



NOVEMBER 2024




AGM General Meeting

July 2023 to June 2024 Financial Year

3 Dumburra Avenue, Clifton Springs 3222 • (03) 9069 0314



Agenda




02 Accept the minutes of the
2022/2023 Annual General
Meeting

03 Present and accept
the Annual Reports

04 Appoint an Auditor

05 Elect Board
members

06 General Business
(must be submitted
before meeting)





Our Support

to families last financial year 23/24

With the help of our sponsors, Wombat's Wish was able to support parentally bereaved children with their grief...

14

children have registered for our 1:1 Counselling program with our accredited social worker and psychologist

4

adults have registered for our 1:1 Counselling program

63

1:1 Counselling sessions were conducted last financial year

6

Online Support Lounges for parents, young people and children have been introduced this year and will be continued on a monthly basis

276

Grief Community Information Packs have been delivered to schools around Victoria

17

young people aged 12 to 17 years old have attended our yearly Youth Weekend Grief Program

3

Family Days were set up in the last 12 months for all of our families throughout Victoria

8

Weekend Grief Programs were held in the last 12 months for 64 families throughout Victoria

146

families have been supported with grief support by Wombat's Wish overall over the last year

11

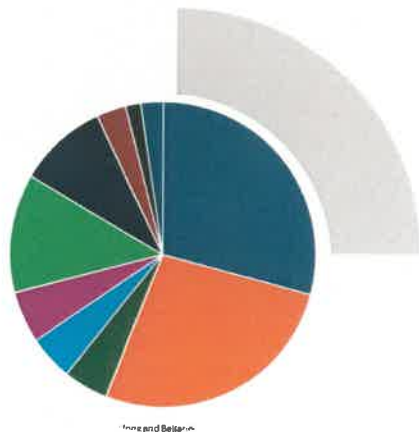
months - almost 600 hours - were dedicated to Wombat's Wish Research project to update our evidence base and grief program development





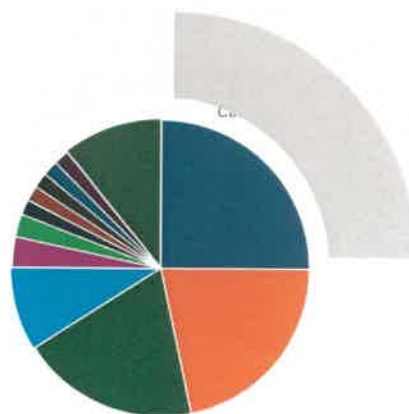
Statistics

On Residential Weekend Grief Program



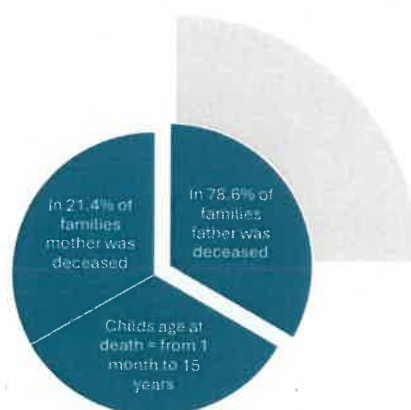
Family Locations

- Melbourne
- Mornington Peninsula
- Goulburn Valley
- Horsham and Surrounds
- Yarra Valley and Dandenongs
- Bendigo
- Bass Coast
- Geelong and Bellarine
- Colac and Surrounds
- Bellarat



Cause of death

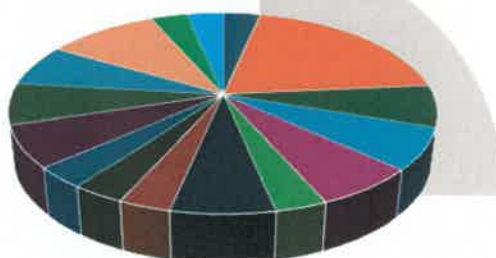
- Cancer (25%)
- Suicide (21%)
- Cardiac (arrest / attack / pulmonary embolism / myopathy) (10.2%)
- Accident (9.2%)
- Drug related (overdose / related) (13.3%)
- Murder (2.5%)
- Brain aneurysm (1.7%)
- In sleep (1.7%)
- Liver failure (1.7%)
- Pancreatitis / alcohol related (1.7%)
- Unclear / unspecified (1.7%)
- Other (x1 per category) (10.8%)



