



nundjin

gasoman



The John Villiers Trust (JVT) is an independent trust that supports charitable organisations working in country Queensland to build better, fairer, more resilient communities.

We want to spark genuine, sustainable change that focuses on a wide range of activities that support the wellbeing and development of young Queenslanders living in rural, regional and remote communities, where our namesake - John Villiers - spent much of his life.

Established on John's death in 2002, JVT continues to nurture his legacy of supporting organisations to achieve transformative impact in Queensland communities through active engagement and strong partnerships.

John's Will reflected his love of country Queensland - he bequeathed the majority of his estate for the benefit of public charitable purposes in the state. For over 20 years we've nurtured this original gift and have grown it from \$6.75 million to over \$24 million, and have awarded \$10.8 million to date in grants.

JVT exists solely to drive positive, long-lasting change in country Queensland.

We aim to listen to and amplify the voices of rural, regional and remote communities, and believe their future is in the hands of young people. We continue to evolve and extend our work, with our focus on connecting organisations, ideas and people. Our approach is to pool our resources with like-minded donors, funders and advisors, to achieve greater impact.

As a Public Ancillary Fund (PuAF) with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, we have more opportunities to help country communities access the support they need to continue to thrive. Through our strategic grant making and fundraising, collaborating with other funders, and providing options for people to donate through the Trust, we have a chance now to grow our impact and further enrich communities through strategic giving.

**Our FY23 Annual Report provides a snapshot of our work, and in the following pages, we share some of the stories and successes from the past year.**

## Contents

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Our Strategic Intent<br>Our Goals<br>Our Values      | 1     |
| Message from the Chair<br>& CEO                      | 2-3   |
| Creating a lasting impact                            | 4     |
| Success criteria                                     | 5     |
| 2023 grants & partnerships                           | 6     |
| Organisations & projects<br>we supported across FY23 | 7-8   |
| Case studies   | 9-14  |
| Our leadership                                       | 15-16 |
| Investment update                                    | 17    |
| Financial summary                                    | 18-19 |

The John Villiers Trust acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of Australia and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



# Our Strategic Intent

## Vision

Vibrant Queensland communities enriched by strategic giving.

## Mission

To achieve transformative impact in Queensland communities through active engagement and strong partnerships.

## Scope

We focus on support for children and youth in rural, regional and remote Queensland communities.

# Our Goals



## Communities

Build strategic relationships to better understand the needs of communities and to inform our grant making and other activities.



## Partnerships

Build partnerships and engage in collaborations to leverage collective resources.



## Growth

Strengthen the Trust by growing its resources for expanded impact for today and tomorrow.

# Our Values

## Respect

We respect our benefactor's legacy, and those we work with.

## Transparency

We present ourselves in an open, accountable way.

## Integrity

We behave with honesty and integrity as custodians of the fund.

## Collaboration

We build connections to achieve better outcomes for Queensland communities.

[See online version for more details](#)



# Message from the Chair & CEO



## Working together for country Queenslanders

Our focus on country Queensland means we see and appreciate the can-do attitude, strength, dedication and resilience of communities across the state.

Incredible work is undertaken in rural, regional and remote areas that flies under the radar - under funded, under promoted, and unrecognised - with individuals and organisations often too busy making a difference to stop and recognise or celebrate what they have achieved.

That's why we are passionate about amplifying the voices of country Queensland and encouraging other funders to support these communities.

In 2023, JVT continued to focus on developing partnerships to benefit those living in rural, regional and remote Queensland.

Membership of the Queensland Kids Funders Alliance expanded this year, allowing us to strengthen our commitment to collaboration, sharing

resources and connections, and together explore more opportunities for increased impact to benefit Queensland kids.

Supporters of the Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership (TQKP) also grew, with the [Tim Fairfax Family Foundation \(TFFF\)](#), and the [Helping Hands Network Foundation](#), joining the collaboration alongside inaugural funders: [JVT](#), [Hand Heart Pocket](#), [The Bryan Foundation](#), and [Paul Ramsay Foundation](#).

Additional funding for TQKP has boosted our combined philanthropic commitment to a total of \$9.1 million. It's a great example of how we can achieve more when we work together. We're delighted that TFFF committed funding specifically to support country Queensland, and also to amplify the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice through a separate TQKP initiative.

through roundtable events, co-investing in aligned initiatives, and advocating for reform to remove barriers to achieving the shared vision.

This year we also welcomed more organisations to the Queensland Funders Hub, a co-working space that enables us to work more closely with other funders and partners. [The Lady Musgrave Trust](#), [Wiri Yuwiburra Community Benefits Trust](#), and TQKP have joined JVT, Hand Heart Pocket, and [Philanthropy Australia](#) as regulars at the hub. The popularity of the space continues to grow, with interstate and local funders, and investment and community partners, booking the touch-down desks and meeting rooms. It's a great place to meet and collaborate with like-minded organisations.

Increased interest and investment in place-based approaches means more community-led solutions addressing the unique needs of country Queensland.



JVT grantee Outback Exploratorium



As Dialogue Members in the [Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children](#), we were pleased this was included in the May budget announcements.

The Investment Dialogue is a commitment between Government and philanthropic partners to a long-term collaboration to improve the wellbeing of children, young people, and their families, by working with communities to reduce intergenerational disadvantage in Australia.

Our involvement will include continued discussions with philanthropic peers, government offices and community stakeholders

## 2023 funding highlights

Across the year we remained focused on driving more strategic funding initiatives and collaborating with other funders to support projects under development. We know we can do better together, and the greater impact we can have by sharing resources, knowledge, connections and experience.

In FY23, we approved five new grants focused on making a difference to Queensland communities, to make a total of 14 active grantees across the year. JVT funding for these grants totalled \$2,248,326, but we leveraged an additional \$9,540,000 through co-funding for these initiatives.

We continue to base our partnering and philanthropic giving on five success factors that amplify our impact ([see page five](#)).

Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership exemplifies all these factors, with their focus on: prevention and early intervention; partnering and collaborating; supporting systems change across the state for deep and multiple impacts; and building capacity and capability so communities and local organisations can lead solutions to improve the lives of Queensland children and youth.

Our funding of TQKP's Country Collaborative role also confirms their focus on ensuring communities inform and lead initiatives.

While supporting state-wide systems change initiatives such as TQKP, and working on a pipeline of new strategic initiatives with our partners, we also continue to fund capacity building for smaller organisations that are strongly aligned to our focus areas.

Ausdance QLD, Cowboys Community Foundation, and the Emerald-based Outback Exploratorium, are examples of investing in organisational capacity building, so grantees can continue to strengthen and sustain their work after our involvement.

Our recent grant for Q-SEED reflects our continued support for regional community-led and community-informed projects. JVT is providing initial seed funding for what we hope may be a significant new approach to address economic development and employment needs in regional Queensland.

Our collaboration with like-minded funders, the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), has expanded our reach, and our ability to amplify the voice of country youth,

build capacity and partnerships, and support the delivery of grassroots solutions.

Additional focus has been given to providing value beyond funding - by connecting organisations, ideas and people. We continue to build our communications strategy and public presence, focusing on drawing community and funder attention to opportunities to make a difference in country Queensland, and to the great work of our grantees.

## Board update

With our policies, practice and structure now well established and managed, this year we were able to streamline our committees to reflect this progress and maturity of the Trust.

Our more forward-looking agenda also drove the creation of a new Development Working Group, to focus on the future to ensure we remain Out Here - For Good, supporting the unique needs of country Queensland.

## The year ahead

We continue to be inspired and amazed by the incredible work of our grantees, funding partners, and country communities, and remain committed to collaborating for the benefit of rural, regional and remote Queensland.

The past 12 months have seen increasing interest in, and focus on, place-based approaches, which we believe is an effective way to address the unique needs of country communities.

We hope the 2024 financial year will see the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children progress, and start bringing philanthropy, governments and communities together to form state and national approaches. It is a great opportunity

to leverage the strength and expertise of the wide range of partners to drive change.

We will continue to work and partner with other like-minded organisations to create long-term, sustainable change for the benefit of Queensland communities.

We will also remain focused on making it easy for individuals to offer their support for youth and families in Queensland. We see our role as trusted intermediaries, who connect donors with organisations and programs that will make a difference - be it through our Trust, bequest options, or by donating directly to organisations we support.

We are proud that all our Directors are financial donors to JVT, demonstrating their trust in, and commitment to, our work. We are also incredibly grateful to the family of Darvell Hutchinson AM, former inaugural Trustee and Chair of JVT, who this year chose to make a significant donation to JVT in Darvell's memory, and in recognition of his long-held belief in the importance of JVT and our role in supporting country Queensland communities. You can read more about Darvell's legacy on [page four](#).

## Better together

We could not make an impact without our committed and passionate co-funders, grantees and donors. We are also grateful to the JVT team - our Directors, committee members and staff - for their respect and integrity, and dedication to achieving better outcomes for Queensland communities. We are small in number, but big in heart.

**Dr Ian Galloway AM, Chair**  
**Lea-Anne Bradley, CEO.**



JVT grantee Ausdance QLD



# Creating a lasting impact

## Leaving a legacy

After the passing of John Villiers in 2002, his trusted associate Darvell Hutchinson AM became the inaugural Trustee of The John Villiers Trust. Darvell went on to serve as Chair of the Trust for 17 years, dedicated to honouring John's wish to leave a lasting legacy that would continue to support Queenslanders.

Darvell was also passionate about recognising the scale of need - and opportunity - in rural, regional and remote Queensland communities, and amplifying their voices. Even after retiring from the Board, he continued to donate to the Trust, helping to support the vital work of our grantees.

Darvell's family likewise recognised and valued the positive, long-lasting impact of JVT and the organisations we support and partner with. Sadly, Darvell passed in early 2022. In recognition of Darvell's close affinity with JVT and his love of country Queensland, his family made a donation to JVT in his memory, continuing his legacy of support.

"Our father was very proud of the work of The John Villiers Trust, and its focus on contributing to Queensland's country communities," Darvell's children - Jane, Sally and Martin - said.

"It means so much to us to be able to give this gift in his name, and know his legacy will live on through the excellent work of the Trust."

We are grateful to the Hutchinson family for their thoughtful gift and we will continue to honour Darvell's contribution to JVT.

Gifts like these help JVT to support more organisations working to make a difference for children and youth in country Queensland. As one of the few philanthropic organisations dedicated to supporting young people outside of the south-east corner of the state, our work is vital so country communities can continue to thrive. Leaving a gift in memory of a loved one, or making a bequest to JVT, leaves a lasting legacy that will make a real difference for generations to come.



## You can donate

If you would like to join us in supporting children and youth in rural, regional and remote Queensland, you can make a tax-deductible donation, or leave a gift in your Will, to The John Villiers Trust. Visit our [website](#) or contact us at [admin@jvtrust.org.au](mailto:admin@jvtrust.org.au) to learn more.

As a Public Ancillary Fund registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Taxation Office, donations to JVT of \$2 or more are tax deductible in Australia.



# Success criteria

**Five success factors guide our philanthropic giving and amplify our impact.**

**We assess successful grants against these criteria.**



## **PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS**

We build partnerships that leverage collective resources.

