



GEELONG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Giving. Forever.

Annual Report 2024 - 2025





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Giving. Forever.

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Geelong Community Foundation Vision Statement

VISION

A connected, fair and thriving Geelong community.

MISSION

Identify, strengthen and support local community organisations that deliver activities that create lasting change in our region.

OUR PURPOSE

Cultivating Philanthropy

The Foundation fosters a spirit of generosity by building strong relationships with donors and the broader community. We raise awareness of local needs and help donors understand how their gifts create meaningful and lasting impact.

Stewarding Donor Gifts and Investing for Impact

The Foundation honours the trust of our donors by stewarding their gifts with care and integrity. We invest these funds to preserve and grow capital over time, ensuring long-term, sustainable impact for the Geelong community.

Increasing Capacity and Creating Impact

The Foundation strengthens the capacity of local community organisations through the provision of grants and other assistance, enabling them to strengthen their impact and better support the community.

Strengthening Capability

The Foundation strengthens the capability of grant partners and the broader community by sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and building connections.

OUR VALUES



Community

We work in partnership with our community – including donors, organisations and local leaders – to understand local needs and create meaningful impact.



Trust

We build trust through transparency, accountability and integrity in all that we do.



Financial Responsibility

We steward donor gifts with care, demonstrating strong financial management to support long-term community benefit.



Impact

We invest in initiatives that deliver meaningful, measurable outcomes for the Geelong community.



Collaboration

We collaborate internally and externally to amplify our collective efforts and achieve greater outcomes.

Welcome from the Chair



As I present my fourth Chair's Report for the Geelong Community Foundation Ltd, I reflect on a remarkable year. In 2025, we celebrate the Foundation's 25th anniversary, marking 25 years since its establishment in April 2000. What began as a new concept for Geelong has grown into three related trusts holding more than \$46 million as at 30 June 2025 – a testament to the generosity and trust of our community.

This year marked a major leadership transition, with our long-serving and second CEO, Gail Rodgers, retiring in September 2024 and succeeded by Amy Waters. The transition was seamless thanks to Gail's generous guidance and the skills and fresh perspective Amy has brought to the role. It was a pleasure to present the Geoffrey Neilson Award to Gail in June, recognising her outstanding contribution to the community. Following Amy's promotion, Charlotte Walker joined as Program and Impact Manager, bringing valuable experience to a strategic review of our grant-making policies and processes.

The Foundation achieved exceptional financial growth this year, with donations exceeding \$6 million and strong investment returns lifting the corpus significantly. This generosity, particularly from two families whose major gifts are detailed elsewhere in this report, reflects the community's confidence in the Foundation's impact during challenging economic times.

This year the Board farewelled Wendy Brooks, whose deep philanthropic knowledge has been greatly valued, as well as Mark Osborne, who served as Director for over 12 years, across two separate terms. We also welcomed Alice Macdougall, Keith Fagg OAM, and Melinda Planken as new Directors. Together, these new Directors bring a wealth of expertise in law, business, not-for-profit management, and financial planning.

I encourage you to read their profiles later in the report, as they are all remarkable individuals who are already making meaningful contributions to the Board.

As we celebrate 25 years, it's important to recognise the service of Val Lawrence, a Founding Director who has served the Foundation since its inception, including as Chair from 2009 to 2016. Val continues to be one of our hardest-working directors, and it was wonderful to showcase her contribution in our 25 Year Video. We also acknowledge Hayden Torney, Director Emeritus and past Chair from 2019 to 2021. Hayden, who became Chair of the Investment Committee this year, has served with distinction during a volatile period as we began exploring impact investments. Both Val and Hayden have communicated that they will be resigning from the Board at this year's AGM. On behalf of the Board, we thank them for their incredible service, leadership, and commitment to the Foundation.

The Foundation's committees remain central to our effectiveness. Being a director comes with significant responsibilities and time demands, and our directors give freely of their time and expertise, united by a shared passion for positive change in our community. Our committees are supported by highly skilled co-opted members whose contributions are also deeply appreciated.

This year the Board adopted a new three-year strategic plan, which is already influencing the Foundation's operations. While some programs will evolve, the Board remains driven by a commitment to ensuring that our growing corpus funds impactful initiatives that make our community a more caring and equitable place to live.

In early 2025, Federal Parliament enacted new legislation affecting several community foundations, including ours. While the framework is more complex than anticipated, the Board is carefully considering the best response to maintain compliance and alignment with our mission.

It is fitting that my final thanks are to our small team of dedicated staff. To Gail, Amy, Tony, Gennette, and Charlotte, my thanks for all your efforts during the year. As we celebrate 25 years of community impact, we look forward with confidence to building a more connected, fair and thriving Geelong community.

Michael J Betts
Chair

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

This year, the Geelong Community Foundation proudly celebrates 25 years of community impact. The Foundation's story began in 1997 through United Way Geelong (now Give Where You Live), whose Board saw the potential to build a lasting community fund for our region. Under the leadership of Geoffrey Neilson, the Foundation was officially launched in 2000 to serve Greater Geelong, the Surf Coast, Golden Plains and Queenscliffe.

We honour our founding donor, Ken Stott, whose remarkable generosity and belief in community enabled the Foundation's creation. We also acknowledge the original Board, staff, and early supporters whose vision and dedication built the foundation for lasting local philanthropy.

To everyone who has contributed since—our donors, grant partners, directors, staff and volunteers—thank you for helping create a stronger, more connected community.



Scan the QR code to watch our 25-year video and join us in celebrating this milestone year.



CEO Year in Review



It is a privilege to present my second report as CEO of the Geelong Community Foundation. It has been a wonderful year and I'm grateful for the generosity and support of the Foundation's directors, staff and donors as I've served my first year as CEO.

The past year has been truly remarkable. Together with our donors, we welcomed 20 new sub funds and received more than \$6.9 million in donations. Supported by a strong year of investment returns, these donations have increased our corpus to \$46.7 million. This achievement reflects the extraordinary generosity of our donor community and demonstrates the growing confidence in the Foundation as a trusted partner for community impact.

This year staff and directors have worked closely together to set an exciting agenda for the future, with a clear focus on impact. As part of this the Foundation developed a new vision and mission to guide our work, that builds on the strong foundation laid over many years. Our vision, for a connected, fair and thriving Geelong, expresses the future we aspire to for our region.

Our mission, to identify, strengthen and support local community organisations that deliver activities creating lasting change, keeps our focus squarely on deepening impact in all that we do.

Underpinning this new direction is our three-year strategic plan which guides us through three interconnected pillars. We work to maximise positive impact on communities in the region through evidence-informed grantmaking and stronger partnerships. We create a spirit of generosity by nurturing a culture of giving and encouraging more people to join us in shaping a better future. And we build organisational strength so that the Foundation is sustainable, trusted and well-positioned to serve Geelong for generations to come.

A significant milestone was the appointment of Charlotte Walker in November 2024 as our new Program & Impact Manager. Charlotte brings with her a strong background in social work and a deep understanding of the local community and sector challenges. Since joining the Foundation, she has taken the lead in our grantmaking and overseen the largest year of grantmaking in the Foundation's history. In total, we provided 64 grants valued at more than \$1.7 million to support our community, including a \$100,000 25-year celebratory grant to Thread Together, bringing our total grantmaking to date to more than \$16.3 million. We also funded 23 scholarships, totalling \$35,500, supporting young people as they engage in their education.

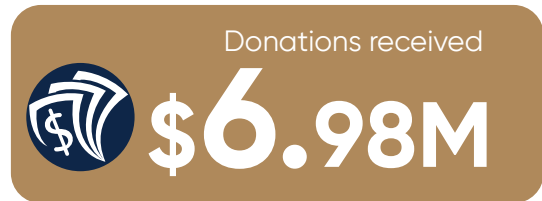
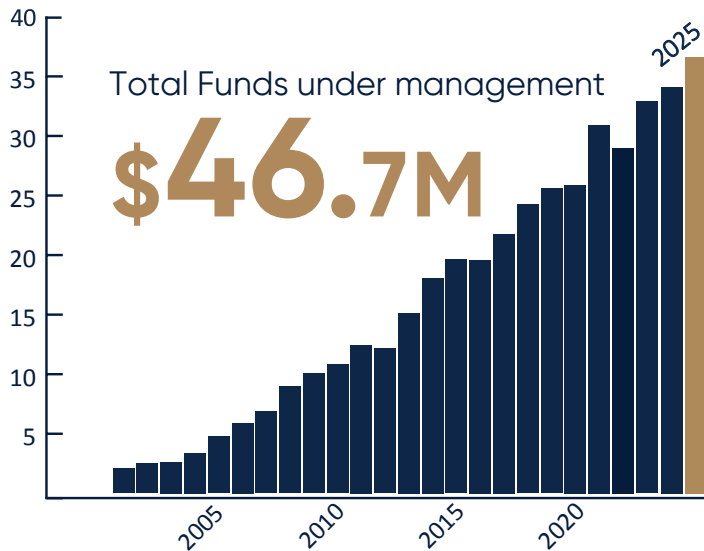
***In total, we provided
64 grants valued at
more than \$1.7 million
to support our
community.***

As we look ahead, we are committed to sharing more stories of impact with you. We hope these stories will inspire, deepen your connection to the work of the Foundation, and highlight how every gift helps build a more connected, fair and thriving Geelong.

Thank you for your trust and support as we continue this important journey together.

Amy Waters
CEO

Our Year at a Glance



7 YEAR Investment return

9.47%PA

Grants and Scholarships paid

\$1.79M

\$16.5M
Since 2000

Grants are provided for activity within the City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast Shire, Borough of Queenscliffe and Golden Plains Shire.



Administration expenses

1.62%



Of funds under management.



**GEELONG
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Giving. Forever.

Thankyou

20 NEW Sub Funds

278 P500 Donors
(2024 Campaign)



IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2024-25



\$1,487,871

Active grants and
scholarships



55 GRANTS



35

Education scholarships



66,258

People supported in
our community



FOOD AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT

(Food Relief, Material Aid, Homelessness
Assistance)



10 GRANTS

**TOTALLING
\$259,000**



49,813

**INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED**

Key Outcomes:

- Reduced barriers to access food
- Increased dignity of choice
- Reduced financial stress
- Reduced hunger and increased nutrition
- Increased warmth and shelter
- Increased physical hygiene
- Enhanced trust, relationships and friendships
- Reduced tiredness and improved mental clarity



EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



**12 GRANTS &
35 SCHOLARSHIPS**

**TOTALLING
\$366,420**



4,622

**INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED**

Key Outcomes:

- Reduced financial barriers to participate in education
- Increased literacy and numeracy skills
- Increased educational attainment
- Increased leadership and teamwork skills
- Increased confidence and self belief
- Increased preparedness to enter the workforce
- Increased employment
- Increased professional development for teachers



HEALTH, RESILIENCE AND CONNECTION

(Physical & Mental Health, Family Support, Connection & Belonging and Life Skills)



32 GRANTS

TOTALLING
\$812,451



11,774

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

Key Outcomes:

- Increased mental health literacy
- Increased help-seeking behaviours
- Improved physical and mental health
- Reduced anxiety and stress
- Enhanced relationships, connection and self-worth
- Reduced recidivism
- Increased friendships and reduced loneliness
- Increased child and family safety
- Increased community resilience



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

(Recycling & Renewable Energy and Land Management & Regeneration)



