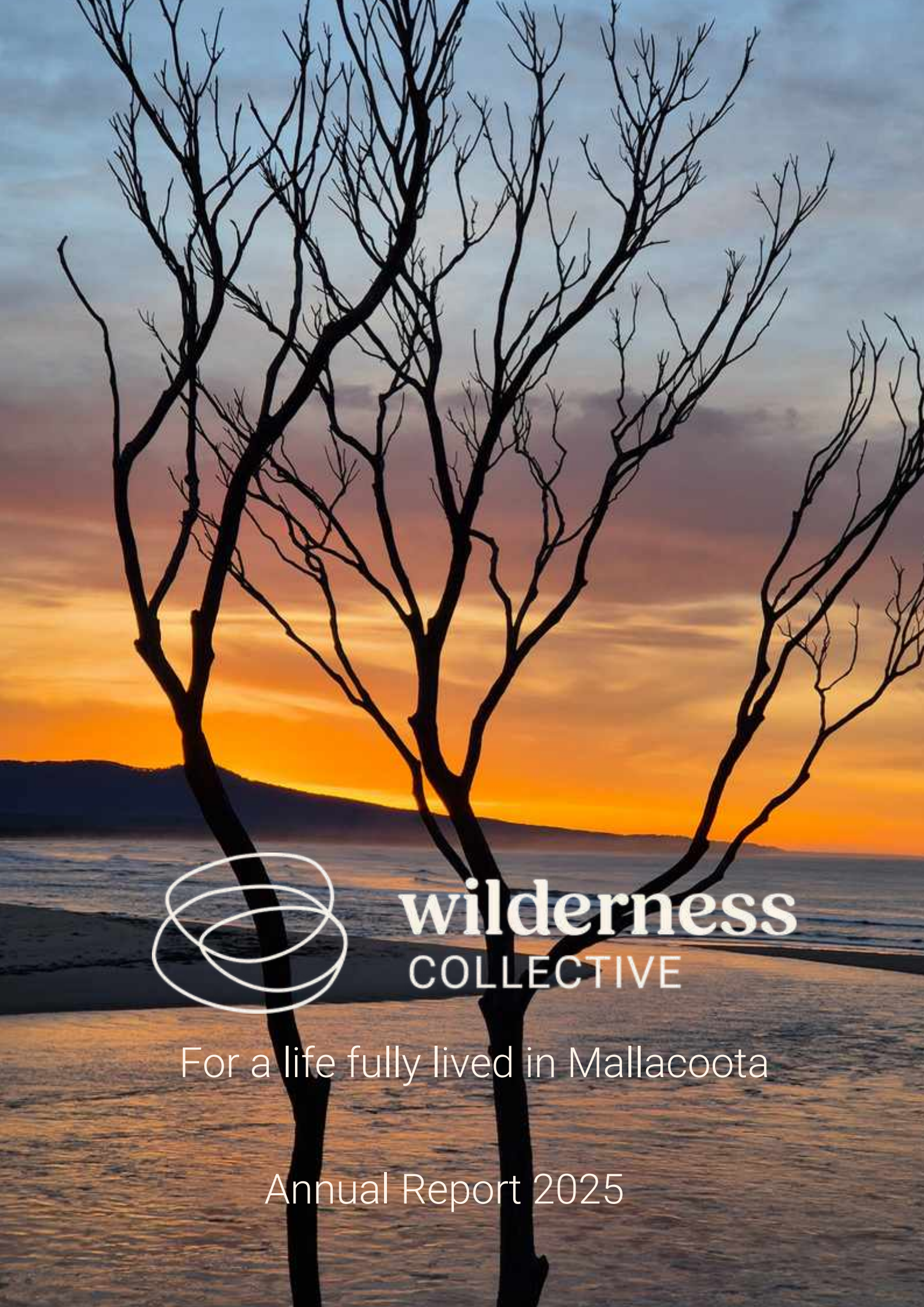


wilderness
COLLECTIVE

For a life fully lived in Mallacoota

Annual Report 2025

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to our community and beyond. To everyone that bought a raffle ticket, became a sponsor, donated, utilised our co-working space, awarded us a grant and cheered us on.

Your support of the vision to secure a permanent community asset in the main street of Mallacoota is deeply appreciated.

Kate Jackson & Phil Piper

Di & Dave Apple

St. Peters Mallacoota

Frenchy's of Mallacoota

Cheryle Mills

June Drake

Dianne Blood

Judy Brooke

Olivia & Georgia Donegan

Martin & Frances Butterfield

Tricia & Martyn Hiley

Chris Hindes & Barbara Van Leeuwen

Brendan Hiley

Robert Fisher

Penelope Steuart

Caroline Jones

U3A Mallacoota & District

Gipsy Point Ratepayers Association

Ryan, Gillian, Brendan & Annabelle

Maddy, Cam, Ollie, Angus & Grace

Anonymous donors

MOOSE

TOOTSY

BINKY'S BRICK

AUM SAI RAM

Catherine Hannon

Joan Kimm

Lisa Minichiello

Frances Sullivan

Lester Sturgess

Kim Harrison-Hewitt

Jim Sakkas

Jenny Mason

Susan Brown

Kitty Fisher

Empirical Careers

Green Lab Futures

Wendy & Peter

Social Enterprise Academy Australia

Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship

Joe & Joanna Peel

Ronda & Geoff

Lorraine & Michael

Norman & Toni Carroll

Brodie & Sandy

Jeff & Debbie Keniry

Fiona & George Raitt

Sue & George Nicolaou

Bruce & Jane Gaudion

Phillipa & Laurie Hamilton

Brooke - Turner Family

Josephine Wohler

Cooper-Dunnes

Kristin Rule

Andrew Webster

Wright Boys Inc.

