

Indigenous art work above – painted by Uluru Elders around the Uluru Statement from the Heart – depicting the dreamings of Uluru to express the ancient connection between country and law. The 2017 Statement is an invitation to Australian people from Indigenous Australians to walk together in a movement for a better Australia.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS - A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE

continues the work of the Missionary Sisters of Service reaching out in hope and love to people socially and geographically isolated, strengthening community relationships and networks, developing leadership, and empowering people to meet the challenges that confront them.

Highways and Byways is the inspiration of the Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS) who were founded in 1944 by Fr. John Wallis, a Catholic priest who lived and worked in Tasmania.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS 2021

43 grants totaling \$87,816

Projects in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia & Western Australia

HEALING THE EARTH

20 grants valuing \$41,903 are for land & water restoration & rehabilitation projects

9 grants worth \$16,718 provide new equipment & enhanced facilities, including at community gardens & nurseries

Over 1,000 new plantings (as at November 2021)

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Over 60 communities in rural, regional & remote parts of Australia benefit from grants projects

SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE & DISADVANTAGED

28 grants worth \$60,933 provide support & opportunities for vulnerable or disadvantaged persons or communities

INDIGENOUS LAND MANAGEMENT

19 grants totaling \$41,373 share indigenous culture & knowledge of land management including cultural burns

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & MENTORING

8 grants worth \$16,745 involve young people in land management & environmental & cultural projects

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

20 grants valued at \$43,195
encourage the exchange of skills
through training, new networks
and capacity building
7 grants worth \$15,725 are for
environmental research &

TOURISM, ARTS & EVENTS

8 grants totaling \$16,400 share environmental & cultural insights through tourism, arts & events

OUR GRANTEES

Landcare groups, Indigenous land managers, environmental centres, local environmental groups, local government, community gardens, fire services, arts management organisations, agricultural alliances and community houses.



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR MARGARET CASEY

We are delighted that Highways and Byways has been able to grow its programs and flourish during the 2021 financial year, despite all of us experiencing a sense of déjà vu with another challenging year - Zoom meetings, only very occasional face-to-face gatherings and cancellation of planned events. However, we, along with the recipients of our small grants, have continued to find new ways to adapt in a COVID environment.

The Board has devoted considerable time and energy in the last year to matters such as risk management, strategic planning, and the development of key indicators to set tangible objectives and allow Highways and Byways to routinely measure its performance.

We welcomed Cheryle Royle to our Board in September, and farewelled Bernadette Wallis mss, a longstanding and extremely valued member of the Board who resigned at the November 2020 meeting. Bernadette is truly missed for her strong vision, her wisdom and contribution to Board decisions. In October we welcomed a great friend to Highways and Byways, Denis Fitzgerald, as a Patron.

Once again, my sincere thanks to all the Directors for their hard work this year. The three committees, Finance and Administration, Fundraising and Communications and the Projects Committee, have all achieved much under ongoing difficult circumstances.

Also, my thanks to the Executive Officer and staff who have risen to the challenge of new ways of working in these COVID-related times. And of course, the Missionary Sisters of Service for their continued support, encouragement and wise counsel.

OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER LIZ McALOON



It has been a year of progress and expansion as Highways and Byways strives to support small rural communities at the grass-roots level. Our support this year has focused on caring for and healing our degraded and depleted eco-systems. This include those communities of people struggling in rural areas following fires and prolonged drought.

In September 2020 we were delighted to welcome aboard Marnie Wylde in a new position of Grants Administration Officer. Marnie works two days a week, and is a wonderful addition to our small team. The management and oversight of our 43 Small Grants for 2021 is in great hands. Marnie has been busy liaising with many of the small organisations who, much like the grant recipients in 2020, have tried to adapt to an uncertain COVID world.

In March 2021 we began our second community partnership program - Restoring Nature and Communities. This is an ecological restoration initiative in north-east Tasmania, which employs local community members struggling to find secure employment in the area. We are proud to be partnering with North East Bioregional Network who are internationally acclaimed for their work on restoring degraded native forest. We are especially delighted to have a longer-term connection to Tasmania where the Missionary Sisters Of Service began in 1944, and many of them have worked across rural Tasmania for years.

We also established our inaugural Sub Fund. The Parker Sub Fund was established by the Coleman family in Victoria who wished to honor their uncle, John Coleman, a Christian Brother who had worked for many years across rural Tasmania. The Sub Fund will support a program or grant in Tasmania each

Thank you to all who support the work of Highways and Byways and place their trust in our organisation. 3.

OUR 2021 GRANTS

"HEALING THE LAND – HEALING OURSELVES – TOGETHER"



Ludlow Tuart Forest Rehabilitation 2021 Grant: Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre Inc. WA.

Our most recent Highways and Byways Patron Denis Fitzgerald introduces our 2021 grants.

It is a delight to see the Highways and Byways 2021 Small Grants Program reaching the grass roots: those parts of Australian society that generally do not participate in Government funding programs, and those groups of people for which a relatively small amount of money can enable the implementation of ideas focused on the local environment and can generate large amounts of volunteer endeavour.

This year, 43 grants, totalling \$85,271, are spread across the country, overwhelmingly in smaller rural and regional locations, leveraging much more by way of inputs, and promising even greater benefits.

Addressing 'the cry of the earth, and the cry of the poor' is a theme that can be seen running through the program. The cry of the earth can be heard in the river system racked by drought, the over-grazed lands where native fauna has long been absent, and the fire-affected environments around the country.

The built environment, too, is heard, in burnt-out cemeteries, and cultural centres that sit in barren settings.

The cry of the poor can be heard in the indigenous communities and organisations working to induct the next generation in culture and country, in regional communities reeling from drought and bushfires, and in the tragedy of indigenous insights into fire, food and living still unheard by communities that are crying out for such input.