1 GRANT

TOTALLING
\$50,000

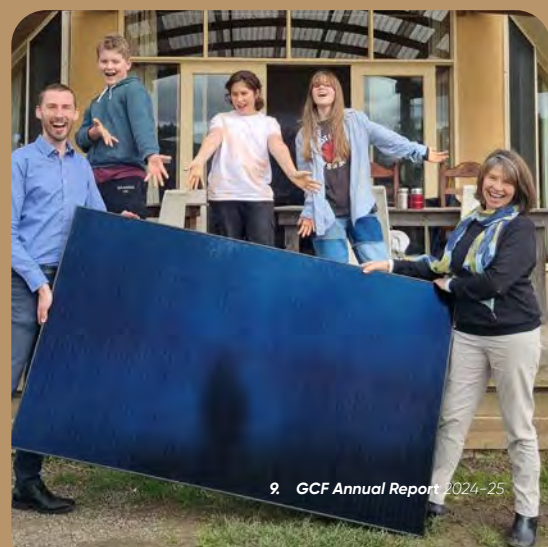


49

LOCAL FOR-PURPOSE
ORGANISATIONS

Key Outcomes:

- 456 kilowatts of renewable energy installed
- \$135,127 in utility costs and \$48,475 in tariffs saved
- Increased uptake of renewable energy
- Enhanced sustainability
- Reduced carbon footprint
- Increased funding available to deliver critical services, through redirecting funds from utility costs to core operations



Thread Together Mobile Wardrobe: Delivering Dignity and Choice Across Geelong

Hope on Wheels, Impact in Motion

In 2025, Geelong welcomed a first for the region – the arrival of the Thread Together Mobile Wardrobe. This travelling clothing hub was brought to our community through the Geelong Community Foundation's 25-Year Anniversary Grant. It brings brand-new, quality clothing directly to people experiencing hardship, ensuring access to what they need with dignity and choice.

At neighbourhood houses, community centres, and local events, the Mobile Wardrobe sets up welcoming pop-up activations where individuals and families can browse and select clothing that suits their size, style, and needs. From warm loungewear to everyday essentials and workwear, the service empowers people not only to be clothed, but to feel confident, included, and supported.

*Appropriate clothing
isn't a luxury. It's
essential for dignity,
confidence, and
belonging.*

– Anthony Chesler, Thread Together

For many in our region, the rising cost of living has made clothing a lower priority compared to rent, food, and medicine. The Mobile Wardrobe responds to this reality by removing barriers and meeting people where they are – bringing practical support and dignity straight into communities.

Each activation is a reminder that even small acts of generosity can have a profound impact.

The service has engaged more than 20 of the Foundation's existing local grant partners, including Lazarus, Meli, Cloverdale Community Centre, Geelong Food Share and Cultura, creating a powerful network of collaboration. Together, these agencies help identify those most in need and ensure that every delivery reaches people facing financial hardship, homelessness, or crisis.

Beyond clothing, the Mobile Wardrobe offers something deeper – a renewed sense of self-worth.

"When the mobile wardrobe arrived, it felt like a fresh start. For the first time in a long while, I could choose clothes that actually fit me and made me feel like myself again. It might seem small, but putting on something new gave me hope – it reminded me that I'm moving forward and that people still care." – Trevor, experiencing homelessness



In its first three months of operation, the Mobile Wardrobe has already made a measurable difference across Geelong.

22

community pop-ups hosted

573

individuals supported with new clothing



More than \$220,000 of new clothing distributed



Celebrating 25 Years with a Transformational Grant

The establishment of the Geelong Mobile Wardrobe was made possible through the Geelong Community Foundation's 25-Year Anniversary Grant of \$100,000. This strategic grant was designed to mark the Foundation's 25 years of service to the region by investing in a project that reflects our values and delivers visible, lasting impact.

The Foundation's support has enabled Thread Together to embed its operations locally, coordinating with community partners across the City of Greater Geelong, the Borough of Queenscliffe, the Surf Coast Shire, and the Golden Plains Shire. This grant has ensured that essential clothing support – once out of reach for many – is now travelling directly to those who need it most.

This project embodies 25 years of collective generosity and care across Geelong.

– Amy Waters, CEO, Geelong Community Foundation

Thread Together's mission extends beyond clothing, it's about social inclusion and environmental responsibility. Working with over 2,000 fashion brands and retailers, including major partners such as David Jones and THE ICONIC, Thread Together redirects new, unsold clothing destined for landfill to people in need. Together, these efforts represent environmental and social impact in action – a model of effective, community-driven change.

This \$100,000 investment has unlocked more than double its value in clothing, countless community connections, and renewed confidence for hundreds of individuals – proof that one well-placed grant can spark lasting change. As the Mobile Wardrobe continues to expand its reach in 2025 and beyond, it stands as a powerful symbol of what can be achieved through collaboration, generosity, and shared purpose – an enduring legacy of dignity, inclusion, and community impact across our region.

YEARS
25
OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

Farm My School: Growing Futures from the Ground Up

Empowering community, connection and local food resilience with Farm My School

Something remarkable is happening at Farm My School – a regenerative market garden transforming unused school land at Bellarine Secondary College into a thriving hub of learning, nourishment and belonging.

Thanks to the 2024 P500 grant – powered by 279 donors who each contributed \$500 – Farm My School deepened its roots and expanded its impact. The \$80,000 grant not only supported on-farm traineeships for young people but also enabled the employment of a Community Engagement Manager and the growth of education and community programs that strengthen local food systems and wellbeing.

In a region where nearly half of households struggle to access nutritious food, Farm My School is creating practical, hopeful change. Each week, the school farm harvests more than 250 kilograms of fresh, seasonal produce – feeding families, supporting school lunches, and helping reduce food insecurity.

Through its Food Literacy and Nourish Workshop series, local families learn to prepare healthy, affordable meals and grow their own produce, while the Education Program connects students with the land and inspires future careers in horticulture and sustainability.

In 2024–25, Farm My School engaged 986 people through on-farm learning – including 835 students across 39 classes from 12 schools, and 151 participants through ten Nourish Workshops. Together, these learning experiences are helping more people across our region gain the skills, confidence and connection to grow, cook and share nutritious food.

A simple idea — turning unused school land into a farm — is now transforming how a community eats, learns and connects.

“This grant helped us take the next big step,” said James McLennan, Co-Founder and CEO of Farm My School. “It enabled us to appoint a Community Engagement Manager, which has opened up new opportunities – from scaling to our second site to deepening partnerships across the community.”



At its heart, Farm My School is cultivating more than food – it's cultivating confidence, skills and community connection. For young people, the farm offers meaningful pathways into work and study. For families, it provides access to nutritious, locally grown produce. And for the broader community, it stands as a model of how regenerative farming can nourish both people and place.

Farm My School continues to expand its programs and partnerships, working with local schools and community groups to share knowledge, strengthen food systems and inspire the next generation of growers.

This ripple of impact was made possible through the generosity and collective power of P500 donors. Together, they helped to create lasting change from the ground up – proving that when many give a little, extraordinary things can grow.

About P500

P500 is the Geelong Community Foundation's collective giving program – a growing movement of local people donating \$500 each to fund high-impact community projects. In 2024–25, 279 donors raised more than \$139,500, with half going to create the grant and the other half invested in the P500 Fund for the future. Each year the P500 Fund makes a contribution back to the grant creating a grant pool of \$84,500, with \$80,000 awarded to Farm My School through a community vote.

Every donor had a voice in deciding where the funds went – a hallmark of P500's participatory giving model. The two runners-up in 2024, Skyline Education Foundation and The Men's Table, each received \$2,250 to continue their work in education and men's mental health.

Together, we're planting seeds of change – nurturing communities, growing resilience, and creating futures from the ground up.



Scan the QR code to see who our P500 Donors are, learn more and join the P500 Movement.

“I like the idea of contributing with many others, to build a larger resource of funds, to use for local charities, both immediately and into the future with the Foundation funds growing each year.”

– Lesley Duncan, P500 Donor

P500
smarter giving

The Empowerment Challenge: Supporting Young Mothers

A vehicle for connection and change

In 2024, The Empowerment Challenge (TEC) received the \$75,000 Adroit Charity Golf Day Capital Grant, selected by Adroit Insurance & Risk staff at the Foundation's Pitch and Vote Night.

The grant funded an eight-seater van with baby seats, allowing TEC to safely transport young mothers and their children to weekly programs and outreach sessions across Geelong. This investment removed transport barriers and strengthened TEC's reach, enabling more young mothers to access consistent support and connection.

Expanding reach and accessibility

Since receiving the grant, the TEC van (affectionately known as "Wilma") has become essential to operations. It is used every week, transporting families to group sessions and making regular trips to collect donations and deliver Our Village and Thread Together orders.

In just six months, Wilma completed 46 individual trips with young mums and children. Around 70% of journeys took families to TEC's weekly groups; the remaining 30% supported appointments with maternal and child health nurses, housing services and mental-health providers.

"It's very hands on and helpful... if you need support, they are there to support you with whatever you need... the smallest thing to coming to an appointment or just getting the kids out and about." – TEC participant.

*Wilma isn't just
a van — she's a
gateway to
friendships,
appointments
and confidence.*

The van has served as a safe space for Sarah to open up about the challenges in her relationship. The conversations had with TEC staff on journeys to appointments have been a catalyst to Sarah recognising that she deserves better and seeking help to flee family violence — "I deserve to be safe, my life can get better."



For Libby, “Wilma” marked the beginning of her journey from isolation to independence by making friends and developing the confidence to travel independently on public transport – “Who cares if they stare, I might be young, but I am a good mum, and The Empowerment Challenge has helped me see that.”

As a result of this practical support, attendance is notably increasing with TEC now receiving two to three new referrals each week. Mothers describe feeling more confident, less isolated and genuinely connected.

Strengthening long-term outcomes

The van has already proven its value – from ensuring Emma, who is too young to drive, can attend group sessions, to helping Kerry and her children stay connected when their own car was off the road – “If you’d not picked us up, we wouldn’t have seen anyone all week.”

It provides both reliability and reassurance – a lift to weekly groups, a safe chat between appointments, or simply a bridge out of isolation. By investing in this capital asset, the 2024 Adroit Charity Golf Day Grant has delivered lasting value, helping young mothers access vital networks, services and the belief that they can build positive futures for themselves and their children.



Adroit Golf Day Capital Grant 2024: Driving Local Impact

For more than 17 years, Adroit Insurance & Risk has partnered with the Geelong Community Foundation through the annual Adroit Charity Golf Day to strengthen communities across our region. Since 2007, the event has raised more than \$1.35 million, funding capital projects that deliver enduring benefits – from community health to education, inclusion and family wellbeing.

Each year, Adroit staff take part in the Pitch and Vote Night, selecting the recipient of the Adroit Capital Grant so funds go directly to the projects that matter most locally. In 2024, the \$75,000 grant funded TEC’s van – “Wilma” – giving young mothers and their children safe, reliable access to essential support.

Through this enduring partnership, Adroit and the Foundation empower local organisations to grow, connect and create meaningful, lasting impact across the Geelong Region.



This Year's Grantmaking

Building strong partnerships is at the heart of our work. The Foundation plays a vital role in identifying, strengthening, and supporting local community organisations that deliver activities creating lasting change in our region.

A key initiative in our strategic plan is to embed trust-based philanthropy in how we work with grant partners. We are also committed to increasing the proportion of multi-year grants, ensuring local organisations have the stability and capacity to respond to growing community needs.

