

# Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation Inc

25 NOVEMBER 2024



ILLUSTRATION BY CATHERINE KANE

# ANNUAL REPORT

# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

In recognition of the Traditional Owners we will attempt to respect their connection to Country, including our wildlife cousins and hope that they will be present and watch over the work we are doing.

BALLARAT WILDLIFE REHABILITATION & CONSERVATION INC (BWRAC)

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KOALA SAKO: SHANHAVEN SHELTER



ROCKY KESTREL: JEN GREENHALGH

“A voice for our  
wildlife”

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# 01 Our Story

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Inspired by Koala Shane, Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation Inc (BWRAC) was established by Ballarat wildlife carers and veterinary professionals to respond to the growing need for specialised care of sick and injured wildlife in Ballarat and surrounding areas. We are an incorporated association, and a registered charity.

## What we do

**Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation INC (BWRAC) rehabilitates wildlife that has experienced injury or trauma and advocates to influence and protect Australia's wildlife habitat biodiversity. We do this by providing specialised care, lobbying for policy and industry reform, undertaking research and educating the public.**

## Purposes of the association:

### **CHARITABLE PURPOSE: Advancing the natural environment:**

- \* Provide a wholistic approach to rescue and rehabilitation for orphaned or injured native wildlife
- \* Establish a locally based not-for-profit wildlife hospital.
- \* Provide training opportunities for wildlife rescuers, carers and veterinary staff to support the wellbeing and conservation of wildlife.
- \* Provide education and research opportunities for students in the fields of veterinary, wildlife, ecology and life sciences.
- \* Collaborate with local like-minded organisations to promote biodiversity through re-introducing indigenous plant and tree species to areas in which they are no longer found or are no longer abundant.
- \* Undertake projects and activities to advocate for the protection of wildlife habitat in Victoria and Australia-wide.
- \* Utilise our database of samples to participate in disease surveillance and One Health research.

### **CHARITABLE PURPOSE: other purpose beneficial to the public**

- \* Providing ways for members of the public to learn about conservation and the importance of protecting indigenous plants and animals, especially Koalas, for future generations.
- \* Working with government and regulation authorities at all levels to ensure that the interests of the Koala (and other relevant native wildlife) are represented in regard to the decision-making process.
- \* Creating partnerships with other organisations involved in koala protection, habitat creation and environment protection;
- \* Holding fundraising events to raise money to be used for the treatment and rehabilitation of wildlife and to provide a forum for the community to access resources and training for the benefit of our wildlife.

## 02 President's Report

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- \* Undertake research projects to better understand wildlife (and Koalas) needs and wildlife habitat requirements to inform conservation and preservation of biodiversity for Australian wildlife, particularly the Koala.

As President of Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation, I am honored to present this year's Annual Report, a reflection of our collective achievements and the impact we've made in protecting our vulnerable native wildlife / natural habitats and supporting our local wildlife carers.

**Conservation Achievements** This year, we successfully conducted our first tree planting project. This serves to reconnect vital habitat for the benefit of our local wildlife. We created an opportunity to connect with local landowners and to also develop an organisational strategy for future habitat restoration projects, to benefit our local koalas and wildlife in general. These efforts have not only enhanced biodiversity but also support healthier ecosystems through the regeneration of new habitat.

**Wildlife Carer Support Initiatives** We have created a wildlife carer reimbursement program, as we promised at the 2023 AGM. To sustain and expand our efforts, corporate partnerships and financial support from businesses are essential. By collaborating with forward-thinking companies, we can leverage resources and shared expertise to scale up our impact, reaching more wildlife carers to support them on their wildlife rehabilitation journey. We invite businesses to join us as partners in supporting our local wildlife warriors and protecting biodiversity, demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship. We also assisted three wildlife shelters to apply for grants. Together, we can achieve a more sustainable future for our carers and wildlife.

**Community Engagement and Education** Building support within local communities is vital for long-term conservation and longevity. This year, we connected with Mount Clear Secondary College through our tree planting project. Thirty-three students and teachers attended over two weeks and helped us prepare and plant over 440 plants. We also provided basic wildlife emergency training to those attendees, and also our working bee attendees. We also hosted a flying fox and micro bat workshop for 67 people during July. This sees the launch of our education program for the future, where we can continue to teach and educate members of our community in basic wildlife first aid and support our carers to improve their technical knowledge.

This outreach will help educate the local community about the importance of wildlife conservation and hopefully inspire shifts in attitudes and behaviours towards our native wildlife. We look forward to rolling out more training and education in 2025.

**Research and Innovation** Partnering with institutions remains an important link in us achieving vital koala research. This year, in our second year in partnership with Federation University, the team treated 12 koalas from August 2023 until September 2024, which was an increase on the year prior. Not all koalas were able to be released, due to the severity of their injuries, and there is still much to be learned from the monitoring and surveillance of the released animals.

**Financial Overview and Fundraising** Our financial health is stable, thanks to generous donations, grants, and our membership payments. These funds are vital to enable us to operate and support our wildlife carers. Projects are funded through grants, with three new projects for 2025; from DEECA, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and the Community Bank Buninyong. The Koala Research Project funds will extend for another year too, thanks to a grant from DEECA. We would also like to thank Kwik Kopy and Mega Merch for their ongoing support in hosting a donation money box for us. Thank you to Bunnings, Kennards Hire, Bunanyung Landscape Alliance, Haymes Paint Ballarat, the Lucas Fire Rescue group, A1 Traffic Solutions, Planet Ark's Seed Bank, Moorabool Catchment Landcare, Ballarat Community Nursery and our members who have contributed to make 2024 a success.

## 02 President's Report cont'd

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Our vision is ambitious, but with the support of our donors, partners, members and a passionate team, we will grow and learn in order to face the challenges ahead.

As we look to the future, one of our primary goals is to build resilience and capacity within BWRAC. To ensure we continue to support wildlife carers, educate the community and advocate to protect wildlife and habitats effectively, even in the face of unpredictable environmental and economic changes, we are focusing on strengthening our operational foundation. This includes increasing our team and enhancing our partnerships with research and other relevant, local organisations. By future-proofing Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation, we aim to secure a legacy that will enable us to continue our mission for generations to come, adapting to meet new challenges while staying true to our mission and values.

On behalf of BWRAC, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our cause during the past twelve months. Together, we are creating an environment where our local wildlife and humanity can thrive in harmony. Thank you for standing with us on this important journey to preserve our local wildlife and biodiversity.

## MELISSA MOREY

BWRAC President

# 03 Secretary's Report

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The past twelve months have been busy, but productive. We have held our first wildlife carer training workshop, and trained members of the public in the basics of wildlife first aid. Our Facebook followers and likes have increased by about 88%, which is encouraging.

Tamsyn Hogarth and Emma Hood of Fly By Night Bat Clinic Victoria and Ericka Tudhope of Microbats of Melbourne presented a workshop on 21st July 2024: “everything you need to know in order to rescue and handle Flying Foxes or Microbats”.

It proved to be hugely popular event with 67 people registering to attend. People travelled from a wide variety of places including Bendigo, Sunraysia, Lexton, Narre Warren and Buninyong. The presenters covered a lot of interesting information on both species and had lots of goodies to giveaway. By the end of the day, we were able to see that microbats are a lot like echidnas, you don't want either species loose in your car!

We continue to develop our systems and documenting our processes will always be an ongoing task. There are now good guides with step-by-step screen shots on how to do tasks, especially in the accounting software. As a small team, we have achieved a lot in a short amount of time. However, we are seeking dedicated individuals to join our committee and help us drive our mission to protect wildlife and conserve our local habitats—your skills and ideas can make a real impact!

We must ensure that the organisation is future proofed so it can continue long into the future, as there is much that we need to do to achieve to secure a future for our local wildlife.

Our administrative grants continue, these help us in the running of the organisation. We have an ongoing grant from Microsoft that provides us with complimentary access to the Microsoft Office suite of products; Oracle's NetSuite also support us with access to their accounting and customer relationship management (CRM) software valued at \$6,500.

We've also experienced great support from our local business community too. Bunnings Delacombe has donated ..... that can be used to contain echidnas and various reptiles while they are rehabilitated.

Join us in making a real difference for wildlife—bring your passion and skills to our team and help protect our local wildlife and preserve natural habitats for future generations!

## MELISSA MOREY

BWRAC Secretary



FLYING FOX & MICRO BAT  
WORKSHOP JULY 2024



BWRAC NEST BOX WORKING  
BEE NOV 2024



GAIA EVENT MARCH 2024

# 04 Our Impact

Despite BWRAC's short history, we have still had a positive impact in advocating for wildlife and their habitats. The need to advocate for wildlife is a never-ending challenge while the urgency increases due to ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation and attack or predation by cats and dogs on our wildlife.

We acknowledge there are ongoing challenges associated with advocating for wildlife and supporting those who care for them. We hope that by working together we can overcome some of these challenges. We have had numerous mentions in various media which helps illuminate the plight of our local wildlife. A summary of the major projects that we have undertaken in the last twelve months are included below.

## Media

Media coverage is vital for a charity as it raises awareness, amplifies its message, and attracts support by reaching a broader audience and showcasing its impact. There have been numerous media coverage of BWRAC and our endeavours over the past twelve months.



THE GOLDEN PLAINS TIMES DEC 2023



THE GOLDEN PLAINS TIMES NOV 2024



THE BALLARAT TIMES 2024



THE BALLARAT TIMES 2024

# 04 Our Impact cont'd

## Advocacy

Advocacy for wildlife is essential for raising awareness, protecting biodiversity, and influencing policies that support the conservation of ecosystems and endangered species. With human activities such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change threatening wildlife, advocacy plays a crucial role in highlighting the urgent need for action. It helps inform the public about the consequences of biodiversity loss and mobilizes individuals and communities to support conservation efforts. Advocacy also puts pressure on policymakers to enact and enforce laws that protect habitats and prevent exploitation of natural resources. By giving a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves, wildlife advocates create a platform that drives meaningful change, safeguarding ecosystems that are vital for our local wildlife populations.

### Gordon's Koalas

This campaign was initiated to save four koalas living in a blue gum plantation positioned on the western freeway, in Gordon. The 17-hectare plantation was finally harvested in December 2023.

The plantation site, surrounded by open paddocks and very little vegetation, with the closest habitat positioned on the opposite side of the freeway. Advocates were concerned that during the harvest, koalas would seek refuge by attempting to cross the freeway to the nearest bushland and this would inevitably result in road trauma.

In recent years, there have been numerous koalas hit and killed when attempting to cross the freeway to the plantation, therefore advocates were not opposed to the harvest itself.

Stephen Derrick first raised awareness of the harvest back in December 2021. The plantation harvest was successfully delayed to allow negotiations to take place to have the koalas relocated (translocated).

Despite everyone's efforts in contacting the relevant authorities to ensure the safety of the koalas, it eventually became clear that the Office of the Conservation Regulator (who is tasked with enforcing regulations) had denied an application to relocate the koalas. They replied to BWRAC President Melissa Morey's letter and also publicly cited that it would be too stressful to translocate the koalas approximately five kilometres to appropriate habitat. Everyone was shocked at their response.

Thank you to the BWRAC members who travelled from Melbourne, did early morning, daytime or night-time shifts at the plantation, thank you for caring for the koalas and our wildlife.

### Cat & Dog attacks on wildlife

BWRAC continues to liaise with the Ballarat City Council regarding cat and dog attacks and also on injuries to wildlife, especially at Lake Wendouree.



GORDON KOALAS PROXIMITY TO THE FREEWAY



MELISSA MOREY: KOALA GORDON PLANTATION



DEC 2023 SOCIAL MEDIA TILE (BY GRETA HOLACK)

# 04 Our Impact cont'd

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## Advocating for our local koalas

During October 2024 we lobbied the Ballarat City Council regarding making Moss Avenue safer for ALL of its users. We have requested that the entire length of Moss Avenue be made consistent with the 50km speed limit and speed humps.

