

Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail Inc

CM.RT



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The Hub, 233 Barker Street
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Incorporation no. A0110387F

CASTLEMAINE - MARYBOROUGH RAIL TRAIL INCORPORATED

ABN 24 239 558 815

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2023

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1. Our Organisation

The Castlemaine Maryborough Rail Trail formalised its structure as an incorporated association registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria on the 7th August 2020.

The organisation was registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) on 20th June 2022.

Our goals

CMRT's overall objective is to transform the 55km Castlemaine to Maryborough disused rail corridor into a world-class recreational trail that can be used by cyclists, walkers and horse-riders of all ages and abilities. To achieve this we need to:

- connect communities
- defend safe travel
- encourage prosperity
- look after the bush; and
- tell the remarkable stories of places and peoples along the former rail line.

We use grassroots action to inspire communities and spur governments to lead the charge to establish a new trail in Central Victoria. To build a trail, we need to build a movement.

Principal activities

During the financial period 1st July 2022 – 30th June 2023 the principal activities of the organisation included:

- encouraging people to join CMRT as members;
- recruiting volunteers;
- completing a major community project; and
- undertaking a major project to submit a grant application to the Victorian Government through the Enabling Tourism Fund, to undertake a feasibility study of the proposed Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail. The committee was successful in attaining a grant of \$120,000. The offline and online fundraising activities of the organisation have been critical in raising funds to conduct a feasibility study including a cost/benefit analysis of building a leisure trail between Castlemaine and Maryborough.

Our people

Volunteer committee members

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

Janice Simpson	President	appointed 11 March 2021
John Carruthers	Secretary	appointed 6 August 2020
Des Boucher	Treasurer	appointed 23 July 2021
Bob Forde		appointed 6 August 2020
Sandy Harman		appointed 23 July 2021
Steve Foskey		appointed 10 December 2021

Bronwen Machin
Geoff Hooke
Ken Stewart

resigned 23 November 2022
appointed 23 November 2022
appointed 23 November 2022

Information on committee members

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, and a former national convenor of Sisters in Crime. She coordinates the annual Words in Winter festival in the Central Goldfields. Her qualifications include a PhD from RMIT.

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 works in retail with a background in furniture manufacturing and marketing, publishing, film production, 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.

John Carruthers

John lives between Castlemaine and Guildford where he and his partner are developing a regenerative farm. He is a keen cyclist and retired backcountry skier and 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.

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.

Steve Foskey

Steve has lived in Newstead for 5 years after making the tree change from city life. He does have local roots as his mother grew up in Maryborough. He is a lifelong recreational cyclist and enjoys riding on the country roads around Newstead and the trails in the Muckleford forest. He is also active in the Newstead community through his involvement in Newstead Walks and Wheels and helping with Landcare plantings.

Geoff Hooke

Geoff Hooke moved from Melbourne to Maryborough last year to be closer to family in Bendigo and Ballarat. He is recently retired from a career in financial services, mainly in corporate super and capital raising, plus a number of years in solar energy. A keen lifetime cyclist, Geoff soon joined a local road cycling group and is also keen to see the unique opportunity to join Maryborough and Castlemaine stations with a multi-use rail trail come to fruition.

Ken Stewart

Ken has lived in Chewton with his wife Jennie for the last 2.5 years in a house they designed and built as owner builders. Ongoing projects include creating an extensive garden and further building. They are both keen road and rail trail cyclists who have in recent times concentrated more on riding rail trails. They have ridden rail trails in many parts of Victoria as well as South Australia, Southern NSW and in France. Ken is a mainly retired former Chiropractor.

