



Alpine Valleys
Community Leadership

2022 - 2023 Annual Report



8-10 Tone Road | PO Box 937
Wangaratta VIC 3677
0417 348 547
admin@avclp.org.au

www.avclp.org.au

Contents

Our Vision, Mission & Values	2
Our History	3
Section 1 – An overview of Alpine Valleys Community Leadership	
About Us	4
Our People	4
Our Supporters for the 2023 Annual Program	6
Section 2 – Governance	
Structure & Management	7
Chair’s Report	7
Our Objectives and Activities	9
Looking Ahead	15
Section 3 – Our Finances	
Financial Statements	16
Auditor’s Report	28

Our Vision

Vibrant and sustainable communities through local leadership

Our Mission

Grow the leadership capacity and voice of people and communities

Our Values

Excellence:	In the development and delivery of our activities
Agility:	Being proactive and relevant to the changing needs of our communities
Innovation:	Fostering creative ideas and identifying opportunities to strengthen our communities
Collaboration:	Building relationships and partnerships that deliver mutual benefit and value
Integrity:	Displaying transparency and accountability to our stakeholders
Respect:	Conducting our relationships with honesty, trust and compassion

Our Strategic Plan 2022-2024

The pillars that underpin our Strategic Plan are:

Future focused stakeholder engagement

- Develop and implement a stakeholder engagement plan
- Develop long term Alumni engagement plan

Growth to deliver impact

- Develop growth direction Board policy
- Develop staffing model to support growth

Systems to support impact

- Identify relevant systems and develop implementation plan and deliver it
- Develop workflows for all critical activities
- Undertake an IP audit
- Board reporting protocols to support strategic decision making

Business as Usual

- Meet AVCL entity legal compliance
- Meet delivery, reporting and financial acquittal obligations for current contracts for community leadership development
- Support and influence a strong Board with an effective strategic framework for robust decision-making
- Business development

We believe:
Local leadership strengthens our communities

Our History

The Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program (AVCLP) was established in December 1998 to facilitate the development of North East Victoria's community leadership capacity.

Based on the design of the Williamson Community Leadership Program delivered in Melbourne, and the Goulburn Valley's Fairley Leadership Program, a volunteer Board of community leaders led by inaugural Chair John Brown AO brought the first program to the region in 1999.

The Program went into recess the following year due to a lack of funding. However, the graduates of that first program valued the program so highly that concerted efforts were made with the Board to deliver further programs. From 2001 onwards, the AVCLP has been delivered every year.

Since its inception, the Program has grown and developed to cater for the economic, social and environmental needs of its region. Each year a diverse group of up to 25 aspiring leaders embark on the ten-month intensive experiential learning program that develops their personal leadership skills, knowledge of the region and network of leadership contacts.

In recent years, the organisation's activities have broadened to include the design and delivery of a range of tailored leadership training for community, business, and government.

In 2017 AVCLP changed its name to Alpine Valleys Community Leadership in recognition of the increased range of activities that it now offers. As of 1 July 2022, Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Inc. has made a legal transition to the registered Charity, Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd, acquiring full DGR status. Work has now commenced to register the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Ltd. company to be operational in the 2023-2024 Financial Year. These two organisations will work together to achieve our goals.

We now have 500 Alumni across the region putting their skills and expertise into building capacity in their communities. AVCL is one of the longest running of nine Community Leadership Programs across Victoria.

In May 2023, the Victorian State Government announced they would cease funding all Community Leadership Programs. AVCL has developed a strategy to ensure we can resource our own funding for a flagship community leadership program in 2024 and beyond. This is made possible by our valued supporters, funders, and the broader community, for which we are most appreciative. We will continue to progress with our plan toward the finalisation of our updated program, and look forward to developing a new cohort of local leaders in 2024.

About Us

Since 1998, Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd has supported 500 Annual Program Alumni and thousands of community-minded individuals to develop their leadership capacity in the North East and Border region of Victoria, with the aim of strengthening the capability and sustainability of our communities. We do this through the delivery of our flagship Annual Program and a variety of short courses and tailored training delivered to community, government and corporate organisations.

Our People



Patron: John Brown AO

The Annual Program has gained a reputation and respect, such that many benefactors see the value in offering financial support. One of the longer-term benefactors was the Victorian State Government, and it has been most regrettable to learn of its decision to withdraw support for the program.

Once again, we found the critical need for support and leadership at a local level, ensuring AVCL could keep the program operating at its current excellence and capacity.

The benefit of a “leadership strong” community cannot be overstated. Every day we hear of our leaders striving to make things better. We all, ultimately, share in the benefits.

Board Members

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not 1 July- 30 June)
Anthony Griffiths	Deputy Co-Chair	
Colin Elliot	Board Member	Resigned October 2022
David Kidd	Board Member	
Felicity Whorlow	Deputy Co-Chair	
Judy Charlton	Co-Chair (July to October 2022) Chair (October 2022 – July 2023)	
Katie Warner	Treasurer	
Linda Griffiths-Brown	Board Member	Resigned October 2022
Megan Buntine	Secretary	Resigned April 2023
Pip O'Donnell	Board Member	
Sophie Enders	Board Member	
Suzanne Vilé	Co-Chair	Resigned October 2022



Anthony Griffiths



Colin Elliott



David Kidd



Felicity Whorlow



Judy Charlton



Katie Warner



Linda Griffiths-Brown



Megan Buntine



Pip O'Donnell



Sophie Enders



Suzanne Vilé

Employees

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Jacqui Bramwell	Executive Officer	
Suz Christison	Program Manager	
Madeline Hines	Business Coordinator	
Billie Robertson	Administration Officer	



Jacqui Bramwell
Executive Officer



Suz Christison
Program Manager



Madeline Hines
Business Coordinator



Billie Robertson
Administration
Officer

Our Supporters for the 2023 Annual Program



Alberton Consulting
 Albury Wodonga Volunteer Bureau
 Alpine Shire Council
 Annabelle Cleeland MP
 Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum
 Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (ACRE)
 Australian Industry Group
 Beyond Housing
 Border Trust
 Brown Brothers
 Brown Brothers Family Wine Group
 Centre Against Violence
 CFA
 CFA District 23
 Charles Sturt University
 DEECA
 Department of Justice & Community

Department of Transport & Planning
 Emergency Management Victoria
 Gardiner Dairy Foundation
 GOTAFE
 Hugh Williamson Foundation
 Journey Apparel
 June Canavan Foundation
 Leadership Victoria
 Mandala Project
 NECMA
 NELLEN (North East Local Learning & Employment Network)
 North East Health Wangaratta
 On Country Pathways
 Precious Plastics
 Quercus Beechworth

Regional Development Victoria
 Rural City of Wangaratta
 Sandra Martin
 Story Up
 Susan Bedyka Consulting
 Tammy Atkins Consulting
 Telstra
 The Big Issue
 Tim McCurdy MP
 Tomorrow Today Foundation
 Victoria Police
 Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
 Victorian State Government
 Wangaratta Turf Club

Structure & Management

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). It has a nine-member Board and four staff.

Chair's Report | Judy Charlton



I provide this Annual Report message on behalf of the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership (AVCL) Board.

In support of our mission of “Growing the leadership capacity and voice of people and communities”, AVCL has once again delivered an impressive range of programs throughout 2022/2023, which you can read further about on page 9 of this report.

Congratulations to our graduates of all these programs. I hope you enjoyed the experience and grew in confidence. Being challenged to move outside of your comfort zone can be uncomfortable, but often upon reflection, we later realise that is when we have been learning the most. Trying something new reminds us we are alive, capable of evolution and growth.

As an organisation, we too, are experiencing a period of growth and change. As one of nine Community Leadership Programs under the Victorian Regional Community Leadership Program (VRCLP) umbrella, for over 20 years the Victorian State Government had provided funding to deliver our Annual Programs. However, from the end of 2023, these Annual Programs will no longer receive any Victorian Government support. In light of this news, we need to resource our own funding for program scholarships to support community leadership development in 2024 and beyond.

Funding from the Victorian State Government has helped support over 500 Alumni to graduate from our Annual Program, through which they have been able to continue leading their communities and encourage new program participants. Stories and outcomes by our Annual Program Alumni have been highlighted in our newly developed AVCL Alumni Impact Report, released this year and available on our website.

To ensure that our region continues to benefit from the delivery of our valuable flagship leadership program, we have crafted a strategy that supports the development of a fit for purpose and financially sustainable program, taking an inclusive approach that draws in the views of our valued stakeholders.

AVCL had been preparing for the possibility of the loss of Victorian State Government funding, developing a philanthropy strategy that included obtaining endorsement as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) as of July 2022. This occurred alongside Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Inc. transitioning to Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd. as of 1 July 2022.


Attainment of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status has enabled us to deliver our first direct fundraising appeal, allowing supporters to make a fully tax-deductible donation via our website, so we can continue to provide scholarships, support and programs to individuals and groups experiencing disadvantage within our community. We thank all who generously donated to this appeal and we will continue to move forward with executing our philanthropy strategy.

On behalf of AVCL, we thank the following:

- The Victorian State Government for their funding support
- Employers who support their employees with time and funding to undertake our programs
- Our philanthropic partners who sponsor a broad range of community members to participate in our Annual Program and support other short programs addressing disadvantage
- Our program alumni who continue to lead their communities and encourage new participants
- Our “in-kind” contributors including presenters, venue providers and professionals who provide advice.

We also thank the AVCL Board Members, who volunteered their time and skills to the organisation, without whom the organisation could not continue. Our small band of AVCL staff continually strive for and achieve outstanding results. Thank you for your commitment and flexibility, often under challenging circumstances. Our patron John Brown has been a steadfast supporter for many years, and we thank him for his continued interest.

We look forward to engaging with our valued stakeholders throughout the remainder of this year to help shape contemporary leadership development offerings for our region, ensuring our Vision of “Vibrant and sustainable communities through local leadership” continues to be realised.



Judy Charlton

Our Objectives and Activities

Objectives

Our charitable objectives are to:

(a) Advance social and public welfare and alleviate social disadvantage through provision of scholarships, support and programs to enable individuals and groups experiencing disadvantage within the community to access educational and developmental opportunities.

(b) Advance education through delivering and/or providing access to targeted educational and developmental programs to disadvantaged individuals and groups, including leadership within community.

(c) Promote mutual respect and tolerance within the community through:

(i) targeted scholarships, support and programs to empower and connect individuals and groups who may be suffering discrimination and social isolation, including those from indigenous, ethnic or LGBTIQI backgrounds or communities; and

(ii) championing mutual respect and tolerance to the public via program design and delivery to the broader community.

Our broader objectives are to enhance the leadership capacity of people and organisations in North East Victoria and Border regions by:

- Delivering the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program as our flagship program
- Offering a range of leadership programs and workshops to meet community needs
- Developing and strengthening regional community leadership networks
- Engaging and linking our Alumni with community networks and partnerships
- Promoting community conversations about issues affecting the region
- Enabling people to make a difference and enhance their contribution to community.

Activities in 2022/2023

Governance

The organisation continues to improve its governance systems. The Board implemented a Board Performance Evaluation policy, and a Director Professional Development program. The following policies were reviewed: Workplace Health and Safety, Working from Home, Fraud and other Losses, the Terms of Reference for the Subcommittees, the Director role descriptions, Complaints Management, Gift Acceptance Policy, Board Recruitment Policy, Cyber Security Strategy, Delegations, Finance Procedures and Related Party Transactions Register.

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Annual Program 2022

The AVCL Annual Program is one of nine state-wide Regional Community Leadership Programs, which aim to develop and facilitate the emergence of local leaders; strengthen existing community leadership capabilities; and develop stronger connections between local leaders and regional development initiatives. The AVCL Annual Program receives major funding from the Victorian State Government, with participants supported through their workplace or through philanthropic scholarships.

The 2022 Annual Program commenced in February 2022, with an informal launch event online, due to COVID-19 related restrictions. Program delivery then kicked off with a two-day Opening Retreat at George Kerferd in Beechworth. Over the following ten months, the 20 participants experienced a series of program days across the region, in addition to two overnight retreats, a virtual government day and a study tour in Melbourne.

Participants formed project teams, with the aim of developing and delivering a project of benefit to the wider community. Project delivery was completed by the close of the program in November 2022, with each project team delivering a presentation at the Graduation event at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, outlining their journey and outcomes.

Supported by mentors heralding from our Annual Program Alumni, each Community Project focused on achieving measurable outcomes that provide benefits to the region, in alignment with the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership Strategic Plan. Project teams undertook project management training, and then worked together to thoughtfully develop project concepts, scopes, timelines, budgets and risk assessments. Upon acceptance of their Community Project by AVCL, each team then undertook the work on their project over the course of the Annual Program, providing regular reporting throughout the process, and concluding with a closure report and presentation at Graduation.

Our 2022 Community Projects were supported through seed funding generously contributed by the Hugh Williamson Foundation and the Kyamba Foundation. Special thanks to our Mentors for contributing their time, advice and resources: Monique Hillenaar, Liz Long, Tammy Atkins, Brigit Schonafinger and Shane Crispin.

“Food System mapping for the North East”

Connect 5: Brendan Grigg, Rachel Hogan, Megan Hunt, Jo Turner, Nick Wright

Overview: Connect 5 undertook a story telling project to highlight some of the outstanding community food projects within the North East & Border region, to be utilised as exemplars of success on the Australian Food System Directory “Sustain” website.

Outcomes: The group coordinated three, high quality case studies featuring local community food projects in Mt Beauty, King Valley and Albury Wodonga. The case studies will be featured on the “Sustain” website, providing individuals and other community food project groups with insight, guidance, inspiration and connection opportunities around different food projects. These films also provide an opportunity for the community organisations featured to create and utilise for their own context, including for marketing and funding purposes.

Connect 5 also contributed to the design and development of a data collection tool which allows mapping of relationships between food system groups and organisations. This work will support Gateway Health and Sustain to better show how our food system connects and supports our region and is being utilised to capture the mapping project alongside Sustain.

“Activating the great alpine trail”

Green Tape: Steve Belli, Kerissa Heritage, Nathan Fenton, Cazz Redding, Maureen Rogers

Overview: Green Tape’s project raises awareness of the limited ability for businesses to provide food, drink and other services that improve the visitor experience on the North East rail and cycle trail network.

Outcomes: Green Tape successfully hosted an event from 9am – 1pm on Tuesday 4 October on the Great Valley Trail in Freeburgh. A coffee cart, Muzza’s Mugs and Jaffles, provided coffee, drinks and food throughout the morning to attendees. All of the community was invited to participate, with 70 visitors through the site on the day, many stopping for a drink and a rest.

As part of the event, Green Tape provided an interactive presentation to key stakeholders including MP Tim McCurdy, Alpine Shire Council Mayor Sarah Nicholas, Alpine Shire Council CEO Will Jeremy, and Tourism North East CEO Bess-Nolan Cook to highlight the barriers to activating the Great Valley Trail, and some options to address the problem which affects rail and cycle trails across the whole of North East Victoria. This allowed stakeholders to view and experience the issue first-hand and discuss pathways to finding a solution and was a very positive and collaborative event.

“SNAP IT!”

Team 360: Kristin Beggs, Kate Clark, Rho Fry, Tanya Howard, Kellie Sutherland

Overview: SNAP IT! is a participatory project taking place across North East Victoria supporting positive health and wellbeing impacts of students grade 3-6 following two adverse events (pandemic and bushfires) in region. The project aimed to connect with small primary schools across the North East, equipping students with a single-use camera, and asking them to respond to the question “What do you love about where you live?”, inspiring belonging, a greater sense of self and pride of place.

Outcomes: Through a consultative process, the team engaged with Mitta Mitta Primary School, Myrree School and Eskdale Primary School to undertake the project. Team 360 developed individual camera kits for the teachers and students, each including the single use camera, some photography guidelines and information as to the purpose of the project. 33 students participated, each responding to the 'what do you love about where you live' written prompt and also further telling that story through their images taken.

Team 360 had the images digitised, and then worked creatively to produce a photobook, representing all students involved. A copy of the photobook was provided to all participating schools providing the opportunity to share the stories with others across the region.

“A Chair To Share”

Team United: Tegan Allen, Maisie Pilli, Elise Hill, Aaron Wallace, Jane Witherow

Overview: Team United aimed to create a Park Bench, also known as ‘A Chair to Share’, to advocate for Mental Health in individuals of all ages across the North East. The objective was to create a space and tool for community members to sit, alone or with a friend, and reflect, speak up and be present. The park bench would be engraved with ‘You’ll Never Walk Alone’ to incorporate the sentiments of a different community project created by local members, and link in the importance of speaking up about mental health struggles.

Outcomes: Team United exceeded their objective and delivered not one, but three park benches located throughout Towong Shire in Corryong, Indigo Shire in Yackandandah and the Rural City of Wangaratta in Murmungee. Team United engaged with the local Yackandandah Men's Shed and local crafts men from Corryong and Beechworth to construct the park benches, and worked alongside the three individual local councils to ensure the placement of the park benches throughout our towns. The park benches have each been engraved, with the quote "You'll Never Walk Alone" which outlines and advocates for the battle against the stigma of mental health and provide the views and users support information through a QR code and brochure. Team United celebrated the project with a small event at the Corryong park bench, located in Corryong CBD, with locals coming together in support of the project outcomes.

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Annual Program 2023

The AVCL Annual Program is one of nine state-wide Regional Community Leadership Programs, which aim to develop and facilitate the emergence of local leaders; strengthen existing community leadership capabilities; and develop stronger connections between local leaders and regional development initiatives. The AVCL Annual Program receives major funding from the Victorian State Government, with participants supported through their workplace or through philanthropic scholarships.

The 2023 Annual Program commenced in February 2023 with a successful launch event, sponsored by CSU, where our 21 participants were introduced to valued sponsors and stakeholders. Program delivery then kicked off with a two-day Opening Retreat at George Kerferd in Beechworth. Over the following ten months, the 21 participants will experience a series of program days across the region, in addition to two overnight retreats, a virtual government day and a study tour in Melbourne.

Participants formed project team, with the aim of developing and delivering a project of benefit to the wider community. In 2023, a new approach was developed to support project teams by aligning them with a volunteer Partner Organisation to provide them with guidance and subject matter expertise. Thank

you to these organisations: CUC Ovens Murray, NESAY, Gateway Health, Border Trust & Sally Hughes. Our Community Projects were again supported through seed funding generously contributed by the Hugh Williamson Foundation and the Kyamba Foundation.

Project delivery is intended to be completed by the close of the program in November 2023, with each project team to deliver a presentation at the Graduation event at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, outlining their journey and outcomes.