During the 2025 Main Grant Round, our team engaged with more than 50 community organisations to assess eligibility and support applications aligned with the Foundation's funding priorities. At the close of the round in February 2025, we had received 73 applications, requesting more than \$2.8 million in funding. While this represented fewer applications and a lower overall request compared to the previous year, this was a direct outcome of our proactive engagement with potential applicants, rather than a reflection of reduced need.

Applications were received across the Foundation's four grant streams: **Food and Emergency Support; Health, Resilience and Connection; Education and Employment; and Environment and Sustainability.** As in previous years, there was particularly strong demand in the Health, Resilience and Connection stream, with projects focused on mental wellbeing, social connection, belonging, and family support. Education and Employment was also a significant area of need, with requests targeting educational attainment and pathways to employment. Ongoing demand continued in Food and Emergency Support, highlighting the continued pressure of rising costs of living.

These requests reflect some of the most pressing issues facing our community: poor mental health, isolation and loneliness, education and employment disparities across Geelong, and increasing financial strain on families and individuals.

As in previous years, the Foundation undertook a robust grant assessment and review process. This involved Foundation staff, participants in our Schools in Philanthropy Program, and extensive input from the Grants Committee. With demand far exceeding available resources, not all applications could be funded. Deliberations were thorough, with a focus on ensuring the grants awarded would deliver the greatest impact.

Through the Main Grant Round, the Foundation awarded **41 new grants.** Alongside existing multi-year grants, collaborative grants, P500 grants, the Adroit Golf Day Capital Grant, student support grants, and donor-advised grants, this brought **the total number of grants in FY 2024–25 to 64, valued at \$1,776,522.**

This represents the **largest number of grants awarded in the Foundation's history,** and brings our cumulative grantmaking to more than **\$16.3 million.**

This growth reflects the increasing strength of the Foundation's corpus—built through the generosity of our donors and gifts in wills—which continues to expand our capacity to meet the needs of our community.

A breakdown of grants made this year include:

- 41** New grants, including seven multi-year grants to Lazarus Community Centre, EdConnect, Read the Play, CatholicCare, Hope Bereavement Care, The Empowerment Challenge and The Good Neighbourhood Project.
- 5** Existing multi-year grants for Feed Me Bellarine, Geelong Foodshare, Thread Together, Somebody's Daughter and Cloverdale Community Centre – Auspice for Real Deal Alliance.
- 1** 25 Year Celebratory Grant of \$100,000 to Thread Together for a three-year grant to bring a mobile wardrobe to Geelong.
- 3** Collaborative grants to the Alcohol and Drug Foundation for the Geelong Systems Thinking Project, in partnership with Anthony Costa Foundation and the Percy Baxter Trust; the Meli Young Mens Behaviour Change Program in partnership with the Anthony Costa Foundation and Give Where You Live in partnership with Deakin University to deliver the Home Truths: Local Insights into Homelessness Research Project.
- 3** P500 Grants (\$80,000 to Farm My School and \$2,225 each to the Runners Up Skyline Education Foundation and The Men's Table).
- 1** Adroit Golf Day Capital Grant of \$75,000 to The Empowerment Challenge.
- 2** Grants for student support through the Gordon Scholarships and the Back to School Program; and
- 8** Eight donor-advised grants.

We look forward to deepening our partnerships in the year ahead, working side by side with our grant partners to create a more connected, fair and thriving Geelong community.

Grants Funded – 2024/25

FOOD AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT

Food Relief

Drysdale Family Support	\$5,700
Feed Me (Year 2 of 2 year grant)	\$50,000
Geelong Foodshare (Year 2 of 2 year grant)	\$50,000
Winchelsea Community House (in partnership with Hesse Rural Health)	\$30,000

Homelessness Assistance

Lazarus Community Centre (\$30,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2 & \$30,000 Year 3)	\$30,000
Samaritan House Geelong	\$60,000
The Outpost Inc	\$15,000

Material Aid

Boots For All	\$12,700
Our Village (previously Geelong Mums)	\$35,000
Thread Together (Year 2 of 2 year grant)	\$35,000

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Education

Back to Back Theatre	\$10,000
EdConnect Australia (\$25,000 Year 1, \$25,000 Year 2)	\$25,000
Hands of Change Ltd	\$14,520
Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company (Year 2 of 2 year grant)	\$40,000
The Song Room	\$30,000

Employment

CatholicCare Victoria (\$40,000 Year 1, \$40,000 Year 2)	\$40,000
Cloverdale Community Centre	\$51,200
Common Ground Project	\$50,000
Northern Futures (Meli)	\$40,000

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

Geelong Sustainability Group	\$40,000
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HEALTH, RESILIENCE AND CONNECTION GRANTS

Physical Health

Cottage by the Sea Queenscliff	\$18,000
Expression Australia	\$13,705
Farm My School	\$20,000

Mental Health

Cherished Pets Foundation	\$30,000
Hope Breavement Care (\$40,000 Year 1, \$40,000 Year 2)	\$40,000
LifeChanger Foundation	\$30,000
Lifeline Direct (Lifeline Geelong)	\$9,800
Ocean Mind	\$25,000
Read The Play (30,000 Year 1, \$30,000 year 2)	\$30,000

The Empowerment Challenge (\$35,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2)	\$30,000
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The Men's Table	\$20,000
Wombat's Wish	\$20,000

Connection and Belonging

Anam Cara Geelong	\$20,000
Blue Light Victoria	\$11,600
Bluebird Foundation	\$39,000
Cloverdale Community Centre auspice for the Real Deal Alliance (Year 2 of 2 Year Grant)	\$30,000

Orchestra Geelong	\$2,000
The Good Neighbourhood Project (\$45,000 Year 1, \$45,000 Year 2)	\$45,000

The Portsea Camp	\$11,800
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Family Support

Consent Lab	\$14,500
MacKillop Family Services	\$30,000
The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre	\$45,000

Life Skills

Cultura	\$14,000
Making Waves Foundation	\$15,000
Riding for the Disabled-Barwon	\$5,000
The Power In You Project	\$35,000

25 YEAR CELEBRATORY GRANT

Thread Together	\$100,000
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OTHER GRANT INITIATIVES

2024 P500 Grants

P500 Grant Recipient Farm My School	\$80,000
P500 Finalist Organisation Skyline Education Foundation	\$2,250
P500 Finalist Organisation The Men's Table	\$2,250

2024 Adroit Golf Day Capital Grant

The Empowerment Challenge	\$75,000
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Student Support 2025

The Gordon Scholarships	\$10,000
School Voucher Program	\$54,900

COLLABORATIVE GRANTS

Funded in Partnership with Members of the Geelong Funders Collaborate

Meli (Year 2 of 2 Year Grant)	\$50,000
Alcohol and Drug Foundation (\$50,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2)	\$50,000
Give Where You Live in partnership with Deakin University	\$8,500

DONOR ADVISED GRANTS

8 Donor advised grants	\$65,017
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Food and Emergency Support Grants

FOOD RELIEF

Drysdale Family Support - \$5,700

To deliver food relief through the weekly Foodbank. Funding supports the purchase of food items such as fresh produce, personal hygiene products, tinned goods and packaged products to ensure adequate stock and dignity of choice for clients.

Feed Me - \$50,000

(Year 2 of 2 Year grant)

To deliver food relief through a Pay as You can Market and deliveries of pre-prepared meals to individuals and families in need. Funding supports the employment of a part time Coordinator and the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables through the wholesale market.

Geelong Foodshare - \$50,000

(Year 2 of 2 Year grant)

To deliver food relief support in Geelong through the distribution of food to community organisations and direct to public through two mini-marts. Funding supports the employment of a new full time Office Manager/Finance role which will support continued growth of the organisation.

Winchelsea Community House - \$30,000

(in partnership with Hesse Rural Health)

To deliver Food Access Winchelsea - a community foodbank providing food relief to reduce the number of people experiencing food insecurity in Winchelsea. Funding supports the employment of a Foodbank Coordinator.

HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE

Lazarus Community Centre - \$30,000

(\$30,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2, \$30,000 Year 3)

To continue to operate the centre and provide support to people experiencing homelessness, including provision of material aid (food, clothing, bedding), access to showers/laundry, referrals to health services and a safe place to connect with others. Funding supports core operations.

Samaritan House Geelong- \$60,000

To provide crisis and transitional accommodation to men experiencing homelessness, including provision of the Accommodation Living Skills Program, which supports men to build tangible skills and knowledge to break the cycle of homelessness. Funding supports core service delivery managed by SalvoConnect Barwon.

The Outpost- \$15,000

To provide volunteer-led community meals and place of connection for people experiencing homelessness and isolation. Funding supports core operations including the purchase of food items, small capital items and utilities.



MATERIAL AID

Boots For All – \$12,700

To deliver new and pre-owned sporting goods to dissolve barriers to sport and social inclusion. Funding supports the salary for the Program Manager and equipment distribution costs.

Our Village (previously Geelong Mums) – \$35,000

To deliver essential baby and children's items to families in need through partnerships with community organisations. Funding supports the salary of the Geelong Community Services Coordinator.

Thread Together – \$35,000

(Year 2 of 2 Year Grant)

To establish a clothes distribution hub and local partnerships in Geelong including an online distribution hub, mobile wardrobe, in-store shopping experience and capsule service at women's shelters. Funding supports the employment of a local Coordinator to establish the hub.



Education and Employment Grants

EDUCATION

Back to Back Theatre – \$10,000

To deliver the Community & Education Program, engaging, supporting and employing students and artists with a disability. Funding supports three key components – a Residency at Indie School Geelong, a Residency at Nelson Park Development School, and a Theatre of Speed performance.

EdConnect – \$25,000

(\$25,000 Year 1, \$25,000 Year 2)

To deliver in-classroom volunteer support to children including 1:1 assistance with literacy, numeracy and mentoring. Funding supports the salary of the Geelong Area Manager over 2 years, responsible for school partnerships and volunteer recruitment and management.

Hands of Change – \$14,520

To deliver the Youth Executive Learning Program (YELP) at Meredith Primary School. YELP empowers young people with entrepreneurial skills and confidence through positive community engagement. Funding supports salaries for Program Facilitators and the purchase of capital equipment for the Meredith Community Garden, a project that provides learning opportunities as part of YELP.

Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company – \$40,000

(Year 2 of a 2 Year grant)

To support marginalised students to complete their education through a theatre-based program and dedicated teacher from Newcomb Secondary College. The funding supports the salaries of key staff members delivering the program.

The Song Room – \$30,000

To deliver school-based arts learning at Grovedale West Primary School to build engagement of students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Funding supports a third and final year of the Teaching Artists salaries and program coordination.

EMPLOYMENT

Northern Futures (Meli) – \$40,000

To deliver intensive mentor support to participants undertaking Certificate III in Individual Support, with barriers to employment, including individuals from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds. Funding supports the salary of the Training Mentor, who provides wrap-around support to training participants, fostering pathways to employment.

CatholicCare Victoria – \$40,000

(\$40,000 Year 1, \$40,000 Year 2)

To deliver 'Settle Well Next Phase' an intensive mentor support program for asylum seeker and refugee youth and their mothers recently settled in Australia, including supporting access to English classes, education and pathways to employment. Funding supports core operations of this program, including the salaries of a Program Worker, two Bi-Cultural Workers and education costs.

Cloverdale Community Centre – \$51,200

To enhance Cloverdale Community Centre's social enterprises, Lotus@Cloverdale (catering) and Shoulder to Shoulder (manufacturing/retail), providing employment pathways for underemployed and unemployed people. Funding supports the employment of a dedicated Project Worker to develop, grow and manage the two programs.