Committee Members' Roles

Bob	Forde	Committee	General Committee
		Government Council & Fundraising	VicTrack Liaison
		Government Council & Fundraising	Engineering & Route Alignment Lead
		Community Engagement & Events	Community Ambassador - Guildford
		Carisbrook 2024 Event	VicTrack Liaison
Des	Boucher	Committee	Treasurer
		Government Council & Fundraising	Fundraising Grants & Sponsors Lead
		Trivia Quiz 2023 Event	Fundraising & Prizes
		Carisbrook 2024 Event	Fundraising Lead
Geoff	Hooke	Committee	General Committee
		Government Council & Fundraising	\$0.5M Grants Support
		Member & Volunteer Engagement	Member Administration
		CRM Project Stage 1	UAT / Privacy Lead
		Carisbrook 2024 Event	Event Support
Janice	Simpson	Committee	President
		Government Council & Fundraising	Work Team Lead
		Government Council & Fundraising	CGSC Liaison
		Government Council & Fundraising	Feasibility Study PCG Chair
		Government Council & Fundraising	\$0.5M Grants Support'
		Member & Volunteer Engagement	Volunteer Recruiter
		Trivia Quiz 2023 Event	Event Advocate
		Carisbrook 2024 Event	Event Advocate
John	Carruthers	Committee	Secretary
		Government Council & Fundraising	Feasibility Study PCG Project Director
		Marketing Communications	Work Team Lead
			Systems Owner - Website, Slack, Email, Google Drive, Canva, MailChimp
		Marketing Communications	Media Relations Lead

		Marketing Communications	Graphics & Collateral Lead
		Member & Volunteer Engagement	Volunteer Recruiter
		Member & Volunteer Engagement	HR Policy Adviser
		CRM Project Stage 1	Use Case / Data Lead
		Trivia Quiz 2023 Event	Event Advocate
Ken	Stewart	Committee	General Committee
		Community Engagement & Events	Community Ambassador - Chewton
		Member & Volunteer Engagement	Work Team Lead
		CRM Project Stage 1	Project Advocate / Technical Support
Sandy	Harman	Committee	General Committee
		Government Council & Fundraising	MLAs Liaison Support
		Marketing Communications	Marketing Expert Advisory
		Marketing Communications	Short Film Production
Steve	Foskey	Committee	General Committee
		Community Engagement & Events	Work Team Lead
		Community Engagement & Events	Events Project Manager
		Community Engagement & Events	Community Ambassador Coordinator
		CRM Project Stage 1	Project Manager
		Trivia Quiz 2023 Event	Project / Event Manager
		Carisbrook 2024 Event	Project / Event Manager
		AGM 2023 Event	Project / Event Manager

Project and casual volunteers

Our project and casual volunteers work together with the committee to achieve our aims. All volunteers are members and we acknowledge the following people who have contributed to CMRT's work and success.

Project Volunteers

Briele	Hansen	Marketing Communications	Short Film Production
David	Tuck	Community Engagement & Events	Events Support
Deb	Macer	Community Engagement & Events	Community Ambassador - Maryborough
		Member & Volunteer Engagement	Volunteer Administration
Frank	Kinnersley	Government Council & Fundraising	RTA Liaison
Fred	Cahir	Government Council & Fundraising	Dja Dja Wurrung Advisory
Garis	Alexander	Data Wrangling	Work Team Lead
Greg	James	Community Engagement & Events	Events Support
		Community Engagement & Events	Community Ambassador - Newstead
Ian	Lillington	Marketing Communications	Social Media Lead
Ian	Stewart	CRM Project Stage 1	Technical Lead
James	Mack	Marketing Communications	Website Technical Lead
Jennie	Stewart	Government Council & Fundraising	MASC Liaison
		Government Council & Fundraising	\$0.5M Grants Support

Jillian	Pattinson	Government Council & Fundraising Community Engagement & Events	Government Policy & Grants Support Community Ambassador - Yapeen
Owen	Macer	Community Engagement & Events	Community Ambassador - Campbells Creek
Paul	Van der Wal	Community Engagement & Events	Events Support
Robin	Walls	Committee Support Marketing Communications	Minutes Secretary Proofreader
Peter	Watts	Marketing Communications	Videographer
Scott	Rossiter	Marketing Communications	Illustrations & Artwork
Tim	Cocking	Community Engagement & Events	Community Ambassador - Strangways
Tony	Macer	Community Engagement & Events	Events Support

Casual volunteers

Judith Barnard, Rainer Beilharz, Christine Christie, Diane Daniell, Mick Evans, Ann Ferguson, Paul Hampton, Steve Harrisson, Maddie Harrop, Grace La Vella, Giuliano Marcon, Dean McLaren, Colin Moore, Geoff Park, Paul Roberts, Nicki Renfrey, Amber Robinson, David Schloeffel, Janet Schloeffel, Jo Smith

2. Governance

Structure

As of 30th June 2023 there were 57 financial members. At present the committee comprises 8 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 Held	No of Meetings Attended
Janice Simpson	6	6
John Carruthers	6	6
Bob Forde	6	4
Sandy Harman	6	2
Bronwen Machin	2	0
Des Boucher	6	5
Steve Foskey	6	4
Geoff Hooke	4	4
Ken Stewart	4	4

President's report

During the twelve months from July 2022 to June 2023, CMRT kicked with the wind. This is how it went.

