



countryhope

**“Childhood illness
touches the lives of everyone
in country communities...”**



Evelynn says “Thank You”
to Country Hope...

Annual Report 2021

Country Hope Trust



| Kelvin back in hospital but keeps on smiling...



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We are regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission as a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth) (ACNC Act). We are registered as a public company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), which means that the Corporations Act applies but, in a manner, modified by the ACNC Act. We also hold tax exemptions and concessions under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth).

Message from the Chairman



Kerry Flinn

It is with much pleasure I submit my chairman's report for 2021.

What a challenging and due to COVID-19, disappointing year it has been with the cancellation of the "Time out for Life" camp children's Christmas party and the Country Hope races to name a few.

COVID-19 has also had a devastating effect on our fundraising, home visits, office visits and all our staff unable to get out and about and having to work from home.

But in saying this, we have had some very positive results in financial terms. Although our financial income is slightly down (4.8%) and not been able to hold our events our net profit is a very healthy \$587,673.51, a 60% increase on 2020. Although this is an excellent result, we would have much rather had our camp and other events as this is what we are all about.

Regarding fundraising, we wouldn't have had the great financial result, if it was not for the amazing Tammy and Gavin Gilbert and their rally. They never cease to amaze me, year in and year out with their hard work, dedication, and loyalty to Country Hope. The Rally gets more popular and raises more money every year. Since the inception, they have raised over an incredible amount of 1.5 million dollars. Country Hope families and all at Country Hope would like to say a very big "Thank You"

This year we have had seven new families and supported over 200 families in many many ways.

A very significant event occurred recently where our Wagga office has been paid in full, due to the generosity of an unassuming man, Richard Allsopp, and his family. Richard started out helping Country Hope by paying the rent on our first building and continued to pay the mortgage when we moved to Blake Street until just recently when it was all paid for. We sincerely thank you Richard and your family for this generous gesture.

A heartfelt thank you to the following for their donations of \$5,000 and over. Thank you for your continued support: –

Evolution Mining, Michael Medway, Wagga Wagga Picnic Races, Mr & Mrs A Dejong, Wagga Wagga Takes Two, Beyond Bank, West Wyalong Cricket night, Rotary club of South Wagga, Griffith Retirement Estate, CW & KM Toy Memorial Trust, Jack rags, and the Lions club Griffith.

Another milestone for Country Hope this year is the move into Dubbo and its region, headed up by new board member Angela Croft. Angela is well known in the Dubbo region and is enthusiastic and confident that Country Hope will be truly accepted and supported so that we can help children and their families in the region.

A big thank you to our wonderful and dedicated staff including Ellie, our General Manager, Kirsty our Finance and Admin person, Mick our fundraising/events coordinator and our family liaison officers, Stina and Bev who have done a great job. Unfortunately, Stina is leaving us, we wish her all the very best for the future. Thank you also to our volunteers, Nikky in the Wagga office and Julie in our Albury office. From myself and all the board of directors we sincerely thank you all.

Yvonne Braid retired from the board of directors after a long and dedicated time with Country Hope. Setchen Brimson also resigned due to work commitments. We wish them well and thank them both for their contribution to Country Hope.

In finishing I would like to thank my fellow board members for their time, commitment, and dedication to this wonderful organisation and for also supporting me.

Kerry Flinn
Chairman

Message from the General Manager

Ellie Webb

Once again, we have had a challenging year in 2021, dealing with COVID-19 and having to re-think how we do things. Sadly, we have had to make some difficult decisions like face-to-face visits with our families, cancel yet again our “Time out for life” children’s holiday camp, the children’s Christmas party, not to mention the fundraisers that were cancelled. The safety of our children, families, staff, buddies, volunteers, and stakeholders is of the utmost importance. We realised what it is like to be in isolation, something our families live with every day.

A sincere thank you to our precious children and their families for your patience and understanding as we postponed and cancelled events that you were looking forward to.

Even though these past 18 months have been different and difficult, Country Hope remains in a very good position to continue to support our families and give relief...when it matters most.