2022 & 2023 Disaster Recovery & Climate Change Adaptation Program North East Victoria

The Disaster Recovery & Climate Change Adaptation Program North East Victoria was delivered by Alpine Valleys Community Leadership (AVCL), through funding by National Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery Agency (NEMRRA) as part of the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program. The program aims to develop leadership skills and strengthen capacity to work with rural communities in leading change, particularly as it relates to disaster recovery and climate change adaptation.

In 2022, the program encompassed a cohort of 21 participants, who engaged in a range of sessions that were delivered by subject matter experts and climate change adaptation leaders. The program was a total of 8 days, delivered over a five month duration, from August through to December 2022.

In 2023, 13 participants will undertake the program over 8 days from March through to August, 2023 visiting a range of locations across the region. The program is facilitated by Chris Mirams and Gary Saliba, and focuses on strengthening the cohort's capacity to work within rural communities to lead change, particularly as it relates to disaster recovery and climate change adaptation.

Participants will be immersed in sessions that explore leadership fundamentals, leading through crisis, disaster and recovery, climate change adaptation and much more. Site visits include Beechworth, Wodonga, Dederang, Wangaratta, Corryong and Winton Wetlands.

2022 Upper Murray Disaster Recovery & Climate Change Adaptation Program

Thanks to funding from the Border Trust through the Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund Grant Program, Alpine Valleys Community Leadership (AVCL) partnered with Upper Murray CRC and Upper Murray Inc. to develop a community leadership program specifically for Upper Murray's emerging leaders committed to a vibrant economic future for their region.

The 8-day program was delivered from August to December 2022, and drew in 15 participants, immersing them in a range of experiences including a three day study tour to Tasmania. Participants visited a number of different townships who have reimagined their economic and social future as part of their recovery process.

This community leadership development program enhanced participant skills, enabling them to develop the adaptive capacity of their communities and the region, and contribute to the delivery of the Upper Murray Recovery Plan and 2030 Vision.

LGBTQIA+ Workshop

Driven by a desire to broaden the capacity of our local LGBTQIA+ community, in 2019 Alpine Valleys Community Leadership was successful in securing funding via Pitch Up Wangaratta (sponsored by The Funding Network, in conjunction with the Into Our Hands Foundation) for the purpose of providing an enhanced leadership training program for the LGBTQIA+ community in the Wangaratta region.

An initial program was delivered by AVCL in March 2021, with a focus on leadership fundamentals to support the development of emerging leaders within the LGBTQIA+ community in the Wangaratta region.

In July 2022, AVCL and LINE Wangaratta partnered together in the delivery of a second program, with a focus on building the leadership skills and capacity of members and allies of the LGBTQIA+ community. The program was delivered over two days, with 8 participants immersing in a series of sessions and workshops, facilitated by Suz Christison and Susan Benedyka.

DELWP Climate Adaptation Community Leadership Retreat

The Climate Adaptation Community Leadership Retreat was delivered by AVCL, supported by funding by Climate Ready Hume provided by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The retreat was largely informed by the Hume Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (RAS) to support participants of the Climate Ready Hume mini-grants program to grow their knowledge and awareness of climate change adaptation, regional adaptation priorities, and their capacity to engage and support implementation of the RAS. The two day retreat took place on September 16 and 17, 2022 at The Old Priory in Beechworth, and drew in 16 community leaders who are working on climate change adaptation projects.

Participants undertook 3 leadership skills workshops: emotional intelligence for leaders, building hope in a warming world, building effective diverse teams. Participants met leaders of local examples of social enterprise - Indigo Power and Acres and Acres. They learnt about the climate change modelling for our region, and the challenges and opportunities this presents. The retreat facilitated the building of a peer network of climate change adaptation practitioners across the region who will be able to support each other and new community projects in climate change adaptation.

2023 Goulburn Murray Climate Leaders Forum

The 2023 Goulburn Murray Climate Leaders Forum brought together a series of speakers from the political, legal, health, financial, public and private sectors, to discuss the business of climate change from their unique perspectives.

Delivered across three sessions during March and April 2023, participants were drawn in from executive management and Councillors of GMCA member organisations across the Goulburn Murray Region.

GROW Volunteer Resilience and Capacity Program

The GROW Volunteer Resilience and Capacity Program is made possible by the financial support of Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) and Foundation for Rural & Regional Recovery (FRRR), delivered by Into Our Hands Community Foundation in partnership with Alpine Valleys Community Leadership.

The program will run over two years, and is aimed at volunteer run groups and critical service clubs located in the fire affected LGAs of Rural City of Wangaratta, Alpine, Indigo and Mansfield Shires. Between June - November 2023, the program is supporting volunteer groups within the LGAs of Alpine Shire and Rural City of Wangaratta. In 2024, the program will support volunteer groups within the LGAs of Indigo and Mansfield Shires.

The goal of the program is to provide groups with advice and support that builds resilient, strong, and adaptive organisations who are able to sustain their operations and contribute to community recovery efforts.