The responses that are supported by these grants focus on both the human and the natural environments, recognising the integration of the two, and the necessity to respond to both in order to promote human flourishing in an integrated ecology.

They support projects that are innovative, smart and inherently local, while at the same time opening a window to more general issues.

Denis Fitzgerald

Thank you to all our generous donors across Australia. This would never be possible without your continued support of the work we do.

We chose the theme of **Healing the Land – Healing Ourselves – Together** for a number of reasons.

We witnessed much natural devastation in 2020 and into 2021 across Australia with significant bushfires, floods and continued drought in many parts of the continent. 2021 also marked the beginning of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,** aiming to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. We are committed to make a difference to restore the planet. More on that later with our wonderful program in north east Tasmania.

This year has seen us still very much still in the midst of a global pandemic. For those small organisations across rural Australia who received a grant this year from Highways and Byways, the ongoing impacts of COVID restrictions has meant that many projects have not been able to commence.

With a theme such as this, most of the funded initiatives involved working on and with the land – often necessitating a seasonal approach to the work – e.g. a Cultural Burn Program. So, as is the reality of living and working in a COVID world, there will be very expanded timelines as to when grants can happen. Thank you to all those who received funds for your persistence and flexibility.

The map below shows the reach of the 43 grants distributed across rural Australia in 2021.



Not to scale. Locations approximate.

Highways and Byways – A Community of Service Continues in the spirit and Mission of the Missionary Sisters of Service and Fr. John Wallis

PROJECTS FUNDED NSW

GLENHOPE TREE PLANTING WEEK

NARI NARI TRIBAL COUNCIL HAY, NSW \$2,100

Rehabilitation and extension of an environmental corridor across Stanhope Station, following a lengthy period of drought across the Hay Plains and much of NSW. Over 500 trees and shrubs will be planted to rehabilitate the land.

MOLE RIVER, WHAT IS IN OUR RIVER?

GRANITE BORDERS LANDCARE COMMITTEE INC, MINGOOLA, NSW \$2, 250

The long-term drought and bushfires have had implications for the environment and waterways around Mingoola. The Mole River is an important watercourse that provides water for industry, domestic and recreational use, yet little is known about what lives within it or its riparian zone.

Fauna and aquatic surveys to provide baseline data for the long-term management of Mole River. Presentation of results at a community information evening.

WHOLISTIC LAND MANAGEMENT EXPO ON COUNTRY

HAY PLAINS LANDCARE, HAY, NSW \$500

The Wholistic Land Management Expo on Country is an initiative of Hay Plains Landcare, Nari Nari Tribal Council, Hay Aboriginal Land Council, ReBoot Hay and Murrumbidgee Landcare.

It will provide landholders and community members with an understanding of wholistic Aboriginal land management practices, and will teach the importance of bush regeneration, environmental and water conservation and preserving cultural heritage.

BOURKE CARP MUSTER

WESTERN LANDCARE NSW, BOURKE, NSW \$3,000

Western Landcare and the Bourke Fishing Club will hold a one-day community event to fish invasive fish (carp) out of the Darling River at Bourke.

The Darling River is one of Australia's longest rivers and is a principal river of the Murray Darling basin. Carp are detrimental to overall river ecosystem, and impact the natural habitat of native fish.

Bourke is situated in central northern NSW and has sustained enduring drought. Opportunities for socialisation can be limited in the region.

COONAMBLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

COONAMBLE LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL COONAMBLE, NSW \$1,900

This project will enable the Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council to extend its Community Garden to include a range of native plants, fruit and vegetables.

Often the cost of fruit and vegetables in town is high, and quality is not always fresh. Once the garden is fully operational, produce will be available to the community at reasonable prices and made available to those in need.

HEALING OUR COUNTRY, CONNECTING OURSELVES

CONNECTIVE INDIGENOUS CORPORATION, DUBBO, NSW \$2,350

Connective Indigenous Corporation, in partnership with a local Dubbo-based Aboriginal Men's group and local Indigenous Performance Collective, will host a community event on the banks of the Macquarie River, in Dubbo.

With the theme of 'healing of our land, our earth, our ecosystems and our people', the event is intended as a positive activity for the whole community following the drought and fires of 2020.

MAINTAINING ACCESS PATHS FOR BUSH REGENERATION VOLUNTEERS AT SUSAN ISLAND

SUSAN AND ELIZABETH ISLANDS RECREATION LAND MANAGER, GRAFTON, NSW \$2.970

Susan Island is a Crown land reserve of 76 hectares in the Clarence River at Grafton. The island has a history of recreation use by the wider Grafton community, and is culturally significant to Aboriginal women. The island is experiencing environmental distress because of past grazing.

A contractor will be engaged to transport a slasher/tractor to Susan Island to remove weeds and maintain tracks to provide safe access for volunteer workers.

DUNG BEETLE EDUCATION

BUCKWAROON LANDCARE GROUP INC, COBAR, NSW \$2,000

Buckwaroon Landcare Group will provide an educational workshop to equip farmers with knowledge on the use of dung beetles to improve their agricultural outcomes. Land in this region has been historically depleted by unsustainable farming practices.

PROJECTS FUNDED NSW CONT'D

PORCUPINE SIGNAGE

RED CHIEF ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL GUNNEDAH, NSW \$2,400

Red Chief Aboriginal Land Council will install interpretive signage at Wallaby Trap at the base of Porcupine Lookout to highlight the cultural, spiritual and historical significance of this local indigenous landmark, and the flora and fauna of the area.

The aim is to share the stories and educate visitors to the region on the survival, rehabilitation and resilience of the local Gamilaroi people of the Kamilaroi Nation.

Signage locations will be established in partnership with community Elders and local land services teams.

GREENER GARDENERS

SCONE GARDEN CLUB, SCONE, NSW \$2,000

Scone Garden Club will work with Upper Hunter Shire Council to plant trees and provide nesting boxes for wildlife in public parks and recreation areas in Scone, NSW.

The project will beautify and enhance public spaces and encourage the return of wildlife to the locality following the long period of drought.

Funding from Highways and Byways will be used to purchase a variety of native trees and a variety of different nesting boxes for different species of wildlife. Nesting boxes will be constructed by the Denman Men's Shed, which has previously made boxes for Landcare groups and mine rehabilitation projects.

HEALING GALLARINBARAAY LAND HEALING COLLARENEBRI PEOPLE, TOGETHER.

COLLY GAMILARAAY INDIGENOUS CORPORATION, COLLARENEBRI, NSW \$2,300

Colly Gamilaraay Indigenous Corporation will deliver a cultural land, environment and heritage management initiative that brings together traditional and contemporary land management knowledge and exchange skills to support the longterm conservation of the local environment and culturally significant sites.

Mapping of the Barwon River to document envirocultural sites and community information sessions to impart indigenous knowledge on caring for country and cultural fire management. Tree planting and weed control at local sites.

ABORIGINAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

GUNDAGAI PRESCHOOL KINDERGARTEN INC, GUNDAGAI, NSW \$2,500

An Aboriginal Awareness Program for pre-schoolers to provide knowledge on Aboriginal perspectives, philosophies and customs and caring for country.

By focusing on local traditional knowledge, students and their families, along with the educators and broader community can connect, firsthand, with the Country/place around them.

The grant will fund the two rangers and cover travel costs.

3 SISTERS REGENERATION PROJECT ASHFORD LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL, ASHFORD, NSW \$2,250

Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council will rehabilitate 120 hectares of degraded land to restore it to its natural heavily wooded condition. The land, known as 'the 3 sisters', is a conservation area that has been ravaged by the effects of many years of drought.

The project includes weed eradication, fencing, replanting of native threatened plant and tree species and installation of a tank and animal watering stations.

CITIZEN SCIENCE IS A SNAP AT PANBOOLA WETLANDS

PAMBULA WETLANDS AND HERITAGE PROJECT INC,

PAMBULA, NSW \$2,125

The Panboola Wetlands is an 82-hectare area of floodplain near Pambula on the NSW south coast. The site is being rehabilitated for nature conservation and for community education and passive enjoyment.

This project involves the installation of 4 Fluker posts at revegetation project sites across the Wetlands. Signage attached to the posts will prompt visitors to use a mobile phone app to capture a photo of the given scene.

IN OUR HANDS

BYRON YOUTH SERVICE INC, BYRON BAY, NSW \$1,550

Byron Youth Services will implement a youth focused initiative to promote the healing and regeneration of rainforest and koala habitat.

An open-air screening of the documentary 'Taking Root' during Environment Week in October 2021 COVID permitting. Local youth will plant trees as part of the East Coast Koalas Highway.

PROJECTS FUNDED NSW CONT'D

OUTBACK OASIS

KOONENBERRY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC, PACKSADDLE, WESTERN NSW \$3,000

This project will provide seedlings to enable 20 pastoralists in the unincorporated zones of far western NSW to re-establish the natural environment around their homesteads.

The impacts of persistent drought over the past four years have been emotionally, physically and financially crushing for the businesses in this region. Many long-established trees and shrubs died as they were starved of water, but with the return of water to the region, there is an opportunity to replant and provide shade and shelter for the wellbeing of occupants, employees and native fauna.

SUNSET STRIP COUNTRY REPAIR - CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION AND MITIGATION, CULTURAL HERITAGE TRAINING DAY

SUNSET STRIP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC, SUNSET STRIP, NSW \$3,000

Sunset Strip Progress Association Inc, in partnership with Menindee Local Aboriginal Land Council and Barkandji Prescribed Body Corporate, will deliver a targeted environmental intervention at Lake Menindee Reserve in western NSW.

The six-year drought and the Murray Darling Basin Authority draining of the Lakes has resulted in a critical deterioration of the natural landscape, and significant wind erosion has uncovered Aboriginal cultural heritage items.

BUSH TUCKER GARDEN

THE DAVIS FARM INC, SANCROX, NSW \$1,500

The Davis Farm Inc will work with its local Indigenous Land Council to construct a Bush Tucker Garden, yarning space, campfire, and ceremonial dance space for use by visitors to the property.

The Farm will contract young local indigenous people to plan, design and construct the garden, and work hand in hand with their Elders to create a garden that showcases Bush Tucker endemic to the region.

It will serve as an educational tool for visitors, illustrating the usefulness and productivity that can be found within native flora.

18 MONTHS ON - NELLIGEN CULTURAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PROJECT: HEALING THE LAND, CARING FOR COMMUNITY

NELLIGEN RURAL FIRE SERVICE AND BATEMANS BAY LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL, NELLIGEN, NSW \$3,000

A project to showcase the complementary fire management practices of the Nelligen Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the Batemans Bay Local Area Land Council Indigenous rangers.

A community workshop will provide education on the RFS and indigenous fire management practices, water supply programs and other support services available to the community.

A demonstration cultural burn on private property will showcase fire management practices in action. The Nelligen district was ravaged by the 2019-2020 bushfires, with significant environment and economic loss.

PROJECTS FUNDED QLD

ON-FARM CULTURAL BURNING FOR REGENERATIVE LAND MANAGEMENT & EDUCATION

MACINTYRE AG ALLIANCE, GOONDIWINDI, QLD \$2,500

Macintyre Ag Alliance will engage landholders, community groups, Goondiwindi Regional Council and Inglewood Indigenous Rangers to implement a demonstration cultural burn.

This event will provide practical knowledge on the benefits of cultural burning as a practice that regenerates and heals the land, ecosystems and people.

Producers will also benefit from much needed social interaction. The project will take place on local property 'Murrisk'. Immediate learnings from the burn will be documented and shared through Macintyre Ag Alliance networks. A 12-month postburn review will also be completed. Funding from Highways and Byways will contribute towards the cost of engaging the rangers to manage the burn.

