



AUSTRALIA

# Annual Report 2013/14



## ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS



## VISION, PURPOSE & VALUES

### **Vision**

Our preferred future in 2020:

TRY

Victoria's enterprising social investor

Helping those who need it most

### **Purpose**

TRY delivers a brighter future through learning and community programmes . . . for those who TRY!

### **Values**

In all that we do we will:

- Involve and get involved in our communities
- Be loyal, dedicated and positive
- Make ideas happen
- Invest in those who TRY

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# LOCATIONS & CONTACT DETAILS

## CORPORATE OFFICES

Building 2  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
88 Ricketts Road, Mt Waverley 3149  
☎ 8545 9500  
☎ 8545 9599  
✉ [info@try.org.au](mailto:info@try.org.au)  
W: [www.try.org.au](http://www.try.org.au)

## SUBURBAN & REGIONAL OFFICES

**Morwell Office**  
Cnr Commercial and Driffield Roads  
MORWELL 3840  
☎ 5133 6879  
✉ [morwell@try.org.au](mailto:morwell@try.org.au)

## FUNDRAISING

**Mega Bingo Clayton**  
Unit 18, 14 – 26 Audsley Street  
CLAYTON SOUTH 3169  
☎ 9544 2958  
✉ [info@megabingo.com.au](mailto:info@megabingo.com.au)

**Community Fundraising**  
Unit 18, 14 – 26 Audsley Street  
CLAYTON SOUTH 3169  
☎ 0427 690 807  
✉ [collections@try.org.au](mailto:collections@try.org.au)

## TRY CHILDREN'S SERVICES: PRESCHOOLS & CHILD CARE CENTRES

**Altona Gate Kindergarten**  
80 Walker Close ALTONA NORTH 3025  
☎ 9314 7895  
✉ [altonagate@try.org.au](mailto:altonagate@try.org.au)

**Bellevue Hill Preschool**  
14 Royal Crescent HILLSIDE 3037  
☎ 9390 4701  
✉ [bellevuehill@try.org.au](mailto:bellevuehill@try.org.au)

**Coburg Preschool**  
98 Bell Street COBURG 3058  
☎ 9354 5227  
✉ [coburg@try.org.au](mailto:coburg@try.org.au)

**Crib Point Preschool**  
7 Cayley Avenue HMAS CERBERUS 3920  
☎ 5983 9348  
✉ [cribpoint@try.org.au](mailto:cribpoint@try.org.au)

**Diggers Rest Preschool**  
Plumpton Road DIGGERS REST 3427  
☎ 9740 1337  
✉ [diggersrest@try.org.au](mailto:diggersrest@try.org.au)

**Doncaster Gardens Preschool**  
53 Victoria Street DONCASTER 3108  
☎ 9848 7737  
✉ [doncastergardens@try.org.au](mailto:doncastergardens@try.org.au)

**Fairy Hills Kindergarten**  
7 Thyer Road EAST IVANHOE 3079  
☎ 9499 5429  
✉ [fairyhills@try.org.au](mailto:fairyhills@try.org.au)

**Harbard Street Kindergarten**  
Harbard Street THOMASTOWN 3074  
☎ 9465 8693  
✉ [harbardstreet@try.org.au](mailto:harbardstreet@try.org.au)

**Kingsway Pre School**  
1 Kingsway MELTON 3337  
☎ 9743 2691  
✉ [kingsway@try.org.au](mailto:kingsway@try.org.au)

**Lancaster & Frank Harley House  
Childcare Centre**  
698 Malvern Road PRAHRAN 3082  
☎ 9510 7385  
✉ [prahran@try.org.au](mailto:prahran@try.org.au)

**Laurel Street Kindergarten**  
Laurel Street WHITTLESEA 3757  
☎ 9716 2153  
✉ [whittlesea@try.org.au](mailto:whittlesea@try.org.au)

**Melton West Preschool**  
2-4 West Melton Drive MELTON WEST 3337  
☎ 9743 5914  
✉ [meltonwest@try.org.au](mailto:meltonwest@try.org.au)

**Mernda Village Kindergarten**  
70 Mernda Village Drive MERNDA 3754  
☎ 9717 6066  
✉ [merndavillage@try.org.au](mailto:merndavillage@try.org.au)

**Mill Park Preschool**  
Mill Park Drive MILL PARK 3082  
☎ 9404 2623  
✉ [millpark@try.org.au](mailto:millpark@try.org.au)

**Montmorency Occasional Care**  
16 Mountain View Road  
MONTMORENCY 3094  
☎ 9434 3131  
✉ [montmorency@try.org.au](mailto:montmorency@try.org.au)

**Mt. Carberry Preschool**  
35 Exford Road MELTON SOUTH 3338  
☎ 9743 5914  
✉ [mtcarberry@try.org.au](mailto:mtcarberry@try.org.au)

