shows, which can be found on our website.

## Wear It Purple Day

MYST together with Mountains Men Against Violence, hosted a Wear it Purple Day with 12 local community service providers to support our LGBTQAI+ youth of the Blue Mountains. This event was showcased by a story in the local Gazette.



# FINANCIAL COUNSELLING



**ISIS KHALIL**  
**FINANCIAL COUNSELLING**



Over the past 12 months MYST financial counselling has seen 25 clients and conducted 159 financial counselling sessions.

In helping our MYST clients we have advocated with a number of agencies, including:

- National Australia Bank (NAB)
- Work Development Order (WDO)
- Victim Support
- Metro Assist
- Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)
- Telstra
- Thrive Services & Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre (BANC)
- Real Estate Agency
- Centrelink
- Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- University of NSW (UNSW) & Universities Admissions Centre (UAC)
- Commercial Credit
- Optus

MYST has achieved some amazing outcomes for our young people:

- Secured a payment plan with AGL to pay off a debt
- Moratoriums at both NAB & CBA banks
- Completion of Work Development Orders (WDO's)
- Provision of emergency relief food, rent, petrol & Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) Vouchers
- Securing No Interest Loans (NILS) to help our young people get back on their feet.
- CBA reduction on loan of over \$800 due to unreasonable interest
- UAC – HECS debt waivers

## WHAT IS FINANCIAL COUNSELLING?

Financial counselling is a free and confidential service that helps people who are in financial hardship. It involves identifying the underlying reason(s) for the hardship and providing referrals to other specialists who can tackle related issues. It aims to empower and maintain an individual's financial autonomy by providing information and available options for resolving debts before advocating with creditors to resolve client matters.

The underlying reasons for hardship may include loss of job, insufficient income, illness or accident, relationship breakdown, increased cost of living, substance abuse and gambling.

At MYST, the financial counsellor can help young people establish if a debt is legal; educate and provide up-to-date information; explain options and their implications; help the young person determine the best option; represent, advocate, and negotiate on their behalf with creditors; support young people to lodge complaints and present their case to industry ombudsman services; and empower young people by improving their financial knowledge so that they can break inter-generational poverty cycles.

Given that many of our young people at MYST have vulnerabilities, one of the programs that falls under the banner of financial counselling is the Centrelink Engagement Program specifically created to help vulnerable individuals. The program aims to assist disadvantaged clients with complex needs by linking them to the Centrelink payments for which they are entitled. A community engagement Centrelink representative and specialist attends the Springwood MYST Service Centre and provides our referred young people with short-term support and advice regarding Centrelink requirements and eligibility for income support. This representative walks beside them through the application process and addresses any issues, including facilitating the approval process. The overarching goal of the program is to ensure our young people obtain their entitlements in a timely manner while empowering them to take future control and responsibility for their social security needs.

# OUTDOOR EXPLORE



**KATE GREENHAM**  
MANAGER OUTDOOR EXPLORE

With the program undergoing an overhaul in 2023, Outdoor Explore has now done a full lap around the sun! It has provided local programs for Katoomba High School, Blaxland High school, and Springwood High School, and has reached further abroad, developing a new relationship with Youth Off the Streets in Merrylands, to support disadvantaged youth from other communities.

Outdoor Explore has been running with the following structure: a presentation to the school cohort to empower students to self-select, an information night to connect parents/caregivers to the experience, 8 weeks of adventurous, team-based activities and experiences in nature, concluding with a celebratory evening sharing videos, photos and stories with participants' parents/carers and significant others. Regarding the celebratory evening, Acting Principal of Katoomba High School Andrew Finaly wrote; "Witnessing the collective enthusiasm and positivity of the students at their Celebration Event really brought home the impact of the program on their lives (and the lives of their whole family). The positive interaction between the students and the ease in which they navigated the event was wonderful to see."

## Impact - Increasing wellbeing in the outdoors

Outdoor Explore Manager Kate Greenham collaborated with Dr Will Dobud of Charles Sturt University using the Adventure Therapy Outcome Monitoring study to research the relationship between adventures in nature and wellbeing. Across the program, participants engaged in a weekly wellbeing survey, and from the data, an effect size was calculated. An effect size is a widely used value for measuring the strength and magnitude of a certain intervention, looking at how young people progress from before to after receiving a service. Outdoor Explore elicited a large effect size of 1.18, surpassing the average psychotherapy effect size of 0.8! In perspective, Australia's national youth mental health service headspace reported an effect size of 0.34 in 2015. While still in the early days of research, these outcomes suggest there are benefits of facilitating therapeutic youth services in the outdoors!

## CLIENT STORY OUTDOOR EXPLORE

One parent was overwhelmed by the change in his son due to the completion of the program:

"He has really benefited from having positive interactions with other people his own age".

His son expressed how he felt he was able to fit in and socialise with his peers and that "[Other students] Should try because it's fun to explore and [do] team work with mates".

This young person is a neurodiverse individual, with limited social connections and engagement in the world around him – expressing from day one that he needed to get out of the house more. His wellbeing was consistently low across two different measurements compared to normative wellbeing, placing him in the "underwell" "challenged" category.


His father commented: "He has grown in confidence and realised that he can "do it" if he gets involved".

After the program, the young person himself informed us that he has grown more confident in his abilities, more confident in tackling challenges, and more confident to make his own choices.

Outdoor Explore fostered social connection and an increase in self-efficacy, and since self-mastery and belonging is crucial to wellbeing, it is the experiences from Outdoor Explore that likely explain why his wellbeing grew significantly over the program, and placed him into the 'normative' category of wellbeing.

Additionally, his father believes the Outdoor Explore program has impacted his son's motivation for being physical outdoors, and in turn, this motivation has positively impacted their relationship by spending more quality time together. Resulting in the purchase of a new bike so they can ride, explore the mountains and grow together!



A group of about ten students are sitting on a large, flat rock surface inside a cave. Above them, a waterfall cascades down a series of rock ledges. The cave walls are made of layered, brownish-grey rock. The water in the pool at the bottom of the cave is a murky, yellowish-brown color. The students are dressed in casual outdoor clothing like hoodies and jeans. Some are looking at the camera, while others are looking towards the waterfall. The overall atmosphere is adventurous and natural.

