

STANDING TALL IN HAMILTON INC

ANNUAL REPORT --- 2019

PRESENTED AT AGM 22 JULY 2020



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Standing Tall in Hamilton is a national award winning, not-for-profit, school based mentoring program that works one-to-one with children aged 12 to 18 years.

Mentoring provides positive guidance, support, routine and encouragement so that the student may develop a healthy connection to school and the opportunities that education provides. The Standing Tall Mentoring program works in collaboration with Baimbridge College and is supported by many local community groups, business and generous philanthropists.

Thirty students currently studying in Years 7 to 12, who fit the relevant criteria may apply to have a mentor. The program is currently able to accommodate 30 students and runs at capacity with a waiting list, with staff employed in a part-time capacity. As of 2019, Standing Tall in Hamilton has impacted change on the lives of over 250 children and their volunteer mentors.

Volunteer mentors are carefully screened and trained and meet with their mentees for an hour a week. Activities include, but are not limited to; volunteering together within the community, table tennis, games, art projects, bike riding, taking walks, excursions, exploring career goals and site visits, cooking and sharing hot lunches. The careful matching of mentees to mentors allow for the greatest program outcomes. The relationship continues for a minimum of 12 months, however most choose to continue beyond the first year.



About
US



Our
VALUES

Vision

Students fulfilling their potential to live rich and rewarding lives and be valuable members of the community.

Mission

The training of community mentors to support and encourage students to reach their full potential.

The Standing Tall Program...

Provides training and support to members of the community who are willing to act as mentors to school students.

We Believe...

One of the greatest chances for a young person fulfilling their potential is to take advantage of educational opportunities offered in a school environment.

There is a high price to be paid for the fact that a number of young people in our society are not taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered in a school setting.

Optimal educational outcomes for young people are based on their wellbeing and sense of connection with the school and community to which they belong.

One of the most protective factors for a young person is the support and encouragement afforded by a one-to-one relationship with a caring adult.

The responsibility for the wellbeing of young people lies with the whole community, not just schools.

There is a latent goodwill in the community which can be tapped and realised to support schools achieve the outcomes for which they are established.

Standing Tall in Hamilton Inc works within the Australian Youth Mentoring Benchmarks, that fosters the growth of high quality youth mentoring programs.

Standing Tall Committee of Management Members

Julie Drechsler - Committee Chair

Julie has a background in Family Social Sciences and Youth Work. She has held extensive roles in Education, Community Services and Local Government, and has been a Mentor in Standing Tall over many years. Julie is passionate about Youth, Community Development, Inclusion, Community Health and Wellbeing.



Glenda Cadden - Community Treasurer

Glenda brings to the committee a wide range of experience in financial auditing and administrative roles obtained from working in varying sectors from banking, manufacturing and disability. She has a Diploma in Quality Compliance auditing as well as multiple years in office procedures including Management Accounting. She has also spent time as a Standing Tall mentor in previous years.



Ewan MacDonald - Baimbridge College Wellbeing Coordinator

Ewan has been a leading teacher at Baimbridge College since 2014, and has worked along side Standing Tall in his capacity as Year Level Coordinator and Sub School Manager. Now in his role as the Coordinator of Wellbeing at the college, he has joined the COM to represent Baimbridge College on the Board.



Rob Vecchiet - Committee Member

Rob was the Principal at Baimbridge College when the program came into being nearly 20 years ago, he has been a proud supporter of the program throughout its growth over the years, and continues in his dedication to see the program continue to grow and benefit our young people.



Peter Elsworthy - Committee Member

Peter has been an enthusiastic supporter of Standing Tall since he commenced as a Mentor in 2005. He has journeyed with many young mentees through his time with Standing Tall. Peter is an instrumental member of our community, working in Outreach through the Hamilton Uniting Church. He is extremely passionate about how Standing Tall impacts the lives of our young people, and joined the COM to see the program "thrive and survive" in our community.



Karyn Dyson - Committee Member

Karyn has been a local Business Owner with a strong background in Administration and Finance through her years of working in the legal, alternative education and industrial sectors. She has also had extensive experience within her community, giving her time to hold executive roles on the boards of both the Hamilton Regional Business Association and the Hamilton Pastoral Museum, as well as being an Inaugural member of the Hamilton Inner Wheel Club. She has been a mentor with the program for a number of years and is a strong supporter of young people and their right to a good education.



