

CASTLEMAINE - MARYBOROUGH RAIL TRAIL INCORPORATED

ABN 24 239 558 815

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 7th AUGUST 2020 TO 30th JUNE 2021

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1. Our Organisation

Background

The aspiration for a Castlemaine Maryborough Rail Trail has been mooted in the rail trail community for a decade or more. Strategically, it was considered a “missing link” that could connect other trails. In February 2020, Lou Citroen gave the idea new impetus with a promo appearance for the *Midland Express* newspaper advocating for a Castlemaine-Guildford trail. Several people responded to Lou’s call for interest and a movement was born. An interest group was formed that re-affirmed a larger aspiration for a Castlemaine-Maryborough trail. The group formed the basis of CMRT’s Committee.

The organisation was registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria on the 7th August 2020 as the Castlemaine – Maryborough Rail Trail Inc.

Our objectives

The objective of the organisation is to transform the 55km Castlemaine to Maryborough disused rail corridor into a world-class recreational trail, a trail that can be used by cyclists, walkers and horse-riders of all ages and abilities.

We want to connect communities, defend safe travel, encourage prosperity, look after the bush and tell amazing stories of place and people.

We use grassroots action to inspire communities and spur governments to lead the charge to establish a new trail in Central Victoria.

Our community outreach aims to rally people of all ages and backgrounds behind the idea of a trail. To build a trail, we need to build a movement.

Principal activities

During the financial period the principal activities of the organisation were marketing communications, recruiting members and volunteers, persuading people to sign an online petition, approaching the Mt Alexander Shire Council and the Central Goldfields Shire Council for financial support to undertake a feasibility study, approaching other organisations for financial and other support, and networking with other appropriate organisations and government bodies.

The offline and online fundraising activities of the organisation have been critical in raising much needed funds to develop a feasibility study to approach the state and federal governments to fund a cost/benefit analysis of building a rail trail between Castlemaine and Maryborough.

Our people

Committee members

The following persons were members of the organisation during the financial period or since the end of the financial period.

John Carruthers	(President)	(appointed 6 August 2020)
Janice Simpson	(Secretary)	(appointed 11 March 2021)

Mick Evans	(Treasurer)	(appointed 6 August 2020)
Lou Citroen	(former Secretary)	(appointed 6 August 2020; resigned 9 September 2021)
Christine Christie		(appointed 6 August 2020)
Bob Forde		(appointed 6 August 2020)
Mark Brown		(appointed 6 August 2020; resigned 22 July 2021)
Sandy Harman		(appointed 23 July 2021)
Des Boucher		(appointed 23 July 2021)

Information on committee members

John Carruthers

John ambles between Castlemaine and Guildford where he and his partner are developing a regenerative farm. John is a keen cyclist and semi-retired backcountry skier. He is the former CEO of a successful high-tech start-up and retired management consultant. John has an MBA from Monash University and qualifications in applied-psychology and photography.

Janice Simpson

Janice lives in Maryborough where she rides her bike, writes and gardens. She is a former president and vice president of Bicycle Network, a former national convenor of Sisters in Crime. Her qualifications include a PhD from RMIT.

Mick Evans

Mick Evans lives at Barkers Creek and has been a resident of the Castlemaine district since 1974. He has been and still is an active member of a number of local clubs and organisations. He is retired and besides family, enjoys outdoor activities, including cycling, bush walking and photography. He enjoys cycling on rail trails as a wonderful and safe way of seeing the countryside and of making a holiday an adventure.

Christine Christie

Lives at Barkers Creek. Christine enjoys horse riding, cycling and bushwalking. She and Mick have ridden on most of the Rail trails in Victoria and look forward to exploring trails further afield.

Bob Forde

Bob lives in Guildford on a small sheep farm, is a retired Civil Engineer with 37 years' experience in land development, project management and major road design and construction. He is an active member of several community committees. Being retired, Bob enjoys working on the farm particularly with his family.

Sandy Harman

Sandy lives in Campbells Creek and is a long-time local resident. He is an experienced international project-based marketing and export professional with skills in business development, relationship building, market analysis, communication and negotiation. Sandy has worked in - furniture manufacturing and marketing, publishing, film production, marketing and distribution and the food and beverage sector. He is a keen bike rider using his bike for commuting and touring.

Des Boucher

Des lives in Maryborough and is a Chartered Accountant with senior management experience in all aspects of accounting and finance, together with substantial experience in leading and managing special projects. He is a keen bike rider in between renovating houses and building gardens.

Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are impact members. The Committee acknowledges the following members who have contributed to the organisation during the financial period or since the end of the financial period.

Des Boucher, Mark Brown, John Carruthers, Christine Christie, Lou Citroen, Lynden Courtney, Geoff Crosby, Chris Dickinson, Mick Evans, Bob Forde, Steve Foskey, Briele Hansen, Sandy Harman, Frank Kinnersley, Dean McLaren, Deb Macer, Robin Murdoch, Dannielle Orr, Jill Pattinson, Scott Rossiter, Janice Simpson and Jen Sutfin.

2. Governance

Structure

The organisation at 30 June 2021 has 138 financial members. At present the committee comprises 7 members. Volunteers are recruited from the membership.

Meetings of committee members

The number of meetings of the organisation's committee members held during the reporting period, and the number of meetings attended by each committee member during the time they held office were:

Name	No of Meetings Attended	No of Meetings Held
John Carruthers	8	8
Lou Citroen	8	8
Mick Evans	8	8
Christine Christie	7	8
Bob Forde	8	8
Mark Brown	7	8
Janice Simpson	2	2

President's report

Courage and rapid growth were the markers of our first year. We cross the river by feeling the stones, Deng Xiaoping once said. Yet, in the 2020-21 year, CMRT arrived at the river bank and with no hesitation took to the difficult crossing at a bold skip.

CMRT began the year as a loose band of well-intentioned volunteers and ended the year as an incorporated association with strong public recognition, solid cash flow, some 3000 supporters, more than 130 members and promising dialogue with two levels of government.

The foundation for that transformation was a visionary and hard-working Committee and growing member base willing to put its faith in us to deliver on the shared aspiration for a Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail.

In particular, I want to thank my colleagues who served on the CMRT Committee during the 2020-21. They dared to dream big and take action where others previously had only mused about a better future for the disused rail corridor. I also want to thank the additional volunteers who worked behind the scenes or at our community stalls during the year, and the numerous citizens and small businesses who generously donated to us financially or in kind.

In our inaugural year, I also want to formally acknowledge the role of catalyst played by founding CMRT Secretary Lou Citroen. It was in February 2020, six months before we incorporated, that Lou gave the idea for a trail new life by appearing in the *Midland Express* newspaper advocating for a Castlemaine-Guildford trail.

The measure of any volunteer-based community organisation that wants to make a difference is its willingness to organise for impact. From its inception, during 2020-21, CMRT took to the task of being high-impact with commendable focus. What that meant for our Committee was at times a very demanding workload for a very small team.

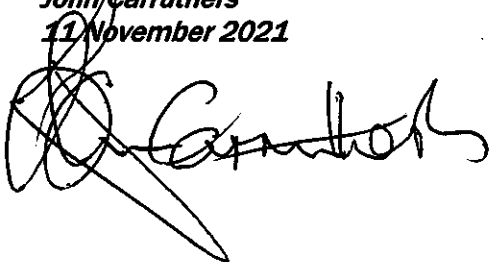
Our "projects" during 2020-21 included community outreach, council and government liaison, grant applications, brand marketing, website and social media building, membership and member engagement, volunteer recruitment and route and engineering planning for the proposed trail. All led by several people and all by year's end for an organisation that had only incorporated barely nine months beforehand.

Because of that consciously demanding schedule, the results - for our members and supporters - were quickly etched on the scoreboard of public opinion, and rapidly elevated the association at a regional level into a "player" in terms of influencing government policy.

In kind support has also been vital to us gathering much needed resources to establish our association in the public eye. Our gratitude goes to Scott Rossiter who created our artwork, James Mack from Masamune Digital Marketing who built our website and Neil and Heather Barrett who kindly offered us a home at The Hub in Castlemaine.

I also want to thank the executive of Rail Trails Australia - and a number of its member groups like the Friends of the Bendigo Kilmore Rail Trail - who gave us wise guidance throughout the year, and Landcare Victoria Inc who have provided useful services and licence to think about the trail in terms beyond just recreation, to include possibilities such as more sustainable land use and cultural story-telling.

John Carruthers
11 November 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Carruthers', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

3. Finances

Treasurer's report

During the financial period the organisation received \$1,400 in membership fees, representing an annual membership fee of \$10 per member. In addition to the membership fees, donations of \$1,156 were received from members and the general public and \$355 was raised from fund-raising activities such as raffles. A grant of \$2,000 was received from the Mt Alexander Shire Council to fund volunteer induction and training. The largest item of expenditure was insurance of \$1,225. This included insurance cover for Public and Product Liability Insurance, Personal Accident - Voluntary Workers Insurance, Directors & Officers Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity.

