



EAST GIPPSLAND

Community  
Foundation

# ANNUAL REPORT

30 JUNE 2022





## Acknowledgement of Country

The East Gippsland Community Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout East Gippsland and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Authorised and published by the East Gippsland Community Fund  
PO Box 1403 Bairnsdale VIC 3875  
October 2022

For further information, or if you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please contact the East Gippsland Community Fund [givetoeastgippsland.org.au](http://givetoeastgippsland.org.au)

Cover image: Christian Bass

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# INTRODUCTION



## Helping people, changing lives

The East Gippsland Community Foundation is a philanthropic community foundation established to support East Gippsland communities in their medium-to long-term recovery from the 2019-2020 Victorian bushfires.

Community foundations are uniquely placed to understand and respond to the immediate and long-term needs of their communities. As the trustee of charitable funds, the **East Gippsland Community Foundation** works in partnership with donors, local organisations and communities to benefit the region.

Established by the community, for the community, the Foundation was seeded by donations to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. This was a partnership between the Victorian Government and the charitable arm of Bendigo Bank, known as the Community Enterprise Foundation.

The Foundation is the trustee for the **East Gippsland Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund**, which received \$8.8 million from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. Two rounds of funding have been dispersed to support community recovery priorities and fourteen students from fire-impacted areas have received scholarships to support their tertiary studies.

The **East Gippsland Community Foundation** also operates a Public Ancillary Fund. This provides the legal framework that allows the foundation to operate in perpetuity, to conduct its own fundraising activities and to support activities in future that are not related to bushfire recovery.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to be able to present for you the first annual report for the East Gippsland Community Foundation (EGCF).

The foundation has been set up to enable local people to achieve community aspirations. East Gippsland local communities can identify their needs and local projects have a vehicle for funding.

We need to acknowledge the wonderful contribution from the broader community who donated the \$8.8 million the EGCF have to support the local communities in the medium to long-term post bushfire rebuilding programs. The EGCF will still be here when many of the original support moves on.

I would also like to thank the Victorian State Government for facilitating the setup of the East Gippsland Community Foundation and the Community Enterprise Foundation who administered the donations from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

I will also acknowledge the great contribution towards the administration costs to operating the EGCF including funding our Executive Officer position. The Victorian Government have provided funding for administration for three years and the Community Enterprise Foundation have also provided a smaller grant to strengthen our financial position to ensure we can serve our East Gippsland community for as long as they need us.

Rebuilding communities, strengthening their capacity, and assisting with resilience and plans for the future are a long haul and cannot be achieved in just a year or two. The East Gippsland Community Foundation will be there to assist with funding and provide a streamlined and relatively simple process of application and acquittal. We understand local groups often do not have the grant writing expertise, the time or the experience to make applications for funding. We do not want those reasons to be a barrier to local communities achieving their goals.

The East Gippsland Community Foundation is also truly fortunate to have attracted some very good people to join the Board of Directors. They have a broad range of skills, experience and local knowledge to help ensure the Foundation is well-run and the funds are distributed in accordance with our charter.

I have Chaired several enterprises over the years, and I can tell you that our Directors are the hardest working most dedicated group I have ever had the good fortune to work with.

We have been extremely fortunate to appoint as our Executive Officer Michelle Dowsett. Michelle has an incredible record of community involvement and participation. She sits on a number of local community Boards and is Chair of at least one. Michelle has done an incredible job of guiding us and managing the organisation as well as engaging with community groups successfully.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance that Louise Holden provided governance support during the interim period until we found an Executive Officer. Louise completed all of the administration work in those early days helped to write many policies and procedures essential to ensure we have a robust and well organised enterprise.

It was a lengthy process setting up the organisation. Starting from nothing was more difficult than most of us expected. There were corporate governance processes to be followed, setting up of financial systems, accountants', external auditors', social media to organise and much more. Once again we were fortunate to have had much in kind support to assist with the process and provide some training for new Directors.

It was exciting to be able to place our first grant to assist the Sarsfield Community Association Inc host their Bushfire Resilience Expo in late 2021. The Expo provided an opportunity for local people to learn how to rebuild their homes and work towards community recovery from the Black Summer Bushfires. It also provided a day out and an opportunity for the community to regroup.

