

Annual Report 2023/2024



Stand Like Stone

Inspiring kindness and courage



Our patch

The Limestone Coast

The Stand Like Stone Foundation acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First People and Nations of the ancestral lands and waters of the Limestone Coast. We acknowledge the elders past, present and future and we respect the deep feelings of attachment and relationships of Aboriginal People to Country including the language groups: Meintangk, Potaruwutij, Bunganditj, Tatiara/Ngarkat, Tanganekald (Southern Clans) and Ngarrindjeri.

Keith

Bordertown

Padthaway

Kingston S.E.

Lucindale

Naracoorte

Robe

Coonawarra

Penola

Beachport

Millicent

Mount
Gambier

Port
Macdonnell

Our year in review



34

local students supported with \$98,800 in educational scholarships



20

local charitable projects supported with \$107,104 in annual small grants



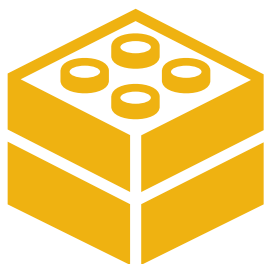
1,160

\$50 FRRR Back to School vouchers to 40 local schools totalling \$58,000



\$96k

influenced an additional \$96,000 of community funding



1

charitable project supported with \$50,000 from the OneFortyOne Community Grants



1

charitable project supported with \$2,990 through the 'Friends of Stand Like Stone' Champion Grant



\$574k

increased net assets by \$574,000 enabling more than \$35,000 in additional funding for future grants

Welcome

Join us in celebrating a year of kindness and courage with the people and projects of the Limestone Coast.

Our Vision

To inspire community kindness and courage.

Our Mission

To build on the generosity of spirit within our community and promote investment in the Limestone Coast for lasting impact. We know how much the people in this region love the Limestone Coast as we share that passion.

We believe it takes teamwork, innovation, passion, courage and kindness to achieve lasting impact. Each year, and in partnership with our community, we help local students and families return to school with dignity, we help local students realise their dreams, we help local volunteers and not-for-profit groups find ways to help more people in their communities.

As the Limestone Coast's community foundation, we are proud to help ignite the potential of local people and local projects now and forever. At Stand Like Stone, we believe in **finding courage in our own troubles, and giving kindness in another's.**

**Life is mostly froth and bubble,
Two things stand like stone,
KINDNESS in another's trouble,
COURAGE in your own**

Adam Lindsay Gordon's poem *Ye Wearie Wayfarer* was the inspiration for the Foundation's name. The poem encompasses the objectives of the Foundation.





From our Chair

In presenting my first Annual Report as Chairperson of Stand Like Stone, I would like to acknowledge the work of outgoing Chair Robert Mock who retired from the Board at the December meeting. Robert has served on the Board since 2012 and as Chair for 3 years.

The contribution that both he and Glenda have made to Stand Like Stone over the years is immense, not only through Robert's wise stewardship, but also through the establishment of the Cornerstone Educational Scholarship Sub Fund, which provides scholarships to students with a connection to the greater Bordertown area. We thank Robert for his long service and look forward to ongoing connection through the Cornerstone Sub Fund and future functions at the Brumby Hut.

I commenced as Chair in January, and it gives me great pleasure to report on the activities of Stand Like Stone in our 20th year of operation. We now have over five million dollars invested for the Limestone Coast region, bringing increased sustainability and a reliable source of funding for the many and varied communities across the region. In addition to our granting and scholarships programs, we have facilitated key fundraising initiatives and auspiced programs which will bring lasting benefits to the Limestone Coast. We are always delighted to hear the stories of the lasting impact created as a result of our activities, and we look forward to sharing some of these later this year as part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations.

The Board has been reviewing the Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 and has recognised that we are uniquely placed to capitalise on shifting social and legislative changes that have occurred in recent times. The time is right for community-led giving initiatives. Momentum is building due to the transfer of intergenerational wealth (forecast to be around \$5 trillion to pass from baby boomers to the next generation by 2034), federal regulatory reforms that will enable more effective giving



Georgie McKay, Chair

for community foundations, as well as the Productivity Review into growing giving in Australia which includes a focus on place-based, community-led giving. These combined factors will change the giving landscape, and we need to adjust our strategy to benefit. As such, we will draft a new Strategic Plan early in the 2024/25 year to address shifting strategic priorities and include focus towards emerging opportunities.

Our signature event, Swinging with the Stars was an outstanding success again this year and we are extremely grateful to our stars, their partners and to the efforts of Kim Cella, Keana Soper and the team at Hype Dance. Special mention must go to Bec Hurst who raised over for \$53K for the Poppy Crozier Memorial Sub Fund, the highest amount raised in the history of the event! Congratulations also to Kezia Feast and Andrew Lockwood for taking out the winner's trophy on the night!

2024 saw the final year of the "Back to School" Program that has been delivered in our region for 20 years thanks to our partnership with FRRR. We recognise

the importance of this program to our local community and the difference that it can make in a person's life at the start of the school year. We are currently exploring different ways that we can support the young people of our region through a reimagined program in future years. Watch this space as we look to establish and grow a new program from 2025 onwards!

The Friends of Stand Like Stone program will also see changes going forward, with a renewed focus to support the operations of the foundation. With a changing strategy to "pay what it takes" and assist with the running of the foundation we are very grateful to our Friends for their continued support, albeit in a slightly different way! We hope to pick up the Friends grant and collective giving feature again in the future when we are better placed to serve the initiative.

I acknowledge retiring Directors Rhett McDonald and Peta Crewe. Rhett joined the Board in 2015 and has been significant in growing the footprint of Stand Like Stone in the Penola Coonawarra area. Rhett has served on both the Grant and Scholarship Advisory committees. His connection to community and ability to assess and guide decision making in the allocation of funding has been greatly valued. Rhett was a participant in the Swinging with the Stars in 2012 and in 2019 he drew together a small book titled "Little Big Stories" as a resource to share our stories and illustrate Stand Like Stone's impact across the Limestone Coast. Rhett will continue to serve on the Penola Coonawarra Wellbeing Sub Fund Advisory committee where I know that his wisdom and insight will continue to be greatly valued. Peta Crewe served on the Board from 2020 and in that time gave very generously of her time and expertise. Peta's term has brought wisdom and impeccable governance to the table and her connection to community and reach into both government and non-government sectors has been greatly valued. My thanks are also extended to all our directors who regularly attend Board meetings and ensure the smooth operation of the Foundation with generous donations of precious time.

I thank our small team of staff including Roger Babolka, CEO and Sally Bailey, Accounts and Grants Coordinator for keeping the engine room running. The operations team works tirelessly for the foundation, and we greatly value their stewardship and expertise. We farewell Carissa Buhlmann from her administration role in March and I thank Carissa for her commitment to Stand Like Stone and wish her well as she embarks upon a new career path.

Our thanks are also expressed to our outgoing long term sponsor Noel Barr Toyota who has supported Stand Like Stone since inception. As well as financial support, Noel has often been the purveyor of sound advice and his assistance in the provision of event coordination and space has been greatly appreciated. 20 years marks the final year of Noel Barr's sponsorship of the foundation's operations, and we look forward to a continuing relationship with Noel and his team in other areas of community work.

The positive relationships that we enjoy with local government are critical to effective operations and we thank the Mount Gambier City Council, District Council of Grant, Tatiara District Council, District Council of Robe, Wattle Range Council, Kingston District Council & the Naracoorte Lucindale Council for their ongoing support of our work.

To our Limestone Coast community, we are so proud of the place in which we are lucky to live, work & play and we thank you for helping us gather our local knowledge and harness our strengths to build a stronger, more vibrant, Limestone Coast community. Collectively we have created lasting impact in the 20 years since Stand Like Stone was established and we are looking forward to growing the strength in our community into the future!

Georgie McKay
Chair

From our Patron

Stand Like Stone has become a very important organisation since it was established by that far sighted steering committee in 2004 and continues to grow in strength throughout the Limestone Coast region.

At this present time the world is facing some extremely worrying situations, and many millions of people are facing very difficult times. There is little or nothing that we can do to aid those affected by the challenges facing the world, but fortunately through Stand Like Stone, we can assist those closer to home who are facing difficult or challenging times.

Our organisation is now able to assist many people throughout the Limestone Coast who face a wide variety of needs. Our Foundation continues to grow in its ability to offer such support in many parts of the region, and very importantly grows the awareness of our communities of what the Foundation offers.

This support is never more evident than when Swinging with the Stars is staged at The Barn Palais each year and each year is booked out. This event brings supporters from fund raising groups who attend to enthusiastically support their entrants in the Swinging with the Stars Dancing competition.

There are numerous fundraising groups in the Limestone Coast. Whilst I am not sure how these groups operate I am familiar with the activities of the Penola group. Penola is very fortunate to have a very busy committee of five which with the assistance of many supporters, stage in excess of 10 events each year to raise funds for the Penola/Coonawarra Wellbeing Sub Fund. Monies raised then support the local entrant in Swinging with the Stars and subsequently assists numerous organisations and individuals within the Penola/Coonawarra district. These efforts have now been active for some nine years and have two benefits; they are an ideal way to raise funds, and also very importantly keep the community in touch with, and aware of, the activities of Stand like Stone.



Doug Balnaves, Patron

The steady growth in awareness of Stand like Stone within the community has led to the establishment of four separate Subsidiary Funds in the district. This number was boosted to five recently when the site and grounds of the Monbulla School were sold at auction for \$175,000 and the proceeds lodged with Stand Like Stone as the Monbulla School Hall Youth Support and Community Development Funds. The old school is now permanently remembered to the great satisfaction of the families of former students.

In conclusion, I congratulate the board of Directors and staff for their efforts to ensure that Stand Like Stone continues to grow as a vital part of the community of the Limestone Coast and lives to the motto 'Show kindness in another's trouble, Courage in your own'.

Doug Balnaves
Patron

From our CEO

With the constant challenges that all communities face, it's comforting to know that there will always be those who won't hesitate to reach out to provide support or guidance during difficult times.

This year I've been fortunate enough to witness this amazing willingness in our own community to help others. Whether it's donations of a few dollars or several thousand dollars, warm clothing for those in need, or even donations of presents for children who would've probably missed out, our community steps up to show kindness in another's trouble.

As in previous years, I'm truly grateful for the support the Stand Like Stone has received throughout the year. We do value this support, as it enables the Foundation to maximise what it's able to put back into the community. Whether it's the Penola Coonawarra Wellbeing Committee fund raising through their regular and very successful pop-up clothing enterprise, our many volunteers who lend a hand with various tasks throughout the year, or the support we receive from OneFortyOne, which in turn enabled the Foundation to support critical work of ac.care Mount Gambier, it all adds to creating lasting social change and stability in the Limestone Coast.

We're always looking for ways to promote and encourage a philanthropic culture in the community. So as a result of an idea from one of our Directors Rhett McDonald, in 2023 we established what will be an annual 'Philanthropic School Award' Program. With the main objective being to promote and recognise philanthropic values in young people in our region, we were pleased to have 10 secondary schools participate in the awards program for 2023.

To our financial sponsors and in-kind supporters, you have always been, and will continue to be an important part of our story. Stand Like Stone strives to maximise its resources, ensuring as much as possible goes to those in need.



Roger Babolka, CEO

Therefore, sponsorship and in-kind support from our local government, businesses and industry remains a critical component in achieving our mission.

Financially, we've benefited for another year of strong net asset growth of over \$500,000. This is in addition to also being in a position to distribute a record number of educational scholarships, community grants and FRRR Back to School vouchers across the Limestone Coast.

All of the above does not happen without our dedicated volunteer Board, our amazing staff, Sally Bailey and Carissa Buhlmann, as well as all our supporters from across the Limestone Coast. Thank you!

So, in the words of Community Foundations Australia CEO, Ian Bird, "philanthropy is a portrait of readiness by a community". I'd like to think that our community, the Limestone Coast, has been developing that 'readiness' since 2004.

Roger Babolka
Chief Executive Officer

How we work

As one of the leading community foundations in Australia, we have proudly supported the Limestone Coast through our charitable grant making, programs and educational scholarships since 2004.

Today, we continue to work in partnership with donors, local organisations, and community leaders to strengthen communities within our region, increasing their opportunities, and responding to the immediate and long-term needs of our Limestone Coast community.

As a philanthropic community foundation, we want to involve more people in giving, help to tackle some of the toughest problems we face, and assist more people to realise their potential.

We will continue to work with our partners in the Limestone Coast to accomplish this in our role as funder, enabler, capacity builder, advocate, and agent for change.

Our Values



Inclusive

Engaging with our community in all its diversity.



Collaborative

Facilitating partnerships that build and strengthen our Limestone Coast community.



Accountable

We are open, transparent and accountable in all aspects of our operations; we are cost effective and sustainable; we adhere to proper corporate governance and funds management principles.



Responsive

Valuing and respecting our donors, funding partners and applicants, upholding their dignity, and listening actively to their ideas and concerns.



Empowering

Strengthening our community by increasing the capabilities and resilience of individuals, groups and organisations.

Our Community Granting Programs

Annual Small Grants

This year our small grants program injected \$107,104 into the Limestone Coast by supporting 20 community projects, which directly influenced a further \$96,000 of community funding in support of these projects.

These projects have been made possible thanks to the generosity of people who have established,

or donated to one of our sub funds, as well as the many community groups and organisations who have delivered these projects to benefit our region.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following sub funds that have funded the small grants program this year, as well as applaud and celebrate those groups who delivered the projects.

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	SUB FUND	AMOUNT
Allendale East Public Hall Inc.	Awarded to improve accessibility and improved safety to the Hall.	Steven Noble Memorial & Stand Like Stone General	\$2,970
Boneham Aged Care Service	Assisted with the purchase of a Carendo multipurpose hygiene chair.	Annette Balnaves, Penola/Coonawarra, Beachport & Friends of SLS Community	\$6,600
Carinya Inc.	Assisted with the purchase and installation of a solar power system for the residents.	Stand Like Stone General	\$10,000
Coonawarra Community Choir	Funds provided to support the 'Singing for our Supper' project.	Penola/Coonawarra Wellbeing & Lorry Humphreys Memorial	\$4,000
Four Reasons Why	Awarded to assist with the FRW Christmas Kindness Family Packs project.	Brian Page Focus on Youth & Stand Like Stone General	\$10,000
Glencoe Public Hall	Assisted with the replacement and repair of gutters and salt damp in the Hall.	Stand Like Stone General	\$10,000
Keith & District Hospital	Funds provided to support the Keith Hospital Future Fund.	Keith & District Hospital Future Fund	\$2,323
Lucindale Community Economic Development Board Inc. (LINC)	Awarded to create interpretive signage for Loechel Park Walking Trails.	Brian Page Focus on Youth, Naracoorte & Districts & Stand Like Stone General	\$6,600
Millicent Community Access Radio Inc.	Assisted with the purchase of 2 studio tables and upgrade to vital equipment.	Stand Like Stone General	\$3,000
Millicent High School Pathways	Supported students with personalised and alternative education opportunities.	CCW Memorial	\$798
Mount Gambier Cancer Support Group Inc.	Provide cancer patients with financial support whilst travelling to undertake treatment.	Limestone Coast Agri-Links Mental Health & Stand Like Stone General	\$3,420
Mount Gambier City Band Hall Inc.	Awarded to assist with repairs to the City Band Hall building, and purchase music stand carts.	Lorry Humphreys Memorial	\$5,000
Noorla Yo Long	Assist with the purchase of a new lawnmower.	Beachport & Stand Like Stone General	\$9,895
Penola Coonawarra Music Gathering Association Inc.	Awarded to support the marketing activities of the PC Music Gathering in Penola.	Lorry Humphreys Memorial	\$2,600
Rapid Relief Team Ltd.	Assisted with the purchase of a portable stainless steel food hotbox.	South East Disaster Relief & Stand Like Stone General	\$6,500
Southend Progress Association Inc.	Assisted with the upgrade of interpretive signage for Connies Walk.	Stand Like Stone General	\$6,600
The Big Picture Creative Inc.	Awarded to assist with the Limitless Creations art exhibition for disabled artists.	Lorry Humphreys Memorial	\$4,600
The Penola Pony Club Inc.	Assisted with the upgrade of the food preparation area and kitchen cupboards.	Penola/Coonawarra Wellbeing	\$2,198
The Tatiara Men's Shed Inc.	Awarded to purchase a laser engraver and cutter.	Limestone Coast Agri-links Mental Health & Stand Like Stone General	\$3,000
Thumbprint Workshop Inc.	Assist with the purchase of printing equipment and furniture.	Lorry Humphreys Memorial	\$7,000
TOTAL			\$107,104



Noorla Yo Long.



Rapid Relief Team.



Coonawarra Community Choir.



Millicent Community Access Radio.



Allendale East Public Hall.



Mount Gambier City Band Hall.



Mt. Gambier Cancer Support Group.
Mount Gambier Cancer Support Group.

Our Community Granting Programs (continued)

OneFortyOne Community Grants

We are proud to continue working with OneFortyOne, and thanks to their generous support, we have been able to provide \$50,000 to ac.care Mount Gambier.

Based at 22-24 Ferrers Street, the centre is the base for the Limestone Coast Homelessness Service, offering financial counselling, emergency relief and many other programs, including community centre activities.

Centre activities have expanded significantly with a vibrant weekly calendar of group sessions, from music to craft, gardening and shared meals made from donated ingredients, all aimed at bringing people together to break down isolation, strengthen community and build life skills.

The broadening range of programs and growing need in the community due to the rising cost of living has led to a significant expansion in visitation numbers, in excess of 20,000 over the last 12 months.

The funds that are provided to ac.care through the OneFortyOne Grant program will enable critical upgrades to commence at the Ferrers Street site.

This is now the 11th year of our partnership with OneFortyOne, which has taken the total tally of these grants to \$430,000.



Volunteers Elaine, Ilona and John with ac.care Homelessness and Community Services senior manager Trish Spark in ac.care's Mount Gambier Community Centre kitchen.

Our Educational Support Programs

Educational Scholarships

This year we have distributed \$98,800 to 34 students through educational scholarships. These scholarships are awarded on merit or for reasons of equity, and provide financial support to assist students with the costs associated with their education.

The scholarships have been made possible thanks to the generosity of people who have established, or donated to, one of our sub funds. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following sub funds that funded scholarships this year, as well as congratulate the following students.

STUDENT	SUBFUND
Masoma Panahi	Balnaves Fdn & Brian Page Focis on Youth
Bobby Deering	Balnaves Fdn & Stand Like Stone
Amellia Thompson	Brian Page Focis on Youth
Ella Schubert	Brian Page Focis on Youth
Eamon Peisley	Brian Page Focis on Youth
Conrad Beattie	Brian Page Focis on Youth & Kingston Community School
Abbie Croser	Cornerstone
Aaryan Ghimire	Cornerstone
Aarshi Ghimire	Cornerstone
Suad Awsee	de Nys Family Memorial
Jacinta Tye	Grant High School
Ashiah Yeates	Grant High School
Georgie Wirth	Kingston Community School
Kate Parker	Kingston Community School
Mandy Rowntree	Kingston Community School & Stand Like Stone
Skye Schapel	Kingston Community School
Jess Tresidder	LE & NC Myers
Moo Sala Win Shwe	LM Woodruff & Mount Gambier High School
Anthony Pye	LM Woodruff
Gemma Ralph	Lorry Humphreys
Maddelyn Stevens	Lorry Humphreys
Asher Anderson	Lorry Humphreys
Breanna Jones	Lorry Humphreys
Brianna Thomson	Lorry Humphreys
Luke Watson	Lorry Humphreys
Declan Lee	LT O'Connor
Harmony Reed	Lucindale Area School
Leah Kuiper	Rackhams
Anna-Therese Winkler	Rackhams
Noah Murphy Nankivell	Rackhams
Seth Lear	Rackhams
Ella Hutchesson	Penola / Coonawarra Vititec
Mia Bellinger	Penola / Coonawarra Vititec
Amy Papageorgios	SA Rural Women's Gathering

Our Educational Support Programs (continued)

Keith RSL Hardships of War Scholarships

This scholarship was established following a generous bequest from a Keith RSL member's estate and is awarded to Year 7 students at the Keith Area School.

In the early 2000s, the ever-dwindling WW2 members of the Keith RSL Sub-Branch donated \$10,000 to Stand Like Stone. The income generated from the donation funds an annual award for Year 7 students at the Keith Area School to research family service history.

We are honoured to continue partnering with the Keith RSL sub-branch to allocate the funding and were able to provide \$290 towards the scholarships this year.



Keith RSL Hardships of War Scholarships.

FRRR Back to School Program

The Back to School program, a national program funded through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, has helped remote and rural children and young people access quality educational experiences.

Since 2005, this practical and positive program has helped thousands of students to engage in learning and strengthen their educational outcomes.

Working with local individuals and community organisations, who acted as Back to School partners, the program provides \$50 gift vouchers which are used to provide items for low-income families, such as school uniforms, clothing, shoes, school bags and stationery – or indeed anything that helps students feel ready to learn.

Community foundations across Australia delivered the program to students in partnership with their local schools. This year Stand Like Stone distributed 1,160 x \$50 vouchers to 40 local schools across the Limestone Coast, totalling \$58,000.



FRRR Back to School program voucher presentation event.

Since the inception of the Back to School program back in 2005, Stand Like Stone has distributed 13,723 vouchers, for a total of \$685,350.

2024 was the final round of the FRRR funded Back to School program and the cessation of the program has left a void for families needing a hand up at the start of the school year. However, the South Australian based Community Foundations are now actively collaborating to create a replacement program.

Our Educational Support Programs (continued)

Philanthropic School Award Program

In 2023 Stand Like Stone established the Philanthropic School Award Program, consisting of a \$100 monetary voucher, as an annual award available to all schools with secondary schooling classes in the Limestone Coast.

The main objective of this award is to promote and recognise philanthropic values in young people across the region, and is to be awarded to an individual student at any secondary school year level who displays philanthropic values within the school environment.

We are pleased to announce that 10 different schools participated in the awards program in 2023, with the following students being acknowledged at their end-of-year school presentation event.

STUDENT	SCHOOL
Hsi Hsi Poe	Mount Gambier High School
Jasmine Bingham	Grant High School
Kia MacDonald	Allendale East Area School
Reese Balshaw	Penola High School
Jack Steadman	Naracoorte High School
Lily-Rose O'Sullivan	Bordertown High School
Chloe Smith	Keith Area School
Emily Meier	St Martins Lutheran College
Lacey Thompson	Lucindale Area School
Tyson Hutchesson	Sunrise Christian School, Naracoorte



Philanthropic School Award – Reese Balshaw, Penola High School with Foundation directors Peta Crewe & Rhett McDonald.

Community kindness and courage in action

The Cornerstone Educational Scholarship Sub Fund, established in 2013, supports students identifying with the greater Bordertown area at any level of education.

This year, brother and sister Aaryan and Aarshi Ghimire were both recipients of scholarships from Cornerstone, and are now both studying Bachelor of Medical Science / Doctor of Medicine at Monash University.

Their aspiration for a career in medicine has entailed a substantial journey, requiring considerable determination, planning and sacrifices along the way. However, both Aaryan and Aarshi share the same passion and ambition to not only achieve their career goals, but to also be in a position to give back to rural communities.

The scholarships from Stand Like Stone will provide a level of financial relief for both recipients, as they deal with the additional burden, faced by many rural and regionally based students, that comes with moving away from their network of family and friends.

Our scholarships are all about giving local students the opportunity to thrive so that they, in turn, can make great contributions to our community in the future.



“As siblings from Bordertown, both pursuing a Bachelor of Medical Science / Doctor of Medicine (BMedSc/MD) at Monash University, we are deeply committed to enhancing healthcare in rural communities. The Stand Like Stone Foundation Scholarship has been invaluable, alleviating the financial burden of purchasing essential medical equipment such as stethoscopes, scrubs, and textbooks, and facilitating our move to Melbourne to study at one of Australia’s leading medical programs. Additionally, the scholarship has afforded us the opportunity to undertake an optional rural term in Victoria, further equipping us to return to the Limestone Coast and contribute to addressing healthcare disparities. We are profoundly grateful for this support and the doors it has opened for us.”

Aaryan & Aarshi Ghimire

Friends of Stand Like Stone

The ‘Friends of Stand Like Stone’ program was established in 2021 to provide an easy way for people to become a local philanthropist within the Limestone Coast community.

The ‘Friends’ of Stand Like Stone each contribute an annual \$500 donation which helps us to implement the programs that are so meaningful to our local community and increase our impact across the region.

Our ‘Friends’ have also enabled a grant to a local organisation and this year a Champion Grant of \$2,990 was awarded to Foodbank Limestone Coast, to assist with the purchase of a pallet jack with a scissor-lift feature. The pallet jack will make the food relief operation more efficient and will improve the work health and safety for their volunteers.

Foodbank is the largest food relief organisation in South Australia and for over 18 years it has provided food relief to thousands of individuals and families experiencing hunger in the Limestone Coast region.



Karlie Lawson, Lauren Fox, and Dante Pepe.

A Year in Review

In November 2023 the foundation held its second ‘A Year in Review’ event in which we celebrated the achievements of the 2022/23 financial year in front of approximately 50 guests from across the Limestone Coast.

The evening commenced with an introduction of the Foundation’s Directors, followed by a brief tribute for the late Mr Thomas Mark Rymill by Foundation Director Sally Klose. Mr Rymill was instrumental in the establishment of Stand Like Stone as an integral member of the initial steering committee. It is to him that we also owe the name of the foundation, which encompasses part of Adam Lindsay Gordon’s poem, Ye Wearie Wayfarer.

Following reports of the year’s activities by both our Chair Robert Mock and CEO Roger Babolka, attendees were then entertained by a presentation

from Catherine Robertson with regards to the creation of the ‘Generosity of Spirit’ sculpture, now prominently located in the Penola town square.

Afterwards attendees were invited to ask any questions of the Foundation, with many staying on to enjoy networking with the Foundation’s Directors, staff and many other likeminded community representatives.



‘A Year in Review’ event.

Our Sub Funds

As the Limestone Coast’s community foundation, we are here to serve the needs and philanthropic aims of donors who wish to advance their community, now and in the future.

We believe a named fund is a great way to get involved in philanthropy and make a real difference to the community you love. All our sub funds have been established for different, very personal reasons, and with varying initial donation amounts.

Our New Sub Funds

Monbulla School Hall Youth Support Sub Fund & Monbulla School Hall Community Development Sub Fund

Approximately 7km west of Penola on the Clay Wells Rd sits the old Monbulla School. Built in 1894, the school serviced the closely settled community, and at its peak schooled 34 students. Sadly, the school closed its doors in 1944. However, in the 1950’s the Monbulla Hall was built at the school site, and became the meeting place for the local community.

Fast forward some 70 years, and the site was no longer the hub of the local community. Subsequently the Monbulla School Committee made the very difficult decision to place the site on the market. However, it was also the focus of the Committee to ensure proceeds from the sale continued to provide support to the district.

In late 2023 the Committee approached Stand Like Stone to discuss possible options for the proceeds, and after much research and many discussions, agreed to establish two sub funds.

Consequently, a Youth Support sub fund was then established to assist youth connected to the greater Penola Coonawarra district, who require financial support to participate in an educational or skills development activity.

A Community Development sub fund has also been established to support the sustainability of not-for-profit organisations who engage in charitable activities, and which are also connected to the greater Penola Coonawarra district.

The Foundation is extremely grateful in being asked to assist the local community in ensuring the Monbulla School continues to support the district for many years to come.



Monbulla School Hall.

SUB FUND	FUND FOCUS – GRANT GIVING
Stand Like Stone	Charitable projects benefiting the Limestone Coast.
Limestone Coast Agri-Links Mental Health	Charitable projects raising awareness of mental health.
Annette Balnaves	Established by the Balnaves Family, and renamed in memory of Annette Balnaves, for charitable projects benefiting the greater Penola Coonawarra region.
Beachport	Charitable projects benefiting the Beachport area.
Beth McKay Memorial	Established by the Limestone Coast Choral & Vocal Showcase in honour of the late Beth McKay, for charitable projects that will benefit youth developing skills in choral, vocal or performance arts with an emphasis on music.
Caroline Barr Animal Rescue	Charitable projects benefiting animal welfare and rescue support.
CCW Memorial	Charitable projects and activities that assist disadvantaged students, or supports the Millicent High School Pathways Centre and its students.
Brian Page Focis on Youth	Charitable projects with educational outcomes focusing on youth.
Keith & District Hospital Future Fund	Established by Mig Brookman, for charitable projects benefiting and future proofing the Keith Hospital.
Lorry Humphreys Memorial	Established by an estate bequeathed by local artist, Lorraine Humphreys, for charitable projects benefiting the Arts and Trades.
Monbulla School Hall Community Development	To aid and support the sustainability of not-for-profit organisations who engage in charitable activities, and which are connected to the greater Penola Coonawarra district.
Monbulla School Hall Youth Support	To assist disadvantaged youth, connected to the greater Penola Coonawarra district, who require charitable support to participate in an educational or skills development activity.
Naracoorte & Districts	Charitable projects benefiting the greater Naracoorte region.
Penola / Coonawarra Wellbeing	Charitable projects benefiting the greater Penola Coonawarra region.
South East Disaster Relief	Established following the winding up of the South East Relief Trust, for charitable projects to assist with disaster relief in the region, and/or funding education to disaster proof the Limestone Coast.
Steven Noble Memorial	Established in memory of Steven Noble, for charitable projects benefiting the communities of Allendale East, Port MacDonnell and Kongorong.

SUB FUND	FUND FOCUS – EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS
Stand Like Stone Foundation	General scholarships assisting students with a connection to the Limestone Coast.
Balnaves Fdn	Established by the Balnaves Foundation, scholarships assisting students, with a focus on young people, the disadvantaged and/or Indigenous communities.
Barrie Holmes Memorial	Established in memory of Barrie Holmes, scholarships assisting students with a focus on sports and athletic development.
Cornerstone	Scholarships assisting students identifying with the greater Bordertown area.
de Nys Family Memorial	Scholarships assisting students identifying with the greater Mount Gambier area.
Brian Page Focis on Youth	Scholarships assisting students identifying with the Limestone Coast at any level of education.
Grant High School	Scholarships assisting either past, current, or future students at Grant High School.
Keith Area School	Scholarships assisting either past, current, or future students at Keith Area School.
Kingston Community School	Scholarships assisting either past, current, or future students at Kingston Community School.
LE & NC Myers	Scholarships assisting young people, under or previously under the guardianship of the Minister, to achieve their goals in vocational and/or tertiary education.
LM Woodruff Memorial	Established in memory of Lyndsay Madeline Woodruff, scholarships assisting young women undertake a nursing career.
Lorry Humphreys Memorial	Established by an estate bequeathed by local artist, Lorraine Humphreys, scholarships assisting people seeking a career in a Trade and/or Arts.
LT O'Connor	Scholarships assisting students further their experiences and knowledge in music.
Lucindale Area School	Scholarships assisting either past, current, or future students at Lucindale Area School.
Millicent High School	Scholarships assisting either past, current, or future students at Millicent High School.
Mount Gambier High School	Scholarships assisting either past, current, or future students at Mount Gambier High School.
Penola / Coonawarra Vititec	Established upon the winding up of Vititec, which aimed to increase grape growing and viticultural knowledge, scholarships assisting students with a connection to the greater Penola Coonawarra Region.
Poppy Crozier Memorial	Established in memory of Poppy Crozier to assist students who are undertaking tertiary studies with an agriculture focus.
Rackhams	Scholarships assisting students with a connection to the Wattle Range Council area.
SA Rural Women's Gathering	Established by a donation from the Mount Gambier SA Rural Women's Gathering, and supported by Women in Business & Regional Development, with scholarships assisting women in pursuit of their educational goals.

Fundraising – Recycled Fashion Pop-up Shop

A fundraiser by the Penola Coonawarra Wellbeing Sub-Fund Committee, this amazing community lead enterprise has been operating in Penola for several years.

Held nearly every quarter, organisers Amanda Flint and Janet Brodie always have a list of sellers pre-booking racks for the sale. Sellers donate 25% of their takings to the foundation.

However, for any clothing that is donated to the Committee, 100% of the takings go to the Penola Coonawarra Wellbeing Sub Fund. These monies are then granted out to charitable projects in the Penola Coonawarra region.

While definitely about fashion, the pop-up is equally a platform for recycling and sustainability. In a world where a distressing amount of clothing ends up in landfill, it is fantastic to see not only the clothing going on to a new home, but also giving back to the local community.



Amanda Flint and Janet Brodie.

	RECYCLED FASHION POP-UP	
WOULD YOU LIKE TO <u>DONATE</u> YOUR CLOTHING TO STAND LIKE STONE?	 Stand Like Stone <small>Inspiring kindness and courage</small> PENOLA COONAWARRA WELLBEING SUB FUND	WE ASK THAT THE ITEMS ARE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * GREAT QUALITY * UNDAMAGED * CLEAN
	%100 OF THE SALES OF DONATED CLOTHING GO INTO OUR STAND LIKE STONE FUNDS. MESSAGE US IF YOU WANT TO DONATE YOUR CLOTHING .	

Recycled Fashion Pop-up Shop fundraiser.

Fundraising – Lunch at the Brumby Hut

Tasting Australia is one of the country's longest running cuisine festivals, a celebration and collaboration of people, produce and places.

In May 2024, retired Stand Like Stone Chair Robert Mock hosted a Tasting Australia event, 'Lunch at the Brumby Hut', in a spectacular venue and location in the Cannawigara district of the upper Limestone Coast.

Those who were lucky enough to attend the event, not only enjoyed a great meal, wine and conversation in an amazing location, they have also supported the activities of Stand Like Stone through the donation of the proceeds from the day.



'Lunch at the Brumby Hut'.



Host – Foundation Chair, Robert Mock.



Fundraising – Swinging with the Stars

We were delighted to, once again, host the annual charity fundraiser at The Barn in June. With over 550 people attending the event, the crowd danced the night away supporting their local Stars, whilst also raising a record \$140,000 for the Foundation.

The money raised from the night, and of course the fundraising activities held by the Stars over the months leading up to the big night, assists in providing a critical range of community support across the region.

Our 8 local “stars” dedicated many, many hours learning four dance routines under the superb tutelage of Kim Cella, and Keana Soper from Hype Dance, all while raising awareness and important funds for the Foundation.

Kim once again choreographed the dances for the night, and as usual, everyone was blown away with the standard of the routines. Judges were finding it extremely difficult to decide on the eventual winners, they were all just too good.

However, a winner has to be chosen on the night, and the Swinging with the Stars winner for 2024 was announced as Kezia Feast and her dance partner Andrew Lockwood. We also announced the People’s Choice Award for 2024 for raising the most money, and this year it was won by Bec Hurst who raised a record amount of \$53,150.

The support this event receives from a range of local businesses and individuals year after year is humbling, and goes a long way in making the whole night the success it continues to be.