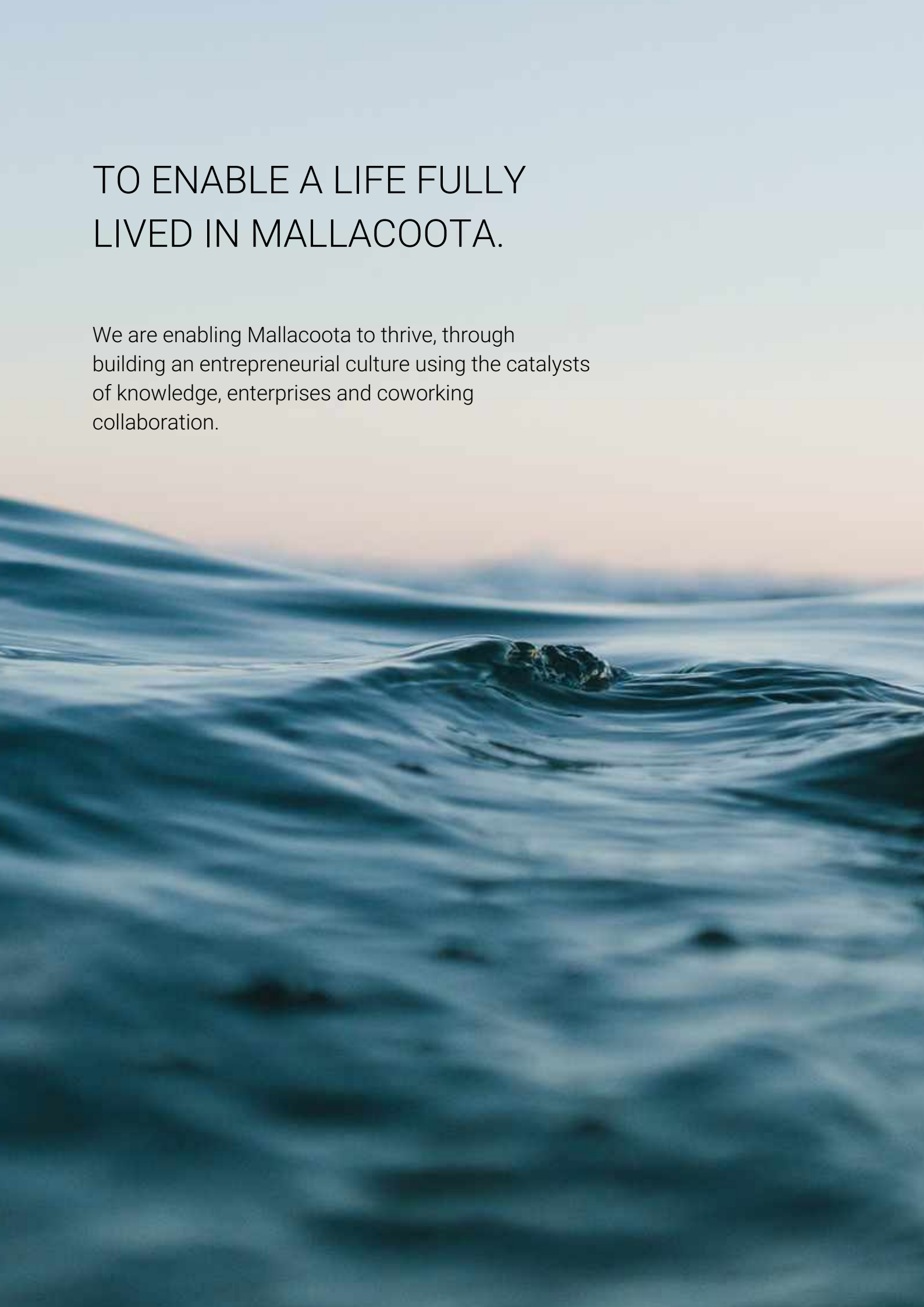
Coco Pinnis

The Amos Family



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.



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About the Wilderness Collective

The devastating impact of the 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires continues to shape Mallacoota's journey of recovery and renewal. While the fires revealed deep vulnerabilities - reliance on tourism, housing shortages, limited childcare, and scarce employment - they have also become the catalyst for bold, community-driven change. In 2025, Wilderness Collective stands as a testament to Mallacoota's strength, driving social and economic transformation through entrepreneurship, lifelong learning, and collective action.



THE WILDERNESS COLLECTIVE

Founded by five visionary women from East Gippsland, Wilderness Collective's mission is to foster a thriving, self-determined Mallacoota. Our theory of change is rooted in social entrepreneurship and collective leadership, empowering our remote community to become a replicable model for sustainable rural living. Together, we are tackling systemic challenges with creativity, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to inclusion.

Chair's report

This year has been defined by one extraordinary milestone: together, we purchased 56 Maurice Avenue, securing a permanent home for The Wilderness Collective.

What began as a bold idea has now become reality. Through the generosity of local donors, the energy of a community raffle, the reinvestment of our co-working income, and the support of sponsors, philanthropy, partners and a generous private donor, we have transformed our aspiration into a community asset.

This purchase is more than bricks and mortar — it is a statement that Mallacoota owns its future.

Community asset ownership is catalytic. Around the world and across rural Australia, it has been clearly demonstrated that when communities hold the keys to their own places, they unlock far more than buildings.

They unlock investment, build resilience, and create conditions where collaboration and innovation can take root — and our space is no exception. This year we welcomed new tenants, broadened the use of our flexible business spaces, and hosted a growing calendar of workshops and events.

Hundreds of people have engaged with the hub — entrepreneurs, microbusinesses, remote workers and visitors.

With each person — whether running a business from the space or simply printing a form — we move one step closer to our ambition of building a vibrant year-round economy, offering an alternative to the increasingly fragile seasonal economy facing growing threats from climate change, globalisation and economic uncertainty.