We formally requested a review and reduction of the speed limit on Moss Avenue, Mount Helen. As we were concerned about the safety of drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife along this stretch of road. It is a known Koala route and a mother with a backrider joey had been seen trying to cross the road amongst the traffic.

Part of the avenue already has a 50km zone and traffic speed control devices, ie speed humps. The remaining 1.2 kilometre is 80km with a variable speed sign near the Steiner School end of the avenue. As residents (and visitors) we regularly see and hear traffic travelling at excessive speeds.

Following our joint letter, Council officers will commission a study to determine actual traffic characteristics for Moss Avenue. "Subject to data gathered in the study and on-site inspections/assessment, this site may be selected for speed zone reduction application to DTP to be considered along with other sites throughout the City of Ballarat." We will continue to follow up with council during 2025.



## Easter Facebook Campaign

BWRAC undertook an Easter educational social media campaign. A series of images were collated and released daily during the Easter break. The timing coincided when a higher than normal volume of traffic would be on our roads. The post of a damaged car had a Facebook post reach of 1,232.



## Community Engagement

The opportunity to engage with our local community is invaluable.

Community engagement is vital for a charity's success, as it fosters trust, builds relationships, and amplifies impact. When a charity actively involves the community, it helps people feel connected to the cause, making them more likely to contribute their time, skills, and resources. Engaged communities can provide valuable feedback, allowing charities to better understand local needs and improve their programs to be more effective and responsive. Furthermore, community members who are deeply involved often become advocates, helping to spread awareness and garner more support. This broadens the charity's reach, strengthens its reputation, and creates a network of supporters who are committed to sustaining its mission over the long term.



# 04 Our Impact cont'd

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## Buninyong Sustainable Living Festival

BWRAC participated at the Bendigo Bank's Smart Living Expo again in February 2024.

We had great interaction with members of the public, with lots of conversations regarding wildlife. We launched our 'One Tree Project'. This is a project where we go and plant one tree or shrub for members of our community.

## GAIA Expo

BWRAC was invited to have a stall at the 2024 GAIA expo in Brown Hill in March. The GAIA event is an alternative expo event showcasing the Ballarat & district creatives, healers & mystic community. We had a great day where we connected with likeminded wildlife warriors, encouraged people to undertake rescue training and sold some basic rescue kits.

## One Tree Project

During the past year BWRAC undertook a community tree planting project. We went and planted one tree or shrub for landowners. The purpose of this project is two-fold, one we get to engage with members of our community and have a valuable conversation about why planting trees and adding to existing habitat is so important for our wildlife, and two, more plants and trees will get put in the ground. Thanks to Greta Hollack for the flyer graphic design.



UPDATED ROAD SIGN ON MOSS AVENUE, MT HELEN NOW INCLUDES A KOALA WARNING SIGN

# 05 Grants + Research

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**Grants are essential to charities as they provide critical funding that enables organisations like BWRAC to expand our programs, reach more people, and sustainably support our missions.**

**Being able to apply for and win grants is an integral part in how BWRAC obtains funding to carryout our valuable work that we would otherwise not be able to do.**

## 2024 National Tree Day - Seed Bank Grant

### PLANET ARK

We undertook a tree planting project this season as part of the National Tree Day program. Planet Ark's Seedling Bank sponsored us with a grant that enabled us to buy native tube stock for the planting season and a tree planting tool. Mount Clear Secondary College year nine students came and assisted us on the preparation and planting days. The students did a great job in helping clear the grass and dig the holes ready for the tree planting day. They also had the opportunity to learn about the different types of 'scat' from some of our local wildlife, and to also learn what to do if they come across wildlife on the side of the road. We presented each participant with their own wildlife basic rescue kit.

We first met Ross late last year, when it came to our attention that he had rescued an injured koala. At that time we had committed to creating a one tree project – where we go and plant one tree or shrub for our local community members. So we reached out to Ross to thank him for his concern of our local wildlife and to offer to come and one plant tree. We got talking and Ross explained that he had fenced off an area and had already started planting some trees on his property in an attempt to revegetate the area, and that he wasn't sure what to do next. So we decided that BWRAC should apply for a grant and we would come and plant some shrubs, trees and grasses etc on his property to help support wildlife.



IMAGES: MT EGERTON PLANTING SITE AND BWRAC MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS TREE PLANTING

## 05 Grants + Research cont'd

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IMAGES: MT EGERTON TREE PLANTING PREPARATION & MT CLEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS

We would also like to thank Bunnings, Kennards Hire, Victorian Traffic Solutions, Bunanyung Landscape Alliance, Moorabool Catchment Landcare and Ballarat Community Nursery, Mt Clear College and our members for all contributing to make this a successful project.

We can now offer to loan our members some tree planting tools. So, if you are doing some tree planting and need a Hamilton Tree Planter (hole puncher), spade, hoe rake or mattock, please contact the BWRAC secretary ([secretary@bwrac.org.au](mailto:secretary@bwrac.org.au)) to arrange to borrow the items.

We are planning to undertake further tree planting projects, so we can continue to create habitat corridors and help fill in the local landscape with trees and vegetation, where koalas are known to visit. Please contact us if you are a landholder who would like to have their property revegetated with Australian natives. This work also provides a great platform from which we can connect with our local neighbours to continue conversations for the benefit of our wildlife.

## Research

### The Ballarat Koala Research Project 2022 - CURRENT

#### Funded by DEECA

The Ballarat Koala Research Project, is funded by a grant from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (DEECA, formerly DWELP).