There is no doubt the 8 stars and their dancing partners are truly amazing individuals. Performing in front of more than 550 people, all while raising funds for their community takes very special people indeed. We can never thank them enough!

2024 Stars

Ella Boston: An SSO at Naracoorte High School, raised funds for the Naracoorte & District Sub Fund.

Kezia Feast: A teacher at Allendale East Area School, raised funds for the Steven Noble Memorial Sub Fund.

Nathan McCarthy: A stock agent for Elders, raised funds for the Lucindale Area School Sub Fund.

Shekinah Horsburgh: A Grant High School teacher, raised funds for the Grant High School Sub Fund.

Tyler Michielan: An electrician for Godrik Construction & Electrical, raised funds for the Stand Like Stone General Sub Fund.

Bec Hurst: A registered nurse and a farmer’s wife, raised funds for the Poppy Crozier Memorial Sub Fund.

Cory O’Connor: A teacher at Penola High School, raised funds for the Penola Coonawarra Wellbeing Sub Fund.

Chris Williams: Owner of Chris Williams Painting, raised funds for the Mental Health & Wellbeing Limestone Coast Sub Fund.

Event Sponsors & Supporters

The Barn Palais	The Distributors Mount Gambier
HelloFriday	Tania von Stanke
Exchange Printers	Commonwealth Bank
Hype Dance	County Grey & Blush by County Grey
Video Live	Balnaves of Coonawarra
With Love Photography	It’s a Celebration
Vanity Makeup Bar & Beauty Lounge	Colin & Lynette Martin
Red Ivie	Craig Maria
Dzina Stem florist	Steve Mullan Sound & Lighting
Penola Foodland	
She’s Apples	

Swinging with the Stars 2024



People's Choice Winner Bec Hurst and dance partner Jayden Green.



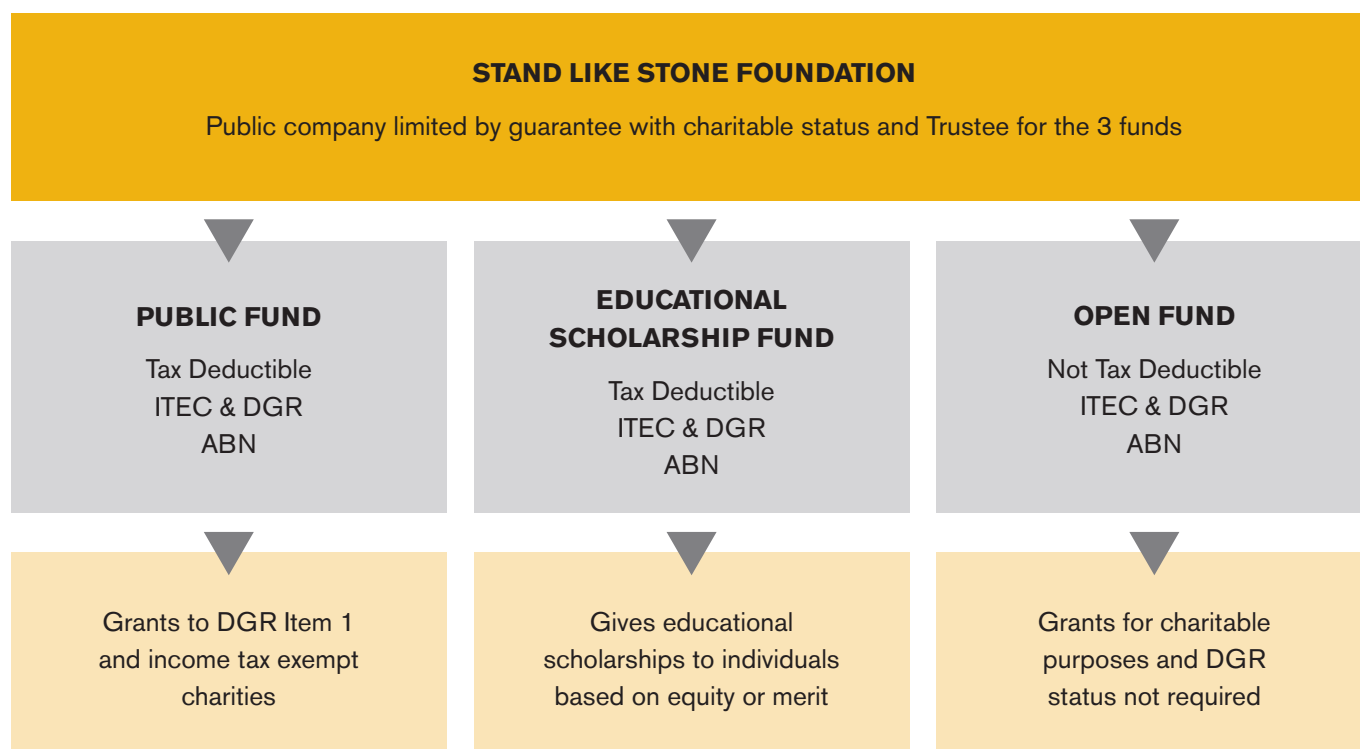
Swinging with the Stars Winner Kezia Feast and dance partner Andrew Lockwood.



Swinging with the Stars 2024 raised a record \$140,000 for the Foundation.

Our Financials

Stand Like Stone was established in 2004 by a group of visionary local leaders who wanted to create a permanent endowment fund for the lasting benefit of the Limestone Coast. As a philanthropic community foundation, we operate three funds for the benefit of the community, providing flexibility for organisations and individuals personal giving preferences.



DGR: Deductible Gift Recipient Status.

A DGR is an organisation that is entitled to receive income tax deductible gifts and deductible contributions