As a social enterprise, we are committed to building a sustainable organisation through a hybrid trading model. Our earned income from co-working, tenancy and program delivery contributed directly to the building purchase and now forms an important part of our revenue base.

Balancing the dual focus of trading commercially while delivering deep community impact is not without its challenges, particularly at this early stage, but it is central to who we are.

We are not another service charity and instead are deliberately developing a model where enterprise underpins impact. This approach diversifies Mallacoota's economy, attracts new forms of investment, and strengthens our resilience against seasonal cycles.

Over time, it will also allow us to steadily reduce reliance on philanthropy and build long-term sustainability for our community.

This year we have seen our voice carry beyond Far East Gippsland, with representation at national forums and conferences where we advocate for community-led entrepreneurship and innovation and share lessons from the journey so far.

Looking forward, we are excited to launch Remote Microenterprises Australia — a new initiative designed to extend our impact beyond our own community and support other remote entrepreneurs across the country.

Five years on from the inception of this idea, it is remarkable to see how far we have come. From conversations around kitchen tables after the fires to the purchase of our own asset, this journey has been powered by dedication, persistence and collective belief. I want to acknowledge the vision of our founders, the commitment of our Board, and the tireless leadership of our Executive Officer, Paris Brooke. We are deeply grateful to our partners, donors, sponsors and philanthropic supporters — without your support, what we do would not be possible.

As we look ahead, our focus is on embedding entrepreneurship at the heart of our community. The next phase includes further development of our hub with new flexible spaces and a community garden, alongside programs that will generate lasting opportunities. With a permanent home secured, we stand ready to grow, to share, and to prove that community-led enterprise can change what's possible in remote Australia.



Meg Allan,
Chair & Co-Founder

Executive Officer report

Reflecting on 2025 raises a host of emotions. At the forefront is **immense gratitude and pride** – to the extraordinary women behind this organisation that took a huge risk personally and professionally to pull off the purchase of a main street building for the future benefit of our community.

There is a strong sense of **achievement and growth**, as we have built, unpacked and streamlined our approaches, operations, programs and trust within the community and beyond.

I am filled with **hope and excitement,** as we embark on the activation of the Hub we've created and the launch of a new important initiative in **Remote Microenterprises Australia.**

But I'm also not going to shy away from the **toll** that this work takes personally. The many favours and supports we've asked of our family and friends to help do all the 'little things' that keep these organisations ticking (yet aren't easily funded); the many hours outside of work spent thinking, doing, worrying. And sacrifices made.

And the question of **'Why?'** That is a very deep question that has different drivers for all of us. Ultimately, our team want to see a positive and bright future for the community that we dearly love.



We did it!

In April 2025, our vision for a thriving Mallacoota took a major leap forward with the acquisition of our main street property at 56 Maurice Avenue. By successfully raising over $800,000 – we not only managed to purchase the property outright but also renovate it to a beautiful standard and enable updated electricals, plumbing, rooftop solar panels and battery backup. More on the Hub throughout this report.

A massive thank you to the many local trades (17 of you) that helped us achieve this vision and a big shout-out to Bel Temby and Tim Frazer (our project management/build team) for being so helpful, creative, essential and in good spirits at every step throughout this renovation journey.



What it means...

I'm proud to say that from our programs so far, we've played at least a small part in the development of 9 new businesses in town, assisted 30 individuals with specific coaching needs; provided specific employment opportunities to 10 local facilitators/contractors and welcomed 32 businesses through our skills programs.

In addition, we supported many, many locals requiring digital help, computers or printing and countless visitors needing a place to work or access to facilities. Excitedly, we've also enabled another 16 students through our third year of Social Enterprise Schools at the local Mallacoota P-12 College.

From driving 11,886kms, we've shown up and advocated for our small community in 11 national events, podcasts and a documentary. Throughout the year, we've also reviewed our Constitution (thank you to Minter Ellison for their support) – to ensure that our important Asset and our work remains within the Mallacoota community.

It takes a village...

A massive thank you to our community, supporters and everyone who has engaged with our Hub.

I particularly wish to thank our philanthropic partners that have walked alongside us this year. As well as the many local organisations that have cheered us on, supported us in-kind or financially where they can. Your support and belief in what we are doing keeps us moving forward.

Personal thanks to the incredible volunteer Board – Meg, Tricia, Bel, Rebecca and Katie, that make it a pleasure to work in this space. To our Workspace Host and Admin, Tash – who has firmly grown and created herself into an essential part of our team. And to our extended family crew that have, and continue to, put the hard yards into renovating or maintaining our property – with just a smile and thanks in return - Gillian, Ash, Mike, Vidi, Ryan, Brendan, Luke, Martyn, Justin, Sofia, the MLC year 9 girls, and Remy.

I hope you enjoy this report and draw inspiration from what our community is building.

Here's to making 2026 our year of Activation!



Paris Brooke
Executive Officer & Co-Founder





Micro-enterprise participants with their businesses at the local market



Securing a Permanent Home

Activating 56 Maurice Avenue...



2025 marks a defining moment in the Wilderness Collective's journey: we have successfully purchased our home at 56 Maurice Avenue, right in the heart of Mallacoota's main street. This achievement is more than a real estate transaction... It is a bold investment in the long-term future of our community.

For nearly three years, our team worked tirelessly to secure a stable, purpose-designed space. The commercial property landscape in Mallacoota is challenging, with limited availability and high demand, often resulting in unstable rental conditions. By purchasing this building, the Wilderness Collective now provides the community with a secure, enduring asset—one that will remain dedicated to social enterprise, innovation, and local empowerment for generations to come.