PROJECTS FUNDED QLD cont'd

GROUP.

STANTHORPE ECO EXPO 2021

GRANITE BORDERS LANDCARE COMMITTEE, STANTHORPE, QLD \$2,000

The Stanthorpe Eco Expo will focus on environmental and human health and wellbeing.

After a long period of drought, the Expo aims to build knowledge and skills in the community to encourage living more sustainable lifestyles.

Stall holders will showcase environmental sustainability practices including renewable energy, permaculture, building soil health and waste reduction.

MURRIGAL COMMUNITY NURSERY BRETTACORP INC, MURRIGAL, QLD \$3,000

Brettacorp Inc is actively reforesting degraded land in the Cassowary Coast region of northern Queensland, planting 40,000 trees over the last five years, but often has troubles sourcing enough native seedlings to support its work.

Through this initiative, Brettacorp will build a community native tree nursery in Murrigal to grow native seedlings for use in its rehabilitation work.

It also plans to hold weekly volunteer days at the nursery. Funding from Highways and Byways will contribute towards the cost of a new shade house and an irrigation system.

HEALING ANNAN/ENDEAVOUR CATCHMENT'S COMMUNITY & CAPACITY BUILDING

CAPE YORK WEEDS AND FERAL ANIMALS INC, COOKTOWN, QLD \$2,500

Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Incorporated will provide land managers, traditional owner groups and the public with informal on the ground training to reduce the prevalence of high priority weeds across the Cape York region.

The project aims to enhance community knowledge, capability and skills which are not readily available in the region. This, together with property pest and weed management planning, will provide the foundations for long term weed and pest control for reduced economic and environmental impact. Funding from Highways and Byways will be used for travel, materials and equipment

ARCHER POINT RESTORATION YUKU BAJA MULIKU INDIGENOUS RANGER

COOKTOWN, QUEENSLAND \$1,500

Yuku Baja Muliku Indigenous Ranger Group will rehabilitate coastal vegetation communities at Archer Point. Archer Point is a highly scenic coastal zone and a popular recreation area, but misuse and neglect has resulted in damage to the ecosystem.

Strategic planting will restore the vegetation to a semblance of its original state, protect the coastal environment from erosion, and provide for a sustainable nature based, minimal impact visitor experience.

GREENING THE HALL

GRANITE BELT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CORPORATION, BALLANDEAN, QLD \$2,000

Granite Belt Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation will beautify the streetscape of the community hall in Ballandean in the Southern Downs region of Queensland.

The Corporation, which occupies the Hall, will work with both indigenous and non-indigenous members of the community to install planter boxes and erect green walls on sides of the building.

The project will provide an aesthetic enhancement for the town and foster civic pride and accomplishment in a community that has been affected by drought, bushfire and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Funding from Highways and Byways will be used to purchase plants, watering devices and green wall infrastructure.

HEALING COUNTRY

WANYURR-MAJAY ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, BABINDA, QLD \$2,123

Wanyurr-Majay Aboriginal Corporation and Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group will restore vegetation on a privately owned property in Traditional Wanyurr-Majay Country. Native endemic trees will be planted along a degraded watercourse to strengthen species diversity, wildlife corridors and improve water quality.

The initiative brings elders and land custodians together to share ecological knowledge and build capacity. It will also provide Wanyurr-Majay Aboriginal Corporation with the opportunity to work on country.



ARCHER POINT RESTORATION

YUKU BAJA MULIKU INDIGENOUS RANGER GROUP,

COOKTOWN, QUEENSLAND





PROJECTS FUNDED QLD cont'd

THE KANGAROO TAIL CREATIVE REGIONS, WOODGATE BEACH, OLD \$2,500

Creative Regions will partner with Traibelang Cultural Aboriginal Corporation to run workshops to share knowledge on cultural burning.

Participants will to create a short digital animation which will become part of a 'Kangaroo' story trail during the Woodgate Arts in Spring event in October 2021.

The program aims to facilitate community healing by bringing people together for a creative endeavour to to share their lived experience and create new bonds.

CONNECTING TO COUNTRY WITH CULTURAL BURNING

WARWICK DEVELOPMENT GROUP INC, WARWICK AND STANTHORPE, QLD \$2,300

Warwick Development Group Inc will engage Marcia Brooks, an indigenous ranger known as Aunty Kali, to run workshops for children in Warwick and Stanthorpe on indigenous land management practices, such as cultural burning, and customs, including food and dance.

This is a region affected by the 2019/2020 bushfires. Aboriginal land management approaches, including burning, can benefit long term land and ecological health.

Aunty Kali's demonstration of the role of an indigenous ranger is an opportunity to increase children's understanding of caring for country.

MONITOR NEST BOXES IN FIRE AREA

CARDINIA ENVIRONMENT COALITION INC, PAKENHAM, VIC \$1,300

Cardinia Environment Coalition will implement a project to monitor and capture data to reflect the use of nesting boxes installed for wildlife in the Bunyip State Park following the 2019 bushfires.

These fires destroyed large tracts of the Park and burned property and farms across four towns south of it. As a result, there was significant loss of habitat for native wildlife.

The local Men's Shed and schools have constructed 500 nesting boxes for 8different animal species.

LITTLE SPROUTS - HEALING OUR EARTH

WORKSHOP, FOOD IS FREE INC, BALLARAT, VIC \$1,545

This initiative will deliver a fully immersive workshop for pre-schoolers (aged 3 – 6 years) from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and their parents/carers, at the Food Is Free Green Space in Ballarat, Victoria.

It will provide a hands-on experience that focuses on low-cost food production, growing food from kitchen scraps and composting/worm farming benefits.

It will be age appropriate, involving songs and games to encourage the children to learn about biodiversity, while also teaching them about aspects of social responsibility, such as sharing and showing respect for the environment.