We fund collaborative efforts from grant applicants where their complementary knowledge, connections and experience enhances the impact of their grant.

We are committed to collaborating with other funders to increase support for rural, regional and remote Queensland.



## **HARM PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION TO BRING BETTER OUTCOMES**

We believe early intervention is the wisest investment: it prevents harm and drives better outcomes for communities in the long term.



## **IDEAS THAT ARE COMMUNITY-LED, DRIVEN OR INFORMED**

We understand each country community is unique and their input about their needs is crucial in shaping the most successful solutions.



## **PROJECTS THAT HAVE MULTIPLE OR DEEP IMPACTS**

We support projects that will have multiple or deep and long-lasting impacts for rural, regional and remote Queensland communities, children and youth.



## **INVESTMENTS THAT BUILD ORGANISATIONAL AND SECTOR CAPACITY WHICH WILL OUTLAST OUR INVOLVEMENT**

To build momentum that will outlast our involvement, we invest in capacity building for charitable organisations and the sector that supports the community.

Our case studies on pages 9-14 provide examples of these success factors in action

# FY23 grants & partnerships

JVT is unlike most charitable organisations. Our unique intermediary approach focuses on connection, providing not just funding but vision, structure, and collaboration.

We seek like-minded donors, funders and advisors whose ideas, causes and goals align with ours, to unite resources and invest for long-term transformative change. Through collaboration, we are able to foster change and build powerful relationships in multiple ways, and in many locations, right across Queensland.



**\$606,849**

## Grant payments in FY23

We distributed \$606,849 to grantees this year.



**\$402,878**  
**5 Grants**

## New grants in 2023

This year we awarded five new grants totalling \$402,878, payable in this and future years.



**\$2,248,326**  
**14 Grants**

## Total commitment

Our total commitment to 14 active grantees across multiple years is \$2,248,326.



**\$9.5 Million**

## Total co-funding

Total additional co-funding from other sources across our 14 active grantees is \$9,540,000.



**\$10.8 Million**

## Total grants since 2002

Since 2002, communities across Queensland have benefitted from 192 grants totalling \$10.8 million from The John Villiers Trust.



# Organisations & projects we supported across FY23



## Outback Futures

2020 - 2023

**Child and youth specialist clinical capacity support**

\$370,907 over three years to provide three clinical specialists in learning and literacy, speech pathology, and occupational therapy, for children and young people in the Cloncurry and McKinlay shires.

[Read more >](#)

## Schools Plus

## Schools Plus

2020 - 2023

**Three projects providing high-impact support for rural school clusters in need**

\$450,000 over three years to improve learning outcomes and engagement of students in Chinchilla, Eidsvold and Normanton schools by investing in leader development and local community partnerships.

[Read more >](#)



## The Waltzing Matilda Centre

2021 - 2023

**John Villiers Outback Art Prize**

\$52,500 for a further three years of support for the John Villiers Outback Art Prize and to promote Winton and surrounding area as a unique place to visit. Funding supports an extended program to include an Emerging Youth category and youth workshops.

[Read more >](#)



## Top Blokes Foundation

2021 - 2024

**Improving the mental health and wellbeing of young men and boys in schools in Toowoomba**

\$282,041 over three years to positively impact more than 550 young males, and build a sustainable hub in the Toowoomba and the Darling Downs region by working with local communities to build the capacity to fund, introduce and maintain the programs. [Read more >](#)



## JUTE Theatre Company

2021 - 2022

**Dare to Dream scale up strategy development**

\$25,000 to engage on country with 10 indigenous communities for their input into JUTE Theatre Company's Dare to Dream Safer Communities Indigenous stories program.

[Read more >](#)



## White Box Enterprises

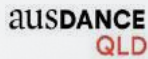
2022 - 2024

**Strengthening futures through social enterprise**

\$300,000 for three years to co-fund an Indigenous Business Coordinator role to boost Indigenous enterprises, youth employment and bring new income sources into country communities.

[Read more >](#)





## Ausdance QLD 2022 - 2025

### SafeDance for Kids

\$100,000 over three years to help build a transformative safety education program for children learning all styles and traditions of dance. Cultural training will also support safe participation in dance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.  
[Read more >](#)



## White Box Enterprises 2022

### Social Enterprise World Forum - country Queensland bursaries

\$10,000 for bursaries for four budding social entrepreneurs from country Queensland to attend the Social Enterprise World Forum 2022 in Brisbane.  
[Read more >](#)



## ARACY: Thriving Qld Kids Partnership

2022 - 2025

### Thriving Queensland Kids Country Collaborative Partnership Officer

\$255,000 for three years to co-fund a new position as part of Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership (TQKP) to put 'boots on the ground' and amplify the voices of country kids.  
[Read more >](#)



## Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) 2023 - 2025

### Amplifying the youth voices of Queensland

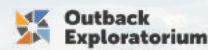
\$100,000 over three years to increase the impact of the FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Program, including state-specific funding to conduct additional outreach, build capacity for youth and communities, and increase the number of youth-focused projects funded in Queensland.  
[Read more >](#)



## CQUniversity & ArcBlue 2023

### Q-SEED: Supporting the local community to build a bespoke socio-economic solution that meets their needs

\$50,000 of seed funding to help build the foundations of a bespoke place-based program that is designed to help create economic opportunities for the Townsville region.  
[Read more >](#)



## Outback Exploratorium 2023

### Breaking down barriers to STEAM learning in outback Queensland

\$50,000 for capacity-building support to plan the transformation of the Outback Exploratorium into a sustainable profit-for-purpose social enterprise that advances an out-of-school, STEAM educational ecosystem in country Queensland.  
[Read more >](#)



