

Castlemaine Maryborough Rail Trail Incorporated ABN 24239558815 Annual Report July 2023 – June 2024



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 aim 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 2023 – 30th June 2024 the principal activities of the organisation included:

- encouraging people to join CMRT as members;
- recruiting volunteers;
- completing a major community project; and
- undertaking and completing a feasibility study of the proposed Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail which included a positive cost/benefit analysis of building a leisure trail between Castlemaine and Maryborough; and
- undertaking a further grant application to the Victorian Government through the Enabling Tourism Fund, to undertake a pre-construction study of the proposed Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail. This stage which we have called the pre-construction stage will create a reference design, conduct environmental and cultural studies, as well as formalising arrangements with VicTrack for the lease of the land and various other authorities, granting access and permissions.

Our people: Volunteer committee members

Janice Simpson	President	appointed 11 March 2021
Geoff Hooke	Secretary	appointed 23 November 2022
Des Boucher	Treasurer	appointed 23 July 2021
Steve Foskey		appointed 10 December 2021
Ken Stewart		appointed 23 November 2022
Bob Forde		resigned 22 November 2023
Sandy Harman		resigned 22 November 2023
John Carruthers		resigned 22 November 2023
Greg James		appointed 22 November 2023
Steve Harrisson		appointed 22 November 2023

Janice Simpson, PhD

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.

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.

Steve Foskey

Steve lives in Newstead. 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, a keen lifetime cyclist, who lives in Maryborough, is keen to see the unique opportunity to join Maryborough and Castlemaine stations with a multi-use rail trail come to fruition.

Ken Stewart

Ken lives in Chewton. He is a keen road and rail trail cyclist who has in recent times concentrated more on riding rail trails. He has 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.

Greg James

Greg lives in Newstead and worked as a teacher in Maryborough for 30 years. Originally from Melbourne, he embraces the country lifestyle and is a keen cyclist and golfer.

Steve Harrisson

Steve resides in Joyces Creek. He retired as an exploration geologist and now manages a grove of 400 olive trees and revegetates part of the property to provide habitat for woodland birds. A lifelong recreational cyclist and keen user of rail trails.

2. Governance

Structure

As of 30th June 2024, there were 47 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 Held	No of Meetings Attended
Janice Simpson	6	6
John Carruthers	3	3
Bob Forde	3	2
Sandy Harman	3	2
Des Boucher	6	5
Steve Foskey	6	6
Geoff Hooke	6	6
Steve Harrison	3	2
Ken Stewart	6	5
Greg James	3	2

President's Report

During the twelve months from July 2023 to June 2024, CMRT tallied up some prodigious results from our various activities. Let me tell you the story.

In spring 2023 the committee celebrated the Feasibility Study report release with a quiet and enthusiastic launch at Cairn Curran. MLAs Maree Edwards and Martha Haylett were on hand to do the officiating, and our two mayors, Grace La Vella, Central Goldfields (CGSC) and Matt Driscoll, Mt Alexander (MASC) were part of our cheer squad.

Media coverage was great with TV and print media on hand. The report's author, Tim Fitzgerald lead consultant from Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architects (FFLA) also made the trip from Melbourne to see it launched. Other firms which worked with FFLA included Urban Enterprise, Structcom and Newton Kerr + Partners.

Together this multi-skilled team provided a business case, a detailed study of the trail, its route, its connections to villages, as well as descriptive economic and structural assessments.



CASTLEMAINE to MARYBOROUGH Rail Trail Feasibility Study

July 2023

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](#)).

We are grateful to the State Government's Enabling Tourism Fund for the money to make this report happen. We produced a short video that highlights the key messages of the feasibility study which can be viewed here on our [website](#).

The committee took the next step by applying again for ETF funding, this time for \$400,000 in late March 2024. To do this we received pledges from our two shires for \$40,000 each and \$20,000 from the Avoca Maryborough Community Bank as well as raising \$18,000 from our supporters and donors. We are grateful to the volunteers who helped with this application: Kate Couttie, Ian Lillington and Bob Forde, as well as our committee members who put in a sterling effort in assembling data and words.

The Committee successfully applied for a community grant from Central Goldfields and received \$2,000 to host a welcome to country and smoking ceremony conducted by Uncle Jason Kerr at the start of our walk from Maryborough to Carisbrook, titled *Walking The Past; Glimpsing The Future*. More than 110 people registered and 94 completing the walk. We were addressed by the Maryborough Field Naturalists, the Midlands Maryborough and the Carisbrook Historical Societies along the way, enjoying a Carisbrook Lions Club lunch at Market Reserve at the walk's end.

