

YMCA OF BALLARAT

# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2015-2016





# LEADERSHIP REPORTS

## YMCA BALLARAT BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have great pleasure in presenting the President's Report for 2015/16. The past twelve months have been so positive for YMCA Ballarat as we have led our organisation through an exciting period of change and responded to a new operating environment with professionalism and determination. We have a new Board that has settled in well and recently we welcomed Alan Labas and Daniel Anderson.

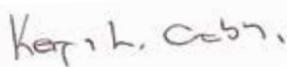
In January 2016, the Board appointed Kate Phillips to the role of Chief Executive Officer. Her commitment and understanding of the YMCA movement has enabled YMCA Ballarat to move forward in a year of change and adaptation. Kate and our talented Senior Management Team (SMT) have worked extremely hard to ensure the profile of YMCA Ballarat has lifted, our operations remain strong and we are identifying new development opportunities.

As the staff team have identified our priorities in the final year of our existing Strategic Plan, the Board have simultaneously lifted our gaze to the next horizon. We are nearing the completion of a six month strategic planning process, which involved a series of workshops, environment analysis and business driver identification. I can share with confidence that our future looks very bright.

I would like to express the Board's sincere thanks to the wonderful YMCA staff who always seem to go that extra mile. I was delighted to assist on the 'production line' for the Boxes of Joy campaign last December, which was an initiative inspired by a Ballarat young person who contacted the Y to see if we could help disadvantaged children and youth. You can read more in this report on this inspirational story.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board for their support and commitment during the year. We must remember that our Board members are volunteers, all with other professional and personal demands. All Board members have made significant contributions to our organisation with passion and wisdom and will lead us well into the next 12 months and beyond.

Kind regards,



**Keryn Crebbin**  
President



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

It is a great honour to deliver my first CEO Report for the YMCA Ballarat, reflecting the 138th year of our organisation's proud history.

Our amazing reach and impact spans over 1000 kilometres in Victoria, impacting 67 communities in over 19 Local Government Areas, every day. This Report includes some of our most incredible stories this year, as our people bring to life our vision of creating healthy and active communities and supporting individuals to achieve their full potential. Our passion for working with young people has shone in 2016 and our united belief across all YMCAs is clear- we believe in the power of inspired young people.

As has oft been quoted, the only constant in this world is change, and the YMCA Ballarat has determinedly embraced change this year. We have achieved so many highlights as well as surmounted our biggest challenge in recent history, facing a future without what was our iconic flagship operation, the Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre. We are delighted to have had the opportunity to impact on the Ballarat community's health and happiness so profoundly during our time managing the Centre.

As we near the final year of our strategic plan that will culminate in 2017 we have been planning our strategic future. Health promotion, social connectedness and youth empowerment remain priorities as we positively impact children, families and communities in the focus areas of our current plan: Healthy Living, Healthy Kids and Social Responsibility.

I would like to thank every person at the Y who makes our organisation thrive, especially our staff and volunteers who never cease to leave me inspired, grateful and humbled by the lengths they always go to in supporting our communities. Our fantastic people are what make working for the Y so exciting and enable our vision to be brought to life. I would also like to thank the Board, led by Keryn, whose decision making and leadership has been a standout.

Thank you to each of you for making my job not only a privilege, but a true pleasure. I can't wait to see our impact continue to grow and I thank everyone who has been part of our journey this year. The best is yet to come.