## Cowboys Community Foundation 2023 - 2026

### Boarding for success - evaluating our impact

\$150,378 over three years to improve evaluation methods to ensure NRL Cowboys House is achieving its intended impact: to provide unique, culturally-safe boarding for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from remote north Queensland attending partner schools in Townsville.  
[Read more >](#)



## The Waltzing Matilda Centre 2024 - 2026

### John Villiers Outback Art Prize

\$52,500 for a further three years to in part support the Children's Art Project and Digital Exhibition, which encourages budding artists aged 5-14 years to get involved with the John Villiers Outback Art Prize, and gives them a voice and opportunity to express themselves through art.  
[Read more >](#)

**Read the case studies on the following pages for more detail on some of these initiatives**



# Case Studies:

## Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY): Helping Queensland kids thrive



### A collaboration for better outcomes for children, young people, their families and communities across Queensland.

Last year, JVT committed foundational support to the **Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership (TQKP)**.

In FY23, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation (TFFF) and Helping Hands Network Foundation joined the collaboration - alongside founding members JVT, Hand Heart Pocket, The Bryan Foundation, and Paul Ramsay Foundation - boosting the combined philanthropic funding of TQKP to a total of \$9.1m.

TFFF funding is committed to specifically support country Queensland alongside JVT, and also to amplify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices through the TQKP Thriving First Nations Kids Initiative, in partnership with the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP).

Helping Hands Network Foundation committed \$300,000 over two years for the Thriving Lockyer Kids project, which is part of the Thriving Places, Thriving Kids initiative.

TQKP is now focusing on 10 key state-wide initiatives to help Queensland children, youth, families and communities thrive.



L-R: Katie Norman (TFFF), Jacinta Perry (TQKP), Rowena Cann (TQKP), and Lea-Anne Bradley (JVT)

### TQKP Leadership table established

JVT Chair Ian Galloway AM and JVT CEO Lea-Anne Bradley attended the launch of a new Leadership Table for TQKP in December 2022, established to provide strategic leadership, advice and assistance.

The diverse, multi-disciplinary group of experienced and emerging leaders and collaborators bring perspectives from across Queensland, and a great depth and breadth of cross-sectoral knowledge and experience to TQKP.



Members and guests at the launch event of the TQKP Leadership Table

### Thriving Queensland Kids Country Collaborative

Given our love of country Queensland, our funding is dedicated to the Thriving Queensland Kids Country Collaborative, which amplifies the voices of rural, regional and remote communities to achieve systemic change.

Throughout FY23, TQKP set up the Country Collaborative and formed the partnerships needed for co-hosting the leadership position for this initiative in a regional Queensland location. This ensures the initiative will remain focused on, and informed by, the real needs of regional communities by centring on the voices and lived experience of country Queensland.

With funding from JVT and TFFF, the Country Collaborative has now been established as a joint initiative between TQKP, CQUniversity and James Cook University (JCU), which hosts the lead Partnership Officer at its Cairns campus.

The Country Collaborative brings together local leaders and organisations from across the state to collectively address the unique challenges that impact children, youth and families in country Queensland, which includes those living in regional, rural and remote communities.



# Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY): Helping Queensland kids thrive - continued

## Partnership Officer

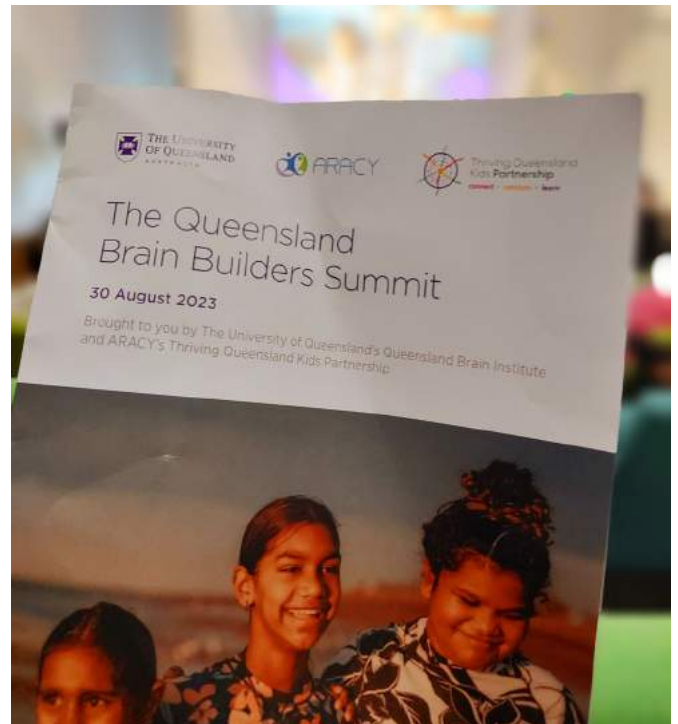
A new Thriving Queensland Kids Country Collaborative Partnership Officer role, co-funded by JVT and TFFF, was created and Jacinta Perry was appointed to the position in April 2023. In this role, Jacinta is enabling greater opportunity for TQKP to embrace and support more country Queensland communities and organisations. That means more local input into the initiatives and ideas being developed by TQKP, and a better understanding of the unique issues and needs of the communities they support.

Jacinta's conversations across country Queensland have already highlighted the potential and ingenuity of many communities, but also their gaps, challenges and opportunities for further partnerships and resourcing to ensure kids can thrive.

## Better together

We know we have more impact when we work together. Partners and funders of TQKP will play a critical role in driving significant, long-term changes in child and youth wellbeing in country Queensland.