The program is available to directly support up to 15 community groups in each LGA, with one on one support, and free workshops focusing on organisational governance and strategic planning, volunteer engagement, grant writing, and project management.

Alpine Community Recovery Leadership Program

The Alpine Community Recovery Leadership Program was an initiative that aimed to build community resilience and recovery capacity, funded by Alpine Shire Council and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) in partnership with HMS Trust and the Sidney Myer Fund.

The focus of the program was to support members of Alpine communities to develop leadership skills, strengthen capacity, and create a network of community organisations that would be equipped to lead community recovery from future disasters within the Alpine Shire.

The program will be delivered from May to December 2023, and has drawn in 13 participants, who will work through the seven sessions with a focus on developing leadership skills, strengthening capacity, and creating a network of organisations that would be equipped to lead community recovery from future disasters within the Alpine Shire.

Fischer Community Leadership Program 2022 & 2023

Now in its second year, the Fischer Community Leadership Program is named in honour of the late Tim Fischer AC and aims to enable and empower leadership within the community from the grassroots up. A pilot program was delivered in Henty and Holbrook from April to September, 2022.

In 2023, the program will be delivered by Alpine Valleys Community Leadership, auspice by the Border Trust and funded by New South Wales Government Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5 in partnership with Federation Council.

This year's program will be delivered in Corowa from May through to September. The cohort of 15 will undertake seven evening sessions and one full day workshop. The sessions were designed to maximise capacity building and have immersed participants in a blend of skills and practical learning experiences, including exposure to local leaders from the community, government, and business sectors. Amaranth Foundation is generously supporting the program through the contribution of a venue for program delivery, and broader support provided to the program.

Looking ahead to 2023-2024

Although our Annual Program will no longer receive any support from the Victorian State Government from the end of 2023, we have developed a strategy to ensure we can resource our own funding for a flagship community leadership program in 2024. This is made possible by our valued supporters, funders, and the broader community, for which we are most appreciative. We will continue to progress with our plan toward the finalisation of our updated program, and look forward to developing a new cohort of local leaders in 2024.

In recent years, AVCL has delivered a raft of programs and workshops that have focused on increasing capacity through the lens of responding to environmental and natural disaster related challenges, such as bushfire recovery and climate change adaptation. To this end, we are delighted to have secured further funding from Upper Murray CRC through major funding provided to them by Emergency Recovery Victoria, to continue delivering a targeted program in the Upper Murray region in 2023, 2024 and 2025. This program enables participants to develop the adaptive capacity of their communities and the region and contribute to both the Upper Murray Recovery and future economic development.

We have also been successful in securing funding through Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Future Drought Fund's Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Community Impact Program. The funding will geographically expand upon our existing work and allow us to deliver a 7-8 session community leadership program in 2024. The program will take a place-based approach, targeting participants in Indigo Valley, Barnawartha, Springhurst, Chiltern and Baddaginnie. The program aims to enhance the skills and practical knowledge of participants, and support them to develop the confidence and adaptive capacity to lead their communities through various stages of the drought lifecycle.

This year, funding through Alpine Shire Council and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Bushfire Recovery Fund, in partnership with HMS Trust and the Sidney Myer Fund, enabled our delivery of the Alpine Community Recovery Leadership Program. This funding will continue into 2024, with another program to be designed and delivered that supports community recovery in bushfire affected LGAs.

The GROW Volunteer Resilience and Capacity Program was this year rolled out in the Local Government Areas of Rural City of Wangaratta and Alpine Shire, and in 2024 it will continue, focusing on supporting volunteer groups in the Mansfield and Indigo Shire Local Government Areas. This program is supported by funding from Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) and Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), and Into Our Hands Foundation.

Funding has also been secured through the Stronger Country Communities Fund in NSW to continue the delivery of the Fischer Community Leadership Program, with several iterations to roll out across Greater Hume and Federation Shires.

We look forward to continuing to realise our vision and provide contemporary and fit for purpose programs that meet the needs of the communities in which we live, work and play.

*The following is a direct extraction of the signed and executed report, prepared by Johnsons MME

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd
(formerly Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Inc.)

ABN 96 655 027 320

Special Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Contents	Page
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income	2
Statement of financial position	3
Statement of changes in equity	4
Statement of cash flows	5
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements	6
Directors' declaration	11
Auditors' Independence Declaration	12
Independent auditor's report	13

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Grant income	2	630,431	534,869
Annual program participant fees		87,086	63,281
Annual program scholarships received		47,214	56,376
Other income		7,418	14,823
Interest income		92	117
		<u>772,241</u>	<u>669,466</u>
Employee expenses		295,533	291,984
Project expenses		268,968	105,211
Annual program expenses		77,608	80,224
Administration and other expenses		64,440	71,351
Rental expenses		12,472	17,808
Finance expenses		153	57
		<u>719,174</u>	<u>566,635</u>
Surplus before income tax expense		<u>53,067</u>	<u>102,831</u>
Income tax expense	1(c)	-	-
		<u>53,067</u>	<u>102,831</u>
Net surplus		<u>53,067</u>	<u>102,831</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
		<u>53,067</u>	<u>102,831</u>
Total comprehensive result for the year		<u>53,067</u>	<u>102,831</u>