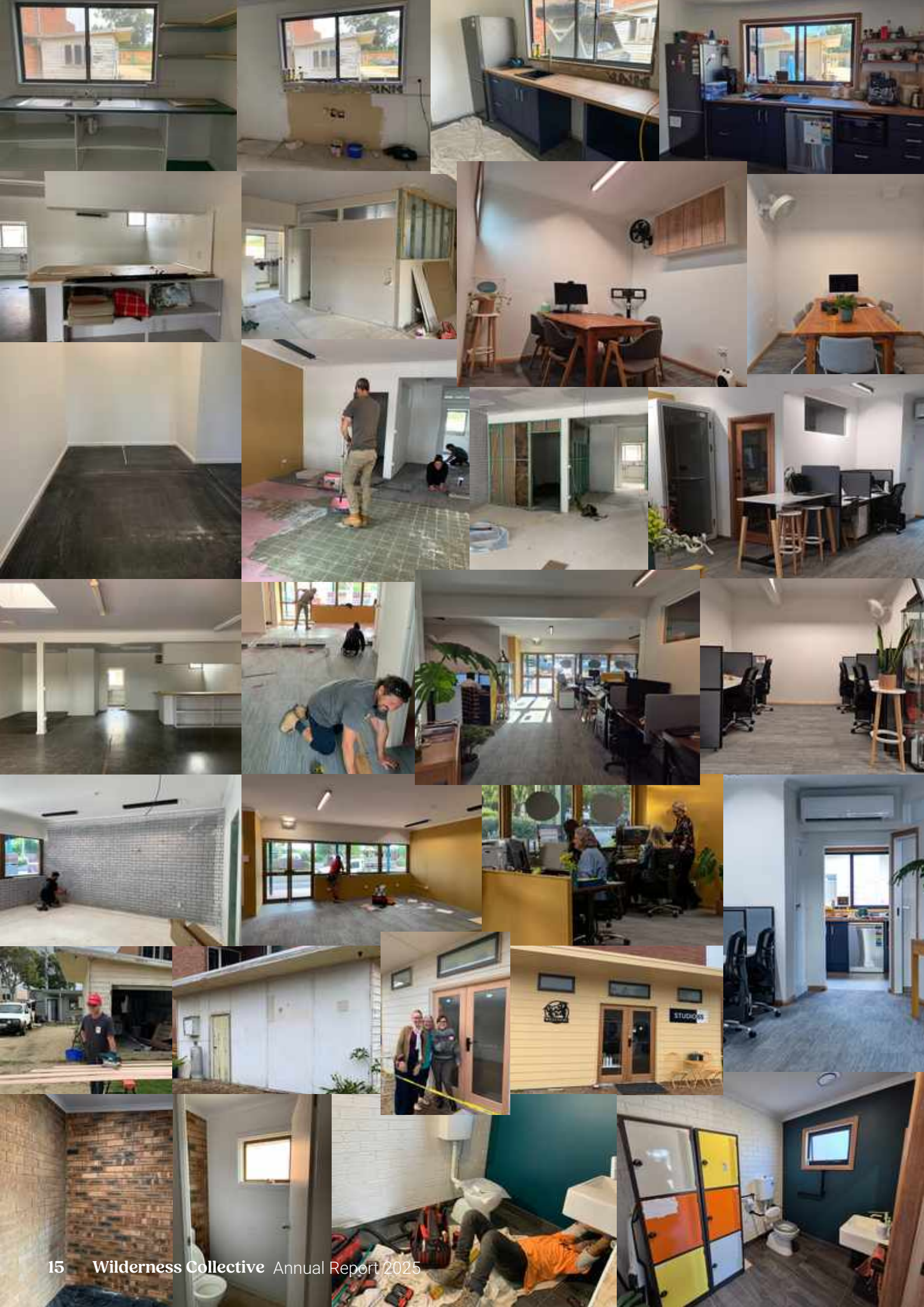
By successfully raising over $800,000 – we not only managed to purchase the property outright, but also renovate it to a beautiful bespoke standard and transformed the sustainability and efficiency credentials of the building.
The fundraising campaign was multi-faceted in approach – with everything from a community raffle, online donation campaigns, leasing, sponsorship, grants and philanthropic support. 52% of our funding came from individual donations and another 18% from our own workspace revenue.



Owning our space means we can focus on what matters most: building economic resilience, supporting entrepreneurs, and fostering a vibrant, year-round community. The property will serve as Mallacoota's dedicated Innovation and Employment Hub—a place to learn, test, collaborate, and grow new ideas. It also enables us to keep overheads manageable, operate sustainably with a small but mighty team, and ensure that all revenue and resources are reinvested directly into community benefit.

While this is a major victory, it's just the beginning. The stability provided by 56 Maurice Avenue allows us to dream bigger—expanding our programs, launching our bespoke Remote Microenterprises Australia Program, and inviting new partners to join us in shaping Mallacoota's future.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this milestone and look forward to working together to create lasting, positive change.



Thank you for helping us purchase this building for our community

Kate Jackson & Phil Piper
Di & Dave Apple
St. Peters Mallacoota
Frenchy's of Mallacoota
Cheryle Mills
June Drake
Dianne Blood
Judy Brooke
Olivia & Georgia Donegan
Martin & Frances Butterfield
Tricia & Martyn Hiley
Chris Hindes & Barbara Van Leeuwen
Brendan Hiley
Penelope Steuart
Caroline Jones
U3A Mallacoota & District
Gipsy Point Ratepayers Association
Ryan, Gillian, Brendan & Annabelle
Maddy, Cam, Ollie, Angus & Grace
Anonymous donors

MOOSE
TOOTSY
BINKY'S BRICK
AUM SAI RAM
Catherine Hannon
Joan Kimm
Lisa Minichiello
Frances Sullivan
Lester Sturgess
Kim Harrison-Hewitt
Jim Sakkas
Jenny Mason
Susan Brown
Kitty Fisher
Empirical Careers
Green Lab Futures
Wendy & Peter
Robert Fisher
Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship

Joe & Joanna Peel
Ronda & Geoff
Lorraine & Michael
Norman & Toni Carroll
Brodie & Sandy
Jeff & Debbie Keniry
Fiona & George Raitt
Sue & George Nicolaou
Bruce & Jane Gaudion
Phillipa & Laurie Hamilton
Brooke - Turner Family
Josephine Wohler
Cooper-Dunnes
Kristin Rule
Andrew Webster
Wright Boys Inc.
Coco Pinnis
The Amos Family
Social Enterprise Academy Australia


wilderness
COLLECTIVE
Business facilities
Zoom pod
Co-working desks
Internet
Equipment hire
www.wildernesscollective.org.au

Delivering on our Strategic Pillars



We provide flexible, accessible co-working spaces for local businesses, creatives, and digital nomads, supporting innovation and connection.