Statistics

On 1:1 Counselling

1:1 Counselling Suburbs



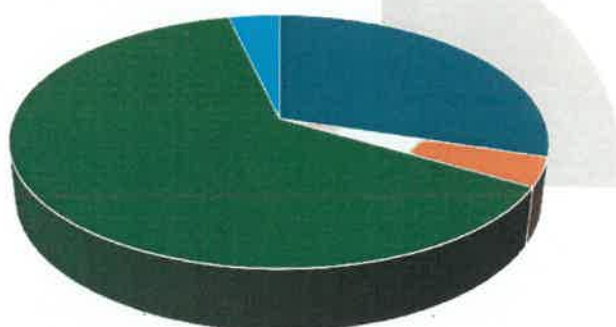
- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| ■ Airport West | ■ Bendigo | ■ Ballarat | ■ Bacchus Marsh |
| ■ Castlemaine | ■ Clifton Springs | ■ Colac | |
| ■ Grovedale | ■ Gippsland Toorloo | ■ Leopold | |
| ■ Ocean Grove | ■ Warrnambool | ■ Werribee | |

1:1 Cause of death



- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| ■ Heart Attack | ■ Bowel Cancer | ■ Drug Overdose | ■ Accident |
| ■ Unknown | ■ Lung Cancer | ■ Terminal Illness | ■ Cancer |
| ■ Skin Cancer | ■ Sepsis | ■ Suicide | |

1:1 Relationship



- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| ■ Mother | ■ Husband | ■ Father | ■ Grandmother |
|----------|-----------|----------|---------------|



Minutes of 2022 to 2023



Annual General Meeting. Zoom on
Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6pm

Present: Casey Kaminskyj, David Trott, Jo Betz, Hannah Dawes, Rutti Loh-Farmer, Shari, Libby, Peter Burke, Tamara Wright, Brian Cooke, Kelsey Dattoli, Jill Crookes, Suzy Coad, Liam Dunne, Joel Crucitti.

Apologies: Marnie Holden

Acknowledgement of Country.

Chair, Casey Kaminskyj welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting of Wombat's Wish year ending 2023 and shared an Acknowledgement of Country.

Minutes approval.

Minutes for the 2022 Annual General Meeting moved by Jo Betz and Seconded by David Trott.

Chairperson Report.

Tabled as read. Casey spoke about 2023 being a year filled with both challenges and celebrations, with Wombat's Wish learning a lot and making significant progress, marked by the absence of major Covid disruptions. Looking ahead to 2024, the focus will shift towards consolidating our camp program and launching new clinical services, and prioritising our strategic goals. The refreshed strategy emphasises three pillars: Programs, capability and growth, a commitment to leadership in the field of child bereavement, and improving access for culturally and linguistically diverse children and families. We farewelled Rebecca Scott and Tamara Wright and thanked them for their incredible contribution to Wombat's Wish. Wombat's Wish also welcomed Kelsey Dattoli, Suzy Coad, and Wombat's Wish founder Jill Crookes into the team, who are already making their mark. Our financial growth remains strong, and we recognise the need to adapt to changing economic conditions to ensure sustainability. Additionally, we have begun the consultation process for our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and are committed to contributing to national reconciliation. Casey expressed gratitude to our sponsors, benefactors, volunteers, board and employees. Their support is invaluable to our mission. 2024 promises to be another year of growth and positive impact as we continue our journey to support families who have experienced loss.

Moved: Peter Burke

Seconded: David Trott

Minutes of 2022 to 2023



Treasurer Report.

Tabled as read. Tamara Wright presented her final financial reports as Treasurer of Wombat's Wish. With the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wombat's Wish has successfully expanded its operations and camp programs. Efforts in administrative capabilities and strategic planning have yielded positive results, leading to increased revenue, which exceeded the rise in expenses. Our committee members remain responsible for the prudent use of funds. Expenses increased, primarily due to program expansion and increased living costs. Wombat's Wish maintains robust financial health with net assets; however, it understands its incredible experience the importance of preserving these cash reserves and effective financial management. Tamara noted the change and growth she has seen in Wombat's Wish since joining the board and the incredible experience it has been. Casey thanked Tamara for her tireless efforts in financial reporting and the wonderful contribution made to Wombat's Wish.

