



# Annual Report

for the financial year ended **30 June 2019**



**Cottage by the Sea**  
*inspiration · fun · opportunity* **Queenscliff**

# Welcome Message

Welcome to our Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2019 and congratulations to everyone involved in delivering another wonderful year of programs for the children at the Cottage, as well as the various events held to enable these programs to take place.

This 129th year of the Cottage has been my fifth year as Patron, highlighted by the outstanding feedback received by the children, parents, and schools. This positive feedback was supported by the independent review of outcomes derived through the Cottage programs conducted, by Social Ventures Australia (SVA).

It has also been pleasing to see the partnerships which the Cottage is building with Deakin University.

Much work over the past year has been undertaken, including 55 final year students from the Deakin School of Architecture and Built Environment assisting with design and costings associated with the Main Cottage redevelopment.

Discussions have also commenced for ongoing Deakin student involvement, with the Schools of Education, TV Journalism, and Communication and Graphic Arts to add further value to the work and outcomes of the Cottage.

Our annual Rod Laver Tennis Dinner, held at Rod Laver Arena during the Australian Open, was another outstanding success, raising significant funds to assist the capital campaign to fund the Main Cottage redevelopment.

Sincere thanks go to all involved in this wonderful ongoing event, particularly to Stephen and Paulin Walter for their unwavering support and guidance.

Additional strong philanthropic support for the capital campaign was received during the year from John T Reid Charitable Trusts, Gandel Philanthropy and Newman's Own Foundation (via Patrick Dangerfield) all resulting in the completion of the fundraising target, which will enable building work to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

The Cottage community expresses its heartfelt thanks to all who have been involved in this outstanding outcome.

The Cottage fishing program has greatly expanded this year under the wonderful leadership of Mal Campbell, giving hundreds of children the opportunity to enjoy personal satisfaction and accomplishment, often for the first time in their lives.

My personal thanks are extended to all staff, Board of Management, Branch members, volunteers, and supporters of the Cottage for their wonderful contributions to this fine organisation. I am so proud to be Patron of this organisation. It is a true example of the community spirit that can be found throughout Geelong and district.

Frank Costa AO  
Patron  
Cottage By the Sea



# Contents

1. WELCOME MESSAGE
3. OUR YEAR IN REVIEW
4. OUR YEAR AHEAD
5. OUR SOCIAL RETURN  
ON INVESTMENT
7. TAKE A BREAK PROGRAM
8. NATIONAL PROGRAM
9. REEF PROGRAM
10. MENTOR PROGRAM
11. OUR SOURCES OF REVENUE
12. OUR ALLOCATION OF  
RESOURCES
13. OUR BOARD OF  
MANAGEMENT
15. OUR NEW CEO ADAM WAKE
16. FAREWELL  
TONY FEATHERSTON
16. OUR STAFF
16. OUR VOLUNTEERS
17. COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
MELBOURNE
18. AMBASSADORS NEWS
19. OUR HISTORY OUR STORIES
21. OUR BRANCHES
22. OUR LIFE MEMBERS
22. IN MEMORY
23. FINANCIAL DONATIONS
25. SOME OF THE  
SUPPORT IN KIND

# Our Year in Review

The financial year 2018/19 was yet another rewarding twelve months at Cottage by the Sea. We sadly said goodbye to out-going CEO Tony Featherston and enthusiastically welcomed Adam Wake on board. After an exhaustive recruitment process by the Board, we felt Adam was ideally suited to the role of Cottage by the Sea CEO. He brings with him training and experience in law, funds management, outdoor education and managing youth camps. All this skill and experience will go a long way to ensuring the success of Cottage by the Sea in the years to come.

I would like to take the time to sincerely thank Tony for 18 years of dedicated service. As you all know, Tony always went above and beyond in his service to the Cottage. He has been one of the hardest working ambassadors for the Cottage, building long lasting relationships with our supporters, our volunteer community and our amazing staff. We wish Tony all the best with his future endeavours and we are confident he will remain an important part of the Cottage community.

The Main Cottage redevelopment project is in progress. While we have experienced some delays to the schedule, the funds are secured, plans approved and everyone keen to see the old building revitalised for future generations.

