

wilderness

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TO ENABLE A LIFE FULLY LIVED IN MALLACOOTA.

We are enabling Mallacoota to thrive, through building an entrepreneurial culture using the catalysts of knowledge, enterprises and coworking collaboration.



CONTENTS

Chair's report	5
Executive Officer report	6
A year in review	8
Impact and outcomes	12
Partnerships and people	14
Financials	17
Get involved	26

About the Wilderness Collective

Right across rural and remote Australia, communities are struggling from the impacts of natural disasters, COVID, a housing crisis and financial pressures.

For Mallacoota, the impacts of the past 3 years have unveiled a hidden complexity of issues in the region. The lack of year-round employment opportunities, intergenerational change and trauma have bubbled to the surface, leaving the community at a very real turning point.

Yet, each year for generations around 10,000 people flock to Mallacoota as a holiday destination, expecting a vibrant, functioning and viable community.

Our population of just over 1100 people, coupled with our remoteness makes this community a perfect test bed for rejuvenation. To be an exemplar and model for modern rural living. Our success can support other communities facing similar futures.

We see a real, clear and obvious opportunity to join resources, people and determination to result in a year-round viable economy and meaningful livelihoods.

The Wilderness Collective was formed by 5 local women committed to unlocking this community's potential.

Chair's report

The Wilderness Collective has a bold vision. To provide for a life lived fully in Mallacoota. A life where our remote location remains a cherished asset. Where geographical isolation does not preclude us having the right resources, opportunities and ecosystem to provide a variety of life choices. Where families can stay together if they choose. And where our older people can see out their days among friends and families.

We aim to do this through reviving and enabling a culture that supports community-led endeavors to see a thriving economy. We are enabling this through co-working and collaboration, lifelong learning opportunities, and through enabling enterprise of all kinds, but particularly social enterprise.

Co-working means we provide the flexible space, support and systems for remote and digital workers to be based here. Collaboration means we work alongside other local organisations to address some of the systemic issues we face.

Lifelong learning means we can provide space and support for those studying while offering a host of upskilling opportunities for learners of any stage and age.

Supporting enterprise – and particularly social enterprise – means we can help to rejuvenate a town still recovering from the devastating Black Summer bushfires while also experiencing generational transition in its retail and business profile.

I am proud to say that in our first year as an incorporated association we have made major inroads in each of these strategic pillars. We have opened a pop-up co-working space and are working towards a more permanent premises. We have cut the ribbon on a study hub that provides free computers, software and the learning support for students studying online. We have run 34 workshops on topics ranging from social media marketing to financial budgeting. We have just completed an incubator for 5 emerging enterprises and hosted town-wide talks on acquiring community-owned assets and the opportunities this affords. And we have introduced the Social Enterprise Academy into our local school.

We have had remarkable and invaluable support from philanthropists, government and community foundations. And we are truly grateful to have had the unstinting support and guidance of ACRE - the Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship.

Thank you to all who have supported us on the journey so far.

Mary O'Malley Board Chair 2022-2023

Executive Officer report

There is something about a community that rises to a challenge. This remote region draws together an eclectic mix of passionate people. It is this passion and drive, coupled with global experiences that creates a melting pot for what is possible, a vision and a willingness to roll up sleeves and give things a go.

I am immensely proud to provide the first Executive Officer report for the Mallacoota Wilderness Collective. It has been an incredible 12 months for our organisation and the community. While our vision and planning for the Wilderness Collective started out of the fires, our momentum began once we secured a premises - the Wilderness Workspace and initial funding.

The first year of our operations has seen many significant milestones, most notably the launch of our Workspace and our work with ACRE. This partnership has enabled us to explore, grow and tap into the wonderful global learnings of social enterprise and what that can mean for our community.



A year of impacts

I truly thank our initial funding partners in Regional Development Victoria, East Gippsland Community Foundation and St Vincent de Paul, who took the bold step of supporting a brand new organisation with a lot of work ahead of it!

We were then successful, in partnership with ACRE, in securing a Local Economic Recovery grant from the Victorian Government's Bushfire Recovery Victoria. This enabled a year of programs dedicated towards capacity building and taking us beyond a volunteer-only capacity.