Moved: Shari Liby

Seconded: Jo Betz

Manager Report.

Tabled as read. Nicki Dunne spoke to the Manager Report and that as she completes her third year in the role, she has been reflecting on the remarkable growth Wombat's Wish has experienced, solidifying its position as the leading grief agency in Victoria for children and young people who have lost a parent. Casey thanked Nicki for her wonderful passion for Wombat's Wish and acknowledged that her contribution has been instrumental in Wombat's Wish's growth.

Moved: Rutti Loh-Farmer Seconded: Peter Burke

Election of Office Bearers.

Nicki Dunne declared six positions vacant, and Wombat's Wish is actively recruiting for the Treasurer position.

Office Bearers.

Chairperson Casey Kaminskyj - Nominated by Jo Betz and David Trott

Vice Chairperson David Trott - Nominated by Jo Betz and Casey Kaminskyj

Treasurer Hannah Dawes (interim) - Nominated by David Trott and Casey Kaminskyj

Secretary Jo Betz- Nominated by Casey Kaminskyj and David Trott

General Board Peter Burke - Nominated by David Trott and Casey Kaminskyj

General Board Marnie Holden - Nominated by Rutti Loh-Farmer and Shari Liby

Minutes of 2022 to 2023



Casey Kaminskyj also noted that Wombat's Wish had feedback regarding the nomination process for board members. Because of this, the board is looking at how the nomination process occurs and the number of terms that can be served, and a recommendation will be given in 2024.

Shari Liby and Rutti Loh-Farmer will not be nominated in 2024, but Casey thanked them for their valued contribution to Wombat's Wish.

General Business.

Jill Crookes acknowledged the remarkable impact Nicki Dunne has had within the Wombat's Wish team. She expressed her gratitude for Nicki's contributions thus far and eagerly anticipates collaborating with her, looking forward to the possibilities they can explore together in 2024.

Casey reminded everyone that the Wombat's Wish Gala will take place in early 2024. They are encouraged to attend and sell tickets where possible. The date is to be determined.

AGM Closed 7:15pm

Minutes submitted by Jo Betz (Secretary)



Chairperson's Report



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As Chairperson of Wombats Wish, I am privileged to present the annual report for 2024. This year has been a testament to resilience, community spirit, and our unwavering commitment to supporting families navigating the challenges of grief and loss.

Overview of Our Mission

Wombats Wish exists to support parentally bereaved children and their families through the lifecycle of grief. Our vision is to show leadership and foster collaboration in the field of child bereavement support, influencing thriving communities for generations. This year, we remained steadfast in our pursuit of this mission and vision, adapting to the evolving needs of the families we serve.

Achievements

Several significant achievements have marked the past year:

- **Program Expansion:** We successfully launched new programs and initiatives, including the online lounge program, which facilitates peer support groups for families. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the importance of community connections and shared experiences.
- **Service Growth:** After a few false starts, we launched our Clinical branch at the end of 2023. We're enormously proud of the timing of this achievement, considering the challenges in the counselling industry (shortages, wait times, etc). This means that children and their families can access services
- **Community Outreach:** We expanded our outreach efforts through our referral network, collaboration, and research. This included refreshing our information packs and sending them to every school in Geelong/Surfcoast, with the remainder of the state following this year.
- **Fundraising Efforts:** Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, including donors, sponsors, and volunteers, we raised over \$193,000.00 this year in considerably tough economic conditions.

The first three achievements were underpinned by delivering two key programs supported by the Geelong Community Foundation. The delivery of these programs included updating our research and evidence base supporting our weekend programs and service focus. You can find out more about our research via our website or email info@wombatswish.org.au

Chairperson's Report



Financial Overview

Financially, we remain in a tenuous position and, like many non-profits, expect tough economic conditions to remain for the next 12-24 months. Not only is grant funding down, but corporate sponsorships and individual donor contributions are also experiencing a decline. Our focus across the next 12 months is on maintaining our offering whilst keeping our heads above water from an operating cost perspective. An increase in overall costs (camp costs, rent, etc.) has been met with some exemplary problem-solving from our team, as well as the continuation of key support from some of our regular and historical benefactors. Despite that, we are back to operating in 12 month increments, which is not where we wanted to be by 2025. As per our strategic plan, medium and long-term financial planning is still our goal, as we now look towards our 2030 horizon. This will need to continue once we get through the current financial climate.