We are excited that this year we have expanded our area, branching out to the Dubbo region. This has been extremely successful. Thank you to everyone involved. I take this opportunity to thank and welcome new board member from the Dubbo region, Angela Croft. Angela has worked tirelessly with us to make this happen. I look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

Special thanks to our stakeholders, partners and donors who continue, very generously to give Country Hope their support. A very special thank you to Tammy and Gavin Gilbert, patrons of Country Hope and everyone involved in the “Riverina Redneck Car Rally.” Country Hope is in a b



Family Support



Sustainability



Stakeholders



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for their continued support. Also, a very big thank you to the staff for their dedication that contributes to Country Hope’s success.

Thank you...

Have the best Christmas and break everyone, that you can possible have...

Ellie Webb

General Manager



OUR MISSION:

To provide emotional and financial support to country families who have a child diagnosed with cancer or a chronic life-threatening illness.



OUR VISION:

Relief – when it matters most!



OUR VALUES:

Passionate
Committed
Caring

About Country Hope

Country Hope was formed in 2003, starting with an annual holiday camp for the diagnosed children and their siblings, which contributed to the extraordinarily positive impact on the lives of the children. The camp also gives the parents much needed respite.

Although the camps undoubtedly achieved great success in increasing a child's ability to cope with and recover from their illness, it was quickly identified that an annual camp was simply not enough. It came to be obvious that country families had so many more pressures and additional needs when dealing with such life altering events compared to families residing nearer to the major pediatric hospitals.

Country Hope's aim was to adequately address the very critical and specific needs of local children who had been diagnosed with cancer or a chronic life-threatening illness and their families...when it matters most.

Ceinwein enjoying her lessons – helping her with her strength...



The Support we Provide:

FINANCIAL

We help with the never-ending bills like mortgages, rents, utility bills, school fees. Families are often running two households. Usually, it's mum who stays with the diagnosed child in hospital in the city, a long way from home, and dad is home with the siblings, juggling work, getting the other children off to school or care, then packing them up on weekends to travel to the city to visit mum and the diagnosed child.

EMOTIONAL

It's very hard on the entire family when a child is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. It's very important for them to be able to speak to someone as much as possible and not bottle it up inside.

TIME OUT FOR LIFE HOLIDAY CAMP

Each year we hold a camp for not only the diagnosed children, but their siblings as well. The siblings do it tough too. All the attention is on the diagnosed child...siblings need and enjoy the camp as well. They mix with children who are going or have been through exactly what they are going through. Great friendships are formed between the children and the buddies.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

A very big cost to Country Hope. We provide fuel cards when the family is driving, and we make sure their car is road worthy to handle all the trips to treatments and appointments. We book flights when they need to fly to and from treatments and appointments. We pay for their accommodation where necessary.

HOME VISITS

We visit families in their homes, making sure they are ok and are managing with food and ensure their never-ending bills, don't mount up.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Families are separated for long periods of time, sometimes up to 12 months when a child is receiving treatment in the city hospitals. It means a lot to them to have a visit from someone from Country Hope.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

We encourage the families to try to have a break when possible. We provide fuel, groceries and spending money so it costs the families nothing to have a holiday away from their stresses. Families rarely can afford a family holiday.

William & Hayley having fun with our colouring competition...



THE COUNTRY HOPE JOURNEY

DIAGNOSED

A child is diagnosed, and the families lives are turned upside down.
The whole family feels the pain.

TREATMENT

Families are separated.
Feelings of guilt, anger, exhaustion.
Siblings feel left out.

LOSS

Income, jobs, family as they knew it, education, time, energy and hope.
Sometimes loss of life.