With all this excitement in the background, 1212 children have attended Cottage by the Sea camps both on site at Queenscliff and in a variety of locations including Melbourne, Sydney, Mount Arapiles and more. We've welcomed young people from special needs schools, community outreach programs and other community organisations as well as schools involved in our partnership and Take a Break camps. Many of our REEF and Mentor youth have participated in multiple camps. Our ever energetic camp team have provided inspiration, fun and opportunity across all our programs: Take a Break, REEF, Mentor and the National Program - run in partnership with the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

We recently commissioned a report, generously funded by The R. E. Ross Trust, into our Social Return on Investment. This report uses financial proxies to value the social outcomes generated by the children's programs at Cottage by the Sea. As well as this financial proxy, the report found that increased confidence is the most valued outcome for children and young people as observed by parents and teachers. The research for this report involved many hours of conversations with volunteers, staff, Cottage attendees, their families and teachers, as well as hundreds of surveys. The results were insightful and confirmed what many of us believed the Cottage to be achieving. We are happy to share some of the highlights of this report on the following pages and encourage anyone interested to contact us for a full copy of the report.

Once again I extend thanks from myself and the Cottage by the Sea Board of Management to all our volunteers, branches, ambassadors, Trusts and Foundations, corporate and individual donors. It is with your ongoing support the Cottage has been able to continue to benefit the children who visit the Cottage, their families and our broader community. Thank you. And thank you to our talented staff at the Cottage, each one of you does an incredible job.

Dennis Smart  
President  
Cottage by the Sea Board on Management

# Our Year Ahead

Upgrades to our 80 year-old building are progressing through the financial year 2019/20. These changes are necessary to the future growth of the organisation and to comply with government standards.

We are also continuously improving our children's programs. Our camp team have many exciting ideas for extending programs and delivering ever better outcomes for the children. These improvements will include upgrades to equipment as well as extended training for the camp team.

The recent report into our Social Return on Investment indicates that the value we provide is increased for children who attend the Cottage multiple times in their childhood and adolescence through participation in the REEF and Mentor programs. In the coming year we plan to conduct a more formal review of these programs to maximise positive outcomes for an even greater number of children.

We are growing our partnership with Deakin University. This relationship provides access to a range of diverse professional skills, while enabling real world experience to Deakin Students. It also strengthens our bond with the community in and around Geelong.

We are looking forward to another fulfilling year. Bringing inspiration, fun and opportunity to many hundreds of children, building on our positive relationships with the community, our supporters, donors and everyone with whom we work.



# Our Social Return on Investment

Cottage by the Sea commissioned Social Ventures Australia (SVA) Consulting to determine the Social Return on Investment (SROI) of the Cottage over two prior financial years (2017 and 2018). Financial proxies are used to value an outcome where there is no market value. Importantly, within an SROI, the proxy reflects the value that the stakeholder experiencing the change places on the outcome.

The Social Return on Investment analysis found that Cottage by the Sea generates positive social value for children and young people, families, parents and carers, volunteers and the wider community.

**For every  
\$1 invested**

**Between \$2.50  
and \$3.80 social  
and economic  
value is created**

**Increased  
confidence**

is the most valued outcome  
for children and young people  
as observed by parents and  
teachers

**59%**

of the total social value  
created is for children  
and young people

**16%** for families  
**6%** for parents & carers  
**14%** for volunteers  
**5%** for community

*"My son has completely changed, his confidence is one of the biggest changes. He's not afraid to give things a go and has made new friendships."*

*- Parent of a Take A Break camp participant*



The SROI analysis revealed key insights about what makes the Cottage unique, described below. The story behind the SROI analysis is stepped out through the remainder of this document.



### **Learning from fun is important, and creates significant value for kids**

The Cottage experience offers inspiration, fun and opportunity that achieves complementary and mutually re-enforcing outcomes for children and young people. About 60% of the value of outcomes generated by the Cottage benefit them. The most significant outcome experienced by kids was an increase in their confidence. This was complemented by outcomes such as an increased ability to form healthy relationships, a sense of belonging and increased hope for the future.



### **The impact of the Cottage perseveres beyond the duration of the camps, and can last a lifetime**

Children, parents, teachers and former camp participants all reported that the Cottage impacted children well beyond their time on camp. Most (90%) parents surveyed felt the impact for their children lasted beyond 12 months, and there are numerous examples of participants who attribute a change in their life trajectory to their time at the Cottage. For some, the Cottage's impact is a lifetime journey.



### **The Cottage's impact on kids is positively compounded with more frequent engagement**

The Cottage's programs target children at different stages in their life - and unlike many school camps - offer the opportunity for continuous engagement over many years. As a result, those who are involved in the more intensive REEF and Mentor programs are impacted more significantly than those that attend one camp. Multiple touchpoints deepen the outcomes and value experienced by young people.



