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A Message from The Chair

As Autism Camp Australia approaches its third anniversary it matures from a founding charity built on a resilient and proven program logic to a flourishing organisation with a clear vision for growth that contributes to an Autistic affirming future for Autistic young people.

The organisation has matured notably in this past year in all areas but none more significant or impactful than in the focus on the wellbeing and development of our Autism Camp team. The Board and Executive planned for essential training, professional development and performance recognition initiatives and made a difficult decision to reduce the number of Autumn camps in consideration of our team's wellbeing after an eleven camp Summer season successfully managing the implications of peak Covid numbers in all States.

This year we rolled out a range of initiatives to build on the already strong skills, knowledge and experience of our team. This included a series of internal and external Autistic-led training programs, Autistic-led executive coaching and a client feedback centred performance appraisal system. Autism Camp Australia is committed to continuing to improve upon its approach to our team's holistic care and professional development while embedding a culture which values lived experience at the core of everything that we do.

The team have also worked to refine our theory of change keeping Autistic young people and their families at the heart of our purpose. The organisation's charitable purpose will soon be further refined at the Board's first in-person strategic planning day. This will be a timely opportunity for the Board to experience Camp first-hand and to workshop the Charity's vision, mission and constitutional objects so that they are truly reflective of the Camp outcomes and impacts that are being experienced by Camp participants. This will ensure the organisation's charitable purpose and strategic framework is steeped in an evidence-based approach and aligns with the continual improvements made to our Camp program.

The alignment of our mission and charitable purpose with our theory of change, camp program logic and strategic objectives enables a solid foundation for the organisation which focuses and guides everything we do - this foundation being substantially informed by the voices of Autistic young people and their families.

As in the founding years Autism Camp Australia has continued to exchange ideas and consult with the talented and brilliant minds of our Autistic friends and colleagues and the broader Autistic Community. We have collaborated in meaningful ways. This was so wonderfully demonstrated at the flood recovery event we presented in Lismore in April in collaboration with Social Futures, Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect), Rural Lifestyle Options Australia, Southern Cross University and Lismore Quadrangle.

Ultimately Autism Camp Australia would not be the successful organisation it is today without our partners, allies and supporters. This year we have been supported by the Department of Social Security, Bank of Melbourne Foundation, Northern Rivers Flood Relief Fund, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, Commonwealth Bank, James Frizelle Charitable Foundation, APCO Foundation, Young Henry's, Keeley's Cause and Safe on Social. We received in-kind donations for our flood recovery event from Palace Cinemas, Ballina Tenpin Bowl, Bricktastics, Circus Arts Byron Bay, Fergus and Delilah, Sensory Superheroes, Jessica Kingsley Publishing and Unique by Ella, in-kind donations for the set-up of our new Victoria location from Bunnings, Kmart and Big W, and personal donations from over 70 individual donors.

We intend to continue to build upon the alliances we have established with other charities, government partners, peak bodies, corporates and providers who share our values and our vision.

Shelly Rowell
Chairperson



A Message from The CEO

Flash back to 3 years ago and Autism Camp Australia was just a twinkle of an idea in my as-yet-to-be-diagnosed AuDHD brain. Fast forward through bushfire evacuations, a global pandemic and devastating floods and despite all these challenges our charity is now employing over 120 people in three States and improving the health and wellbeing of hundreds of Autistic young people and their families. Never in my wildest dreams, could I have imagined how far reaching and effective our programs would be. I couldn't be prouder of all that my team have achieved.

It can be a really tough gig for neurodivergent young people. Navigating a world filled with neuro-normative expectations wears thin, and the anxiety load is high. The relief, when families come to camp, and realise they are entering a world which is designed to help them thrive and grow, is palpable. That relief turns to joy, there is an opening that happens when someone feels safe, and in this space there is an opportunity to connect, encourage, build confidence, and ultimately thrive. Radical acceptance is our mantra. You can feel the release that happens when families engage, embrace and celebrate their own existence for the very first time. At camp, Autistic young people are able to connect with their neurokin and are free to un-mask and just 'be', without shame, fear or stigma. At camp, Autistic young people are encouraged to march to the beat of their own drum, and in this safe space magic happens.

This is Autistic community. And it is the reason we are seeing such amazing results. Creating Autistic community is at the heart of all that we do. At ACA, we understand how it feels to be different, and we celebrate those differences as the unique strengths they are. For young people attending camp, it's often the first step towards mainstream social and community participation. Our camps are a critical stepping-stone to get them there.

Autism Camp Australia's unique, evidence-based approach is implemented by a diverse, outcomes-focused team and our neurodiversity manifesto sets a gold standard for inclusion in the workplace, with Autistic and neuro-divergent people leading the way at every level of our organisation. Our commitment to embracing neurodivergence is in everything that we do. We are Autistic led. We pride ourselves on having significant neurodivergent representation at every level of the organisation, are informed by lived experience and engage in positive lived-experience role modelling. We listen, engage and uplift Autistic voices, constantly evaluating and improving to be the best we can be for all Autistic and neurodivergent people. We are passionate about driving life changing outcomes for Autistic people around mental health and wellbeing, employability, economic participation, education, and ultimately life expectancy.

None of this would be possible without the unfailing support of our Chair, Shelly Rowell, ACA's Board of Directors, and the generous support of our funders, collaborators and supporters.

The groundswell around neurodiversity is strong, and it's an exciting time to be contributing to social change for our au-some little Auties. We have developed the most comprehensive camp program in Australia, for families of Autistic young people, our cradle-to-grave approach to program development means there are many exciting plans in the pipeline and we are pumped to be starting our fourth year in such a strong position. Watch this space!

Rachel

Rachel Rowe
Chief Executive Officer, Autism Camp Australia



Navigating The Covid 19 Pandemic

Covid was omnipresent in every State during 2021/2022 but well managed at all our locations.

Of the seven cancelled camps:

- Two were affected by early notice State government regulated lockdowns.
- Two were affected by late notice State government regulated lockdowns.
- The April QLD camp and March NSW camps were cancelled in consideration of the health and wellbeing of ACA's team which had been impacted by the extreme nature of Covid related management during our peak Dec 2021/Jan 2022 season, and
- The January VIC camp was cancelled by our accommodation provider due to Covid related staffing shortages.

Where early notice was provided by State government all of ACA's contracted carers and providers were given extended notice that their contracts were being withdrawn until such time as government restrictions were lifted. Where early notice was provided by ACA on withdrawn camps, employees were paid in full and reassigned to alternative duties and no other contracts were issued for those camps.

Where late notice (eg a snap 3-day lockdown) was provided by State government or the accommodation provider, all of ACA's contracted carers and providers were given notice that their contracts were being withdrawn until such time as government restrictions were lifted, however employees were paid in full and reassigned to alternative duties. Contractors who had been contracted for the duration of the camp (carers, and camp management teams) were paid in full for any hours worked in the lead up to the camp and paid 50% of contracted fee for any hours that were not worked due to the late notice.

In line with the constantly changing Covid environment, Covid Safety Plans and State mandated vaccinations/booster vaccinations, PCR and Rapid Antigen Testing requirements were reviewed and updated before each quarterly round of camps for families.

"The highlight of the year for me was that the organisation managed to overcome the seemingly endless challenges thrown at it, and still managed to grow, host successful camps and fulfill its core purpose. If ACA can still surge ahead during a difficult year, I expect that it will be unstoppable in a year with no interruptions."

Andrew, Board Member

Risk associated with contracting Covid, lockdowns, border closures, late cancellation and Covid-related employee burn-out were mitigated by five key measures

1. In July 2021, a standby system was introduced, to mitigate financial risk, where possible, for families who were affected by factors relating to Covid, within their contracted Camp Agreement cancellation period.
2. In October 2021, In-State camp bookings only were introduced to mitigate financial risks for families, and for the charity, associated with border closures. This requirement was lifted in January 2022.
3. In October 2021, the Board determined that all family members (adults and children over 18) attending ACA camps in all three States (NSW, VIC and QLD) would be required to be fully vaccinated to attend camp, until further notice, unless they had a State Government defined medical exemption. This decision was made after significant community consultation and was in line with government mandates in VIC and NSW (and subsequently in QLD), with the ultimate goal to reduce the very real risk to those amongst our community who are considered vulnerable people. All ACA carers, providers, employees and volunteers were also required to be double vaccinated. This requirement was lifted in July 2022 (State Health Orders remained).
4. Various and constantly changing Federal government and State government health order and border restrictions, and the flow on effect to family postponements significantly impacted on operational workload for the Enrolments Managers and State Managers for each State and for the CEO throughout 2021/2022.
5. In January 2022, a Covid Management Allowance commensurate with additional effort hours at their hourly rate worked on Covid-related workarounds was introduced for any management team members who had been significantly impacted by increased work hours relating to Covid and was backdated to October 2021.



How camp impacts families

Outcomes and Evaluation

We have developed the most comprehensive camp program in Australia, for families of Autistic young people. Our programs are tried-and-tested, and the results speak for themselves. Our existing evaluation data from the last 2.5 years shows families:

- improved skills/knowledge (96%)
- increased motivation and confidence (93%)
- had a boost to self-esteem, mental and physical health and resilience (91%)
- reduced social isolation and enhanced social networks (86%)
- achieved improved capacity and resilience in emotional and behavioural functioning (88%)

These are the outcomes we are seeing in the short and medium term, and expect to see in the long term for families attending our camp programs.

Short Term Outcomes

- Participants experience a 'safe' environment alongside other Autistic families and supported by specialised team members. They share stories and experiences with people who have lived experience of Autism or are living within an Autistic family.
- Participants feel a sense of relief from social isolation and form new valuable and reliable social connections with people from their Autistic community.
- Participants are able to 'just be' while at camp. The neuro-normative expectations of day-to-day mainstream life are put to one side, and they are encouraged to celebrate their Autistic identity and Autistic culture. Participants engage with positive role models and experience inclusion, acceptance and autonomy.
- Participants are engaged in therapies, education, skills development and peer-to-peer support as part of the program. They benefit from increased knowledge, understanding and training.
- Participants in the programs build capacity in confidence, self-reliance, independence and self-advocacy skills.

"Over the last year the organisation has continued to thrive, alongside the Autistic young people and their families who attend our camps. The positive testimonies and statistically supported evidence about the short-term and long-term benefits for ACA participants continuously amazes me. As ACA continues to grow and expand over the next 12 months, I look forward to extending our camps to even more Autistic young people and their families."

Ursula, Board Member

Medium Term Outcomes

- Participants form long and lasting friendships. They meet with, and talk with new friends, and reach out to other members in their Autistic community. They have increased social supports. They foster a strong sense of belonging and increase their social cohesion, connection and functioning within their 'safe' Autistic community.
- This new sense of inclusion, acceptance and autonomy is empowering for participants. Their new approach is transformative, reducing anxiety and building self-worth. Participants experience an improvement in their mental health.
- Autistic young people are able to participate more at school. Their new found confidence helps them navigate the often confusing idiosyncrasies of neurotypical behaviour and social situations become easier.
- Siblings have a greater ability to maintain informal support of the Autistic young person, to advocate for, and support them to participate and contribute to community and enjoy an enduring and mutually sustaining relationship.
- Parents experience an increase in confidence and this enables them to explore new opportunities like volunteering, work placements, training and apprenticeships, as well as practical assistance and supports.

Long Term Outcomes

- With their new Autistic family and friends, participants feel supported to try new things. They have much higher engagement and participation rates in mainstream social and community activities. This results in a much stronger sense of connectedness in their broader community, and in turn, gives them the confidence and connections to access support networks, community services and other new opportunities of social, civic and economic participation.
- Participants experience a sustained increase in self-worth and wellbeing and improvements in mental and physical wellbeing. They regularly engage in self-care and are better able to care for and support themselves and their family members.
- Participants experience a cumulative increase in confidence, community connection, skills, knowledge, training and independence improving readiness for economic participation, employment and education. Reduced levels of welfare dependency in the long-term.

Ultimately, all of these factors will impact on life expectancy of Autistics, which best-case scenario, based on three international studies, is currently 53 years of age.



New South Wales Camps



As we launched into a new year, the cohesiveness and connection between camp team members at our NSW camp was extraordinary. The team had definitely found their groove with multiple successful camps under their belt, supported by a growing HQ management team.

Sadly, a second Covid surge in mid-July through until September, meant our two September camps had to be postponed, and this was compounded by short notice changes to cabin capacity requirements by our accommodation partner at Lake Ainsworth, thus restricting our ability to offer camps for families larger than 4 people at this location. With a clearly defined national model in place, and inclusion at our core, we felt our only option was to find a new accommodation partner.



With a lot of hustling and on-the-ground legwork, in August 2021 we were able to find a new accommodation partner where we could once again host families of up to 6 people. Our new camp venue, Midginbil Eco Resort near the historic village of Uki, was vastly different to our existing NSW camp location beachside in Lennox Head, but one that in many ways offered a more authentic regional experience. Set in the glorious Tweed/Byron hinterland, the location offered a throwback to old Northern Rivers values, with a heritage homestead, ensuite family rooms and shared communal areas, a pool and tennis court and access to glorious bush and rainforest walks. It is a place to reset, detox from devices and connect with the other families at camp.

"I love camp because everyone understands me."

Donna Edsall, parent



Set in the foothills of the mighty Wollumbin volcano and the Koonyum Ranges, Midginbil gives families a nature-based camp experience. There is a large barn area where our camp programs, Rock 'n' Roll (proprioceptive and sensory) space and ACA HQ are based, expansive outdoors areas, a free-flowing creek, farm animals and plenty of opportunities for the young people to experience connection to Country. In this new space, camp team members expressed feeling extremely calm and grounded, immersed in the ever-present healing energy of the majestic Wollumbin and surrounds. It seemed we had found our true ACA camp home. A tweak to the carer management team structure saw the introduction of two Co-Lead Carers, alleviating the pressure on just one Lead Carer. Bonnie remained in her current role and Kimberly was appointed as the second Lead Carer. Our facilitators and providers also enjoyed the new location, adapting workshops to compliment the natural surroundings and making good use of the variety of spaces and locations to run workshops from.



"ACA is a wonderful experience for the whole family. From the moment you make an inquiry, through the enrolment process, and then at camp. ACA staff and carers are AMAZING! You are supported by people that understand and genuinely want to help you. At camp there is no judgement, only support! It's great to meet other families that also understand what you are going through."

Jenni Palmer, parent

Our first Tweed/Byron hinterland camp opened in December 2021.

This year has seen changes to our Sibworks program with the half day workshop being extended to a full day. Sadly we said goodbye to our wonderful Sibling Lead Sunny but we welcomed a new Sibling Lead Emma Kane. Emma brings a wealth of experience to the role. We also said goodbye to Renee and welcomed a new Sibworks facilitator, Gretchen Hambly. Gretchen is a creative and warm facilitator who takes great pride in delivering the one day peer-to-peer support program. New region-specific activities around mud brick building and the rainforest were also added to the program. Our in-house musical crew Luke, Jake and Amanda worked their magic with the young people, and Lisa introduced a whole new waterplay kit which was a huge success.

In response to requests from families, we introduced catering to this camp location supporting families to have a break from cooking. Our inclusive buffet style menu was developed by our in-house consultant chef (the CEOs hubbie!) in conjunction with our Victorian camp team, which is also fully catered.

The past year saw some movement in our management team, with Jodie Rees coming on as NSW State Manager. Jodie's appointment was timely for the move to our new accommodation partner, requiring her attention to detail to ensure a smooth transition. Jodie plays an incredibly hands-on role within the NSW camp team and is often present at camp to meet and connect with families, lend a hand to the camp team and organise some of the parent workshops. We wished Klio good luck in her new Teachers Aide role and welcomed camp mum Lisa Gilbank as NSW Enrolments Manager. Both Jodie and Lisa have been instrumental in the continued growth and success of our NSW camp, which still has Camp Leader Helene at its helm.



"I love my role as State Manager NSW. Not only do I support an amazing team, but I also get to see the beautiful camp magic in action. The love, support, professionalism, and friendliness of the whole team is such an inspiration. To see the smiles on the kids' faces and hear firsthand from the parents how much the whole family has gained from their camp experience makes all the behind the scenes work so worth it!! I am blessed to be part of the ACA family."

Jodie, NSW State Manager





Queensland Camps

The 2021-22 period saw significant growth for our Sunshine Coast camp team as we expanded from 9 to 12 families per camp and welcomed many new faces to the team. Our lovely State Manager Kerron waved goodbye for New Zealand, and after a transition period, supported by NSW State Manager Jodie, we welcomed Neil McBride to ably lead the growing team, bringing a wealth of understanding in project management and neurodivergence.

The beautiful Sunshine Coast location provides families with a calm coastal experience, the easy walking distance to a natural lake and unspoilt stretch of beautiful surf beach make these popular spots during on and off-program time, with a fabulous 'Pooh sticks' bridge and shady coastal bush boardwalk to the lake. Some families were even lucky enough to spot whales off the beach during whale season, a first for some of our happy campers! A smorgasbord of cafes in the nearby beachside suburbs make for great daytime treats for parents in their off time from this self-catered camp. We introduced an in-State booking policy at the start of the year, to negate issues created by Queensland's frequent border closures during the peaks of the pandemic, so the majority of camp families during this year were from Queensland. In the last part of the year we welcomed families from as far away as South Australia and Western Australia, joining us for our sub-tropical weather and clear blue skies.

The team also made use of the beach with the introduction of body boarding and sand sculpting to the camp program during warmer months. Other new additions to the camp program include archery, which has proven to be a big highlight for many of the children. The teams' kite-making skills have been taken up a notch, and beautiful conditions have seen kites soaring high above the camp sky... so high they have been seen by skydivers on descent in their parachutes! Our in-house circus diva Nichole has sent many families home with new plate spinning skills, and our musical carers Samson, Amanda and Gaston have worked their magic with young campers. Our Siblings program continues to provide much needed support and plenty of fun and is enjoyed by all, with Emma more than filling the big shoes of Sibling Lead left behind by Laura as she moved into a Co-Lead Carer role.

We've had an incredibly active volunteer training program in Queensland with volunteers from Bond University (Masters Occupational Therapy) and Daisy Learning (Cert IV Disability) joining us for placement hours to immerse themselves in our professional development training and hands-on support with Autistic young people. Many of our volunteer program graduates have gone on to become carers on team.

"There are so many highlights at every camp! I actually have withdrawals from the camp bubble for a good week after camp finishes. I love seeing the carers do what they do best. They don't call them carers for nothing, they're some of the most caring people I've ever met. And I love seeing the families find a community of support among other families and leave with a newfound sense of optimism."

Bridget, QLD Camp Leader



The team acted on feedback from parents to include an informal afternoon tea for the mums when the Camp Dads workshop is running, which has proved to be a fantastic way for mums to connect early on at camp. Everybody loves cake! Family feedback has been extremely positive and we've seen many families returning for a second and third Sunny Coast camp, reaffirming the brilliant work that our camp team are doing.

James was a ray of sunshine as Camp Leader, and towards the end of the year our little pocket-rocket Bridget, who was formerly part of the carer team, was appointed as new Camp Leader when James moved on to pursue his sports event management career. Having a familiar face take on this significant role made for an easy transition. Laura stepped into the role of Co-Lead Carer, working alongside Bec. And Rach P moved up from Victoria to support families in their enrolment process. Despite all this movement the team have bonded and solidified as a united and strong group, working towards the shared goal of providing support for our families and young people at camp.



"This was our very first camp and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. The staff were all so friendly and professional and understanding. The schedule was great with something for all family members. Lovely to meet other families in an understanding and non-judgemental environment. Thank you to each and every staff member for making our first Autism Camp Australia experience one that we will always remember and value."

Nicole Jordanov, parent





Prima
Prima Sapkota

Victoria Camps

2021-2022 was the year we launched in Victoria, and we couldn't have been more popular if we'd tried! Our Victorian families had been asking for a camp of their own for quite some time. There was a long list of families longing to come to camp, so as soon as we opened our bookings the camps sold out!

After one false start, due to our familiar friend, Covid, ACA Victoria was successfully launched in December 2021. With 12 families eagerly coming along to camp, this new location threw some new challenges our way. Being the largest of our three camps meant that we had a big job in recruiting the required number of carers we needed. But our commitment to only the best carers, with professional disability, education, youth or social work qualifications and/or at least 2 years specialised experience working with Autistic young people, and each carer still interviewed by our CEO Rachel, meant the quality of supports on offer at this camp were our usual ten out of ten.

Our first Victorian camp was a massive success with families having an incredible time and the consensus was that it had been well worth the wait for families who'd be longing for this much needed service. After the world's longest lockdown, reduced access to services and the rippled effects created by the pandemic, camp was a welcome relief for our Victorian families.

There was so much excitement within the newly formed Vic camp team, led by State Manager Sandy, Camp Leader Bronte and Co-Lead Carers, Nicky B, Leonie and Jessie. The Victoria team has remained largely the same since its inception. The team is strong, proactive, a lot of fun – ask any team member about their dog picture shares after every camp on our ACA Slack feed – and dedicated to the pursuit of providing exceptional camp experiences for the Autistic young people and their families.