Our workshops, skills programs, and mentoring/coaching opportunities equip community members of all ages to thrive in a changing world.



We support people to start and grow micro and small businesses, building a town culture that welcomes entrepreneurship and strengthens Mallacoota's economic resilience.

THESE ARE ANCHORED BY OUR FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

- **Leadership & Partnership:** We unite community members and partner organisations to champion remote living, learning, and collaboration.
- **Thriving Organisation:** We uphold best-practice governance, pursue environmental and financial sustainability, and align with key regional priorities.
- **Inclusive & Multi-Generational:** Our events and spaces are designed to welcome and connect people of all ages and backgrounds, fostering a vibrant, inclusive community.

Providing Flexible Workspace Facilities

Our commitment to providing accessible, functional spaces has allowed The Wilderness Collective to grow and serve the community with increased capacity and versatility.



- Expanded our co-working hub, adding new desks and introducing 24/7 access, has led to a 22% increase in permanent tenants and a 15% rise in student workspace usage.



- Renovated the backyard shed and welcomed Studio65 hairdresser as a new tenant, demonstrating our commitment to turning underutilised spaces into economic opportunities.
- In the first week of operations, Studio65 had 10 new clients take up appointments.



- Officially operating our Study Hub, offering 24x7 access to local students studying from anywhere, with free printing and access to all facilities.
- We have welcomed 6 regular students and secured a permanent Learning Advisor for students to access support and resources.

Knowledge

Building an entrepreneurial culture, means supporting lifelong learning, upskilling, empowerment and supports. Through a range of existing and new skills programs, we are tackling challenges within the community with digital, business and financial literacy - whilst also building the foundations for collective wellbeing, security and spirit.



- Provided digital skills programs and tech help to over 60 locals, bridging the digital divide and enabling remote work and learning.



- We held a Peer Microbusiness Network for the first half of this year, with regular local business owners meeting every Monday at the workspace to share and learn.
- Individualised mentoring and coaching is available to anyone in Mallacoota and was taken up by over 30 individuals in 2025



- A Business skills series was held in partnership with Australian Business Volunteers (ABV) with 16 local businesses participating. Since the workshops, 2 new businesses have been established, a re-launch, new market opportunities and expansion in 2 other businesses.

Enterprise

As part of establishing an entrepreneurial culture, we are looking at the emergence of next generation leaders, as well as empowering both new social enterprises as well as community collaboration and connection for positive feedback loops to address local needs.





- Now in its 3rd year, our Social Enterprise Schools program has grown to a point where the majority of our senior students have participated in the program.
- The SES practice of real-world trading has seen our students offer their wares at the local Mallacoota artisans market; as well as this year being the provider of choice for merchandise at the Bastion Festival in January 2026.
- We're delighted to have secured Natasha Rands as the SES Place-based Facilitator to continue this program into the future - and the professional development she is receiving from the SES Team at Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (ACRE).
- Our Hub is now home to 6 permanent businesses, a growing number of repeat visitors and the first micro-village pod leased to local hairdresser, Studio65.

Delivering on our Foundational pillars

Governance, Engagement & Sustainability

- Revisited our Constitution and have remodelled (with the support of Minter Ellison) an appropriate structure to grow with our organisation.
- Strengthened internal systems and governance, preparing for a future beyond our current grant cycles.
- Held a strategic review weekend, mapping out and undertaking feasibility for new potential revenue streams.
- Advocated for Mallacoota at major conferences, including the Social Impact Summit, Social Enterprise Jobs Summit, Social Traders Convene.
- Hosted a successful summer and spring fundraising raffle, broadening our network and sharing our vision with hundreds of visitors; through camp park discussions and a stand during the summer markets and activities.
- Held monthly community gatherings at the workspace to build community connection and sharing.

Looking Ahead: From Securing to Activating

The focus of the past year was clear: secure 56 Maurice Avenue for the community. With this achieved, our attention now turns to activation—filling the space with new tenants, expanding our revenue streams, and ensuring that the building continues as a vibrant hub for enterprise, learning, and connection.

We are exploring new partnerships, launching 'Remote Microenterprises Australia,' and seeking innovative ways to address the evolving needs of Mallacoota.



Our vision remains steadfast: a thriving, resilient town where local people have the tools, space, and support to build a future on their own terms.

We're excited to introduce our new Initiative -

remote
MICROENTERPRISES
AUSTRALIA

A program for remote, rural, and regional women to start and grow their microenterprise — unlocking empowerment, community, knowledge, financial security and wellbeing.

Created by remote women, for remote women— tried, tested, and proven.

Microenterprises are crucial for local economic renewal—creating jobs, diversifying incomes, and building community resilience.

2025 saw the launch of a Taster series with women involved from Omeo-Orbost-Mallacoota. 2026 will see the launch of our full program.



> "I want to congratulate you on how you ran the series. I could see a lot of work had gone into it. I loved how each session and the facilitators just got on with it. There was no waste of time and there was so much good information packed into it. Well done. So good!"
>
> -R. H.

