



“This camp has been
truly magical for our family.

Tom has had so many opportunities to try different activities and learn and grow. The downtime for parents has been unprecedented for us. We will never forget this awesome experience. We will be back! Thank you.”

Shellie Mills



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“ This has been
a great experience
for the whole family.”
Rachel Baxter

A Message from The Chair

In our founding year Autism Camp Australia designed, curated and delivered a unique program to support and enhance the lives of autistic young people and their families. The success of the first camp in January 2020 was in part due to the early connections and consultation with families and experts during the development phase of the program concept. Following the success of the first camp we entered February 2020 knowing we had a sound formula to deliver our charitable purpose and a program that would reach families across the nation. The year 2020, as it is now apparent, had other plans for us. In March 2020, faced with COVID-19 impacts and implications including the need to cancel camps, the team quickly rose to the challenge by finding other ways to provide support and connection with our community of families. We kept our community updated with regular communication while sharing resources to help explain COVID-19 to autistic young people. This included launching Autism Camp TV to provide some of our program content online. We also strengthened our advocacy, community connections and developed relationships with other like-minded organisations.

In terms of governance, we developed a myriad of policies, procedures and frameworks to guide the way we work and provide a foundation of good governance for the charity. The Board, guided by our astute Treasurer Peter McLean, made a wise decision to undertake an independent audit which has been pivotal in demonstrating the charity's sustainability and good governance despite COVID-19 impacts. Launching a charity in any set of circumstances takes a team that possesses skill, passion and determination for delivering on its charitable purpose. Launching a charity in 2020 required a team that was also tenacious, courageous and adaptable. To our esteemed Chief Executive Rachel Rowe and our Board of Directors, I applaud your resilience and commitment against all odds to create a place where autistic young people can just be themselves.

These qualities are also true of our community of families who continue to connect and enroll in camps for the coming summer season and into 2021. It is to these families we are in service of and the reason we exist. Our community tell us that the camps are now in urgent need given the restrictions and lockdown conditions families have endured during 2020. We are committed to ensuring camps operate from summer and into the future and we are confident our COVID-19 Safety Plan will enable this. Autism Camp is today in a strong position to deliver extraordinary outcomes in its second year. For this we must thank our many providers, supporters and partners who share our mission and have the foresight to see how we all benefit from supporting autistic young people and their families, ultimately contributing to world where Autism is embraced and celebrated.

Shelly Rowell
CHAIR



“From the bottom of our hearts, we say thank you to have the opportunity to be a part of your first camp. *Chelsea made a friend* and that’s all that matters.”

Bernadette Lavelle

A Message from The CEO

Autism Camp Australia (ACA) was launched in November 2019 to fill a critical gap in services and support a broad and growing Australia-wide need for accessible and supported life skills development programs for autistic young people and their families. It has been an enormous privilege to be welcomed by the autistic community whom we serve.

Our experiential learning camp program takes an authentic strengths-based approach to the health and wellbeing of autistic young people and their families. We want our young people to develop confidence and independence, increase their social connection, develop new and lasting friendships and celebrate their Autistic identity. We want our parents/carers and siblings to build increased resilience, enhance their social networks and have a greater ability to maintain informal supports for their young people.

ACA's core values serve as the foundation for our corporate culture. Our vision of self-reliance, independence, social connection and community inclusion underpins our decisions and the manner in which we conduct our business. We revere honesty, we adhere to high ethical standards, and we strive constantly to improve. Our relationship with our neurokin is an all-important part of this. We respect all peoples and value the differences amongst us without judgement or fear. Autistic adults are an important part of the governance, development and delivery on all of our programs, equality and diversity are at the heart of all that we do and we are committed to the empowerment of autistic people. We celebrate neurodiversity at all levels of the organisation, and this is a strong strategic focus in governance, recruitment and organisational culture as we move into year two.

ACA's first camp location, Byron Bay NSW, opened in January 2020. A second location will open in mid-December 2020 in the Sunshine Coast, QLD followed by Victoria in 2021, and South Australia in 2022.

In Year One we saw incredible support and demand for our services:

- we registered with the Australian Securities & Investment Commission as a company limited by guarantee, as a charitable organisation with DGR status, and as a Public Benevolent Institution with the Australian Charities and Not-For Profit and Charities Commission;
- we worked intensively on the infrastructure, protocols, procedures, policies and systems required to roll out our programs;
- we enrolled over 120 families in our camps;
- we grew to a team of over 60 providers and carers across two States;
- we developed a secondary online support model and new digital programming; and
- attracted a mixture of government, philanthropic, public and grant funding to the tune of \$355k.

Perhaps the more significant evidence of our potential for growth, was that even during a tumultuous year beset with external risks beyond our control, including devastating bushfires requiring an evacuation of our new HQ and a global pandemic, we have continued to thrive and grow. A 100% occupancy at camps in two States is confirmed well into 2021, and strong repeat business from families who attended our first pre Covid-19 camp.