In November 2021, the East Gippsland Community Foundation announced recipients of the first rounds of grants. We successfully placed \$1,097,781 across 21 local community groups.

Taking advice from the Community Enterprise Foundation, the East Gippsland Community Foundation ran a round of Scholarships for East Gippsland local young people at the commencement of 2022. We awarded 14 Scholarships to the value of \$77,000. This is a terrific way to help local people impacted by the fires enabling them to continue their education and build the capacity of local people.

In May 2022 we completed our second round of grants to the value of \$996,104 to 26 recipients.

The Foundation's long-term vision is to serve as a vehicle right across Gippsland. For the time being the trust funds we manage are specifically for the East Gippsland community impacted by Black Summer Bushfires and that will remain our mid-term focus.

There are a lot of people to thank for setting up the East Gippsland Community Foundation. Can I thank all of those people and organisations and apologise if I have not mentioned them all. Be assured we are incredibly grateful for your assistance.



Barry Henwood  
Chair

# A SNAPSHOT OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS



RECIPIENT: Bemm River Progress & Improvement Association Inc  
PROJECT: Fire prevention & safety  
**\$38,347**

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RECIPIENT: Mallacoota Sea Eagles  
PROJECT: Equipment upgrade  
**\$15,000**

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RECIPIENT: Buchan Gelantipy & District  
PROJECT: Buchan Districts Fuel Resilience Project  
**\$30,900**

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RECIPIENT: Community Centre Swifts Creek Inc  
PROJECT: Community Centre Refurbishment  
**\$74,810**

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RECIPIENT: Club Terrace Community Reserve Committee Inc  
PROJECT: Club Terrace Recreation Reserve  
**\$34,850**

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# OUR LEGAL ENTITIES

## Trust– East Gippsland Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund

The East Gippsland Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund received funding from the Community Enterprise Foundation for distribution to assist in the medium to long term bushfire recovery. The current funding received from the Community Enterprise Foundation is allocated from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal and aims to be distributed over an eight-to-ten-year period.

## Trustee – The East Gippsland Community Foundation Ltd (The Foundation)

The East Gippsland Community Foundation Ltd received funding from the Victorian State Government and the Community Enterprise Foundation to support the ongoing operations of the entity over a three-year period. The current funding received from Bushfire Recovery Victoria, through the Department of Justice and Community Safety, and the Community Enterprise Foundation aims to cover administration costs in managing funds allocated from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.





# THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONS

## The Community Enterprise Foundation

The East Gippsland Community Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generous financial and in-kind support provided by the Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF), the charitable arm of the Bendigo Bank. CEF has provided funding towards the operating costs of the Foundation, as well as many hours of staff support freely given and other benefits including grant platform access, marketing and communication assistance and charitable law, expertise, advice and knowledge.

## Community Recovery Committees

We would like to thank all of the hard-working volunteers on the ten community recovery committees across East Gippsland. Many thanks for the invitations to participate in community meetings and discussions and for the time and effort taken to engage with each of your own communities and convey to our Foundation the needs of your members.

- Bruthen and District Recovery Committee
- Buchan, Gelantipy and Districts Renewal Association Incorporated
- Cann Valley District Reference Group
- Clifton Creek Community Recovery Team
- Errinundra to Snowy Community Recovery Committee
- Mallacoota and District Recovery Association
- Omeo Region Community Recovery Association
- Orbost District Community Recovery and Transition Committee
- Sarsfield Community Association
- Wairewa Community Recovery Committee



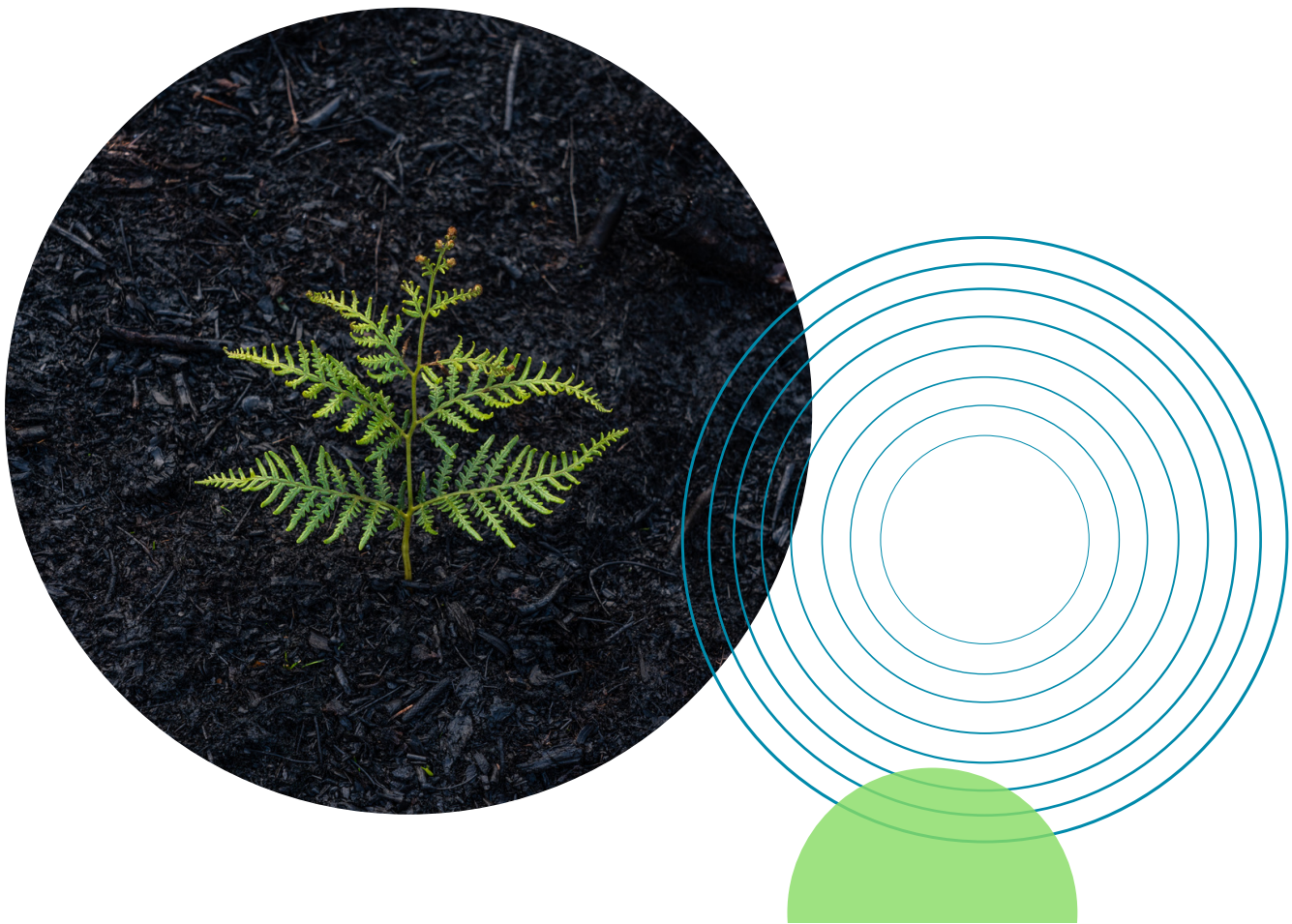
## East Gippsland Shire Council

We would like to acknowledge and thank the staff at the East Gippsland Shire Council for their continued support of our Foundation. Executives and staff working in the Bushfire Recovery and Community Resilience space have given their time and shared their networks to ensure that we have been able to engage with the right people, in the right place at the right time.

The East Gippsland Shire Council Place Managers have been a key conduit into communities to gauge and communicate their needs and aspirations.

## Bushfire Recovery Victoria

Although Bushfire Recovery Victoria staff are dispersing into other roles in the public sector including Emergency Recovery Victoria, we thank their staff for welcoming us into the East Gippsland Bushfire Recovery space and connecting us to projects and priorities of bushfire impacted communities.



# OUR PEOPLE

We would like to recognise and thank our Foundation Board Members who, as volunteers, have given many hours of their time and expertise so willingly to ensure that we have a positive impact on re-establishing communities impacted by the 2019/2020 Black Summer Fires across East Gippsland.