Challenges

While we celebrated numerous successes, we faced and will continue to face challenges local to our organisation and across the NFP sector. While the core demand for grief services continues to grow, family preferences and availability must be determined and forecasted.

Volunteer roles are also increasingly hard to fill (across all sectors), putting more pressure on cost resourcing. An increase in regulatory requirements and compliance conditions also puts additional pressure on our operating conditions and considerations. We've been able to be agile and adjust to those changes; however, we need to be increasingly aware of the speed of change and our ability to respond to that pressure.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the upcoming year, our focus will be on:

- **Sustainability:** We aim to monitor and maintain programs aimed at long-term sustainability for Wombats' Wish, ensuring we can continue to provide our essential services for years to come. This is our #1 priority across 2025
- **Enhancing Digital Services:** We plan to expand our online resources, making them more accessible for families unable to attend in-person events.
- **Strengthening Volunteer Programs:** We will actively recruit and train volunteers to expand our support network, recognising that volunteers are the heart of our organisation.

Chairperson's Report



Acknowledgments & Farewell

I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated board members, incredible staff, and passionate volunteers whose hard work and commitment make our mission possible. To our supporters and donors, thank you for believing in us and for your generous contributions. This year, more than any other, they have been crucial.

This is one of the last activities I'll undertake as Chair as my term nears its end. I will also commence an extended maternity leave period from the Board (though not a total break from the organisation). We are actively recruiting new board members for key positions, and I look forward to hearing how that refresh goes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,
Casey Kaminskyj
Chairperson, Wombats Wish



I am delighted to present the 2024 Financial Reports of Wombat's Wish Incorporated ("Wombat's Wish"). These financial statements have been meticulously prepared to provide a transparent and accurate depiction of the charity's financial status and performance as of June 30, 2024. I want to highlight the following points of interest for our stakeholders.

Wombat's Wish has been able to increase their operations and camps now that the COVID-19 pandemic has calmed in intensity. The pandemic had hindered their ability to fully realize some of the planned programs and camps during previous financial years. Wombat's Wish has remained dedicated to enhancing their administrative capabilities and strategic planning. The efforts in grant writing and corporate sponsorships have yielded positive results, resulting in increased revenue that surpasses the rise in expenses. In total, the charity's combined income and expenses amount to \$505,149 and \$313,853, respectively, resulting in a net profit of \$191,296.

Compared to the previous year, Wombat's Wish has achieved remarkable growth in income, witnessing a \$170,555 increase, marking a 51% growth rate. Furthermore, expenses have also risen, albeit to a lesser extent, by \$53,743, reflecting a 21% increase compared to the previous year. This growth in income is essential as services continue to be expanded beyond the Greater Geelong region to serve all of Victoria. The ability to diversify funding sources is paramount, given that donations, grants, and sponsorships are never guaranteed year after year. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated committee members, whose tireless efforts in our camps and community engagement initiatives have played a pivotal role in making this charity a resounding success. Without their dedication, Wombat's Wish might not have had sufficient funds to operate.

It is the responsibility of our committee members to ensure that the funds raised are utilised prudently. The charity incurs substantial expenses to support the execution of camps, community events, and administrative requirements. In 2023, total expenses amounted to \$313,853, representing a \$53,743 increase from the previous year. This increased expenditure is attributed to the continued expansion of programs and suffering the increased cost of living on some expenses.

The financial position of the charity remains robust. Net assets reached a very comfortable level of \$376,076. It is imperative for Wombat's Wish to maintain cash reserves that are equal to or exceed the principal operational requirements of the charity. Equally important is the preservation of these cash reserves, preventing their depletion through routine recurrent expenditure. Throughout 2023, Wombat's Wish maintained its commitment to effective management and sound corporate governance.

