

Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group
Incorporated
Annual Report and Audited Financial Report
Year Ended 31 December 2020

Annual Report

31 December 2020

Our Purpose

Murray Valley Sanctuary Group (MVSRG) was formed in 2005 to assist refugees on humanitarian visas to settle in Albury/Wodonga. Our core purpose is to sponsor and settle refugees successfully in the Albury and Wodonga communities.

Our Mission

MVSRG's mission is to strongly advocate for and actively support newly arrived refugees, enabling them to achieve independence and integration in their new home and community.

Our Goals

- Facilitate community integration of refugee families in a manner which:
 - provides settlers with confidence and willingness to engage with the wider community, while preserving their own cultural identity
 - builds community engagement and goodwill that provides settlers with a welcoming experience.
- Build and maintain a strong membership base with the skills and commitment to further our support for newly arrived refugees.
- Raise community awareness and understanding of the immediate and longer term needs of newly arrived refugees.
- Facilitate networking within the general community regarding settlement needs
- Work with other community agencies to enhance settlement process.
- Advocate on behalf of refugees at local, state and national levels.

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Our Action Plan

In support of MVSRG's Purpose, Mission and Goals, we will undertake the following actions:

a. Support for Refugees

- Provide administrative assistance with visa applications.
- Provide interest-free loans for airfares and other costs associated with the journey to Australia.
- Organise a team of volunteers to support the family from their arrival at the airport.
- Continue working closely with the newly arrived family, for as long as needed, to support their needs and enhance their capacity to become self-sufficient and self-directed.
- Continue to advocate for people seeking asylum and refugees at community, state and national levels.

b. Community Engagement

- Undertake awareness raising activities to enhance community understanding and support of refugees.
- Engage with the business community as a source of employment and financial support for refugees.
- Engage effectively with social media and the website.

c. MVSRG Resources

- Provide training and team support to new members of MVSRG
- Schedule a range of fundraising events throughout the year.
- Seek out and apply for grants and major donations where possible.
- Assess potential risks to MVSRG's ongoing viability and operations.
- Ensure suitable policies and procedures are in place to mitigate the identified risks.
- Ensure suitable reporting and monitoring processes are in place.

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Presidents Report

Welcome to the sixteenth AGM for Sanctuary. The new decade brought with it many challenges, from bushfires to Covid19 restrictions and five months of border closures impacting on newly arrived settlers and our volunteer members. Despite the many challenges, our members continued to step up in more virtual ways to support Sanctuary sponsored and Government sponsored humanitarian refugee arrivals.

Sanctuary sponsored families: we have been delighted to settle **one family, totalling 9 people** this year. Another family was set to arrive with their immunisations and visas approved and being just before Coronavirus restrictions meant all travel to Australia was cancelled.

Despite the cessation of the Australian humanitarian visa program during this pandemic year, the volume of visa applications received from refugee camps in East Africa that were processed by our visa team continued to grow. Volunteers persevered with this support because of the importance of maintaining hope whilst the world grappled with the Covid19 pandemic.

Government sponsored families: whilst there were no new families arriving this year, members continued to support newer arrivals where other agencies were unable. We thank the cooperative informal arrangements with Red Cross, Uniting Care, Gateway Health and Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau that have enabled the broader community to support the practical and pastoral needs of new arrivals.

Volunteer Training and Membership Secretary: a big thank you to Shirley and Brian for continuing to ensure inductions and paperwork (Working with Children Checks) were processed in a timely manner. Whilst monthly Zoom meetings kept our members connected, there was no formal volunteer training delivered due to ongoing restrictions.

Policies and procedures: continued to be reviewed and new policies created to address new and emerging issues.

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Dual control car: this donated vehicle from ATEL received little use during the past year due to restrictions on volunteering and closures of schools, including Wodonga Senior Secondary College.

New Arrival Training: Thank you to the Rotary Club of Albury Foundation for a grant to deliver training, based on needs identified by our new settler community. Work commenced with partner organisations to plan these. Border closures and travel restrictions meant these were postponed until 2021 rather than deliver virtually.

No Interest Loans: our 62nd loan brought the total to \$212,632 of loans with 71% of current loans less than one year old. These loans are mainly for airfares for refugee families to fly from Africa to Australia. Families have been repaying these off over an average of two years, which then enables us to continue to loan funds out for more airfares.

During the past year, laptop loans enabled High School Students to continue their studies during school closures when learning shifted online. I take this opportunity to thank new settlers for continuing these regular repayments despite the many challenges during this past year.

- **Loans repaid in 2020:** \$27,016
- **New loans in 2020:** \$ 4,326

Donation of goods: remains a way in which people can express their support for refugees and we have an ongoing input of items. Adapting to the post-Covid era, most of these pickups and deliveries were coordinated through our WhatsApp contact list. Surplus donations were sold through the Tender Centre and private sales of higher quality donated bikes, which generated \$1,700 to support the bike and driver programs.

