

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT  
**CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION**

# Helping Rewrite the Future

2022/23 Annual Review



# Chair and Executive Officer Report



Ross Griffiths, Incoming Chair and Jennifer Leslie, Outgoing Chair.

For 20 years, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation has held a bold vision to help rewrite the future, now and for generations to come. We support innovative grassroots charities to make a meaningful difference to the lives of people facing disadvantage, and create opportunities for regional communities to thrive by providing approximately \$1.4 million in grants each year.

In recent years, communities have faced numerous challenges that have put their health and wellbeing to the test. From devastating fires and floods, to the rising cost of living and food insecurity. Our project partners have faced unique challenges due to growing demand for their services, and the ongoing need for funding. Despite these difficulties, their resilience and commitment have been truly remarkable. Whenever possible, the Charitable Foundation has actively assisted our partners by providing practical support through volunteering opportunities, building capability, and facilitating connections within the sector.

To further strengthen our support of charities, we expanded our grant-making program, by implementing a robust community grant workshop program that went beyond funding, to support our partners build in-house capability through workshops, and facilitated introductions to other organisations. This enabled new collaboration opportunities between our project and community partners.

Our December 2022 grant ceremony saw more than \$770,000 in funding support nine projects for new and existing partnerships. In May 2023, we announced a further seven grants valued at \$647,592 for projects which will directly assist thousands of people in New South Wales; from the Central Coast to the Northern Rivers, and the Hunter to the Central West.

These grant recipients were celebrated at our 20-year celebration event that saw 200 community members, supporters and charity partners gather to mark our incredible milestone.

Throughout the year, Chair Jennifer Leslie has shown unwavering commitment to the Foundation. Since joining as Director in 2017 and becoming Chair in September 2020, Jennifer has brought positive change by engaging with charities and community groups. Her dedication has made a lasting impact on our charity partners.

Ross Griffiths, Charitable Foundation and NGM Group Director, brings extensive governance experience and a passion for supporting regional communities. We thank Jennifer for her service and welcome Ross. We farewelled Director Bernadette Inglis and thank her for her insights and welcomed Paul Juergens, an NGM Group Executive to our Board. Paul brings enthusiasm and passion to our community work.

We acknowledge the merger between Greater Bank and Newcastle Permanent in March 2023, and thank the Newcastle Greater Mutual Group (NGM Group) for their ongoing operational support. This assistance has enabled the Charitable Foundation to maximise grants and philanthropic work in our regional communities. We also thank our NGM Group people for sharing our values and demonstrating extraordinary passion for supporting our local communities. The coming year will continue to present new and familiar challenges, and the Charitable Foundation and our Executive Officer, Carly Bush, remain committed to helping our partners evolve and innovate so they can continue to deliver their much-needed support and services to their local communities.

# Highlights and Impacts 2022/23

## \$1.4m

in total grants funded across 16 projects



## \$26m

in total funding since 2003



### \$148,700

Health  
2 projects



### \$533,000

Young People  
7 projects



### \$737,492

Social Wellbeing  
7 projects

### 35,593

Direct Impact



### Project Impact



### 69,748

Indirect Impact

Project Partners include



HMRI's treatment for Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis



Foodbank NSW & ACT's Central West Food Relief Program



Social and Economic Resilience Project for migrant & refugee women



FISH - Strengthening Family Inclusion Project



The batyr @School Program for youth mental health



SMART Recovery's collab with Lifeline

# Partner Stories



## Boys to the Bush

The driving force behind an alternative educational program in the Central West is the belief that every boy deserves the opportunity to become a good man. Recognising that school isn't necessarily for everyone, Boys to the Bush delivers a range of early intervention programs designed to give youth educational opportunities that go beyond the traditional classroom setting.

"A lot of the boys we work with have experienced a range of early and ongoing traumas. In many cases schoolwork is the last thing on their minds and they're prone to disengaging from the education system," said Jared DeMamiel, Boys to the Bush Area Manager Western NSW.

"Our programs establish good introductions for kids to good people in their community, creating opportunities that they can build on as they mature," Jared said.

Working with schools and services to identify vulnerable students, Boys to the Bush creates a safe space beyond the classroom for relationships and mutual respect to be formed.

"Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation funding will allow us to support 160 Central West kids via 16 group school programs which offer day-long sessions over 5 weeks to get boys involved in activities where they have an opportunity to develop confidence and discover latent skills under the guidance of great role models," Jared said.

Using a grant of \$108,800, Boys to the Bush will be able to deliver their program to 16 Central West public and high schools free of charge, to invest in these young men and continue growing a platform for practical change.



## Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

Imagine sustaining a life-changing spinal cord injury only to be discharged from hospital to home, where there are limited or no peer support services available. This is the reality for hundreds of people living in the Hunter Region and why Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) was founded more than 50 years ago by a group of patients unable to leave hospital due to a lack of community services.

SCIA Peer and Family Support Manager, Rob Wynn, said support after discharge from hospital is a critical time for learning to live with an injury and for community integration.