# LOCATIONS & CONTACT DETAILS

## TRY CHILDREN'S SERVICES: PRESCHOOLS & CHILD CARE CENTRES

### North Cheltenham Kindergarten

71 Argus Street CHELTENHAM 3192

☎ 9583 7066

✉ [northcheltenham@try.org.au](mailto:northcheltenham@try.org.au)

### North West Brunswick Kindergarten

34 Rose Street BRUNSWICK 3056

☎ 9386 5676

✉ [nwbrunswick@try.org.au](mailto:nwbrunswick@try.org.au)

### Oakbrook Preschool

36 Holroyd Drive EPPING 3076

☎ 9401 1695

✉ [oakbrook@try.org.au](mailto:oakbrook@try.org.au)

### Parkwood Green Preschool

Cnr Community Hub & Catherine Drive  
HILLSIDE 3037

☎ 8361 6506

✉ [parkwoodgreen@try.org.au](mailto:parkwoodgreen@try.org.au)

### Peninsula Montessori Centre

7 – 9 Frank Street FRANKSTON 3199

☎ 9783 2800

✉ [pmc@try.org.au](mailto:pmc@try.org.au)

### Playford Children's Centre

3 Langford Drive PLAYFORD 5112

☎ (08) 8252 5032

✉ [playford@try.org.au](mailto:playford@try.org.au)

### Rockbank Preschool

1175-1177 Leakes Road Rockbank 3335

☎ 9747 1410

✉ [rockbank@try.org.au](mailto:rockbank@try.org.au)

### Roycroft Kindergarten

114 Roycroft Avenue MILL PARK 3082

☎ 9404 4369

✉ [roycroft@try.org.au](mailto:roycroft@try.org.au)

### Showgrounds Children's Centre

Government Pavilion

Showgrounds Village – P2

320 – 380 Epsom Road FLEMMINGTON  
3031

☎ 9376 7486

✉ [showgroundsc@try.org.au](mailto:showgroundsc@try.org.au)

### South Melbourne Mission Kindergarten

Park Towers 185/332 Park Street

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3205

☎ 9699 9662

✉ [southmelbourne@try.org.au](mailto:southmelbourne@try.org.au)

### South Yarra Preschool

259 Malvern Road SOUTH YARRA 3141

☎ 9804 7569

✉ [southyarra@try.org.au](mailto:southyarra@try.org.au)

### Timboon Children's Centre

11 Hamilton Street TIMBOON 3268

☎ 5598 3020

✉ [timboon@try.org.au](mailto:timboon@try.org.au)

### Westall Kindergarten

43-45 Westall Road CLAYTON SOUTH  
3169

☎ 9546 7252

✉ [westall@try.org.au](mailto:westall@try.org.au)

### Whittlesea Child Care Centre

Laurel Street WHITTLESEA 3757

☎ 9716 2153

✉ [whittlesea@try.org.au](mailto:whittlesea@try.org.au)

### Wirrigirri Preschool

2 Darebin Place CAROLINE SPRINGS  
3023

☎ 9363 0244

✉ [wirrigirri@try.org.au](mailto:wirrigirri@try.org.au)