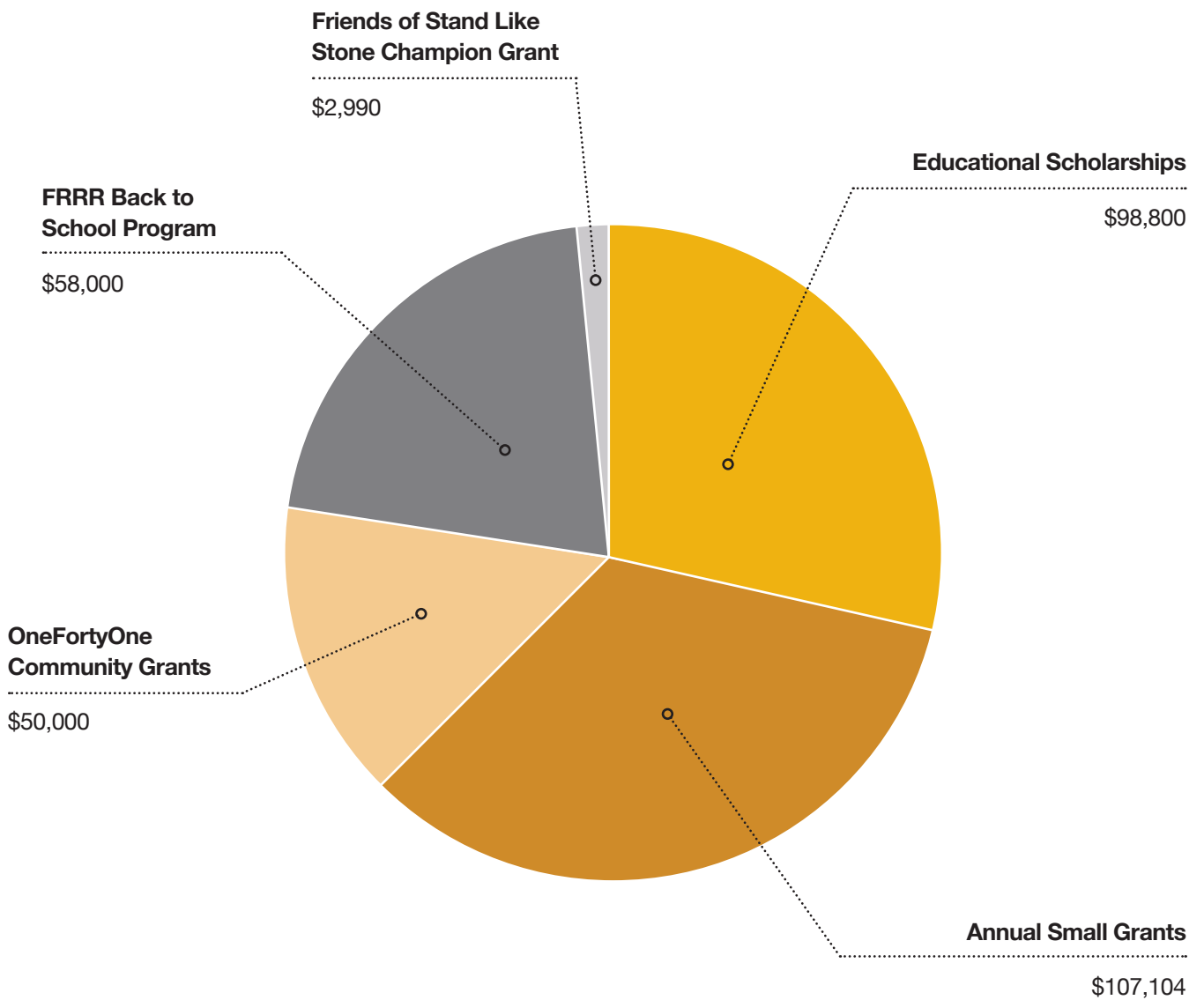
ITEC: Income Tax Exempt Charity.

Registered charities must be endorsed by the Australian Tax Office to be income tax exempt.

Our Financials (continued)

Community Giving

In 2023/24 we have provided \$316,894 in grants, scholarships and program support to the Limestone Coast.



Investment Performance

Our funds continue to be professionally managed by two leading investment companies, JB Were and Warakirri.

JB Were is Australia’s leading provider of investment management and philanthropic services for the “for-purpose” sector, with in excess of \$3.6B in funds under management.

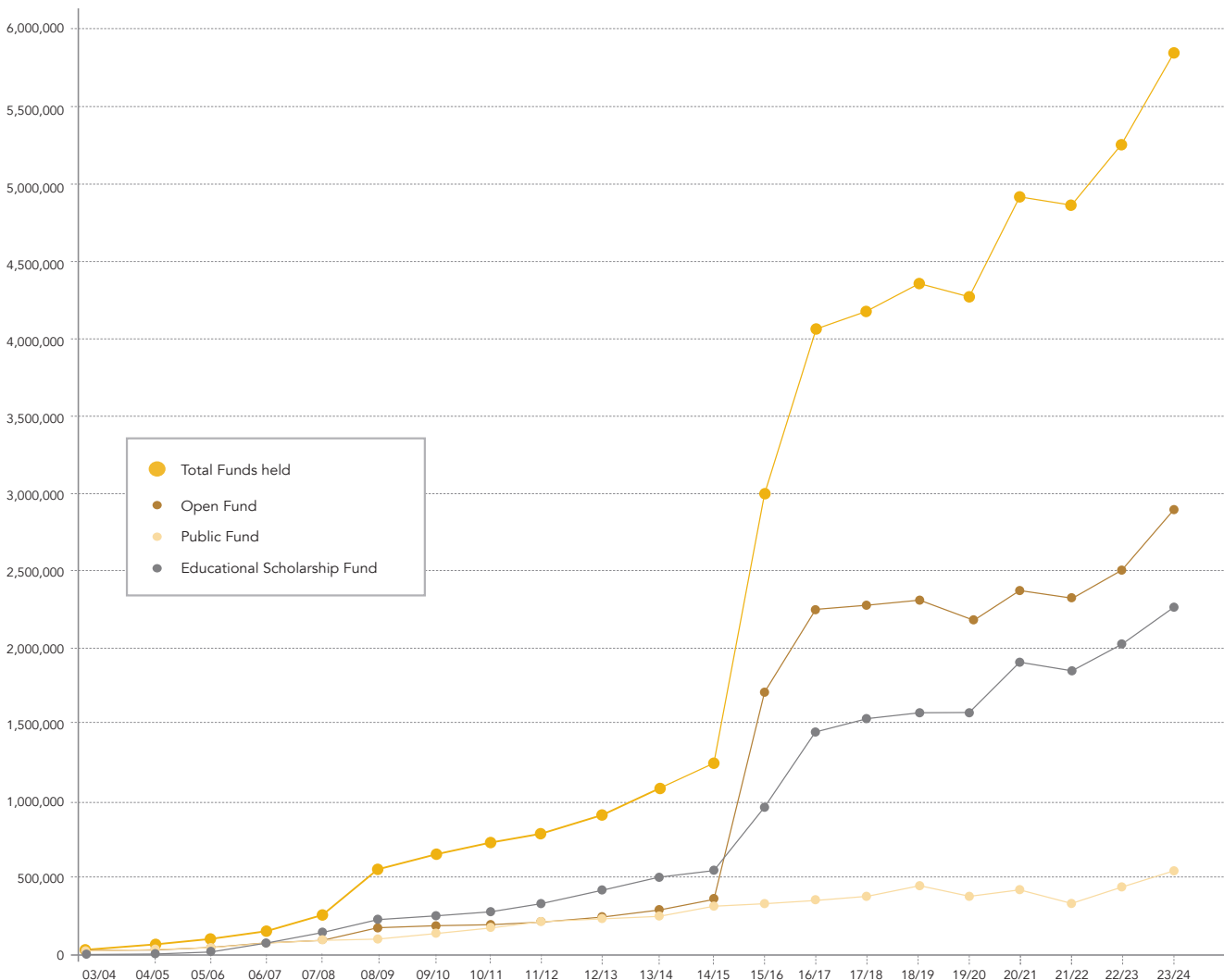
Working with and servicing “for-purpose” organisations is a cornerstone of the JB Were business. In 2001, JB Were established a dedicated Philanthropic Services team to provide specialist services to the firm’s “for-purpose” clients, such as community foundations.

Warakirri was established in 1993 with a view to providing charitable and tax-exempt investors with an investment vehicle to managed specifically their

tax-exempt status. Stand Like Stone is invested in the Warakirri Ethical Australian Equities Fund which seeks to provide investors with access to an actively managed portfolio of between 25-40 Australian companies with an ethical overlay managed by Warakirri and focused on investing in sustainable businesses that exhibit sound environmental, social and governance practices.