Common Ground Project – \$50,000

To deliver the Staying Grounded program, which provides paid hospitality training and employment pathways for migrant and refugee women seeking meaningful employment in the Geelong region. Funding supports salaries for the Program Coordinator and Chef.



Environment and Sustainability Grants

RECYCLING & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Geelong Sustainability Group – \$40,000

To deliver the Community Power Hub, supporting for-purpose organisations to install renewable energy and access other energy savings. Funding supports the salary of the Community Energy Officer.



Health, Resilience and Connection Grants

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Cottage by the Sea - \$18,000

To provide short-stay programs to children aged 6-18 who are experiencing disadvantage. Funding supports 40 students from Whittington Primary School to attend 'Take a Break' camp, including staff salaries and program expenses (food and activities).

Expression Australia - \$13,705

To deliver a community-funded hearing aid bank that provides refurbished hearing aids and audiological support to individuals who are ineligible for local or federal funding initiatives. Funding supports equipment costs for twenty hearing aids (10 pairs) and salary costs for Audiology services.

Farm My School - \$20,000

To increase farm productivity and efficiency through the purchase of infrastructure equipment. Funding supports the purchase of capital items that will increase vegetable production.

MENTAL HEALTH

Cherished Pets - \$30,000

To deliver the Home Care Assistance Program, supporting vulnerable pet owners through essential in-home support via community volunteers and a Veterinary Social Worker, harnessing the human animal bond. Funding supports the salary of the Program Coordinator.

Hope Bereavement Care - \$40,000

(\$40,000 Year 1, \$40,000 Year 2)

To provide additional bereavement support for people who experience a sudden and traumatic death of a loved one. Funding supports the salary of the Bereavement Counsellor.

LifeChanger Foundation - \$30,000

To deliver school-based mental health and resilience workshops to up to 2,500 students. Funding supports the salary of the Regional Coordinator and casual employees to facilitate workshops and mentor sessions.

Lifeline Direct (Lifeline Geelong) - \$9,800

To provide psychological support and professional development training to Volunteer Crisis Supporters, answering calls from individuals in mental health distress. Funding supports supervision, training and Team Leader salary costs.

Ocean Mind - \$25,000

To deliver additional surf therapy places for young people experiencing mental health challenges and disabilities. Funding supports the salaries of staff including facilitators.

Read The Play - \$30,000

(\$30,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2)

To deliver interactive, evidence-based mental health literacy sessions in partnership with community sporting clubs. The education program will be delivered for an additional two years and will further expand to new sporting codes. Funding supports core operations.

The Empowerment Challenge - \$30,000

(\$30,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2)

To support and empower vulnerable younger mums through weekly group sessions and mobile outreach service, including system navigation (Centrelink etc.), referrals to essential services and job application support. Funding supports core operations including the continuation of the mobile outreach program and expansion into a place-based hub.

The Men's Table - \$20,000

To establish a Men's Table in the Geelong region, fostering positive mental health through connection and reduced social isolation. Funding supports the salary for the Regional Host and other program expenses.

Wombat's Wish - \$20,000

To deliver support programs to 12-18-year-olds after the death of a parent, including Family Camp, Weekend Youth Program and counselling. Funding supports fees to attend Family Camp, Youth Camp and counselling sessions.

CONNECTION AND BELONGING

Anam Cara Geelong - \$20,000

To deliver 'Meaningful Moments' - a day program for people experiencing Dementia, Parkinson's and neurodegenerative diseases. Funding supports program costs including therapeutic and social activities, materials, transport, volunteer support and staff salaries.

Blue Light Victoria - \$11,600

To deliver the "Connected, Resilient, Engaged (CoRE)" program for at risk young people aged 15-17, fostering resilience, emotional regulation and reduced engagement in antisocial behaviour. Funding supports staff salaries to coordinate and deliver the program.

Bluebird Foundation - \$39,000

To deliver the NORTH Children's Choir that provides a high-quality music education for children who experience socio-economic disadvantage, fostering connection and belonging and contributing to educational attainment. Funding supports the salaries of Choir Directors, Choir Teacher, Accompanist, Family Liaison Officer and other program expenditure.

Cloverdale Community Centre - \$30,000

(auspice for the Real Deal Alliance)(Year 2 of 2 Year Grant)

To support a community led alliance - The Real Deal Geelong Alliance - addressing policy priorities in the areas of housing, employment and care and connection. Funding supports the salary of the Community Organiser.

Orchestra Geelong - \$2,000

To support a community collaboration between Orchestra Geelong & Geelong Youth Choir, through a combined performance. Funding supports consultant fees (Musical Director), music costs and choir costs.

The Good Neighbourhood Project - \$45,000

(\$45,000 Year 1, \$45,000 Year 2)

To deliver the Connected Communities Project which involves coordinating and seeding activities that foster inclusion, reduce isolation, and build a sense of belonging for local residents in Norlane. Funding supports core operations.

The Portsea Camp - \$11,880

To provide 18 children in Geelong with an opportunity to attend a five-day camp that promotes emotional regulation, resilience, self-awareness and social connection. Funding supports camp fees for 18 children.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Consent Labs - \$14,500

To deliver at least 17 youth-led consent and respectful relationship education programs to students in Years 7-12 facing socio-educational disadvantage. Funding supports program delivery costs including staff facilitation.

MacKillop Family Services - \$30,000

To establish a Therapeutic Hub at MacKillop Specialist School in Whittington, for families to access the support they need to thrive and increase educational attainment. Funding supports the capital costs to redevelop Edmund House into three consulting rooms, and the employment of a Family Therapist.

The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre - \$45,000

To deliver the 'Respect Starts Here' program for football, netball clubs and cricket clubs, to take action to promote gender equality and address violence against women through activities such as gender equality needs assessments and active bystander training workshops. Funding supports the Project Officer salary and workshop costs.

LIFE SKILLS

Cultura - \$14,000

To deliver the Future Drivers mentor program. The program partners driver mentors with women from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to learn to drive and gain their drivers' licence. Funding supports costs associated with gaining a driver's licence including professional driving lessons, Hazard Perception Test costs and Probationary License costs.

Making Waves Foundation - \$15,000

To deliver the Wright of Passage program that supports disengaged students aged 15-18 years through hands on boat-building and maritime activities, to gain trade skills, workplace readiness, confidence and teamwork skills. Funding supports the purchase of boat materials and the Program Coordinator salary to deliver the program.

Riding for the Disabled - Barwon - \$5,000

To deliver an equine based horse-riding therapy project to children with disability. Funding supports costs associated with hiring the horses to provide one-hour riding sessions for primary school-aged children.

The Power In You Project - \$35,000

To deliver the New Directions Justice program that supports individuals affected by the criminal justice system to make a positive and lasting change in their lives, and to reduce recidivism in the Geelong community. Funding supports the salaries of the program facilitators and 1-1 outreach support.



25 YEAR CELEBRATORY GRANT

Thread Together - \$100,000

A pioneering for-purpose organisation, committed to reducing clothing waste and providing essential clothing to people in need. To establish a permanent mobile wardrobe service in Geelong to provide essential clothing to individuals and families in need, including people that have recently left incarceration, are fleeing family violence or are experiencing homelessness. Funding supports the three-year lease and fit out of a mobile wardrobe vehicle for the Geelong region.

OTHER GRANT INITIATIVES

2024 P500 GRANTS

P500 GRANT RECIPIENT

Farm My School - \$80,000

To contribute towards the wages of key roles vital to the continued growth of Farm My School's regenerative farming program at Bellarine Secondary College. The roles include the Lead Mentor Farmer, Trainee Farmers and Community Engagement Manager roles.

P500 FINALIST ORGANISATION

Skyline Education Foundation - \$2,250

To assist academically talented VCE students who come from less privileged backgrounds attending Northern Bay College, Geelong High School, Newcomb Secondary College, and Grovedale College, navigate social and economic obstacles, facilitating their completion of the VCE and their future transition to higher education or the workforce.

P500 SHORTLISTED ORGANISATION

The Men's Table - \$2,250

To establish new Men's Tables in the Geelong region, creating safe spaces for men to share openly and support each other and increase volunteering opportunities.

2024 ADROIT GOLF DAY CAPITAL GRANT

The Empowerment Challenge - \$75,000

To purchase an 8-seater minivan that is helping to connect young mums to vital support by getting them to mum's groups, appointments, and, when needed, providing a safe way out of challenging situations.

STUDENT SUPPORT 2025

The Gordon Scholarships - \$10,000

To fund annual scholarships to mature aged students studying at The Gordon. Five \$2,000 scholarships are provided.

School Voucher Program - \$56,400

1,128 x \$50 Target and Kmart Vouchers distributed to primary & secondary Schools. The Foundation, in partnership with the Glover Foundation and several other supporters, provides vouchers to 35 schools in the Geelong region based on the scale of educational disadvantage.

COLLABORATIVE GRANTS - FUNDED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEMBERS OF THE GEELONG FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE

Meli - \$50,000

(Year 2 of 2 Year Grant)

To deliver a Young Men's Behaviour Change Program for men aged 18-25 years to prevent instances of family violence. Funding supports the salary of the Specialist Men's Practitioner and Family Safety Contact.

Alcohol & Drug Foundation - \$50,000


(\$50,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2)

To deliver the Geelong Systems Thinking Project, in collaboration with the Anthony Costa Foundation who co-funded this activity. This project is a deep exploration of systemic barriers and enablers in the service system in Geelong spanning mental health, education, family violence, youth, homelessness, AOD, employment and disability.

The aim of this two-year project is to work towards overcoming the cycle of entrenched, inter-generational disadvantage that is present in our community, through a place-based approach. A series of workshops with local networks will be held to undertake this exploration and create a plan of action. Funding supports the salary of the Senior Community Development Officer, workshop and evaluation expenses.

Give Where You Live in partnership with Deakin University - \$8,500

To deliver the Home Truths: Local Insights into Homelessness Research Project. The project will enable Deakin's Home Research hub to undertake research to help gain a more comprehensive understanding of homelessness in Geelong.



“Through the support of the Geelong Community Foundation The Outpost were able to serve 62,409 hot healthy meals and drinks to people in need and vulnerable across the community 365 days.

The move to the new café style venue, filled with dignity, accessibility and room to simply ‘belong’, would not have been possible without their generous support.”

— Amy Flint, Chair of The Outpost

Scholarships: Changing Lives Through Learning

Each year, the Foundation is pleased to offer education scholarships that ease financial pressure and open doors to opportunity. In 2025, we funded 23 scholarships, totalling \$35,500, supporting young people as they continue their education and pursue their goals. Scholarships not only provide practical assistance but also give students the confidence, stability, and encouragement they need to stay engaged in their learning and reach their potential.

Agriculture and Horticulture Scholarships

Miles Family Scholarship

Charlee James receiving \$1,000, studying Year 12 at Bellarine Secondary College and completing Certificate III in Horticulture through a school-based traineeship.

The Rural Education and Retraining Scholarship

Alex Barrios \$1,000 studying Year 12 at Geelong High School, Certificate II in Agriculture and a Horticulture traineeship.

Tom and Irene Clearly Memorial Scholarship

Ty Goodman \$1,000 studying Year 12 at Bannockburn P-12 College and Certificate II in Animal Care.