In March 2024 we were alerted to an application to site a broiler farm adjacent to the rail line along the Moolort Plains. CMRT has met with the Central Goldfields Shire planning department and submitted a formal objection to the plan. At this stage we are assured that no action will be taken by Central Goldfields Shire until a new council is in place in November and the subsequent appointment of a permanent CEO. Although we were initially surprised by this, we have discovered a lot about broiler farms and planning permissions since then, and are comfortable that we can continue with our planning to build a world-class leisure trail unabated and unimpeded.

We also raised valuable operating funds through our alliance with the Guildford Family Hotel where we sold raffle tickets in September, netting the proceeds. This is a fabulous community opportunity and we thank the hotel for their support.

Three committee members resigned at the November 2023 AGM. Bob Forde from Guildford, a foundation member, continues to use his considerable skills to assist the committee with activities including walks, liaison with VicTrack and understanding a recent planning application for a broiler farm sited adjacent to the rail line.



Sandy Harman who has been key to the development of video materials and story-telling as well as holding the role of vice president for a year contributed professional skills to our operations. John Carruthers, another foundation member, served CMRT in many capacities including president, secretary and IT and communications leader. John's work was and is, as he has continued to volunteer to assist the committee, professional and high-level. We thank these people for their contributions and recognise the richness and talent they bring to CMRT.

Two members, Greg James and Steve Harrisson, joined the committee in November 2023 and have made first-rate contributions. Our committee is skilled, focused, respectful and energetic; we have active members and volunteers support the committee in all sorts of ways; we are great advocates for what we do; and have continued to consolidate partnerships with others in our community. Most of all, we're excited about completing the next stage and getting this project under the shovel.


Janice Simpson, President

A Brief Footnote

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Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

PO Box 500
East Melbourne VIC 8002

Ref: BMIN-2-24-36932

Ms Janice Simpson
Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail Inc
janice@cmrailtrail.org.au

Dear Ms Simpson

I am pleased to confirm the outcome of Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail Inc's application to the Victorian Government's Enabling Tourism Fund 2024.

The application that has been successful is:

Project Name	Stream	Funding Amount
Castlemaine-Maryborough Rail Trail Pre-Construction Project	Stream 2	\$400,000

A member of the Tourism Infrastructure Team will be in contact with you shortly regarding funding arrangements.

Congratulations on the success of your application and I look forward to hearing about the outcomes of this project.

Yours sincerely

Steve Dimopoulos MP
Member for Oakleigh
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Date: 23/08/2024

It was a seriously windy yet sunny winter's morning as we gathered at the former Newstead railway Station with MLAs Maree Edwards for Bendigo West and Martha Haylett for Ripon to announce the \$400,000 Enabling Tourism Fund grant allocated by the Victorian Government. The crowd numbered approximately 30 and we welcomed Central Goldfields Shire Mayor Liesbeth Long and Mount Alexander Shire Mayor Matt Driscoll along with our committee members, many volunteers and members of the public. This stage which we have called the pre-construction stage will produce a reference design, conduct environmental and cultural studies as well as formalising arrangements with VicTrack for the lease of the land and various other authorities, granting access and permissions. We expect this work to be completed in early 2026.



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3. Finances

Treasurer's report

During the financial year the organisation received \$690 in membership fees compared to \$855 for the previous year, \$770 in donations from members compared to \$1,338 for the previous year and \$525 from non-members compared to \$2,910 for the previous year. Fundraising activities netted us \$3,259 compared to \$776 in the previous year. Total revenue for the current financial year was \$5,437 down \$502 from the previous year and expenses incurred this year totalled \$1,928 down \$1,486 from the previous year. There were no abnormal items of expenditure, and the organisation achieved an operating surplus of \$3,509 up \$984 from the previous year.

In the current financial year, we received a grant of \$2,000 from the Central Goldfields Shire Council to fund a walk from Maryborough to Carisbrook ("*Walking the past Glimpsing the future*"). The walk was a success with ticket sales, raffles and donations raising a further \$2,412, and after costs of \$3,425, a surplus of \$987 was achieved.

In the current financial year, the organisation lodged another funding 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. These funds will be applied to undertake a pre-construction stage study.