"Our clients often struggle with basic life skills for adapting to life after injury, feelings of isolation and lack of social connection in addition to a range of physical issues," Rob said.

With half their clients based in regional New South Wales, SCIA will use \$121,000 in funding from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation to expand the reach of their Peer and Family Support program already available in Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra.

"This grant will enable us to employ and train a local coordinator with a lived experience to deliver our Peer and Family Support program here in the Hunter Region," Rob said.

The local coordinator will develop a range of non-clinical activities aimed at improving the wellbeing of people and families adjusting to life with a spinal cord injury.

"Our partnership with the Charitable Foundation takes us closer to achieving our vision of creating a world where people with spinal or neuro conditions and their loved ones can thrive," Rob said.



## Feel the Magic

Magic isn't necessarily pulling a rabbit out of a hat, or fancy disappearing tricks. Sometimes it's helping a child feel connected and understood after losing a parent or sibling. With a staggering one in 20 Aussie kids estimated to experience the death of a parent before they turn 18 years old, Feel the Magic is helping families cope with the pain and isolation caused by loss.

Chief Executive Officer, Adam Blatch, said their early intervention programs are designed to create a community where grieving kids and their families feel supported and empowered to move forward with their lives.

"Despite research showing that access to comprehensive care can keep a child's development on track and help prevent adverse outcomes, bereaved youth are often an overlooked group," Adam said.

"Often kids don't have other peers around them that understand what they're going through, so our camps are a safe environment where they can share their thoughts and feelings with others who also have that lived experience."

Using \$55,000 from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, Feel the Magic was able to bring its Grad Camp to the Hunter Region for the first time in early 2023.

"Under the guidance of psychologists and mentors, we equip 17 and 18 year olds with specific skills and strategies to live healthily with their grief as they transition to adult life," Adam said.

"Without this partnership, we wouldn't have been able to help as many families as we have or establish a presence in the region that we can expand on into the future."



**Chairman's Medal 2023**

## Carey Binks, Ronald McDonald House

Regional families facing the unimaginable trauma of a child in hospital with serious illness or injury often arrive at Ronald McDonald House Newcastle in the middle of the night, exhausted and stressed.

There to meet them is Carey Binks, an overnight volunteer of six years who is on hand to provide families with ongoing care and compassion while their child receives treatment close by at John Hunter Hospital.

Carey said the House becomes a home away from home for more than 600 families each year who can find themselves staying for weeks or even months at a time.

In recognition of the 3,500 hours spent as an overnight volunteer and his tremendous contribution to others, Carey was awarded the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation 2023 Chairman's Medal.



**Farewell from Jennifer**

## A note from outgoing Chair, Jennifer Leslie

Six years ago I joined the Board of the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation. I thought I was accepting another board position, but I was wrong. I stepped into a privileged position that allowed me to engage with some of the most hard-working, community spirited and values-driven people. I started to understand the immense impact that charitable organisations make in reducing disadvantage and empowering social opportunity in their local communities.

As I farewell the Foundation, I can say the last six years has been a joy and an honour. I thank my fellow Board members for their support and commitment to our community. I wish incoming Chair (Ross), Executive Officer (Carly) and the team my best wishes for the future as they continue to help rewrite the future for people in need.

# Board and Governance



**Board members (L to R):** Margie Haseltine, Chad Watson, Natasha Beyersdorf, Bernadette Inglis (31 April 2023), Ashley Gordon, Jennifer Leslie (Outgoing Chair), Jane Gray, Ross Griffiths (Incoming Chair).

## Governance

In 2003, Newcastle Permanent created the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation as a gift to the community. Newcastle Permanent Community Foundation Company Limited is the Trustee of the Foundation and is represented by a Board of Directors, comprising representatives of the Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Board (formerly known as Newcastle Permanent) and appointed Community Directors.

The Board meets at least four times each year and has responsibility to;

- set and monitor the Charitable Foundation's strategic direction
- guide its financial, risk and investment decisions
- ensure compliance with the Charitable Foundation's Trust Deed, guidelines, taxation and other legislation
- approve funding of charitable grants.

The Charitable Foundation is classified as a Private Ancillary Fund (PAF) and is regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

The Charitable Foundation provides approximately \$1.4 million annually in grants to charitable community organisations across the Hunter, Central Coast, Central West, Mid North Coast, New England and Northern Rivers regions of New South Wales. Newcastle Permanent Building Society endowed \$30 million to the Charitable Foundation and provides ongoing operational support under an administrative services agreement.

The Charitable Foundation has invested the funds from Newcastle Permanent to generate an income stream that is used to support important community projects and initiatives. These projects help to rewrite the future of people in need now, and for generations to come.

**Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waterways, skies and community. We pay our respects to the stories, traditions and culture; and to Elders past and present.**

[charitablefoundation.com.au](http://charitablefoundation.com.au)

Newcastle Permanent Community Foundation Company Limited ABN 79 092 437 379 as Trustee for Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation.

**NEWCASTLE PERMANENT  
CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION**