



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



## Mending Casts Incorporated

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mending Casts Inc. is a non-profit organisation incorporated in Victoria, Australia since 10 February 2019. The organisation aims to promote the health and well-being benefits of fly fishing and fly casting to people with cancer by hosting free community events and support programs that introduce people from a wide range of ages and backgrounds to the sport. This includes the Casting for Recovery program in Victoria, the Reel Recovery program across Australia, plus other clinics, fly fishing events and promotional activities.

As a registered non-profit organisation Mending Casts requires independent funding to provide these programs and services. That money is obtained through fund-raising events, donations from a broad range of supporters, sponsorships from other organisations plus partnerships with corporate groups. Ad-hoc funding is also sought from government grants or other philanthropic sources as and when these become available. Mending Casts is run solely by non-paid volunteers and every dollar received is invested back into its programs and the activities which support them.



2021 has been an extraordinarily challenging year for our organisation both nationally and internationally due to the constraints imposed by governments due to the presence of the COVID 19 virus in the community.



The major highlights for Mending Casts in 2021 were;

## Strategic Highlights

- September 2020 - Annual General Meeting.
- November 2020 - VFFA Dinner & Mending Casts Information night
- March 2021 - Initial discussions held with the Peter Mac Men's' Shed regarding future co-operation between the two organisations.
- On-going - Further work has been done with the objective of registering Mending Casts with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission and also to obtain Australian Tax Office tax concessions including Deductible Gift Recipient status.



## Financial Highlights

- Donation received from Reel Recovery USA for the first Reel Recovery Australia retreat.
- Significant donations received from four individual supporters.
- Grant received from Victorian Fisheries Authority.
- See details in Treasurer's Financial Report.

## Operating Highlights

- April 30 - First Reel Recovery Australia retreat was held at Omeo, Victoria.
- November - Second Casting for Recovery Victoria retreat booked (now postponed to April 2022).



## Looking Ahead

The past 12 months have been unprecedented with the COVID 19 virus impacting on almost every aspect of daily living in Victoria (and elsewhere). Lockdowns designed to safeguard public health have significantly restricted Mending Cast's ability to undertake fund-raising activities and to plan ahead for fly fishing retreats. However despite these challenges awareness of Mending Casts' programs for men and women who have, or have had, cancer continues to grow and we have every reason to be optimistic about the future.

A small window of opportunity arose in the early part of 2021 and we were able to stage the first Reel Recovery Australia retreat at Omeo in Victoria at the end of April. This retreat was an outstanding success in no small part due to the support provided by the Bairnsdale Fly Fishing Club through the provision of the fishing venue on the Mitta Mitta River and also experienced fishing buddies to support the participants. It is very fulfilling for all involved in these retreats to see the impact the programs have on the participants and to see some go on to take up fly fishing as part of their personal journey.



We had planned to hold the second Casting for Recovery Victoria retreat for women in November 2021 but COVID restrictions have again meant that this has had to be postponed until April 2022 and the next Reel Recovery retreat for men has been postponed until November 2022. In the interim opportunities for securing more operating capital are being pursued. Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission registration and Australian Tax Office tax concessions including DGR status are important cornerstones of this work.

The continued success of the organisation and its programs is a testament not only to the members of the Mending Casts committee and our fabulous volunteers, supporters and sponsors, but also our retreat participants. It is these people that make our programs so special, hence it is an honour and a privilege to share their experiences.

I would like to pass on my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to these successes as without their help, diligent hard work and commitment, we would not have been able to put on our events and so many cancer patients would have missed learning about the joys of fly fishing and how it can significantly help their quality of life and personal journeys. No doubt many new challenges face us all in the year ahead, but I am confident we are a resilient organisation capable of turning those challenges into future opportunities and positive outcomes.

John Billing  
President

10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Financial Summary for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Prepared by Joanne Dobson (Treasurer)

### Statement of Comprehensive Income (Profits and Losses)

<b>Income</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Fundraising	693	4840.69			
Grants	2500				
Interest	1.00				
Merchandise	1628.78			-962.20	
Donations	14004.64	6000			
General	1932	53.77		-2994.83	-4092.86
Retreat				-9449.70	-9338.24
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20759.42</b>	<b>10894.46</b>		<b>-13406.73</b>	<b>-13431.10</b>

### Profit & Loss

Income	\$20759.42
Less Expenses	\$13406.73
Profit/Loss	\$ 7352.69

### Statement of Changes in Equity

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Bank Balance	10358.25	3276.16	To Pay	Nil	Nil
Property	3600	2500	Unspent Grant Funds	2500	
Donations	1620	1500			
Merchandise	1000				
<b>Total</b>	<b>16578.25</b>	<b>7276.16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2500</b>	<b>Nil</b>



# OPERATIONAL MILESTONES

A brief timeline showing the key operational achievements from the past year:



# OUR COMMITTEE

## EXECUTIVE:



**John Billing**

Chair & President

- Reel Recovery Program Co-Ordinator
- Webmaster & Social Media
- Qualified 1st Aid
- Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Instructor



**Val Young**

Vice President

- Girls Gone Flyfishing
- Casting Program Helper
- Reiki Practitioner
- Natural Therapies



