



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022



### Mending Casts Incorporated

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mending Casts Inc. is a not-for-profit association 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, fundraisers and promotional activities.

As a registered not-for-profit organisation Mending Casts requires independent funding to provide these programs and services. That money is obtained through several fundraising 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 unpaid volunteers who freely donate their own time to our cause and every dollar we receive is invested back into our programs and the activities which support them.



The 2021/22 year has been extremely rewarding for our organisation on so many levels. Despite the spectre of COVID persisting and ongoing economic uncertainty, we have managed to host both Casting for Recovery Victoria and Reel Recovery Australia retreats back-to-back in the months of April and May. Not only was this a logistical challenge, it also tested all of our members and volunteers, but to everyone's credit both events were completed and were resounding successes. The feedback received from our participants was glowing, and testament to the amazing effort from everyone involved. The year ahead will see us commit to hosting the next Reel Recovery retreat in November, and funding permitting, a Casting for Recovery retreat in March/April so please look out for announcements ahead on how you can participate or get involved as a volunteer.



Special recognition must be made to the wonderful support & sponsorship provided by Peter McCallum Cancer Centre's Men's Shed to our Reel Recovery program. Not only did they fund our Marysville retreat in May, but they



have committed to funding further retreats in the year ahead. This is wonderful news and a fabulous endorsement for our programs which will provide certainty and stability in the foreseeable future and expand the opportunities for cancer patients to experience these life-changing retreats. We certainly hope we can build on the relationship and support each other long into the future.



Opportunities are opening up for us on so many fronts, as word spreads about our programs and people become more aware of the amazing positivity our retreats impart to participants and volunteers alike. We have received significant support from the Bendigo region, through Bendigo Health and associated organisations. Momentum is gathering for a Casting for Recovery event to be held in Tasmania with local supporters keen to run a retreat in the year ahead. More information on this initiative will be circulated through our social media, website and newsletter in coming months. In addition, we continue to receive wonderful support from the many fly fishing clubs and fly fishers from all over the country who contribute to our success on so many levels.

Special mention must also be made to thank those who have launched our “On the Mend” newsletter this year. The wonderful feedback received from readers illustrates the high quality of content provided in a format that is easy to read and absorb. Again, this is written,



collated and disseminated by our volunteers and members who have done a fabulous job with the publication. Email us at [admin@mendingcasts.org](mailto:admin@mendingcasts.org) if you are not already a subscriber & we'll gladly add you to our distribution list.

“Thank You” must also be made to the numerous fly fishing clubs, fly tiers, tackle stores, and passionate individuals who continue to support us in so many ways. We are very grateful!



The major highlights for Mending Casts in season 2021/22 were;

## Strategic Highlights

- October 2021 - Annual General Meeting.
- February 2021 - Peter MacCallum Men's Shed agree to sponsor our May 2022 Reel Recovery retreat
- July 2022 - Peter MacCallum Men's Shed agree to sponsor our November 2022 Reel Recovery retreat and future retreats in 2023.
- March 2022 - Established partnership with "Look Good Feel Better" to offer their wellbeing programs at our retreats
- June 2022 - Significant support has been obtained from cancer facilities and patients in the Bendigo area, through the help of Bendigo McGrath Foundation Breast Care nurses, Dragons Abreast dragon boat team and Bendigo Health.
- Work is progressing on 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

- Full sponsorship from Peter MacCallum Men's Shed program for our Marysville and Ballarat Reel Recovery retreats in 2022. Ongoing sponsorship has also been pledged for future retreats.
- Significant financial donations received from four individual supporters.
- Joint fundraiser with the Australian Ladies Fly Fishing team held in Tasmania during April 2022 was well supported
- Generous donation received from "The Inner Wheel" Women's Rotary association
- See further details in Treasurer's Financial Report.

## Operating Highlights

- Aug 21 - Vale Charles Englander - 2021 Reel Recovery Omeo participant
- Sep 21 - Presentation to Calder Fly Fishing Association
- Nov 21 - First edition of our "On The Mend" newsletter released
- Dec 21 - Annual "12 Days of Fishmas" online auction
- Mar 22 - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our "On The Mend" newsletter released
- Apr 22 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Casting for Recovery retreat hosted at Ballarat, Victoria.
- May 22 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reel Recovery Australia retreat hosted in Marysville, Victoria.
- Jun 22 - 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our "On The Mend" newsletter released
- Jun 22 - Vale Michael Gualitieri - 2022 Reel Recovery Marysville participant
- July 22 - "Vestathon" drive started where we are asking people to donate to us any old fishing vests that are in good condition



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 who make our programs so special, 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

18<sup>th</sup> September 2022



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Financial Summary for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Income	2022	2021	Expenses	2022	2021
Fundraising	6465.63	693.00		-99.20	
Grants		2500.00			
Interest	1.86	1.00			
Merchandise		1628.78			-962.20
Donations	19084.65	14004.64			
General		1932.00		-2696.05	-2994.83
Retreat CFR				-23844.48	-9449.70
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25552.14</b>	<b>20759.42</b>		<b>-26639.73</b>	<b>-13406.73</b>

Assets	2022	2021	Liabilities	2022	2021
Bank Balance	14475.35	10358.25	To Pay	Nil	Nil
Property	5752	3600	Unspent Grant Funds	Nil	2500
Donated goods	750				
Merchandise	600	350			
<b>Total</b>	<b>21577.35</b>	<b>16578.25</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>2500</b>

### Profit & Loss

Income	\$ 25552.14
Less Expenses	\$ 26639.73
Profit/Loss	\$ -1087.59

### Assets

Include Bank Balance above

Rod & Reels, line in bag x 10	\$1420
Stationary and printer, Banner etc	\$990
Stickers, hats, clothing and merchandise	\$600
Vests for RR x 10 and tools etc	\$900
UHF radios	\$108
Donated goods	\$750
Marquee	\$1334
Waders	\$1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7102</b>



# OUR COMMITTEE

Shown below are those who occupied executive or member roles at the end of reporting period.

## Executive members



**John Billing**

President

- Reel Recovery Program Coordinator
- Webmaster & Social Media
- Qualified 1st Aid
- Fly Fishers International
- Certified Casting Instructor
- Operations Manager
- Aust Volunteer Coast Guard Member



**Eric Smith**

Vice President

- Reel Recovery Retreat Facilitator
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events Coordinator
- Registered Nurse
- Business owner
- CFA Victoria member



**Joanne Dobson**

Treasurer

- Owner Aussie Angler Tackle Shop
- Victorian Fisheries Grants Committee
- Fly Fishers International
- Certified Casting Instructor
- Event Coordinator



**Cherrie Ninness**

Secretary

- CFR Program Coordinator
- Membership & Administrator
- First Aid Officer
- Emergency Services Liaison
- Paramedic & Qualified 1st Aid

## General Members



**Bob Young**

Casting Programs Co-Ordinator

- Fly Fishers International
- Master Casting Instructor
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events Coordinator
- Retired Engineer



**Andrew Connell**

Casting Instructor / Guide

- Fishing Guide
- Qualified 1st Aid
- Fly Fishers International
- Certified Casting Instructor
- TAFE Teacher & Educator
- CFA Victoria member



**Fiona (Noni) Wilson**

Newsletter Editor

- Retreat Support officer
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events coordinator
- "On The Mend" Editor
- Pharmacologist



**Val Young**

Event Support

- Girls Gone Fly Fishing
- Catering Coordinator
- Reiki Practitioner
- Natural Therapies



**Shelley Olson**

Event Support

- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Event volunteer
- Paramedic & Qualified 1st Aid
- COVID Officer



**Peter West**

Event Support

- Grants / Sponsorship
- Casting Instructor
- Fund Raising Events/Activities
- Events Coordinator



**Brenda Galey**

Casting Instructor / Guide

- Fly Fishing Guide
- Events Coordinator
- Fly Fishers International
- Certified Casting Instructor



# 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 regional 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 not-for-profit association, not a business and as such no-one in the organisation receives any payment, gratuities or obtains personal 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. This was followed by a second retreat at Marysville in May 2022. It was an amazing success, evident not only by the courage and solidarity shown by the participants, but also by the fact that most caught fish. Planning for future retreats 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 with new skills and experiences which bring joy, enthusiasm and renewed hope as they deal with the challenges of their personal cancer journey.

For more information on this program in Australia see [www.mendingcasts.org](http://www.mendingcasts.org)





# OUR SPONSORS

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





# 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,



## 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



Ballarat Fly Fishers Club



Mornington Peninsula Fly Fishers Inc



Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club



Southern Fly Fishers Aust Inc



Warrnambool Fly Fishers Club

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



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As we emerge from the global COVID pandemic there is likely to be a normalising period of uncertainty as the country comes to terms with what the “new norm” looks like. We are already seeing that in domestic economics and a fluctuating jobs market. Economic uncertainty can be both a blessing and a challenge for not-for-profits and charitable organisations such as Mending Casts. On the one hand, traditional revenue streams of donations and fundraising events can diminish as individuals and businesses have less disposable income and tighten their belts amidst concerns about their own economic stability. On the other hand, difficult economic conditions often open up opportunities in terms of government and public sector support through additional grants, sponsorships and funding programs aimed at alleviating these pressures. Both scenarios present unique challenges for a self-funded organisation such as Mending Casts Inc.

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 expand and secure significant funding and institutional support from major organisations. We are extremely fortunate to have established relationships with the wider fishing community and key corporate partners who continue to see the value of our work and back us both financially and through volunteer work. We are immensely grateful for all the support we receive from so many people. Operationally and financially this places us in a solid position to continue our retreat programs for the next 12 months and beyond.

In addition, promotional and fund-raising activities will continue. We are supporting a fundraiser event run by the Northern Fly Fishers Club in November, plus online raffles and annual Christmas auction planned in December 2022. Continued support of these events will ensure we continue to cover our costs whilst funding our next Casting for Recovery and Reel Recovery retreats. It is also hoped that more social gatherings and face-to-face events can resume in the New Year.

A final word of “Thanks” must be directed to the members and volunteers of Mending Casts Inc. They are a truly exceptional team of people working in the background to bring our programs to the people who need them. They voluntarily give up so much of their personal and professional time to not only plan and run our cancer retreat programs, but also to the many fundraisers, presentations, articles and meetings that are needed to keep the organisation functioning and moving forward. Without the contributions from these amazing people, we could not do what we do and change so many lives for the better. From the bottom of my heart to each and every one of you..... “THANK YOU”!





# 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 2022;
- 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 2022 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 its 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.