**Kate Phillips**  
Chief Executive Officer



# YMCA BALLARAT SNAPSHOT 2015-16

- Our reach spans over 1,000 kilometres in rural and regional Victoria
- This year we achieved our 138th year of operation
- We have 446 dedicated staff
- Our staff profile is 91% female and 9% male
- Total participation in 2015-16 was 458,813 attendances
- Drouin Primary Early Learning Centre opened – our first Primary School partnership to establish kindergarten on a school site
- 82% of kindergarten services in 2016 were rated as exceeding or meeting the National Quality Standard. Of those, 23 have been rated as exceeding, well above the National average
- An extended Long Day Care model was established in Birchip, Victoria
- 870 families were supported with Outside School Hours Care in Ballarat
- 9 young people attended Camp Connect, a YMCA school holiday camp for disadvantaged children aged 8-16
- Swimming lessons and water safety classes ran at six pools with over 500 children taking part in this vital skill for life
- Received Corangamite Shire Australia Day Award with Timboon Pool Committee for community connection
- 5 families received much needed Holiday Program respite through Open Doors funding
- The ReCranked bike recycling program gave out its 500th bike
- Two fully re-branded YMCA websites launched in February, making it simpler and clearer for our customers to connect.



# OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

# HEALTHY KIDS



We believe every child and young person has the right to a happy, healthy and safe childhood, so that everyone can reach their full potential. Our Kindergartens, Outside School Hours Care and Youth Services provide an empowering and nurturing environment so that every child and young person can thrive.



**167,911** visits to our **Early Years Programs**

**2,065** Families registered to use our **Kindergarten and Child Care services**



“The long day of care is fantastic, the staff are amazing and the developmental benefits for the children are great. It has been really beneficial for the community to have this available.”

Sandie Richmond, President, Birchip Kindergarten Committee

## EXCEEDING QUALITY STANDARDS

The YMCA Kindergarten Cluster Management services have had a proud culture of delivering exceptional quality in early childhood education since starting 13 years ago. The Kindergarten year is vital to help set the foundation of children’s schooling and give every child the best start in life. As a Kindergarten Cluster Manager, we work closely with the Victorian Department of Education and Training in our rural and remote settings, to bring to life the vision of **every child** having access to quality kindergarten.

In 2015-16, our services received the following Rating and Assessment Results, as determined by the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority. Our Exceeding Standard ratings are proudly 15% higher than the National Average, highlighting the incredible commitment to quality the YMCA delivers for all children every day.

### Kindergarten Quality Profile

**23**

**Services Exceeding the National Quality Standards**

**16**

**Services Meeting the National Quality Standards**

## NEW BIRCHIP LONG DAY CARE



This year, we responded to the needs of families in Birchip, a small rural town in the Mallee Region with a population of 850 people. The community had been actively seeking access to child care

services to support working families for many years.

In 2016 the YMCA partnered with the kindergarten and community to offer a long day of child care for up to 18 children, a well received and utilised service for the area. The YMCA is excited to have been able to support the community by delivering a quality, affordable education and care program with staff already known and trusted by children and their families. Child care contributes to the local economy by supporting parents and local employers and plays a significant part in the growth and sustainability of the community. The Birchip Long Day Care program officially commenced in July 2016 and continues to grow.

## DELIVERING MORE EARLY YEARS PLACES IN DROUIN

The collaboration between local Council, State Government, Drouin Primary School and the YMCA resulted in a new purpose built Early Learning Centre opening in Drouin in March 2016. This was the first time YMCA Ballarat has partnered with a Primary School to establish a kindergarten on a school site.

The purpose built Early Learning Centre provides an additional 44 kindergarten places, a much needed resource for families in the growing community.

## OUR NEW PARTNER: URQUHART PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL



YMCA Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services are essential to support families and children when the school day is over but their working day is not. The YMCA partnered with Urquhart Park Primary School to offer Before and After School Care and Vacation Care to families at the start of Term One in 2016.

OSHC programs work alongside schools to provide children with opportunities to further their learning through activities that are developed around their interests. OSHC is a place for them to play, socialise with friends, have fun and relax while our Educators offer a rich learning environment for life-skill development. OSHC programs are offered at six venues and through 30 partner schools in Ballarat to support children, families and the broader community.

**“** *The partnership means that programs and services are at one location, leading to increased collaboration and better outcomes for children’s learning and development.* **”**

Nancy Drever, Children’s Services Manager, YMCA Ballarat



MP Jenny Mikakos at the official opening.  
Photo courtesy of the Warragul & Drouin Gazette.



**870** families used our **OSHC Programs**

**33,129** visits to **Before School and After School Care**

**4,721** visits to **School Holiday Programs**



# OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

# HEALTHY LIVING



We inspire healthy and active living through YMCA programs and services, connecting everyone in the community to live healthier and happier lives.

## SENSATIONAL OUTDOOR POOL SEASON!

Summer 2015/16 delivered in exceptional style as 11 YMCA managed outdoor pools celebrated the hot weather with fun, special events and a true sense of community spirit in and around the water.

With the highest pool attendances in 9 years, our team of dedicated staff went above and beyond throughout the season. Over 500 regional children accessed VicSwim accredited swimming lessons, ensuring that they had access to learn this vital skill for life. Community connections were also strengthened with a number of events and fundraising initiatives.

We would like to thank our valued and committed partners – the Corangamite, Moynes and Pyrenees Shire Councils who we work with every summer to deliver exceptional, safe and fun pool seasons.

### Outdoor Pool visits 2015-16

- Corangamite: **54,164** • Moynes: **10,524**
- Pyrenees: **19,152** • Total Outdoor Pools visits: **83,840**

**50** local schools used the Outdoor Pools for their programs



## HEALTHY HAPPY SUMMER FUN

- Dive-in movies at Lismore, Camperdown and Timboon Outdoor Pools
- Equestrian triathlon event at Terang ... ride, swim, run!
- Early morning lap swimming at Mortlake, Timboon, Terang, Lismore, Skipton, Camperdown, Cobden pools
- New Water Aerobics sessions
- 68 Family Fun Days with inflatables and BBQs
- 536 children's learn to swim classes providing lessons to children who would otherwise miss out
- Easter Bunny visited Terang Outdoor Pool at the end of the season and played games with children!

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD FOR TIMBOON POOL



Timboon Outdoor Pool's Australia Day party was recognised at the Corangamite Shire's Australia Day Awards, winning an achievement award in the Community Event of the Year category.

The annual event also had a new activity this year – a triathlon, which attracted 40 participants and generated plenty of community excitement.

Lee Edge, Ballarat YMCA's Area Manager and Kate Makin, from the Timboon Swimming Pool Committee, accepted the joint award on behalf of the YMCA and the Pool Committee at a local presentation. The Australia Day awards celebrate the achievement and contribution of individuals and groups in the community and were presented by Corangamite Mayor, Jo Beard and Australia Day Ambassador, Emily Burke.

"This is the first year that we've had the triathlon," said Ms Edge. "Along with the Pool Committee, we've been running the Australia Day Family Pool Party for 14 years now and the community really love it. Everyone does a terrific job and people come from quite a distance, to support the pool and enjoy the atmosphere and activities. It's a very special achievement to have it recognised by the Shire we work in partnership with."

We congratulate the YMCA team at Timboon Swimming Pool and the Timboon Pool Committee for organising this fantastic annual community event!

## EXPANDING PROGRAMS AT CORANGAMITE STADIUMS

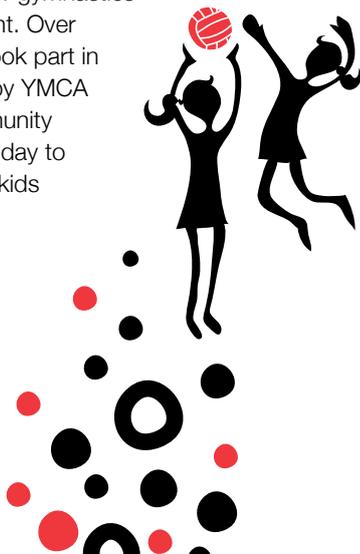
Camperdown Stadium and Timboon Sporting Centre are thriving recreation hubs with YMCA programs and new initiatives attracting large numbers of participants from far and wide. Some travel as far as 56 kilometres just to participate in the sports and wellness programs on offer!



The stadiums provide a place not just for healthy activity but for people to come together and connect. Netball, badminton and basketball programs have all tripled in participation and the Camperdown stadium has seen its Sporting Schools Program commence for primary school children.