### **A child's happiness benefits the whole family**

The Cottage's camps benefit the whole family. Almost a quarter of the value generated by the Cottage was attributed to families, parents and carers. Families shared that the happiness the young people experienced permeated the whole home. Further, the Cottage alleviated the financial and emotional pressures on families by providing opportunities that their carers or parents may not have been able to afford, easing the pressure on the family unit and giving them the chance to take a break.



### **The Cottage is an enduring part of the community**

Founded in 1890, the long history of the Cottage has made it an icon in Queenscliff, and the wider Victorian community. It provides the community a sense of belonging and constancy, particularly for those that may have experienced a turbulent childhood. This sense of community is exemplified in the devoted community support the Cottage receives through donations, volunteering, raising of awareness and fundraising efforts, and the constant string of people reaching out to the Cottage to reconnect with their past.

# Take a Break Program

Cottage by the Sea programs receive no government funding

## 689 children took a break by the sea

Fishing charters

Dye dodgeball

Boogie boarding

Low ropes

Arts & crafts

Walks to the lighthouse



Rock pool rambles

Trips to the Marina

Pool visits

Surfing

Beach play

Mini golf



Ocean swimming  
Music lessons  
Pier explorations  
Marine and Freshwater  
Discovery Centre  
Playing in the amazing  
Cottage playground!



# National Program

Cottage by the Sea programs receive no government funding

## 75 young people went further

### Flights

Goal setting tasks

Workplace visits

University visits

Performance lessons

Making new friends

Ice-skating



### Presentations

Mentoring sessions  
with Cathy Freeman

Kayaking adventures

Life skills sessions

Indigenous culture

experiences



### Museum visits

Sydney Harbour Bridge Climbs

Trampolining

Radio broadcasting

Organised ball games

Professional health

& wellbeing sessions



### Career trackers workshops

Ecology sessions

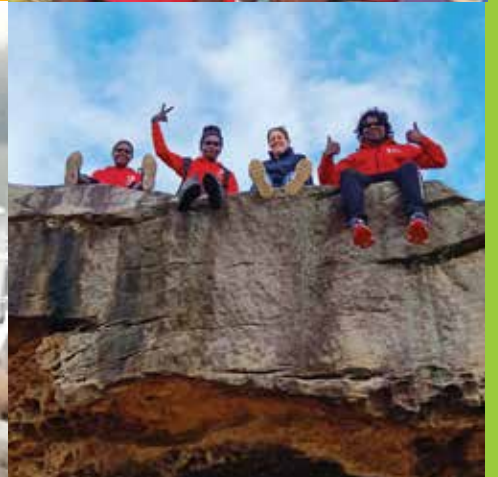
Pet care classes

Resumé instructions

Robotics & biomechanics

Navigating cities by foot &

public transport



# REEF Program

Cottage by the Sea programs receive no government funding

## 69 children gained confidence



Surfing  
Ocean swimming  
Conservation work  
Rock climbing  
Bike riding  
Visits to Jirrahlinga



Rock pool rambles  
Canoe trips  
Fishing charters  
Beach play  
Paddle boarding  
Snorkelling



Dye dodgeball  
Snow boarding  
Trips to the Marina  
Arts & crafts  
City excursions  
Mini golf