PROJECTS FUNDED VICTORIA

COMMUNITY LANDCARE REGENERATION BASS COAST LANDCARE NETWORK.

BASS, VIC \$1,350

Bass Coast Landcare Network will bring together residents and farmers of the waterline towns of Westernport Bay to build skills and share information on regeneration of natural bush and regenerative agriculture.

In Bass Coast, less than 15% of native vegetation remains, as large areas were cleared for settlement and for timber from the mid 1800's onwards.

A workshop will focus on regeneration of landscapes and regenerative agriculture techniques.

PROJECTS FUNDED TASMANIA

BEEKEEPING AND BEE EDUCATION

OKINES COMMUNITY HOUSE, DODGES FERRY, TAS \$2,250

Okines Community House will provide education and training for community members wanting to learn more about beekeeping.

Honeybees are confronting a range of environmental challenges which threaten their ongoing viability, including fire, drought, pesticide use, agriculture monocultures, loss of plant diversity, and misunderstanding from the public.

Funding from Highways and Byways will contribute towards the cost of a series of beekeeping workshops in the early spring of 2021.

Sessions will provide participants with mentoring offered by experienced beekeepers to encourage more people, especially younger persons, to take up beekeeping, which may ultimately lead to greater pollination of fruits and vegetables in the region.

BOXING PLANT FOOD.

KING GARDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN, CURRIE, KING ISLAND, TAS \$2,100

King Island Community Garden will replace its decaying compost bins and enhance the size of its compost production.

The garden's coastal proximity means garden beds are on sandy soil. Creating compost is an economical way to nourish the garden and produce healthy food. It can also be done in a social way with all participants adding organic matter to the mix.

The role of the Community Garden as a social hub that brings people together has been significantly heightened in the wake of the COVID.

Funding from Highways and Byways will cover the cost of materials and labour to construct several new compost beds.

Education workshops will also be held on how to produce healthy, ecologically friendly compost.





A VOLUNTEER UTILISING THE NEW PLANTER BOXES IN THE KING GARDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN, CURRIE, KING ISLAND, TAS



PROJECTS FUNDED SOUTH AUSTRALIA

COOBER PEDY WELLBEING LABYRINTH

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COOBER PEDY PARTNERSHIP GROUP, COOBER PEDY, SA \$1,000

The Seven Seed Pattern Labyrinth in Coober Pedy will create a safe, in nature, walking, meditative-healing labyrinth for the whole community and its visitors.

It will be located on a public recreation area, adjacent to parkland and wetland. The labyrinth aims to build community connectedness and resilience and support physical, social, mental wellbeing, in a region where a significant proportion of the community work underground in mines.

Highways and Byways funding will cover the cost of transporting materials, signage, and incidentals to facilitate completion of the project.

GROWING ACACIAS IN THE SEMI-ARID ZONE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MID MURRAY LANDCARE SA, CAMBRAI AND SANDLETON, SA \$1,200

Mid Murray Landcare in South Australia will educate farmers and land managers in the Cambrai and Sandleton districts on the benefits and potential of Acacias as an alternative farming method.

Many properties in this region are cropped and overgrazed regularly and many are experiencing environmental distress and erosion. A workshop and field trip presentation will provide knowledge on growing Acacias, markets for Acacia seed, commercial production, seed orchard establishment, fodder potential and shelter belts for improved livestock health and care.

PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT GARDENING TOOLS

WALKER FLAT & DISTRICTS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION, WALKER FLAT, SA, \$998

Walker Flat and District Progress Association will purchase a pole saw and brush cutter to replace its worn-out equipment to enable its revegetation projects to continue.

For 25 years the Association, which works in partnership with Mid Murray Landcare SA, Trees for Life and Mid Murray Council has actively vegetated and maintained reserves and roadside in the Walker Flats and Wongulla districts of South Australia.

It grows native seedlings from local seedstock and is replacing plants impacted by the drought to restore the environment and provide a habitat for wildlife. See images opposite.

REGENERATION OF ROADSIDE VERGE CORNY POINT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC, CORNY POINT, SA \$860

Corny Point Progress Association will rehabilitate and revegetate a prominent roadside verge to boost community pride in Corny Point, South Australia.

The 2km of roadside is overrun with non-indigenous plants and attracts considerable criticism for being overgrown and unattractive.

The Yorke Peninsula Council will clear the roadside verge, and local volunteers will propagate and replant the land with flowering shrubs indigenous to the area.

Funding from Highways and Byways will be used to purchase propagation materials, including tree quards, stakes, tubing and mulch.

GRASSLAND AND HABITAT RESTORATION SAINT BENEDICT'S CEMETERY

GAWLER ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC, PINKERTON PLAINS, SA \$2,300

Gawler Environment and Heritage Association Inc will revegetate the St Benedict Cemetery and nearby road verges in Pinkerton Plains in South Australia.

This region, and the Cemetery site were extensively impacted by the 2015 Pinery fire, which resulted in injuries and the loss of human life, livestock, property and flora and fauna.

The Cemetery contains around 600 burials and is visited by many hundreds of people each year. The site will be replanted with 300 tube stock (around 40 species) of native grassland and understory species.

PROJECTS FUNDED WA

LOW AND LOCAL

SHIRE OF YORK, YORK, WA \$500

This project is an initiative of the Shire and community of York in Western Australia that will involve replanting the roadsides of York-Spencer Brook Road with low and local vegetation to promote community pride in the local landscape.

The endemic species within the region has been extensively cleared for farming. While there are still several remnant larger trees in the area identified for revegetation, the understory and small shrubs are missing.

Highways and Byways funding will contribute towards the cost of purchasing plants.





MEMBERS OF THE WALKER FLAT & DISTRICTS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WORKING ON THEIR REVEGATION PLANTING PROJECTS WHICH MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN DOING FOR 25 YEARS! WALKER FLAT, SA



We purchased a pole saw and brushcutter to replace our worn-out equipment.