## TRY MENTORING

Building 2

1<sup>st</sup> Floor

88 Ricketts Road, Mt Waverley 3149

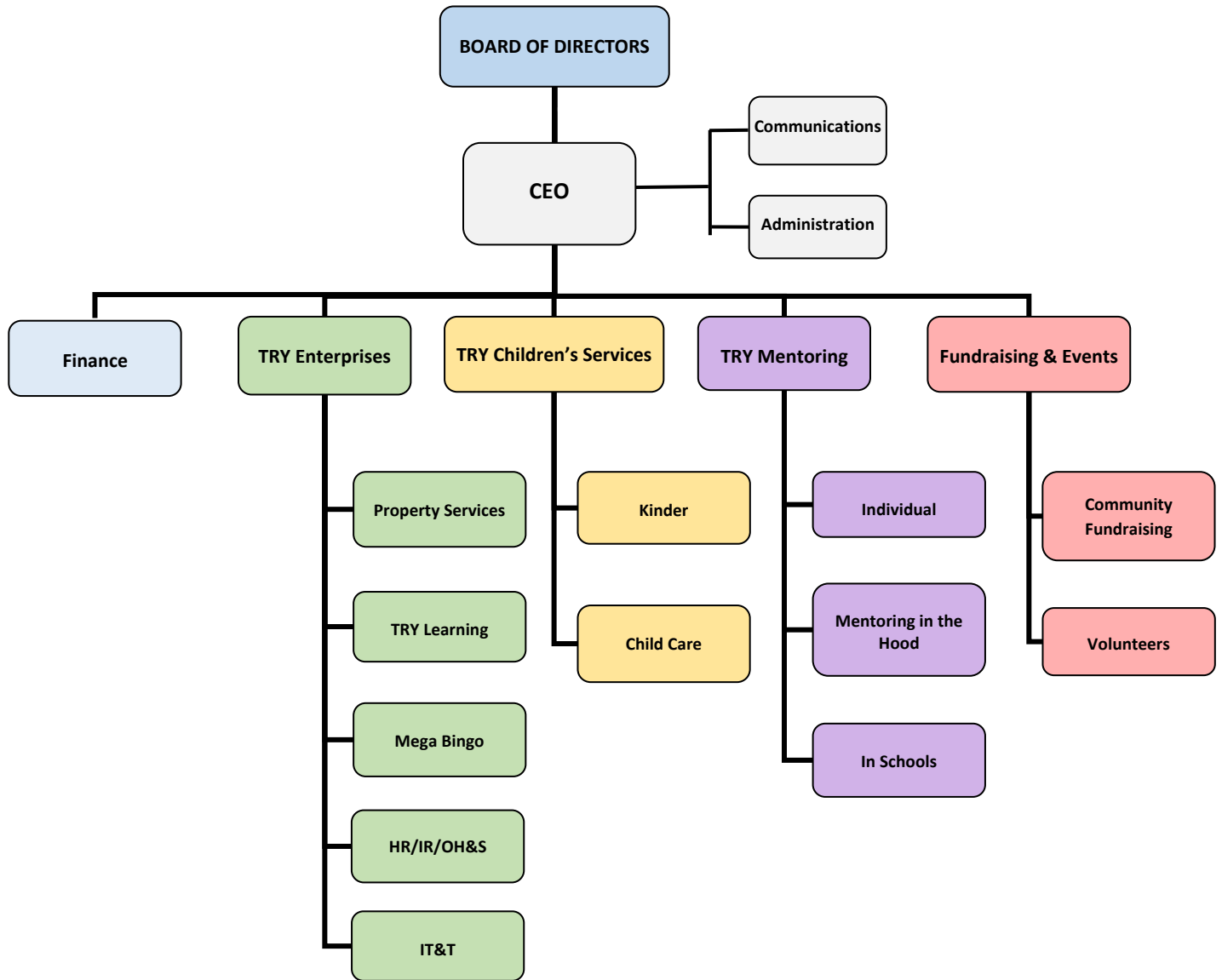
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☎ 8545 9599

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# ORGANISATIONAL CHART



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### *Welcome to the TRY Australia Annual Report for 2013/14*

This year has marked our 131<sup>st</sup> year of operations and some significant changes.

We have moved to larger, more comfortable and more cost effective premises at Mt Waverley and have begun to implement a new brand that reflects the structural changes made within our organization and we have embarked on the journey of establishing a new Strategic Plan.

Our new brand is a more unified and distinctive mark that projects a stronger, more energetic and a more contemporary image. As we roll it out there will be clear but connected sub-brands for each division within the organisation: Enterprises, Children's Services, Learning and Mentoring. This approach will enable us to communicate what we do in a more flexible and appropriate way to the many different audiences our organisation reaches.

There is a saying that "Unless you know where you have come from, you will not know where you are going." As an important part of refreshing our organisation's narrative, we will seek to reconnect with our alumni. Our new brand will leverage this legacy. We also embarked on the journey of articulating our Strategic Plan, setting out a vision of where we want to be in 2020 and mapping out what we must do in order to become *Victoria's enterprising social investor*. In parallel with our brand direction, our renewed vision reconnects with our beginning.

While in many ways our organisation has changed since its beginnings in 1883, in other ways it continues precisely what WM Forster began. WM Forster did not believe in a hand out, but a hand up. He believed in giving young people the opportunity, skills and confidence to make changes for the better in their own lives. 131 years later this philosophy remains fundamental to what we do. The social return on investment from mentoring a young person has been calculated as being around 23:1. Every dollar and volunteer hour we invest in a young person contributes to the likelihood they will grow to become someone who in turn contributes to their community. Many studies have also shown, that every dollar invested in early learning in preschools reaps dividends for the child and for society generally, in terms of educational outcomes.

This year we pay tribute to Betty Bruce and her family. A TRY institute for more than 60 years, the Prahran Dancing School closed its doors for the last time. Over that time many hundreds of Melbourne's young people have benefited from Betty and her families generosity. We also said farewell to Vicky Key after seven years service on the Board of Directors and thank her sincerely for her great contribution to TRY.

In taking stock of the achievements detailed in the following pages of this annual report, it is clear that TRY Australia has consolidated its position. With a renewed strategic vision, our future looks very promising.

Our thanks go to the Directors of the Board, the management team and our employees for their commitment and involvement in TRY and its work.

Last but not least, we would like to thank our many supporters and all our volunteers: without their generosity we would not be able to accomplish what we do.



Helen Robinett  
Chairman



Julia Cabbage  
Chief Executive Officer

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Helen Robinett | *Chairman*



Director of Image Quest, Helen advises corporate and individual clients in developing comprehensive image-management strategies to ensure the team-reflect the image and branding of the company. Helen is a member of the Finance and Investment & TRY Mentoring Committees.

## Vicki Key | *Vice Chair* (resigned 26 Feb 2014)



*Diploma in Frontline Management, Cert IV Workplace Training & Assessment, Advanced Practice in Forensic Interviewing of Children*

Vicki is retired from the Victoria Police and is a member of the TRY Mentoring Committee.

## Craig Bryan | *Treasurer*



*BA.Bus, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants*

Craig is an Audit and Assurance Partner with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and is the Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee.

## Basil Jenkins



*MBA & BA Science*

Basil has a commercial background at senior levels in the mining and engineering industries. Basil is a member of the Finance & Investment Committee.

## Bernard Morris



Bernard comes with a background in the IT and Finance industries and is a member of TRY Mentoring Committee.

## Jovita Gartlan



*BA International Trade, BA. Business Management, Masters in Business Systems*

Jovita is a Partner at Deloitte Australia. Jovita is a member of the Finance & Investments Committee

## Keith Louie (appointed 26 February 2013)



*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours),*

Keith is currently a Director of several eCommerce ventures and also his personal consulting business Jordan Bridge Pty Ltd. He brings to these Boards skills & experience garnered from 25 years working in senior roles in eCommerce, retail, supply chain, management consulting, production management and financial services.

## Peter Guy



*B.Ec, LLB*

Peter is a director of Kennedy Guy. He joined the firm in 1987 after working as in house counsel for a national company.

Peter was appointed as a partner to the firm in 1992 and is a member of the Finance and Investment Committee.

## Sharon Bates



*BA Engineering (Hons), BA of Arts, Masters in Business Leadership, Graduate, AICD Company Directors Course*

Sharon is a corporate strategist with specialist skills in business transformation and operations effectiveness. Sharon is Chair of the TRY Mentoring Committee.



# EXECUTIVE TEAM



## **Julia Cabbage**

### ***Chief Executive Officer***

Commencing in March 2013, Julia has held a number of successful high level management roles, including most recently 9 years as CEO of Procurement Australia, 4 years as National Executive Director & Company Secretary with Family Business Australia and prior to that, as CEO of Mid North Coast Development Corporation in NSW. Julia is ideas driven and results oriented, committed to making a difference, providing clear leadership and achieving results.



## **Bill Bardsley**

### ***General Manager Operations***

Bill has over 20 years experience working in a wide range of senior management roles in the public, private and not for profit sectors. His roles and responsibilities have encompassed Business Management, Human Resources Management, Industrial Relations and Occupational Health and Safety, people management, client relationship management, contract management, strategic and business planning, project management and financial management. Bill has worked with small teams up to companies employing 700 people. He has a passion for organisational improvement, bottom line growth and developing people and businesses to realise their potential.



## **Grace Gallicchio** *Bachelor of Business & Diploma of Education*

### ***General Manager TRY Children's Services***

Joining TRY Australia in October 2013, Grace brings a vast range of private sector experience in finance, human resources and general management in a number of industries. Grace combines her qualifications with a professional interest in how people in organisations can be best supported to achieve both personal and business objectives. Grace is committed to delivering best practice across all of TRY's Children's Services.



## **Tricia Ciampa** *MBA, BA (Rec)*

### ***General Manager TRY Mentoring***

Starting as a Vacation Care Leader in 1995, Tricia is one of the longest-serving staff members at TRY. Taking on various roles from Doncaster Activities Centre Manager to General Manager Children's Services. In her more recent role of Executive Officer of the TRY BBBS Melbourne program, Tricia has established a range of skills and experience including change management, strategic planning and policy development.



## **Lindsay Kelly**

### ***General Manager Communications***

Lindsay has joined TRY with twenty-five years' experience in creative directing, brand development and articulating unique value propositions for organisations, events and physical sites around SE Australia and internationally. He has operated his own successful business for two decades and has worked with start-up businesses, private and public sectors and not for profits. He has designed and implemented many brand makeovers and communication plans across electronic and print media that have built reputations with proven results of customer buy-in.



## **Megan Johnson** *Bachelor of Business (Mktg & HR Mngt)* [appointed 30 September 2014]

### ***General Manager Corporate Fundraising & Events***

Megan comes to TRY Australia with over 11 years' experience encompassing account management, business development and event management in a corporate and non-profit environment. As a driven and dedicated relationship manager, Megan relishes new challenges and strives to create and maintain excellent working relationships.



## **Kate Linton** *CPA*

### ***General Manager Finance, Public Officer & Joint Company Secretary***

Kate is a qualified CPA and joined TRY Australia in June 2013. She brings 20 years' experience in commercial industries such as hospitality, retail, property development, property and airport management and residential building. For the last four years, Kate has worked in the Not-for-Profit Sector and is committed to its future. She is currently completing her Masters in Social Investment and Philanthropy and is a member of the Finance & Investment Committee.