As we begin our second year of trading, I am extremely proud of what we have achieved, and uplifted by the opportunities ahead of us. Our team has matured, our passion is real and our model is robust. We are ready to grow and thrive as an autistic-led provider of services to autistic young people and their families.

Rachel Rowe
Chief Executive Officer
Autism Camp Australia

Mission and Vision

Autism Camp Australia's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of autistic young people and their families, through the provision of accessible and supported capacity building experiences, therapies and life skills development.

Our vision is self-reliance, independence, social connection and community inclusion for autistic young people and their families.

Our Organisational Objectives

- To offer access to a wide range of activities through residential camps, experiential learning and recreation activities;
- To provide a high level of support for all participants;
- To ensure our activities and facilities are person-centred, family-focused and customer-driven;
- To maintain ethical and egalitarian business practices for all individuals associated with the Autism Camp Australia endeavour;
- To establish partnerships with individuals and organisations who are similarly like-minded; and
- To contribute to the evolution of a balanced and respectful relationship between autistic young people, their families and neurotypical Australians.

The program contributes to significant change in the lives of autistic young people by supporting them to:

- build self-confidence and communication skills;
- develop social skills, create positive connections and increase social interactions with peers, carers and other families;
- actively participate in every-day and self-care tasks by nurturing, supporting and encouraging independence;
- engage in new activities and to explore, experience and learn from new experiences;
- explore sensory and emotional regulation using proprioceptive and sensory supports, games and other positive behaviour support tools; and
- make and sustain friendships with their peers.