The collaboration is a great example of the benefits of co-funding and partnering, and highlights the importance of multiple grants, funding and donations to the success of making real, lasting difference in people's lives and the places they live.



The Queensland Brain Builders Summit

## Thriving Kids Brain Builders Initiative

ARACY, TQKP and The University of Queensland launched the Thriving Kids Brain Builders Initiative (TKBBI) in 2023, helping those working with children and young people, and their families and communities, build capability and understand more about the science of brains and brain development, and what it takes for young people to thrive.

TKBBI brings together partners across research, government, non-government organisations, and social enterprise to collaboratively generate and translate neuroscience knowledge, so that it can be applied across systems and settings that support children, young people and families.

One of the first products from the Brain Builders Initiative is the 'Understanding Brain Development' modules, developed with [Queensland Brain Institute](#) and [Emerging Minds](#).

The four free modules cover the foundational concepts of neuroscience, presented in a format that is easy for workers and carers to understand and apply in their daily lives. They are all online, making them great resources for those in rural, regional and remote Queensland.

**To access the modules visit:** <https://learning.emergingminds.com.au/course/understanding-brain-development>



# Australian Schools Plus: Improving learning outcomes for country Queensland kids



## Compared with their city peers, country Queensland children face greater challenges receiving an education.

That's why JVT has supported Australian Schools Plus to help improve the learning outcomes of students in rural, regional and remote schools.

In 2021, JVT partnered with Australian Schools Plus on three projects designed to:

- develop capacity in school leaders through teacher and leadership support
- create sustainable local partnerships
- increase attendance and engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and grow connection to language and culture, and
- equip students with literacy, numeracy and work-focused skills, including through vocational training.

The three-year grant enabled much-needed support to be provided to clusters of schools in regional Queensland, in the communities of Chinchilla, Eidsvold, and Normanton.

The initiative aligns with the factors that amplify our impact. Schools Plus is:

- creating partnerships with participating schools, and between the schools within each cluster, who now work together to support each other and share resources
- building student capability, but also developing the capacity of the leadership and teaching staff. Schools receive coaching and mentoring, giving them someone to reach out to for advice and support. They are also supported with their evaluation and measurement processes
- providing early intervention for children and young people in danger of disengaging from the education system
- achieving multiple and deep impacts, benefiting students and teachers and ultimately the communities surrounding the schools, and
- delivering initiatives that are community-led. Schools identify what they need to address and are then supported by Schools Plus to make that happen.

## Achievements

More than 1,400 students and 42 teachers across the three clusters have benefited from these Schools Plus initiatives so far.



Eidsvold State School students learning the Wakka Wakka language

Building greater connection to language and culture has resulted in improved attendance, engagement and achievement, and higher levels of confidence among the students. Language lessons, along with cultural activities, have helped Indigenous children and young people develop a stronger sense of individual and cultural identity, and helped non-Indigenous students to have better cultural understanding.

Teachers have also developed their skills, understanding, and cultural awareness. Most importantly though, staff have received coaching, which helps schools deal with high turnover and ensure the sustainability of their work. Teachers within the clusters now have a support network to call on and learn from, to collaborate with and share resources.

### Corey's story:

Corey Appo broke new ground this year, gaining well-deserved recognition for his work reviving and teaching Wakka Wakka - the language of the region - to students at Eidsvold State School.

Corey's teaching qualification is one of Queensland's first, where his cultural background and experience mean he has been given permission to teach without a university degree.

Teaching and building a connection to language and culture is helping improve the attendance, confidence and engagement of Indigenous students. It is also supporting teacher capability and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and culture.

With Eidsvold working as part of a school cluster - sharing support, teachers and resources - schools and children across the region will benefit from Corey's experience, knowledge, and language lessons.



Hear more about the work of Australian Schools Plus and JVT: <https://youtu.be/MmKEvEqQW0o>



# Top Blokes Foundation: Building strong foundations for regional young men



## For the past two years, JVT has supported the Top Blokes Foundation (TBF) to help young country Queenslanders to thrive.

The program has been running in the Toowoomba region, helping boys and young men develop resilience, empathy and respect for self and others, and ultimately helping reduce the rates of mental health issues, suicide, and anti-social and risk-taking behaviours.

TBF's aim was to positively impact the mental health and wellbeing of over 550 young males in the region through the delivery of 48 programs across eight schools, with a minimum of 6,000 hours of mentoring, over the first three years of the program.

Incredibly, TBF is already exceeding its goals. By working with local schools and community leaders, the Top Blokes program has now been delivered in every public high school in Toowoomba and surrounding areas.

In 2023 alone, TBF Toowoomba will deliver 23 programs impacting 276 vulnerable and at-risk young men through 4,368 hours of mentoring in Toowoomba, Lockyer Valley, Pittsworth and Milmerran.

But the support does not end when boys complete the program. TBF's Graduate Club in Toowoomba allows program graduates to continue to engage with TBF post programming.

The Supporters Program also takes the conversation from the Top Blokes in-school workshops to a young man's home environment or adult support network.

Supporting young country Queenslanders to thrive is a key focus for JVT. Working closely with the community on early intervention is critically important to ensure young men have strong mental health foundations. It's also key to making the program sustainable in the long term.

JVT's grant was designed to support Top Blokes to work with the local community to build the capacity to introduce and maintain their programs.

That aim is also being achieved. Since launching in Toowoomba, TBF has received \$123,000 in school co-payments, and raised \$138,000 in additional funding through community fundraising, major donors, and corporate and philanthropic grants. It's a great sign of local commitment for the long-term benefit of boys and young men in Toowoomba and surrounds.