Barry Henwood  
Chair



Joe Rettino  
Deputy Chair



Brendan Pfanner  
Secretary



Andy Tegart  
Treasurer



Helen Martin  
Director



Sue Medson  
Director



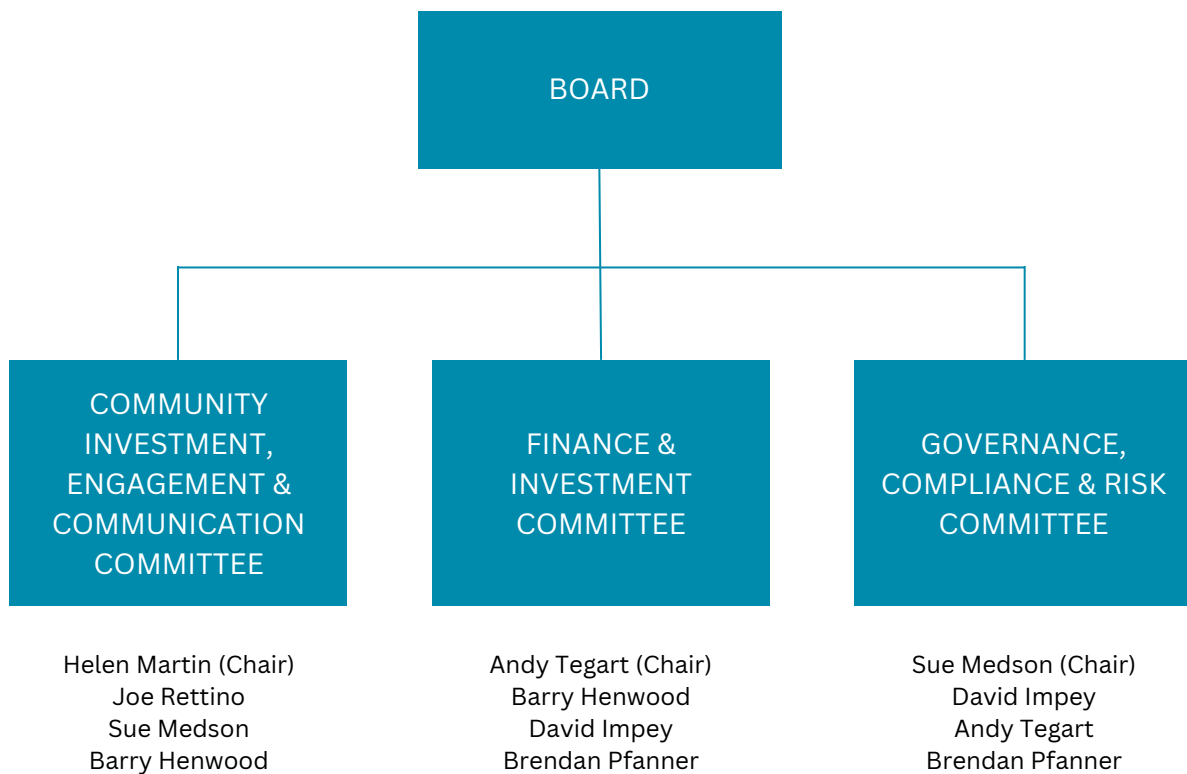
David Impey  
Director



Michelle Dowsett  
Executive Officer

# BOARD COMMITTEES

Our Board members participate in several committees as follows:



# EAST GIPPSLAND COMMUNITY BUSHFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Total donations received at the commencement of the reporting period	\$ 8,824,985
Donations since last reporting period	\$ 0
Relevant non-financial donations	\$ 0

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Total disbursements during the reporting period	\$ 2,257,728
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## Total committed funds at the end of the reporting period

- Clifton Creek Community Recovery Team - Clifton Creek emergency response vehicle \$75,000
- Tambo Crossing Community Association Inc - Tambo Crossing/Ensay emergency response fire vehicle \$75,000
- Buchan Football Netball Club Inc - Buchan Recreation Reserve Court lights \$75,000