General Education Scholarships

Backwell IXL Scholarships

Students studying Year 11 at Newcomb Secondary College

Jaylen Chand - \$1,250

Emily Dunn - \$750

Josh Fothergill - \$1,250

Guillain Kahindo - \$1,250

Nyan Kaisi - \$1,250

Megan Lahrmann-Clery - \$1,250

Blake Mayes - \$750

Tesloach Thian - \$750

Mitchell Lee Varley - \$1,000

Ava Ventieri - \$750

Dorothy Jean Scholarship

Tahlia Stewart \$1,000, studying Year 11 at North Geelong Secondary College.

Alfred Swan Scholarship

Jack Burgess \$1,500 studying Year 11 at North Geelong Secondary College (in conjunction with Geelong Community Foundation Scholarship)

Geelong Community Foundation Scholarship

Jade Cowdery \$1,500 studying Year 11 at St Ignatius College.

John Wade Memorial Scholarships

Lila Fennell \$2,000 studying Year 11 North Geelong Secondary College.

Tharinee Yaisavang \$2,000 studying Year 11 at Geelong High School.

Other Scholarships

Alison Murphy Scholarship- \$10,000

J & C Gulli Scholarship- \$2,000

Ron Thompson Scholarship- \$2,250



Alex's Pathway to Purpose in Agriculture

Alex Barrios, a Year 12 student at Geelong High School, is already sowing the seeds of a purposeful career in agriculture. As the recipient of the **Rural Education and Retraining Scholarship**, supported by a local donor through the Geelong Community Foundation, Alex is gaining the confidence and support he needs to stay engaged in school, upskill, and plan for the future.

Currently completing both a **Certificate II in Agriculture** and a **Certificate III in Horticulture** through a hands-on traineeship with Farm My School, Alex is juggling a full academic load while learning practical skills in food production and land management. The scholarship has removed key financial barriers – helping cover protective clothing, transportation to his traineeship, and other learning essentials.

"Without financial support, I may need to take on more work, which could impact my studies. I'm already doing two certifications at once – this helps me stay on track."

Alex has ambitious goals: to pursue further study in Agricultural Science and Agribusiness, potentially at the University of Queensland, and ultimately build his own consultancy, helping farmers adopt science-backed, sustainable practices. He's already presented on sustainable agriculture at Deakin University and contributed to an innovative pest management project in partnership with Geelong Tech School and Parks Victoria.

"Long-term, I'd like to run an agronomy business. I love learning new things, working outdoors, and being part of something bigger."

Without financial support, I may need to take on more work, which could impact my studies. I'm already doing two certifications at once – this helps me stay on track.

Support from the Rural Education and Retraining Scholarship is helping Alex complete Year 12, build real-world skills, and access the kind of future that once felt out of reach. It's a powerful example of how one local donor's generosity is helping grow leadership, resilience and possibility – one student at a time.



School Voucher Program: Supporting Local Families When It Matters Most

The rising cost of living means many families in our region are struggling to cover the basics for their children. At the Geelong Community Foundation, we're proud to stand alongside them and help ease that pressure.

Through our School Voucher Program, and with the generous support of our donors, this year we provided **1,128 vouchers valued at \$50 each** to students who needed extra help to purchase school shoes, uniforms, books, and other essentials.

Supporting students to start the school year well, regardless of their families' financial situation, is at the heart of this program.

"This program has been transformative—not just for the students, but for our entire school community. It has opened doors for families who value education but face financial hardship.

Watching these students grow, succeed, and become leaders among their peers is one of the most rewarding aspects of our work." Wellbeing Coordinator, Lara Secondary College.

These vouchers are more than just financial assistance. For parents and carers, they bring relief and peace of mind, knowing their children can begin the year ready. For students, they open the door to learning by ensuring they have what they need to learn, participate and thrive.

Just as importantly, the program deepens our connection with schools. By listening to principals and wellbeing staff, we gain a real-time understanding of the challenges families face. This insight helps shape our future grantmaking so we can target support where it has the greatest impact.

Year after year, schools tell us how much these vouchers are appreciated and how well they're used. They arrive at just the right time and make a genuine difference in the lives of local families.



Schools in Philanthropy: Empowering Young Changemakers

In 2025, Year 12 students from Bannockburn P-12 College, St Ignatius College, Iona College and Geelong Lutheran College took part in the Geelong Community Foundation's Schools in Philanthropy program.

Established by the Geelong Community Foundation in 2011, the Schools in Philanthropy program gives young people the opportunity to learn about philanthropy, explore the challenges facing our community, and connect with the organisations working to address them.

The program encourages students to use their creativity, curiosity, and compassion to make a positive difference, while developing a deeper understanding of how philanthropy can strengthen communities across the Geelong region.

Through the program, students:

- Learn about community needs by engaging directly with local organisations.
- Grow their understanding of philanthropy and how funding decisions can create impact.
- Develop essential skills such as teamwork, communication, research, critical thinking, and public speaking.

The Foundation equipped teachers with resources and paired each class with a Mentor who shared insights into philanthropy and community needs. Students were given three real grant applications from the Foundation's 2025–26 Main Grant Round, which they researched and analysed before visiting the organisations to see their work in action. Working as a team, they evaluated funding requests, debated priorities, and made funding recommendations.

One student reflected on their experience:

"What I liked most about SIP was learning how real-world issues like homelessness, mental health and food insecurity are being tackled by local organisations. It opened my eyes to the impact that even small acts of giving can have. I especially loved working as a team to research charities and deciding where the money should go. It made me feel like my voice mattered and that I can help create change in my community." Christelle Goodall, Iona College.

*It made me feel like my
voice mattered and that
I can help
create change in my
community.*

This feedback demonstrates the program's true impact: SIP doesn't just teach students about philanthropy, it empowers them to see themselves as changemakers—young leaders who understand community challenges and believe in their ability to create positive change.

The Foundation will review the Schools In Philanthropy Program, along with our School Voucher Program, to ensure that the programs continue to be aligned with the Foundation's strategic direction and deliver the greatest possible impact.



Finance Report



I am pleased to present the financial highlights for the 2024/25 financial year.

Detailed consolidated statements for the Gift Fund, Open Fund, and Scholarship Fund are provided on pages 36–37 of this Annual Report, with full audited statements available on our website.

My comments refer to the consolidated position of all three funds, and on that basis, I am delighted to share the following highlights.

Key Financial Highlights

• Donations received: (2024: \$1,375,505)	\$6,987,087
• Investment income: (2024: \$4,791,842)	\$1,536,155
• Operating expenses: (2024: \$687,987)	\$761,425
• Grants and scholarships declared: (2024: \$1,482,886)	\$1,791,439
• Corpus value / Net assets: (2024: \$37.34 million)	\$46.7 million

Donations

This year marked an extraordinary period of growth for the Foundation, with record-breaking donations totalling \$6.9 million. This result showcases the incredible generosity and trust placed in the Foundation by our community.

Notably, we received transformational gifts of \$4 million from the Cooper Family and \$1 million from the Fagg Family. We are deeply grateful to these families – and to every donor – for entrusting us to steward their gifts for enduring community benefit.

Donation highlights for 2024/25 include:

- Establishment of 13 new personal sub funds, with 74 contributions to existing sub funds.
- Addition of one new bequest, plus further contributions to two existing bequests.
- Continued growth in the Scholarship Fund, with contributions to 10 sub funds.
- Creation of two new group sub funds and contributions to nine existing sub funds.
- Formation of four new company sub funds, with additional support to 18 existing sub funds.

Investments

Funds under management grew from \$37.3 million to \$46.7 million, with an investment return of 11.47% reflecting healthy investment performance in what was a turbulent year. This brings our rolling 7 year investment return to 9.47%. Investment income totalled \$1,535,155 generated from dividends, fixed interest, and other portfolio distributions.

Asset allocation as at 30 June 2025:

- 4.5% Cash
- 16% Fixed Interest
- 39% Australian Equity
- 39% International Equity
- 1.5% Alternatives

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses rose modestly to \$761,425.00 representing 1.62% of funds under management (2024: \$687,987 or 1.89%).

This increase reflects necessary investment in capacity and transition, including recruitment expenses associated with the CEO appointment.

Grant Making and Scholarships

A total of \$1,791,439 (2024: \$1,482,886) was distributed during the year – the Foundation's largest annual disbursement to date.

Our Model of Giving Forever

As we celebrate 25 years of community philanthropy, the Foundation's model continues to demonstrate the power of long-term, sustainable giving.

Over our first 25 years, we have:

- Received \$31.1 million in donations
- Distributed \$16.6 million in grants and scholarships; and
- Grown our corpus to more than \$46 million

This model ensures that every dollar given continues to work for our community – today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. Looking ahead, we project that over the next 25 years, our growing corpus will enable the Foundation to distribute more than \$50 million in additional grants to strengthen and support the Greater Geelong region.

Acknowledgments

This has been an exceptional year for the Foundation. I extend my sincere thanks to all donors for your generosity – your contributions, both this year and in years past, enable us to make a meaningful and enduring impact.

My gratitude also goes to our dedicated team – Amy, Gail, Tony, Charlotte, and Gennette – for their professionalism, energy, and commitment in delivering outstanding outcomes.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of our Investment Committee and Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, including Katie Terpstra and Luke Thornton, for their strategic guidance and diligence in delivering these excellent results.

