



# INTO OUR HANDS

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## 2022-23 GRANTS

GRANTS

**\$156,800**  
TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS

GRANTS  
DISTRIBUTED  
**49**

## SINCE OUR INCEPTION

GRANTS  
DISTRIBUTED  
**227**

**\$1,460,359.30**  
TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS

## ABOUT US

Into Our Hands Community Foundation believes strongly in the future of our region. Our goal is to build a strong and capable North East Victoria by providing an opportunity for giving, building connections, and responding to community needs.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Into Our Hands Community Foundation acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants and traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work.

We pay our respects to all Elders past, present and emerging.

# 2022-23 IMPACT REPORT



# Message from the Chair & EO

Into Our Hands Community Foundation (IOH) embarked on its journey in 2012 with a resolute mission - to continue the healing process within the communities affected by one of Australia's most devastating natural disasters, the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

Since its establishment, IOH has tirelessly worked towards facilitating the healing and resurgence of over 130 community organisations and the people they support in North East Victoria.

As we reflect on our journey, we express our deepest gratitude to the previous Committee and Board members, who through unwavering dedication and commitment have paved the way for the remarkable impact IOH has achieved. Turning our eyes to the future, we broaden our vision from a disaster recovery model to supporting the development of a community led, placed based model where visionary local leaders identify community issues and proactively seek to initiate enduring solutions.

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- Peter McCabe, Executive Officer
- Matt Joyce, Chair

## THANKS TO RUTH

Into Our Hands is indebted to our former Chair, Ruth Kneebone, for her untiring and dedicated work.

Ruth was appointed chair in 2019. She has spent countless hours working for both IOH and the Give Wangaratta sub-fund, with her extensive knowledge of our community being a real strength for us. She also is well linked in our community and this has assisted in significantly raising the profile of IOH.

We thank Ruth for her dedication and commitment.



## Into Our Hands Community Foundation Public Fund

Into Our Hands seeks to build a strong and capable North East Victoria by providing an opportunity for giving, building connections, and responding to community needs.

Grants through our Public Fund are targeted towards social impact projects that achieve positive and measurable results, fostering a strong and vibrant community for all.

We look forward to building a bright future for the communities of North East Victoria and seeing our community funds grow from strength to strength.

**\$ 1,460,359.30**  
**TOTAL VALUE OF PROJECT GRANTS**

## GROWING VOLUNTEER RESILIENCE AND CAPACITY PROGRAM

The Growing Volunteer Resilience and Capacity Program for fire-affected community groups project was launched this year. This project has received financial support from Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) and Foundation for Rural & Regional Recovery (FRRR).

It is being delivered by Into Our Hands Community Foundation, in partnership with Alpine Valleys Community Leadership. The program will run over two years and is aimed at volunteer-run groups and critical service clubs located in the fire-affected LGAs of Rural City of Wangaratta, Alpine, Indigo and Mansfield Shires.

In 2023 the program was delivered to volunteer groups within Alpine Shire and Rural City of Wangaratta. In 2024, the program will be offered to volunteer groups in Indigo and Mansfield Shires. Its goal is to provide groups with advice and support that builds resilient, strong, and adaptive organisations who can sustain their operations and contribute to community recovery efforts. It is available to directly support up to 15 community groups in each LGA, with free training and support in areas such as organisational governance and strategic planning, volunteer engagement, grant writing, and project management. Participants have already said how beneficial the program is, allowing them to build their governance frameworks and attract more volunteers.

More information: <https://avclp.org.au/>

# OUR SUB FUNDS



## PROJECT 365 - U CAN CRY

Project 365 - U Can Cry is committed to supporting community-building projects spanning various age groups, with a primary emphasis on youth. Their mission is to foster resilience and address mental health challenges, ultimately leading to happier and more fulfilling lives.

### 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS:

In May 2022, after a year of meticulous planning, dedicated rehearsals, and extensive preparation, Project 365's 'U Can Cry' concerts unfolded as a resounding success.

More than 800 people attended the Wangaratta Performing Arts & Convention Centre, effectively shining a spotlight on the pressing issue of mental health while actively fostering crucial conversations.