It is a research project that is a longitudinal study on City of Ballarat Koalas; their abundance, genetics and health status. It aims to provide veterinary treatment and care to injured, sick or orphaned koala in and around Ballarat; support carers within BWRAC to rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned wildlife so animals can be released back to the wild; and to undertake targeted research to determine

## 05 Grants + Research cont'd

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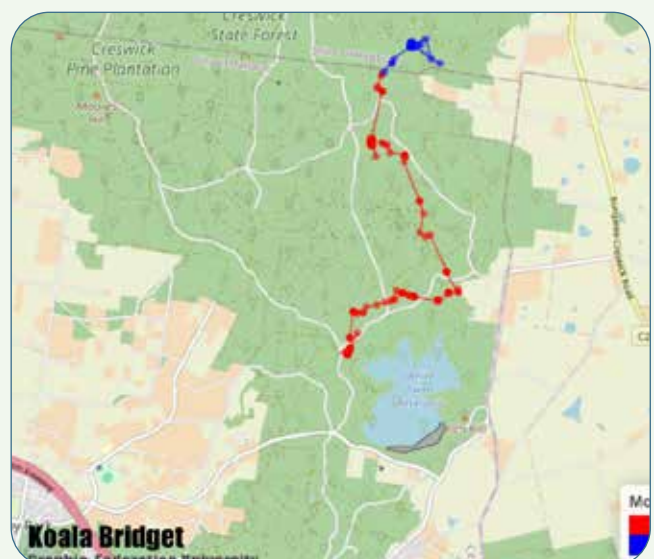
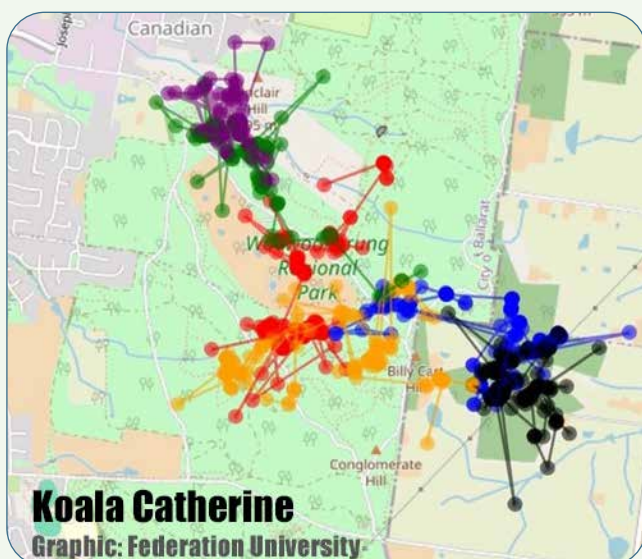
the existing koala health, abundance and their habitat in and around the City of Ballarat. This is one part of a larger project involving other native animals. BWRAC's involvement is solely regarding koalas.

BWRAC aims to leverage the knowledge and skill of local carers and veterinary professionals trained in wildlife care to provide a holistic approach to care and rehabilitation of native animals.

There has been no evidenced based research to determine the health of Ballarat Koalas or any monitoring to determine Koalas numbers in the last 30 years. Due to the lack of current knowledge about Koalas in the region, there is a critical need for targeted research to determine existing Koala health, abundance and their habitat.

In March 2020, Dr Adrienne Lavinia formed a collaboration with Federation University to undertake wildlife research long-term. Their flag-ship research project is a longitudinal study on City of Ballarat Koalas; their abundance, genetics and health status. The research group comprises of Dr Adrienne Lavinia, research fellows who have been working on koala abundance, genetics and health for over 20 years, as well as lecturers and researchers in biology, animal science and IT across 3 campuses, their students and more recently passionate citizen science groups.

The grant funding enabled the purchase of koala tracking collars and associated equipment, and paid for the costs associated for tests and medications for Koalas during their care and recovery. Three purpose-built koala enclosures were also purchased, to allow for the proper care and rehabilitation of the koalas. Carers work closely with the wildlife veterinary professionals to treat and monitor koalas while in care. BWRAC is also working with Federation University researchers to contribute to research on Koala health.



IMAGES: FEDERATION UNIVERSITY

# 05 Grants + Research cont'd

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## **Ballarat Ngaambulum (Koala) Protection Project 2024 - CURRENT**

### **Funded by DEECA**

We would like to thank the Animal Justice Party (AJP) for their support in inviting BWRAC to submit a grant application last December for a Ballarat Ngaambulum (Koala) Protection Project. We had three days to put together a proposal complete with costings that would seek to have a positive impact on our local ngaambulums (koalas).

Unfortunately most of our Ngaambulums that come into care, have died due to the seriousness of their injuries, and most of these have been caused by vehicle collisions around a rapidly depleting natural wildlife corridor.

With Lillian Gattuso's assistance, BWRAC reviewed several options for funding, and we settled on a virtual fencing option, as being affordable and achievable. There is no one solution that will be perfect, and each option has its own limitations.

Ngaambulums are coming into more frequent contact with humans and our built environment due to the ongoing and increasing loss and fragmentation of their natural habitat. We need to employ some Ngaambulum protection strategies to mitigate any further losses of our local Ngaambulums. The virtual fencing option that we are seeking to have installed has proven to reduce wildlife fatalities in the areas where it has been installed. The devices are placed at 25-metre intervals on alternating sides of the road. They are triggered in sequence by the vehicle's headlight as a car approaches along the road, emitting a sound and signal, thereby warning any approaching wildlife.

We are starting to collaborate with other local organisations to contribute to the project. It is a great opportunity to collaborate with likeminded and supportive organisations.

## **Connecting landowners to wildlife through habitat restoration 2024 - 2025**

### **Funded by Community Bank Buninyong**

BWRAC has been successful in obtaining from the Community Bank Buninyong, a grant that will enable the purchase of a trailer, aviary and sound recorder device.

This project aims to educate landowners in Ballarat and the region about wildlife cohabitating on their land and how to restore degraded vegetation. Displaced native wildlife travel greater distances in search of food and habitat, exposing them to greater risk of attack, death and disease. This project mitigates these challenges by promoting habitat restoration through community engagement in conservation.

Providing advice to landowners about the various wildlife on their properties and how best to support their habitat is essential. Loaning the sound recorder to landowners will help identify what native wildlife is on their land. This innovative approach ensures that habitat restoration efforts are precisely targeted, creating thriving ecosystems that support and enhance wildlife + flora.

Carers observe that rehabilitated animals often face fatal territorial conflicts when reintroduced to their habitats, as vacated territory is fiercely defended. The 'soft release trailer' is a mobile enclosure

## 05 Grants + Research cont'd

that allows for gradual reintroduction. This process aims to reduce conflict and increases the survival rates of released animals.