In spring 2022 the committee began work with Regional Development Victoria (RDV) and our two shires, Central Goldfields (CGSC) and Mt Alexander (MASC) to discuss and finesse an ask for funding from the State Government's Enabling Tourism Fund, expected to be released within the financial year.

The committee worked creatively and quickly to mount a successful application. This included some standout qualities: fundraising of \$18,000 from our members and supporters; convincing our shires to contribute \$6000 each if the bid met with success; a graphic tourism map highlighting key features including First Nations and settlement culture and history, food and beverage and nature-based attractions; a one-minute video of the trail's route; a dreamscape of what the trail could look like in five years' time; and crisp well researched documents including a Project Management Plan, a Governance Structure, and a Scope of Works. When the grant was announced, giving us three weeks to prepare and submit, we were able to hit the ground running.

Success came our way in June 2022 when it was announced that our application was successful. The work of conducting a robust feasibility study began in earnest. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with our two shires, before establishing a Project Control Group (PCG) and a broad-based community represented Project Reference Group (PRG).

CGSC agreed to procure consultants as well as act as banker for the project. CMRT had two seats at the table for all project processes including the procurement of a consultancy team and a project manager, and the ongoing PCG which governed the project and ensured it met its obligations under the grant's terms of reference.

Given the circumstances of delayed procurement due to local and regional flooding taking key personnel away from the CGSC procurement team and the Christmas-New Year layover, the project didn't effectively begin until January and concluded in August 2023.

Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architects (FFLA) were the lead consultancy. Other firms which worked with FFLA included Urban Enterprise, Structcom and Newton Kerr + Partners. Together this multi-skilled team provided the PCG with a business case, a detailed study of the trail, its route, its connections to and through villages, as well as descriptive economic and structural assessments. The final report states that the proposed trail is an absolute winner all round: for tourism, for economic development, for jobs, for villages and towns. We were delighted to receive the report and read its findings. (*The Castlemaine to Maryborough Rail Trail Feasibility Study* report is available on CMRT's website at <https://cmrailtrail.org.au/feasibility-study-our-biggest-milestone-yet/>)

Meanwhile we conducted business-as-usual, meeting our statutory commitments, ensuring our governance was impeccable and keeping a close watch on finances. Many members and supporters donated money in the 2022-23 financial year, and we take our hats off to them, as we do those members and volunteers who turned up to lend a hand.

It was great to host those who came for our sausage-making and member BBQ in March 2023.

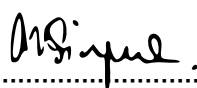
We ran a community arts afternoon, *Out for a Spin* in Maryborough in July 2022, as part of the local Words in Winter project. We sang, told stories, recited poems, and enjoyed ourselves immensely. Thank you to our raffle donors, performers, and audience. And a big shout out to the TrailBlazers, christened as such that very day, our two-piece band, and lyrics composers.

The committee, member volunteers and CMRT ambassadors continued action in our communities to raise awareness of the rail trail and promote its benefits. Our website and newsletter were kept up to date and vibrant. Local councillors and parliamentarians were kept in the loop. Media coverage was well spread throughout the precincts. We participated in the active transport committees in both shires. We were represented at the annual Energy Breakthrough event in Maryborough and Shifty 50 in Harcourt.

Thanks to a grant from Maldon Community Bank, we made a short film which is fabulous. You can view it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zX6_z90kvoc

A community grant from MASC enabled us to purchase a data projector and accessories. This equipment has assisted with both our advocacy and our internal planning. It is also a shared asset that can be used by other bike advocacy groups within the shires.

So, what does the future hold for CMRT? A focused and energetic committee; active members and volunteers; greater advocacy in person and through social media; consolidating partnerships with community groups, businesses and governments and forming new ones. And further grant applications. This is the clear path forward for our trail. The year 2022-23 took us through the phases associated with the feasibility study and focused our attention on ways to acquire funding pledges for the next two stages of the trail by firstly attaining the authorities and permissions that are required before beginning the design and construction stage. We are proceeding optimistically. And we thank one and all for coming along with us to blaze a trail.