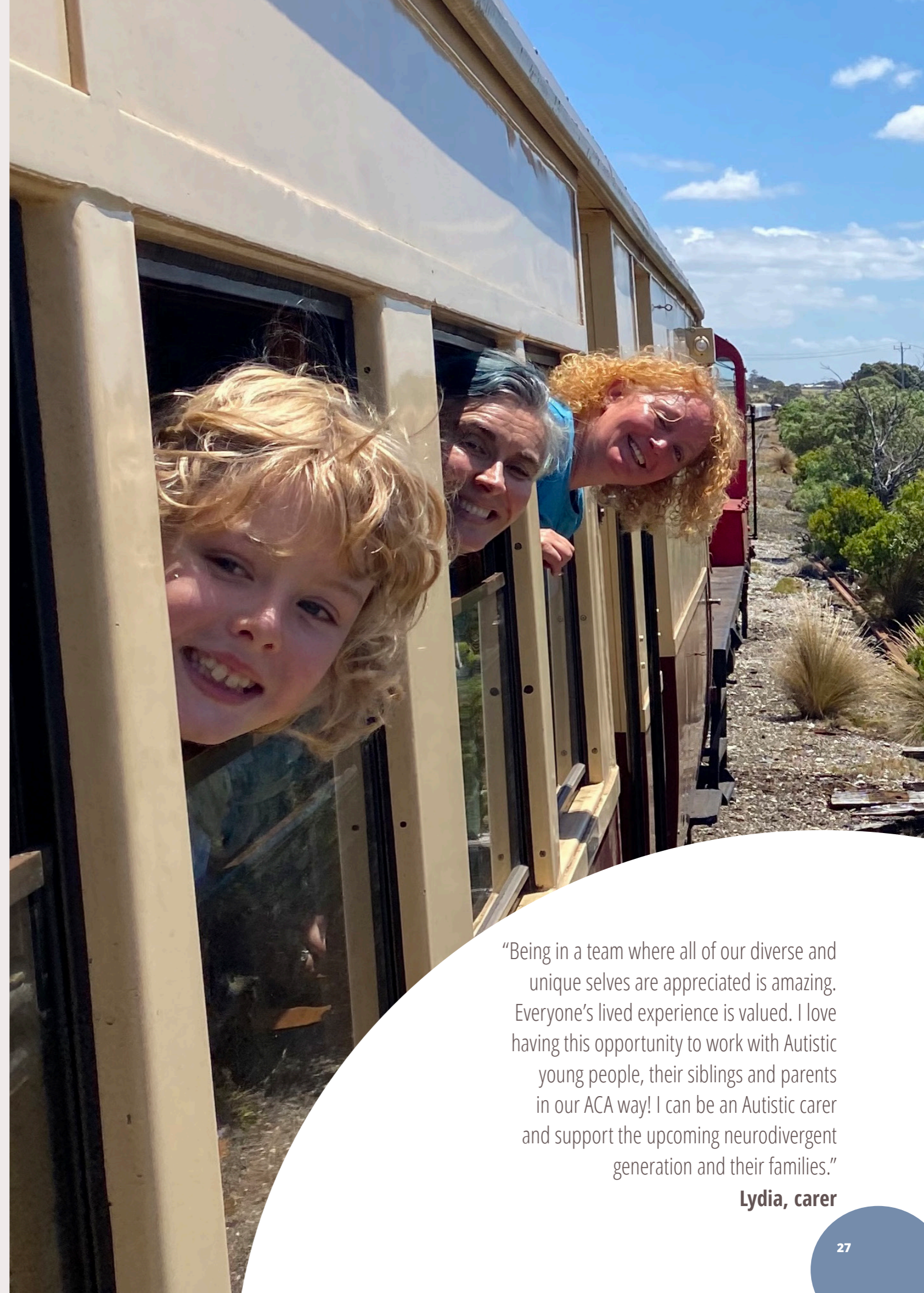
Enrolments is one of our most crucial roles, with information on each young person captured during the enrolment process supporting successful carer matches, realisation of camp goals and significantly working on outcomes which builds capacity for our little Auties. Millie very capably stepped into Marcia's shoes as our new Sibling Lead, and Marcia moved into a carer role. Camp mum Rach P kicked off enrolments in Victoria in style, before heading north to manage enrolments for our QLD team. Another of our camp mums, Alisha, stepped into fill her shoes and has become a firm favourite with Victorian families. Recruiting camp mums into the enrolment positions in each State has proven to be a sound strategic decision.

This camp would also be a fully catered camp, a first for ACA, so we needed to devise an inclusive camp menu catering to dietaries and restricted eaters while still providing quality gourmet meals featuring local produce wherever possible for our families. A fantastic add-on benefit from our inclusive style of catering has been the number of young people who have expanded their food choices, a taste and test buffet style enabling and encouraging young people to try new foods that they may not have tried before. One parent commented that the dining room and buffet at camp was the closest she'd ever gotten to eating in a restaurant with her son! So, although not an intentional strategic decision to build capacity in dining experiences our fantastic style of catering appears to be organically supporting growth for restricted eaters too.

The layout at this camp location lends itself particularly well to off program family time with a volleyball net, basketball hoop and the famous Gaga pit all firm favourites after hours. With the beach on one side and the calm waters of the bay on the other the camp is ideally situated for lots of water based and beach activities.

Our Victorian program was the first to integrate local attractions – how could we not, with the historic Bellarine Railway on our doorstep, and the brilliant Marine Discovery Centre over the road. These locality specific attractions added to an already full camp program filled with lots of adventures.

It's safe to say that Autism Camp Victoria has been a big hit.



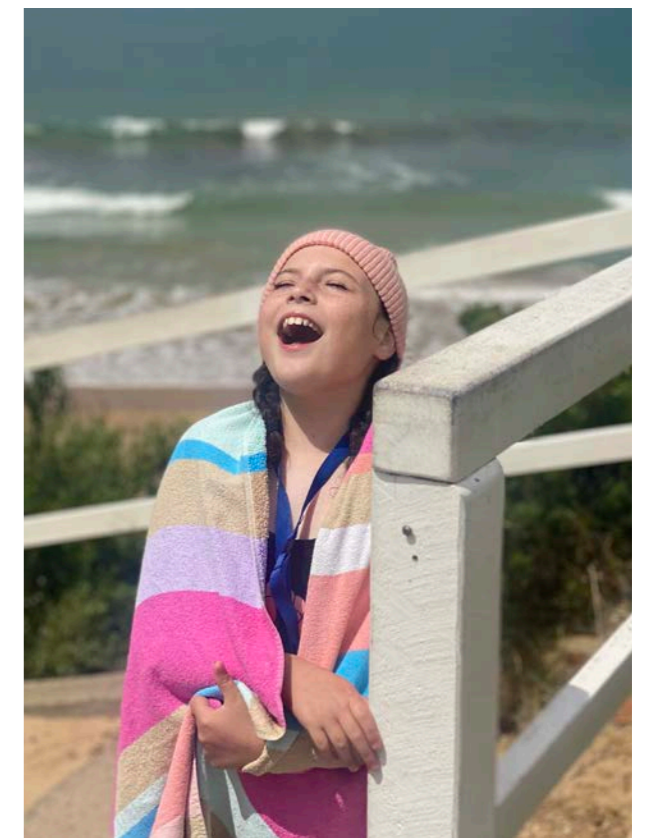
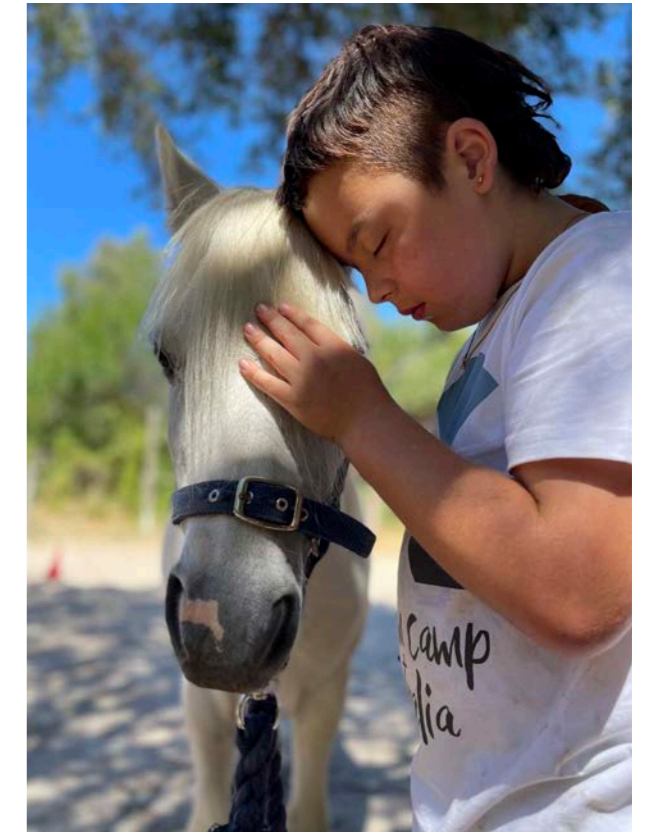
“Being in a team where all of our diverse and unique selves are appreciated is amazing. Everyone’s lived experience is valued. I love having this opportunity to work with Autistic young people, their siblings and parents in our ACA way! I can be an Autistic carer and support the upcoming neurodivergent generation and their families.”