Our focus initially has been in securing funding for programs and 'socialising our story' - outlining how business for good and knowledge transfer can play such an important role.

We were then incredibly lucky to secure significant support for our Knowledge programs from the Jewish Community of Victoria; as well as additional supportive grants through FRRR, EGCF and EGSC to enable us to start skills, technology and other collaborative programs.

This has seen regular educational development, learning programs, monthly IT help and digital skills training, as well as the globally recognised Social Enterprise Schools program - providing professional development and social enterprise training to our Mallacoota P-12 College students and teachers.

We are immensely thankful to MADRA for providing us with our start in lease funding, of which we would not have been able to tackle the above.

At the end of the financial year we officially launched our Study Hub, in partnership with GELLEN. This enables any student within Mallacoota to access complimentary study facilities, resources, as well as time with a learning facilitator.

Gathering with like-minded communities

As our vision grew, we knew that we needed to present ourselves to the world. We were delighted to reveal our new brand identity in April 2023 and to complete our first Strategy outlining our pillars and considerations for our future.

Thank you to EGCF for supporting us to attend the Social Enterprise World Forum, Rural Gathering in Beechworth in October 2022, as well as being a case study at the 'Social Enterprise World Forum 2022' in Brisbane. This was an incredible opportunity to meet with like-minded community leaders from across the globe and understand more about the social enterprise community and how Mallacoota could benefit.



Partnerships in community

How we work in community is vitally important to us. We are by community, for community. As part of this, we are very focused on providing open, transparent communication about our activities, networks and calendar of events.

We are pleased to say that we have already partnered with multiple community organisations within Mallacoota and far east Gippsland, as well as holding conversations with like-minded community leaders from Goongerah, Cann River, Bemm River, Orbost, Lake Tyers, Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Omeo, Buchan We wish to continue these conversations and enable more collaboration and opportunity for our far east region into the future.

Thank you for your support of the Wilderness Collective to date and we can't wait to continue the journey with you.





A year in review

The Wilderness Collective is looking at a multipronged approach in developing Mallacoota's entrepreneurial mindset and culture. In addition, we are seeking assets that could be community owned and run. Our community conversations are building momentum and we are gaining traction in the ways we can support positive change.

Our highlighted impacts and actions across the FY23 year are outlined below against our Strategic Pillars of Business spaces, Knowledge and Innovation. These are underpinned by Leadership and Partnerships and a Thriving Organisation.



- Took lease of Wilderness Workspace and fit-out for summer, opening 3 days/week in November 2022
- Surveys completed on co-working and facility access, workshops and digital access needs
- Reviewed opportunities within Mallacoota for community-based assets.
- The Fit for Future Pathway establishment of a 'Jobs Board' in the Workspace.

Knowledge

- Over 34 workshops and skills events covering business, leadership, social media, design and technology skills.
- Established an MOU with the Eden Community Access Centre, starting a monthly digital skills session and IT Help desk for local community members.
- Digital Careers Forum held in partnership with GELLEN (Gippsland East Local Learning Employment Network)
- Officially opened the Study Hub Mallacoota in partnership with GELLEN















Innovation in Rural and Remote Communities

- Interviewed 9 businesses/projects for the Think, Start, Grow Incubator series, of which 5 businesses completed the program.
- Established 'Made in Mallacoota' branding, including a products showcase for local micro businesses.
- Held a community information exhibit at the Wild Harvest Seafood Festival
- Introduced Social Enterprise Schools within Mallacoota P-12 College
- Undertook the Thrive Framework to benchmark our community assets
- Hosted radio specials on 3MGB community radio
- Held a 'Town in Transition' meeting to bring local businesses together to manage employment needs and business closures over winter.