RECOVERY

Can take a long time.
Hard to get back to normal
(if they ever do)

RELAPSE

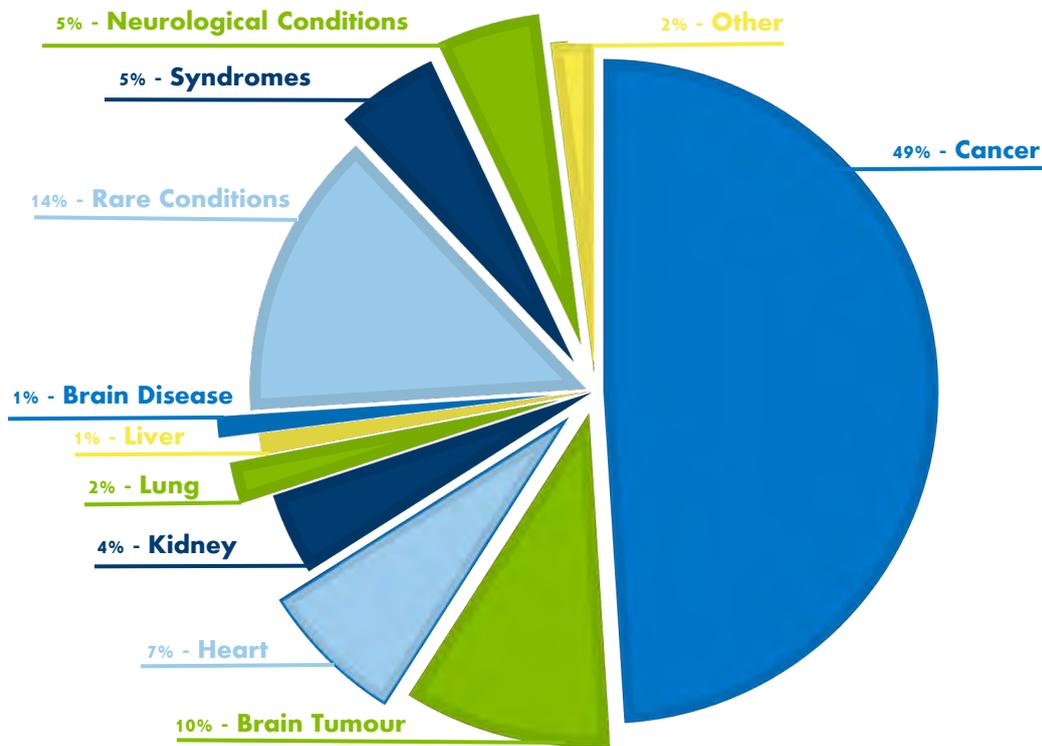
Illness can return.
The journey starts all over again, sometimes worse than the first time.

BEYOND

Country Hope continues to help the family until the child turns 17.
Hopefully their lives can return to normal – although lives are changed

Illnesses in Australia

Categories of Life-Threatening Illnesses Presented over our Seventeen Year History.



Category of Illness	Number of Children
Cancer	109
Brain Tumour	21
Heart	19
Kidney	10
Lung	5
Liver	2
Brain Disease	2
Rare Conditions	31
Syndromes	11
Neurological Conditions	10
Other	4
TOTAL	224