We found this cool spot during  
our Outdoor Explore bushwalk

**"THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE  
IN THIS PROGRAM, MAKE NEW  
FRIENDS AND CONNECTIONS,  
PUSH THEIR PERSONAL LIMITS  
AND ACT OUTSIDE OF THEIR  
COMFORT ZONE WAS PRICELESS  
AND LIFE CHANGING."**

**ANDREW FINLAY, ACTING PRINCIPAL AT KATOOMBA HIGH SCHOOL**



# RFS WATER TANK PROJECT

RFS water tank painting workshop

**"THE PROGRAM HAS HELPED FOSTER A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, PARTICULARLY TOWARDS NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS."**

OUTDOOR EXPLORE PARTICIPANT

## PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS RURAL FIRE SERVICE, SPRINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL AND NEPEAN PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL, AND TWO LOCAL STREET ARTISTS

One of the highlights of this year has been the great partnership with Katoomba Rural Fire Service. This project became one that had many dynamics including two street artists, Domy Dingo and Aerosol obsession, Springwood High School Indigenous students, Nepean Performing Arts students, National Parks and MYST. The project was made possible with the generous support of funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional renewal through their "Strengthening Rural Communities" grant program.

Through this partnership, the water tank mural project was possible. Over two months MYST and artists facilitated workshops at both High Schools incorporating a design for each tank. The theme for the designs was protection against wildfire, connection to community and country, and the environment around us. The project also involved teaching the students how use spray paint to create art.

The students at first were nervous to use the medium of spray paint to create art, but once they started, they were comfortable using their artistic expression creating a design with guidance from the artists.

Once the workshops were complete, it was time to take a trip to the RFS water tanks at Mount Banks and transfer their design. The RFS very kindly transported the students to Mount Banks and provided delicious food for our aspiring artists.

For two days at the Mount Banks water tanks, students from each school were able to connect and learn in a shared environment; without any hesitation the students jumped into action to bring the mural together. The first tank design focused on the environment with native gum leaves and trees, a koala, a kookaburra and the site name. The second tank was focused on culture, which brought together a story, a connection to the place and a sense of belonging, on Darug land, The Blue Mountains, including the Three Sisters, animal tracks and symbols. The design included students handprints symbolizing the connection to country, with black handprints representing the Aboriginal People, yellow handprints representing the sun, the giver of life and protector. Red handprints represented the red earth, the red ochre. Women created the Red and yellow, whilst Men created the Black and yellow handprints. It also symbolised the partnerships, including the Springwood High School totem, the Magpie and the RFS symbol.

This program provided a connection to country, a connection to community and a connection to self. It provided a safe place to learn and express, not only through art but through the opportunity to meet their fellow students and get to learn and know about each other, fostering relationships.

This program was one of a kind; it provided connections and created a safe, inclusive, trusting environment that left an impact on all involved. MYST was proud to design and execute such a worthwhile program where we worked together and provided something meaningful for the Blue Mountains community.

The project was particularly popular for our Indigenous students, enabling them to connect with their culture and see their creative thrive. Students learned new techniques for artistic creation that they are excited to use in their future studies. School teachers were grateful to MYST and the RFS for providing this valuable learning opportunity.

Over the course of the project, it was captured via drone footage and celebrated with a mural launch. Students were able to return and meet with local members including National Parks, Local council members and Rotary members. A smoking ceremony by Uncle Colin Lockier opened the tanks and celebrated the students achievements.

MYST was honored to design and manage this project, for those who live on Darug Land, bringing together community and connection to country.





Paige Thurlow-Want MYST Manager of Youth Work and students from Springwood and Nepean Performing Arts High cutting ribbon at mural launch



# STRIVING FOR AN IMPACT THAT MATTERS

Showcasing local young bands at 2024 Youth Week event

**"I FELT REALLY LONELY, BUT  
MYST GAVE ME A CONSISTENT  
TIME OF THE WEEK TO HANG  
OUT WITH FRIENDS AND HAVE  
A GOOD TIME."**

**DROP-IN PARTICIPANT**

## OUR GOALS 2025

### OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

Our wonderful MYST team has been working on refining our program delivery to address the emerging issues for our Blue Mountains youth. The next 12 months will see our MYST team:

#### Inform and Educate

- Increase knowledge and awareness of youth mental health for parents and guardians

#### Increase Reach

- Expand outreach to all Blue Mountains and Lithgow schools to meet need
- Broaden Drop-In services across the Blue Mountains and beyond

#### Innovative and Targeted Services

- Enhance the Outdoor Explore Program to strengthen parent/guardian relationships with youth
- Develop targeted programs for the 18-24 age group

#### Healthy Organisational Culture

- Provide staff training opportunities to enhance skills and support innovative program delivery

#### Financial Stability

- Create and implement fee-for-service programs





Therapy dogs were a big hit at Drop-in



Painting up a storm  
RFS Water Tank Mural Project



Hi flying at scooter  
competition at 2023  
Youth Week event



Donation presentation from  
Blue Mountains Law Society



Street art mural at  
Springwood Youth Centre



Guests at our Shimmer at the  
Bowrey Fundraising Dinner



Drumming workshop at  
2023 Youth Week event



Bunnings staff helping out with  
gardening at Katoomba Youth Centre



# FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

Badge making with MYST at community event

**"WITHOUT THE SUPPORT AND  
ADVOCACY FROM PAST AND  
PRESENT YOUTH WORKERS  
AT THE SERVICE MANY OF MY  
ACHIEVEMENTS WOULD HAVE  
BEEN UNATTAINABLE."**

EXCERPT FROM CLIENT LETTER

## KEY SUPPORT

In the past 12 months, our incredible supporters have contributed over \$205,896 in donated goods and services. Additionally, our dedicated volunteers contributed more than 229 hours, valued at \$6,183.

**Thank you** – we couldn't have achieved this without you!

## MAJOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING PARTNERS



## GRANTS

Aurora Group – Ignite Pride Grant  
Bendigo Bank Katoomba  
Blue Mountains City Council Community Grant  
Clubs Grants – Katoomba RSL  
EnergyAustralia Community Grant  
Mary Vernon Foundation  
Goodridge Foundation  
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal  
Wentworth Health  
The Awesome Foundation  
NSW Community Building Partnership 2023

## DONATIONS – INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE

Agent Blue  
Anonymous Donor  
Blue Mountains Law Society  
Calmare Candles  
Grill'd Penrith  
IGA Springwood  
Peter Howarth  
Paul Karis  
Mitsubishi Electric  
Mountain High Pies  
Return and Earn  
Rotary Club of Blackheath  
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  
Scenic World  
Tony Sheldon  
Kerry Symes