Leadership and Partnership

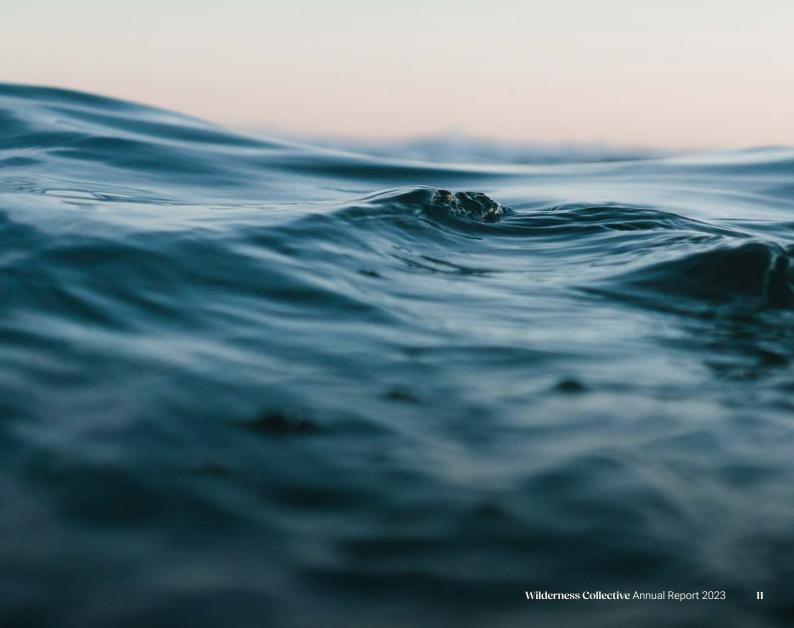
- Held Community information sessions on 'Introduction to Social enterprise', 'Understanding Rural Entrepreneurship' and 'Big Ideas Breakfast'
- Attended the Social Enterprise World Forum Rural Gathering, with Wilderness Collective being a case study at the World Forum.
- Assisted MADRA with a visual postcard campaign of community projects
- Worked with the Community Health and Resilience Fund (CHIRF) and Mallacoota Inlet Aged Care to establish a 'Services Directory for Health and Inhome Care' in the community.

Thriving Organisation

- Creation of the Founding Board, governance systems and policies
- Preparation of grants for establishment of the organisation and program funding
- Established TWC Consulting arm to assist local projects and organisations with various business, communication and marketing requirements.

What an oasis for someone on a long haul family holiday who needed to connect with the "professional world" for a couple of hours. Was lamenting on how I could prepare and hold an important video meeting from the confines of my caravan in the rain and juggle the family when across the road from the caravan park I found this excellent set up. Thank you Paris for going out of your way to facilitate this and thanks to the community of Mallacoota to have the forethought to build this in your town. I am sure it will be of great benefit to the community as well as outsiders like me.

- J Williams





Impact and outcomes

In our first 12 months, the Wilderness Collective has directly engaged and assisted (through its workspace, programs and information sessions) with over a quarter of our community.

Our activities have resulted in community impacts of job creation, business development, skills and capacity building, and wellbeing and connection within far east Gippsland communities. We are actively obtaining information to enable social impact measurement as we continue to develop.

In late 2022, we instigated the Thrive Framework for our community, with support from East Gippsland Shire Council. Led by ACRE, this is an established impact assessment tool that considers 16 different indicators across 5 pillars. It has been developed following the assessment of over 100 global rural towns and helps communities understand their current strengths and assets.

For the Wilderness Collective, the tool has provided a baseline measurement of the availability and accessibility of areas/indicators within the community and we will reassess in another 1-2 years to see how our programs and networks have enabled a shift in the overall fabric and impact on this town.

Across the initial Thrive assessment (late 2022), Mallacoota was deemed to show the following indicators of maturity:

*Scale

Embryonic = not available or very difficult to access Embedded = easy to access and readily available

Education and Training Networks and Support Physical and Digital Infrastructure and Capital Culture and Aspiration

Embryonic Embryonic-Emerging Embryonic-Emerging Emerging-Established

The Wilderness Collective's programs are being developed to shift these areas to become embedded within the community; through skills development, knowledge transfer, introduction of additional funding streams, as well as improved access to facilities and resources.

Congratulations and well done. It's awesome, how much you have achieved for our community.

- L Newby

Partnerships and people

Thank you to all of the following organisations for their support in establishing the Wilderness Collective and our endeavors to make Mallacoota thrive.