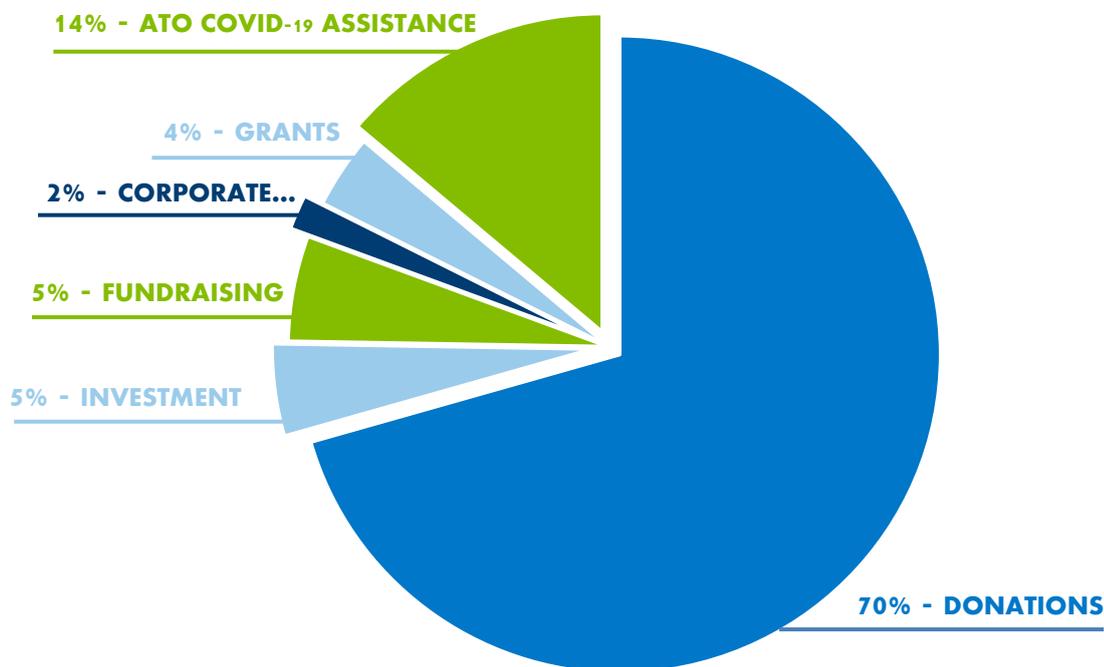


Thank you to all the wonderful people in our many communities who knit and sew for our families... they absolutely love them...



Income

for the 2021 Financial Year



ADMINISTRATION:

Well 12 months on from my first Annual Report and COVID-19 is still with us and causing many disruptions to life as we know it.

Now more than ever in these tough economic times, we value our supporters of Country Hope. To those of you who are new givers this year and those that continue their long-term support, we are truly grateful. Each dollar and contribution in kind does not go unnoticed or unappreciated, especially when everyone is facing their own challenges from COVID-19. Your support is a valued gift that allows us to keep doing what we do best, supporting local families during tough times.

Financially, we continue to maintain a strong and healthy position. Although our income was down for the past 12 months, so too were our costs and I am proud to report we had an overall 18% increase in equity. Acknowledgement must go to Tammy & Gavin Gilbert and their team of volunteers from the Riverina Redneck Rally. They continued their good work by smashing their fundraising target and donated over \$400,000 from their efforts in the 2021 rally. Thank you very much.

During the year we have continued to invest in technology and have grown our knowledge in using our new CRM. There have been some very happy moments in the office when team members discover and learn they have mastered the clever functions within the software. I look forward to the day when all this data we have worked hard to incorporate, can be used to successfully navigate the administrative tasks required for our annual Time Out for Life camp (in a COVID-19 safe way of course).

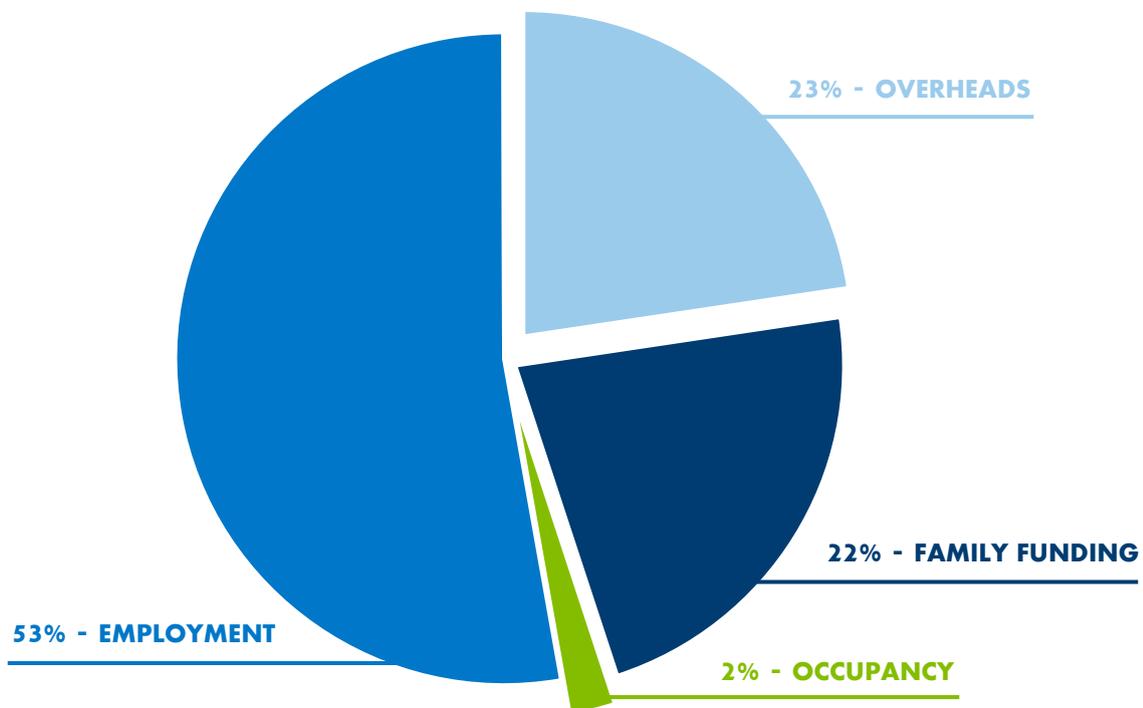
Lastly, I extend my thanks to Ellie and the Board for continuing to facilitate working from home. My thanks also to my colleagues for their support. I excitedly look forward to the next 12 months. I can't wait to put in the hard yards quietly in the background, to ensure we work towards achieving our purpose, providing relief when it matters most.