Nick Klein

Director

Personal Sub Funds

Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24	Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24
Kenneth Neil Stott Fund	\$9,651,289	\$9,085,044	Phil & Mary Maxsted Fund	\$67,642	\$63,674
Sophia & Barry Cooper Family Fund	\$4,000,000	-	Gary & Jenny Hodgson Family Fund	\$66,654	\$45,864
Fagg Family Fund	\$3,013,460	\$1,885,916	Yeaman Family Fund	\$66,176	\$52,880
Torney Family Fund	\$1,637,123	\$1,352,806	WH & A Huffam Family Fund	\$65,264	\$56,728
E F & W Dimmick Fund	\$340,983	\$320,978	J & C Gulli Family Fund	\$64,765	\$56,446
Kitson Family Fund	\$303,861	\$257,793	John & Prue Webb Fund	\$64,752	\$60,953
Fahey Family Fund	\$294,804	\$253,975	Dowling Family Fund	\$64,326	\$55,845
Les & Trevor Cole Fund	\$276,627	\$260,397	Dr James & Dr Jane Tiernan Family Fund	\$64,323	\$56,095
Mark & Kathryn Osborne Fund	\$253,226	\$238,369	Michael & Roslyn Betts Family Fund	\$63,429	\$48,412
Fleur Nicholson Fund	\$240,807	\$226,679	Anonymous No.10 Fund	\$62,560	\$40,063
Reilly Family Fund	\$224,248	\$195,089	Pam & Richard Austin Family Fund	\$60,705	\$57,144
Geoffrey Neilson Fund	\$202,720	\$188,121	Max & Nancy Neagle Fund	\$59,983	\$47,051
DR & VJ Lawrence Fund	\$192,909	\$161,823	HDL Fund	\$58,543	\$55,108
Darryn Lyons Fund	\$186,180	\$175,257	Magee Family Fund	\$58,442	\$55,013
Lino & Marina Bisinella Family Fund	\$178,805	\$168,314	Anonymous No. 9 Fund	\$57,675	\$35,464
Dr Haz Hussain-Yusuf Fund	\$178,753	\$168,265	Bruce & Rosemary Robinson Fund	\$55,964	\$52,680
Coltman Family Fund	\$175,988	\$165,662	Ed & Sharon Coppe Fund	\$55,657	\$50,509
James M Kavanagh Fund	\$149,862	\$141,070	Henderson Family Fund	\$53,587	\$50,443
Bailey Family Fund	\$134,491	\$126,601	Murray Family Fund	\$52,917	\$40,399
Richard John Lyons Memorial Fund	\$132,664	\$124,880	Balaam Family Fund	\$51,627	\$34,478
Geoffrey Neilson No. 2 Fund	\$125,687	\$117,372	Locke Family Fund	\$50,120	\$47,180
Fisher Family Fund	\$113,855	\$97,762	Herd Family Fund	\$50,000	-
Neville & Dianne Crane Family Fund	\$111,407	\$104,871	Syd & Jan Strauch Fund	\$50,000	-
Andrew Senia Charitable Fund	\$110,000	-	Graeme & Kerry Goldsworthy Family Fund	\$48,736	\$36,463
Justin Van Laar Memorial Fund	\$101,708	\$95,741	Gary & Heather Work Family Fund	\$48,723	\$56,625
Deam Family Fund	\$100,399	\$89,802	Jan & Leigh Douglas Fund	\$46,498	\$36,710
Antony Family Fund	\$100,216	\$91,983	H & M Munday Fund	\$45,298	\$41,229
Shane & Margaret Splatt Fund	\$100,000	-	Seller Family Fund	\$44,811	\$42,182
Singer Family Fund	\$99,199	\$93,379	Corless Family Fund	\$43,829	\$41,258
Crittenden Family Fund	\$97,913	\$89,345	Nash Family Fund	\$43,344	\$40,801
Frank & Shirley Costa Fund	\$92,225	\$86,814	Anonymous No. 1 Fund	\$43,263	\$31,312
Jean Williamson Fund	\$90,000	-	Michael & Louise King Family Fund	\$42,447	\$39,957
Di & Paul Edwards Family Fund	\$89,757	\$56,251	Patrick & Ann Rowan Fund	\$42,334	\$39,286
Hayden Family Fund	\$85,677	\$80,650	Quarrell Family Fund	\$40,384	\$38,015
Adam Montgomery Family Fund	\$82,750	\$77,895	McIldowie Family Fund	\$38,048	\$35,815
Yvonne Bernath Fund	\$79,519	\$74,853	McManus Family Fund	\$36,438	\$32,417
Anonymous No. 6 Fund	\$74,660	\$68,397	Bell Family Fund	\$36,360	\$34,227
G Wood Family Fund	\$74,592	\$65,509	Anonymous No. 5 Fund	\$36,145	\$34,025
Ray Frost Family Fund	\$74,166	\$60,401	Tim & Mary Farley Family Fund	\$35,349	\$33,275
Geoffrey & Betty Betts Family Fund	\$73,756	\$69,429	Brockman Family Fund	\$34,788	\$32,747
Marian Wills Cooke Memorial Fund	\$70,235	\$56,701	J G Moffatt Fund	\$33,885	\$31,897
Alan & Sheila David Family Fund	\$69,892	\$65,791	John & Linda Nall Fund	\$33,621	\$22,235
Anonymous No. 7 Fund	\$67,652	\$61,330			

Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24	Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24
Allen Family Fund	\$32,266	\$30,373	Bourke Family Fund	\$14,614	\$13,756
Susanna & Ian Keith Family Fund	\$31,209	\$21,847	Cook Family Fund	\$14,604	\$10,924
Surf Coast Charitable Fund	\$30,266	\$28,490	Swanborough Fund	\$14,513	\$13,661
Gavan & Sue Clark Family Trust Fund	\$29,349	\$18,214	O'Shannassy Family Fund	\$14,011	\$13,189
T & H Santalucia Family Fund	\$28,842	\$27,150	Rosanna Humeniuk Fund	\$13,614	\$12,815
Radcliffe Family Fund	\$27,861	\$26,227	Albert Jennings Memorial Fund	\$13,565	\$12,769
Draper Family Fund	\$26,912	\$25,333	Paringa Community Fund	\$13,559	\$12,763
Pete Johnston Fund	\$25,498	\$24,002	Bain Family Fund	\$13,454	\$12,664
Sun Family Fund	\$24,740	\$23,289	John Holmes Family Fund	\$12,849	\$12,095
Goldsworthy-Davey Family Fund	\$24,540	\$21,218	James Family Fund	\$12,709	\$11,022
Geoff & Helen Mays Family Fund	\$24,182	\$22,763	P & G Rodgers Family Fund	\$12,650	\$10,967
Dudgeon Family Fund	\$23,933	\$15,939	Carl & Vicky Schokman Fund	\$12,500	\$11,767
Ross & Jan Synot Family Fund	\$23,813	\$22,416	Angelo Kakourous Fund	\$12,344	\$11,620
PA Caldwell Fund	\$23,647	\$22,259	Ralph Sacks Memorial Fund	\$12,276	\$11,556
Rob & Wendy Learey Family Fund	\$23,314	\$20,534	Kelly-Baranski Family Fund	\$12,263	\$9,661
Dean & Angela Holroyd Family Fund	\$23,232	\$21,869	Alsop Family Fund	\$12,003	\$9,322
Burnett Family Fund	\$23,216	\$21,854	Hiliary & Gregory Neerhut Family Fund	\$11,733	\$11,044
Papalia (Planken) Family Fund	\$22,916	\$12,158	Nick & Emma Lord Family Fund	\$11,697	\$11,011
Williamson & Baulch Families Fund	\$22,076	\$18,898	Peter & Bobbie Smith Family Fund	\$11,604	\$10,924
Hudson Family Fund	\$21,396	\$19,200	Bob & Helen Spurling Family Fund	\$10,845	\$10,209
Anonymous No. 11 Fund	\$20,935	\$15,000	Gerald & Pamela Wilson Fund	\$10,845	\$10,209
Illingworth Family Fund	\$20,203	\$18,944	Klein Bibby Family Fund	\$10,755	\$5,418
C & L Jones Family Fund	\$20,000	-	Ashley & Carolyn McHarry Family Fund	\$10,693	\$4,418
Baines & Lansdell Family Fund	\$19,608	\$16,104	McMillan Family Trust Fund	\$10,534	\$5,209
WAM Fund	\$19,508	\$18,364	Adambray Fund	\$10,497	\$9,881
Ramia Family Fund	\$19,428	\$18,288	Cohen Family Fund	\$10,000	-
Barber Fund	\$19,369	\$18,233	Edward & Paddy White Family Fund	\$10,000	-
John O'Shannassy Fund	\$19,013	\$17,898	Hultgren Family Fund	\$10,000	-
Freda & Graham Wright Fund	\$18,567	\$17,478	IR Barbour Fund	\$10,000	-
RLB Fund	\$18,460	\$17,377	Richol Family Fund	\$10,000	-
S S & J Neville Fund	\$17,931	\$16,879	Don & Marisa Hough Family Fund	\$9,435	\$8,881
Agar & Whitehead Family Fund	\$17,464	\$15,027	Mackinnon Family Fund	\$8,684	\$8,175
Louise Gourlay Fund	\$17,348	\$16,330	Waters Family Fund	\$4,791	\$1,685
A & A Lawson Family Fund	\$16,697	\$15,717			
Denis & Denice Peacock Family Fund	\$16,156	\$14,267			
Jen & Andrew Torney Family Fund	\$15,656	\$13,796			
Crosbie Family Fund	\$15,370	\$13,527			
Terpstra Family Fund	\$15,154	\$7,817			
Brian & Elizabeth Wood Fund	\$15,139	\$13,686			
MJ & HJ Fraser & JW Brownbill Fund	\$15,012	\$14,131			
David & Cecilia O'Brien Fund	\$15,000	-			
George Family Fund	\$14,666	\$13,805			
David & Susan Stevens Family Fund	\$14,621	\$13,763			

Gifts in Wills Sub Funds

Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24
K N Stott Family Estate Fund	\$6,720,829	\$6,236,834
Lesley Yvonne Taylor Estate Fund	\$1,781,463	\$1,653,175
Margaret Ann Cody Estate Fund	\$1,678,418	\$1,556,622
Ian James Tyler Estate Fund	\$346,944	\$321,960
Fred & Pauline Flanagan Estate Fund	\$315,579	\$292,853
Norma & Grenville (Rod) Roddick Estate Fund	\$300,553	\$278,909
Joy Buckland Estate Fund	\$266,663	\$246,881
Nall Family Fund	\$257,016	\$238,507
Brenda Joy Wyatt Estate Fund	\$177,839	\$164,996
Harold Ernest Leighton Estate Fund	\$161,411	\$149,787
Robert Andrews Leggatt Estate Fund	\$149,620	\$138,845
M & J Donnellan Estate Fund	\$116,888	\$108,470
William Garth Little Estate Fund	\$91,235	\$84,665
Howard Hitchcock Estate Fund	\$55,496	\$51,500
Margaret Alison Cameron Estate Fund	\$38,583	-
Annie Johneena McLean Estate Fund	\$30,323	\$28,140
J C Bowen Estate Fund	\$15,973	\$14,822

Group Subfunds

Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24
Corio Community Contact Fund	\$834,529	\$774,432
P500 Fund	\$600,911	\$471,696
Geelong Northern & Eastern Suburbs No 2 Fund	\$577,973	\$536,351
Community Gift Fund	\$329,708	\$379,419
Bannockburn Newsletter Community Fund	\$200,000	-
Geelong Northern & Eastern Suburbs No.1 Fund	\$194,169	\$182,777
AllStar Youth Basketball Scholarship Fund	\$51,070	\$44,350
Rotary Geelong Region Centenary Fund	\$40,000	-
Rotary Club of Highton Fund	\$26,100	\$24,220
Masters Summer League Fund	\$21,733	\$11,044
Mayor & Councillors Fund	\$16,765	\$15,179
South Western Golf Association Fund	\$16,670	\$10,044
Chanel College Alumni Fund	\$8,944	\$7,136
Community Open Fund	\$2,650	\$2,459
Good Girls Fund	\$1,893	\$1,500