LEADING PARTNERS











SUPPORTING PARTNERS













LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

We have partnered with or on projects throughout the year with:

- Mallacoota and District Recovery Association (MADRA)
- Mallacoota Business and Tourism Association
- The Mallacoota Sanctuary Youth Group
- 3MGB Wilderness Radio
- · Friends of Mallacoota
- Mallacoota Medical Centre
- · Health and Wellness Hub
- Mallacoota Inlet Aged Care
- Mallacoota Community Health, Infrastructure and Resilience Fund (CHIRF)
- U3A
- · Totally Renewable in Mallacoota
- · Mallacoota Events

OUR PEOPLE

Founding Board

Mary O'Malley President

Meg Allan Vice-President

Bel Temby *Treasurer*

Paris Brooke Secretary

Dr Tricia Hiley

External Advisors to the Board

Matt Pfahlert CEO/Co-Founder, ACRE

Dr Nicola Watts Business Facilitator, Entrepreneur's Program, Auslndustry, C4 Impact

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the following local people who have worked in supporting the Wilderness Collective in 2022/2023 in various ways.

Tracey Bechaz, Christy Bryar, Vidi Chandra, Larry Gray, Carol Hopkins, Nicole Migotto-Brown, Kylie Pearson, Zoe Sands, Ashley Turner. Mallacoota in Victoria is living proof of the power of community led rejuvenation - locals are determined to shift the dial, especially for future generations.

– M Pfahlert, ACRE.



Financials

FINDEX

Annual Report

THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC

For the Period,

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC Profit and Loss Statement

For The Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023
Income		
Workspace Revenue		4,137
TWC Consulting		8,280
EGSC Pod Planning		10,000
EGCF Grants		60,990
ConnectWell Grant		950
FRRR Grants		33,717
MADRA Grant		25,001
SVDP Donation		30,000
JCCV Donations		116,423
Total Income		289,498
Expenses		
Accountancy fees		995
Bank charges		72
Catering Expenses		967
Computer requisites		2,226
Depreciation		1,695
Legal costs		71
Marketing & Promotions		9,058
Meeting Expenses		373
Postage		71
Printing and stationery		3,152
Project Management & Coordination		37,546
Staff Training & Development		2,831
Subscriptions		965
Sundry expenses		776
Telephone		840
Travelling expenses		720
Workshop expenses		3,276
Total Expenses		65,634
Net Surplus		223,864
Other Income		
Interest received	4a	6
Net Surplus		223,870

These unaudited statements should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements and are subject to the Accountant's Compilation Report.

THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023
Current Assets		
Petty Cash		50
Wilderness Collective Statement Account		202,759
Wilderness Colletive Debit Card Account		176
Trade receivables		4,625
GST Refundable	5	1,853
Total Current Assets		209,463
Non Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	14,927
Total Non-Current Assets		14,927
Total Assets		224,390
Current Liabilities		
Trade creditors		520
Total Current Liabilities		520
Net Assets		223,870
Equity		
Retained Surplus		223,870
Total Equity		223,870

These unaudited statements should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements and are subject to the Accountant's Compilation Report.

THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are a special purpose report prepared for use by the director and the member. The director has determined that the company is not a reporting entity.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non current assets.

No Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been intentionally applied.

Income	2023
Expenses	2023
Other Income	2023
Other income	2023
a Interest received	
Interest Received	<u> </u>
	6
GST	2023
GST Refundable	1,853
GST Refundable	1,853
Property, Plant and Equipment	2023
Plant and equipment	7,587
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,263)
	6,324
Office furniture and equipment	4,770
Less accumulated depreciation	(250)
	4,520
Furniture and fittings	4,265
Less accumulated depreciation	(182)
	4,083
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	14,927
Capital	2023

Total Capital

THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC Schedule of Fixed Assets and Depreciation