# Mentor Program

Cottage by the Sea programs receive no government funding

## 91 youth developed leadership skills



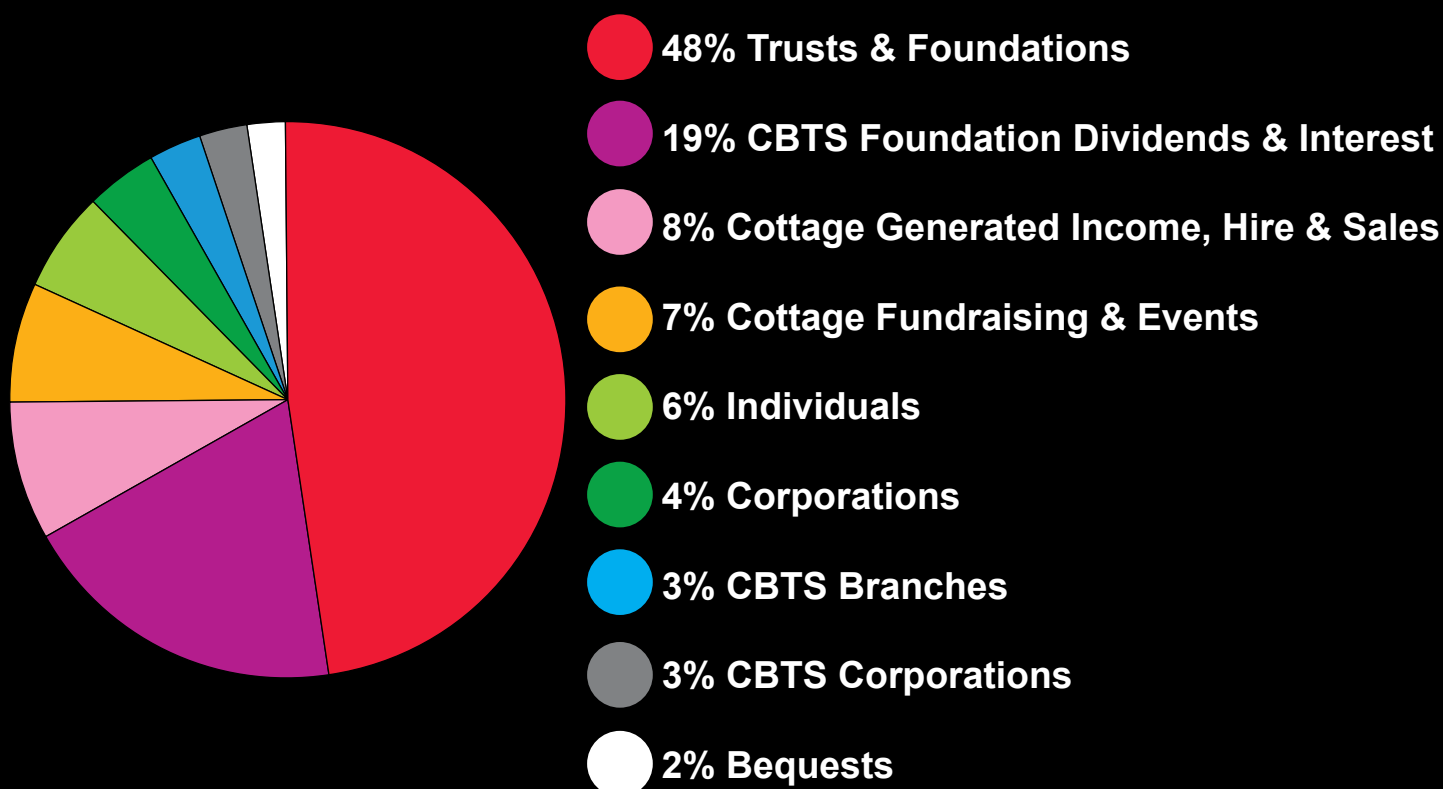
Snorkelling  
Rock climbing  
Capital city excursions  
Camping  
First aid qualifications  
Trips to the beach  
Paddle boarding



Surfing  
Fishing charters  
Canoeing  
Barista Certificates  
Food Handling Certificates  
Bike riding

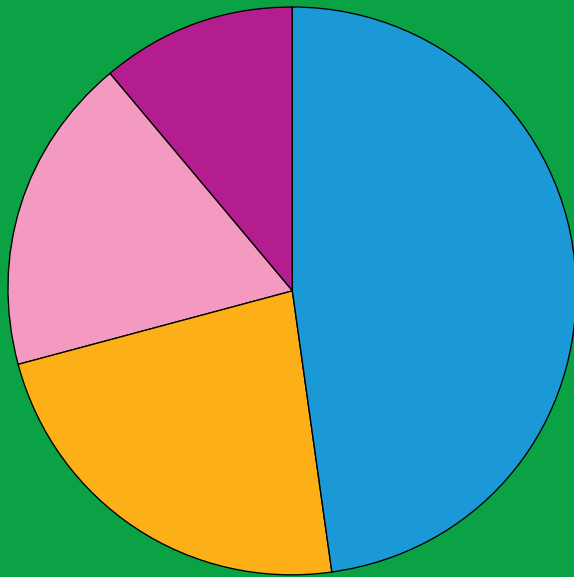
# Our Sources of Revenue

financial year ended 30 June 2019



# Our Allocation of Resources

financial year ended 30 June 2019



- 48% Operating & Program Expenses
- 23% Future Childrens Services
- 18% Administration & Fundraising
- 11% Committed Funds - Building



# Our Cottage by the Sea Board of Management

Cottage by the Sea Board of Management oversee the operations of the Cottage with care and dilligence.