Why it matters

- Empowers women in their wellbeing, financial independence and leadership opportunities
- Drives local job creation and economic diversification
- Strengthens social fabric and community wellbeing
- Helps communities recover and thrive after crises
- Supporting women in microenterprise isn't just good for business—it's vital for thriving families and communities.



2025 Impact Progress against our Theory of Change

ISSUE

Following the extensive impacts of the 2019/20 Black summer bushfires and COVID19 - to build an entrepreneurial culture that addresses social and economic well-being, prosperity and viable employment -towards a viable, thriving community

- Isolation and remoteness
- Nowhere to work
- Difficulty in obtaining higher education
- Digital connectivity issues
- No year round economy
- No viable spaces to rent
- Difficulty accessing appropriate skills developmentt
- Aspirational challenges

ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES

Flexible Spaces

- Ownership and activation of Hub
- Micro-village 1st pod created and leased
- Co-working permanent tenant growth
- Community gatherings

Knowledge

- Skills diagnostic and learning portal created
- Digital skills workshop series
- Study hub 24x7 access and learning coordinator secured
- Entrepreneurship programs and peer-learning

Enterprise

- 3rd year Social Enterprise Schools in local MP12 college
- Remote Microenterprises Australia program launched
- Business skills program completed by 16 local businesses

IMPACTS

SHORT TERM (achieved)

- A place to work with high speed internet and facilities
- Access to digital and business supports when needed
- Students accessing online higher education, with facilities provided
- Increased business readiness and creator mindset
- Activated next generation emerging leaders

MEDIUM TERM (emerging)

- Upskilled locals in new and established businesses increase local productivity and opportunity
- Individuals and projects supported established into thriving businesses
- Collective leadership across local organisations towards greater community goals

LONG TERM

- Community benefitting asset secured
- Increase in employment and variety of career opportunities stimulates local economy
- Collective leadership across local organisations towards greater community goals
- Replicable model translated to other communities

Indicators

- Participant and business surveys
- Attendance, testimonials and feedback
- Utilisation of Hub offerings and tenancy rates
- Local services, businesses / jobs provided or secured
- Cross-verification with established data sets

Impacts across 2025



9 businesses have launched or re-launched with our support



1 property purchased outright for our community!



32 business have participated in our businesss skills programs



Wilderness Collective building contracted 17 different local supports/tradies



11,886 km to attend meetings and conferences



Wilderness Programs employed or contracted 10 local facilitators



30 individuals have received coaching support



We used 12 local suppliers throughout the year



6 permanent tenants,
1 pod leased
116 + desk hires

Impacts across 2025

"I was struggling to juggle motherhood and student life at home. Since starting to use this space, I feel 1000% less frustration... I have become so productive. I love this space and am so grateful it's available in town. Being able to come in after hours is a mega plus as the weekends are the days I have most availability. Cherry on top is the Wilderness team: always kind, helpful and awesome!." - S.O.



1 pod built and leased

500 + workspace visitors

We held 8 community event gatherings

10 Masterclass/ coaching sessions

6 Students enrolled in Study Hub
20 students through Social Enterprise Schools program

6 Digital Workshops were run / >100 supported with IT

Average 40-60 workspace visitors per month

Wilderness Collective attended 8 conferences

11.9K reach across Facebook
19.1% increase
2.6K reach across Instagram
46% increase

Stories of Impact

> Clean, quiet, fully stocked for all my study needs. I have become so productive. I love this space & am so grateful it's available in town!

> **Loved the classes. The length of each one was perfect. Always left wanting more. Peer coaching was really interesting.** - R.M.A participant

> The facility has everything you need.
> I wish there were more places like this!

> **I was invited to join the Micro Business Network. A collective of local micro business operators that has weekly meetings hosted and supported by the Wilderness Collective. As a sole trader this support network has proven to be an invaluable resource - mitigating many of the challenges of running a business in this isolated and unique community. The Wilderness Collective has proven to be an asset to the community and my business - thanks to the great work of Paris and her team Many thanks.**

> **Really enjoyed it and got motivated. Listening to others experience was helpful and interesting. And stripping things back to the basics was great. I feel well prepared to go forward.** -R.M.A participant

Our Partners

WE WISH TO SINCERELY THANK ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OVER THE PAST YEAR

THE JACK BROCKHOFF FOUNDATION

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

mercy foundation®

GIPPSLAND Community Foundation

Bendigo Bank

MADRA MALLACOOTA & DISTRICT RECOVERY ASSOCIATION INC.

ACRE Thriving Rural Futures

LEN GIPPSLAND EAST Local Learning & Employment Network

Community Bank Mallacoota Bendigo Bank

FRRR Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal

WHEEN BEE FOUNDATION

Aussie Broadband

ABV Australian Business Volunteers

Our People



MEG ALLAN (CHAIR)

Meg brings a decade of experience in community-facing roles and a deep understanding of sustainable regional development. With expertise in community building, sustainable practices, and systems thinking, Meg offers fresh perspectives and a commitment to meeting the needs of her community. Meg currently works with ACRE's rejuvenation team, is on the Board of Gippsland Community Foundation and a Youth Advisory panel member for the Social Enterprise World Forum.



DR TRICIA HILEY (VICE-CHAIR)

Dr. Tricia Hiley, an advocate for nurturing resilience, possesses a lifetime of experience in helping individuals and organisations create sustaining futures. As a co-founder of innovative learning initiatives and with extensive international experience, Tricia brings strategic thinking, profound learning and innovative approaches, and a keen focus on customer-centred solutions to the venture. Tricia has coached and mentored hundreds of professionals, making her a trusted advisor to many in the community.



PARIS BROOKE (EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

Paris Brooke, has over two decades of experience in integrating business strategy with communication and marketing. With a track record of managing global media relations and advising on policy at federal levels, Paris brings high-level governance skills and deep commercialisation expertise to help drive innovative ventures forward. Her management skills make her ideally suited to the Executive Officer role at Wilderness Collective, while her experience in enterprise development make her a valuable and trusted mentor for aspiring entrepreneurs that come through our programs.