## **Greg Lavis** *Graduate Certificate in Business (Executive Administration)* – *elective pending*

### ***Administration Manager, Board & Company Secretary***

Following a career in the public & private sectors in administration, information technology & executive support, Greg joined TRY in February 2009. Since then Greg has undertaken a variety of roles and projects. Greg's current responsibilities see him focused on providing administrative and corporate management services, including that of Board and Company Secretary, to enable the achievement of TRY Australia's mission.

# TRY CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

TRY Children's Services continues to deliver high quality care and education across 22 preschools, occasional care in Mont Montmorency, 6 long day care centres in Victoria and 1 long day care centre in South Australia.

It has been a busy and rewarding year focused on inclusion, integration and quality improvement!

Our strategy was to consolidate our expertise in kindergarten cluster management and the provision of quality child care and consequently, we made the decision to exit Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services provision and transition each to other providers, which was completed in December 2013.

Mernda Villages Kindergarten opened their new room, which has enabled two groups of four year olds and one three year old program to be added to the kindergarten. This addition has increased Mernda Villages to a four room kindergarten with 320 children able to now attend. It is a very exciting addition to the growing community in the City of Whittlesea.

## ***Back Yard Blitz and Working Bees***



Lancaster House Child Care and South Yarra Preschool were the recipients of a volunteer backyard blitz from Optus Rock-Corps in April.

Several exciting corporate partnerships were established over the year resulting in over 200 volunteers and staff participating in garden renovations and working bees!

During the July School holidays, TRY Children's Services, in partnership with KPMG, were able to improve and enhance Roycroft Kindergarten and South Melbourne Mission Kindergartens' outdoor play spaces.



Whilst the weather wasn't always forgiving the work was done with enthusiasm and energy and the difference made to the children's play spaces is amazing and has provided wonderful opportunities to extend programming and play.

Other major upgrades of note include:

- Fairy Hills with an addition of a fruit orchard
- Melton West completed a new performance area

# TRY CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

- North Cheltenham had a new swing set installed and a new play space created in the secret garden.
- North West Brunswick created an outdoor kitchen set up

Working bees are critical to keeping our services looking great and we thank our volunteers, staff and parents for their ongoing support and contribution to these wonderful transformations!

## ***Staff Awards 2013***

On behalf of Children's Services Management we recognise and celebrate staff that have worked over and above their normal duties and have made a significant contribution to TRY Children's Services.

### ***Teacher of the Year***

- North West Brunswick Kindergarten - **Sharon Saitta**

### ***Assistant of the Year***

- Mt Carberry Preschool – **Alexia Kagiannis-Laspas**

### ***Service of the Year - Melton West Preschool***

### ***Parent Nomination***

- Kingsway Preschool – **Jo Gray & Vinnie Beardsley**

### ***The Year Ahead***

Whilst we are excited by our achievements, we are ready to embrace further change as we look to increase the number of kindergartens and child care centres under management.

We expect to increase our inclusion and diversity programs, and introduce new technologies and ground breaking programs to inform our children, parents, teachers and the wider community.

We are also forging enhanced relationships with partner organisations to achieve strong results by integrating all aspects of TRY's operations for the communities in which we operate.

## ***Conclusion***

We gratefully acknowledge each and every person who has played a part in making TRY Children's Services a success this past year – including our dedicated team of over 250 educators, Children's Services Administrators and all of our TRY departments including TRY Mentoring, Finance, IT Helpdesk and TRY Learning.

We also acknowledge the leadership shown by our CEO Julia Cambage and our voluntary Board of Directors.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge the many committed parents and families who contribute in so many different and important ways in the services we provide.

We look forward to the coming year in anticipation as we deliver innovative and responsive services to meet the needs of our communities.

# TRY ENTERPRISES REPORT

TRY operates three very diverse enterprises, with the aim of generating operating surpluses and offering training opportunities and employment pathways across a range of industry sectors. TRY enterprises includes TRY *Property Maintenance*, based in Morwell, TRY *Learning*, a Registered Training Organisation and *Mega Bingo*, a bingo centre in Clayton.

These enterprises generated in total around \$10.88 million in revenue which is around 42% of the total revenue of the TRY Group.

During the past 12 months, TRY enterprises continued to build more financially viable and sustainable enterprises, with capacity to respond to emerging opportunities, whilst continuing to deliver high quality services to its clients and stakeholders.

The past year has thrown up significant challenges. The response by all stakeholders from the TRY Board and CEO to individual staff has served to galvanise the team and positioned the enterprises towards achieving even better results in 2013/14.

## **TRY Learning**

Is a Registered Training Organisation with the capacity to deliver a range of nationally recognised qualifications and short courses designed to meet the needs of its internal and external customers.

During the 2013/14 financial year, approximately 2,200 people enrolled with TRY *Learning* in nationally accredited courses across 14 qualifications, including Children's Services, Construction, Hospitality, Training & Assessment, First Aid, CPR, Asthma and Anaphylaxis, Business, Management, Vocational Preparation and General Education for Adults.