All of the members volunteer their time, skills and knowledge to help steer the organisation in the right direction.

The Cottage community gratefully acknowledges their support in helping ensure the continuous success of Cottage by the Sea.

## DENNIS SMART President

Dennis has an honours degree in Chemical Engineering Science and throughout his career gained technical, engineering, production and marketing experience, with the last 30 years as a Managing Director of the Woods Auto Group. Now retired, Dennis and his wife Sue are spending more time involved with their five young grandchildren, travelling and enjoying their Queenscliff beach house and the local community.



## NARELLE SKETCHER Vice President

Narelle is the Principal of an independent school, with over 25 years of experience in the education sector. She has two children and has strong family links with the Cottage. Her grandparents retired to Queenscliff in the early 1980s and became involved in the Cottage. Her grandmother served as the President of the Queenscliff Branch.

## DON RANKIN Treasurer

Don is a chartered accountant and founding partner at a middle market specialist accounting firm, Pitcher Partners and is also chair of the Pitcher Partners National Association. He is a business advisor to middle market businesses and sits on the Advisory Boards of a number of private family businesses. Don and his wife Megan have had a house at Point Lonsdale for 30 years and spend as much time as possible there.

## AMANDA CORDNER Member

Amanda is the Founder and Director of Sea Salt Marketing and has more than a decade of experience in the industry. Throughout her career she's had a number of senior marketing roles and has a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) and Diploma of Digital Marketing. Amanda grew up in Point Lonsdale and visits every other weekend, so the Cottage has a special place in her heart.

## MICHAEL RANDALL OAM Member

SIA(Aff), DipAFPA, GAICD

Michael has been in the securities industry for over 30 years. Michael is a founding Director of the Financial Services Foundation which has helped raise substantial funds for children's charities, with the Cottage as a major beneficiary. He is married to Nikki Coghill and they have two daughters. Michael has been on the Cottage Board since 1996.



L-R

Michael Randall OAM *Member*

Scott Chapman *Member*

Don Rankin *Treasurer*

Amanda Cordner *Member*

Tony Featherston *CEO (Outgoing)*

Dennis Smart *President*

Narelle Sketcher *Vice President*

Natalie Hickey *Member*

David Wells *Member*

Adam Wake *CEO*

(absent Jerome Walsh *Member*)

#### NATALIE HICKEY *Member*

BA,LLB (HONS), LLM

Natalie is a barrister at the Victorian Bar specialising in commercial law and intellectual property. She was formerly the partner of an international law firm. On the Cottage Board for over 16 years, Natalie is delighted to give something back to a community that means a great deal to her. She is an 'alumni' of Point Lonsdale Primary School.

#### DAVID WELLS *Member*

David has extensive senior management experience in the food, wine and financial industries, both in Australia and overseas. He is a Founding Executive Director of Falcon Corporate Advisory Ltd, and Chairman of Hyde Park Great Western Vineyard Ltd. He has been on the Cottage Board since 1998

#### JEROME WALSH *Member*

Jerome is a Chartered Accountant and Fellow of FINSIA with over 20 years in the finance industry. He has experience in leveraged and corporate financing across a variety of industries and currently works in Corporate Banking with National Australia Bank. Jerome is married to Alison and has two children.

#### SCOTT CHAPMAN *Member*

Scott has held chief executive, senior leadership and board positions in the private, public and not for profit sectors over many years during his professional and voluntary career. Scott has been with the Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria since 2010 and holds the position of Chief Executive.

# Our New CEO

## Adam Wake

Adam joins Cottage by the Sea after 11 years managing the Lions Village Licola Inc (LVL), a not-for-profit, 270-bed outdoor education camp in remote Victoria. Many of the children welcomed to LVL are either disadvantaged, have a disability or are disengaged and have enjoyed rewarding, if not life changing, experiences on an LVL program.

During his tenure at LVL, Adam was significant in reinvigorating the village after damage caused by several natural disasters. Working closely with the Board of Directors, as well as the local community, Adam implemented many strategic changes at LVL, bringing the 50-year-old camp securely into the twenty-first century. Programs have improved and expanded, benefitting thousands of additional children over the years.

Before joining LVL, Adam held management roles in outdoor education around the world including Australia, England, Scotland and Venezuela. He holds a law degree and has also worked as an investment banker in London.