In closing, I wish to express my deep gratitude to all committee members, volunteers, and benefactors for their unwavering support. It is their dedication that ensures Wombat's Wish maintains a solid financial foundation, enabling Wombat's Wish to continue providing essential services for bereaved children and young people in the Greater Geelong region and beyond.



Simone Shannon, CA
Treasurer
Wombat's Wish Incorporated
ABN 97 044 710 392

Treasurer's Report



For the year ended 30 June 2024

Matters worth noting

Wages

It is to be noted our wages/salaries have increased this is due to:

- All employees being placed onto appropriate Federal Awards
- All Weekend Grief Program leaders are now paid under a Federal Award through our payroll system as WW now records PAYG.
- WW increased 2 x part-time counsellors for the 1:1 counselling program – these counsellors are remunerated on a per client per session basis.

Therefore, whilst there seems to be a large increase in operational/admin costs, the increases are direct costs in the development, planning, and delivery of Wombat's Wish programs: Weekend Grief Programs, 1:1 counselling, online lounges, and family days, which support families and children face-to-face after the death of a parent.

Our total administration/operational and insurance costs are only 18% of the total budget.

GST

As of 1 July 2024 Wombat's Wish is now registered for GST.

Provisions for leave

Long service leave and Annual leave provisions have been brought in, this is reflected as an expense for the current year although it is not cash out for the business at this point in time.

Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The ability of the association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the association to generate sufficient cashflows from operations to meet its liabilities.

Simone Shannon, CA
Treasurer
Wombat's Wish

Treasurer's Report



Assets and Liabilities Statement. For the year ended 30 June 2024

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		54,755	323,944
Debit Card		622	642
Term Deposits		108,143	72,524
Trade Debtors		50	2,500
Prepayments		3,508	4,900
Total Current Assets		167,089	404,510
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment and Vehicles			
Equipment		9,599	8,240
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Equipment		(5,467)	(5,118)
Total Plant and Equipment and Vehicles		4,132	3,122
Total Non-Current Assets		4,132	3,122
Total Assets		171,202	407,632
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade Creditors		-	2,907
PAYG Withholdings Payable		25,876	11,254
Superannuation Payable		7,919	4,784
Annual Leave Provision		22,214	12,609
Long Service Provision		7,483	-
Total Current Liabilities		63,492	31,554
Total Liabilities		63,492	31,554
Net Assets		107,710	376,078
Equity			
Retained Earnings		368,078	176,782
Current Year Earnings		(268,368)	191,296
Reserves		8,000	8,000
Total Equity		107,710	376,078

Treasurer's Report



Income and Expenditure Statement. For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Donations	4,310	.
Donations and Gifts	33,867	103,144
Corporate Sponsorship	26,450	53,950
Fundraising Income	32,458	13,062
Grants	75,571	290,878
Investment Income	5,619	83
Workplace Giving	29,532	34,582
Total Income	207,807	495,699
Gross Surplus	207,807	495,699
Other Income		
Other Income	455	9,450
Total Other Income	455	9,450
Expenditure		
Program Costs		
Camp activities and supplies	32,063	24,779
Camp facilities and food	5,431	1,796
Camp leaders fees	31,143	38,627
Other program expenses	7,888	14,780
Total Program Costs	76,525	79,982
Program support costs		
Counselling	5,410	873
Family Fun Days	4,001	1,393
Public liability insurance	4,247	3,902
Workcover Insurance	2,604	1,905
Total Program support costs	16,261	8,073
Fundraising costs		
Advertising and marketing	1,770	744
Corporate sponsor expenses	4,071	39
Venue and Catering	15,641	.
Fundraising expenses	1,420	921
Total Fundraising costs	22,902	1,704
Accountability and admin costs		
Administration expenses	99	145
Association insurance	545	.
Audit Costs	2,310	2,200
Bank Fees	471	212
Board expense	4,137	2,576
Printing & Stationery	2,656	2,955