### Habitat Wildlife Havens: Engaging Private Landholders in Habitat Restoration Nov 2024 - Nov 2025

#### Funded by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA)

The Corangamite region has witnessed a significant decline in native vegetation and biodiversity since European settlement, with over 75% of remnant vegetation now cleared or degraded. This loss has fragmented wildlife habitats, displacing wildlife and placing them at greater risk of territorial conflict, sickness, injury and death as they travel between habitats. Urgent restoration is needed to support local fauna and flora. Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation Inc. (BWRAC) proposed a pilot project that will empower private landholders with the knowledge and skills to enhance biodiversity on their land by restoring ecosystems tailored to local wildlife needs. This initiative aims to establish a wildlife corridor connecting the Yarrowee River to Durham Lead Conservation Reserve, providing vital habitat for native species including koalas.

The project will involve: Ecological restoration including revegetation with indigenous species and installation of protective fencing. Community engagement through field days focusing on hands-on restoration skills, wildlife survey techniques, and environmental education. Capacity building by training local landholders, school groups, and BWRAC members to maintain and expand habitat restoration efforts independently.

By November 2025, the project aims to: Enhance biodiversity through the planting of indigenous species tailored to local wildlife needs. Demonstrate effective restoration practices that can be replicated throughout the region, contributing to the broader goals of the Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy and BWRAC wildlife corridor goals.

This initiative not only addresses the urgent need for habitat restoration but also fosters a community-oriented approach to conservation, ensuring sustainable management and enhancement of the region's natural assets.



IMAGES: DURHAM LEAD 2025 PLANTING SITE AND CCMA CERTIFICATE

# 06 Our People

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**People and especially volunteers make an organisation. Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation (BWRAC) would like to acknowledge the founding members of BWRAC, without their contribution the establishment of BWRAC would not have been possible.**

## Executive committee

### **Melissa Morey (President & Secretary)**

20 July 2022 - Current

Melissa is a commercial photographer and also has over 27 years' experience in the corporate environment where she has worked in various companies that were ISO quality accredited. Previously, she was the Secretariat for the Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) for about 10 years. She designed and implemented various systems and processes to improve the AFMWs governance and compliance. Melissa was instrumental in getting the organisation accredited with the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), acquired Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce as Patron, introduced the first annual report publication and managed the successful award nomination of Dr Desiree Yap who received an Australia Medal (AM) in 2020. She was a founding member and the inaugural Secretary & Treasurer of BWRAC, responsible for getting BWRAC incorporated and registered as a charity.

### **Paul Miller (Treasurer)**

25 November 2023 – April 2024

Paul has over 20+ years in business development including marketing and financials. He has held treasurer roles with not-for-profit organisations including the Clunes Development Association and Assistant Treasurer with the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council.

### **Lisa Paliaga (Ordinary Committee Member)**

25 November 2023 – Current

Lisa is a keen advocate of our native wildlife and an active member of the wildlife rehabilitation and care community her whole life.

Her first experience with the wider rehabilitation community was with Tehree Gordon at Jirrahlinga wildlife sanctuary in the early 1990's and again in 1999-2000, for lengthy stints under her tuition and guidance in the care of many species, especially koala rehabilitation.

After moving to Ballarat she had wildlife carer positions under two reputable shelter operators and attended a Diploma in Natural Resource Management. Lisa also has hands on experience with landscape management issues including weed control, pest animal management; and companion and target species habitat restoration.

## 06 Our People cont'd

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She has a passion for the conservation and expansion of wildlife areas and the species that inhabit them, and the urban conservation of species forced to cohabit our city areas. Lisa seeks to enrich the environments available to our wildlife and better facilitate the care of injured or displaced wildlife where possible. She enthusiastically encourages members to approach her about improvements and ideas they may have, which may lead to a positive futuristic outcome for our native species. She hopes we can be a progressive and helpful force in the care and management of this changing environment, to have the best outcome available for all our native species.

### **Rebecca St Ledger (Community Education Director)**

20 May 2024 – Current

Rebecca is an accomplished environmental management professional with extensive experience in project management and stakeholder engagement within governmental and non-profit sectors. She has a proven track record in directing environmental recovery projects, securing funding, and fostering multi-sector partnerships and is also skilled in strategic planning, resource management, and environmental impact assessments. She has a Master of Sustainability (Environmental Management) and a Bachelor of Science (Zoology) and has a passion for biodiversity conservation.

### **Ila Blyth (Advocacy Sub Committee Member)**

20 July 2022 – 8 July 2024

Thank you to Ila for her input and enthusiasm on our Advocacy Sub Committee. We appreciate your time and effort.

### **Laura Guest (Advocacy Sub Committee Member)**

22 December 2023 – Ongoing

Laura is a passionate advocate for wildlife and nature, this shows throughout her dedication to wildlife and educating the community about what they can do to help wildlife and the environment.

She gained valuable experience at the Linely Park Sanctuary where she helped care for native animals, like the tawny frogmouth, wombat, emu, ostrich, and kangaroos as well as water birds.

Laura's indigenous culture plays a big part in her passion for preserving the land and educating people on how they can do the same and looking out for wildlife. Her devotion to wildlife continues in many ways, from collecting donations to share amongst other rescuers and attending working bees to assist wildlife and conservation etc.

She hopes that we can work together in assisting wildlife and addressing issues as well as addressing the land management issues.