The result for the period was a surplus of \$2,962 and at 30 June 2021 the organisation had cash reserves of \$3,262.


.....
Mick Evans - Treasurer

Financial Statements

Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the financial period 7th August 2020 to the 30th June 2021

	Note	\$
Income		
Membership fees		1,400
Donations		1,156
Fund Raising Activities		<u>355</u>
		<u>2,911</u>
Expenditure		
<u>Community engagement</u>		
Printing & stationery		<u>283</u>
<u>Marketing communications</u>		
Website		<u>130</u>
<u>General & Administration</u>		
Accounting Fees		110
Bank Charges		2
Hire of Rooms		65
Insurance	3	1,225
Petty Cash		20
Rental of PO Box		74
Subscriptions		<u>40</u>
		<u>1,536</u>
		<u>1,949</u>
Operating Surplus		<u>962</u>
Other Income		
Grant Received – Mt Alexander Shire Council		2,000
Surplus for period		<u>2,962</u>

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the financial period 7th August 2020 to the 30th June 2021

	\$
Balance at beginning of period	0
Surplus for period	<u>2,962</u>
Balance at 30 June 2021	<u>2,962</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021

	Note	\$
<u>Current assets</u>		
Cash at Bank		3,182
Cash on Hand		<u>80</u>
		<u>3,262</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Provisions	3	<u>300</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		<u>2,962</u>
<u>Members' funds</u>		<u>2,962</u>

Statement of Cash Flows

For the financial period 7th August 2020 to the 30th June 2021

	\$
<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</u>	
Cash receipts from members/supporters/grants	4,911
Cash paid for services and supplies	<u>(1,649)</u>
Cash generated from operating activities	<u>3,262</u>
<u>Net increase / (decrease) in cash</u>	3,262
<u>Cash at the beginning of the period</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Cash at the end of the financial period</u>	<u>3,262</u>

Notes to financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2021

Statement of compliance

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows
AASB 108	Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 1048	Interpretation of Standards
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and do not consider monetary values. The accrual and going concern basis have been adopted.

Note 1. Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Income tax

As the incorporated association is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

Revenue recognition

Donations are recognised at the time they are received. Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the entity prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of the recognition.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a present (legal or constructive) obligation as a past event, it is probable the entity will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date, considering the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised inclusive of the amount of associated GST. The Association is not registered for GST recording.

Note 2. Other Income

The organisation has received a grant of \$2,000 from the Mt Alexander Shire Council to fund volunteer induction and training that will be undertaken within the next twelve months. Volunteer management is pivotal for community groups. The organisation engaged more than six front-line volunteers in its first six months and has deployed at least 15 more during 2021 with plans for further expansion of the volunteer team. The organisation wants to become a volunteer “organisation of choice” through applied training to durably operationalise best practice policies for volunteers.

Note 3. Provision for Insurance

The organisation under its current insurance policy provides insurance cover for members. When the policy was taken out an estimated number of members was provided to the insurance company for the next twelve months on the proviso that there would be a reconciliation of the actual number of members versus the estimate and the premium adjusted accordingly. Therefore, the organisation has made a provision of \$300 to cover any additional premium that may be levied once the reconciliation has been made.

Note 4. Subsequent Events

The following events and transactions occurred subsequent to 30 June 2021.

The Mt Alexander Shire Council and the Central Goldfield Shire Council have both committed \$6,000 towards the funding of preparing a report on behalf of the organisation that will set out the guidelines for a cost/benefit study of the Castlemaine to Maryborough rail trail that will be used to lobby the state and/or the federal government to fund the cost/benefit study. The responsibility of managing the initial report and engaging the necessary consultants will be with Central Goldfield Shire Council in conjunction with CMRT personnel.

The Maldon & District Community Bank has committed a \$5,000 grant for CMRT to produce a documentary about the people, stories and landscape associated with the proposed path of the Castlemaine to Maryborough rail trail, which will be used in promoting and gaining support for the rail trail concept, which in turn will assist in lobbying the government agencies to provide the funding to prepare the cost/benefit report.