This enabled our revegetation projects to continue.

We will continue to clear weeds and dead vegetation to make room for replanting native seedlings.

This will provide new food source and habitat for native fauna.

Kendra Radford, Walker Flat & Districts Progress Association





PROJECTS FUNDED WA cont'd

BOYUP BROOK BILLABONG RESTORATION PROJECT

BLACKWOOD BASIN GROUP, BOYUP BROOK, WA \$1,000

This project will rehabilitate the Boyup Brook Billabong and educate the community on land management and indigenous culture.

The Billabong is part of a vulnerable river ecosystem in south-west Western Australia that provides a habitat for threatened species, including black cockatoos, woylies and numbats. It also has spiritual significance to the Nyunga people.

Insufficient funding and persistent drought have left the Billabong in need of maintenance and revegetation.

Volunteer-led working bees will undertake weed control, nest box construction, trail maintenance and address site access issues.

NOONGAR LED WORKSHOP - KAARL NGARA: CULTURAL BURNING NOONGAR WAY

GONDWANA LINK INC, JACUP, WA \$3,000

Gondwana Link Inc will deliver an initiative focussed on the cultural, ecological and asset protection role of cultural fire management practices in Gondwana Link landscapes in Western Australia.

A workshop for land managers will be held on country on Nowanup, Greening Australia, Bush Heritage, private and Crown lands to study and discuss fire management.

It will be led by Noongar Elder Eugene Eades and supported by Friends of Nowanup cocoordinator and landscape ecologist Rodney Safstrom. If weather conditions permit, a small burn will occur.

See images page 17

LUDLOW TUART FOREST REHABILITATION PROJECT

BUSSELTON DUNSBOROUGH ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC, BUSSELTON, WA \$2.500

In July 2021 Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre Inc (BDEC) facilitated a community planting day to rehabilitate degraded areas of the Ludlow Tuart Forest in south-west Western Australia.

The project site is situated within one of the world's 34 International Biodiversity Hotspots and is one of the last tall tree forests in the world. These trees, eucalyptus known as Tuarts reach more than 30 metres tall and are as old as 300 years.

Around 40 children and adults planted out over 680 native trees, plants and shrubs, including tuart and peppermint trees. This will connect up existing bushland and create an environmental corridor with the neighbouring Ramsar recognised Vasse -Wonnerup wetlands.

It also restores native habitat for threatened fauna species including the Western Ringtail possum, and Baudin's and Canarby's cockatoos.

A local Wadandi land custodian attended the event and made a presentation on the traditional use of Peppermint trees, Noongar seasons and the cultural significance of the region and forests to local Aboriginal people. BDEC also shared a range of written materials on the local flora and fauna of the area, and the importance of their conservation efforts.

Funding from Highways and Byways was used to engage a contractor to prepare the sites for planting, including removal of weeds, auguring of holes, compost distribution and the installation of tree guards and stakes.

See images page 18

NOONGAR LED WORKSHOP - KAARL NGARA: CULTURAL BURNING NOONGAR WAY

GONDWANA LINK INC, JACUP, WA

QUOTES FROM THE PROJECT ACQUITTAL REPORT BY Rodney Safstrom

After a smoking ceremony we gathered in a circle in a bush shelter with a central fire and shared why we were there and our perspectives on fire in this environment.

The afternoon was inspections and further yarning at two representative sites.

OPPOSITE: SMOKING CEREMONY





PARTICIPANTS AT THE NOONGAR LED WORKSHOP ON CULTURAL BURNING, GONDWANA LINK INC, JACUP, WA

Our smoking ceremony and yarning circle created a collaborative approach to the day with participants with many perspectives and priorities.

While asset protection was very important, a significant focus was on maintaining healthy ecosystems in a changing climate.

Agreement to keep working together and working with Noongar Elders and Rangers is significant progress towards healing the land and healing ourselves.

The videos from the day all came out well and are currently being transcribed.



Our talking stick (opposite) was made for the workshop from Mungaitch or Jam wood with two contrasting colours of the sapwood and heartwood representing two cultures and different ways of seeing fire in the landscape coming together.



THE BEFORE AND AFTER SHOTS OF THE WONDERFUL PLANTING DAY BY THE BUSSELLTON DUNSBOROUGH ENVIRONMENT CENTRE VOLUNTEERS



TRADITIONAL CUSTODIAN SHANNON FROM WANDANI COUNTRY GAVE A WELCOME TO COUNTRY







OUR JOHN WALLIS MEMORIAL LECTURE TASMANIA 2020

A Splendid Secret: 'Fratelli Tutti' and the Transformation of Relationships.

The lecture was presented on Zoom from the UK by **Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ**

Gemma is a prominent UK speaker on spirituality and a regular contributor to the BBC and other radio programs.

This wonderful sold-out event took place on Tuesday 24th November 2020. We were treated to a powerful and inspiring delivery by Gemma.

The lecture touched on the many global, social, economic and spiritual crises of our time – the vacuum in political leadership, the human pain of isolation and disconnection being felt by many during COVID 19, the lack of will to deal with migration challenges across the world and the apparent loss of the value of the common good.

The main message of Gemma's echoes the call of Pope Francis in 'Fratelli Tutti' – to grow and develop the art of encounter – to build communities of encounter.

The lecture was live streamed which enabled mainland and international audience to attend. Thank you to all the hard work from the Hobart Branch of Highways and Byways.

Some testimonials below:

Gemma's passion and insights have given us hope to continue living the gospel in the many places in which we live. The fact that Gemma visited Tasmania in 2011 really added to her presentation. She incorporated the spirit of John, our sisters, and Highways and Byways so beautifully into her overall presentation. This first global John Wallis Memorial Lecture could not have happened if you had not courageously and creatively brought it into being. To each of you, much gratitude.