The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	965,336	517,782
Trade and other receivables	4	39,567	107,019
Other assets		280	-
Total current assets		1,005,183	624,801
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets		-	278
Total non-current assets		-	278
Total assets		1,005,183	625,079
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	86,739	29,336
Other Liabilities	6	603,242	340,531
Provisions for employee entitlements	7	18,670	16,472
Total current liabilities		708,651	386,339
Non-Current liabilities			
Provisions for employee entitlements	8	11,772	7,047
Total non-current liabilities		11,772	7,047
Total liabilities		720,423	393,386
Net assets		284,760	231,693
EQUITY			
Accumulated surpluses		284,760	231,693
Total Equity		284,760	231,693

The statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd
Statement of changes in equity
 For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2021	128,862	128,862
Net Surplus	<u>102,831</u>	<u>102,831</u>
Balance at 30 June 2022	<u>231,693</u>	<u>231,693</u>
Net Surplus	<u>53,067</u>	<u>53,067</u>
Balance 30 June 2023	<u><u>284,760</u></u>	<u><u>284,760</u></u>

The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers and government funding		1,102,312	525,936
Payments to suppliers and employees		(654,850)	(564,018)
Interest received		92	117
Net cash inflow from operating activities	9	<u>447,554</u>	<u>(37,965)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held		447,554	(37,965)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		<u>517,782</u>	<u>555,747</u>
Cash at the end of the financial year	3	<u>965,336</u>	<u>517,782</u>

The statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

During the financial year the entity was restructured from being an Incorporated Association, Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Inc., to a Company Limited by Guarantee, Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund (the 'Company'). These financial statements have been prepared to reflect the ongoing operations consisting of the two entity structures refer to above.

(a) Basis of accounting

In the Bord of Director's opinion, the Company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the sole purpose of complying with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* to prepare and distribute financial statements to the members and must not be used for any other purpose. The directors have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

Under AIFRS, there are requirements that apply specifically to not-for-profit entities that are not consistent with International Reporting Standards (IFRS) requirements. The entity has analysed its purpose, objectives and operating philosophy and determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective. Consequently, where appropriate the Company has elected to apply options and exemptions within the AIFRS which are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements with the exception of the following:

AASB	7 – Financial Instruments - Disclosures
AASB	9 – Financial Instruments
AASB	15 - Revenue from Contracts with Customers
AASB	16 – Leases
AASB	119 – Employee Benefits
AASB	124 – Related Party Disclosures
AASB	132 – Financial Instruments – Presentation
AASB	139 - Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement
AASB	1058 - Income for Not-for-Profit-Entities

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year. Comparative information has been reclassified where appropriate to enhance comparability.

(b) Income

(i) Grants and other government funding

Program funding received is recognised as expended on the related program activity. Any unexpended program funding received is deferred on the balance sheet as an unexpended grants liability (refer to note 6).

Grant funding received in respect to the annual leadership program is recognised evenly over the calendar year to which the program is run. Given the Company has a 30 June year end and this program is run over a calendar year, any funding received in the first half of the calendar year in excess of 50% of the total grant funding allocation for that calendar year is deferred on the balance sheet as a liability as at 30 June (refer to note 6).

(ii) Annual program participant fees and scholarships

The annual leadership program runs over a calendar year as opposed to the financial year which runs from 1 July to 30 June. Participant fees and any corresponding scholarships received are recognised in full as income on commencement of the program each year in February. Any scholarships received that are yet to be allocated to a participant for the current year's program in progress as at 30 June, are deferred on the balance sheet as a liability (refer to note 6).

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(iii) Other income

Other income, including fees for the provision of short courses and skills workshops, is recognised as income upon provision of the related services.

(iv) Interest

Interest income is recognised on an accrual basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

(c) Income tax

Income tax is not provided for in the financial statements as the Company is recognised as tax exempt under the Income Tax Assessment Act and therefore not subject to tax.

(d) Goods and services tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

(e) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes deposits at call, which are readily convertible to cash on hand and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value, net of any outstanding bank overdrafts.

(f) Trade and other receivables

Accounts receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts. A provision for doubtful debts is raised when some doubt as to collection exists.

(g) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. These amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within normal trading terms.

(h) Provisions for employee entitlements

(i) Employee benefits

A provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. All employee benefits have been measured at the nominal value accrued as a balance date plus on costs where applicable. An employee benefit liability is classified as a current liability if the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months. This includes all annual leave and unconditional long service leave, irrespective of when the liability is expected to be settled.