# 06 Our People cont'd

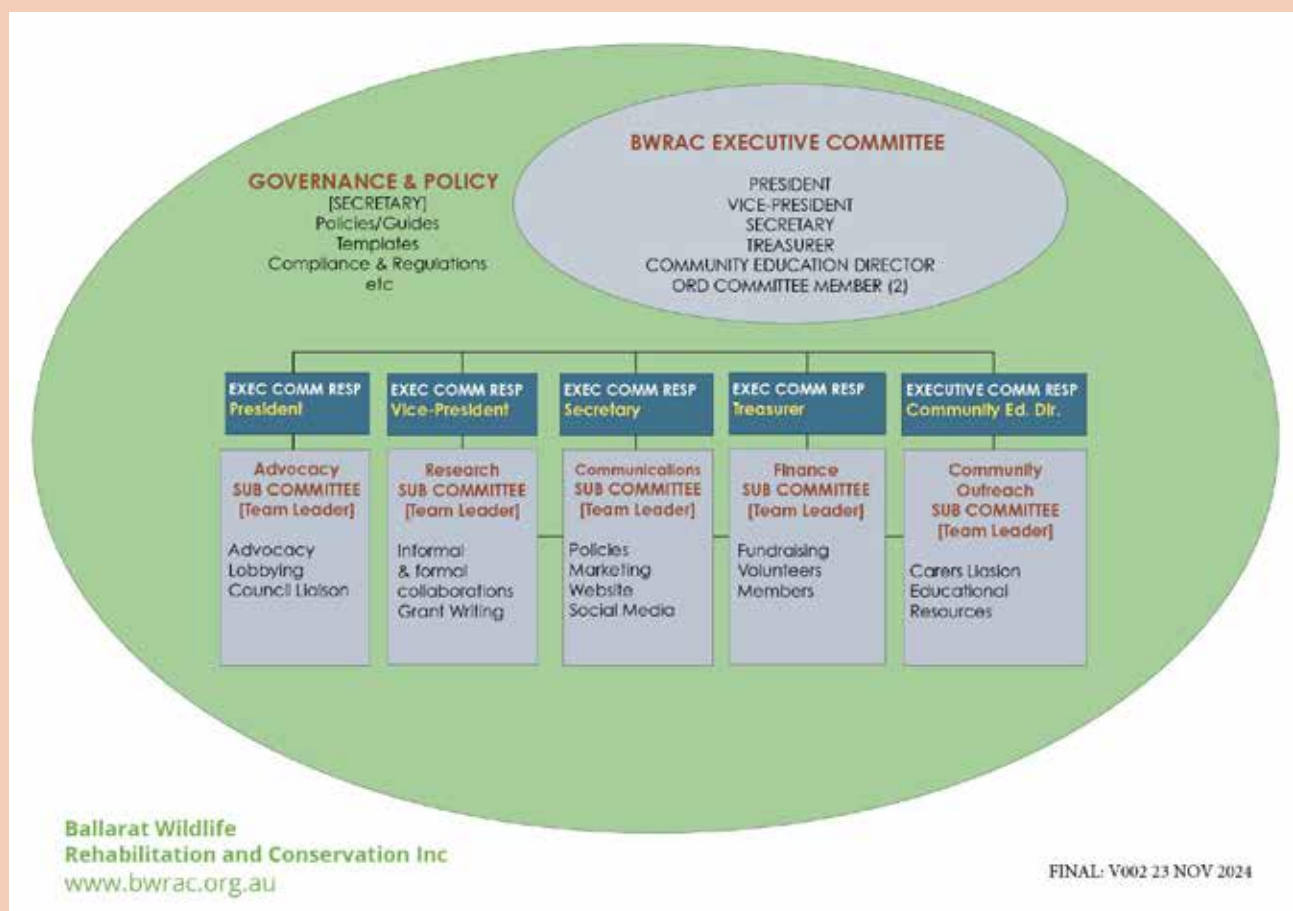
## Members and Volunteers

**Volunteers are the backbone of many not-for-profit charities, and that is certainly the case with BWRAC. We are grateful for the support and enthusiasm that our volunteers bring to the running of BWRAC.**

We are grateful for the support and enthusiasm that our volunteers bring to the running of BWRAC. Many hands make light work, and in time as we grow and mature to become an established charity, we hope to continue and expand our membership base and volunteer engagement. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help run a stall at a community event, designed artwork, planted trees, networked with other organisations, undertook fundraising activities, secured donations and made donations to BWRAC – your input is greatly appreciated.

We need to continue to attract new members and most importantly new committee members.

Welcoming new people to BWRAC will bring fresh ideas, diverse perspectives, and renewed energy, helping to strengthen its mission and expand its impact.



## 06 Our People cont'd

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BWRAC WORKING BEE NOVEMBER 2024



WORKING BEE PARTICIPANTS MAKING POSSUM DREYS

### Member Engagement

#### **BWRAC Working Bee Supported by Haymes Paint**

A huge thank you to Haymes Paint Ballarat and our BWRAC members and supporters who came and painted our supply of nesting boxes. Thanks also to Barnie and Dave who donated the boxes.

### How you can help

There are many ways that you can contribute to the successful running of BWRAC. You might want to join as a member, donate items or money, get involved in a project or committee – we have a role to suite everyone! We appreciate that not everyone has a large amount of time to volunteer, which is why we can offer short time commitment tasks for those who are time poor.

- \* Become a member
- \* Share our posts on social media
- \* Volunteer your time on a committee or project
- \* Make a donation
- \* Support an event or fundraising activity
- \* Become a corporate partner / regular donor
- \* Join our mailing list to keep informed of our work
- \* Buy a wildlife emergency first aid kit
- \* Leave a bequest

Please contact the BWRAC Secretary if you would like to discuss any of the opportunities listed here.

Email: [secretary@bwrac.org.au](mailto:secretary@bwrac.org.au)

# 07 Our Community

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**BWRAC values the support of our various supporters and donors that we have encountered over the last twelve months. As a charity and not-for-profit organisation, we rely on developing enduring relationships with our community in support of our mission to help wildlife and their habitats.**

## Supporters

### UBC Web Design

UBC Web Design strives to be a leader in web design and development and takes pride in working with businesses of all sizes as well as individuals and organisations, their focus is on small to medium businesses, especially those in regional areas who otherwise might miss out.

UBC Web Design expertly designed and host our BWRAC website. They seamlessly integrated all our necessary information into a modern website with ease of functionality.

### Kwik Kopy

Kwik Kopy empowers entrepreneurs to make their mark on the world by offering high quality, end-to-end solutions in design, print and signage services. Whether it's expert branding advice, custom business cards, sophisticated graphic design or large format signage, they have the expertise to turn your vision into reality.