(Sr Stancea Vichie MSS, Congregational Leader, Melbourne)

It was an inspirational and prophetic message for our time. (A and KW, Hobart)

Congratulations on pulling off that fabulous talk by Gemma last night. She was so down to earth and gave a delightful lecturer on the Pope's encyclical. ... With many thanks and blessings. (MC, Toowoomba)

For me was the first time, when I participated to a such presentation in English language. (EC, Romania)

This was really informative and from a woman's perspective which is lacking in the church I feel. I particularly enjoyed the Q&A session at the conclusion; less head stuff (theology) and more heart (feeling, personal). (PK, Canberra)

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OUR PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

In 2021 we are delighted to be partnering with two regional programs for community and environmental support – Roma, in central western Queensland, and the St. Helens region of north east Tasmania.

SEEDS OF CONNECTION ROMA, QUEENSLAND

The Seeds of Connection are blooming! The Co-Ordinator Megan Brown and Program mentor Jen Coggan have grown the grass roots activities of Seeds of Connection, accommodating some minor COVID disruptions at times.

We were successful in receiving three grants throughout the year to continue our work.

- An Australia Post Community Grant for well being workshops in the small regional communities of Surat, Mitchell, Wallumbilla and Injune.
- A grant from the Maranoa Regional Council to support seniors activities for low income seniors.
- A grant from Catholic Religious Queensland to run an Indigenous Women's Cultural Camp at Wallaroo Outback Retreat in the Arcadia Valley, near the beautiful Carnarvon Gorge in Queensland.

Other programs which have been happening in the community include:

- NAIDOC week activities Megan ran sessions in schools during the week and organised a Pamper Day for the Indigenous Elders of the Roma community in preparation for the NAIDOC Ball. Young teenage girls were given an opportunity to learn some makeup up and hair skills, giving the elders an afternoon of loving care and attention.
- A Clothes Swap day for all the community with The Roma Men's shed supported the initiative with a BBQ – an event much appreciated by many members of the community
- The Indigenous Women's Cultural Camp which was led by Vernessa Fien, Megan Brown and Vicki Saunders. This was an important opportunity for Indigenous women to come together to share their knowledge around caring for country, and caring for people on country.





COMMUNITY CLOTHES SWAP DAY HELD AT SOARING SOULS, ROMA



NAIDOC PAMPER DAY. Above: MEGAN BROWN RECEIVES A PAMPER.



NAIDOC PAMPER DAY – ONE OF THE LOCAL INDIGENOUS ELDERS BEING MADE UP BY A YOUNGER MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY IN PREPARATION FOR THE NAIDOC COMMUNITY BALL IN ROMA.







RESTORING NATURE AND COMMUNITIES. ST HELENS, TASMANIA



We need a new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world, our styles of life, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life,"

Pope Francis, May 2021

Our Restoring Nature and Communities program commenced in March 2021. Highways and Byways is supporting the employment of a team of four previously unemployed or under-employed local community members to undertake forest restoration work through North East Bioregional Network (NEBN), managed by Todd Dudley, the President of NEBN.

It is a powerful example of Think Global – Act Local. Approximately 60 hectares of degraded land was worked on consolidating regenerative areas with secondary treatment of the pines.

We are being challenged to support the healing of our damaged planet from many directions. In this UN Decade on Eco System Restoration, and in line with the Social Justice Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops - Cry of the Earth Cry of the Poor, we are committed to action. We are also responding to the challenge of Pope Francis who recently launched a program to put Laudato Si' (Care of our Common Home) the Pope's encyclical of 2015, into action.







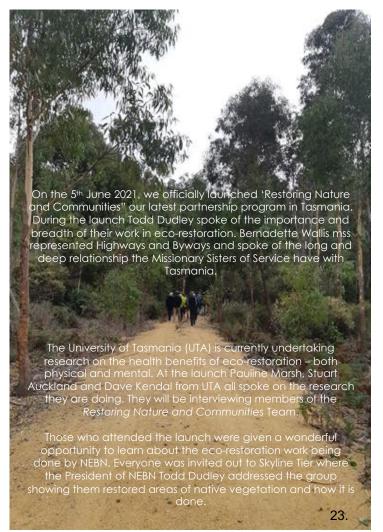












FINANCIAL REPORT 2020 - 2021



It's hard to describe a "normal" year in the first few years of a newly established charity. For Highways and Byways, our first years have been marked particularly by the process of transferring assets from the John Wallis Foundation and supply of substantial once-off funding from the Missionary Sisters of Service to aid our financial independence.

Most recently we have also endured the adverse impact of COVID-19 on administrative, program, and grant implementation activities and on donations.

In 2020-21, COVID-19 was especially influential. Grants from our major donors continued to be below earlier levels, although this was partially offset by success in applications for publicly available grants.

Donations from our generous pool of occasional donors across the country also declined in the face of the economic uncertainty and in some cases reduced personal income. However, government economic assistance was again a welcome offset to the overall financial impact of covid-19.

Highways and Byways has continued to build an investment pool to contribute towards meeting its administrative costs and to facilitate funding in years when economic and fund-raising conditions are difficult. This last financial year was a pleasing one in terms of contribution levels to the investment pool. Share market continued their recovery from the decline seen in the latter part of the previous year. In addition, our pool of funds received a boost from the establishment of the first Highways and Byways sub fund, a facility which allows us to accept support from those wishing to commemorate a loved deceased family member directly or through a bequest.

Pleasingly, one of the outcomes of our organisation's investment policy is that our investment in the two Future Generation listed investment companies has allowed us to direct

the allocation of around \$2450 from those companies to specific youth-focused charities to which a total of 1% of the companies' value is donated annually.