Lydia, carer



“Thank you – this is a fantastic offering for the Autistic community. It was great to come and relax and not be judged as a bad parent because your child is different. To have an actually Autistic carer to support our family was a truly unique and life changing experience. Her insights and understanding are invaluable and much needed by the community.”

Kellie Fitzgerald, parent



“The last 12 months have highlighted to me the unwavering commitment at every level of ACA to Autistic young people and their families. The whole team have bent, flexed, run and even flown to make sure camps went ahead- incredible.”

Cherie, Board Member



The Helping Hand Program

To celebrate our 2-year anniversary, Autism Camp Australia and The James Frizelle Foundation joined together to sponsor Autistic young people from Northern Rivers NSW and South East Queensland who were either ineligible for, or only received minimal funding from the NDIS, and their families, to attend a camp.

ACA's Helping Hand Program is a fully funded sponsor program for financially disadvantaged families of Autistic young people. The program enables families who would otherwise be unable, to participate in camps.

"It's important to me that our camps are accessible to all Autistic young people, so by the end of year two we wanted to be giving families who were unable to self-fund their attendance at camp an opportunity to come too."
Rachel Rowe, CEO

With a grant of \$30,000 from **The James Frizelle Foundation** we were able to pilot the ACA Helping Hand program in the Northern Rivers region of NSW, with fully funded attendance at camp for Autistic young people aged 7-14, and their families. Five families attended our Tweed/ Byron Hinterland camp during the period December 2021 to July 2022.

As part of our Helping Hand program we partner with **Keeley's Cause**. The charity was established by Keeley when she was just 13 years old with the help of her mum Sharon. Keeley's own experience struggling to access a device so she could study from home inspired her to make a change and together Keeley and Sharon raise funds for Autistic young people who don't have access to the technology needed to support them in their learning and interacting with their peers. Keeley's Cause provide any Autistic young people, taking part in the Helping Hand program who do not own an iPad which is less than 4 years old, with a new iPad.

With the generosity of the **Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation**, through their grants for projects which improve the health and social wellbeing for those most in need, and initiatives supporting disadvantaged and at-risk young people, we have been able to open up this opportunity to families in the whole of NSW from July 2022 for the next two years, with a grant of \$87,000 match funded by Autism Camp Australia.



Watch Emma's video
youtube.com/watch?v=y2LG1RUhyL8

"The Helping Hand program funded us to be able to come to camp. I brought my two daughters Bella and Chloe. Bella is eight and she's Autistic and then my 13 year old Chloe is her sibling. I actually thought Bella would be a bit hesitant because she is a real little homebody. At home you would think she hated being outside. But coming here she has really enjoyed building boats and floating them down the river and getting dirty. For me it's been good because I don't have to worry when she's having a moment or if she's not coping, I can just relax and have a cup of coffee while listening to the birds and know that who your child's with is well educated and capable of providing everything your child needs which is comforting as a parent. Bella's carer has been amazing. If it wasn't for the Helping Hand program we wouldn't have been able to make this week happen. I found the camp to be a fantastic support to all of the family. The caring nature of the team, the programs provided, and the opportunities for the parents to either have free time or attend programs was to be commended. I would thoroughly recommend this camp to any family! A big thank you to Autism Camp Australia and the James Frizelle Charitable Foundation for making this possible for me and my family. We are very grateful for this opportunity."
Emma Newman, parent

"I came across the ACA website, our NDIS package wouldn't cover attendance at camp and there's no way we could have afforded something like this. Then I found the Helping Hand information and applied and we were lucky enough to be offered a spot. It's really hard to put into words how much this means to us to be honest. It's hard for people in the outside world to get it, so to be here, where we can all be ourselves with like-minded people in the same position where there is no judgment is awesome. It gives our daughter the opportunities that we would really struggle to give her.

We can really see day-to-day how much she's come out of her shell. She's feeling more comfortable than even yesterday and making friends. She mentioned that she was feeling very confident. We can definitely see benefits from the program and we look forward to trying to adapt some of the suggestions into our own lives. It's been quite an eye-opener to come into a safe space. And now, a new iPad from Keeley's Cause. Thank you so much."

Kristy and Michael Tsemsetzis, parents



Watch Kristy & Michael's video
youtube.com/watch?v=xOySm6sjTR0

Autistic Community Outreach

On Saturday, 30 April 2022, Autism Camp Australia, with partners from the Northern NSW region, where our HQ is based, held a natural disaster recovery event focused on supporting Northern Rivers based Autistic families, whose lives had been devastated by extensive flooding, landslides, loss of homes, schools and lives during the unprecedented flood event at the end of February. The event was timed to coincide with the end of Autism Acceptance Month.

This free event was an opportunity for our Autistic community to gather, connect and celebrate, and for flood-affected Autistic families to access essential Autism-specific information, support and referral/counselling connections from our partners in the region.

At the all day event we put together a jam packed program of music, games, arts and craft, sensory story-telling, a group recovery art installation, a proprioceptive/sensory space and care packages for all Autistic young people attending. We also launched our newly expanded ACA Helping Hand Program, enabling Autistic families who've been devastated by the natural disaster access to our capacity-building camps for free.

The day was awesome. The sun shone, and the little green patch at the Quad in the middle of a devastated city and region, became a place of joy for the whole community.



Among the many new friends and connections we made, we were all so touched by Zoe and her family. New to the region, the family were so happy to connect with like minded people in a safe inclusive environment and Zoe had the best time, pictured here leading the ACA jam band - such a little star! Our hearts were full when we received the following message from Mum Mia ...

"I truly cannot tell you what today has meant to us. I still have a lump in my throat when I think about it... For the first time since Zoe was maybe 2, we've not stumbled home mentally and physically exhausted after being out. It is the longest we've ever been out of the house! I don't think I've ever really, truly realised how hard the world is to live in for Zoe and her kin until we experienced the ease of today. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!"

Mia van der Walt



"It felt really special to connect with families and see so many people enjoying themselves in Lismore after such a tough few months. This had a huge impact to the families who attended and was a big leap towards community recovery and Autism awareness in Lismore. Thank you for all the work that Autism Camp Australia did in making this happen."

Shay, Social Futures



Workshops and Goodie Bags

When we put the callout to the local community about our Autism Acceptance and Flood Recovery Day in Northern NSW, the response was overwhelmingly positive. People came forward from all sectors helping in all sorts of ways. It was beautiful working on this event and we found ourselves meeting a whole new network of people in our community, even before the day of the event!

We had 200 goodie bags to give away to our little Auties, packed full of awesome goodies. A big thank you to everyone who contributed with workshops, performances and goodies bags, and to our co-funders, The Northern Rivers Flood Fund and Commonwealth Bank but most of all to all of our Autistic community for coming, bringing joy, and supporting our awesome Autistic families in our region. We couldn't have done it without you!

While some 17 year old's may be absorbed in the bubble of teenager-hood, Ella uses her spare time to design and make her own range of fidget toys. Ella wanted to do something she knew would help other young Autistic people affected by the floods. She donated about 60 handmade fidget items for our event, and we can't thank her enough! Here's Ella and her family enjoying the event.