## BRIGHT & DISTRICT SUB-FUND

Established in 2021, this charitable fund serves to support the Bright community and its neighbouring areas. Open to public donations, the grant-making activities will contribute to charitable projects and initiatives within the Bright region.



Susan Clarke from Myrtleford Community Garden

## GROW MYRTLEFORD+ SUB-FUND

Established in 2021, this fund is dedicated to bolstering the Myrtleford community and its surrounding areas. It is open to public donations, and its grant-making endeavours will focus on enhancing projects in the Myrtleford region.

### 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS:

In its 2022 grant round, Myrtleford organisations to receive funding including Myrtleford Landcare, Myrtleford Community Garden, Myrtleford Community Power, Myrtleford and District Landcare & Sustainability Group Inc., and Myrtleford Recreation Reserve.

They shared in over \$11,000 in funding, with an additional \$10,000 pledged for a Mobile Health Outreach Facility, ensuring that the local community continues to benefit from this vital support.

## GIVE WANGARATTA SUB-FUND

GIVE Wangaratta provides a platform for residents to support causes that matter to them. Donations received will contribute to the creation of a local community fund, which will, in turn, provide grants to support local projects, individuals, and initiatives that serve the public interest and charitable causes.

### 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS:

The grant recipients in 2023 are a testament to the diverse and meaningful impact GIVE Wangaratta has made.

Six Wangaratta and district organisations received \$30,000 in funding in 2023. Three community groups - The Open Door Neighbourhood House Community Pantry, A Better Life for Foster Kids and Boys to the Bush - each received a \$5000 grant. The Whitfield Community Childcare Centre received \$10,000, while the Goulburn and North-East Arts Alliance (GANEEA) received \$3000 and Wangaratta Artists Society \$2000.

As a sub-fund of the Into Our Hands Community Foundation, GIVE Wangaratta has provided community-strengthening grants worth more \$166,000 since its inception in 2019.





## ALEX RACE-STELLING FUND

The Alex Race-Stelling Fund was established to honour the memory of Alex, who passed away suddenly in early 2022 at the age of 21. Alex had a passion for running and a deep love for literature, creative writing, and sharing great books with friends. To continue sharing Alex's enthusiasm for reading and writing, The Alex Race-Stelling Fund aims to support educational initiatives by schools and other organisations that nurture and promote reading, writing, and the humanities, as well as leadership among young people.

### 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS:

The Young Writers Day featured a special guest writer, Gabriel Bergomoser, a prolific author and award-winning screenwriter. Gabriel's energy and passion were palpable from the very beginning, captivating an audience of over 50 students. His stories of repeated failures in the literary world, each one fuelling his determination to succeed, resonated deeply with the young minds in attendance.



## ANGIE'S ANGELS PUBLIC FUND

The Angie's Angels fund aims to support children who are facing the loss of their parent, or who may otherwise be disadvantaged. It was formed following the death of Angie Siperki-Marotta, who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2016. At the time, there was few supports for their son, Ashton and five year old daughter Allegra. In the past 12 months, Angie's Angels have begun stepping up their efforts to raise awareness and money for the fund.

### 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS:

In 2023, Angie's Angels held a fundraising dinner, hosted in August 2023 at the charming Aroma Deli Café. This remarkable event rallied the community and resulted in a substantial contribution, amassing nearly \$4000 to bolster our mission.

## GRANTS BY SHIRE

**\$354,777.50**  
RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA

GRANTS  
DISTRIBUTED

**65**

GRANTS  
DISTRIBUTED  
**31**

**\$289,434.85**  
INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL

GRANTS  
DISTRIBUTED

**115**

**\$683,568.95**  
ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL

## GARRY NASH & CO. COMMUNITY FUND

Garry Nash & Co. Real Estate established their community fund to commemorate 40 years in business. This sub fund envisions assisting the community and projects in various key areas, including Housing and Homelessness, Natural Disaster Relief, Health and Wellbeing, and Education.

### 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS:

In early 2022, the Garry Nash and Co. Community Fund held its inaugural grants round and dispersed over \$14,000 worth of funding to 11 local organisations.

In 2023, a total of 17 community groups in the Wangaratta area benefitted with more than \$36,000 in funding.