Total	\$ 225,000
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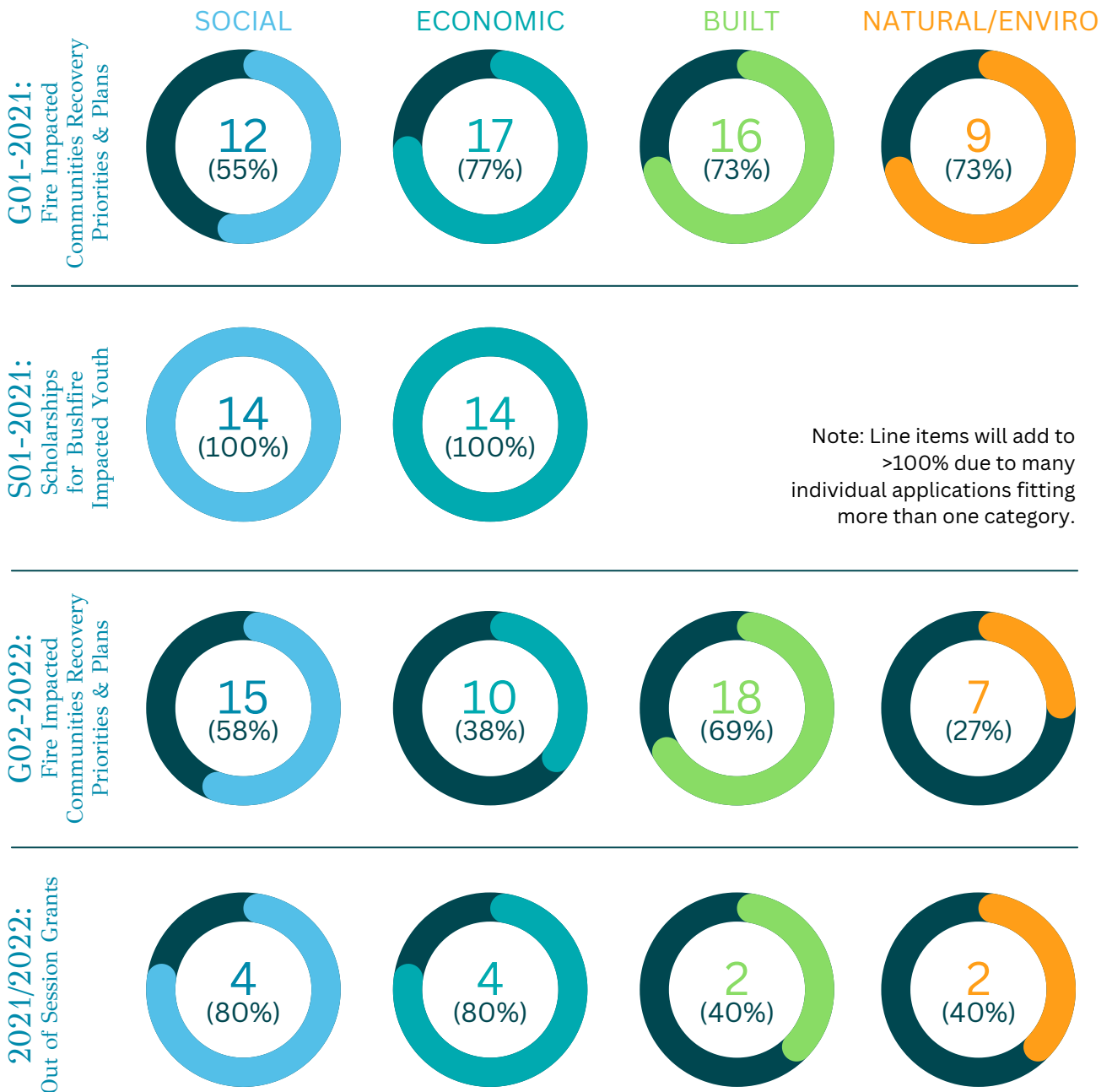
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Uncommitted funds at the end of the reporting period	\$ 6,428,429
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# PILLARS OF RECOVERY