The training predominantly focussed on the Children's Services area, with approximately 90% of people enrolled in the qualifications necessary to work in this sector.

As at 1 January 2014, legislative changes required that at least 50% of staff working in preschool age children's services centres must be actively working towards an approved Certificate III level education and care qualification.

The enrolment in the TRY Learning Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care enables people to continue to work within the industry and Childrens Service Centres to meet their obligations and provide service to their customers. The training continues to be delivered outside of work hours, but within workplaces located in both metropolitan and regional Victoria.

This delivery enables students to achieve their formal qualification, whilst avoiding loss of income and disruption in the preschools. The students were generally from non-english speaking backgrounds including Iraqi, Pakistani, Sudanese, Afghani, Somali, etc.

A further 7% of enrolments were in the area of entry level educational skills, Construction Industry Occupational Health and Safety and Certificate I in Vocational Preparation, orientated to encourage participation by young people and / or disadvantaged unemployed people.

# TRY ENTERPRISES REPORT

In the latter part of 2013/14, TRY Learning sought accreditation with the Australian Skills and Qualifications Authority which, if successful, will enable the RTO to deliver accredited training throughout Australia.

TRY *Learning* assists young people achieve qualifications in either Certificate III in Children's Services or Diploma of Children's Services (Early Childhood Education and Care) through a range of other programs including:

- VETis – The Vocational Education & Training in school program delivers the Certificate III in Children's Services qualification to years 10, 11 & 12 students enrolled in local secondary schools. In the 2014 school year, 22 students from four schools and colleges participated in a combination of structured classroom and workplace learning sessions whilst undertaking their school studies.
- School Based Traineeships – these are a 1-2 year workplace based program offering year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to obtain a Certificate III in Children's Services. In 2014, 16 students were employed by various children's services providers as trainees, receiving monthly visits from a trainer to deliver and assess their progress in the workplace.
- Workplace Based Training – In 2014 a total of 20 people enrolled in either the Certificate III in Children's Services or the Diploma of Children's Services (Early Childhood Education and Care) programs. Depending on the qualification, it is delivered over 1-2 years with participants working in a range of suitable children's services providers around Victoria.

- A TRY trainer visits the workplaces on a monthly basis to deliver and assess each participant's progress towards achieving a nationally recognised qualification.

## ***Mega Bingo***

The Clayton Bingo Centre has a very strong following with over 108,000 patrons attending the centre during 2013/14. Mega Bingo provides the best prize money in the south eastern suburbs with patrons winning, on average, over \$146,000 each week.

The past year has been challenging, particularly in relation to significant operating problems with the former Bingo software program.

Staff at the Clayton Bingo complex continued to deliver a high level of customer service and provide positive entertainment experiences to patrons, sometimes in trying circumstances. It is a testimony to their skills, dedication and perseverance that attendances have returned to previous levels.

A number of promotions were run throughout the year for patrons and the local community including live music, Islander nights with live entertainment and speciality food available through the Café, free Family Christmas party, etc. These entertainment themes will be expanded during 2014/2015, building on the successes of the previous year.

## ***TRY Property Maintenance***

Has been operating in the Latrobe Valley since 2000, primarily servicing a catchment area of approximately 100 kilometres from its depot in Morwell. The predominate source of revenue for TRY *Property Maintenance* is the repair,

# TRY ENTERPRISES REPORT

maintenance and minor construction works of low cost, long term rental properties managed by Community Housing Limited (CHL).

During 2013/14, approximately 660 jobs were satisfactory completed for CHL, with a customer satisfaction rating of 98%, which is the highest in Victoria. Revenue from CHL fell approximately 25% when compared with the previous year and it is projected that revenue levels for 2014/15 will continue to fall significantly.

CHL have advised that tight fiscal constraints remain in force over all maintenance and that their completion of a program to renew or update their housing stock and correspondingly reduced their requirements for maintenance work – together these two factors will continue to result in reduced revenue for the foreseeable future.

Staff resources were rebalanced throughout the year, to ensure the existence of a strong commitment to the enterprise's new strategic direction and the appropriate mix of attitude, knowledge, skills and passion for the future. Staffing has been reduced to the level necessary to undertake the current level of contracted works and will be expanded as the volume of work builds.

Sourcing new property maintenance contracts or other minor construction works is crucial to the future financial viability of the enterprise and to this end, professional marketing collateral has been produced to support locally targeted strategic campaigns.

New relationships have been forged with local housing organisations with a view of expanding on-going maintenance works.

In the past, another enterprise, TRY Wood operated from the Morwell site, producing furniture including Adirondack / Cape Cod chairs and Tarwin tables, along with custom furniture.

A feasibility study will be undertaken towards the end of the 2014/15 financial year to ascertain the viability of re-establishing the enterprise as a producer of quality crafted outdoor furniture.

The venture would provide training opportunities in furniture making for local unemployed youth, as well as contributing to the overall robustness of the social enterprise.