Graduate Club members are given some amazing opportunities, including the Story Bridge Adventure Climb

## Changing lives

Participants from both primary and secondary schools appreciate how the Top Blokes program has changed their relationships with themselves, their mental health, and those around them...

"Top Blokes helped me with my emotions."

"Top Blokes has helped me build a healthy mindset and know where to go for support."

"Top Blokes has taught me how to have good relationships with other people."

"Top Blokes has helped me enjoy school more."

"Top Blokes has helped me be more calm and has made me more confident."

"Top Blokes has taught me that everyone can be a better person."



# Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal: Addressing the issues that matter most to youth in country Queensland



## JVT is working with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal to help young people identify and solve the issues that matter most to them.

JVT wants to amplify the voices of young people in country Queensland, a goal shared by our new partners at the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).

At JVT, we know that successful solutions are those led, driven or informed directly by country communities. The people impacted are best placed to identify the issues to be addressed.

FRRR is focused on connecting common purposes and investment with locally-prioritised needs to create rural, regional and remote communities that are vital and resilient.

Recognising that more communities across Queensland could benefit from their great work, JVT has committed \$100,000 over three years to specifically help improve life for young people in rural, regional, and remote Queensland. The dedicated grants mean more youth-led initiatives can come to life in the state. The funding will help:

- raise more awareness of FRRR and the broad range of work they do to support country communities
- build capacity for young country people and communities, and help organisations connect with youth and address the issues that matter most to them, and
- fund more grants for Queensland organisations to implement ideas developed by youth and for youth living in rural, regional and remote areas, through the [FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants program](#).

## Making a difference

The grants program closely aligns with JVT's focus on supporting projects that:

- build lasting capacity and momentum. Country communities, the grant recipients, the youth involved, and FRRR will all benefit from the funding
- have multiple impacts. With a number of grants available, multiple issues can be addressed in multiple ways in multiple communities, impacting youth, the community, and the grantee organisations

- build relationships that leverage collective resources. Partnering and collaborating with like-minded organisations like FRRR and ABC Heywire allows JVT to use complementary knowledge, connections and experience to enhance our impact. The grants also encourage and develop community partnerships with youth, and
- are community-led, driven or informed. Grants are awarded to organisations who will work with young people to adapt and adopt solutions to address the identified ideas for their unique community.

## Grants in action

In 2023, 40 grant applications were received from across Australia including eight from Queensland. Applications were carefully reviewed by a Youth Assessment Panel made up of six Heywire Regional Youth Summit alumni, with 16 grants awarded totalling \$148,721. Five projects in Queensland were funded, with four of these thanks to JVT's contribution to this program. [You can read more about the projects funded here.](#)

In addition, JVT's support allowed FRRR's Youth Program Manager to visit six remote communities on the Cape York Peninsula, meeting with eight youth-supporting organisations. Two of the projects funded by this program resulted from that trip. Additional applications were successful in other FRRR programs.

We look forward to sharing more impacts in the coming years.



JVT Chair, Ian Galloway AM and Heywire Summit delegate, Elijah Douglas, from Doomadgee



# CQUniversity & ArcBlue: Creating opportunities for regional Queensland



When JVT became aware of an opportunity to provide seed funding to build the foundations of a bespoke place-based program designed to help create economic opportunities for the Townsville region, we knew we needed to lend our support.

The Q-SEED program (Queensland Social Procurement, Employment and Economic Development) establishes the framework on which to develop a collaborative, place-based solution to help create socio-economic opportunities for regional Queensland.

Based on a successful program run in [regional Victoria](#), Q-SEED is a collaboration between local communities and stakeholders, [CQUniversity](#), and [ArcBlue](#) - who are experienced social procurement consultants.

The objective of Q-SEED is to leverage local and social procurement and inclusive employment practices to create a stronger regional economy. This means working with local businesses to secure contracts, increase employment opportunities for people who are facing barriers to work, and connecting more local people to local jobs.

The project harnesses the purchasing power of individuals, businesses, and organisations to drive inclusive employment practices and create ways to address socio-economic challenges within a specific region.

JVT's seed funding is supporting the initial local community engagement and planning phase. Depending on the targets identified by the community, Q-SEED will then seek additional funding to drive the implementation and activation phase forward.

Recognising that there are many Queensland regions who could benefit from this type of place-based approach, Townsville proved to be well-positioned to start the Q-SEED program, due to the significant opportunity to transform the city. If just 5% cent of non-local spend is shifted back into the local economy with local suppliers, more than 1500 local jobs could be created. Those are jobs that are needed, with 23% of the population aged 15-29, and 9% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The unemployment rate for those groups is 5.3% and 15.9% respectively.

Townsville is also likely to have the community capital and support required to enable a place-based approach. It acts as a 'hub' within the region - meaning that the economic benefits may flow to other regional towns. Based on the program's success and learnings, the initiative also has the potential to be replicated in other regional areas.



**A CQUniversity Office of Social Innovation workshop**

More than just creating jobs, Q-SEED leverages local supply chains to generate greater opportunities for young jobseekers and the business community. The key is to identify opportunities to redirect spend and incoming investment back into the local economy. The program then works with businesses in the region to identify suitable opportunities and supports them with the tools to employ more people locally, especially those typically locked out of the job market.

This approach empowers regions and enables long-term, sustainable social outcomes. The program leverages local and social procurement, inclusive employment of local people, and creates opportunities for young people while also increasing local investment that is a critical support for regional communities.

***This initiative has the potential to achieve transformative impact within regional Queensland communities, bringing together major stakeholders to strengthen local economic and employment opportunities and sustainable planning capabilities.***

Q-SEED's focus on developing partnerships and collaboration strongly aligns with JVT's ethos. It has the potential to create multiple, sustainable and long-lasting impacts, directed by the needs of local community stakeholders. Its intention to build the capacity of local organisations to better respond to procurement opportunities and employ locally, also make the project a natural fit for JVT's support.