(ii) Superannuation

The Company contributes in accordance with the Government Superannuation Levy as a minimum, together with an additional contribution for some employees in line with contractual arrangements. Contributions are recognised as an expense as they become payable.

(i) Leases

Lease costs are expensed in the period to which they relate.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**(j) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Company.

(k) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(l) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

A number of Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been issued or amended since the last reporting date and are applicable to the entity but are not yet effective. The directors have assessed the impact of these amendments and they are immaterial to the Company. They have not been adopted in the preparation of the Financial Statements at balance date.

Note 2. Grant income

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Annual program funding	181,388	209,286
Program grants	449,043	325,583
	<u>630,431</u>	<u>534,869</u>

Note 3. Current assets - Cash and cash equivalents

Core account	729,522	360,631
Projects account	234,333	156,616
Debit card	1,481	535
	<u>965,336</u>	<u>517,782</u>

Note 4. Current assets – Trade and other receivables

Trade debtors	39,567	107,019
	<u>39,567</u>	<u>107,019</u>

Note 5. Current liabilities – Trade and other payables

Trade creditors	1,630	575
PAYG payable	4,446	6,188
Accrued expenses	20,000	-
GST payable	60,663	22,573
	<u>86,739</u>	<u>29,336</u>

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 6. Current liabilities – Other Liabilities

	2023	2023
	\$	\$
Deferred annual program funding	51,388	28,500
Unexpended grants	544,581	299,823
Scholarships received yet to be allocated	7,273	12,208
	<u>603,242</u>	<u>340,531</u>

Note 7. Current liabilities – Provisions for employee entitlements

Annual leave	<u>18,670</u>	<u>16,472</u>
	<u>18,670</u>	<u>16,472</u>

Note 8. Non- Current liabilities – Provisions for employee entitlements

Long service leave	<u>11,772</u>	<u>7,047</u>
	<u>11,772</u>	<u>7,074</u>

Note 9. Reconciliation of profit to net cash inflow from operating activities

Surplus for the year	53,067	102,831
Intangible assets written-off	278	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other receivables	67,452	(69,532)
(Increase)/Decrease in other assets	(280)	8,452
Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables	57,403	(6,287)
Increase/(Decrease) in other liabilities	262,711	(73,881)
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions for employee entitlements	6,923	452
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>447,554</u>	<u>(37,965)</u>

Note 10. Commitments

There are no capital, operating or lease commitments that are payable as at 30 June 2023.

Note 11. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

The directors are not aware of any contingent liabilities or contingent assets that may exist as at 30 June 2023 (2022: Nil).

Note 12. Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key Management Personnel (KMP) are defined as people with authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity. The directors have identified KMP as the members of the Board of Directors and the EO.

As the directors are appointed on a voluntary basis there is only one KMP who receives remuneration for their services. As there is only one KMP who is remunerated the Company has applied the exemption provided by the ACNC not to disclose this KMP's remuneration.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 13. Related Party Transactions

The entities related parties consist of key management personnel, close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel, individually or collectively with their close family members.

During the year ended 30 June 2023 the Company received grants and sponsorship to the value of \$60,688 from related party entities. These entities are related parties by virtue of having KMP's who are also KMP's of Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd.

No other related party transactions were identified for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Note 14. Events occurring after the balance date

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions has announced that it will cease the provision of funding for the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership annual program. Whilst the Department will provide further funding in respect to the completion of the 2023 program, no further program funding has been committed to for future years. The directors have committed to running the 2024 annual program using cash reserves as required whilst future ongoing funding is sort.

There are no other significant events occurring after reporting date likely to impact the future affairs of the Company.

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd

Directors' declaration

For the year ended 30 June 2023

As stated in Note 1(a) to the financial statements, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the Company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012*.

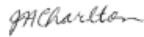
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and mandatory professional reporting requirements to the extent described in Note 1(a).

The directors declare that the financial statements and notes set out on pages 2 to 10:

- a) comply with the Accounting Standards, as detailed above, and the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012*; and
- b) give a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023, and of its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows, for the financial year ended on that date.

In the opinion of the directors, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Judy Charlton, Chair



Katie Warner
Treasurer

Wangaratta, VIC
6 October 2023

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd
**Auditor's Independence Declaration under 60-40 of the
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2011**
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Auditors' Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2011* in relation to the audit; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Ryan Schischka
Director
Johnsons MME

Albury
6 October 2023

Independent auditor's report to the members of Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements, being a special purpose financial statements, of Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Fund Ltd (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the director's declaration.

In our opinion the financial statements of the Company is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Board of Director's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial statements which are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The Board of Director's are also responsible for such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Independent auditor's report to the members (continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.aasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Johnsons MME
Chartered Accountants



Ryan Schischka
Director

Albury
6 October 2023