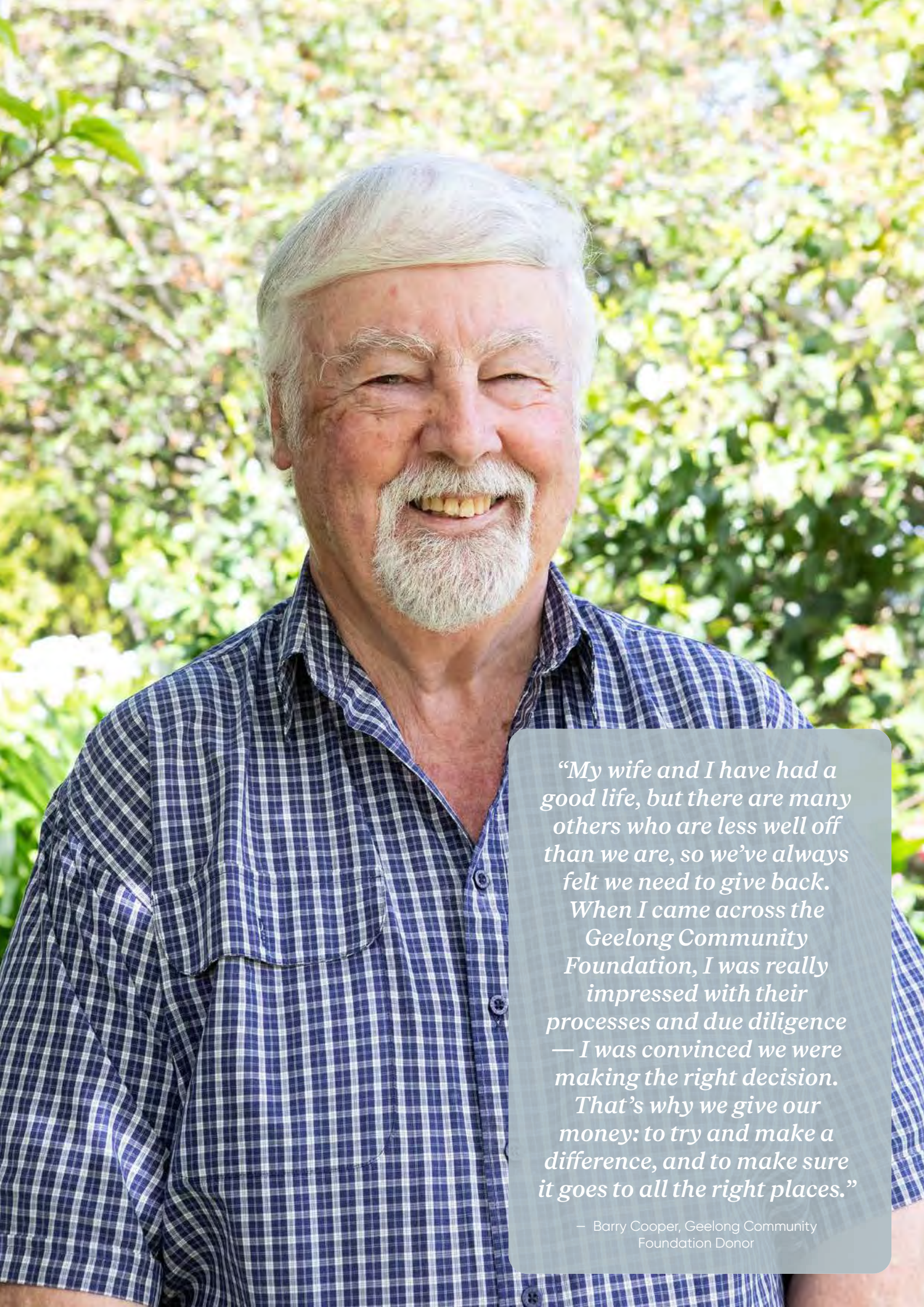
Education Scholarship Sub Funds

Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24
Boland-Speight Student Support Fund	\$362,314	\$309,946
Northern Bay College Scholarship Fund	\$344,317	\$242,507
John Wade Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$219,404	\$160,092
Ron Thompson Scholarship Fund	\$71,621	\$67,276
Allison Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$71,194	\$70,465
Magee Family Scholarship Fund	\$58,771	\$54,259
Backwell IXL Scholarship Fund	\$36,074	\$15,875
J & C Gulli Scholarship Fund	\$32,360	\$29,506
The Rural Education & Retraining Scholarship Fund	\$28,038	\$25,866
Tom & Irene Cleary Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$26,536	\$20,344
Dorothy Jean Scholarship Fund	\$20,301	\$19,666
Miles Family Scholarship Fund	\$19,074	\$23,115
Alfred Swan Scholarship Fund	\$12,581	\$12,077
Community Scholarship Fund	\$8,643	\$2,763

Company Subfunds

Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24	Fund Name	2024/25	2023/24
Adroit Insurance & Risk Golf Day Fund	\$942,182	\$811,259	QEST Infrastructure Group Fund	\$25,122	\$23,648
McHarry's Buslines Fund	\$272,628	\$256,633	LBW Business & Wealth Advisors Fund	\$22,157	\$20,857
Adroit Insurance & Risk Fund	\$257,000	\$241,922	Virtual IT Group Fund	\$21,552	\$12,156
Backwell IXL Fund	\$256,629	\$249,232	Lake Imaging Fund	\$17,678	\$16,641
Furphy Geelong Community Fund	\$92,249	\$77,424	Advisory Partners Fund	\$16,017	\$15,077
Riordan Community Fund	\$87,627	\$58,953	Value ADE (McColl) Fund	\$14,267	\$13,430
Whyte, Just & Moore Fund	\$83,346	\$78,456	Landserv Fund	\$14,156	\$11,631
Muirfield Financial Services Fund	\$71,965	\$62,189	St Quentin Community Fund	\$12,912	\$12,154
Dennis Family Ashbury Community Fund	\$69,975	\$47,043	Trevor Homes Group Fund	\$12,500	\$11,767
HDL	\$58,543	\$55,108	Natural Selection Group Fund	\$12,499	\$11,766
Wendy Brooks & Partners Fund	\$49,140	\$41,551	Hamlan Homes Fund	\$11,704	\$11,018
Barwon Timber & Hardware Fund	\$42,566	\$40,069	Prestige Jayco Fund	\$11,538	\$8,979
Findex Geelong Fund	\$40,315	\$37,950	Coulter Legal Fund	\$11,188	\$10,532
SIPCAM Fund	\$35,083	\$23,611	McHenry Partners Community Fund	\$10,000	-
Mann Legal Fund	\$30,223	\$23,555	GOOP Digital Community Fund	\$8,740	\$5,403
APCO Fund	\$28,541	\$26,867	RAPP Aust Pty Ltd Fund	\$6,563	\$6,178
Tuckers Funeral Service Fund	\$27,455	\$16,431	Connect Tel Community Fund	\$5,394	\$3,195
Davidsons Fund	\$27,194	\$21,880	Midway Limited Community Fund	\$5,000	-
Wightons Lawyers Fund	\$25,998	\$24,473	Arthur Street Community Fund	\$3,000	-
Wheeler Financial Services Fund	\$25,464	\$23,970	PRP Geelong Community Fund	\$2,000	-





“My wife and I have had a good life, but there are many others who are less well off than we are, so we’ve always felt we need to give back. When I came across the Geelong Community Foundation, I was really impressed with their processes and due diligence — I was convinced we were making the right decision. That’s why we give our money: to try and make a difference, and to make sure it goes to all the right places.”

— Barry Cooper, Geelong Community Foundation Donor

Financials

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

GIFT FUND	2025	2024
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Donations received	6,685,242	1,070,577
Income from investments and interest received	998,293	815,970
	<u>7,683,535</u>	<u>1,886,547</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Administration expenses	744,014	672,332
less Administration expense recoupments	(180,992)	(230,500)
	<u>563,022</u>	<u>441,832</u>
NET INCOME	7,120,513	1,444,715
Grants paid and provided	(1,091,746)	(849,620)
Net increase/(Decrease) in value of investments	2,053,619	2,101,541
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) for year	<u>8,082,386</u>	<u>2,696,636</u>
Balance of Gift Fund at beginning of year	<u>22,891,556</u>	<u>20,194,920</u>
BALANCE OF GIFT FUND AT END OF YEAR	<u>30,973,942</u>	<u>22,891,556</u>

NOTES

These statements are abridged from the full set of financial statements, which have been audited by Mr Stephen Kirtley of Davidsons. A copy of the audited financial statements and the audit report are available on request to the CEO or from www.geelongfoundation.org

The Geelong Community Open Fund is a separate Trust. Its income is exempt from income tax, but gifts made to this Fund are not tax deductible.

BALANCE SHEET

FUNDS	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Settled sum	980	980
Total Sub-funds/reserves	30,972,962	22,890,576
	<u>30,973,942</u>	<u>22,891,556</u>
Represented by:		
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	1,527,149	368,706
Short term deposits		
Debtors and other receivables	365,222	350,994
Investments, at net realisable value	1,751,567	1,690,869
	<u>3,643,938</u>	<u>2,410,569</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments, at net realisable value	27,416,614	20,586,998
Debtors and other receivables	9,047	8,184
	<u>27,425,661</u>	<u>20,595,182</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>31,069,599</u>	<u>23,005,751</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and other payables	22,131	27,695
Provisions	46,208	22,268
Other current liabilities	25,075	24,750
	<u>93,414</u>	<u>74,713</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	2,243	39,482
	<u>2,243</u>	<u>39,482</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>95,657</u>	<u>114,195</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>30,973,942</u>	<u>22,891,556</u>

Grants from the Open Fund can be made for charitable purposes without being restricted to tax deductible gift recipients, as is the case with the Gift Fund.

The Geelong Community Foundation Scholarship Fund is also a separate Trust where a public fund is developed for the charitable purpose of providing scholarships, bursaries and prizes to promote education in pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary courses.

Financials

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

OPEN FUND	2025	2024
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Donations received	209,466	150,554
Income from investments and interest received	513,268	531,163
	<u>722,734</u>	<u>681,717</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Administration expenses	190,970	239,268
	<u>190,970</u>	<u>239,268</u>
NET INCOME	531,764	442,449
Grants paid and provided	(664,193)	(579,266)
Net increase/(Decrease) in value of investments	1,352,656	1,295,558
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) for year	<u>1,220,227</u>	<u>1,158,741</u>
Balance of Open Fund at beginning of year	<u>13,943,194</u>	<u>12,784,453</u>
BALANCE OF OPEN FUND AT THE END OF THE YEAR	<u>15,163,421</u>	<u>13,943,194</u>

BALANCE SHEET

FUNDS	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Settled sum	100	100
Total Sub-funds/reserves	15,163,321	13,943,094
	<u>15,163,421</u>	<u>13,943,194</u>
Represented by:		
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	22,036	27,903
Debtors and other receivables	142,181	196,317
Investments, at net realisable value	91,355	183,432
	<u>255,572</u>	<u>407,652</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments, at net realisable value	14,912,172	13,555,988
Debtors and other receivables	5,552	5,554
	<u>14,917,724</u>	<u>13,561,542</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>15,173,296</u>	<u>13,969,194</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and other payables	9,875	26,000
	<u>9,875</u>	<u>26,000</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>9,875</u>	<u>26,000</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>15,163,421</u>	<u>13,943,194</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

SCHOLARSHIP FUND	2025	2024
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Donations received	92,379	154,374
Income from investments and interest received	28,525	21,154
	<u>120,904</u>	<u>175,528</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Administration expenses	7,433	6,887
	<u>7,433</u>	<u>6,887</u>
NET INCOME	113,471	168,641
Grants paid and provided	(35,500)	(54,000)
Net increase/(Decrease) in value of investments	20,955	30,649
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) for year	<u>98,926</u>	<u>145,290</u>
Balance of Scholarship Fund at beginning of year	<u>505,770</u>	<u>360,480</u>
BALANCE OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT END OF YEAR	<u>604,696</u>	<u>505,770</u>

BALANCE SHEET

FUNDS	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Settled sum	100	100
Total Sub-funds/reserves	604,596	505,670
	<u>604,696</u>	<u>505,770</u>
Represented by:		
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	91,849	106,635
Debtors and other receivables	7,195	19,430
Investments, at net realisable value	71,390	21,626
	<u>170,434</u>	<u>147,691</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments, at net realisable value	434,090	357,909
Debtors and other receivables	172	170
	<u>434,262</u>	<u>358,079</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>604,696</u>	<u>505,770</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS	<u>604,696</u>	<u>505,770</u>

Board of Directors



MICHAEL BETTS
Chair

BComm MBA, M.Tax Law GAICD
Joined the Foundation Board in 2020

Michael Betts is a Director and Consultant. He is a retired Chartered Accountant who has combined more than 37 years experience in public practice, with over 50 years experience in the for purpose sector in the Barwon Region.