# Our leadership

The key role of the JVT Board is to fulfil the Trust's Vision and Mission, and in so doing set and monitor the business strategy and ensure the organisation meets its legal, financial and regulatory requirements.



**Dr Ian Galloway AM**  
Chair

**Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee member; Finance and Investment Committee member; Development Working Group member.**

Ian holds a Masters in Management and a Doctor of Philosophy in Entomology from The University of Queensland. He was CEO of Queensland Museum Network for 13 years, and prior to that, Deputy CEO at Museum Victoria and Director of Land Protection at the Queensland Department of Lands. He also worked with the Department of Primary Industries as an entomologist.

Ian was Chairman of the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) for seven years and remains as a Trustee of the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Hospital Foundation. In 2003, Ian received a Centenary Medal and in 2019 became a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the museums sector, to historical preservation, and to the environment.



**Dr Cherrell Hirst AO**  
Director

**Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee member; Finance and Investment Committee member.**

Cherrell graduated from The University of Queensland in medicine and practiced for 30 years, predominantly as Director of the Wesley Breast Clinic, subsequently becoming a Non-Executive Director and/or Chair of a wide variety of corporate entities in the health, biotech, education and business sectors. She is currently on the Board of the Bolton Clarke Group.

Cherrell was Chancellor of QUT from 1994 to 2004, was named Queenslander of the Year in 1995, and became an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1998. She was awarded the Queensland AICD Gold Medal in 2015 and made a Life Member in 2022. Cherrell was recently inducted into the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame. She has also been awarded five Honorary Doctorates, predominately for her work in education and health.



**Ashley Davis**  
Director

**Finance and Investment Committee Chair.**

Ashley holds Commerce and Economics degrees from The University of Queensland, as well as a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment from the Securities Institute of Australia. Ashley is a Private Wealth Adviser at Shadforth Financial Group and was part of Shadforth's Investment Committee for 10 years.

He remains active in the ongoing development of the Group's investment philosophy. His expertise lies in portfolio construction and developing highly effective wealth accumulation and retirement planning strategies.

In 2023, Ashley was ranked 35th in Barron's Top 100 Financial Advisers in Australia. He has a wealth of experience, having played a key advisory role in the financial sector for over 23 years, managing a portfolio of over \$1 billion in funds.



**Persephone Lobb**  
Director

**Finance and Investment Committee member; Development Working Group Chair.**

Persephone emigrated to Australia from the UK 35 years ago, having developed her advertising and marketing career in the UK, Europe and the US. She was a Director at Clemenger BBDO Brisbane before establishing the Queensland-based branding and digital marketing agency, NOUS, in 1999.

With 30 years of experience working across both public and private sectors throughout Queensland, Persephone has a deep understanding of its social, economic and geographic challenges.

Persephone has a Joint Honours degree in Philosophy and Politics from the University of Durham and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



# Our leadership - continued



**Tony Gambling**  
Director

**Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee Chair.**

Tony has degrees in Economics and Marketing and a Masters in Advanced Finance. He is the Director of Regional Development for Regional Development Australia, Central and Western Queensland. Tony is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, CPA Australia, the Institute of Managers and Leaders, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Governance.

Tony has spent much of his career working for large corporations including NAB and IBM, as well as in his own small businesses. He was General Manager of Mango 4 Office Technology and has considerable experience working with companies within the emerging technologies sector. He was a founding member of the Central Queensland Committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Queensland Small Medium Enterprise Committee of CPA Australia and is a former Non-Executive Director of RACQ. Living in Rockhampton, Tony draws on his experience to perform his duties for JVT.



**Elizabeth Jameson AM**  
Committee Member

**Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee member.**

Elizabeth Jameson is an experienced board Chair and Non-Executive Director of over 30 years' standing, and an Australian governance consultant with a strong corporate/commercial legal background.

She has sat on and chaired the boards of over 20 for-profit and not-for-profit organisations, and is currently Chair of the Endeavour Foundation, and Queensland Theatre.

Elizabeth spent almost 15 years as a lawyer and partner of a national law firm and founded national governance consultancy, Board Matters and associated legal practice, Board Matters Legal.

She was a facilitator for the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is completing a PhD in corporate governance.

A former JVT Director, Elizabeth is a Member of The Order of Australia, recognised for her service to the Arts and Education sectors.



**Lea-Anne Bradley**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Development Working Group member.**

Lea-Anne Bradley commenced as CEO in September 2020. She is a highly experienced philanthropic professional with over 20 years' experience establishing and managing charitable trusts and fundraising initiatives.

Lea-Anne has worked extensively across areas of fundraising and strategy for the charitable sector within youth, education, health, conservation and international development. Her experience working for State Trustees, the HMSTrust, and Equity Trustees enables her to bring a depth of knowledge of the philanthropic and grantmaking space to JVT.

She holds a Master's degree in Social Investment and Philanthropy and has served as a committee and board member for charities within the cultural, education and disabilities sectors.



# Investment update

## **Despite market and interest rate uncertainty, we have strengthened our financial position while continuing to support regional, rural and remote Queensland communities.**

The 2022-23 year saw investment markets remain quite volatile. This was primarily driven by further interest rate increases delivered by central banks globally in the ongoing battle to bring inflation down to an acceptable level of 2-3% per annum.

Markets became quite short term in their focus, as economic news which ultimately drove central bank decisions on interest rates determined the monthly direction of markets.