Swimming program: limits on numbers and closure of swimming pools during the pandemic has reduced opportunities for new settlers. Thank you to Albury City Council for an extension of our grant to enable more time for youths to participate as and when places are available.

Bicycles: donated bikes, helmets, bike locks and repair kits were provided to new arrivals. Thank you to the Bike team for delivering bike lessons and bike repair workshops during the last school holidays.

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Grants sub-committee: has secured **4 grants** for swimming lessons, fuel reimbursements for volunteers, new settler forums and volunteer training. These much-appreciated grants take the pressure off our fundraising team.

Driving lessons: 72 learner drivers undertook **287 driving lessons** thanks to financial support from the Department of Home Affairs and other donors over the past 18 months. Thank you to the Driving Committee for their significant coordination efforts in stepping up when this large grant enabled this need to be addressed with external funds. Thanks to the volunteer driving mentors who have been able to support new arrivals with gaining driving experience as and when restrictions have enabled this to happen during the past challenging year.

Fund-raising activities: artworks donated by artists across the region were collected, promotional flyers printed, and Coffield Wines bottles delivered, in the lead up to the inaugural Fake Art Auction that was scheduled for April 2020. This was postponed when Covid19 restrictions were introduced in March 2020.

Student Support Committee: 32 recipients benefited from both financial support and mentoring from the Student Support Committee (24 Cultural fund, 3 Tertiary fund and 5 Richardson Education Assistance Program fund) during 2020. These scholarship funds enabled us to support the health and wellbeing of youths during a very challenging year.

I take this opportunity to thank the Albury Lions Club who have committed to an annual scholarship program from 2021, that will benefit 3 students each year.

Diverse leadership: Sanctuary was kept grounded in the emerging needs of our new arrivals thanks to contributions from Executive Committee members **Deo Masudi**, representing the Congolese Community, **Patrick Sibomana** representing the African youth and **Nyombe Nyambura** representing the broader African community.

Welcoming communities: support was provided to the Corowa-based Who Is My Neighbour group with hosting Melbourne-based refugees for their third long weekend in the country.

Our financial supporters in 2020

Albury City Council

Albury Lions Club

Cofields Wines

Department of Home Affairs

Department of Social Security

Donations from Individuals

Johnsons MME Chartered Accountants

Richardson scholarship legacy

Rotary Club of Albury Foundation

Sisters of Mercy

The Full Cycle

Volunteering Victoria

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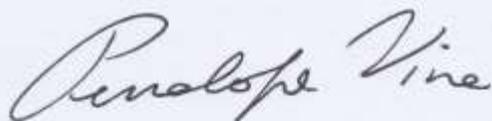
Committee Declaration

As noted in note 1 to the financial statements, in the committee's opinion, Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group Incorporated is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. These are special purpose financial statements prepared to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

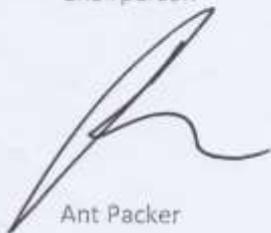
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1. These accounting policies do not comply with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

The committee declares that the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group Incorporated's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1.

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



Penelope Vine
Chairperson



Ant Packer
Treasurer

Albury
3 February 2021

Statement of Income and Expenses

Year ended 31 December 2020

2019		\$	\$	2020	\$
	Income				
5,720	Fundraising (Note 2)	1,997			
-748	Fundraising costs (Note 2)	0	1,997		
29,500	Grants Received (Note 4)		14,500		
7,155	Donations Received	5,370			
-0	Less Donations Made	-0	5,370		
649	Interest		616		
850	Membership subscriptions		410		
<u>43,126</u>	Total Income		<u>22,893</u>		
	Expenses				
5,017	Settlement Costs		2,527		
0	Computers for new settlers		0		
3,641	Forums - education		2,547		
2,020	Support & Cultural Fund		1,467		
6,115	Swimming Lessons		0		
4,096	Bicycles Accessories & Repairs		2,381		
5,499	Tertiary Study Fund		3,007		
0	Pilot Program		0		
4,717	Richardson Education Assistance Program		6,742		
10,328	Driving Support		4,590		
	Sundries				
4,663	Administration (Note 3)	2,888			
80	Bank Fees	47			
1,100	Insurances	1,115			
2,986	Travel & conferences	849			
			<u>4,898</u>		
<u>51,010</u>	Total Expenses			<u>28,160</u>	
<u>(7,136)</u>	Net surplus / (-deficit)			<u>(5,267)</u>	

This Statement of Income and Expenses should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet

31 December 2020

2019		2020
\$	Assets	\$
8,327	Cash at Bank	14,928
50,500	Term Deposits and I-Saver Account	60,551
33,757	Loans outstanding	11,067
5,000	Pilot Program - Deposit refundable	5,000
<hr/> 97,584	Total Assets	<hr/> 91,546
	Less Liabilities	
1320	Driver co-contribution	550
<hr/> 1,320		<hr/> 550
<hr/> 96,264		<hr/> 90,996
	Capital Funds	
103,400	Opening balance	96,264
<u>(7,136)</u>	Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(5,267)</u>
<hr/> 96,264	Total Funds	<hr/> 90,996

This Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

31 December 2020

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies

Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group Incorporated is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Committee there are no users dependent upon general purpose financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the sole purpose of complying with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* to prepare financial statements and submit them to the annual general meeting. The Committee has determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

(a) Basis of Accounting

With the exception of the items referred to in notes 1 (b), 1(c), and Note 1(d) below the special purpose financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis whereby revenue is recognised when it is received, expenses are recognised when they are paid, and no assets or liabilities arising from transactions are recognised. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year.

(b) Loans Outstanding

The Association makes loans to refugees to assist them in establishing their new lives in Australia. These amounts are brought to account as an asset.

(c) Pilot Program – Deposit Refundable

The Association made a deposit to the Federal Government, via the Brotherhood of St Laurence, to secure the Government in respect to medical claims that refugees may make. This amount is brought to account as an asset, and will be expensed to the extent that the Government advises relevant medical claims have been made. In the event that the refugees make no claims on the Government within the prescribed timeframe, this amount is refundable to the Association.

(d) Driver co-contribution liability

A driver co-contribution liability is recognised in respect to contributions received from refugees towards driving lessons which are yet to be provided at year end. If the lessons are not provided these contributions will be refunded.

Notes to the Financial Statements

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Note 2. Fundraising

Fundraising revenues were derived from the following activities:

2019		\$	2020
\$		\$	\$
281	Sales of items donated	297	
-185	Less Costs	0	297
0	Bike sales	1,700	
0	Less Costs	0	1,700
3,000	Art Auction	0	
0	Less Costs	0	0
1,161	Jindera 15 th Anniversary	0	
-431	Less Costs	0	0
1,278	Raffle	0	
-132	Less Costs	0	0
4,972	Total net fundraising		1,997

Note 3. Administration Expenses

Administration expenses comprise the following items:

2019		2020
\$		\$
2,740	Computer repairs and replacements	144
424	Domain hosting and changes	374
130	P O Box Fee	134
0	Vehicle Registration & Insurance	1,956
609	Subscriptions	280
175	Gifts	0
85	Printing & Postage	0
500	Other – fuel reimbursements	0
4,663		2,888

Notes to the Financial Statements

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Note 4. Grants

In accordance with the accounting policy disclosed at Note 1 (a) grants are brought to account as revenue when received. Details of grants received, expended, and the balance of unexpended funds is disclosed below:

2019		2020
\$		\$
	Border Trust & Rotary Foundation - Opening Balance	
475		0
0	Amount received	6,000
(475)	Amount spent	(471)
<u>0</u>		<u>5,529</u>
	Sisters of Mercy Arrival Packs Grant – Opening Balance	
260		0
0	Amount received	4,750
(260)	Amount spent	(4,750)
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
	City of Wodonga and Albury City - Swimming Grants	
0	Opening Balance	0
3,000	Amount received	3,000
(3,000)	Amount paid	0
<u>0</u>		<u>3,000</u>
	Dept of Home Affairs - Fostering Integration Grant	
	Opening Balance	4,238
22,500	Amount received	0
(18,262)	Amount paid	(4,238)
<u>4,238</u>		<u>0</u>
	Dept of Social Security & Volunteering Vic – Volunteering Grant	
0	Opening Balance	839
4,000	Amount received	5,500
(3,161)	Amount paid	(839)
<u>839</u>		<u>5,500</u>
<u>5,077</u>	Unexpended Grants	<u>14,079</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

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Note 5. Non-current Assets Not Brought to Account

In 2019, the Association received a generous donation of a 2018 model Holden Astra motor car valued at approximately \$18,000. The Association holds this asset which it uses to provide driving lessons to its clients. In accordance with the accounting policy disclosed at Note 1 (a), this donation and the associated asset has not been recognised in the financial report.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group Inc.

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of income and expenses for the year ended 31 December 2020, the balance sheet as of that date, a summary of accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, except for the effect of the matter referred to in the *Basis of Qualified Opinion* paragraph, if any, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 31 December 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As is common with entities of this type, control over the receipt of revenue is not established until it is received. Accordingly, our audit of revenue has been limited to amounts recorded as received in the Association's records.

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 Association in accordance with the auditor independence 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 report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

The Committee of Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Committee of Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report, which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

The Committee of Management is also responsible for such internal control as the Committee of Management determines necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Independent auditor's report to the members (continued)

In preparing the financial report, the Committee of Management is responsible for assessing the Association'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 Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee of management are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

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.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Johnsons MME
Chartered Accountants



Ryan Schischka
Director

Albury
3 February 2021