Whilst actively involved across the community, the organisations he has chaired include Barwon Regional Association for Alcohol and Drug dependence, St Laurence Community Services Inc (Barwon), the Committee for Geelong Ltd, the Geelong College Foundation Ltd and Northern Futures Ltd. Inc (Barwon), the Committee for Geelong Ltd, the Geelong College Foundation Ltd and Northern Futures Ltd.



ALLANA GOLDSWORTHY
Deputy Chair

B.A LLB (Monash Uni)
Joined the Foundation Board in 2018

Allana is a Barrister who practices in Family Law and is a Nationally Accredited Family Law Mediator. Allana has had extensive involvement with local community organisations, including Deakin University Animal Experimentation Committee, Barwon Child Rights & Maltreatment Task Force, Zonta International, St Laurence Community Services, Gordon Board, Geelong College Foundation, Geelong Business Club, RACV Club and Geelong Club.

She served as a Regional Councillor with the City of Geelong from 1998 – 2001. She is a member of the Law Council of Australia, Victorian Bar Association, Victorian Women's Barrister's Association, Vicbar Family Law Barrister's Association, and Australian Institute of Family Law Mediators and Arbitrators.



DON HOUGH
Director

Monash Univ., Dip. Bus. Stud. (Acct.)
Joined the Foundation Board in 2023

A retired Certified Practising Accountant and Commercial Real Estate Agent, Don moved from Melbourne to Geelong in 1988 to join Davidsons, becoming a partner in 1990. He later founded his own accounting and business consultancy, specialising in tax and strategic planning for family businesses. After selling the practice in 2003, Don transitioned to commercial real estate with Maxwell Collins, where he worked in sales and leasing until retiring in 2022. Well connected in the Geelong business community, Don served as President of the Geelong Business Club in 2011. Now retired, he enjoys time with his wife Marisa, their four grandchildren, and hobbies including golf, cycling, cooking, and travel.



VAL LAWRENCE
Director

OAM DSJ JP
Joined the Foundation Board in 1999

Val is a Founding Director of the Foundation and Board Chair from 2009- 2015. Val is the Immediate Past President Point Lonsdale/ Queenscliff Red Cross Unit, Local Convenor Annual Red Cross Calling Appeal, Patron St Georges Restoration Appeal and Patron Queenscliff Lighthouse Theatre Company. Val was a Councillor of the Borough of Queenscliffe from 1999 to 2008 and Mayor from 2001 to 2004 and was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 for Community Service. Val has been a Board Member of the Grace McKellar Centre, Board Member Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, Vice President of the Barwon Heads Golf Club, Board Member of the Geelong Otway Tourism and an original Member of the G21 Board. She is also an Honorary JP.



ALICE MACDOUGALL
Director

B.Sc., LLB(Hons)
Joined the Foundation Board in December 2024

Alice is a leading charity law expert at Herbert Smith Freehills in Melbourne, specialising in governance, tax concessions, compliance, and legal structures for charities, foundations, and corporates. She has extensive knowledge of the Income Tax Assessment Act, the Charities Act, and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act, as well as strong relationships with the ACNC and ATO. Drawing on her corporate law background, she advises boards on governance and structural matters. Since joining the Charity Law group in 2000 during major legal reforms, Alice has become nationally recognised for her expertise and frequently presents on issues affecting charities and foundations, guiding clients through the complex regulatory landscape governing the not-for-profit sector.



ANDREW LOCKE
Director

GAICD, QPIB, Snr Assoc CIP ANZIIF, Dip Fin Serv (Ins Broking)
Joined the Foundation Board in 2017

Andrew is a founding Director of Maven Insurance + Advisory, an insurance broking and financial services business that commenced on the Surf Coast in 2019, expanding into Melbourne and Mount Gambier. For nearly 15 years prior to this, Andrew was Managing Director of Adroit Insurance & Risk, leading the business to fourfold growth, while gaining the reputation as a leading "Community" partner, recognition of which Andrew is most proud. Andrew is a Foundation donor, a Committee Member of the Torquay Football Club, previous Chair of The Geelong College Parents Support Group for Cricket, past Board member of the St Therese Primary School in Torquay and served as a judge for the Geelong Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.



KEITH FAGG
Director

OAM B.Ec. (Hons) MAICD
Joined the Foundation Board in 2025

Keith is Company Director and Mediator. Prior to a long career in the family hardware & building materials business (Fagg's Mitre 10), Keith worked in various research, HR and administration roles in Melbourne and the Northern Territory. Keith has served on a number of community service Boards since 1986. Notable among these was Rural Ambulance Victoria, St. Laurence Community Services, Samaritan House Geelong, Read the Play and Hope Bereavement Care. Keith served as Geelong's first directly-elected Mayor in 2012-13 and in 2016 was awarded an OAM for services to the Geelong community. In recent years, Keith has been developing disability housing in the Geelong region. He is also patron of Volunteering Geelong and Music at the Basilica.



HAYDEN TORNEY
Director

B.Econ and Dip. Ed. Monash
Joined the Foundation Board in 2014

Hayden is a Director Emeritus of the Foundation and was Board Chair from 2018-2021. Hayden moved to the Surf Coast in 1973 and taught Legal Studies and Economics in Geelong for the next 17 years. In 1989, Hayden left the teaching profession and, with his wife Sally, started Muirfield Financial Services. Over the past 35 years, they have built Muirfield into a very successful Financial Planning business catering to the retirement planning needs of their clients aged 55+. Hayden is a Life Member of the Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club where he has served as President and Club Captain. He is passionate about giving back to the community that has served his family well for over 50 years and, by extension, strengthening the region in which his children and their children will develop.



MELINDA PLANKEN
Director

Joined the Board in May 2025

Melinda is the Managing Director of Muirfield Financial Services, a Certified Financial Planner, and an Accredited Aged Care Specialist. She holds both an MBA and a Bachelor of Commerce from Deakin University. Since joining Muirfield in 2007, Melinda worked closely with founder Hayden Torney, playing a key role in ensuring a smooth transition of leadership following Hayden's retirement in 2017. Under her guidance, the continued success of Muirfield Financial Services reflects her commitment to educating clients, strong leadership and passion in the support she provides to a dynamic and expanding team. Melinda has been actively involved in the Geelong Community Foundation's Philanthropy 500 Committee, having contributed to its launch in 2016 and early years and recently rejoining the committee in 2025. She is a strong advocate for the vital role that charitable giving plays in strengthening the local Geelong community.



NICK KLEIN
Director

BCom (Deakin), CMember CAANZ
Joined the Foundation Board in 2023.

Joined the Foundation Board in 2023.

A Principal at LBW Business + Wealth Advisors since 2004, Nick has been with the firm since 1999 and is a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. He advises a diverse range of clients across business and not-for-profit sectors, while also overseeing LBW's HR and IT portfolios. Nick values building long-term relationships and leading a team of dedicated professionals. He has served on the boards of the Geelong Chamber of Commerce and Give Where You Live, chairing Audit and Risk Committees for both. He is also a past President and Treasurer of Geelong West Rotary, current Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for Motorcycling Victoria, a committee member for GDP Industries Ltd, and Chair of the Foundation's Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.



BRIDGETTE KELLY
Director

LLB BCom GDLP
Joined the Foundation Board in 2019

Bridgette is a Principal at Harwood Andrews. She is a Law Institute of Victoria Accredited Specialist in Family Law. Bridgette was the Chair of the Geelong Community Foundation's Philanthropy 500 Committee from its inception in 2016 to 2019 and she was a founding Committee member of the Geelong Young Professionals Network. She is currently a member of The Geelong College Council. Bridgette is also an Alumni of the Leaders for Geelong program. Bridgette lives in Geelong with her family and her interests outside of work include spending time with her family, baking, playing tennis and travel.

Retired Directors



WENDY BROOKS
Deputy Chair

BMus, LLB (Hons), Grad Dip LP, AMICDA, MFIA
Joined the Foundation Board in 2020

Wendy is passionate about social justice, equity and human rights. Her career has spanned law, music and strategic fundraising. As well as being a proud Director of the Geelong Community Foundation, Wendy is Co-Chair, Human Rights Watch (HRW) Australia; and Board Director of InLife Independent Living Ltd and is an active member of ANGAIR. Wendy and her life partner, Rod grew up in Geelong and returned with their young family in the 1990s. Wendy and Rod have lived in Fairhaven for the past 5 years.



MARK OSBORNE
Director

GAICD GradCert Man
Joined the Foundation Board in 2018

Mark is currently the Business Advisor & Brand Ambassador to Tuckers Funeral & Bereavement Service. He was previously the Victorian General Manager for InvoCare Australia and an owner and partner of Tuckers Funeral & Bereavement Service. Prior to this, Mark served with the Department of Defence where he held several senior positions serving for over 20 years. Graduate of the Leaders for Geelong Program, Mark has held several Board positions and been actively involved in the Geelong community across many entities. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and serves in other community roles.

Staff



AMY WATERS

Chief Executive Officer

BA (Int. Studies), Dip. Proj. Mgt.

Amy joined the Foundation as Program Manager in March 2023 and became Chief Executive Officer in September 2024. A dynamic leader and grantmaking professional, Amy brings a passion for social justice, inclusion, and a thriving Geelong. She has over a decade of leadership and grantmaking experience across federal government and the for-purpose sector. Amy has led major initiatives including establishing the NDIA's grant management approach for the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Program and designing the national Partner delivery model for ILC. She also has extensive fundraising and management experience from her time at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.



GAIL RODGERS

Chief Executive Officer

FICDA, Dip. Bus. Gov. (Chisholm)

Joined the Foundation in 2016, Retired 30 September 2024

Gail's distinguished career includes roles in the community and corporate sectors, and a passion for the Geelong region. Since 2007, Gail was the Manager at Volunteering Geelong and has great knowledge and connections in the Geelong community. Gail is formerly the Corporate Citizenship Manager at Ford Australia and Executive Director at United Way Geelong (now Give Where You Live).



TONY McMANUS

Development Manager

Tony joined the Foundation in June 2018.

With a strong community background, Tony was the first Independent Chair of a Headspace local consortium and helped establish the Lara and District Community Bank. After selling his Lara-based real estate business, he created a sub fund with the Geelong Community Foundation. Passionate about promoting social connection as a mental health solution, Tony shares his message through his Facebook page Connect 2 Grow and as a Community Ambassador for RUOK?. He's also a popular speaker on mental health, mentoring, and volunteering, and enjoys volunteer tourism trips to PNG and Outback Australia.



CHARLOTTE WALKER

Program and Impact Manager

Charlotte joined the Foundation as Program and Impact Manager on 11 November 2024.

Charlotte has over ten years' experience working within the community sector, in a diverse range of roles in program management, direct service provision and leadership. With a background in Social Work and International Development, Charlotte is passionate about social justice, equity and Indigenous rights and has held roles in Alice Springs, Timor-Leste and locally in Geelong. Charlotte is excited to support the Foundation to continue to address vital community needs and grow its impact within the Greater Geelong region.



GENNETTE JEWELL

Administration Assistant

Joined the Foundation in 2018.

Gennette commenced at the Foundation as a Volunteer in 2017 before transitioning to the role of Administration Assistant in 2018, following a sea change to the Geelong region from Northeast Victoria. Previously, Gennette worked within the health sector in various roles, including 15 years as an Executive Assistant.

Co-opted Committee Members



FREDA WRIGHT
Grants Committee



BARRY COOPER
Grants Committee and
Governance, Planning &
Nominations Committee



MICHELE VAN LIESSUM
Grants Committee



CHRISTIAN RYAN
Investment Committee



CHRIS WILSON
Investment Committee



JON BLACK
Investment Committee