4. Statement by Members of the Committee

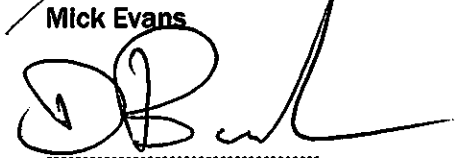
The committee has determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on the previous pages:

- 1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Castlemaine – Maryborough Rail Trail Inc. as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the period ended on that date.**
- 2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Castlemaine – Maryborough Rail Trail Inc. be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.**

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is for and on behalf of the Committee by:


.....
Mick Evans


.....
Des Boucher

Dated this 11th day of November 2021

5. Our other Important Information

Acknowledgements

The Committee wish to acknowledge the support from the following:

Grants

- Maldon & District Community Bank
- Mount Alexander Shire Council

Major Sponsors

- Masamune Digital Marketing
- The Hub 233 Barker St Castlemaine
- Scott Rossiter

Sponsors

- *Castlemaine: 2.1.3.* Hair Design; Cycle Concepts Giant Store; The Bike Vault; Crosby Architects; Snowball Social; Campbells Creek; Five Flags Merchants;
- *Carisbrook:* Carisbrook Post Office Café;
- *Guildford:* Guildford General Store;
- *Maryborough:* Maryborough Paramount Theatre; Maryborough Railway Café & Tracks Bar
- *Newstead:* Dig Café
- *Avoca:* Heathcliffe & Elizabeth Teal
- *South Yarra:* Como Wine & Spirits

Donors

The Committee wish to acknowledge the support from the following:

G La Vella, J Carruthers, M Brown, B Forde, B Sertori, S Harman, S Lambert, A Ferguson, R Wescott, G Crosby, S Ward, J Sinclair, J Pattinson, N Renfrey, L Citroen, M Evans, T Waley, G James, J Barnard, F Kinnersley, J Draper, G Lipback, P Sullivan, J Sutfin, N Sherlock-Byrne, A Frances, T Fidler

How you can help

Become a member

Being a member lets you shape the direction of our organisation and we want our members to be actively involved. Via our website <https://cmrailtrail.org.au/our-members/>

Volunteer with us

Our volunteers are impact members who make a big difference. You choose your hours. You deliver our campaigns. You keep us going! You meet other wonderful people. And we will look after you. We can offer you a role, respect and special recognition. Via our website <https://cmrailtrail.org.au/volunteer/>

Donate to support our campaigns

If you don't have the time to join up and volunteer, you can still make a difference. Donate and help the volunteers working for you at the front-line. Via our website <https://cmrailtrail.org.au/donate/>

Sign our online petition

Love the trail? Join in the chorus for change! Sign our petition, like us on social media and stay in touch. Via Change.org <https://www.change.org/p/mount-alexander-and-central-goldfields-shire-councils-create-a-castlemaine-to-maryborough-rail-trail>

Looking to the future

The foundation laid in the association's first year has set us on a path to success. A start on building the trail's first stage within three years is now foreseeable. The markers for the 2021-22 year are to maintain our first year's momentum and build capacity. The two are inter-related.

A guiding objective for CMRT in 2021-22 is to obtain funding for a trail feasibility study / business case. For every trail and major capital project, it is that kind of investment study that is the initial threshold over which all must cross. This objective reflects an ambitious impatience by CMRT to waste no time at all in getting the trail started. For example, why take five years to do something important when it could be done in three?

But persuading local and state government to find the \$70K-\$100K necessary for such a study requires proof-of-impact at the community level and patient and determined dialogue with council administrators and councillors, local MPs and other public servants.

To have that impact some of our 2021-22 initiatives are:

- establishing a website to give us community reach
- rebuilding our community outreach after it was halted by Covid lockdowns
- working with the Shires of Mt Alexander and Central Goldfields to win funding
- shooting a short documentary film to showcase our region and the arguments for a trail (a project conceived in late 2020-21)

But building capacity is an essential complement to those initiatives. That's why in 2021-22 we will also be focussed on building up our financial resources and our base of volunteers.

- winning more grants and sponsorship to help support or fund these and other ongoing campaigns
- working harder to make CMRT an environment that offers volunteers a rewarding and supportive experience
- persuading more talented and energetic people to step forward and get involved in the association's work

Of these the last will be most crucial of all. Our association depends on volunteers. Volunteers have built our success to date. But without relief, too much will continue to be asked of too few, and without "fresh horses" our previous momentum may falter. The defining chapter of our social movement in 2021-22 will be written by those who choose to step forward. We remain hopeful our community will answer the call.

John Carruthers
11 November 2021

Contact us

Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail Incorporated
Incorporation #: A0110387F
ABN: 24 239 558 815
C/- The Hub, 233 Barker Street
Castlemaine Vic 3450
W: <https://cmrailtrail.org.au/>
E: hello@cmrailtrail.org.au