Equities ended the year on a strong note, with rises in the Australian and international sharemarket indices of over 10% for the year. Bonds were quite volatile with fluctuations in yield curves, and property trusts endured a poor year, which is expected when interest rates rise by such a large margin in a short period.

Pleasingly, the JVT investment portfolio returned 13.4% for the year (net of costs), comfortably outperforming its benchmark. This more than offset the previous financial year's negative return and helped restore JVT's investment capital to above \$24m. The return also highlights the value added by establishing a discretionary

management relationship with our investment advisers, JBWere, enabling them to adjust the portfolio more nimbly as market conditions change.

The Trust also distributed \$606,849 in grants for the year, demonstrating our commitment to supporting regional, rural and remote Queensland communities.

Our portfolio remains invested with a moderate growth setting of 36% defensive assets and 64% growth assets, which we feel is appropriate at present. Nevertheless, with a focus on the long-term growth of JVT, we continue to assess opportunities to enhance the portfolio's return within an acceptable level of risk, to ensure we can deliver on our mission for decades to come.

**Ashley Davis**  
**Finance and Investment Committee Chair**





# Financial summary

The John Villiers Trust

## Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2023

|   | 2023 (\$)   | 2022 (\$)          |             |
|---|---|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                          |   |                    |             |
| Franked dividends                       | 338,372   | 627,579            |             |
| Unfranked dividends                     | 33,434  | 42,888             |             |
| Distribution income                     | 138,285   | 149,558            |             |
| Imputation credits on dividends         | 151,181   | 271,464            |             |
| Interest and other income               | 140,328   | 38,001             |             |
| Donations                               | 29,100  | 19,006             |             |
|   | <b>830,700</b>  | <b>1,148,496</b>   |             |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>               |   |                    |             |
| Administrative expenses                 | (125,074)   | (116,250)          |             |
| Audit fees                              | (9,350)   | (3,678)            |             |
| Employment costs                        | (166,950)   | (156,982)          |             |
| Finance costs                           | (2)   | (55)               |             |
| Insurance                               | (16,113)  | (14,979)           |             |
| Investment management                   | (115,386)   | (115,876)          |             |
| Occupancy costs                         | -   | (4,147)            |             |
| Software licences                       | (13,964)  | (13,073)           |             |
| Trustee commission                      | (32,000)  | (36,500)           |             |
|   | <b>(478,839)</b>  | <b>(461,540)</b>   |             |
| <b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>                | <b>351,861</b>  | <b>686,956</b>     |             |
| Net grants approved during the period   | (402,878)   | (610,000)          |             |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</b> | <b>(51,017)</b>   | <b>76,956</b>      |             |
| Other comprehensive income              | Change in fair value of investments in financial assets | 2,221,738          | (2,495,172) |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>       | <b>2,170,721</b>  | <b>(2,418,216)</b> |             |

The John Villiers Trust  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
as at 30 June 2023

|  |                                 | 2023 (\$)         | 2022 (\$)         |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                  |                                 |                   |                   |
|  | Cash and cash equivalents       | 361,384           | 1,420,735         |
|  | Trade and other receivables     | 254,951           | 395,940           |
|  |                                 | <b>616,335</b>    | <b>1,816,675</b>  |
| <b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>              |                                 |                   |                   |
|  | Investments in financial assets | 24,063,516        | 20,887,909        |
|  |                                 | <b>24,063,516</b> | <b>20,887,909</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                    |                                 | <b>24,679,851</b> | <b>22,704,585</b> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>             |                                 |                   |                   |
|  | Grants approved but unpaid      | 378,066           | 439,349           |
|  | Trade and other payables        | 90,386            | 81,869            |
|  |                                 | <b>468,452</b>    | <b>521,218</b>    |
| <b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>         |                                 |                   |                   |
|  | Grants approved but unpaid      | 179,903           | 319,591           |
|  |                                 | <b>179,903</b>    | <b>319,591</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>               |                                 | <b>643,355</b>    | <b>840,809</b>    |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                      |                                 | <b>24,034,496</b> | <b>21,863,775</b> |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>               |                                 |                   |                   |
| <b>Attributable to Capital Account</b> |                                 |                   |                   |
|  | Settlement sum                  | 6,669,808         | 6,669,808         |
|  | Retained surplus                | 15,243,516        | 15,530,700        |
|  | Investments revaluation reserve | 2,121,172         | (336,733)         |
| <b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>         |                                 | <b>24,034,496</b> | <b>21,863,775</b> |

A full copy of The John Villiers Trust financial statements is available on the [ACNC website](#) or by contacting us at [admin@jvtrust.org.au](mailto:admin@jvtrust.org.au)



## OUT HERE FOR GOOD

Show your love for country Queensland and help The John Villiers Trust achieve transformative impact and amplify the voice of rural, regional and remote communities.

The John Villiers Trust (ABN 83 508 203 243) is a Public Ancillary Fund registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Taxation Office. Donations to JVT of \$2 or more are tax deductible in Australia.

**To make a donation visit:**  
[jvtrust.org.au/giving/donate](http://jvtrust.org.au/giving/donate)

**To apply for a grant visit:**  
[jvtrust.org.au/grants](http://jvtrust.org.au/grants)

**Stay up to date on grants and partnership opportunities.**  
Follow us:



**The John Villiers Trust** ABN: 83 508 203 243  
Level 1, 826 Ann St, Fortitude Valley 4006  
PO Box 177, Fortitude Valley Qld 4006  
T: 07 3102 9588 E: [admin@jvtrust.org.au](mailto:admin@jvtrust.org.au)  
[jvtrust.org.au](http://jvtrust.org.au)

Registered Charity Number: CH3199