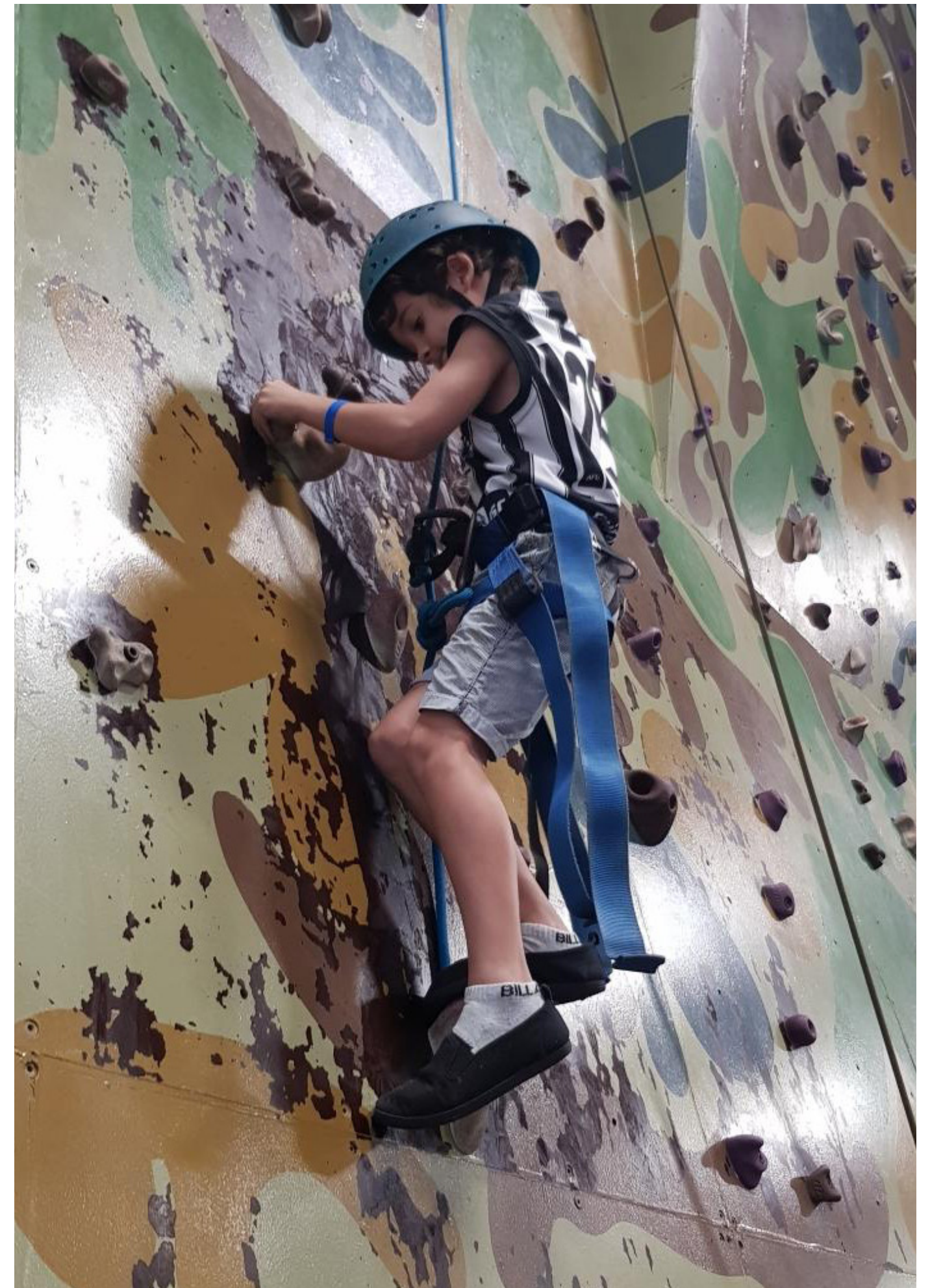
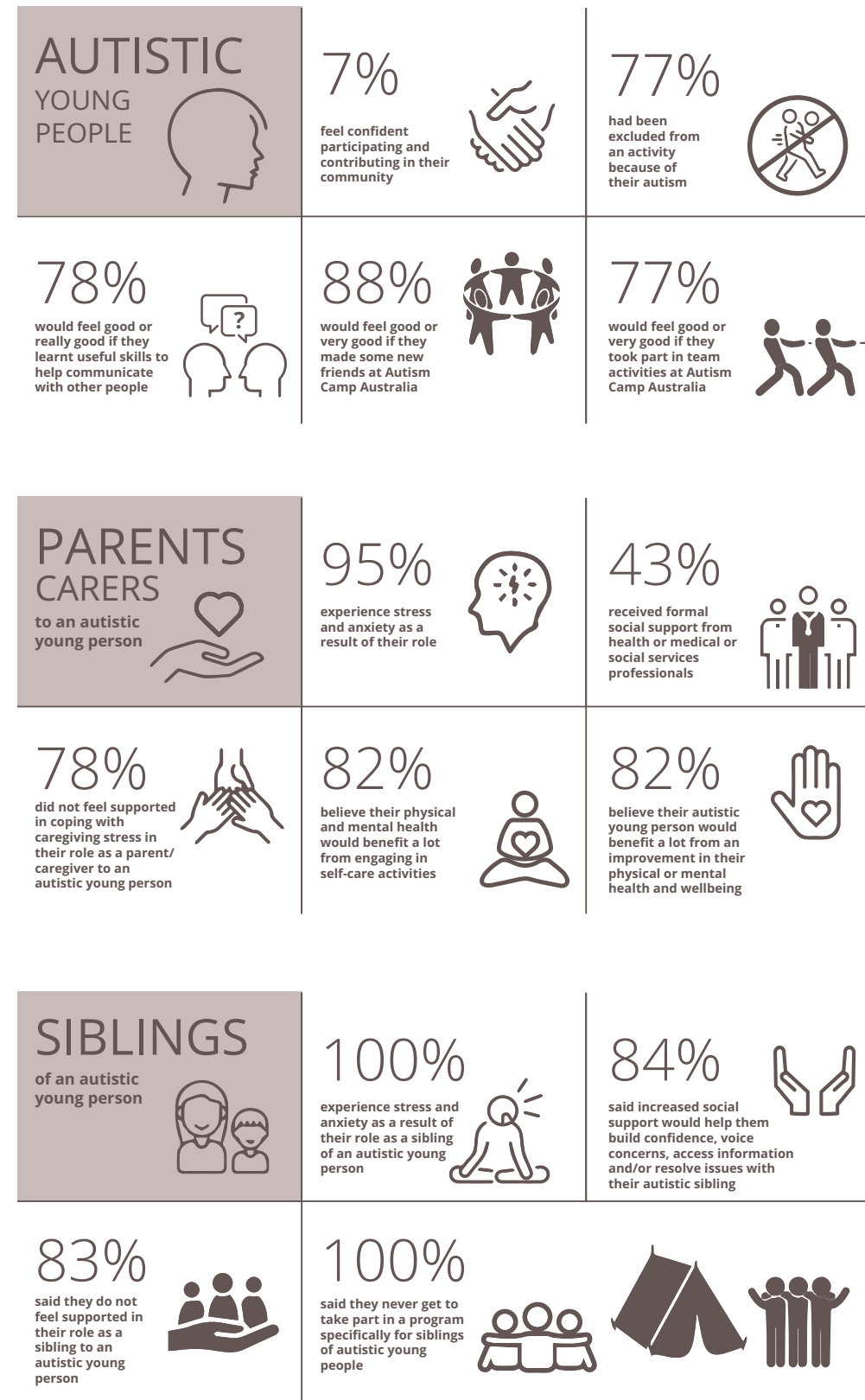
The program contributes to significant change in the lives of parents, carers and siblings of autistic young people by supporting them to:

- take a break from the day-to-day pressures of being a carer;
- be valued and appreciated for their contribution to their family and community;
- connect with other families/carers, share stories, information and family strategies;
- make and sustain friendships with other families/carers of autistic young people; and
- take part in parenting/carer and sibling support programs through education and information workshops.