We have also catered to healthy minds, with the Y once again taking part in the KidsMatter mental health and wellbeing event for primary schools in the region. We were delighted to take part by connecting 'Fun-nastics', our junior gymnastics program, with the event. Over 200 young students took part in physical activities led by YMCA staff. The whole community came together on this day to show just how much "kids matter" to them.



## YPLAY CAPTURES YOUNG IMAGINATIONS

Hundreds of children enthusiastically joined in at YPlay at the Ballarat Begonia Festival in March 2016 – keen to use their imaginations and building skills. The YMCA Ballarat activity featured supersized recycled materials for play and was located in the beautiful Botanical Gardens.

The YMCA philosophy of active play, healthy living and togetherness was evident as families embraced the theme of "it's not how big you are – it's how big you play!" with many parents building their own constructions or working with their children on new creations.



**“** It was brilliant to see families playing and having fun together, with what were not special equipment or toys – just upcycled items and a sense of fun and imagination! ”

Hayley Wilson, Program Co-ordinator.

# OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



We enhance people's everyday lives by positively impacting areas of need. We actively seek to address the causes of disadvantage through the power of education and social connectedness.

## "BOXES OF JOY" BRING SMILES TO YOUNG FACES AT CHRISTMAS

The Ballarat community showed fantastic support last Christmas for a new youth led initiative with 78 'boxes of joy' assembled from donated items.

The idea was put forward by Jessy Malham, 19, who felt that children and young people experiencing disadvantage in Ballarat deserved a joyful Christmas. Inspired by the shoebox campaign run for overseas charities, Jessy approached the YMCA with the aim of starting a similar idea to benefit children in our local area. "I wanted to give something back to the community. It was great that the YMCA was able to assist in making my dream a reality. I'm so thankful for everybody's support," she said.

YMCA volunteers and Jessy packed boxes with donated gifts for distribution by local agencies just before Christmas.

Stacey Oliver, YMCA Director, Community and Youth Engagement, said, "I was overwhelmed with the generosity and support of local people - it was very heart-warming to know that people want to help others. A small gift offering a touch of happiness for both children and their families is important, particularly at this time of year."

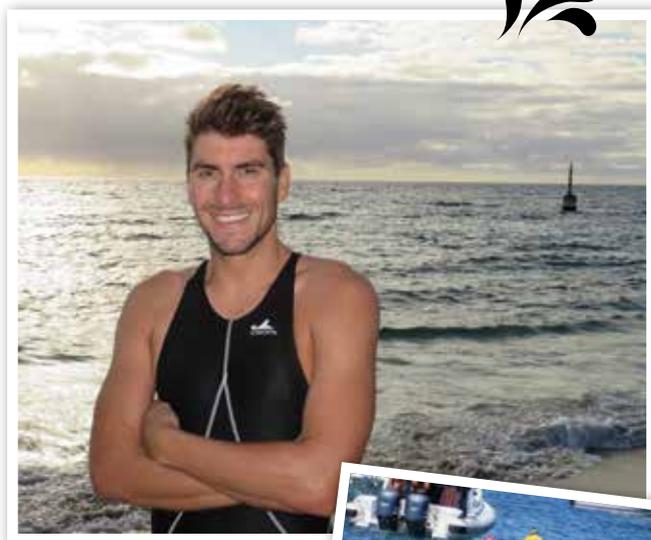
**“ It was very much appreciated by the kids and the parents as well. Thanks very much YMCA!!”**

Akua, Refugee Nurse, Ballarat Community Health



## JOSH SWIMS TO HONOUR TOM CURRIE, A YMCA SWIMMING TEACHER

An amazing young person, Josh Wilson, whose grandfather Tom Currie 'taught most of Ballarat to swim', donated all the funds he raised in a 20km swim across the channel between Perth's Cottesloe Beach and Rottnest Island in February to YMCA Open Doors. He raised \$2,655 from his epic swim. His grandfather Tom Currie, an inspirational former YMCA Ballarat staff member, passed away in January 2015 at the age of 88. Tom swam all of his life and was passionate about passing on this important life skill to others.