# TRY MENTORING REPORT

This year marks a significant period of transformational change, from relocating our offices to staff changes, from reviewing our processes and creating efficiencies, to further developing our mentoring programs and taking a giant leap forward as we embarked on a journey to develop our strategic plan towards 2020. In this mix were also some fantastic show case events that brought our community together to celebrate the power of volunteers and mentoring as a life-changing positive force, as well as, returning our focus to TRY's roots and raison d'être.

Our main focus has always been to engage more young people in mentoring programs, and continually improve the way we support vulnerable young people to achieve better outcomes, creating genuine and self-sustaining relationships that have long term effects. Our objectives this year were to:

- review our Volunteer Screening processes to create efficiencies and expedite this process;
- target our Volunteer Recruitment in areas of highest demand for services;
- develop new and innovative mentoring programs that are responsive to need and demands; and
- foster new links and partnerships with community agencies to reach a different audience and strengthen communities with a more holistic approach.

Developing our new 'Cycle' approach to screening has enabled us to invite more volunteers to start screening and hence make more matches. The end of 2013 saw us make 39 matches, however once our new processes were bedded down, we were able to make 62 matches and engage 9 young males in our Frankston MITH program, with the support of

of 104 volunteers.

Over the year we have held 10 volunteer Information sessions with 243 attendees, and close to 100 volunteer application forms have been received. In exploring some of the reasons behind the slow up-take of volunteering in those that attended Information Sessions, we understand that the 12 month commitment can be challenging

In some instances it was the long paper-based application form that was a barrier, so we have taken steps to revise the application form and process to enhance this experience.

## ***Mentoring Programs***

Although our one-to-one mentoring program continues to be the backbone of our program delivery there has been increasing demand for the group program, Mentoring in the Hood (MITH). This year, with the support of Hocking Stuart Frankston, we have been able to commence a fitness-based MITH with 9 young males aged 12-16.

What seems like a motley crew of males is fast becoming the favourite time of the week for this group. Come Monday afternoon the mentors, Matty, Steve and Garry put the boys through their paces with a fitness and boxing program, aimed at fostering strong relationships, developing resilience, respect and leadership skills.

(photo)

# TRY MENTORING REPORT

Our MITH group-based Mentoring program can be based on any medium (dependent on the skills and expertise of our volunteers) which is a drawcard for both volunteers and young people, however the program's focus is on the mentoring relationship and the long-term friendships that can develop as a result of their interactions. This unique approach to mentoring not only enables us to meet the needs of a larger group of young people with fewer volunteers, but engage young people in developing new skills.

MITH has gained momentum over the year, and we have been in the throes of further developing this model, and we look forward to launching more MITH programs in different locations, that are responsive to a specific community's needs, and better meet demand for services.

## ***Events & Highlights***

The Big Shout Out: Held in November, this was an opportunity for people to publically thank the people who had helped shape the person that they have become. Lots of people had cause to reflect on someone who has inspired and supported them, be they parents, a teacher, community or business leaders, or simply friends. We've all needed a helping hand or a shoulder to lean on at some point in life to get where we are today, and often we don't realise the impact of these people.

The power of Mentoring has never been more profound than on this day, watching the number of who willingly came over to write on the wall, people of all ages and walks of life, all reflecting on someone who has had an influence and impact on their life.



Volunteer Awards Dinner: The Inaugural Volunteer of the Year Awards dinner was a fabulous success and the funds raised have contributed towards empowering young people to reach their potential and making positive changes.

During the evening we acknowledged and celebrated some significant contributions from our supporters, and in particular, the winners on the evening whose generosity of spirit have had a profound effect on the lives of many.

The William Mark Forster Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Ben McNamara, who mentored a young boy named Liam and is a well-deserving winner. Ben's story and efforts at times during his match are based on simple gestures, reliability and friendship, yet his impact has been nothing short of life changing.



# TRY MENTORING REPORT

Run Melbourne: Maintaining our tradition of having a presence at Run Melbourne, we created a fresh new look and story for our tea. The TRY Bees – with the motto ***be what you can be*** – stems from our founder William Forster’s message: “that if you were prepared to ‘try’ you would be amazed what you could accomplish”.

So with runners and walkers in all three of the distances and a swarm of volunteers at one of the drink stations our TRY Bees were out in force and instantly recognisable with a great message to share. Our marquee on the Birrarung Marr promenade was festooned with floating bees and yellow and black streamers, whilst our many volunteers and supporters handed out heaps of donated goodies, attracting a big crowd of participants and spectators.

## ***Impact of our Supporters***

This year we were privileged to enjoy free tickets to the Zoo, donations of Christmas presents for mentees, and other activities like bowling, laser tag and the movies.

Our corporate partnership with Malthouse enabled us to provide tickets to matches to see The Witches, as well as provide some tickets to Volunteers to see another performance, The Good Person of Szechuan.

The MaxCap Group are new supporters this year, and provided our matches with tickets to the Medallion Cub at Etihad stadium to see some great footy matches, and these events have been thoroughly enjoyed by the young people and their mentors.