BEL TEMBY (TREASURER)

Bel is an experienced leader in community organisations with a passion for social justice. With 18 years of experience, she excels in strategic planning, project management, grant writing, and stakeholder engagement. Bel has served as an Executive Officer and Founder in multiple organisations, and has sat on numerous boards in executive roles, ranging from social services to asset management. Her extensive financial management skills make her well-suited for roles such as Treasurer at Wilderness Collective. Her expertise in Social Science, Business Management and Governance further supports her ability to lead and govern effectively.



REBECCA STEENHOLDT (BOARD MEMBER)

Rebecca has extensive experience in event management, operations and logistics over nearly two decades. Since the Black Summer bushfires, Rebecca has pivoted into roles that represent the community, including coordinating the recovery hub for Bushfire Recovery Victoria and more recently as economic development coordinator for the East Gippsland Shire. Rebecca is experienced in program design and delivery, making her a valuable asset to Wilderness Collective's programmatic aspirations. She is also skilled in business operations, agile leadership, stakeholder engagement, communications, and marketing.



KATIE DE CARTERET (BOARD MEMBER)

Katie de Carteret is a global educator, consultant, and author with over 25 years of experience working alongside communities in Lao PDR, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Brazil, Greece, South Korea, and Australia. With master's degrees in Education Leadership and Management and Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development (Gender), she combines academic expertise with lived experience in grassroots development. With a career spanning international NGOs, schools, and government partnerships, she has designed and led projects in education, gender equity, and environmental sustainability—always centering local knowledge, self-determination, and community-led responses.

At the heart of her work is a belief that meaningful change begins with listening deeply and walking alongside communities. Guided by respect for culture, land, and tradition, Katie is committed to community-led solutions that honour local wisdom while building sustainable futures.



NATASHA RANDS (ADMIN / WORKPLACE HOST)

Tash supports the day-to-day running of the Wilderness Collective in her role as Office Administrator. In her first formal administration position, she has developed her skills while assisting with business programs, supporting community members with IT and administrative assistance, and creating a welcoming and inclusive workspace for all. This year Tash also became the Place-Based Facilitator for ACRE's Social Enterprise Schools program. She has been working alongside students, teachers, and mentors to support practical, place-based learning. In addition, she provides gardening and social support to elderly community members creating connection across all generations. Tash has worked and lived overseas and has now returned to Mallacoota and is applying her experience in service of her local community.





Financial Statements ...

Treasurers report

As The Wilderness Collective Board Treasurer, it's been a pleasure to support the strengthening of our financial oversight and reporting this year. I'd like to acknowledge Paris, our Executive Officer, for overseeing our accounting and routinely presenting clear financial reports to the Board, and Bec from Kartel Solutions for her support in establishing and refining our systems.

The Board Treasurer, together with the Board, continues to evaluate the financial and operational effectiveness of the organisation to ensure we make informed decisions, allocate resources responsibly, and demonstrate strong accountability to our funders, partners, and community.

I'm pleased to note in particular that:

- Our financial governance and management continues to improve year on year.
- We have strong systems that support transparency, accountability, and good decision-making.
- We remain committed not only to sound fiscal management, but to actively identifying ways to improve and strengthen our position each year.
- This year also marks an important milestone in being recognised as a registered charity with the ACNC.

Thank you to our auditors, RJ Bourke. As reported, The Wilderness Collective remains in a sound financial position, ensuring we can continue to fulfil our mission and support our community.

While financial performance matters, I also want to recognise the social capital that sustains The Wilderness Collective. The smiles and quiet encouragement, the muffins on the desk, the small donations, and the "tips" for printing are all part of the generosity that keeps this work moving. These contributions may not always appear in our accounts, but they are deeply felt, and they are just as important in what we build together.

Financial Statements
The attached financial statements for the 2025 financial year have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 and Regulations 2013, Australian Accounting Standards, and other mandatory reporting requirements. The financial statements were approved by the Wilderness Collective Board on 12/12/2025.

Sincerely,

Bel Tenby

Treasurer & Co-Founder

Income and Expenditure Statement

Wilderness Collective Mallacoota
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Income		
Donations	140,380	260,200
EGSC - Micro	5,653	-
Grants	305,261	223,220
Interest income	16,306	669
Project Disbursement Income	7,826	6,476
Revenue - Sales (Workspace)	25,212	14,630
Sales-Raffle	13,145	-
Sponsorship	10,255	-
TWC Consulting	8,252	44,338
Total Income	**532,290**	**549,533**
Gross Surplus	**532,290**	**549,533**
Expenditure		
Accounting fees	4,131	2,990
Bank fees	34	66
Business Planning, Reporting & Evaluation Costs	-	8,535
Catering	1,092	5,758
Client Support Consumables	70	293
Council Rates	740	371
Depreciation	6,795	-
Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	1,770	3,723
Entertainment Costs	-	98
Filing Fees	44	-
Fitout, permits and inspections	1,758	5,367
Insurance	8,608	4,940
Legal Fees	-	1,049
Marketing & Promotions	6,061	11,267
Meeting Expenses	-	375
Postage, Freight and Courier	1,514	985
Printing & Stationery	3,102	1,852
Project Management & Coordinators	91,844	98,378
Rent Expense	8,393	21,273
S&W Salaries & Wages	34,110	-
Square Fees	778	-
Subscriptions	3,942	4,626
Sundry Expenses	2,838	1,488
Superannuation Expense	3,923	-
Telephone & Fax Charges & Internet	907	2,016
Training & Development (Staff)	119	2,258
Travel & Accommodation	1,145	3,122