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Janice Simpson, President

A Brief Footnote

It was a crisp sunny winter's morning as we stood once again on the banks of the Cairn Curran Reservoir with MLAs Maree Edwards for Bendigo West and Martha Haylett for Ripon to celebrate and launch the feasibility study for our Rail Trail. The crowd numbered approximately 30 and we welcomed Central Goldfields Shire Mayor Grace La Vella and Mount Alexander Shire deputy mayor Matt Driscoll along with our committee members, many volunteers and members of the public. Maree's announcement signalled the end of a year spent dreaming, planning, thinking, talking, writing, networking, considering and putting our noses to the grindstone. We didn't do it alone as we had help from many quarters including our local MLAs on both sides of the House, our friends in Regional Development Victoria, Rail Trails Australia, our local shires, volunteers and council officers who are planning, developing and managing rail trails around Victoria, and our fabulous community of volunteers and donors.

3. Finances

Treasurer's report

During the financial year the organisation received \$855 in membership fees compared to \$900 for the previous year, \$1,338 in donations from members compared to \$1,481. However, this year we received \$2,910 in donations from non-members. Fundraising activities netted us \$776 compared to \$262 in the previous year. Total revenue for the current financial year was \$5,939 up \$2,611 from the previous year and expenses incurred this year totalled \$3,415 up \$1,124 from the previous year. There were no abnormal items of expenditure and the organisation achieved an operating surplus of \$2,525.

In the previous financial year we received a grant of \$5,000 from the Maldon & District Community Bank Bendigo Bank to fund a documentary about the people, stories and landscape associated with the proposed path of the Castlemaine to Maryborough rail trail. This project was partially completed in the previous financial year (\$2,300) and a further \$2,770 was expended in the current financial year to complete the project. This was financed by funds of \$2,700 brought forward from the previous year as well as a \$70 contribution this year.

The organisation had a surplus of \$15 brought forward from the previous year in respect of a grant of \$2,000 from the Central Goldfields Shire Council (CGSC) to fund the Better on a Bike project. This surplus was refunded to CGSC this year.

In the previous financial year \$21,121 was raised from donors of which, \$18,000 was allocated to the application for a grant from the Victorian Government through the Enabling Tourism Fund on the basis of the Government contributing \$4 for every \$1 an organisation could contribute. Both Mt Alexander Shire Council and the Central Goldfields Shire Council contributed \$6,000 each and as a result a grant of \$120,000 was awarded. This meant \$150,000 was available for a feasibility study to be undertaken. In the current financial year the organisation's contribution of \$18,000 was paid together with costs of \$77.

Expenditure on projects for the current financial year totalled \$20,862. Therefore the net result for the financial year was a deficit of \$18,077 compared to a surplus in the previous year of \$22,207. As at the 30 June 2023 the organisation had a surplus of members funds of \$6,832 represented by cash reserves of \$6,599 and equipment of \$233.

The organisation received a grant of \$800 from the Mt Alexander Shire Council to purchase equipment being a data projector. \$1,033 was expended therefore the net cost to the organisation is \$233.



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Des Boucher - Treasurer

Financial Statements

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Membership Fees		855	900
Donations	2	1,338	2,159
Donations – Non Members	2	2,910	0
Fundraising Activities		776	262
Interest Received		<u>60</u>	<u>7</u>
Total Income		<u>5,939</u>	<u>3,328</u>
Less Expenditure			
Community Engagement	3	1,099	892
Marketing & Communications	3	1,435	809
General & Administration	3	<u>881</u>	<u>590</u>
Total Operation Expenditure		<u>3,515</u>	<u>2,291</u>
Operation Surplus		<u>2,525</u>	<u>1,037</u>
Special Projects			
Volunteer Induction & Training	4 a		
Grant Received-Mt Alexander Shire Council		0	0
Less Costs		<u>0</u>	<u>(2,200)</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>(2,200)</u>
Documentary Film	4 b		
Grant Received – Maldon & District Community Bank		0	5,000
Less Costs		<u>2,770</u>	<u>2,300</u>
		<u>(2,770)</u>	<u>2,700</u>
Better on a Bike	4 c		
Grant Received – Central Goldfields Shire Council		0	2,000
Less Costs		<u>15</u>	<u>1,985</u>
		<u>(15)</u>	<u>15</u>
Feasibility Study Fundraising	4 d		
Donations Received		0	21,121
Less Costs		<u>18,077</u>	<u>465</u>
		<u>(18,077)</u>	<u>20,655</u>
Special Projects Surplus (Deficit)		<u>(20,862)</u>	<u>21,170</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)		<u>(18,337)</u>	<u>22,207</u>