Stay safe and stay well

Kirsty Cole
Administration Officer

Expenses

for the 2021 Financial Year



EXPENSES	TOTAL COSTINGS
Administrative / Overheads	\$136,242
Family Support	\$134,628
Occupancy	\$13,491
Wages & Employment	\$317,653
Interest	\$207

Time out for “Life” Holiday Camp

Our children’s “Time out for Life” holiday camp was sadly cancelled due to COVID-19.



A STORY: *Cambell*

Cambell was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma when he was 9 years old, spending months in the Children's Hospital in Randwick.

Cambell attended many of Country Hope's "Time out for Life" children's holiday camps as a camper, then when he was old enough, he became a buddy! Cambell has very fond memories of the camps and the special relationships he built with other children and the volunteers.

Cambell met the love of his life on one of the camps and they are still together to this day.

Cambell is now studying to be a doctor, you might even see him walking around the base hospital in Wagga. His dream is to be a General Practitioner in the country, preferably near his hometown, Griffith NSW.



Cambell - as a camper



*Cambell
- as a buddy*



Cambell - at his best

*Maybe his best is yet to come...
we can't wait to see a photo of
him as a doctor!*

Good luck Cambell

See the full story on our website www.countryhope.com.au

FAMILY LIAISON REPORTS:



Wagga Wagga/Albury

Another year where we hoped things would be different...

What a challenging year it's been. When COVID-19 halted the plans we had for 2020, we didn't think by the end of 2021 we would still be facing so many restrictions to life.

Our families already face hardship, but the threat of a deadly virus for immunocompromised health, or for those with comorbidity was a scary monster our families had to learn to face very quickly. Medical appointments and scans in both Sydney and Melbourne would need to carry on, even though those were the very places that became hotspots. The fear and distress our families have felt has been very real.

Most of our children have become quite adept at distance education, and some have even thrived in it, but nearly all of them have found the mental health battle another challenge especially without their peers around them. I've spent countless hours on the phone listening and talking to mums and dads about strategies for managing both theirs and their children's anxiety at this time.

With no events being held, we were instead able to provide our families with Mother's Day, Father's Day and Children's holiday gift cards for them to purchase something nice for themselves. The kids have very much enjoyed this nice surprise, and the mums and dads were quite touched to be remembered.

I think it's safe to say, our families are holding their breath for what 2022 might bring and hoping CAMP will be one of those things.

Stina Constantine

*Family Liaison Officer –
Wagga Wagga & Albury*

Will and Harry having fun with science...



FAMILY LIAISON REPORTS:



Griffith

After a long year of managing our way through the Covid pandemic in 2021 and we approach moving out of lockdowns and travel restrictions with anticipation of returning to our normal lives with family & friends, work & education.