Key financial outcomes in 2020-21 were as follows:

- (a) Total income dropped by 57.2%, largely due to the boost to income in the previous year from one-off MSS donations.
- (b) Total expenditure dropped by 11.6% compared to the previous year, despite an increase in expenditure on grants and programs of over \$103 000 to almost \$137 000. This was largely due to a change in the treatment of Net Gains on Investments in previous years (including a negative change of \$123,800 in 2019-20) it had been included as Other Expenditure. In 2020-21, a positive change of \$123,800 was treated as Other Revenue in 2020-21, a year of strong gains in the value of Highways and Byways' investments.
- (c) Net assets increased to almost \$2 million dollars at year end, a gain that largely reflects a marked increase in share values.

There continue to be many unmet needs among the disadvantaged and marginalised in Australia. However, Highways and Byways is fortunate to enjoy, and is grateful for, the support of committed donors, volunteers, and indeed the whole Highways and Byways community in continuing to expand its activities to identify and meet these needs.

Brian Lennon

Chair - Finance and Administration Committee



HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS LTD ABN 87 622 436 551

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020
Revenue	2	417,826	1,085,148
Employee benefits expense	3	(175,125)	(196,988)
Grants and programs expenses	3	(136,822)	(33,148)
Depreciation, amortisation of non-financial assets	3	(1,820)	(560)
Impairment of financial assets	3	-	(123,807)
Administration expenses	3	(24,311)	(18,197)
Other expenses	3	(185)	(1,529)
SURPLUS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	120	79,563	710,919
Finance income	2	73,869	64,666
SURPLUS FROM CONTINUING ACTIVITIES		153,432	775,584
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:			
Changes in fair value of financial assets designated as at fair value not taken through profit or loss		338,517	(8,542)
Other comprehensive income for the period		338,517	(8,542)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD)	491,949	767,042

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS LTD ABN 87 622 436 551

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS			0 100 100 100 100 100
Cash and cash equivalents	4	99,258	326,324
Trade and other receivables	5	41,211	51,216
Other financial assets	6	25,000	25,000
Formation expenses		-	1,280
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		165,469	403,820
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment	7	4,127	1,726
Intangible assets	8	3,075	4,050
Financial assets	9	1,903,846	1,161,874
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		1,911,048	1,167,650
TOTAL ASSETS	_	2,076,517	1,571,470
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	36,659	23,757
Provisions	11 _	59,325	52,364
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	_	95,984	76,121
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	11 _	21,390	28,155
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		21,390	28,155
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_	117,374	104,276
NET ASSETS	_	1,959,143	1,467,194
EQUITY			
Reserves	12	338,517	-
Accumulated surplus		1,620,626	1,467,194
TOTAL EQUITY	_	1,959,143	1,467,194



GOVERNANCE – OUR BOARD



Marg Casey Chairperson

Director - Finance and Administration Committee, Projects Committee

Marg Casey has a background in parish and school administration, vocations ministry at state and national levels, health ethics, social services and homelessness. She has worked in Church organisations, as an administrator, editor, executive director and volunteer program co-ordinator to name a few.



Martin Allen

Director - Chair Communications and Fundraising Committee

Martin has a wealth of business experience implementing solutions for national and global clients. His roles have included senior client relationships, contract negotiation, business development and technology innovation and implementation.



Jeff Byrne

Director – Finance and Administration Committee, Communications and Fundraising Committee

Jeff is a qualified Company Director with extensive experience in government board roles. He has a background in public sector leadership, organization governance and risk management.



Director – Projects Committee,

Bernadette lives in Birchip, rural Victoria and has taken on many executive roles in local and regional organisations including serving a term as a Shire Councillor. She is passionate about supporting small regional communities towards strength and resilience and sees very real opportunities for Australian farming communities to lead the way in developing and promoting sustainable, climate-friendly solutions and practices.

Bernadette Hogan



Bernadette Madden MSS

Director - Chair Projects Committee

Bernadette has worked as a social worker and teacher across Australia. She has worked in indigenous communities in various rural regions and in community services organisations assisting vulnerable families.



Director - Treasurer, Finance and Administration Committee

Brian has more than 40 years operational and executive experience covering human resources management, organisation development, and superannuation administration in the mining and finance industries. His qualifications and interests also extend to investment, climate change, hydrology and ecosystems.

Brian Lennon 27.



GOVERNANCE - OUR BOARD



Cheryle Royle

Director

Cheryle has an extensive background in healthcare management having been the CEO of a number of hospitals in Victoria. Prior to retiring/semiretiring Cheryle was the CEO of St Vincent's Hospital Brisbane (SVHB). She has served on a number of Boards throughout her career including a National Board, local Government Boards and Health Services in Rural Victoria.

MSS CONGREGATIONAL LEADER



Stancea Vichie MSS

Stancea is a member of the MSS Stewardship Council and is currently the Congregational Leader of the Missionary Sisters of Service.

She has worked amongst people from many different cultures and backgrounds in urban, rural and outback regions of Australia, as well as periods in other countries.

Her work has included pastoral work, leadership formation, human rights advocacy, asylum seeker communities, and working towards the elimination of human trafficking.

OUR PATRONS



Clare McShane TAS



Mary Wagner AM QLD



Bishop Pat Power QLD



Denis Fitzgerald VIC



Bishop Bill Morris QLD

OUR OFFICE STAFF



Liz McAloon Executive Officer Highways & Byways (Full time)



Marnie Wylde Grants Administration Officer H&B (Part-time)



Andrea Butler Administration Officer MSS and H&B (Part-time)



Paul Jackson Finance Manager MSS and H&B (Part-Time)



Jill Elliot Finance Officer MSS and H&B (Part-time)





HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS – A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE supports people and communities experiencing hardship and disadvantage, especially in rural Australia.

We do this through our annual grants program and longer term initiatives in small rural communities where we partner with a local organisation.

Highways and Byways is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission.

Highways and Byways continues the vision and mission of the Missionary Sisters of Service and Father John Wallis.

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