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30th June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Balance at beginning of period		25,169	2,962
Surplus (Deficit) for period		<u>(18,337)</u>	<u>22,207</u>
Balance at end of period		<u>6,832</u>	<u>25,169</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	5	6,539	25,260
Cash on Hand		60	69
Total Current Assets		<u>6,599</u>	<u>25,329</u>
Non Current Assets			
Data Projector & Accessories		1,033	0
Less Grant Mt Alexander Shire Council		<u>(800)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Non Current Assets		<u>233</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Assets		<u>6,832</u>	<u>25,329</u>
Current Liabilities			
Provisions & Accruals	6	0	160
Total Liabilities		<u>0</u>	<u>160</u>
Net Assets		<u>6,832</u>	<u>25,169</u>
Capital Account			
Accumulated Surplus		<u>6,832</u>	<u>25,169</u>

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30th June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash receipts from members & supporters		5,939	3,602
Cash paid for services & supplies		<u>(3,414)</u>	<u>(2,565)</u>
Cash generated from operation activities		<u>2,525</u>	<u>1,037</u>
Cash Flows from Special Projects			
Cash receipts from grants		0	7,000
Cash from donations for feasibility study		0	21,121
Cash paid for services & supplies		<u>(20,862)</u>	<u>(6,951)</u>
Cash generated from special projects		<u>(20,862)</u>	<u>21,170</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Cash paid for equipment		<u>(233)</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash generated from special projects		<u>(233)</u>	<u>0</u>
Net (decrease) increase in cash		(18,570)	22,207
Cash at beginning of year		<u>25,169</u>	<u>2,962</u>
Cash at end of year	5	<u>6,599</u>	<u>25,169</u>

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

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 the 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. Donations

Donations are received from members and supporters and can be in cash or donations in kind, where costs are paid for by supporters or where discounts are given to the organisation on purchases. In the current year we received cash donations from the community from donors who are not members but support the objectives of the organisation.

	2022	2022
	\$	\$
Cash donations - Members	1,338	1,481
Cash donations – Non - Members	2,910	0
Donations in kind	<u>0</u>	<u>678</u>
	<u>4,248</u>	<u>1,156</u>

Note 3. Expenditure

<i>Community Engagement</i>		
Printing & Stationery	666	296
Monument	153	596
Maryborough – Carisbrook Walk	110	0
Volunteer Recognition	<u>169</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>1,099</u>	<u>892</u>
<i>Marketing & Communications</i>		
Website	168	120
Domain Name Registration	0	88
Consultants	198	0
Zoom Subscription	282	256
Graphic Designs	<u>787</u>	<u>345</u>
	<u>1,435</u>	<u>809</u>
<i>General & Administration</i>		
Bank Fees	128	41
Hire of Rooms & Meeting Expenses	194	234
Insurance	190	260
Subscriptions	<u>370</u>	<u>55</u>
	<u>881</u>	<u>590</u>

Note 4. Special Projects

a Project – Volunteer Induction & Training

During the financial year CMRT benefitted from the talent and work of regular or project volunteers and was able to draw from time-to-time on other volunteers who made themselves available for casual roles. CMRT aims to remain a volunteer organisation of choice to robustly operationalise best practice policies for volunteers. In the previous financial year the organisation received a grant of \$2,000 from the Mt Alexander Shire Council to fund volunteer induction and training and this was successfully completed in that year.

b Project – Documentary Filming

The organisation received a grant of \$5,000 from the Maldon & District Community Bank Bendigo Bank in the previous financial year to fund a documentary about the people, stories and landscape associated with the proposed path of the Castlemaine to Maryborough rail trail. Expenditure totalling \$2,300 was incurred during the previous financial period and a further \$2,770 was incurred in the current financial to successfully complete the documentary.