Why do we need an Autism Camp?

Autistic young people and their families were central to the design of the entire Autism Camp Australia program, with over 800 surveys completed by autistic young people and their families. We followed this up with a smaller sample group from families who have enrolled in our programs.



Happy Campers

There was such a mix of excitement and trepidation as we 'bumped in' our first Byron Bay camp. The response from the autistic community had been astonishing, our first camp selling out on launch, and nine families putting complete faith in us to deliver. It was incredibly humbling but also a very strong indicator of the critical gap in services we were about to fill, and the broad and growing Australia-wide need for accessible and supported life skills development programs for autistic young people, and their families. Our experiential learning camp program was going to work as a stepping-stone to mainstream inclusive social and community participation for the whole family and we had to get it right.

In just five short months we had taken a concept, researched it's need and viability within the autistic community; formed a Board of Directors; established a constitution and put the legal structure of a charity in place;

“Very sweet carer. Very considerate and thoughtful. Incredible bonds were built with all of the carers. It was more of a big family.”
Rachel Fisher

confirmed a funding model; found our first accommodation/location partner; written a multi-stage enrolment process which would give us an in-depth understanding of the families we were working with; recruited a top notch team of carers and providers and carefully crafted a program and a bevy of policies and procedures which would ensure the safety and wellbeing of the families who were coming to camp.

We wanted our camps to be inclusive, so we opened the doors to young people aged 7-14, diagnosed with ASD levels 1, 2 and 3 under the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V) diagnostic criteria, their parents/carers and siblings. We knew that many participants would have co-existing disabilities including Intellectual Disability, Global Developmental Delay and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. We put the structure, strategies and program in place to enable us to support as many people as possible with all sorts of needs. We worked with an authentic strengths-based approach. Our team approached their work with respect and compassion and we recognised neurodiversity as a way of thinking with the end game of supporting our children to grow into confident and happy adults.

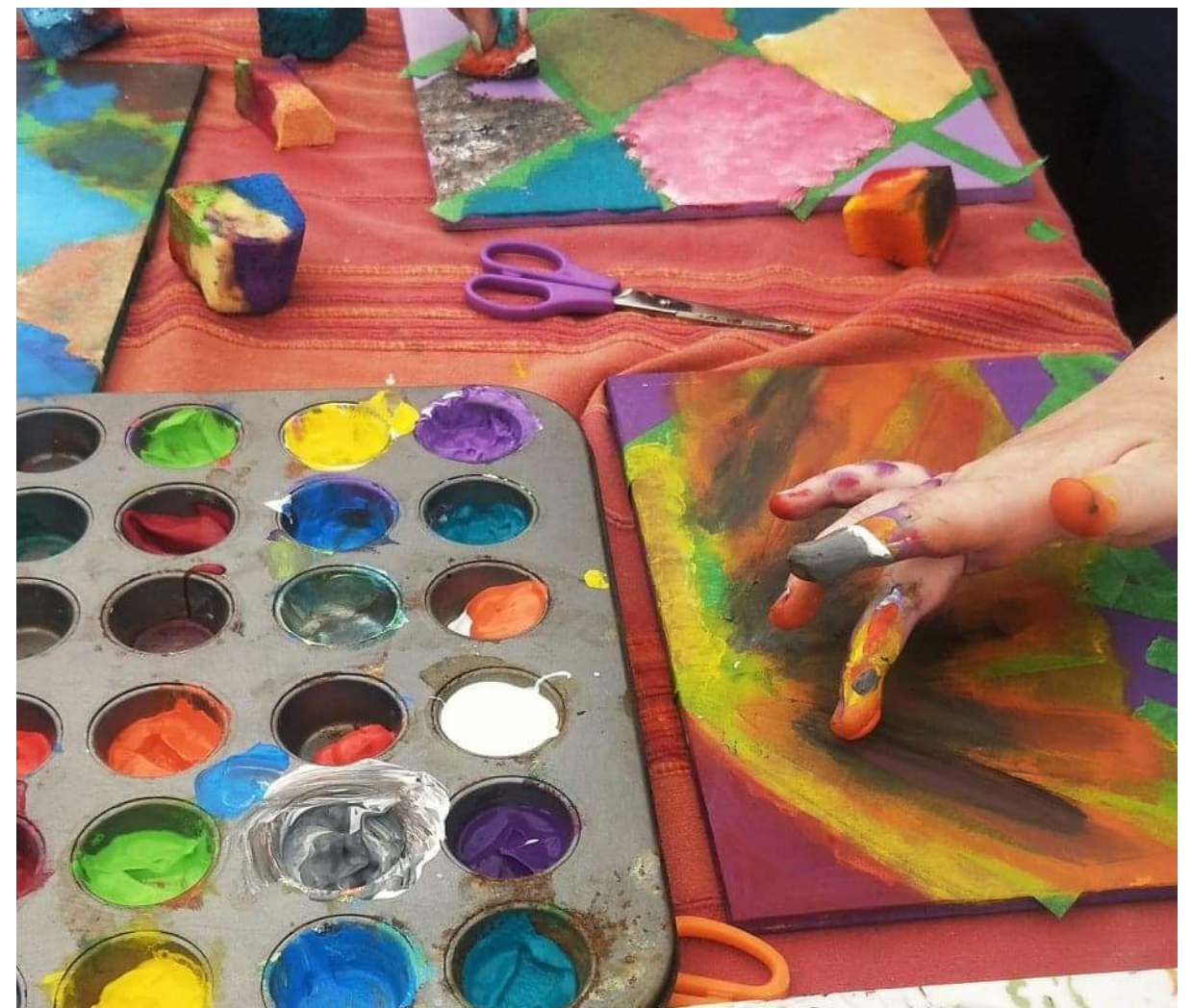
Day One of our very first camp started with a massive downpour and ended with severe inclement weather that flooded our marquees and required some significant last-minute