In addition to a valuable career, Adam has training in mental health first aid, childhood trauma, child protection and a range of professional studies that will support his success as CEO of Cottage by the Sea.

Adam has relocated from remote Victoria with his wife and two boys to be closer to the city and educational opportunities. In his free time, he runs long distance and has tested himself in ultra distance running events as well as completed an Ironman Triathlon.

His passion has, and continues to be working to provide better life opportunities for children.

# Farewell Tony Featherston

In February this year, Tony announced his resignation as CEO of Cottage by the Sea. After 18 years of service, Tony made the difficult decision to step down from his position and into semi-retirement.

"It's been an honour and privilege to work with hundreds, if not thousands of amazing people," says Tony of his time at Cottage. "However, I am now old and wise enough to recognise that we are all just temporary custodians of the brand and it is time for me to hand the baton over to others to continue the fantastic work of the Cottage."

To ensure a smooth baton change, Tony stayed on at the Cottage until late June. This gave us time to find just the right replacement for the role and gave Tony time to visit with many supporters and stakeholders of the Cottage. Tony also spent time with new CEO Adam, passing on knowledge, introducing him to our staff and the wider Cottage community.

June 21 was an emotional day at the Cottage, when Tony took the opportunity to personally thank the team at Cottage by the Sea colleagues, volunteers, branch and board members at a well attended Afternoon Tea.

"I would like to thank you all for your support and guidance over this wonderful journey," said Tony. "I am proud of what we've achieved over the past 18 years and will truly miss all at Cottage by the Sea. To all our stakeholders I wish you my very best and I sincerely hope that our paths will continue to cross in the future."

# Our Staff

*An alphabetical list of our full time, part time and casual staff as at 30 June 2019*

Jeanette Anderson, <i>Funding Coordinator</i>	Charlotte Furness, <i>Marketing &amp; Communications</i>
Andrew Balaam, <i>Special Projects/Advisor</i>	Louis Gasior, <i>Camp Team</i>
Steve Bensted, <i>Camp Team</i>	Happy Gelder, <i>Accounts Receivable</i>
Megan Burzacott, <i>Funding Coordinator</i>	Brad Hay, <i>Camp Team</i>
Sue Campbell, <i>Administration</i>	Courtney Hart, <i>Camp Team</i>
Anne Catchpole, <i>Community Relations Melbourne</i>	Shirley Hughes, <i>Camp Team</i>
Rhonda Coffey, <i>Administration</i>	Bill Kerr, <i>Community Engagement and Relationships</i>
Ebony Coppock, <i>Camp Team</i>	Kate Kroeger, <i>Program Director</i>
Rob Chylek, <i>Maintenance Supervisor</i>	Courtney Lino, <i>Camp Team</i>
Bonnie Davenport, <i>Camp Team</i>	Belinda Saya, <i>Program Planner - Camp Crew</i>
Marc Dean, <i>Chef</i>	Louise McSween, <i>Camp Team</i>
Sean Dunne, <i>Camp Team</i>	Amy O'Meara, <i>Camp Team / Administration</i>
Sam Edwards, <i>Program Planner - Services Crew</i>	Bec Pearce, <i>Camp Team</i>
Christine Fagan, <i>Camp Team</i>	Adam Wake, <i>CEO</i>
Tony Featherston, <i>CEO (outgoing)</i>	Moira Willcox, <i>Finance</i>
Jessica Fletcher, <i>Camp Team</i>	Karen Woodhart, <i>Accounts Payable</i>

# Our Volunteers

Our volunteers donated over 10,000 hours. Their skills and dedication are invaluable to the ongoing operations of the Cottage. We have a core of volunteers who work most weeks in the kitchen, in the office, gardening and maintaining our facilities. Other volunteers helped out at the Annual Fair and at other times throughout the year.

***Thanks everyone!***



# Community Relations Melbourne

I am always overwhelmed by the generosity of communities, individuals and organisations who GIVE, whether financially or in kind, so that our children's stays are filled with inspiration – fun – opportunity along with good food, new clothes, toys, toiletries, gifts and the message that people care. The children arrive to a bed made up and covered with their very own rug and toy propped on the pillow, along with a Cottage bag filled to the brim with new clothes, books, games, toiletries, whatever we can give them – all to take home. We hear grateful thanks from many parents, as well as the children, who wish us to convey their gratitude to you, our generous donors.