## GRANT ROUND



# EAST GIPPSLAND COMMUNITY BUSHFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND DISBURSEMENTS IN 2021/2022

## September/October 2021 – Grant Round, Fire Impacted Communities Recovery Priorities & Plans (46 applications)

Sarsfield Community Association Inc (Sarsfield Recreation Reserve Amenities Block Upgrade)	\$75,000
Tambo Crossing Community Association & Project Partner Ensay Fire Brigade (Tambo Crossing Emergency Response Vehicle)	\$75,000
Sarsfield Community Association Inc (Sarsfield Active, Connected and Well)	\$75,000
Workways Australia/Envite Environmental (East Gippsland Conservation traineeships for youth capacity and bushfire recovery)	\$75,000
Clifton Creek Community Recovery Team & project partner Sarsfield Fire Brigade (Clifton Creek Emergency Response Vehicle)	\$75,000
Wilderness Workspace Mallacoota & project partner Australian Centre for Regional Entrepreneurship (Wilderness Workspace)	\$74,652
Omeo Region Business & Tourism Association & Project Partner Omeo District Health Service (Health Preparedness Project)	\$74,380
Tamboon Peachtree Association Inc (Commissioning the Tamboon Community Bushfire Defence and Response Facility)	\$69,193
Buchan Football Netball Club (Netball/Tennis Court Resurface reallocated to court lights)	\$70,974
Mallacoota & District Historical Society Inc (Mallacoota WWII Bunker Museum power supply project)	\$67,633
Mallacoota Halls and Recreation Reserve Grounds Committee of Management Inc. (Emergency Power Generation)	\$67,000

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand (LaunchMe Loans for Bushfire Recovery East Gippsland)	\$50,000
Deddick Valley Isolated Community Group (Building Healthy and Resilient Communities through Service Equity)	\$50,000
Ensay Memorial Hall (Activating Ensay)	\$39,790
Mossiface Public Hall Reserve Committee of Management (Mossiface Hall upgrades)	\$32,676
Buchan Gelantipy and Districts Renewal Association (Buchan Districts Fuel Resilience Project)	\$28,090
Noorinbee Public Purposes Reserve Committee Incorporated (Fostering Community Independence and Opportunity)	\$27,868
Friends of the Mitta (Anglers Rest Loop Trail System Concept Brief. Co-funding between Friends of the Mitta; East Gippsland Shire Council; North East Catchment Management Authority; and Parks Victoria)	\$20,000
Omeo Region Business & Tourism Association Inc (Bundarra Community Centre)	\$21,865
Gippsland Farmer Relief Inc. (East Gippsland Bushfire Farmer Relief)	\$10,000
Mallacoota Community Health Infrastructure and Resilience Fund Inc (Ashes to Music, Mallacoota Creative Recovery 2022)	\$10,000
Wairewa Public Hall & Recreation Reserve (Wairewa Public Hall Storage Shed)	\$9,670

## February 2022 - Scholarships (45 applications)

### 14 scholarships awarded for a total sum of \$77,000

I Warren, Mallacoota (Monash University, Sc Global Studies)

N Gallagher, Simpsons Creek (Victoria University, Paramedicine)

R Blomer, Mallacoota (Australian National University, Medicinal Science)

S Tregellas, Mallacoota (Deakin University, Nursing)

M Brown, Mallacoota (TAFE, Animal Studies)

L Barnes, Newmerella (TAFE, Ag Mech Tech)

M Johnston, Mallacoota (Latrobe University, Bachelor Paramedicine)

D Matisse, Marlo (Monash University, Medicine)

A Green-Cook, Sarsfield & Goongerah (Swinburne University, Engineering Design)

A Johnson, Mallacoota (Australia National University, International Relations)

J Gallagher, Swifts Creek (Monash University, Bachelor of Education)

J Coates, Marlo/Buchan (SEDA Sports & Business)

C Watts-Parker, Mallacoota (TAFE, Conservation & Land Management)

L Woerz, Marlo (Melbourne University, Fine Arts)

## March/April 2022 – Grant Round, Fire Impacted Communities Recovery Priorities & Plans (39 applications)

Friends of the Mitta (Emergency bushfire UHF repeater for Bundara Valley, final stage)	\$5,191
Centre for Rural Communities Inc (Stories of Influence: Memories and Memorabilia of the legendary game, Lake Tyers)	\$10,000
Bruthen Arts & Events Council (Bruthen Medieval Winter Fire Festival)	\$10,065
East Gippsland Learn Locals - Buchan & Paynesville & Neighbourhood House, Orbst Education Centre - (Local learning for local people into local jobs with local industry: tourism and hospitality)	\$14,400
Mallacoota Sea Eagles Dragon Boat Club (equipment upgrade)	\$15,000
Goongerah Public Hall & Recreation Reserve Inc (Co-Working Space at Goongerah)	\$25,583
Genoa Public Hall (Securing and sustaining access to essential services at the Genoa Hall for community)	\$26,164
Nowa Nowa Community Development Group (Nowa Nowa - Wairewa Bushfire Resilience Project)	\$26,712
Bemm River Progress & Improvement Assoc. Inc (Fire Prevention and Town Safety)	\$34,834