planning, sourcing of alternative venues and inclement weather re-programming. Nothing could have prepared us for this baptism by water, but as we paddled madly behind the scenes, our families settled into camp life and embraced the changes with gusto and grace.

Our carers formed a cohesive team, ably lead by camp leader Helene Thompson. The team were so excited to meet their 'matches' and approached their work from a heart connection space. This, combined with hours of detailed preparation by the enrolment team, and training and pre-camp briefings for the camp team, meant they were confident in their

“Our daughter felt heard, cared for and nurtured by her carer, she said 'I'll miss her loads!'”
Carly Balcombe

ability. With anaphylaxis, multiple high-risk absconders, and extreme separation anxiety on our risk management list for the first camp, we needed to ensure all our team knew our camp policies back to front, and procedures in the event of an incident were clear and easy to follow.



“We had a wonderful time and love the connections that we made. Do yourself a favour and look into this if you have little people on the spectrum. it was so worth the investment.”
Carly Balcombe

It took a day or two for families to settle in, with the storms curtailing many of the informal mingling moments outside of the three separate programs for the autistic young people, siblings and parents, but it was clear from very early on in the piece, that this was going to be a space where families could ‘just be’. Our proprioceptive sensory space was a big hit and helped to ease occasional anxious moments. Masks were off, children could relax into themselves, parents were free from the shackles of judgement from other parents and busily making connections and swapping stories with other parents who understood, siblings were having some special ‘me’ time and everybody was so busy having fun they didn’t even realise that our program was written the way it was to help them all build capacity. Like a fruit smoothie with some vegies snuck in.

From art therapy to high ropes, rock climbing to archery, bush school to equine assisted learning, and many other activities in between. A sibling program with daily Sibworks peer-to-peer support group sessions, and an education program and self-care program to support parents and carers. A Mexican feast and dance party to close. A big hit with everyone.

Numbers were swapped, children went home with new families they had met, hugs, thank you flowers, and a real sense of achievement for everyone, including the families. Everyone agreed, Autism Camp Australia was going to be an absolute winner.



“What an incredible experience.

Everyone was catered for with activities and the atmosphere was calm, supportive, welcoming and therapeutic. I have never felt so well rested. Ollie has made more progress at the camp than he has in 3 years with regular OT. We can't wait to come back.”

Rachel Fisher



Tuesday 17 March, 2020

“

Hi lovely camp families,

The news about Covid-19 continues to develop, and we are aware this will be of concern for you and your family.

We have been closely monitoring reports and advice from Australia's Chief Medical Officer and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and actively following the NSW Government, Health Services and WHO recommendations in our planning for our autumn camps.

These are unprecedented circumstances which are already affecting many businesses and organisations in Australia and throughout the world. They, like Autism Camp Australia (ACA) are being forced to react to a constant stream of developing information and updates lead by governments that are changing their advice regularly as they themselves learn more.

Developments over the last three days have significantly impacted our decision making around whether our camps can or should go ahead. In the interests of putting the health, welfare and safety of everyone in our team, our contractors, activity providers and the families who attend our camps first, it is with a very heavy heart that we have made the decision to postpone the autumn camps.

Keeping things in perspective is important to help minimise misconceptions and potential discrimination issues. The risk of contracting the virus for individuals in Australia still remains low. ACA has established a Risk Management Plan for Covid-19, and the Board and Exec teams are meeting regularly to ensure business continuity as the situation evolves. We will provide updates on any further developments.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these matters.