I have the pleasure of spreading the Cottage message FAR and WIDE, throughout inner and outer metropolitan Melbourne, to Communities, Friendship, Probus, Rotary, VIEW, Lodge groups and individuals whilst collecting carloads of donated goods. So many donors give and continue giving generously, i.e. the Salvation Army Companion Club members in Camberwell (financially and in kind), Hillross Financial Services in Blackburn who make a donation and help spread the word by sending our Calendars out to their clients, and Kate Austin whose own charity Pinchapoo donates a storage room in her factory in Bayswater and donates hundreds of dollars of goods for our children and their families.

When out speaking I regularly meet people with a past Cottage association. A couple of examples from this year are Beverley Bowden and Charles Adam, featured in this Annual Report.

Dr Sam Howes, husband of Margaret Howes nee Duckett, (recently passed) has chosen to commemorate her dedication to the Cottage with an extremely generous

donation. Margaret was a Cottage Board Member, a Life Member and a Yarra Branch Member, who instigated the sale of Christmas Cards and produced a fundraising Valentine's Card as well as organising many fundraising events at their beautiful Lisson Grove home. Margaret's grandmother, Beatrice Duckett, was also heavily involved with fundraising for the Cottage, in the 1920s. PHOTO - Margaret distributing balloons at the Cottage Fair.



Some of our donors like the idea of supporting our work by making a bequest to the Cottage, securing its work with children into the future, and our CEO Adam Wake is happy to confidentially discuss this with you.

A rich 129 year history indeed and the Cottage continues today, bigger and stronger, still welcoming children from drought, flood or fire affected areas 80 years on, as well as children of all races, religions and from all around Australia. With your support we look forward to continuing to offer children a future filled with inspiration – fun – opportunity.

Our grateful thanks to you all.  
Anne Catchpole  
Community Relations Melbourne

# Ambassadors News

As I reflect on my 20 years of involvement with Cottage by the Sea I am in awe of the great progress that has happened in that time. It passes so quickly we sometimes forget how far we have come, both organisationally, in programs for the kids, and personally for staff, volunteers and Ambassadors.

The renovations to the Cottage building are an indicator of the strength both financially and operationally of the organisation as a whole.

In this time the Ambassador program highlights such progress, coming from a few select Ambassadors to now having an impressive stable of Celebrity and local Ambassadors all contributing to the ongoing success and promotion of what the Cottage does for the kids and families in need in our community.

The Celebrity Ambassadors may not always be visible but their popularity and profile bring in great benefits. Paddy Dangerfield this year alone was instrumental in gaining a \$100,000 grant from Newman's Own Foundation with the Cottage as his favoured Charity. Rod Laver, Rebecca Maddern, Jimmy Bartel, Madi Browne, Ian Cover and Curtis Stone all use their influence where possible to promote and enhance the Cottage name and bring in financial gain and media awareness.

Locally and regionally, Ambassadors Glynn Harvey, Alan Harrison, Warren Davies, Jade Augustine, Louisa White, Amanda Flynn, Mal Campbell and myself work tirelessly organising and running golf days, race days and promotional events.

Even the simple activity of wrapping Christmas presents at a local shopping centre, organised by an Ambassador brings the profile of Cottage by the Sea to the general public and the benefits cannot be underestimated.

It has always been both a pleasure and privilege to work amongst such dedicated, enthusiastic and committed individuals who find the time in their lives to work tirelessly to promote and support Cottage by the Sea.

I thank them for their efforts alongside all the volunteers, staff and management of the organisation who continue to help provide the resources and support to ensure that all the kids and families in our community who need a help up can have a safe, happy, life changing experience at Cottage by the Sea.

Jan Wilkinson  
Ambassador Program Coordinator

## Ambassadors

Alan Harrison  
Amanda Flynn  
Andrew Cannon  
Andrew Simms  
Annie James  
Curtis Stone  
Eric Black  
Glynn Harvey  
Ian Cover  
Jade Augustine  
Jan Wilkinson  
Jimmy Bartel  
Louisa White  
Madi Browne  
Mal Campbell  
Patrick Dangerfield  
Rebecca Maddern  
Rod Laver  
Warren Davies

# Our History

This year we were in contact with one of our Cottage Alumni via FaceBook. We sent through some photos of the late 1990s when she was here. In one of the photos she was able to identify her current partner, who had also stayed at Cottage by the Sea. Our camper thought she might also be in the photo, so reached out to her dad to see if he recognised her in the picture. This is her message to us ...