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Treasurer's Report



Income and Expenditure Statement. For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Subscriptions	5,132	3,564
Telephone & Internet	2,451	1,721
Total Accountability and admin costs	18,201	13,373
Office Lease		
Office Lease	13,222	8,594
Total Office Lease	13,222	8,594
Other Expenses		
Depreciation	349	1,735
Equipment under \$500	2,750	439
IT Support	2,820	1,364
Legal expenses	-	665
Postage	1,433	853
Rates	3,541	2,540
Total Other Expenses	10,908	7,596
Wages and Salaries		
Professional Development	2,057	3,855
Provision for Annual Leave	16,036	399
Provision for Long Service Leave	7,483	-
Superannuation	22,818	15,549
Wages and Salaries	270,218	174,628
Total Wages and Salaries	318,612	194,531
Total Expenditure	476,630	313,853
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	(268,368)	191,296
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	(268,368)	191,296
Net Current Year Surplus After Income Tax	(268,368)	191,296

Treasurer's Report



Movements in Equity. For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Equity		
Increases		
Profit for the Period		
Current Year Earnings	-	191,296
Total Profit for the Period	-	191,296
Retained Earnings	368,078	176,782
Share Capital	8,000	8,000
Total Increases	376,078	376,078
Decreases		
Loss for the Period		
Current Year Earnings	268,368	-
Total Loss for the Period	268,368	-
Total Decreases	268,368	-
Total Equity	107,710	376,078

Treasurer's Report



Notes to the Financial Statement. For the year ended 30 June 2024

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis for preparation

Wombat's Wish is a non-for-profit entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The financial statements for Wombat's Wish are special purpose financial statements which have been prepared in a prudent manner to reflect a true and fair view of the charity's financial position and performance. The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency. Comparative information has been reclassified where appropriate to enhance comparability. The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on the

Historical cost conversions

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting.

Professional judgement

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of professional judgement and accounting estimates, which by definition will seldom equal actual result. There are no areas which involve a high degree of judgement or where estimates are significant to the financial statements.

Audit

As per the charity's rules, an audit of the financial statements is to be conducted every second year (i.e. odd years e.g. 2019, 2021, 2023 etc.) and any audit recommendations are reported and tracked by the board until resolution. Wombat's Wish Inc will undergo an Audit for 2025.

Overpayments

Payments made for program or program support costs over and above the required payments per the invoice/s provided.

Treasurer's Report



Notes to the Financial Statement. For the year ended 30 June 2024

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements. Property, plant and equipment purchased at a cost of less than \$500 is directly expensed. Equipment at cost will be depreciated at a rate of 50% annually.

Prepayments

Prepayments and deposits for goods or services.

Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Long Service Leave provision is to be brought to account when an Employee reaches 5 years of services from commencement date.

Provisions

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

Cash on Hand

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

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Treasurer's Report



Notes to the Financial Statement. For the year ended 30 June 2024

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt. If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Financial Assets

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

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

Treasurer's Report



True and Fair Position. For the year ended 30 June 2024

Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance of Wombat's Wish

We, [insert name - board member], and [insert name - Board member], being members of the Board of Wombat's Wish, certify that -

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Wombat's Wish during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2024.

Signed:

Dated:

29/10/2024

Signed:

Dated:

29/10/24

Treasurer's Report



Compilation Report. For the year ended 30 June 2024

Compilation report to Wombat's Wish.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Wombat's Wish, which comprise the asset and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2024, income and expenditure statement, the statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of the Board Member's

The Board of Wombat's Wish are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the partners we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 Compilation of Financial Information.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements. The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the committee who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

Director of Clinical Services Report



The highlight of 2023-2024 was the completion of the Research Project.

In this project, the team completed:

- A narrative review of the current state of the research regarding child bereavement and evidence-based treatment approaches, particularly relating to grief-focused trauma.
- Informed practices.
- Evaluation of the Flagship Program – the Weekend Grief Program (WGP) – formerly known as the Weekend Camp.
- Analysis of data from WGP from 2021-2024.
- Thank you to the ‘core’ research team members—Frances McAloon, Steve McLachlan, and Karla Logie. Also, thank Nicki for her valuable contributions along the way and Casey for putting the work together in a coherent narrative and publishing it in an excellent booklet.

The Programs and Development subcommittee (formerly the Clinical Governance Committee) met in May 2024 and continues to meet bi-monthly.

Another major achievement was the establishment of Wombat’s Wish Counselling Service. Children, parents/caregivers and families can now access specialised 1:1 therapeutic support and intervention from our team of highly qualified and experienced psychologists and social workers.