Club Terrace Community Reserve Committee Inc (Club Terrace Recreation Reserve Temporary Meeting Place)	\$34,850
Farmers Voice East Gippsland (Farmers Voice Get Togethers)	\$36,713
East Gippsland Timber Milling Project (Transport to facilitate community engagement related to the East Gippsland mobile timber milling project)	\$40,000
Orbost & District Community Recovery & Transition Committee & Project Partner Orbost Chamber of Commerce (Plan and Prepare in the Orbost District Area)	\$41,000
Tamboon Inlet Community Assoc. Inc (TICA Emergency Shed & Equipment, Tamboon South)	\$45,000
Far East Victoria Landcare Inc (Eco-Anxiety: From Fear to Hope)	\$56,818
Mallacoota & Genoa Broadcasting Assoc. (3MB Wilderness Radio) (Part funded - Radio for recovery - Community capability and connectivity in Far East Gippsland)	\$50,000
Orbost & District Community Recovery & Transition Committee & Project Partner Orbost Regional Health (ODCRTC People and Wellbeing Program Partnership)	\$60,000
Wairewa Public Hall & Recreation Reserve Inc (Wairewa & District Community Capacity Building & Disaster Resilience Project)	\$65,174
Community Centre Swifts Creek Inc (Community Centre Swifts Creek - Centre Refurbishment)	\$68,009
Cann Valley District Representative Group Inc (Community Led Capacity Building - Restoration of the Cann River Old Noorinbee Winery Building Restoration)	\$69,031
Benambra Neighbourhood House Inc (Information Technology & Connected Community)	\$71,800
Johnsonville Hall (Johnsonville Hall Upgrade)	\$75,000
Engage & Grow Community Inc (Emergency Management Reform Project for children with special needs)	\$74,300
East Gippsland Rail Trail Committee of Management (East Gippsland Rail Trail vegetation control and enhancement)	\$75,000
Clifton Creek Town Hall Committee Assoc. (Clifton Creek Community Stage @ the Recreation Reserve)	\$75,000
Buchan Football Netball Club (Buchan Rec Reserve Court Lights)	\$75,000



## 2021/2022 Out of Session Grants

Sarsfield Community Association Inc – Sarsfield Bushfire Expo - December 2021	\$10,850
East Gippsland Marketing – Nature based tourism event Mallacoota – April 2022	\$4,000
3MB Radio – ‘On the Road Again’ music event – April 2022	\$7,450
Moogji Aboriginal Council – Winter Festival Lantern workshops – May 2022	\$3,450
Cassilis Recreation Reserve – Co-funded public toilet upgrade – June 2022	\$10,000

# EAST GIPPSLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## Financial statements summary

### Statement of Profit or Loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2022

Revenue (including other income)	\$1,017,770
Accounting and bookkeeping	(\$12,950)
Advertising and marketing	(\$8,205)
Audit fees	(\$8,000)
Consulting fees	(\$38,490)
Recruitment and HR consulting	(\$15,700)
Superannuation	(\$14,545)
Wages	(\$73,355)
Other expenses	(\$35,270)
Current year surplus before income tax	\$811,255
Net current year surplus	\$811,255
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity	\$811,255

### Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Total current assets	\$891,165
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$891,165</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Total current liabilities	\$79,910
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$79,910</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$811,255</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Total equity	\$811,255

### Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2022

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Operating grants	\$1,017,587
Payments to suppliers and employees	(\$126,604)
Interest received	\$182
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>\$891,165</b>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>	<b>\$891,165</b>
Cash on hand at end of financial year	\$891,165

# EAST GIPPSLAND COMMUNITY BUSHFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND

## Financial statements summary

### Statement of Profit or Loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2022

Revenue	\$8,824,985
Other income	\$11,172
Grants expensed	(\$2,257,728)
Current year surplus before income tax	\$6,578,429
Income tax expenses	-
Net current year surplus	\$6,578,429

## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Total current assets	\$6,726,929
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$6,726,929</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Total current liabilities	\$148,500
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$148,500</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,578,429</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Total equity	\$6,578,429

## Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2022

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Operating grants	\$9,707,484
Payments to suppliers and employees	(\$3,056,18)
Interest received	\$11,172
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>\$6,662,475</b>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>	<b>\$6,662,475</b>
Cash on hand at end of financial year	\$6,662,475



# TO SUPPORT OUR FOUNDATION

The East Gippsland Community Foundation continues to work with the Community Enterprise Foundation and can take individual and business tax deductible donations through the East Gippsland Community Foundation Appeal at [www.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/disaster-appeals/east-gippsland-community-foundation-appeal](http://www.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/disaster-appeals/east-gippsland-community-foundation-appeal).

To donate please contact Executive Officer, Michelle Dowsett on 0499 241 917 or email [info@givetoeastgippsland.org.au](mailto:info@givetoeastgippsland.org.au).

# A WORD FROM THOSE WE HAVE SUPPORTED

“The East Gippsland Community Foundation is the silver lining to the cloud of the Black Summer Bushfires.”

**WAIREWA COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEE ‘GRAPEVINE’  
ISSUE 12 APRIL/MAY 2022**

“Myself and my family would like to thank the East Gippsland Community Foundation for the incredible opportunities the scholarship has offered me.”

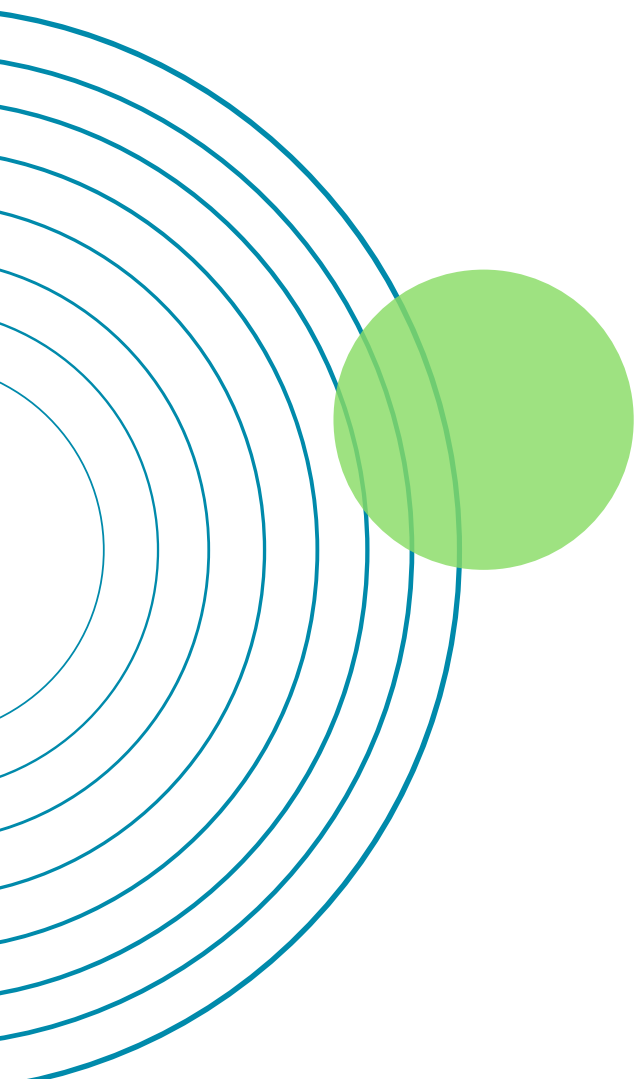
**DANIEL MATISSE,  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT  
MARCH 2022**

"The SCA cannot under state the importance of this project. As the first major infrastructure project since the fires, it has served as a signal that the Sarsfield community are valued and important. The moral boost in community members visiting the reserve is noticeable and has lingered as other small upgrades continue to occur.”

**SARSFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
13 SEPTEMBER 2022**

“The East Gippsland Community Foundation has generously given FOTM \$20,000 towards getting a hidden gem; the "Anglers Rest Loop Trail System" shovel ready. The process was uniquely painless, quick and easy, and we’re so very thankful they’re here for our communities!”

**JEFFE ARONSON,  
FRIENDS OF THE MITTA,  
26 DECEMBER 2021**



EAST GIPPSLAND  
**Community  
Foundation**