We were able to raise \$15,467 from donors and together with the surplus of \$2,668 from the previous fund raising we had a balance as at 30 June 2024 of \$18,135 to contribute towards the application where we applied for a grant of \$400,000 on the basis of having \$100,000 to contribute. Both Mt Alexander Shire Council and the Central Goldfields Shire Council committed to fund \$40,000 each if we are successful and the and the Avoca Maryborough & St Arnaud Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) committed to fund \$20,000 if we are successful.

Subsequent to 30 June 2024 we were advised that we were successful in our grant application and therefore we have available \$500,000 to undertake the pre-construction stage study. The \$18,135 is now available to cover any contingent costs above \$500,000.

Net income on projects for the current financial year totalled \$16,454. Therefore the net result for the financial year was a surplus of \$19,963 compared to a deficit in the previous year of (\$18,337). As at the 30 June 2024 the organisation had a surplus of members funds of \$26,795 represented by cash reserves of \$26,562 and equipment of \$233.



Des Boucher, Treasurer

Financial Statements

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Income			
Membership Fees		690	855
Donations	2	770	1,338
Donations – Non Members	2	525	2,910
Fundraising Activities	3	3,259	776
Interest Received		<u>193</u>	<u>60</u>
Total Income		<u>5,437</u>	<u>5,939</u>
Less Expenditure			
Community Engagement	4	299	1,099
Marketing & Communications	4	869	1,435
General & Administration	4	<u>760</u>	<u>880</u>
Total Operation Expenditure		<u>1,928</u>	<u>3,414</u>
Operation Surplus		<u>3,509</u>	<u>2,525</u>
Special Projects			
Documentary Film			
Grant Received – Maldon & District Community Bank		0	0
Less Costs		<u>0</u>	<u>2,770</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>(2,770)</u>
Better on a Bike			
Grant Received – Central Goldfields Shire Council		0	0
Less Costs		<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>(15)</u>
Maryborough – Carisbrook Walk	5a		
Grant Received – Central Goldfields Shire Council		2,000	0
Income participants		<u>2,412</u>	<u>0</u>
		4,412	0
Less Costs		<u>3,425</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>987</u>	<u>0</u>
Feasibility Study Fundraising	5 b		
Donations Received		15,920	0
Less Costs		<u>453</u>	<u>18,077</u>
		<u>15,467</u>	<u>(18,077)</u>
Special Projects Surplus (Deficit)		<u>16,454</u>	<u>(20,862)</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)		<u>19,963</u>	<u>(18,337)</u>

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30th June 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Balance at beginning of period		6,832	25,169
Surplus (Deficit) for period		<u>19,963</u>	<u>(18,337)</u>
Balance at end of period		<u>26,795</u>	<u>6,832</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024	2023
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	6	26,502	6,539
Cash on Hand		<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>26,562</u>	<u>6,599</u>
Non Current Assets			
Data Projector & Accessories		1,033	1,033
Less Grant Mt Alexander Shire Council		<u>(800)</u>	<u>(800)</u>
Total Non Current Assets		<u>233</u>	<u>233</u>
Total Assets		<u>26,795</u>	<u>6,832</u>
Liabilities		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Assets		<u>26,795</u>	<u>6,832</u>
Capital Account			
Accumulated Surplus		<u>26,795</u>	<u>6,832</u>

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30th June 2024

	Note	2024	2023
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash receipts from members & supporters		5,437	5,939
Cash paid for services & supplies		<u>(1,928)</u>	<u>(3,414)</u>
Cash generated from operating activities		<u>3,509</u>	<u>2,525</u>
Cash Flows from Special Projects			
Cash receipts from grants		2,000	0
Cash receipts from participants		2,412	0
Cash from donations for feasibility study		15,920	0
Cash paid for services & supplies		<u>(3,878)</u>	<u>(20,862)</u>
Cash generated from special projects		<u>16,454</u>	<u>(20,862)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Cash paid for equipment		<u>0</u>	<u>(233)</u>
Cash generated from investing activities		<u>0</u>	<u>(233)</u>
Net (decrease) increase in cash		19,963	(18,570)
Cash at beginning of year		<u>6,599</u>	<u>25,169</u>
Cash at end of year	6	<u>26,562</u>	<u>6,599</u>

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

Cash donations are received from members and supporters in the community who are not members but support the objectives of the organisation.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash donations - Members	770	1,338
Cash donations – Non-Members	525	2,910
	<u>1,295</u>	<u>4,248</u>