As at 30 June 2023

		Private Use %	Original Cost	Opening WDV	Add or 0 sposals (+/-)	Gain/Loss on Disposal	Rate of Deprec.	Deprec. This period	Closing WDV
Plant & equipment									
Lenovo - Computer Bank & Software	22/11/22		-	-	4,499	-	33.3% DV	908	3,591
MacBook Pro 16	25/02/23		-	-	3,088	-	33.3% DV	355	2,733
Total Plant & equipment			-	-	7,587	-		1,263	6,324
Office furniture & equipment									
Community Showcase Cabinet	28/12/22		-	-	328	-	13.3% DV	22	306
Vacuum Cleaner WW	14/01/23		-	-	299	-	28.6% DV	39	260
Kitchen Furniture Sink	25/01/23		-	-	779	-	10.0% DV	34	745
Lenovo - 2 x Computer Monitors	27/01/23		-	-	424	-	33.3% DV	60	364
Kitchen Cupboard	23/02/23		-	-	135	_	13.3% DV	6	129
Kitchen Appliances	7/03/23		-	-	2,804	-	10.0% DV	89	2,715
Total Office furniture & equipme	ent		-	-	4,770	-		250	4,520
Furniture & fittings									
3 x Study Desks for Workspace	24/01/23		-	-	3,265	-	10.0% DV	141	3,124
5 Mobile Desk Caddies	1/02/23		-	-	1,000	-	10.0% DV	41	959
Total Furniture & fittings			-	-	4,265	-		182	4,083
Total Fixed Assets			-	-	16,622	-		1,695	14,927

These unaudited statements should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements and are subject to the Accountant's Compilation Report.

THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC Directors' Declaration

The director declares that the company is not a reporting entity. The director has determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The director of the company declares that:

- financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
- 2. in the director's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the director:

Executive Officer

Dated: 27/11/2023

THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC Compilation Report

Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd ABN 84 006 466 351

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Scope

On the basis of information provided by the director of THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC we have compiled in accordance with APES 315 'Compilation of Financial Information' the special purpose financial report of the company for the period ended 30 June 2023.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC, which comprise the Statement of Fixed Assets and Depreciation, Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of Director

The Director of THE MALLACOOTA WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE INC is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the director we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 Compilation of Financial Information. We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements. The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the director who is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. Accordingly, these special purpose financial statements may not be suitable for other purposes. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

Signed:	Date:
Scott Ashley	27/11/2023

The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division, and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is external audit, conducted via the Crowe Australasia external audit division and Unison SMSF Audit. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately-owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.

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R. J. BOURKE B.Bus. FCPA

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT
REGISTERED TAX AGENT

373 Main Street, Bairnsdale, 3875 ABN 41 808 539 897 Telephone (03) 5152 1800 rjbourke@ozemail.com.au

12th October, 2023.

Independent Review Report

Non-reporting entity - Special purpose financial statements Reference ASA 2020-1.

To the members of The Mallacoota Wilderness Collective Inc.,

I have reviewed the accompanying financial reports, being a special purpose financial reports, by the committee, of The Mallacoota Wilderness Collective Inc. which comprises the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 2023.

The committee's responsibility for the financial report

The committee are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial reports and have determined that the basis of preparation is appropriate to meet the requirements of Consumer Affairs Victoria as per the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the needs of the members. The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Reviewer's responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial reports based on my review. I have conducted my review in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit and review engagements and plan and perform the review to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

A review involves performing procedures to obtain suitable evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial reports. The procedures selected depend on the reviewer's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial reports, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the reviewer considers internal control relevant to the Association's preparation of the financial reports in order to design review procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. A review also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial reports.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my review opinion.

Independence

In conducting my review, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial reports present fairly, the financial position of The Mallacoota Wilderness Collective Inc. as at 30th June, 2023.

Robyn J. Bourke, FCPA.

Certified Practising Accountant

12-10-23



R J Bourke is a CPA Practice. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Get involved

The Wilderness Collective sets out a long-term vision for our community. We would love you to join the journey.

We are seeking:

- People with energy, ideas, knowledge and networks!
- Investors with patience, interest and a thirst for community-led change.
- Partners that are bold, visionary, community minded and willing to step outside comfort zones.











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f The Wilderness Collective

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