*Hello again. My dad has just confirmed that the girl in the photo is me, and my grandmother had a copy of that very photo.*

*My partner and I found each other (again) so it turns out, 5 years ago. We both spoke of Cottage by the Sea and how it helped and supported us as children throughout some of the most difficult times of our childhood. We both have fond memories. Thank you so much for being a support network, when we didn't have much.*



*You may be pleased to know, that we both healed from our childhood, and are successful happy people with 2 wonderful children and we reside in Paradise Beach, our very own Cottage by the Sea.*

*We broke the cycle of family abuse and we made it. Our children are so happy. Thankyou for your positive influence.*

Hi to all at cottage by the sea i just want to say a big thank you for all you do im now 30 and i still remember my time i spent at cottage by the sea i came after the loss of my mum at a young age and it is a time i'll never forget i hope your doors stay open for ever thank you again

I went there when I was in grade 3, now my daughter who's in grade 3 is going there with the school in October. I loved it and I hope she does too.

# Our Stories

Pictured right are sisters Janet Burns, Edwina Marsden and daughter Tanya Canty (L-R). When the sisters stayed at the Cottage in 1955 (see inserts), they were not long out from England and were living in Mooroopna in the Goulburn Valley. The girls travelled by train to Spencer Street, then to Queenscliff. They stayed for a few weeks around Christmas and both have very fond memories of playing outside, on the beach and near the gun emplacements near the fort. Breakfast was always porridge and one piece of bread cut into four.



Last year Charles Adams re-visited the Cottage after 79 years. He came to Cottage by the Sea following the Black Friday bushfires of 1939, which destroyed his school at Icy Creek and devastated the community. Anne Catchpole recently met his sister-in-law who showed us this front page photo from the 1939 Sun newspaper. It shows a group of children from the Noojee region being welcomed by the Organising Secretary of MCL (Cottage by the Sea). Charles has been a wonderful donor and supporter of the Cottage for some years, since hearing about us through a guest speaking event.

At a speaking engagement in Melbourne this year, Anne Catchpole met Beverly Bowden. This photo shows Beverly holding a photograph of herself as a young girl at the Cottage. Beverly was recuperating from tuberculosis (TB) and stayed at Cottage by the Sea in March 1953.



# Our Branches

The funds to build and establish the original Cottage by the Sea in the late 1800s were raised by a network of loyal and hardworking Branches. To this day, the Cottage by the Sea Branches dedicate their time and diverse skills to help raise awareness and funds for the Cottage.

Our branches make our Annual Fair happen each year, and manage a range of other fundraisers including golf days, card days, luncheons, soirees and fashion shows.

In the mid-twentieth century, there were more than 50 Branches raising funds for the Cottage. Today we have four dedicated Branches that operate across Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula. Our Branches are always ready to welcome new members. Or if you live further afield, there is the opportunity to start your own Branch. Contact the Cottage for more information.

## Branches

### BELLARINE

President - Sue Richardson  
Secretary - Jan Sprague  
Treasurer - Robby Bedgood

### GEELONG

President - Rhonda Rotherman  
Vice Presidents - Jean Morgan & Heather Moore  
Secretary/Treasurer - Robyn Harper

### HIGHTON CERES ACORN

President - Ros Leigh  
Vice President - Joy Bell  
Secretary - Lesley Robinson  
Treasurer - Karen Sawers

### QUEENSCLIFF

President - Beverley Davies  
Secretary - Evelyn Fyfe  
Treasurer - Jan Finlay



# Our Life Members

Alva Hutton  
Barbara Wilson  
Beth Page  
Betty Hall  
Bev Ick  
Dorothy Shields  
Edna Percy  
Elsie Dowd  
Enid Warren  
Eril Deighton  
Freda Merritt  
Gert McAdam

Gill Gough  
Gillian Gubbins  
Gloria Longden  
Jean McAdam  
Jill Bell  
Jill White  
Joy Leigh  
Joyce Koch  
Judy McKechnie  
J MacNeil  
Kath Atkinson  
Lois Moore

Marg Moreton  
Margaret Howes  
Margaret Lyons  
Margaret Stevenson  
Marion Page  
Mary Lou Philip  
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Cottage by the Sea would like to acknowledge the Wadawurrung people who are the traditional custodians of this land. Cottage by the Sea would also like to pay respect to the elders past and present of the Wadawurrung nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present. It is a privilege to be standing on Wadawurrung Country.

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