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

	2025	2024
Utilities	818	339
Water Rates	1,092	234
Workshop Delivery	4,580	15,891
Total Expenditure	**190,207**	**197,293**
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	**342,083**	**352,240**
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	**342,083**	**352,240**
Net Current Year Surplus After Income Tax	**342,083**	**352,240**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Assets and Liabilities Statement

Wilderness Collective Mallacoota

As at 30 June 2025

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Building 56 Savings Account		9,055	-
Petty Cash		50	50
Term Deposit 1		95,227	91,000
Term Deposit 2		-	200,000
Term deposit 3		-	85,634
Term Deposit Account		51,604	-
Wilderness Collective Statemen		3,225	109,364
Wilderness Debit Card		149	337
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents		**159,311**	**486,385**
Trade and Other Receivables	2	1,387	1,084
GST Receivable		-	794
Total Current Assets		**160,697**	**488,263**
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment and Vehicles		123,994	120,275
Land and Buildings		644,151	(5,418)
Total Non-Current Assets		**768,144**	**114,857**
Total Assets		**928,841**	**603,120**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	3	10,069	27,010
GST Payable		580	-
Total Current Liabilities		**10,648**	**27,010**
Total Liabilities		**10,648**	**27,010**
Net Assets		**918,193**	**576,110**
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		918,193	576,110
Total Member's Funds		**918,193**	**576,110**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Certificate By Members of the Committee

Wilderness Collective Mallacoota
For the year ended 30 June 2025

The committee declares that the incorporated entity is not a reporting entity. The committee 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 committee of the incorporated entity declares that:

1. Financial position as at 30 June 2025 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 committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

President

Dated: 12/12/2025

Treasurer

Dated: 12/12/2025.

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
info@rjbourke.com.au

17th November, 2025.

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 Assets and Liabilities Statement as at 30th June, 2025, and the associated Notes.

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, 2025.



Robyn J. Bourke, FCPA.

Certified Practising Accountant

17-11-'25.

CPA

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

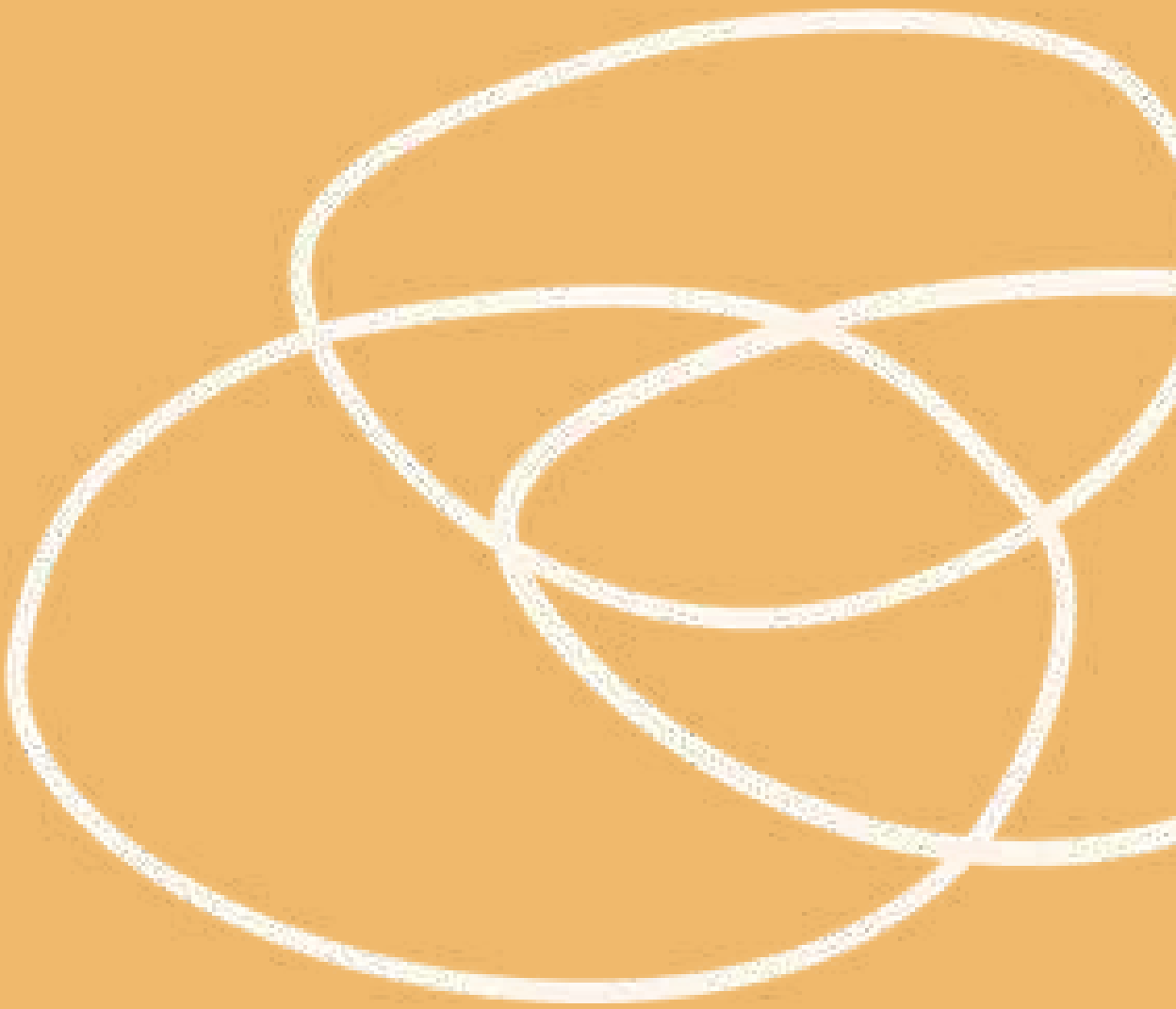
Get involved



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.



wilderness
COLLECTIVE

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The Mallacoota Wilderness Collective Inc.
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