## 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 Pres  
Active International  
Alessandra Wollaston  
Archie Rose Distillery  
Audio Technica Australia  
Budgee Smugglers  
Bertocchi  
Blue Mountains String Quartet  
Bunnings Katoomba  
Bunnings Valley Heights  
Calmare Candles  
Canningvale  
Concrete Skate Supply  
Cross Roads Live Aust  
De Longhi  
Elf Cosmetics  
Fielke Designs  
Go Get  
Globe  
GWS – AFL Club  
Hey Sugar Cookies  
Hill Billy Cider  
Hoselink  
IGA Springwood  
Ikea  
Ikou  
Johnson Winter Slattery  
Lindt  
Lomondo  
Market Basket Co  
Mitre 10  
Mountains Culture Beer  
Natio  
Ooni  
Promotional Products  
Rowlee Wines  
Robert Stein Mudgee  
Sheldon and Hammond  
Station Bar  
The Bowery  
Trek Bikes  
Tynan Motors  
Whisk and Pin



# CREATING A HAVEN FOR OUR YOUTH: THE TRANSFORMATION OF KATOOMBA YOUTH CENTRE

At Mountains Youth Services, our purpose is to create nurturing spaces where young people can thrive, express themselves, and connect with their community. This year, we are thrilled to spotlight a remarkable milestone in this journey—the stunning upgrade of the Katoomba Youth Centre. This transformation is not just a physical renovation; it's a profound enhancement of our commitment to providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for the young people of our community. From its inception, the Katoomba Youth Centre has been more than just a place; it has been a sanctuary for local youth. With its recent upgrade, we have taken this vision to new heights. The newly redesigned space is now a vibrant hub where young people can feel at home, engage in a range of social and creative activities, build lasting relationships and seek support if needed.

Our enhanced facilities include “Loft 31,” a modern, multi-functional space with comfortable lounge areas for socializing and events. The upgraded centre is designed with inclusivity and safety at its core, ensuring that every young person who walks through our doors feels valued and supported.

## A Community Effort

This incredible transformation was only possible through the generosity and dedication of our major funders, generous businesses and the local community. Their support went beyond financial contributions; it also included donated goods and invaluable services that brought our vision to life. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

Our Major Funders: Their significant financial support enabled us to undertake this extensive upgrade, ensuring we could provide state-of-the-art facilities and services tailored to the needs of our young people. Thank you to Trish Doyle our Local MP and NSW Government for their support through the Community Building Partnership Grant program, Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba RSL, Bendigo Bank Katoomba, Mary Vernon Foundation, and Mitsubishi Australia.

Donated Goods and Services: The donation of materials, furnishings, and professional services was crucial in making the transformation possible and creating a truly special space. Thank you to:

- Polyflor Australia
- Caesarstone
- Bunnings Katoomba
- Fisher & Paykel
- Smeg
- Blue Mountains Kitchens
- Caroma
- Dulux
- Black Wattle Engineering
- Café Idea
- Briclad
- Onyx and Smoke
- Oz Design
- Harvey Norman
- Provincial Home Living
- Mandovella Design
- Go Get
- Unitex Australia
- Old English Tapware
- Against the Grain
- Women's Shed Blue Mountains

## Looking Ahead

The revamped Katoomba Youth Centre stands as a beacon of our commitment to empowering young people. With its new facilities and enhanced services, we are better equipped than ever to support their growth, foster their talents, and address their needs.

As we look to the future, we remain focused on expanding our programs and continuing to offer a space where every young person can find encouragement, safety, and a sense of belonging. Thank you to everyone who made this incredible transformation possible. Your support has helped create a place where endless possibilities are sought and our youth can dream big, to build a brighter future for themselves and our community.

Together, we are making a difference.

New Loft 31 space at the renovated Katoomba Youth Centre



“MIND BLOWN! IT IS SO COOL.”

YOUNG PERSON SEEING LOFT 31 FOR THE FIRST TIME



# THE MYST BOARD

Spray paint workshop at Hub Bub Event, Springwood

**"MYST HAS BEEN A PLACE OF RELAXATION AND REJUVENATION FOR ME AND OTHERS, WILL CONTINUE COMING FOR A VERY VERY LONG TIME."**

**DROP-IN PARTICIPANT**

## OUR GOVERNANCE

The MYST Board is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance to ensure transparency, accountability and effectiveness in our mission to serve the young people in the Blue Mountains. In FY24, we continued to strengthen our governance framework by regularly reviewing our policies and procedures, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and promoting best practices in not-for-profit management.

We are proud to see the MYST leadership team making significant progress on the strategic plan that was introduced last year. This includes engaging and building partnerships with major stakeholders, such as local schools, government bodies and aboriginal communities. Key to this year has been our advocacy with the Mental Health Commission and the round table with Minister Kate Washington, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services of New South Wales. We also saw diversification in funding with the introduction of fee-for-service programs and a grant from the Primary Health Network.

As part of our commitment to maintain a diverse and skills-based board, in March, we welcomed risk management expert, Suneet Jain, to join the MYST Board and lead the Audit and Risk Committee. Meanwhile, we bid farewell to Glen Babbington and Annie Mackin, who have made major and long-lasting contributions to the oversight of MYST. Glen Forrester has taken a leave of absence due to ill health. We look forward to his return when he is able.

Looking ahead, the Board will focus on supporting MYST's capacity building and strategic planning for it to be the leading Blue Mountains hub for young people.





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

*Joined 2015*

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



**SUNEET JAIN**  
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
FINANCE AND RISK LEADER  
FGIA, MAICD, CA (INDIA)

*Joined March 2024*

Suneet Jain is an accomplished finance and risk leader with 20 years of distinguished corporate experience in the banking and financial services industry, having held senior leadership roles in India and Australia. His strengths lie in developing a positive risk culture, driving business transformation and financial analytics within commercial decision making, all with an eye to achieving organic growth of a business. Suneet is passionate about striving for sustainable value creation by being outcomes focussed, deploying effective risk mitigation strategies and talent development.

"Today's youth are our nation's future leaders, it is incumbent upon us to be the pilots of their youth journeys and to guide them. MYST's support has a profound impact on Australian youth and the expansion of the organization through increased funding, programs, staff will only improve its outreach to the ones needing support. I am looking forward to my association with MYST and making a real difference in the lives of Australian youth".



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

*Joined June 2021*

Dr Emma Wong is Associate Professor and Academic Director at the University of Tasmania. 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."



**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."



**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."



**GREG FORRESTER**  
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AND MEMBER AUDIT RISK  
COMMITTEE

*Joined July 2021  
Leave of absence March 2024*

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 purpose 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  
 Resigned April 2024*

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.”