KwikKopy have supported us with printing and hosting a donation box. We thank them for their ongoing support of our work.

### Bunnings

Bunnings has donated tools to help our tree planting projects now and into the future. They have also donated PVC pipe fittings for our soft release possum trailer and are a generous supporter of BWRAC.

### Kennards Hire

Kennards donated toilet hire for our June tree planting event.

### Mt Clear College

We would like to thank the year nine students and their teacher for enthusiastically coming and helping us prepare and plant over 440 plants for our revegetation project. We hope we have given them an insight into the world of wildlife and inspired them to continue to support wildlife and the environment.

### Bunanyung Landscape Alliance (BLA)

The Bunanyung Landscape Alliance supported our revegetation project with tree stakes and tree

## 07 Our Community cont'd

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guards. This was vital to ensure the best start for the seedlings, to give them the chance to grow into mature plants and have a positive impact on our local biodiversity.

### **Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group (MCLA) & Ballarat Community Nursery**

Thanks to the teams for growing such great tube stock and providing them to not-for-profit organisations like BWRAC. It makes a huge positive impact on our project bottom-line, in being able to access free stock.

### **Melro**

We are very appreciative of Melro's generous donation of a water tank. It being used to house echidnas (and many other species of wildlife) while they are being rehabilitated.

Wildlife carers have the financial burden of rehabilitating our wildlife, so any time they receive a donation, it is always a welcomed relief. Thank you for helping our carers to help our wildlife.

### **Haymes Paint Ballarat**

Haymes generously donated several tins of paint for our nesting box workshops. Being able to provide a weather proof nesting box to our wildlife carers, for use in rehabilitation and then the final release with the wildlife is invaluable to our carers.

## Members of our local community

Throughout the year BWRAC has been contacted by numerous members of the public offering to donate items such as towels, hand towels, pillowcases, flannelette sheets and blankets. We have also had landowners reach out when they have had trees fall down to offer us timber and 'browse', which is the gum leaves that many of our native wildlife eat.

So thank you to everyone who has contacted us with the offer of something to donate. Wildlife carers and shelters are not paid, they too are volunteers. Caring for and rehabilitating our native wildlife is a time consuming and a costly exercise, with little opportunity to seek funding to cover all the costs.

BWRAC and our members, thank the community for their generosity in helping support our carers and wildlife.

## 08 Our Success Story

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### Grebes – small but feisty

Grebes are a water bird, small but feisty. They are found in most of our water ways. Grebes are not very good at flying and will usually only move at night, however their nighttime eyesight is not very good either. They tend to land on roads (especially wet roads) thinking it's a body of water.

This little Grebe was found on the road, carefully picked up by a member of the public and taken to a veterinary clinic. After full examination he was cleared for release, so Nikki held him over night and returned him to the water ways, the next day, safe with lots of reeds.

The Grebes can dive for long periods of time, hence their weird, webbed feet. They are a little bit socially awkward and dive under the water as soon as they see you.



“Pursue something so important that even if you fail, the world is better off with you having tried.”

— Tim O'Reilly

IMAGE: SHANAHAN SHELTER: GREBE 2024

# 09 Treasurer's Report

1/12/25, 9:11 AM

Comparative Profit and Loss

## BALLARAT WILDLIFE REHABILITATION & CONSERVATION INC BALLARAT WILDLIFE REHABILITATION & CONSERVATION INC Comparative Profit and Loss From Jul 2023 to Jun 2024

FINANCIAL ROW	AMOUNT (JUL 2023 - JUN 2024)	COMPARATIVE AMOUNT (JUL 2022 - JUN 2023)	VARIANCE	% VARIANCE
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4000 - Donations &amp; bequests</b>				
4000.01 - Individual donations	\$2,650.58	\$1,954.26	\$696.32	35.63%
4000.02 - Small business donations	\$136.15	\$0.00	\$136.15	0.00%
4000.05 - Donated goods & services	\$1,740.42	\$42.00	\$1,698.42	4,043.86%
<b>Total - 4000 - Donations &amp; bequests</b>	<b>\$4,527.15</b>	<b>\$1,996.26</b>	<b>\$2,530.89</b>	<b>126.78%</b>
<b>4100.00 - Non-government grants</b>				
4100.01 - Corporate/business grants	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	0.00%
4100.03 - Non-profit organisation grants	\$0.00	\$77,000.00	-\$77,000.00	-100.00%
<b>Total - 4100.00 - Non-government grants</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$77,000.00</b>	<b>-\$76,800.00</b>	<b>-99.74%</b>
<b>4300.00 - Fundraising income</b>				
4300.02 - General fundrasising	\$0.00	\$349.20	-\$349.20	-100.00%
<b>Total - 4300.00 - Fundraising income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$349.20</b>	<b>-\$349.20</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>
<b>Total - Income</b>	<b>\$4,727.15</b>	<b>\$79,345.46</b>	<b>-\$74,618.31</b>	<b>-94.04%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$4,727.15</b>	<b>\$79,345.46</b>	<b>-\$74,618.31</b>	<b>-94.04%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>7000 - Grants &amp; donations</b>				
7000.01 - Awards, grants & donations to individuals	\$712.71	\$0.00	\$712.71	0.00%
<b>Total - 7000 - Grants &amp; donations</b>	<b>\$712.71</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$712.71</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>7100.00 - Animal assistance costs</b>				
7100.02 - Veterinary costs	\$12,212.45	\$3,956.35	\$8,256.10	208.68%
7100.04 - Other animal costs	\$1,184.93	\$29,155.00	-\$27,970.07	-95.94%
<b>Total - 7100.00 - Animal assistance costs</b>	<b>\$13,397.38</b>	<b>\$33,111.35</b>	<b>-\$19,713.97</b>	<b>-59.54%</b>
<b>7500 - Overhead Costs</b>				
7510 - Advertising expenses	\$0.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00	-100.00%
7515 - Bank Fees	\$0.00	\$32.50	-\$32.50	-100.00%
7520 - Depreciation	\$0.00	\$383.55	-\$383.55	-100.00%
7530 - Entertainment (meeting costs etc)	\$342.13	\$0.00	\$342.13	0.00%
7560 - Insurance	\$732.71	\$489.50	\$243.21	49.69%
7660 - Printing & stationery	\$263.14	\$408.40	-\$145.26	-35.57%
7710 - Repairs & maintenance	\$46.23	\$0.00	\$46.23	0.00%
7805 - Staff training	\$0.00	\$595.00	-\$595.00	-100.00%
7900 - Subscriptions, memberships & registrations	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Total - 7500 - Overhead Costs</b>	<b>\$1,389.21</b>	<b>\$1,963.95</b>	<b>-\$574.74</b>	<b>-29.26%</b>
<b>Total - Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,499.30</b>	<b>\$35,075.30</b>	<b>-\$19,576.00</b>	<b>-55.81%</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>-\$10,772.15</b>	<b>\$44,270.16</b>	<b>-\$55,042.31</b>	<b>-124.33%</b>