**78** Boxes of Joy distributed at Christmas time

**52** Volunteer hours assembling boxes



## RECRANKED: BIKES CHANGING LIVES

ReCranked receives donations from the community of unused bicycles, 're-cranks' them with the help of staff, volunteers and young participants and then distributes them to people in need.

Through the simple provision of a bike, ReCranked enables people to become more physically active and more connected, while allowing young people to learn bike maintenance skills in a relaxed and fun environment.

This year, under the leadership of Coordinator Wallace Martin, ReCranked had a massive impact. 34 bikes were re-cranked for the "Bike for Christmas" campaign, ensuring children who may have gone without a gift on Christmas Day received a "new" bike and brand new Australian safety standard helmet. ReCranked also achieved the milestone of donating its 500th bike!

The transformational impact of ReCranked was epitomised recently when the program helped change the life of a young Ballarat refugee. With a ReCranked bike, he was able to travel to his local soccer club and meet people in a town where he knew no one. It increased his chances of employment as he could commute far more easily. Through having a bike, he was able to make friends, play a sport he loved, find meaningful employment and really start his life here.

The YMCA works in partnership with welfare agencies such as the Salvation Army, Children and Family Services (CAFS), Centacare, schools and refugee agencies to ensure that a "life-changing bike" is given to anyone who needs one.



**“** Being able to provide a bike to someone is truly satisfying. Seeing them excited to have transport and the opportunity to become fitter and healthier makes the work so rewarding. It's also such a great feeling seeing the look on kids' faces when they accomplish something meaningful.”

Wallace Martin, ReCranked Coordinator.



**112** bikes ReCranked for new owners  
**4** Bike Education Programs in Primary Schools assisted  
**13** agencies given bikes to distribute





## EMPOWERING OUR **YOUTH** THROUGH PRACTICAL SKILLS

The Wendouree Youth Centre Practical Skills Program incorporates a range of activities aimed at 8-16 year olds to improve their life skills, health, wellbeing and social connections. The participants have enjoyed activities such as barista training, exploring university life in Para-medicine and Early Childhood studies at ACU, Public Transport challenges, community gardening, swimming, mental health and self-expression workshops. The staff have developed strong rapport and positive relationships with the children, their families and the Wendouree community and numbers have been increasing steadily.

**“ The Youth Centre makes me happy. The leaders are fantastic. I love coming every week!”**  
 Youth Centre participant

## WINTERFEST CREATES WARM COMMUNITY FEELING

An annual event now in its third year, 2016's WinterFest Market was the biggest and most successful one yet, with over 40 stallholders. More than 300 people enjoyed the entertainment, great food and supported local businesses. The market brought together the local community and raised almost \$1,000 for YMCA Open Doors, our benevolent fund which supports access to YMCA services.

**132** locals enjoyed a cuppa with their neighbours at Delacombe Community Morning Teas

**365** people got their skates on at Fun Skate sessions

**274** visits assisted with creating Delacombe Community Garden



**1,458** visits by young people to our Youth Programs



# GOVERNANCE

## OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The safety and well-being of children and young people is our highest priority. Every day our staff care for thousands of children and young people across Victoria in our kindergartens, recreation centres, Outside School Hours Care and youth centres.

In October 2015, Ballarat YMCA completed its first annual review of our Australian Childhood Foundation accreditation. The review highlighted our collective culture, policies and work practices that promote the safety of children and young people in our care. Confidence in our child safe environment was supported by the results of our annual survey, with staff telling us overwhelmingly they knew the rights of children, the legislation that protects them and how to take appropriate action if they felt a child's safety was compromised.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

YMCA Ballarat Inc.	15-16	14-15
Total Revenue	\$4 145 075	\$4 509 145
Total Expense	\$4 041 183	\$4 386 300
Net	\$103 892	\$122 845

Youth Services	15-16	14-15
Total Revenue	\$338 386	\$321 307
Total Expense	\$(290 125)	\$328 602
Net	\$48 261	\$(7 295)

## OUR BOARD

We are fortunate to have a highly skilled Board of Directors, made up of volunteers committed to the communities in which we operate and who give their time so freely. We would like to acknowledge and thank all Directors for the expertise and leadership they have provided this year.