Amba Chace - Committee Member

Amba has joined our COM with a unique perspective, having been a Standing Tall mentee throughout her secondary schooling. She has seen the benefit of the program first hand. Now, as an adult, she would like to be a part of the direction of this program, so she can see other students access the support she was given.



Who we
ARE

Standing Tall is comprised of a dedicated group of volunteer committee members, and community supporters, who support our Coordinator to run this valuable program here in Hamilton.

Program Founder

Ms Jeanette Pritchard

Jeanette created and piloted the program in 2003. Jeanette is passionate about seeing young people being given every opportunity to thrive.



Ambassador

Melissa Tapper

Melissa is a Hamilton born and bred Olympic/Paralympic Champion and is a proud supporter of Standing Tall in Hamilton, she is a great role model for our young people in overcoming barriers to succeed.



Community Champions

Bruach Colliton

Previous Southern Grampians Shire Councillor

Bruach is a champion for young people across the region.



Peter Cook

Previous Hamilton Uniting Church Minister

Peter is a proud supporter and fundraiser for Standing Tall.



Staff

Jane Crowe

Program Coordinator

Jane has been with Standing Tall in Hamilton since 2012, and has a background in Youth Work and Alternative Education.



Patron

The Late Dr Geoff Handbury AO

Dr Handbury was a local Philanthropist and a strong supporter and ambassador of Standing Tall in Hamilton until his death in November 2019. We honour the generosity and support that he has shown to Standing Tall in Hamilton over many years. He will be truly missed within our community.



Who we
ARE



A message from our Committee Chairperson

We know mentoring changes lives; the research supports this and we see it in every mentoring match of the Standing Tall in Hamilton program. Mentoring not only supports positive change in the life of the young person but also changes the lives of our mentors. Ask any of our mentors, they learn as much from their young mentee as their mentee learns from them. The impact of the program has a rippling effect, benefiting the mentee, mentor, school community, their families and our community. I am so proud to be affiliated with such an amazing program.

The strength of our program is the passion of our mentors, all who willingly give of their time to make a difference to the young people involved in the program. I would like to thank each one of you; your contribution cannot be easily measured and much of the impact of your work may not even be seen for many years. I have heard countless stories of mentees accrediting their success to the fact that they had someone other than their primary caregivers who was a caring, supportive and constant champion in their corner. We all need someone to believe in us and sometimes give us a push in the right direction.

This past year in particular we have seen evidence of some extremely successful and long lasting mentoring matches with our five graduating mentees. We farewell the following students from our program, and wish them every success for their future and thank their mentors.

- Bailey Dewan-Holmes (Darrell Agnew) - 5 years together
- Iluka Warren (Pete Elsworthy) - 3 years together
- Justin Bray (Bob Cadden) - 5 years together
- Ethan Gray (Ian Johnson) - 6 years together
- Harley Addinsall (Min Youngman) - 7 years together

2019 was a year full of successes, milestones and memorable moments. We moved out of our long-term and much loved mentoring space into our new and roomy mentoring centre. I think you will all agree it was been a good move and both mentor and mentees have enjoyed the new space and amenities.

Harley Addinsall has had a very exciting year, winning two awards, the Australia Day Mayor's Choice Award and the Southern Grampians Youth Achievement Award, which is the second time Harley has been recognised, the first in 2018.



“A mentor EMPOWERS a person to see a possible future and BELIEVE it can be obtained.” Shawn Hitchcock

I would also like to recognise and thank Harley Addinsall and Ethan Gray for being our Peer Mentors for the Year. They have both been a credit to themselves, their mentors and the program, well done and thank you.

The Standing Tall in Hamilton community was deeply saddened by the loss of our long term and most dedicated and beloved patron, Mr Geoff Handbury. We would not have our program today without his generous support and commitment to Standing Tall. Mr. Handbury was passionate about young people and believed in our program and the outcomes Standing Tall has achieved.

We celebrated National Youth Mentoring Week with one of our Standing Tall Ambassadors, Milly Tapper, Olympian and Paralympian. All enjoyed a yummy BBQ and the mentees loved catching up again with Milly and hearing of her adventures and challenging her to a game of table tennis. We thank Milly for her continued support of our program.

Our year ended with a Christmas/End of Year break up in our mentoring space, it was a great way to finish the year.