All the workshops at the event helped the Autistic young people in our community to process the enormity of what they had just been through. A big thank you to Amanda, Federico, Jeanti, Cal, Ella, Emma, Mandy, Mick, Andrea, the Lollipop Ladies from Roundabout Theatre and of course the gorgeous Story Dogs.

We are so grateful to all of the following sponsors during our event - thank you!



"Without doubt the biggest highlight over the past 12 months was hearing stories of families and their children connecting, celebrating and finding community."

Travis, Vice-Chair of Board

This one day flood recovery event was generously funded by The Northern Rivers Flood Relief Fund and the CommBank Flood Grant.



Helping Hand in a Natural Disaster

With the Northern NSW region reeling from the extensive flooding, landslides, loss of homes, schools and lives during the unprecedented flood event at the end of February 2022, part of our planning to help and support disaster affected families of Autistic young people in their recovery revealed the extent of natural disasters being experienced by Australians since the inception of both the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (commenced January 2020) and the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency (commenced March 2019).

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) was created to assist communities with relief and recovery efforts following large-scale natural disasters. The Agency, an important step for Australia's ability to respond to natural and other disasters has a focus on locally-led, locally understood and locally implemented recovery. (The agency will be replaced by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in September 2022, under the portfolio of the Department of Home Affairs.)

ACA's Board made a unanimous decision to expand the criteria of our Helping Hand program to include families of Autistic young people who had experienced a natural disaster, been eligible for and claimed the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment, along with our other existing eligibility criteria.

The NRRA became the vehicle for us assessing eligibility of families for funding from our Helping Hand program through the Disaster Recovery Payment.

These are some of the families who have benefitted from the expanded criteria for our program since March 2022.



"We are forever grateful of our opportunity to attend Autism Camp Australia. The carers were so warm, patient, and compassionate. The guidance and knowledge they provided supported my son to form genuine connections with his peers. Watching the children interact with one another on the last day of camp was such a credit to the carer's abilities; there was a clear impact on my child's social and communication skills. The power of friendship, particularly for an Autistic child, is an incredible and beautiful experience. I have never had phone numbers on my phone for kids' friends. It is so unbelievable to open it up and have options for friends for my son to call to talk about everything, particularly when life gets too much. He achieved so many things with the help of his support workers that I didn't feel were possible prior to attending. He improved his NDIS goals for communication and learning to interact appropriately with peers through making genuine connections with peers. This is not something that had previously been achievable. He found so much confidence and acceptance from accomplishing this one goal. There is nothing better than hearing your child tell you they found somewhere they finally belong and can be themselves. Especially after such a difficult time with the flood. Thank you for this amazing, life-changing opportunity."

Lindsay Bidwell, parent

"Thanks so much allowing our family to be a part of camp, without the Helping Hand funding we did not have enough funding with NDIS to attend camp so it was really special to be given this opportunity. Our family had the best time. Time to connect, unwind and get our kids off technology. The kids loved the activities and were exhausted every night. I enjoyed connecting with other parents and feel relaxed after a week of no cooking, housework or work. My son has had a crazy year with starting mainstream school for the first time (and high school) and then missed so much school due to the floods and the impact on us as a family was significant. It's really nice to share a positive experience as a family after all the flood drama. Thank you."

Tamara Hojer, parent



Watch Maree and Christopher's video
[youtube.com/watch?v=dL2VEy-6IEo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dL2VEy-6IEo)

"Leading up to the time for us coming to camp was difficult. Because of our flood experience and losing all that control we were very anxious about wanting to know all the details and potentially thinking it could be the worst thing ever, but it's actually been really really great for everybody. Lily is like the happiest and the calmest we've seen for a really long time. It feels almost back to when we had a house. Owen is like a new kid. He's been loving all the activities and just coming out of his shell, which I didn't think would actually even happen. And Remy has been going to bed telling me how excited he is and telling me about the things that he's done and that he's going to do the next day during his activities.

It's been so great and it's actually been really good for me being able to spend some time with Chris because I don't actually get to see him that much because the kids get to have his time when he's not working on (rebuilding) the house. It's been perfect timing just to take a break and reconnect and just get some family time back because it's just been so long and so focused on dealing with the aftermath of the flood. I think next time there won't be any anxiety about coming to Camp, they'll be jumping at the chance to come back.

I'd just like to say a huge thanks to the James Frizelle Charitable Foundation and Autism Camp Australia for facilitating us to be able to come to this camp at this difficult time and to be part of the Helping Hands pilot program. I feel that we are going to be going back to having a more connected family and having our cup filled enough to be able to get through the next stages that we have to get through. I really didn't come in with high expectations but I'm leaving with a lotwith it being very very full and overflowing really of how great it's been and how great it's going to be for our family. Thank you."

Maree and Christopher Parker, parents



Volunteers program

One of our most successful initiatives has been our volunteer program at camp. Our volunteer program gives individuals who plan to work with Autistic young people access to incredible curated resources and first-hand experiences, led by Autistics, to expand their learnings around Autism and neurodiversity.

Over the last 3 years we have developed relationships with many education establishments, offering students in specialised fields the ability to complete their placement hours at ACA as part of their final year of study, across Disability Support, Nursing, Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Art Therapy and Music Therapy. We've welcomed volunteers from the Federal Police, Fire and Rescue, Disability Workers, Youth Workers, Community Services professionals, carers working in adult and youth home care settings and individuals who have Autistic friends or family members who wish to learn more about Autism or give back to the Autistic community.

Organisations we work with include Melbourne University, Swinburne University of Technology, Gordon Institute of TAFE, Geelong, Deakin University, La Trobe University, Bond University, Care Academy Qld, Byron College and Kingscliff TAFE.

Volunteers take part in a camp program from start to finish attending a cultural and WHSE orientation, a pre-camp briefing (case management meeting), attend all days of the camp from day 1-6 including bump in, bump out and a post camp debrief.

Many volunteers go on to become paid camp team members at Autism Camp Australia. Our camps would not be the same without the contributions of our volunteers and we at ACA love seeing the knowledge and understanding of Autism grow within our volunteers during their time.



We are Harry, Chad, Emi and Andrea and we're all volunteering here as part of our Cert III in disability.

Chad - "This is my second camp as a volunteer, all the staff are great and being able to do it with the guys I started with is also a privilege."

Emi - "I definitely feel like I picked the right place to do my placement. Doing indoor climbing, kayaking and swimming which I love and the team are amazing."

Harry - "It's such a privilege to work with these children and for them to be themselves completely and for parents to have a beautiful rest is amazing. You get so passionate about it. It sounds corny but I've learnt so much about myself, I do love looking after people, I think that's why we're all here. We are all here to help someone, I love working with kids, I love working with adults, it's a positive environment, positivity brings a lot out of people. Trying to stay positive all the time, it's amazing."

Chad - "I think ACA is a well run organisation, very inviting, very helpful, speaking for all of us, being a part of it, makes you leave feeling it's a happy environment. I encourage people who want to study disability to volunteer here, it's a great environment. The whole team is really supportive and helpful and welcoming. It's fun, it's awesome, it's so cool."

Harry, Chad, Emi and Andrea, volunteers



Watch Harry, Chad, Emie and Andrea's video
[youtube.com/watch?v=n-aX-Yc3ofs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-aX-Yc3ofs)



"Care Academy Qld have been working with Autism Camp Australia for over 3 years now. Many of our students have had the opportunity to spend a week with their staff and clients for placement. Some of them love it so much they do two! We have had many go on to become paid team members and have found their experiences fulfilling as well as educational. I have always found ACA professional and reliable. A pleasure to work with. I feel our students are in good hands."