Note 3. Fundraising Activities

Two fund raising events occurred in the current year. There was a Trivia Quiz event (also held in the previous year) followed up by a series of raffle nights in September 2023 courtesy of the Guildford Hotel whereby volunteers sell raffle tickets and the organisation keep the proceeds with the prizes being provided by the hotel.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Trivia Quiz		
Ticket sales	1,116	654
Raffle proceeds	<u>560</u>	<u>245</u>
Less costs	<u>(166)</u>	<u>(123)</u>
	<u>1,510</u>	<u>776</u>
Guildford Family Hotel		
Raffle proceeds	<u>1,749</u>	0
	<u>3,259</u>	<u>776</u>

Note 4. Expenditure

Community Engagement		
Printing & Stationery	299	666
Monument	0	154
Event cancellation fee	0	110
Volunteer Recognition	<u>0</u>	<u>169</u>
	<u>299</u>	<u>1,099</u>
Marketing & Communications		
Website & Domain Name Registration	273	168
Consultants	135	198
Zoom Subscription	296	282
Graphic Designs	<u>165</u>	<u>787</u>
	<u>869</u>	<u>1,435</u>
General & Administration		
Bank Fees	66	128
Hire of Rooms & Meeting Expenses	114	192
Insurance	280	190
Subscriptions	<u>300</u>	<u>370</u>
	<u>760</u>	<u>880</u>

Note 5. Special Projects

a. Project – Maryborough to Carisbrook Walk

The organisation received a grant of \$2,000 from the Central Goldfields Shire Council towards the costs of undertaking a walk from Maryborough to Carisbrook promoted as “Walking the past Glimpsing the future”. 94 walkers participated in the walk and raised additional income of \$2,412 from ticket sales, raffles and donations. Costs incurred in staging the walk totalled \$3,425 resulting in a surplus of \$987.

b. Project – Pre-construction Stage Fundraising

At 30 June 2023 the organisation had a balance of funds from the initial feasibility study of \$2,604 on which \$64 was earned in interest in the current financial year providing a balance for these funds at 30 June 2024 of \$2,668. In the current financial year another \$15,467 was raised from donors towards a second application for a grant from the Victorian Government through the Enabling Tourism Fund to fund the pre-construction stage of the rail trail. This is on the basis of the Government contributing \$4 for every \$1 an organisation could contribute. The organisation applied for a grant of \$400,000 having commitments totalling \$100,000 from both Mt Alexander Shire Council and the Central Goldfields Shire Council to contribute \$40,000 each if the grant is successful together with a grant from the Avoca Maryborough & St Arnaud Community Bank (Bendigo bank) of \$20,000 if we are successful. As a result of this support from both councils and the Avoca Maryborough & St Arnaud Community Bank the organisation as of 30 June 2024 has additional funds of \$18,135 available to cover any contingent or other costs which can be expended at the discretion of the committee to promote the rail trail.

Subsequent to 30 June 2024 the organisation was advised that it was successful in their grant application.

Note 6. Cash at Bank

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Savings Account	8,133	3,798
Savings Account – Feasibility Fundraising	18,135	2,604
Statement Account	234	137
Cash on Hand	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
	<u>26,562</u>	<u>6,599</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:

Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Castlemaine – Maryborough Rail Trail Inc. as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the period ended on that date.

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 nineteenth day of September 2024

5. Other important information

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.

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 22, 2022, are proving solid. We are well on our way to constructing a world-class leisure trail.

Making change in community is exciting

We persuade people through friendship, willingness to listen and reliable service that we are on the right track. We know our communities will benefit once our vision is reality. Do come and join us. We'd love to have you along for the ride.

Contact us

Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail Incorporated

ABN 24 239 558 815

C/- Unit 6, 167-171 Railway Street, Maryborough Vic 3465

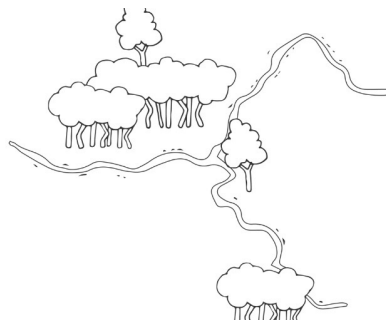
hello@cmrailtrail.org.au

<https://cmrailtrail.org.au/>



Castlemaine - Maryborough Rail Trail Inc

CM.RT



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