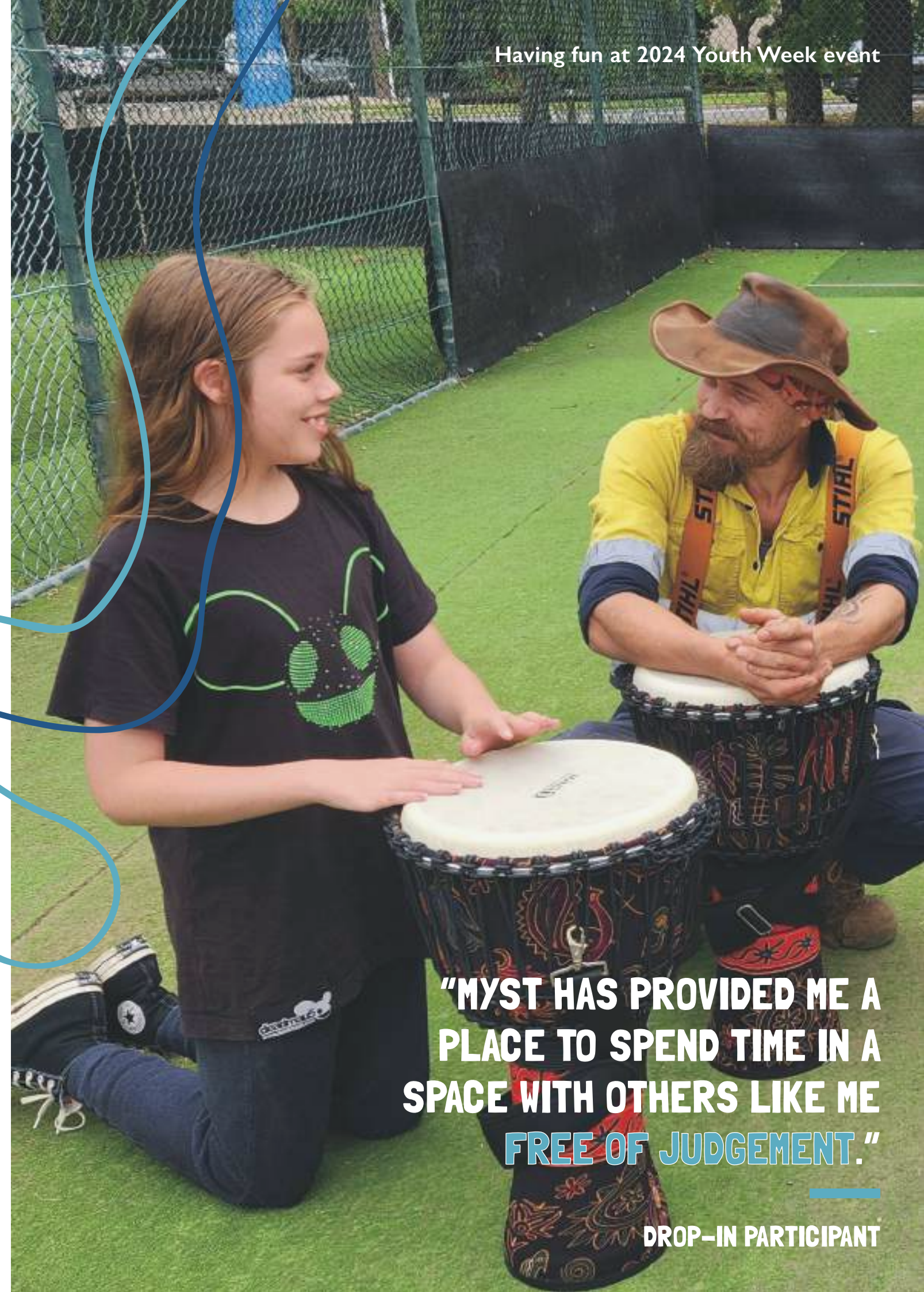


**GLEN BABINGTON, CSC**  
**NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**  
**CHAIR AUDIT & RISK**  
**COMMITTEE, MEMBER**  
**MARKETING & FUNDRAISING**  
**COMMITTEE**

*Joined June 2021  
 Resigned March 2024*

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”.

Having fun at 2024 Youth Week event



**“MYST HAS PROVIDED ME A  
 PLACE TO SPEND TIME IN A  
 SPACE WITH OTHERS LIKE ME  
 FREE OF JUDGEMENT.”**

**DROP-IN PARTICIPANT**



# OUR FINANCES

Fun bushwalk adventure at Drop-In

**"MY CHILD ABSOLUTELY LOVED OUTDOOR EXPLORE. HE WAS CHALLENGED IN SO MANY WAYS AND WILL NOW FACE CHALLENGES AND GIVE THINGS A REAL GO"**

**EXCERPT FROM CLIENT LETTER**



## NSW MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION VISIT

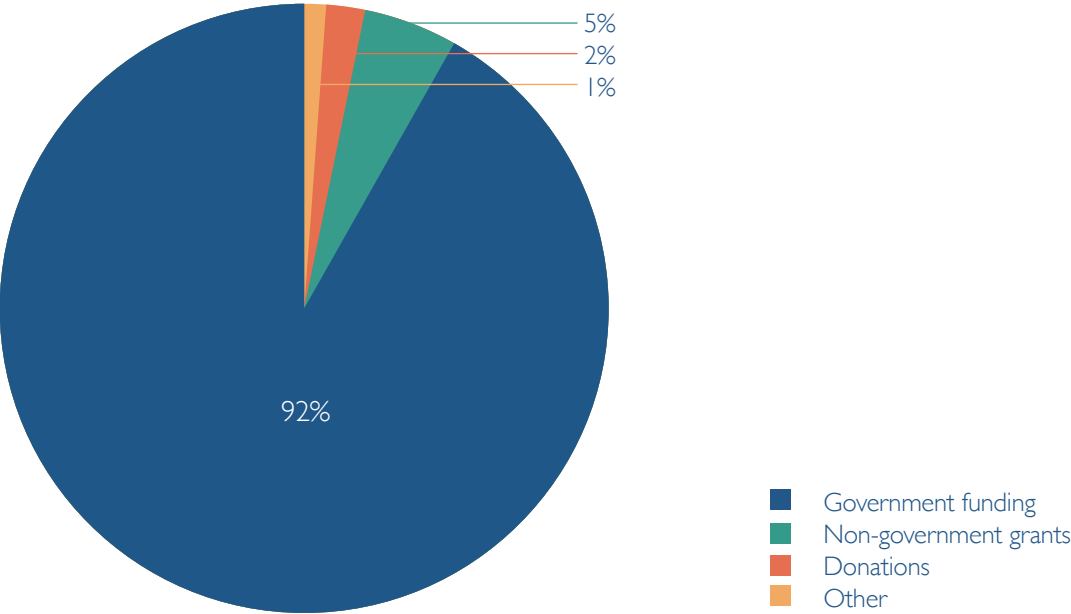
In June 2024, we had the pleasure of welcoming Deputy Commissioners Tom Brideson, Dr. Paul Fung, and Senior Advisor Hanien Tashman from the NSW Mental Health Commission to our Katoomba Youth Centre. Jodie Rollason (CEO), Paige Thurlow-Want (Manager of the Youth Work Team), Kate Greenham (Manager of Outdoor Explore), and Heath Salmon (Case Manager) provided them with an overview of MYST programs and services and some of the challenges we face in supporting young people. The commissioners expressed great interest in the remarkable work our MYST team is doing in the community around teen mental health.