Keryn Crebbin, President



Daniel Anderson



Judith Coull



Nicholas Clare



Alan Labas



Robert McDougall



Xavier Ryan

We would also like to acknowledge and thank our retiring Board Members.

### **Retired from the Board**

Sue Brown

Rosemarie Calvert

Rupert Coles

Chris Lang

Ian Martin

Peter Morris

Paul Rogan

Shirley Walters

Simon Ward



## THANK YOU

Our partners and supporters are integral to our success as a community organisation. We gratefully acknowledge the following organisations for their commitment and partnership with the YMCA in 2015-16.

### Partners

Australian Catholic University  
 Alfredton Primary School  
 Ballarat Community Health  
 Ballarat Health Services  
 Ballarat Roller Derby League  
 Ballarat Specialist School  
 Basketball Ballarat  
 Bass Coast Shire Council  
 Baw Baw Shire Council  
 Buloke Shire Council  
 Buninyong Primary School  
 Central Goldfields Shire Council  
 Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership  
 City of Ballarat  
 City of Greater Bendigo  
 Cobden District Health Services  
 Commerce Ballarat  
 Committee for Ballarat  
 Community Child Care  
 Corangamite Shire Council  
 Delacombe Chairs Forum  
 Delacombe Primary School  
 Department of Education and Training, Victoria  
 Developing Other Talents and Skills (D.O.T.S)  
 E-Store  
 Early Learning Association of Australia  
 East Gippsland Shire Council  
 KidsMatter  
 Magpie Primary School  
 Mildura Shire Council  
 Mount Alexander Shire Council  
 Moyne Shire Council  
 Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Phoenix P-12 Community College  
 Pleasant Street Primary School  
 Pyrenees Shire Council  
 Relationships Australia: Victoria  
 South Gippsland Shire Council  
 Sports Central  
 Swan Hill Rural City Council  
 The Ballarat Foundation  
 Urquhart Park Primary School  
 Wendouree Alliance  
 Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre  
 Western Bulldogs  
 Western District Employment Access (WDEA)  
 Women's Health Grampians (CORE Alliance Member)  
 YMCA Camera Club  
 YMCAs of Australia  
 Yuille Park Community College  
 Y Service Club Ballarat

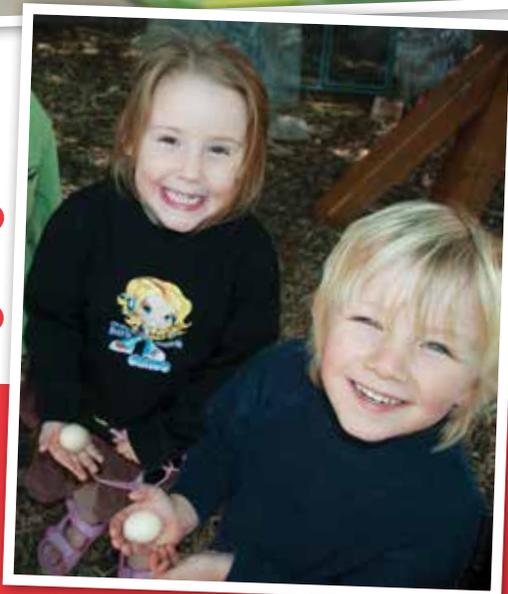
### Grants

City of Ballarat  
 Leith Trust  
 Rotary Springfest  
 Western District Employment Access (WDEA)  
 Y Service Club Ballarat

### Donors

BJT Legal  
 Damian Caine, Caine Property  
 MOR Accountants  
 Schweppes





## YMCA BALLARAT

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