c Project – Better on a Bike

The organisation received a grant of \$2,000 from the Central Goldfields Shire Council (CGSC) in the previous financial period to fund five workshops covering bike maintenance, safe riding and bike touring. The workshops were successfully completed in that period with a surplus of \$15 which has been refunded to the CGSC in the current financial year.

d Project – Feasibility Study Fundraising

In the previous financial year \$21,121 was raised from donors of which, \$18,000 was allocated to the application for a grant from the Victorian Government through the Enabling Tourism Fund on the basis of the Government contributing \$4 for every \$1 an organisation could contribute. Both Mt Alexander Shire Council and the Central Goldfields Shire Council contributed \$6,000 each and as a result a grant of \$120,000 was successful which meant \$150,000 being available for a feasibility study to be undertaken. Consultants were engaged at a cost of \$150,000. At the conclusion of the study \$5000 remained in unspent funds. Regional Development Victoria approved expenditure to enable a communication tool to be developed. The organisation has, as of 30 June 2023, a balance of \$2,604 from the fundraising which can be expended at the discretion of the committee to promote the rail trail.

Note 5. Cash at Bank

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Savings Account	3,798	4,516
Savings Account – Feasibility Fundraising	2,604	20,655
Statement Account	137	89
Cash on Hand	<u>60</u>	<u>69</u>
	<u>6,599</u>	<u>25,329</u>
Committed Funds		
Volunteer Induction & Training	0	0
Documentary Filming	0	2,700
Better on a Bike	0	15
Feasibility Study	<u>0</u>	<u>20,655</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>23,370</u>
Available funds	<u>6,599</u>	<u>1,959</u>

Note 6. Provisions and Accruals

Income in Advance	0	14
Accrued Expense	<u>0</u>	<u>146</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>160</u>

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.

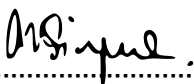
In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on the previous pages:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Castlemaine – Maryborough Rail Trail Inc. as at 30 June 2023 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. will 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:



.....
Des Boucher



.....
Janice Simpson

Dated this 31st day of October 2023

5. Our other important information

Acknowledgements

The Committee wish to acknowledge the support of the following:

Grants

- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Central Goldfields Shire Council
- Maldon & District Community Bank

Major Sponsors

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

Sponsors

- Castlemaine: Giant Store, Crosby Architects, Snowball Social
- Campbells Creek: Five Flags Merchants, Campbells Creek Hardware
- Carisbrook: Carisbrook Post Office Café, Craigee Winery, Danny Tatchell Plumbing
- Guildford: Guildford General Store, Guildford Family Hotel
- Maryborough: Maryborough Paramount Theatre, Maryborough Railway Café & Tracks Bar, PJs Hardware, Highland Society, Golf Club, Bull & Mouth Hotel
- Newstead: Dig Café, Enviro Shop
- Avoca: Heathcliffe & Elizabeth Teal
- South Yarra: Como Wine & Spirits

Donors

The Committee wish to acknowledge the support of the following donors:

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, J Simpson, 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, E Peck.

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.

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.

Donate to the organisation

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.

Sign our petition

Love the trail? Join in the chorus for change! Sign our petition, like us on social media and stay in touch.

Looking to the future

The foundation stones we have set in place, quite literally at Strangways where there is a marker in the ground acknowledging the trail unveiled by Cr Matt Driscoll from Mt Alexander Shire on May 22nd, are proving solid. The aims for the 2022-23 year are simple to say: keep the wheels turning and get up that next hill.

To achieve this some of our 2022-23 initiatives are:

- working with the Shires of Mt Alexander and Central Goldfields and our State and Federal parliamentarians to win further funding for the next stage
- engaging with the Carisbrook community to showcase the trail and the social and economic benefits it will bring to the community
- rebuilding our community outreach through our spirited and energetic community ambassadors
- persuading capable people to step forward and get involved in our work, adding to our not inconsiderable volunteer talent pool
- ensuring that our association is adequately resourced and managed to continue to do its work

Making change in community is not easy. There will always be the knockers and the naysayers. We can choose to capitulate to them, or we can choose another pathway. We already persuade people through friendship, willingness to listen and reliable service that we are on the right track. We know our communities will be all the better once our vision is reality. Do come and join us. We'd love to have you along for the ride.

Contact us

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