For our Country Hope diagnosed children & their families this will mean re-organising postponed Doctor's and Specialist appointments, hospital treatment, scans & tests to be done. Some children have continued their care plans throughout with no restriction, but with many safety protocols followed.

As Griffith Family Liaison Officer, talking to most families regularly was a priority by phone, text or email to reassure them we were still able to support them as needed. Frustration, anxiety & stress was a major factor in talking to the families, so listening & discussing their concerns was important, encouraging them to stay active physically when possible, taking time out for themselves & as a family together. The children mostly missed their friend's & struggled with home schooling routines.

Once again, our children & families have coped remarkably, stayed safe & excited to move on, they really are resilient & positive for their future.

We sent out Mother's Day & Father's Day gift cards to show them we acknowledge how appreciated they are, we received many thank you messages in return. In October we sent a surprise Gift Card to all our children too. Great excitement was reported back as they chose what they would get.

Camp was again cancelled leaving children, buddies, staff, Doctors, Nurses & volunteers all disappointed. Camp Fun Day's also had to be postponed, we encouraged everyone to reach out to each other with a phone/facetime call to say hello.

The Griffith Office had no fundraising events go ahead due to COVID-19 but financial support came from Rotary Club's, individual donations, Club Grants program & the counter collection boxes in stores. Our small group of volunteers are keen to get active again to raise funds & get Country Hope's name out there.

Bev Devery

*Family Liaison Officer –
Griffith*

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS



While 2021 has been tough for us, we still managed some great results. I would like to thank everyone who contributed in time or financially towards Country Hope in 2021.

Our Mega Raffle was a huge success and without support from the local business community donating prizes, shopping centres giving us space and our volunteers selling tickets we wouldn't have a raffle.

Poppy Penny represented Country Hope in fine style. Leaping out of her comfort zone and unleashing some Shania Twain. She did a great job and raised some much needed funds and awareness.

The Riverina Redneck Rally had a record year. We appreciate the work put in by all rally entrants and of course, our event organisers Gavin & Tammy. The Rally is a great contributor, keeping us going every year and allows us to provide for our Country Hope families.

We are forever grateful to the Businesses that have events for us, sponsors who continue to back us daily or through supporting an event and our volunteers who represent our charity with pride and dignity.

Our Country Hope Wheels of Wagga team, although they were riding the Covid roller coaster with us, they were attempting to hold an event in any weekend that looked like we would come out of lockdown. They love what they do and the charity that they do it for.

So Many Ways saw Jamie Way and The Groove Factorie perform to a full house at the rules club. It was a great night of food, entertainment and honour as Arthur & Lynne de Jong became Country Hope patrons. Watch this space for more shows to come.

Thanks to everyone who contributed throughout the year. Bring on 2022 with less restrictions and more Country Hope Events.

Mick Small

Fundraising & Events Co-Ordinator



Harley & Willow enjoying the Christmas Hamper from Country Hope & gifts from Santa... Thank to everyone who continues to help us with the Hampers



*Relief...
when it
matters most*

Sowing the Seeds of Hope

Our Board of Directors



Kerry Flinn
Chairman



Pat Barrett
Deputy Chair / Secretary



Sally Whitley
Treasurer



Ged Madden
Director



Jen Spain
Director



Angela Croft
Director

Sowing the Seeds of Hope

Our Staff



Ellie Webb
General Manager



Bev Devery
**Family Liaison
Officer – Griffith**



Stina Constantine
**Family Liaison Officer –
Wagga Wagga & Albury**



Kirsty Cole
Administration Officer



Mick Small
Fundraising & Events Manager

Our Patrons

Vera Entwistle
Babs Donaldson
John Studdert

Brian & Joy Kahlefeldt
Steve Dwyer
Tammy & Gavin Gilbert

Rod Dunlop
Richard Allsopp
Lynne & Arthur de Jong

**WAGGA WAGGA,
GRIFFITH, ALBURY
& DUBBO.**

Free call 1800 007 880
countryhope.com.au



A country based, family centred
support organisation for

**CHILDREN DIAGNOSED
WITH CANCER AND OTHER
CHRONIC LIFE
THREATENING ILLNESSES**



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