# MAJOR SUPPORTERS, TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Our many and varied programs and activities which benefit children and young people, and their families, are only made possible through the generosity of many others.

Through your support and generosity, you have assisted us in making a positive contribution and a constructive impact on many thousands in our community.

The Chairman and Board of Directors thank TRY's Volunteers and all of the nameless members of the general public who have generously provided their time and/or financial support to our programmes.

We also extend sincere appreciation to all the representatives of Private Foundations and Trusts, Public and Private Companies, as well as, representatives of Local, State and Federal Government.

## Thank you to our contributors

### COMMUNITY & BUSINESS

Alicia Van Hemert, Dance for Kids	Optus Rock Corp
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	RACV
Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA)	Rotary Club of Cheltenham
Endeavour Hills Police Station	Rotary of Richmond, Next Step Program
Hocking Stuart, Frankston & Langwarrin	SA Salisbury
Jayson Mair Coaching	Spec Savers
Krispy Kreme	Suncorp
KPMG	The MaxCap Group
Landcare	Timboon Toy Shoppe
Malthouse	Uniting Care Connections

### INDIVIDUALS

Anne-Louise McGinn	Paul Moore
David Moss	Robyn Gough
Heath Kilgour	Sagit Lourie
Melvyn Tozer	Simon Hosking
Michael Cohn	Verena Scheer
Paul Arber	

### TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

Ardoch Youth Foundation	Peter Williams Trust
EHM Ratcliff Trust, managed by Equity Trustees	Philip and Vivien Brass Charitable Foundation
Forest Hill Foundation	RE Ross Trust
Goodman Family Foundation	Sentinel Foundation
Hinds-Martin Charitable Endowment	Sirius Foundation
Jack & Ethel Goldin Foundation	Suncorp Brighter Future Fund
Joan & Peter Clemenger Foundation	William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund
Landman Foundation	

# MAJOR SUPPORTERS, TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)      Department of Education (formerly Department of Education and Workplace Relations)

## STATE GOVERNMENT

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development      Magistrates Court of Victoria  
Department of Human Services – Child Protection

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Frankston      Banyule City Council  
City of Greater Dandenong      Corangamite Shire Council  
City of Kingston      Hobson Bay City Council  
City of Manningham      Moreland City Council  
City of Melton      Mornington Peninsula Shire  
City of Moonee Valley  
City of Playford  
City of Port Phillip  
City of Stonington  
City of Whittlesea

# ROLL OF HONOUR

William Mark Forster – Founder: 1883 – 1921

Date	President	Date	Treasurer
1908 – 1912	Sir M H Davies – Knighted 1890	1887 – 1890	Hon James Munro MLC
1913 – 1920	Mrs S T Staughton	1891 – 1897	Mr Albert Wiseman
1921 – 1925	The Countess of Stradbroke	1898 – 1906	Mr Albert Wiseman & Mr R Rippin
1926 – 1932	Lady Somers	1907 – 1923	Mr J R Rippin
		1924 – 1936	Mr E H M Ratcliff
Date	Vice President	1937 – 1941	Mr J C Pickford
1933 - 1936	Sir George Wales	1942 – 1960	Mr L W Foster
1937 – 1957		1961 – 1962	Mr M S Peden
		1963 – 1964	Mr G M Lloyds
Date	President	1965 – 1969	Mr W C Faulkner
1957 – 1959	Mr L W Forster	1970 – 1971	Mr R C Barrett
1959 – 1960	Mr Richard L Daniell	1971 – 1976	Mr Peter Dredge
1960 – 1969	Mr N Peter Andrews	1976 – 1977	Mr J B Hayton
1969 – 1998	Mr Ken Smith OAM	1977 – 2000	Mr Peter Dredge
1998 – 1999	Mr Peter Gilchrist CPA	2000 – 2007	Mr Ken Scott FCA
1999 – 2003	Mr Stuart Southwick OAM JP	2007 – 2009	Mr Ian Brown
2003 – 2007	Mr Kevin J McNeill JP	2009 – 2012	Ms Jovita Gartlan
2007 – Present	Ms Helen Robinett	2012 - Present	Mr Craig Bryan
Date	Secretary		
1887 – 1897	Mr John Darroh		
1908 – 1921	Mr F E Pausacker		
1921 – 1922	Mr J C Butler	Date	Chief Executive Officer
1922 – 1939	Mr W T Hughes-Jones	1956 – 1981	Mr Ken N Baldwin BEM
1940 – 1941	Mr Hugh Philip FVSA	1981 – 2003	Mr Kevin J McNeill JP
1941 – 1948	Mr N Burns-Priddle	2003 – 2007	Mr John Lanza
1948 - 1956	Mr H S Thorogood	2007 – 2012	Mr Damien Mowlam
2012 – Present	Mr Greg Lavis	2013 – Present	Ms Julia Cambage



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