All the best

Rachel

Rachel Rowe
Chief Executive Officer
Autism Camp Australia

”



Funding Partners

The flow on effects of Covid-19 were very real for Autism Camp Australia. Just four months after launch, two months after devastating bushfires, and despite sold out camps in Byron Bay for the rest of the year and a second location under recognisance in the Sunshine Coast, QLD, like many businesses, our camp program had been shut down overnight. So early in the life of the charity there was a significant risk to our ability to ride the storm. At a time when we desperately needed foundational funding partners to come on board, most corporate and government funding was, quite rightly, being redirected to frontline services. The timing was desperately challenging for the charity.

To our relief, three things happened.

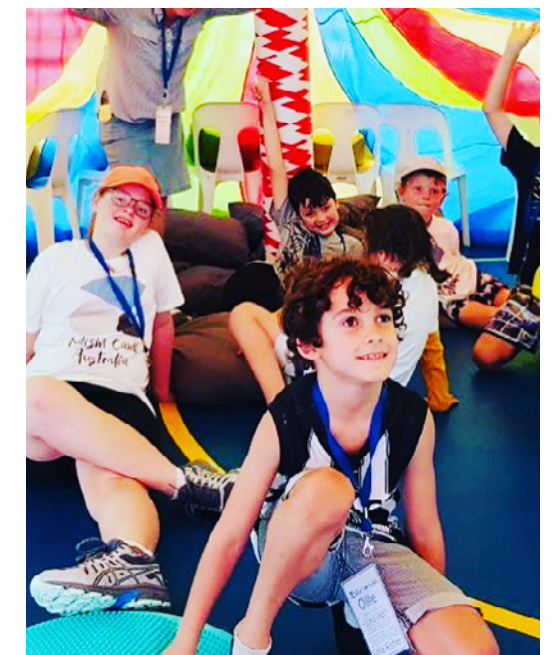
- The majority of families maintained their belief in our camp program and held firm their bookings for postponed camp dates;
- The government released both Federal and State funding to support businesses and charities through the JobKeeper scheme, which enabled our one-man band CEO, Rachel, to keep working, and focus on fundraising for the charity; and
- A number of corporate, philanthropic, charity and government partners came onboard to support us.



Variety - the children's charity, established to give kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs a fair go in life, granted us \$3000 to buy sensory texture walking feet, rainbow folding mats, calming weighted blankets, neck and ankle weights and ufo balls for our Proprioceptive Sensory Space.



The Ingrained Foundation, established by local independent brewery Stone & Wood, supporting grassroots environmental and social charities in the local area, granted us \$15,000 to 'rock n roll' our Proprioceptive Sensory Space even further with a shiny branded marquee, a sensory therapy gym, swings and pods, a parachute, hand massagers, sensory squeeze seats and 40kg of lego, mini figures and accessories.





The SBS Foundation, established to support not-for-profit and charitable organisations by providing free advertising airtime on SBS channels and platforms, granted us 12 months free airtime for a 60 second advertisement charting our journey through Covid, how we have adapted to survive, and introducing our new digital ACA TV initiative to a national audience.



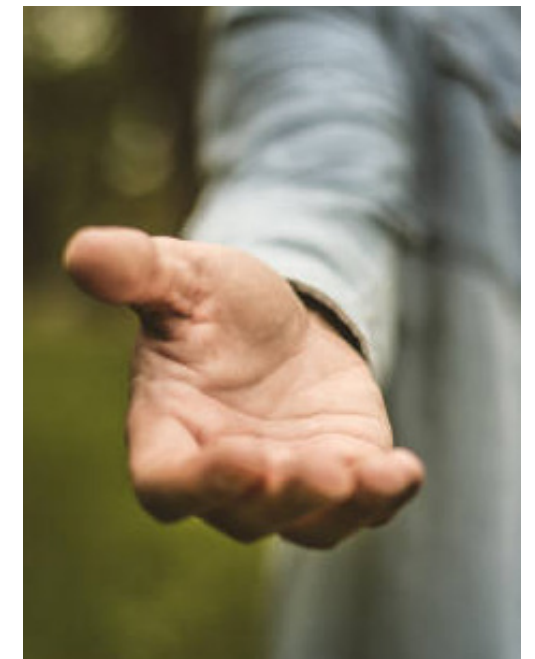
The Vasudhara Foundation, established by Tanya Nelson Carnegie to support social entrepreneurs to build creative and innovative projects that deliver positive social impact, granted us \$10,000, which bought us a second marquee to use for our workshops, equipment for our onsite camp office and important training for our team.