Tiffany Sullivan
Care Academy Queensland



Watch Natalia and Angela's video
youtu.be/EPYrRUP3D7Q

"We are both professional occupational therapy students at Bond University and are both from Colombia. We have just done our first placement with Autism Camp Australia. This has been a great opportunity for us to apply our learnings from our lectures and learn how to apply our knowledge, how to interact and engage with young people. This is our first interactions with clients and an opportunity for us to see how we can develop all those skills that we need for work with different developmental ages. The setting is quite relaxed, everybody is welcoming which also helps us with our own fears and our own insecurities and how we are going to practice day in day out. It's been really game-changing in terms of what I'd like to pursue in the future and in terms of working with young people. This is the time to learn the skills that are important for us to work on when we're working with young people and to be able to see the progress even in five days is really incredible."

Natalia and Angela, volunteers



DSS Funded Parent and Sibling Program

In October 2020 we were awarded 2-year funding through the Department of Social Services Information, Linkages and Capacity Building: Individual Capacity Building Program (ILC).

The objective of the Individual Capacity Building Program is to enable systematic, nationwide access to peer support, mentoring and other skills building for people with disability, carers and families, delivered primarily by a national network of Disabled Peoples Organisations, Families Organisations and/or Priority Cohort Led Organisations.

The funding enabled us to expand on the Autistic young persons' program at our camps, by providing a specialised program of social peer support, education, skills building and self-care for parents/carers and siblings of Autistic young people. Over a period of 24 months, it was forecast that over 700 Autistic young people and their family members in three States would benefit from this expanded program.

A comprehensive evaluation process will be completed at the end of the term of the grant, but all 36 camps were completed by the first week of July 2022.

We are delighted to report that 764 parents/carers and siblings took part in the capacity building activities in the 2-year program (a minimum of 324 was forecast) and 443 Autistic young people will benefit from the improvements in their parents/carers and siblings ability to maintain informal supports of their Autistic young person(s).

Evaluation data collected at the 36 camps shows the following results:

Siblings taking part in the program reported the following

- 96% achieved improved capacity and resilience in emotional and behavioural functioning
- 90% reduced social isolation and enhanced social networks
- 80% achieved increased resilience
- 96% felt some relief from the burden of responsibility
- 76% felt they understood their siblings' disability better

"The sibling program is brilliant. It gives the kids an opportunity to take a break from their caring roles, be heard, have fun and make new connections. My son loved every minute of his time at camp and has made a life-long friend who he looks forward to spending time with when he gets home. The parents program is well designed. There are opportunities to connect with other parents, to share information and experiences. I was able to learn some new skills to help us moving forward. We all had a wonderful experience and would highly recommend the camp to all."

Kylie Brown

Parents/carers taking part in the program reported the following

- 89% achieved improved capacity and resilience in emotional and behavioural functioning
- 85% felt they had achieved improved social and practical skills to enable them to function better day-to-day
- 93% experienced a boost to confidence, self-esteem, mental and physical health and increased resilience
- 100% achieved rest and recovery and temporary relief from caregiving leading to a greater ability to maintain informal supports of their Autistic young person
- 89% had reduced their social isolation and enhanced their social networks

The Department of Social Services wrote to all ILC Funding Recipients on 30 March 2022 to advise that the Department was undertaking a process to consider varying suitable existing grant agreements under the ILC program to provide additional time and funding over 2022-23 and 2023-24 and extend the grant activity period up to 30 June 2024.

We are delighted to confirm that Autism Camp Australia has been approved for a 2-year funded extension to the program. A comprehensive evaluation will be completed at the end of the term of the grant.

other funding partners

Autism Camp Australia would not be the successful organisation it is today without our partners, allies and supporters. It has been deeply satisfying in our third year to continue to be acknowledged and supported by our Federal Government, partners, philanthropists and corporates, and we sincerely thank them for their generosity and ongoing support.



JAMES FRIZELLE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



CommonwealthBank





Auditors Report

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Autism Camp Australia Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021, comprising the statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity, statement of profit or loss and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Autism Camp Australia Ltd has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards defined in note 1 to the financial statements, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for 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 Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the 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 report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other 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.

NFPAS

Adelaide, 16 September, 2022

Treasurers Report

I am happy to report that Autism Camp Australia ('ACA') continues this year in a sound financial position despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 restrictions. Rachel and the team have worked very hard to ensure that the costs are managed diligently, and camps have continued with limited impact.

The accounts have been audited and the auditor's report is attached with a detailed statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income and statement of financial position.

The 2021 financial year has been a successful year for ACA. Total income of \$1,938,873 was received in the 2021 financial year. Compared to 2020 year, this is an increase in revenue of \$688,197 and is mainly due to an increase in revenue from the NDIS as the number of families attending camps increases.

The total expenditure for the year was \$2,032,944 an increase compared to last year of \$1,141,625. The largest contributors to this movement were direct camp costs which increased by \$597,294 and salaries & wages which increased by \$437,211. The increases are driven by the opening of a new location and three management roles in each State being recognised with salaries & wages for FY21. The expense represents around 105% of total revenue this year, with last year being 71% of total revenue. Overall, a net deficit of \$97,071 was achieved.

The Balance Sheet is in a strong position. Net assets of \$247,548 consist of total assets of \$834,032 and a total liability of \$586,484. The total assets of \$834,032 includes \$600,677 in cash and cash equivalents. The total liability of \$106,004 includes deferred income invoices that have been raised in 2022 for camps being held in 2023 financial year.

ACA has prepared and maintains a detailed budget which is provided to all board members. This budget was further refined and updated during the 2022 year and predicts an increase in turnover during the year ended 30 June 2023 and strong cashflow throughout the year.



Sarah Kelly
Treasurer, Autism Camp Australia

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Camp Income	1,738,340	1,050,940
Grant Income	155,653	165,163
Donations	13,553	18,073
COVID Government Assistance	18,070	13,500
Other Income	13,257	3,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,938,873	1,250,676
EXPENDITURE		
Direct Camp Costs	1,206,556	609,262
Other Expenses	219,244	117,582
Salaries & Wages	594,901	157,690
Depreciation	12,243	6,785
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,032,944	891,319
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(94,071)	359,357
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(94,071)	359,357

Statement of Financial Position

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	600,677	461,880
Trade & Other Receivables	163,782	33,201
Inventory	11,739	5,936
Prepaid Expenses	14,548	55,824
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	790,746	556,841
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	43,286	21,671
TOTAL ASSETS	834,032	578,512
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade & Other Payables	186,042	42,347
Annual Leave Provision	34,136	10,483
Deferred Income	366,306	184,063
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	586,484	236,893
TOTAL LIABILITIES	586,484	236,893
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	247,548	341,619
EQUITY	247,548	341,619

Statement of Cash Flows

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from Customers & Donors	1,694,147	961,327
Receipts from Grants	278,319	195,163
Receipts from Government Assistance	18,070	19,850
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(1,817,880)	(885,861)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	172,656	290,479
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of Property, Plant & Equipment	(33,859)	(8,803)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(33,859)	(8,803)
NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	138,797	281,676
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	461,880	180,204
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	600,677	461,880