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# 09 Treasurer's Report cont'd

1/12/25, 9:11 AM

Comparative Profit and Loss					
FINANCIAL ROW	AMOUNT (JUL 2023 - JUN 2024)	COMPARATIVE AMOUNT (JUL 2022 - JUN 2023)	VARIANCE	% VARIANCE	
Other Income					
4500.00 - Other Income					
4500.01 - Event attendance fees	\$425.00	\$0.00	\$425.00	0.00%	
4505 - Membership Fees	\$617.50	\$400.00	\$217.50	54.38%	
4507 - Finance Fee Recovery	\$0.00	\$14.41	-\$14.41	-100.00%	
4550 - Interest received	\$371.54	\$258.54	\$113.00	43.71%	
Total - 4500.00 - Other Income	\$1,414.04	\$672.95	\$741.09	110.13%	
Total - Other Income	\$1,414.04	\$672.95	\$741.09	110.13%	
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$9,358.11	\$44,943.11	-\$54,301.22	-120.82%	

# 09 Treasurer's Report cont'd

1/12/25, 9:19 AM

Comparative Balance Sheet

## BALLARAT WILDLIFE REHABILITATION & CONSERVATION INC BALLARAT WILDLIFE REHABILITATION & CONSERVATION INC Comparative Balance Sheet End of FY 2024

FINANCIAL ROW	AMOUNT (AS OF JUN 2024)	COMPARISON AMOUNT (AS OF JUN 2023)	VARIANCE	% VARIANCE
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
<b>Bank</b>				
<b>1000 - Cash - Bendigo Bank</b>				
1000.01 - General Account *9411	\$2,274.39	\$672.76	\$1,601.63	238.07%
1000.02 - Research Account *9320	\$694.00	\$5,882.16	-\$5,188.16	-88.20%
1000.03 - Koala Care Account *9379	\$13,957.06	\$27,196.84	-\$13,239.78	-48.68%
1000.04 - Petty Cash *9445	\$2,767.57	\$133.90	\$2,633.67	1,966.89%
<b>Total - 1000 - Cash - Bendigo Bank</b>	<b>\$19,693.02</b>	<b>\$33,885.66</b>	<b>-\$14,192.64</b>	<b>-41.88%</b>
<b>1001 - Cash - Other</b>				
1001 - Cash - Other	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	0.00%
1001.01 - PayPal Account	\$200.13	\$200.00	\$0.13	0.07%
<b>Total - 1001 - Cash - Other</b>	<b>\$220.13</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$20.13</b>	<b>10.07%</b>
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>\$19,913.15</b>	<b>\$34,085.66</b>	<b>-\$14,172.51</b>	<b>-41.58%</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>				
<b>1100 - Receivables</b>				
1100.01 - Accounts receivable	-\$463.22	\$0.00	-\$463.22	0.00%
<b>Total - 1100 - Receivables</b>	<b>-\$463.22</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>-\$463.22</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>-\$463.22</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>-\$463.22</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$19,449.93</b>	<b>\$34,085.66</b>	<b>-\$14,635.73</b>	<b>-42.94%</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
<b>1600 - Fixed operating assets</b>				
1640 - Fixtures & Fittings	\$12,292.63	\$10,680.55	\$1,612.08	15.09%
1650 - Plant & Equipment	\$7,730.76	\$176.90	\$7,553.86	4,270.13%
<b>Total - 1600 - Fixed operating assets</b>	<b>\$20,023.39</b>	<b>\$10,857.45</b>	<b>\$9,165.94</b>	<b>84.42%</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$20,023.39</b>	<b>\$10,857.45</b>	<b>\$9,165.94</b>	<b>84.42%</b>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>\$20,023.39</b>	<b>\$10,857.45</b>	<b>\$9,165.94</b>	<b>84.42%</b>
<b>Total ASSETS</b>	<b>\$39,473.32</b>	<b>\$44,943.11</b>	<b>-\$5,469.79</b>	<b>-12.17%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
<b>Accounts Payable</b>				
<b>2000 - Payables</b>				
2000.01 - Accounts payable	\$3,888.32	\$0.00	\$3,888.32	0.00%
<b>Total - 2000 - Payables</b>	<b>\$3,888.32</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,888.32</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

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# 09 Treasurer's Report cont'd

1/12/25, 9:19 AM

Comparative Balance Sheet					
FINANCIAL ROW	AMOUNT (AS OF JUN 2024)	COMPARISON AMOUNT (AS OF JUN 2023)	VARIANCE	% VARIANCE	
Total Accounts Payable	\$3,888.32	\$0.00	\$3,888.32	0.00%	
Total Current Liabilities	\$3,888.32	\$0.00	\$3,888.32	0.00%	
Total Liabilities	\$3,888.32	\$0.00	\$3,888.32	0.00%	
Net Assets	\$35,585.00	\$44,943.11	-\$9,358.11	-20.82%	
Equity					
Retained Earnings	\$44,943.11	\$0.00	\$44,943.11	0.00%	
Net Income	-\$9,358.11	\$44,943.11	-\$54,301.22	-120.82%	
Total Equity	\$35,585.00	\$44,943.11	-\$9,358.11	-20.82%	



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