Create NSW, the NSW Government's arts and cultural driver, granted us a \$4943 Creative Kids Digital Small Business Grant to buy video recording equipment and transition our camp based Zoom Art Therapy program for online and digital delivery during COVID-19 and moving into the future. The course went live in October 2020, and is facilitated by Autism Camp Byron Bay's resident art therapist Karma Barnes. Karma invited young people on a fun creative journey of exploring art-making to express their impressions of the world through art; igniting the imagination and bringing form to creative voices through pastels, collage, watercolours, clay and acrylic over a 5 week course. The course is sold out until the middle of 2021.



Norton Rose Fulbright, prestigious global law firm with a commitment to the provision of pro bono legal services to those who could not otherwise afford legal representation or assistance, generously granted the charity adhoc pro bono legal advice, and supported us as we launched our new charity, and navigated the complexities created by COVID-19.





Keeley's Cause, the charity established by Keeley Johnson and her mother Sharon after seeing firsthand the benefits technology can bring to children with autism and intellectual disabilities, providing iPads for children diagnosed with autism and intellectual disabilities, partnered with us offering a free iPad to every child taking part at Autism Camp Australia through the ACA Helping Hand program.



Safe on Social, the leading cyber safety consulting services established by Kirra Pendergast specialising in cyber security and risk management, policing, teaching, social media management for young people, partnered with us to provide cyber safety cheat sheets for all participating camp families.



WeMove Studio, movement-based hub designed for culture, creativity, art and dance, who already worked with us at our camps, offered up their studio and technical setup to record elements of our new ACA TV programs in a controlled professional environment.



ACA TV

Adapting to survive was the only way forward during Covid. We wanted to stay engaged with our audience, thank them for their tremendous loyalty, and provide content which aligned with our camp program to help them engage their autistic young people in those long weeks of lockdown. So like many businesses we took our camp content online.

Autism Camp TV, a free digital initiative broadcast through our website, was born.

Filmed in the WeMove dance/yoga studio, on location at Brunswick Heads beach dunes and in a shed on CEO Rachel Rowe's rural property, the 5-10 minute segments were focused on fun activities autistic young people could do at home. All the content during the early stages of lockdown was put together on the smell of an oily rag, and with the help of a very generous volunteer team, including the 60 second advert we created to screen on SBS.

On Autism Camp TV, there are friendship challenges with Bonnie, to help you make friends when you get to camp...



Creating and connecting in nature with Rohan...



Proprioceptive sensory 5-minute breaks with Meggie and Quincy to let go of any anxieties and refresh you through the day...



And lots of top tips for Aut-astic movies and camp movies for our families.

Autism Camp TV is now an integral part of our family support content.



“We all need to go back to camp now!”

Chloe cried when she realised we weren't going to live at camp forever.”

Jenna Schade

Auditors Report

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Autism Camp Australia Ltd, comprising the statement of financial position and statement of changes in equity as at 30 June 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and 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 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 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, 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, 2 September, 2020

Treasurers Report

The **Profit & Loss Statement** for the financial year 2019-20 shows Autism Camp Australia had revenue of \$132,327 and posted a deficit of \$17,739.

The **Statement of Financial Position** shows cash at bank of \$180,204 reflecting deferred income of \$234,549 being fees in respect of camps postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Government during the reporting period.

As detailed at Note 9 to the **Financial Report**, since 30 June 2020 Autism Camp Australia has been successful in attracting a two-year Individual Capacity Building grant opportunity from the 2020/2021 year to the value of \$288,440 under the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program provided by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Income

Total revenue of \$132,327 includes camp income of \$83,076, donations of \$10,160 and COVID-19 government assistance of \$39,000.

Expenditure

Expenditure includes specific camp expenses as well as overheads. In addition to the expenses detailed in Expenditure in the **Statement of Profit and Loss** and **Other Comprehensive Income**, Autism Camp Australia has invested in assets including multi-use camp equipment.

Statement of Financial Position

The **Statement of Financial Position** includes cash at bank \$180,204 reflecting deferred income of \$234,549 that will be reflected in income in future years, and multi-use camp equipment, included in Property, Plant & Equipment.

Budgets and projections

During 2019-20, a budgeting and projections process was developed and further refined in view of the impact of COVID-19. This provides the Board with an accurate monthly report taking into account the developing implications of COVID-19 on the business, thereby enabling more accurate cash management and planning.