This visit offered an excellent opportunity for us to share our passion for supporting young people in the Blue Mountains and to highlight the impactful work we do every day.



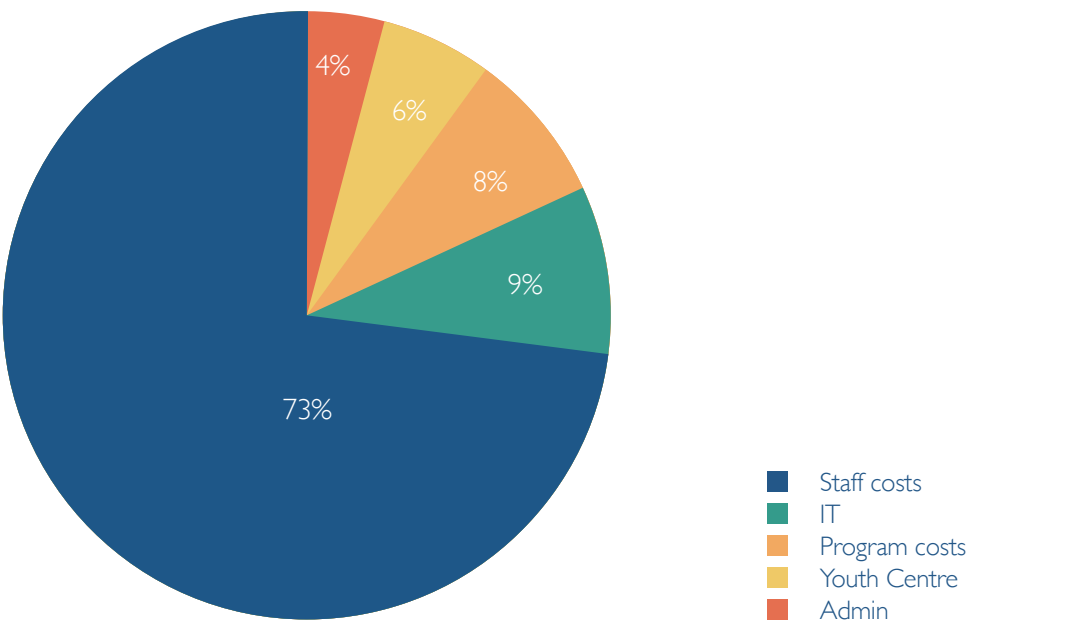
INCOME

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



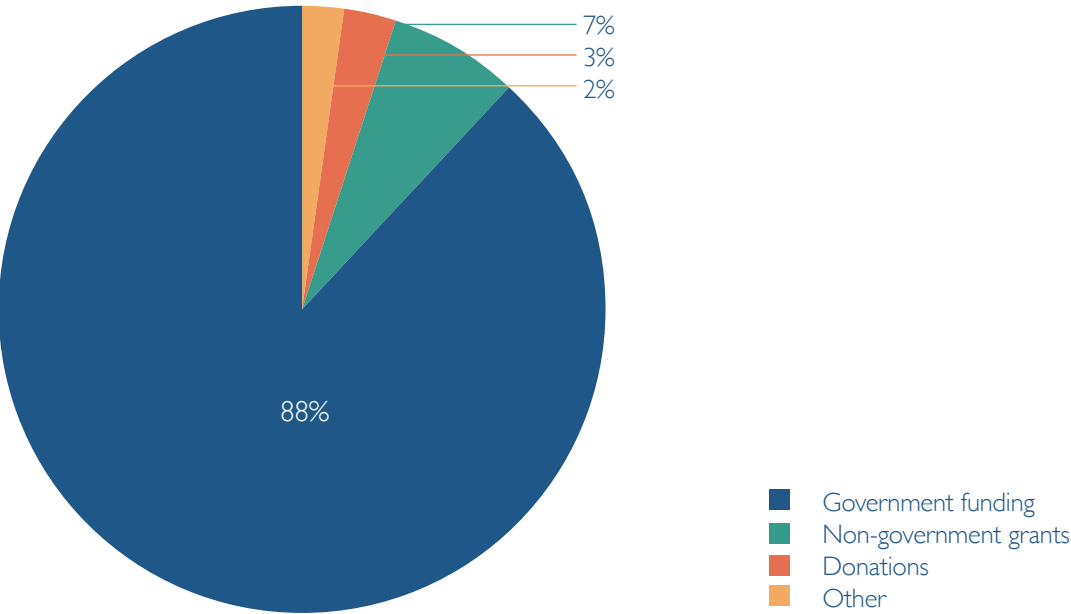
EXPENSES

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



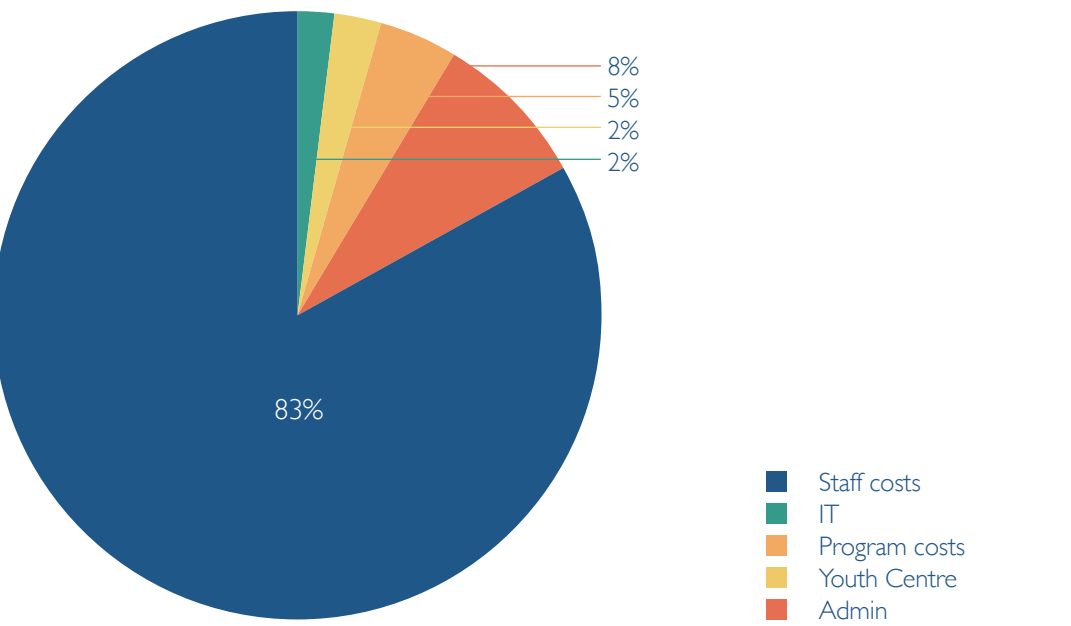
INCOME

Government funding	\$1,370,361
Non-government grants	\$110,403
Donations	\$44,665
Other (includes board fees, interest, etc.)	\$30,771
	<b>\$1,556,200</b>



EXPENSES

Staff costs	\$1,215,763
Admin	\$118,699
Program Costs	\$64,121
Youth Centres	\$33,499
IT	\$27,591
	<b>\$1,459,673</b>





# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Let's get creative – Drop-in Fun

"[MYST IS] A WONDERFUL  
ORGANISATION THAT MAKES  
A REAL DIFFERENCE FOR  
THE YOUTH IN THE BLUE  
MOUNTAINS."

MARK GREENHILL, MAYOR (BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY)

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee members present their report on Mountains Youth Services Team Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

### Committee Members

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

Names	Position	Appointed/Resigned
Joy Cusack	Chair	
Gareth Scott	Treasurer	
Emma Wong		
Glen Babington		Resigned 22 March 2024
Ann Mackin		Resigned 10 April 2024
Timothy Wong		
Greg Forrester	(leave of absence to 11 September 2024)	
Rowan Clifford		
Suneet Jain		Appointed 18 March 2024

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### Principal activities

The principal activity of Mountains Youth Services Team Inc during the financial year was the provision of youth support services.

No significant changes in the nature of the Association's activity occurred during the financial year.

### Operating results

The surplus of the Association after providing for income tax amounted to \$ 96,527 (2023: \$ 132,904).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee:

Director: *Joy Cusack*  
Joy Cusack

Director: *Gareth Scott*  
Gareth Scott

Dated this 25th day of September 2024



## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENT DECLARATION

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2024, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Audit Logic Pty Ltd  
Chartered Accountant

Benjamin Irvine  
Director

Sydney, NSW

## PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	4	1,547,237	1,612,785
Finance income	5	8,963	6,012
Employee benefits expense		(1,072,441)	(1,062,517)
Depreciation expense		(31,112)	(9,778)
Other expenses		(356,120)	(413,598)
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>		<b>96,527</b>	132,904
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>96,527</b>	132,904
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>96,527</b>	132,904

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	576,991	551,639
Trade and other receivables	7	24,997	35,658
Other assets	9	34,670	10,408
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		636,658	597,705
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	63,191	43,251
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		63,191	43,251
TOTAL ASSETS		699,849	640,956
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	72,150	82,220
Short-term provisions	11	53,863	43,864
Employee benefits	13	92,937	87,576
Other financial liabilities	12	39,253	70,846
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		258,203	284,506
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	13	43,639	54,970
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		43,639	54,970
TOTAL LIABILITIES		301,842	339,476
NET ASSETS		398,007	301,480
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		398,007	301,480
TOTAL EQUITY		398,007	301,480



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

**2024**

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	301,480	301,480
Surplus for the year	96,527	96,527
Total other comprehensive income for the period	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	398,007	398,007

## 2023

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2022</b>	168,576	168,576
Surplus for the year	132,904	132,904
Total other comprehensive income for the period	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	301,480	301,480