Team ACA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson

Shelly Rowell

Vice Chairperson

Travis Saunders

Treasurers

Andrew Webb

Sarah Kelly

Secretary

Ursula Stevens

Board Members

Cherie Kelly

Christina Keeble

Founder

Rachel Rowe

HQ TEAM

CEO

Rachel Rowe

Executive Assistant to CEO

Janell Saverin

Administrative Assistant

Nicole Manning

Fundraising Manager

Karri Shaw

Social Media Manager

Helene Thompson

Newsletter Editor

Rachel Pulo

Accountant

Jenny Haines

Accounts

Jodie Rees

Bookkeeper

Naomi Rose

HR Consultants

Georgina Ablett

Anthea Wager

Leadership Coach

Michelle McQuaid

Graphic Design

Tom Foolery

CRM Design & Consultant

David Bedwell

CAMP TEAMS

State Managers

Emily Saunders

Jodie Rees

Kerron Bromfield

Kirsten Boud

Neil McBride

Sandy Palmer

Enrolments Managers

Alisha Fowler

Christina Trypis

Klio Norris

Lisa Evans

Rachel Pulo

Camp Leaders

Bridget O'Callaghan

Bronte Bergquist-O'Sullivan

Helene Thompson

James Trickey

Lucy Armitage

Co-Lead Carers

Bonnie Heitzinger

David Weale

Edward Gainer

Jess Doherty

Kimberly Sowers

Laura Dodds

Leonie Moekotte

Nick Butler

Rebecca Stanley

Sibling Leads

Emma Kane

Emma Rankin

Luke Linardos

Marcia Ferguson

Millie Aston

Carers

Alec Purdon

Alexis Leonhardt

Alissa Holmes

Amanda McGrath

Amy O'Meara

Anneke De Graaf

Ashleigh Kerley

Barr Almog

Bo Crabtree

Brandon Vanee

Carola De Ona Segura

Chantelle Burl

Cindy Yang

David Dolan

David Weale

Deb Ireland

Dee Fuller

Delfina Sere

Diana Davis

Deidre Keenaghan

Ebony Lochery

Eliza Batkin

Fleur Oostenveld

Gaston Fourcade

Jake Donohue

Jenkins Aigbugwili

Jasmin Thompson

Jess O'Dwyer

Jo Weedon

Joanne Cook

Julia Berisso

Julian Madigan

Kasia Sztymelska

Kate Fitzgerald

Kate Gabb

Lachlan Barratt

Laura Spina-Crummy

Laura Tibbetts

Leah Maffescioni

Leonie Moekotte

Lisa Rochester

Luke Byron

Luke Linardos

Lydia Zahra

Marcia Ferguson

Maria Boullon Rechi

Marnie Hallam

Matt Dillon

Megan Malkiewicz

Michelle Odea

Nick Kwashi

Nichole Conelly

Nicola Hall

Nina McElhone

Paige Vince

Rachel Watson

Rena Lagowski

Ritesh Chetri

Samson Fox

Sarah Tucker

Skye Abikhair

Steve Roche

Tal Derhy

Tamara Pope

Tayla Van Der Riet

Toyyeb Akinpelu

Volunteers

Aimee Clark

Angela Estupinan

Belinda Burman

Carissa Gaffney

Charlee Dooner

Christopher Anderson

Fleur Muffatti

Karen Gray

Katie Earle

Maria Robetto

Natalia Gonzalez

Natasha Saizi

Olivia Parenti

Paris Galbraith

Rachel Cooke

Sinya Nicol

Stefania Lousada Zambrano

Valentina Carino

Thank You

Thank you to all the wonderful people who have contributed to Autism Camp Australia's success this year.

On behalf of the whole team, I would like to thank the Autistic young people, and their families, who have continued to put their faith in us and seek out our services during this difficult Covid times. We are truly humbled to share these experiences with you.

It has been deeply satisfying in our third year to continue to be acknowledged and supported by our Federal Government, partners, philanthropists and corporates, and we sincerely thank them for their generosity and ongoing support.

The Department of Social Security
James Frizelle Charitable Foundation
Bank of Melbourne Foundation
Northern Rivers Flood Relief Fund
Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation
Commonwealth Bank APCO Foundation
Young Henry's Keeley's Cause
Safe on Social

We received in-kind donations for our flood recovery event from **Palace Cinemas**
Ballina Tenpin Bowl
Bricktastics
Circus Arts Byron Bay
Fergus and Delilah
Sensory Superheroes
Jessica Kingsley Publishing
Unique by Ella

We received in-kind donations for the set-up of our new Victoria location from

Bunnings

Kmart

BigW

Unique by Ella

We acknowledge the generosity of individual donors

Alexandra Ellen
Alisha Fowler
Allen Walters
Amy Stockwell
Andrew Hough
Benjamin Taylor
Best Behaved Kids
Bridget Favero
Bridget O'Callaghan
Chloe Parslow
Claire Ashworth
Claire Wainwright
Connor O'Donnell
Craig Scroop
Danielle Kellett
Dean & Christabel Peek
Demelza Hammat
Dewi Rowe
Diana Davis
Diane Potter
Don Stone
Eddie Batchelor
Edith Laurencic
Elise Lo Presti
Emma Kane
Emma MacIntosh
Erik & Lauren Ranford
Eve Lanoux
Gabrielle Ryan
Geoff & Hayley Eggins
Glenn Malkiewicz
Heang Lay
Helene Thompson
Humberto Almeida
Ian & Gail Fowler
Isaac Kalleske
Jacob Camac
James Moore
Janine Reinking
Jarrad Allen
Jenny Ritossa

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Marco Palazzo
Maria Mazzoni
Mark Eglinton
Matt Ford
Mitch Martens
Mitch Tucker
Morgan Coull
Nicholas Butler
Pam Morgan
Paul Tran
Peter Childs
Rachael Crilly
Rachel Thomas
Reece Loughron
Rohan Rowling
Sally Lawson
Shane Londregan
Simone Lombardi
Steph Halliday
Stewart Orchard
Tabby Ryan
Tammy Walters
Tania Wundenberg
Terry Torpy
Wesley & Megan Malkiewicz

We would like to thank our accommodation partners and their teams

Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre, NSW
Midginbil Eco Resort, NSW
Sunshine Coast Recreation Precinct, QLD
Camp and Wyuna - YMCA Geelong

And all of the providers and suppliers who are an integral part of the camp program.

I especially want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the ACA camp teams, whose energy and enthusiasm for the work they do is integral to the service we offer. Their knowledge, skill, joy, patience and enthusiasm for what they do is second to none.

Finally, my sincere thanks to Shelly Rowell and the ACA Board of Director's, in guiding our vision and strategy. ACA's Board bring a broad knowledge base and experience which has been integral to the success of the charity in it's third year.

ACA was launched to fill a critical gap in services to Autistic young people and their families. At camp, we celebrate neurodiversity, embrace difference and nurture individuality. We want our young people to develop confidence and independence, increase their social connection and develop new and lasting friendships. We recognise neurodiversity as a way of thinking that supports our young people to grow into confident and happy adults and celebrate our Autistic community.

Something you all clearly appreciate.

Thank you.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are several ways you can get involved with Autism Camp Australia

- Give a donation
- Sign up for workplace giving
 - Leave a gift in your Will
- Major Gifts and Philanthropy

Your donation gives Autism Camp Australia financial stability, enabling us to focus on developing experiential camp programs in new locations, extending our reach across Australia. You can help us create authentic inclusive camp experiences for families of Autistic young people all around Australia.

Autism Camp Australia Ltd is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) so all donations are considered tax-deductible.

If you would like to make a donation to Autism Camp Australia please contact Laura Yau, Senior Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager on 0403 064 699



Autism Camp Australia respectfully acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation, the traditional custodians and guardians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders past, present and future on all these lands, but especially on Wadawurrung, Gubbi Gubbi and Widjabul Country, the lands on which our camps take place.

AutismCampAustralia.org

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Australia