**Joanne Dobson**

Treasurer

- Owner Aussie Angler Tackle Shop
- Victorian Fisheries Grants Committee
- Casting Instructor
- Event Co-Ordinator



**Cherrie Ninness**

Secretary

- CFR Programs Co-Ordinator
- Membership & Administrator
- Medical Co-Ordinator
- Emergency Services Liaison
- Qualified 1st Aid

## MEMBERS:



**Bob Young**

Casting Programs Co-Ordinator

- Fly Fishers International Master Casting Instructor
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events Co-Ordinator



**Andrew Connell**

Casting Instructor / Guide

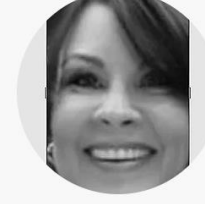
- Fishing Guide
- Qualified 1st Aid
- Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Instructor



**Fiona (Noni) Wilson**

Event Co-Ordinator

- Retreat Co-Ordinator
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events Ordinator



**Shelley Olson**

Fund Raising

- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Event Co-Ordinator
- Qualified 1st Aid
- COVID Officer



**Alan Staton**

Funding Co-Ordinator

- Grants / Sponsorship Coordinator
- Procurement Officer
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Casting for Kids Co-Ordinator



**Brenda Galey**

Casting Instructor / Guide

- Fishing Guide
- Events Co-Ordinator
- Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Instructor



**Jo Ellerton**

Funding Co-Ordinator

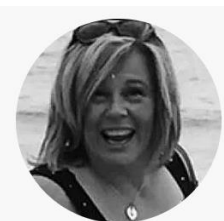
- Grants / Sponsorship
- Legal Officer
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events Co-Ordinator



**Eric Smith**

Reel Recovery Facilitator

- Retreat Facilitator
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events Co-Ordinator



**Alisa Christie**

Event Co-Ordinator

- Retreat Co-Ordinator
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events Ordinator



# OUR PROGRAMS

Mending Casts strategic focus is to ensure we offer our programs on an equitable basis, providing the opportunity for people to participate in either a Casting for Recovery or Reel Recovery retreat. Both programs have identical importance so are resourced, promoted and operated equally. It is through these retreats that we affect the wider community, as advocates for their inclusion into rural areas and in partnership with various fly fishing clubs and supporters. The evidence is irrefutable that these programs can change people's lives, one cast at a time.

The keystone to our programs is that we advocate and encourage volunteerism and in no way do any of our members or organising committee benefit financially from these activities. We are a registered non-profit association, not a business and as such no-one in the organisation receives any payment, gratuities or obtains financial gain from our programs in any way.

## Casting for Recovery - Victoria:



Casting for Recovery (CfR) activities in Victoria are managed by a sub-committee of Mending Casts Inc, which is licensed to offer these programs under agreement with Casting for Recovery in the USA.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for women with breast cancer through a unique live-in weekend retreat program that combines

breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic activities of fly fishing. The program offers opportunities for women to find inspiration, renew their energy for life and experience the healing gained from networking with others and reconnecting with nature. We support breast cancer survivors of all ages, in all stages of recovery, at no cost to participants. We also provide participants with post-retreat referrals to their nearest fly fishing club so that they can continue to enjoy fly fishing into the future.

Find out more from our CfR Vic website here: <https://www.castingforrecoveryvic.org>



## Reel Recovery Australia:



Mending Casts Inc holds an exclusive agreement with Reel Recovery USA to run their cancer retreat program in Australia. As mentioned earlier, this program commenced in May 2021 with the first-ever Reel Recovery Australia retreat being held at Omeo in Victoria's high country. It was an amazing success, evident not only by the courage and solidarity shown by the participants, but also that most caught fish. Planning for future retreats at other locations around the country is already underway.

The mission of Reel Recovery is to help men in the cancer recovery process by introducing them to the therapeutic powers of fly fishing, whilst providing a safe and supportive environment through which they can share their personal experiences of cancer with others. The purpose is to address the growing demand for and limited supply of support services specifically tailored for men with cancer. Our overarching goal is to improve the lives of the men we serve. We seek to give these courageous men a respite from their day-to-day concerns so that they might gain a fresh outlook on their fight with cancer. We facilitate discussions that give them strength, encouragement plus a new network of friends and support. In addition we provide them new skills and experiences to bring joy, enthusiasm and renewed hope as they deal with the challenges of their personal cancer journey.

For more information on this program see <https://reelrecovery.org/>



# OUR SPONSORS

We gratefully acknowledge the help and support of the following organisations. Please see links to their respective businesses on our website.



Geelong Lodge Of Unity And Prudence No. 5



HARFIN FLY REEL COMPANY



FlyLife



DIVIDING CREEK FARM

Antiquarian Angler



# OUR PARTNERS

We gratefully acknowledge the commercial arrangements, in-kind assistance and financial support provided through official partnerships with the following companies, businesses and organisations.



## Casting for Recovery USA

Mending Casts has an agreement with CFR Global Head Office to run their retreat programs in Victoria. CFR USA provides copyrighted retreat program outlines and associated documentation, logos and branded content, as well as support services and legal advice.



## Reel Recovery USA

Mending Casts has an exclusive agreement with Reel Recovery Head Office in the USA to run their retreat programs in Australia. RR USA assists with administrative and website support, as well as providing copyrighted retreat program outlines and associated documentation, logos and branded content,



## Fly Fishers International (FFI) Australia

We host an annual fund raising event in September each year. At this event FFI Australia casting instructors provide free fly casting lessons and skills challenge assessments for members of the public. Numbers are limited and places are only available by prior arrangement on a first-come first-serve basis. All funds raised are donated back to Mending Casts.



## Peter Mac Men's Shed

Treating the disease is one aspect of cancer care. The Peter Mac Men's Shed is the first shed in a Victorian hospital offering men an opportunity to meet other men undergoing, or caring for someone receiving medical treatment. The Peter Mac Men's Shed aims to reduce social isolation, improve wellbeing and provide an environment where men can share experiences and be supported. Mending Casts is proud to be an official referral service to this wonderful program.



## Cancer Council - Victoria

Cancer support groups provide an opportunity for people affected by cancer to meet for discussions in an emotionally supportive environment. Groups may also choose to engage in fundraising, advocacy, practical support or social and educational activities, according to the wants and needs of members. Group members can discuss the impacts of diagnosis and treatment and access evidence-based information for themselves and for families and carers. Mending Casts is a registered support group on our Program list in our database and nurses referral program.

# FLY FISHING ORGANISATIONS

We aim to involve local fly fishing clubs in our regional retreat programs as we could not run these programs without their contributions. Not only can club members become involved as fishing buddies for the participants, but also volunteer for many of the roles required to run a successful retreat.

Over the past 12 months, several clubs have directly supported our retreat weekends plus undertaken fund-raising events or donated goods and services to Mending Casts. The generosity of these people is truly amazing!

We are especially grateful for the help and support of following clubs.



Bairnsdale  
Fly Fishers  
Club



Mornington  
Peninsula Fly  
Fishers Inc



Northern  
Suburbs Fly  
Fishing Club



Warrnambool  
Fly Fishers  
Club

We also gratefully acknowledge the continued support of The Victorian Fly Fishers Association (VFFA) and the contribution provided by the Victorian Fisheries Authority Recreational Fishing License Grants program:



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Ongoing uncertainty around the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will have a major impact in our activities for 2021/22. Restrictions on the permitted movements of people both locally and interstate, as well as the cessation of international travel will inevitably dictate what opportunities are available to host our retreats and the public health protocols under which they are run. We have already encountered businesses that do not have venues or dates available at the times we require. We also expect COVID-19 to impact on the opportunities for cancer patients to participate in these programs and the availability of volunteers to support them. Planning towards these events will continue nonetheless, with a level of flexibility built in to accommodate changes at short notice.

Additional concerns are held for the businesses, clubs and organisation who have traditionally been strong supporters of our activities, be that through monetary donations or in-kind goods & services. Many are struggling under government restrictions and reduced patronage so we expect that many will be unable to support us into the future, in the same way they have done in the past.



To address this, our focus in the short-term will turn to expanding revenue streams and promotional activities that place us in a stronger independent financial position. Attaining Deductible Goods Registration (DGR) status as well as registered charity status with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission will be a primary objective. This will open up significant opportunities for widespread corporate support and better position the organisation to take advantage of government grants, sponsorships and future funding opportunities in both the public and private sector.



Looking forward, the successes of our retreat programs are gaining significant recognition within the cancer treatment and patient support sectors, as well as the wider fishing industry in Australia. It is hoped that several strategic partnerships currently in the planning stage, will secure significant funding and institutional support from major organisations when they are implemented.

In addition, promotional and fund-raising activities will continue with online raffles and auctions planned to take place by December 2021 to ensure we continue to cover our costs plus fund our next Casting for Recovery and Reel Recovery retreats. It is also hoped that some social gatherings and face-to-face events can then resume early in the New Year.



# ANNUAL STATEMENT NOTICE

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As part of our obligations under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act in Victoria, MENDING CASTS INCORPORATED is required to submit its annual statement to Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) within one month after the date of the Annual General Meeting.

*The annual statement must be submitted online:*

This requires the following:

- finalise the accounts for the year, closing on the financial year end date 31st August 2021;
- two committee members must check the finalised accounts and sign the relevant declaration;
- hold our annual general meeting (AGM) within five months of 31st August 2021 and present the declaration to the members with the accounts; then
- Submit our annual statement to CAV.

Under the Act, an association's financial reporting obligations depend on the total revenue for their financial year.

- Tier 1 associations have revenue below \$250,000
- Tier 2 associations have revenue from \$250,000 to \$1 million.
- Tier 3 associations have revenue of more than \$1 million.

## *Note on Fundraising*

If our association intends to conduct fundraising and expects to raise more than \$20,000, we do not need to register this with CAV if we only raise funds from members and their relatives and friends, or if we raise less than \$20,000 gross per year using only unpaid volunteers. Otherwise, we are required to register these activities with CAV.