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Receipts from customers		1,665,794	1,767,157
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,598,353)	(1,761,974)
Interest received		8,963	6,012
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	76,404	11,195
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(51,052)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(51,052)	-
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		25,352	11,195
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		551,639	540,444
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6	576,991	551,639

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial report covers Mountains Youth Services Team Inc as an individual entity. Mountains Youth Services Team Inc is a not-for-profit Association, registered and domiciled in Australia.

The principal activities of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2024 were the provision of youth support services.

The functional and presentation currency of Mountains Youth Services Team Inc is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

## 1 Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of those charged with Governance, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Material accounting policy information relating to the preparation of these financial statements are presented below, and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements and material accounting policies all comply with the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

## 2 Material Accounting Policy Information

(a) Revenue and other income

## Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of control of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Association expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Association have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

### Specific revenue streams

The revenue recognition policies for the principal revenue streams of the Association are:



2    Material Accounting Policy Information

(a)    Revenue and other income

Specific revenue streams

Government and Other Grants

Where grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations then the revenue is recognised when control of each performance obligations is satisfied.

The performance obligations are varied based on the agreement but may include the delivery of case management services to clients, the provision of youth support services such as counselling, management of events and programs.

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control and within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract.

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Revenue recognition policy for contracts which are either not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations

The revenue recognition policies for the principal revenue streams of the Association are:

Donations

Donations collected, including cash and goods for resale, are recognised as revenue when the Association gains control of the asset. This is usually upon receipt of cash.

Other income

Other income, including interest income, is recognised when the Association is entitled to it.

(b)    Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(c)    Volunteer services

No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(d)    Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

2    Material Accounting Policy Information

(d)    Property, plant and equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for significantly less than fair value have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

Leased assets and leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or their estimated useful life.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Plant and Equipment	20%
Motor Vehicles	20%

The depreciation rates have been updated in the 2024 year to 20%, a 5 year effective life, as opposed to 33%, a 3 year effective life historically. At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

(e)    Financial instruments

Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Classification

On initial recognition, the Association classifies its financial assets into the following categories, those measured at:

- amortised cost

Amortised cost

The Association's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position.