Next year, further research into outcome measures and ongoing support and training will be conducted for all the team members in the clinical space at Wombat’s Wish.

Thank you to all the Wombat’s Wish team—our Patron, Ambassadors, staff, volunteers, Board members, donors, and all contributors to a thriving and vibrant team striving in a challenging environment to continue the essential work of Wombat’s Wish.

Jill Crookes
Director of Clinical Services

GM Operations, Programs and Partnerships Report



As we conclude another year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significant milestones we've achieved at Wombat's Wish. Over the past year, we have solidified our position as Victoria's leading grief agency for parentally bereaved children and young people.

Governance and Management

Board Appointments: The 2023-2024 financial year board has been successfully appointed. Our members have generously contributed their time and expertise to implement our strategic vision and advocate for Wombat's Wish within their networks.

Subcommittees: In response to a recent governance structure review, we established smaller subcommittees meeting bi-monthly, enhancing our operational effectiveness.

Staff Updates: We welcomed Annika as our new social media and administration officer and Suzy as the Community Engagement Officer. Additionally, Fran, a mental health social worker, and Steve, a psychologist, joined our team to support our 1:1 counselling services in February 2024. Jill Crookes also returned as Director of Clinical Services in November 2023.

Volunteer Induction: This year, we conducted two successful volunteer inductions, engaging 4-5 volunteers for our weekend grief programs and fundraising events.

Program Highlights

Family Days: Our family days were a tremendous success. They were held at venues such as Bounce Altona, Inflatable World Geelong, and Werribee Zoo, culminating in a festive Christmas party that hosted 58 children.

Counselling Services: We launched our 1:1 counselling service in February 2024, a vital addition to our support framework. **Online Support Lounges:** Since February 2023, we have successfully conducted seven online lounges.

GM Operations, Programs and Partnerships Report



Weekend Grief Program

During this year, Wombat's Wish experienced the most growth, running eight family Weekend Grief Programs and one youth camp. During this time, Wombat's Wish successfully supported 64 families throughout Victoria.

Wombat's Wish held Weekend Grief Programs in Anglesea in August 2023 and 2 x Weekend Grief Programs in November 2023, with the final Anglesea camp held in March 2024. We also facilitated the Weekend Grief Program at Corop in September 2023 and May 2024, Grantville in June 2024.

The second youth weekend grief program was held in July 2023 at Cottage by the Sea. After completing a family weekend grief program, 17 young people attended this program. The retention rate of young people returning to another weekend is 97.9%.

This camp is a follow-on for young people aged 12 – 18, focusing on coping strategies during adolescence, and was run at Cottage by the Sea in Queenscliff. For this program, the young people attend without their parents/carers. Rather than having a paediatrician attend, we invited a Headspace GP to discuss youth mental health and ways to access Headspace and other youth services if needed. It was also lovely to note that with the reconnection of the young people after a family camp, the majority of them had mentioned that they often still look at the first aid boxes that they made whilst at the family camp.



GM Operations, Programs and Partnerships Report



Community Engagement

Our community engagement has significantly increased, with opportunities to present our services at various local organisations, including Rotary Clubs and RSL Clubs. These efforts have successfully raised awareness of Wombat's Wish and resulted in increased donations to support our programs.

We also updated and distributed school information packs to educational institutions in Geelong, the Bellarine, and Goulburn Valley regions.

Financial Overview

This financial year has presented challenges for Wombat's Wish; however, we are grateful for the ongoing support from our corporate, individual, philanthropic, and grant donors. Our second fundraising gala in April 2024 was a notable event, raising valuable funds to support our families.

Conclusion

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire Wombat's Wish team for your dedication and collaboration. Your commitment has enabled us to exceed many of our strategic goals this year. Special thanks to Casey, Jill, Suzie, Fran, Annika, Steve, and the Board for your unwavering support and leadership. I also want to recognise our camp team leaders and volunteers for ensuring our programs are engaging and safe for all participants.

I look forward to continuing our collective efforts over the next year as we work towards achieving our strategic objectives.

Nicki Dunne
General Manager
Operations, Programs, and Partnerships
Wombat's Wish Inc.

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