Overall, the year was a mix of good net asset growth, supported by improved earnings from investments. With the support of ongoing advice from JB Were throughout the year, we were again able to address some market exposures and maintain a diverse quality portfolio.

Our sincere thanks again to the hard work and support of JB Were and Warakirri as they continue to support the mission and growth of Stand Like Stone.



	Public Fund	Open Fund	Educational Scholarship Fund	Administration Fund	2024 Total	2023
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Assets & Liabilities						
Cash & Short Term Bank Deposits	100,998	378,548	360,629	226,893	1,067,068	789,079
Receivables	3,700	27,418	17,158	27,714	75,990	175,231
Listed Shares, Units and Managed Funds - At Market Value	453,352	2,467,933	1,979,426	-	4,900,711	4,560,949
Furniture, Equipment & IT	-	-	-	516	516	600
Our Total Assets	558,050	2,873,899	2,357,213	255,123	6,044,285	5,525,859
Our Total Liabilities	(14,989)	(83,221)	(82,948)	(43,721)	(224,879)	(280,318)
Stand Like Stone - Net Assets	543,061	2,790,678	2,274,265	211,402	5,819,406	5,245,541
Income & Expenditure						
Community Support Received						
Gifts & Donations Received	48,883	239,181	197,062	7,415	492,541	369,422
Events Income	-	-	-	68,568	68,568	69,912
Sponsorship	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Council	-	-	-	16,000	16,000	18,000
Investment Income Earned						
Earnings from Investments	19,601	96,006	83,306	-	198,913	94,213
Interest	1,769	9,607	7,583	4,019	22,978	15,297
Other Income	-	-	-	656	656	606
Less our Community Granting & Scholarships	(19,381)	(140,782)	(99,695)	(701)	(260,559)	(274,635)
Less our Net Administration Costs	(12,228)	(60,320)	(49,475)	(106,999)	(229,022)	(245,223)
Other Movement in Corpus	(41,711)	(162,659)	(154,231)	-	(358,601)	(248,194)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(3,067)	(18,967)	(15,450)	8,958	(28,526)	(50,253)

Sponsor Partners

Sponsor partners play a critical role in helping with our operational costs so that we can ensure more money from donations goes directly back into the local community.

We are privileged to be supported by a wide range of people and organisations through their financial and in-kind support.

We'd like to thank the following FY 23/24 sponsor partners.

Financial Sponsors

Trans Australian Livestock and Freight Management

City of Mount Gambier Council

Noel Barr Toyota

Ray Scott Pastoral Company

Tatiara District Council

District Council of Robe

District Council of Grant

Kingston District Council

Wattle Range Council

In-kind Sponsors

Sinclair Wilson, Accountants & Business Advisors

Galpins, Accountants, Auditors & Business

Consultants

Hello Friday

Herbert Smith Freehills

Green Triangle Electronics

Aussie Broadband

R.W & D.D Gabriel Electrical Contractors

Granting and Program Partners

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

OneFortyOne

hello Friday.

www.hellofriday.com.au

Sponsor Profile

helloFriday

The generosity of the team at helloFriday is truly second-to-none. This proudly Limestone Coast based company has supported Stand Like Stone for over 15 years and their expert advice has been instrumental in building the Stand Like Stone brand to what it is today.

helloFriday is a multi-disciplinary, multi-talented design studio who create powerful communication tools. Their contribution to Stand Like Stone over the years has included creating many brand and promotional tools including e-news design, stationery and annual report design, website, donation platforms, creating invitations and promotional materials for events, as well as offering technical and design expertise whenever needed.

“It is difficult to place a value on the support that helloFriday has provided for Stand Like Stone over the years. For as long as I can remember, they have always been willing to support our work and their generosity has been big-hearted and unsparing,” said Georgie McKay, Stand Like Stone Chair.

There is no doubt that the team at helloFriday are passionate about the Limestone Coast and through their support of Stand Like Stone they have been giving back to the Limestone Coast community in which they live and operate.

And, as we ask with all of our sponsors, please consider supporting helloFriday as they have supported Stand Like Stone!

Our People

Management Team

- Roger Babolka, Chief Executive Officer Jan 2022 - present
- Sally Bailey, Accounts and Grants Coordinator Aug 2010 - present
- Carissa Buhmann, Administration and Governance Officer Jun 2019 - March 2024

Board of Directors



Georgie McKay
Chair
Aug. 2023 to present



Donna Jaeschke
Company Secretary
and Public Officer
Dec. 2014 to present



Kathryn Facy
Deputy Chair
Nov. 2017 to present



Sally Klose
Nov. 2017 to present



Steve Duldig
July 2019 to present



Jeanette Emery
Nov. 2020 to present



Ann Aldersey
June 2021 to present

Retiring Directors



Robert Mock
Apr. 2012 to Dec. 2023



Rhett McDonald
July 2015 to Dec. 2023



Peta Crewe
Nov. 2020 to Dec. 2023

Our People (continued)

Patrons

Susan Charlton AM, Feb 2015 – present

Doug Balnaves, Nov 2020 – present

Founding Donors

The late Brian Page and Sue Page

Advisory Committees

Grant Making

Jeanette Emery (Chairperson), Dec 2021 – present

Kathryn Facy, Dec 2017 – present

Roger Babolka (CEO), Jan 2022 – present

Barbara Cernovskis (Community Member), Apr 2010 – present

Rodney Summers (Community Member), Apr 2015 – present

Rhett McDonald, Dec 2012 – Dec 2023

Peta Crewe, Dec 2020 – Dec 2023

Educational Scholarship

Ann Aldersey, Dec 2021 – present

Jeanette Emery, Dec 2020 – present

Roger Babolka (CEO), Jan 2022 – present

Georgie McKay, Dec 2023 – present

Rhett McDonald, Dec 2019 – Dec 2023

Investment Advisory

Steve Duldig (Chair), Jul 2019 – present

Ann Aldersey, Dec 2022 – present

Roger Babolka (CEO), Jan 2022 – present

Georgie McKay, Dec 2023 – present

Robert Mock, Dec 2012 – Dec 2023

Fund Development (Swinging with the Stars)

Donna Jaeschke (Chair), Dec 2014 – present

Lauren Fox, Mar 2015 – present

Tahlia Gabrielli, Sept 2017 – present

Kim Cella, Feb 2011 – present

Roger Babolka (CEO), Jan 2022 – present

Kahlia Egan, Aug 2023 – present

Board Nominations

Georgie McKay (Chairperson), Dec 2023 – present

Kathryn Facy, Dec 2021 – present

Roger Babolka (CEO), Jan 2022 – present

Kirsty Balnaves (Independent), Dec 2022 – present

Sally Klose, Jan 2024 – present

Robert Mock, Dec 2020 – Dec 2023

Audit & Risk

Sally Klose, (Chair), Dec 2020 – present

Steve Duldig, Dec 2020 – present

Ann Aldersey, Dec 2021 – present

Roger Babolka (CEO), Jan 2022 – present

Contact Details

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Mount Gambier SA 5290

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www.standlikestone.com.au

Major Sponsors & supporting partners



Stand Like Stone

Inspiring kindness and courage