Trade receivables

Impairment of trade receivables have been determined using the simplified approach in AASB 9 which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses.



2    **Material Accounting Policy Information**

(e)    **Financial instruments**

**Financial assets**

The amount of the impairment is recorded in a separate allowance account with the loss being recognised in finance expense. Once the receivable is determined to be uncollectable then the gross carrying amount is written off against the associated allowance.

Where the Association renegotiates the terms of trade receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

**Financial liabilities**

The financial liabilities of the Association comprise trade payables.

(f)    **Impairment of non-financial assets**

At the end of each reporting period the Association determines whether there is evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where an indicator exists and regardless for indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated.

(g)    **Leases**

**Lessee accounting**

The non-lease components included in the lease agreement have been separated and are recognised as an expense as incurred.

The Association has chosen not to apply AASB 16 to leases of intangible assets.

*Exceptions to lease accounting*

The Association has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The Association recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(h)    **Economic dependence**

Mountains Youth Services Team Inc is dependent on the ongoing funding provided by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. The Association is currently in its fifth year of a 5 year funding agreement with the DCJ, and at the date of this report, no confirmation has been received to indicate a further funding agreement will be provided. At the date of this report, the directors have no reason to believe the ongoing funding provided by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) will not continue to support Mountains Youth Services Team Inc.

2    **Material Accounting Policy Information**

(i)    **Adoption of new and revised accounting standards**

The Association has adopted all standards which became effective for the first time at 30 June 2024, the adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Association.

3    **Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments**

Those charged with governance make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

**Key estimates - grant income**

For many of the grant agreements received, the determination of whether the contract includes sufficiently specific performance obligations was a significant judgement involving discussions with a number of parties at the Association, review of the proposal documents prepared during the grant application phase and consideration of the terms and conditions.

Grants received by the Association have been accounted for under both AASB 15 and AASB 1058 depending on the terms and conditions and decisions made.

If this determination was changed then the revenue recognition pattern would be different from that recognised in these financial statements.

**Key estimates - provisions**

As described in the accounting policies, provisions are measured at management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period. These estimates are made taking into account a range of possible outcomes and will vary as further information is obtained.

**Key estimates - receivables**

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.



#### 4 Other Revenue and Income

##### Revenue from continuing operations

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
- DCJ government funding	1,354,135	1,426,256
- other grants and donations	171,294	185,174
- administration income	14,711	1,300
- member subscriptions	-	55
- other trading revenue	7,097	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,547,237</b>	<b>1,612,785</b>

#### 5 Finance Income and Expenses

##### Finance income

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Interest income		
- Bank deposits	8,963	6,012
<b>Total finance income</b>	<b>8,963</b>	<b>6,012</b>

#### 6 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	576,991	551,639
	<b>576,991</b>	<b>551,639</b>

#### 7 Trade and Other Receivables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	24,997	35,658
	<b>24,997</b>	<b>35,658</b>

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

#### 8 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Plant and equipment		
At cost	18,539	23,185
Accumulated depreciation	(14,123)	(14,119)
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>4,416</b>	<b>9,066</b>
Furniture, fixtures and fittings		
At cost	4,939	4,939
Accumulated depreciation	(4,939)	(3,951)
<b>Total furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>988</b>
Motor vehicles		
At cost	89,631	67,447
Accumulated depreciation	(30,856)	(39,709)
<b>Total motor vehicles</b>	<b>58,775</b>	<b>27,738</b>
Office equipment		
At cost	57,561	57,561
Accumulated depreciation	(57,561)	(56,906)
<b>Total office equipment</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>655</b>
Computer equipment		
At cost	36,988	36,988
Accumulated depreciation	(36,988)	(36,988)
Computer software		
At cost	13,410	13,410
Accumulated depreciation	(13,410)	(13,410)
Leasehold Improvements		
At cost	34,574	34,574
Accumulated depreciation	(34,574)	(29,770)
<b>Total leasehold improvements</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,804</b>
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>63,191</b>	<b>43,251</b>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>63,191</b>	<b>43,251</b>

##### (a) Movements in carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:



## 8 Property, Plant and Equipment

### (a) Movements in carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment

	Plant and Equipment \$	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Office Equipment \$	Leasehold Improvement s \$	Total \$
<b>Year ended 30 June 2024</b>						
Balance at the beginning of year	9,066	988	27,738	655	4,804	43,251
Additions	-	-	51,052	-	-	51,052
Depreciation expense	(4,650)	(988)	(20,015)	(655)	(4,804)	(31,112)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>4,416</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,775</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,191</b>

	Plant and Equipment \$	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Office Equipment \$	Leasehold Improvement s \$	Total \$
<b>Year ended 30 June 2023</b>						
Balance at the beginning of year	11,212	1,028	34,673	892	5,224	53,029
Depreciation expense	(2,146)	(40)	(6,935)	(237)	(420)	(9,778)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>9,066</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>27,738</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>4,804</b>	<b>43,251</b>

## 9 Other Non-Financial Assets

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	34,670	10,408
	<b>34,670</b>	<b>10,408</b>

## 10 Trade and Other Payables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade payables	12,888	21,015
Deposits	300	500
GST payable	22,532	25,110
Employee benefits	7,732	16,865
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	28,698	18,730
	<b>72,150</b>	<b>82,220</b>

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

## 11 Provisions

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Building maintenance	53,863	43,864
	<b>53,863</b>	<b>43,864</b>

### (a) Movement in carrying amounts

	Building Maintenance \$	Total \$
<b>Current</b>		
Opening balance at 1 July 2023	43,864	43,864
Additional provisions	9,999	9,999
<b>Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>53,863</b>	<b>53,863</b>

### Building maintenance

A building maintenance provision has been established under licence agreements the Association has entered into for use of Council premises for its youth centres. Under the licence agreements in place, the Association is required to make good the premises on cessation of the agreement, and this provision is an estimate of anticipated make good costs.

## 12 Other Financial Liabilities

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Government grants	39,253	70,846
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,253</b>	<b>70,846</b>

## 13 Employee Benefits

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Provision for employee benefits	92,937	87,576
	<b>92,937</b>	<b>87,576</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Long service leave	43,639	54,970
	<b>43,639</b>	<b>54,970</b>



14 Contracted Commitments

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Contracted commitments for:		
Association		
Youth Centre Renovations	31,208	-
	31,208	-

MYST entered into a contract with Barbuto Constructions Pty Ltd in June 2024 to perform renovation works to the Katoomba Youth Centre. Renovation works are expected to be completed during the 2025 financial year.