PETER MACLEAN

Treasurer, Autism Camp Australia

Going Concern

The financial report has been prepared on the going concern basis. However, attention should be drawn to the following matters:

- The COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Government during the reporting period required the Company to postpone camps that were meant to be held during the reporting period as well as shortly after year end. Although the families have agreed for the Company to defer fees received for these camps to future camp dates, and COVID-19 restrictions have been partially lifted, the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and future restrictions creates an uncertainty of when camps will be able to be held and accordingly when the income from these camps will materialise;
- The current liabilities of the Company exceed its current assets by \$17,738 for the year ending 30 June 2020, however, we draw attention to \$234,549 in postponed camp fees in deferred income. The broad and growing Australia-wide need for the program, filling a critical gap in services to autistic young people and their families, has resulted in strong sales into 2021 and a second location due for launch in Dec 2020;
- Regular tracking of cash position has been required, given the need to postpone and reorganise camps. The position is under review by the Board on an ongoing basis but current projections do not indicate any solvency concerns; and
- Furthermore, the Company have been successful in attracting a 2 year Individual Capacity Building (ICB) grant opportunity for the 2020/2021 period to the value of \$288,440 under the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program provided by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

The ability of the company to continue as a going concern is dependent on the continued easing of the restrictions surrounding COVID-19, as well as obtaining additional sources of income other than camp fees.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ending 30 June 2020

INCOME	\$
Camp Income	83,076
Donations	10,160
COVID -19 Government Assistance	39,000
Merchandise Sales	91
TOTAL INCOME	132,327
EXPENDITURE	
Travel and Accommodation	33,923
Overheads and Office Expenses	87,224
Operational Expenses	26,528
Depreciation	2,391
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	150,066
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(17,739)

Statement of Financial Position

	2020
CURRENT ASSETS	\$
Cash & Cash Equivalents	180,204
Trade & Other Receivables	9,350
Prepaid Expenses	13,124
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	202,678
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Property, Plant & Equipment	19,653
TOTAL ASSETS	222,331
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Trade & Other Payables	1,938
Annual Leave Provision	3,583
Deferred Income	234,549
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	240,070
TOTAL LIABILITIES	240,070
NET LIABILITIES	(17,739)
EQUITY	(17,739)

Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	2020
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		\$
Receipts from Customers & Donors		327,876
Receipts from Government Assistance		26,000
Payments to Suppliers & Employees		(151,628)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	7	202,248
CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of Property, Plant & Equipment		(22,044)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		(22,044)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS		180,204
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	3	180,204



“ What an awesome job you have all done!
A huge thank you for putting this all
together and creating an environment
where the kids could be themselves
without judgement and all parents ‘get it’.”
We will be back again next year!
Karina Bale

Team ACA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shelly Rowell Chairperson
Stacey Baker Vice Chairperson
Rachel Rowe Founder
Peter Maclean Treasurer
Prem Dana Takada Secretary
Paul Spooner
Mim Burgess
Ursula Stevens
Travis Saunders

HQ & ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Rachel Rowe CEO
Naomi Rose Book Keeper
Jenny Haines Accountant

ACA TV TEAM (VOLUNTEER)

Bonnie Heitzinger
Meggie Danielson
Rohan Stewart
Helene Thompson
Campbell Rowe
Quincy Rowe

CAMP TEAM BYRON BAY

Helene Thompson Camp Leader
Nerida Elsley-Auld Lead Carer
Deb Ireland Sibling Lead
Nichole Connelly Carer
Kimberly Sowers Carer
Ashley Hayes Carer
Luke Linardos Carer
Ruth Brunner Carer
Karma Barnes Art Therapist
Ann Poulsen Equine Assisted Learning Therapist
Rohan Stewart Bush School
Joanna Kambourian Artist
Mim Burgess Sibworks
Sarah Crook Friendships
Meggie Danielson Self Care Team
Alona Rosenberg Self Care Team
Ohad Rein Self Care Team
Amber Butler Masseuse
Jamie Kennedy Masseuse
Fernando Velazquez Caterer
NSW Sport Activity Providers

Thank You

Thank you to all the wonderful people who have helped establish Autism Camp Australia this year.

On behalf of the whole team, I would like to thank the autistic young people, and their families, who have put their faith in us in our inaugural year. We are truly humbled to share these experiences with you.

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

Australian Federal Government
Create NSW
Keeley's Cause
Maia Marsh
NSW State Government
Norton Rose Fulbright
Ingrained Foundation
Safe on Social
SBS Foundation
Variety - the children's charity
Vasudhara Foundation
WeMove Studio

I especially want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the ACA camp teams, whose energy and enthusiasm for the work they do is already evident in the small time we have been at camp.

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 this first year.

Our autistic children are the leaders, inventors, social entrepreneurs and thinkers of the future. Like the astonishing autistic Hannah Gadsby or the autistic Time 2019 Magazine Person of the Year Greta Thunberg, their quirky unique approach to life is worth celebrating and nurturing, and for good reason. Greta Thunberg is what happens when the world is ready for change. She's a reminder of the fact autistic people were put on this planet to be different. We're here to present new ways of seeing and relating to the world, because we think, learn, communicate and process information differently from the majority of people – and that's valuable.

A fresh perspective is a very powerful thing. 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 Rachel on 02 6684 9304.

autismcampaustralia.org

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Australia