15 Members' Guarantee

The Association is registered with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and is a Association limited by guarantee. If the Association is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$ - each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Association. At 30 June 2024 the number of members was 7 (2023: 6).

16 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of Mountains Youth Services Team Inc during the year is as follows:	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	369,293	364,595
	369,293	364,595

17 Auditors' Remuneration

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor Audit Logic (William Tomiczek in 2023), for:		
- auditing or reviewing the financial statements	7,000	5,682
Total	7,000	5,682

18 Contingencies

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023:None).

19 Related Parties

(a) The Association's main related parties are as follows:

Key management personnel - refer to Note 16.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members.

(b) Transactions with related parties

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

20 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Profit for the year	96,527	132,904
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- depreciation	31,112	9,778
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	10,663	14,823
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	(24,262)	73,160
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(31,593)	(157,904)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(10,072)	(93,605)
- increase/(decrease) in provisions	15,360	27,119
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(11,331)	4,920
Cashflows from operations	76,404	11,195

21 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:  
Mountains Youth Services Team Inc  
59 Springwood Ave  
Springwood NSW 2777



RESPONSIBLE PERSONS' DECLARATION

- The responsible persons declare that in the responsible persons' opinion:
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
  - the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

Responsible person  Responsible person   
Joy Cusack Gareth Scott

Dated this 25th day of September 2024

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Mountains Youth Services Team Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Mountains Youth Services Team Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, 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 Registered Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other 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 for the purpose of fulfilling the Registered Entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MYST

Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible persons of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the Registered Entity'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 responsible entities either intend to liquidate the Registered Entity or to cease operations, or have 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 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 the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Audit Logic Pty Ltd  
Chartered Accountant

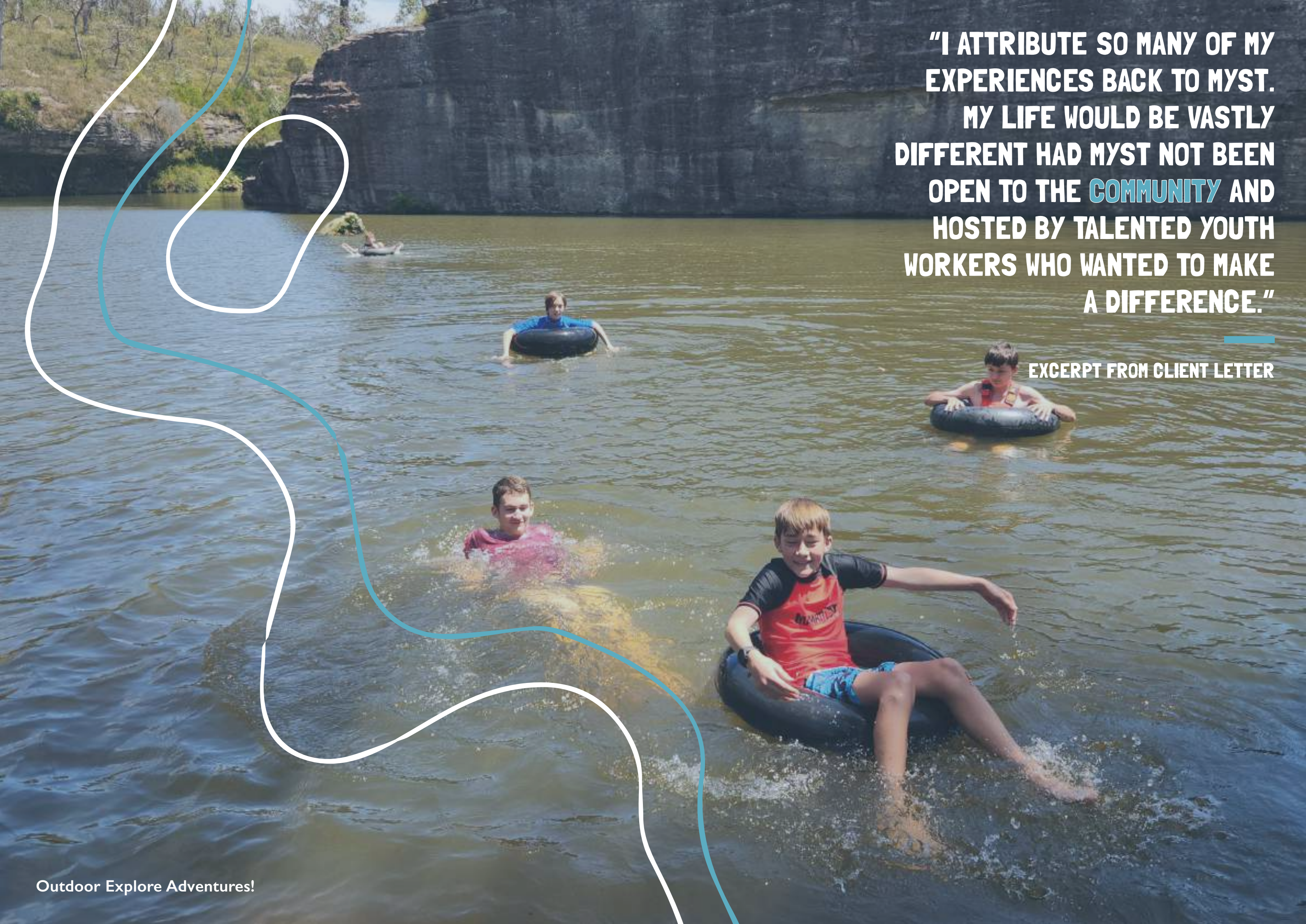


Benjamin Irvine  
Director

Sydney, NSW

Dated this 25th day of September 2024



A photograph of four children tubing down a river. In the foreground, a boy in a red shirt is splashing water while sitting in a black inner tube. Behind him, another boy in a pink shirt is also splashing. Further back, two more children are visible in tubes. The river is surrounded by a high, dark rock wall. On the left side of the image, there are decorative white and blue wavy lines.

**"I ATTRIBUTE SO MANY OF MY  
EXPERIENCES BACK TO MYST.  
MY LIFE WOULD BE VASTLY  
DIFFERENT HAD MYST NOT BEEN  
OPEN TO THE **COMMUNITY** AND  
HOSTED BY TALENTED YOUTH  
WORKERS WHO WANTED TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE."**

**EXCERPT FROM CLIENT LETTER**





## **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](http://www.myst.com.au)

Facebook: Mountains Youth Services Team

Instagram: [myst\\_blue\\_mts](#)