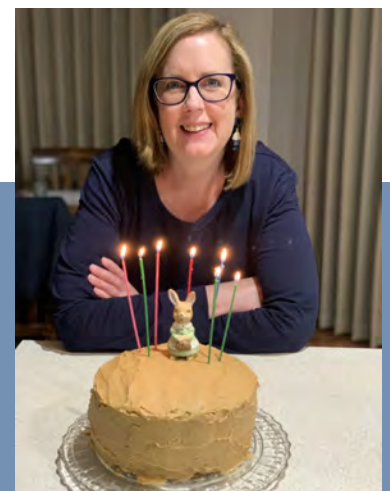
We all know that programs like Standing Tall just do not happen; there is a whole team in the background supporting the mentoring, ensuring the safety of our participants and securing the resources to operate the program.

I would like to acknowledge the passion, commitment and dedication of our program coordinator, Jane Crowe. Jane works tirelessly to ensure our mentors and mentees can just go about enjoying the experience. I have said this before, but it is so true, we would be lost without Jane!

Lastly, I would like to thank the Committee of Management who continue to ensure we can deliver a quality, safe and successful program for our local young people. The COM has been working towards some very exciting goals for Standing Tall in Hamilton this past year, including the expansion of our program to all local Hamilton schools. Thank you to all our committee members for your commitment and dedication to Standing Tall. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the work that Glenda has done in her fundraising efforts, applying for countless grants in addition to servicing as not only our Treasurer but also acting Secretary. We would not be operating today without her dedication to the program.

We really do live by the saying, "it takes a village" as it certainly takes a village to make Standing Tall in Hamilton such a wonderful and meaningful program. Thank you all for your continued support, advocacy and dedication.

Committee Chairperson
JULIE DRECHSLER



Some thoughts from the Baimbridge College Wellbeing Coordinator

In 2019 Baimbridge College farewelled a number of students who have been engaged with Standing Tall in Hamilton and benefitted from the positive relationships built up with their mentors over a number of years.

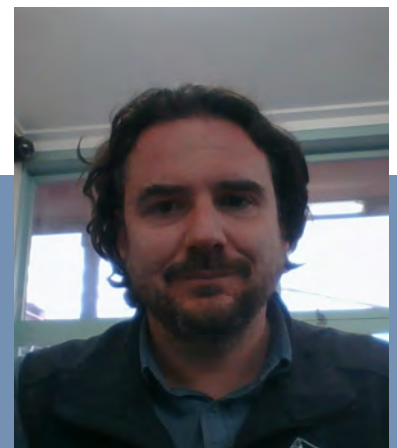
Whether it was through graduating from high school, pursuing further education elsewhere or other career pathways, Baimbridge College would like to acknowledge the fantastic contribution the Standing Tall in Hamilton mentors made to the lives of Bailey, Harley, Ethan and Iluka. The fact that these students have been able to find meaningful pathways after their high school years is testament to the program's purpose and vision.

2019 was a year of great change and development for Baimbridge College as it consolidated its move to the West Campus in anticipation of the news that funding would be released to facilitate the first stage of the College's redevelopment. This meant that the East Campus was often a quiet place to be and Jane was able to develop a nice retreat for the mentees from the hectic goings-on of the West Campus.

From a personal note, I was fortunate enough to come onto Standing Tall in Hamilton's Committee of Management in 2019 to represent Baimbridge College. Having worked closely with Jane over a number of years as a Year Level Coordinator and Sub-School Manager, it has been inspiring to see that the commitment and dedication of the mentors and Jane is complimented by an equally committed and dedicated team on the COM. The battle continues to keep Standing Tall viable and to grow the program in the community yet it is clear that its foundations – it's people – are committed to the cause.

Looking to the future, Baimbridge College is likewise committed to the cause of helping our community's young people make connections and relationships with Standing Tall in Hamilton's mentors. Change is afoot at Baimbridge College with a redevelopment around the corner. Yet the partnership is one that we look to continue and see thrive in the future.

Baimbridge College Wellbeing
EWAN MACDONALD



From the Program Coordinator

2019 was a challenging year for Standing Tall. It started off on a high note as we witnessed our Peer Mentor, Harley Addinsall, be awarded the Australia Day Mayor's Award at the Hamilton Australia Day Ceremony in the Botanical Gardens. And then later in the year, to be awarded a second Southern Grampians Youth Achievement Award (after winning his first in 2018). Harley's involvement in Standing Tall has really strengthened his community involvement, and we are very proud to watch him achieve these successes.

Most excitedly, we moved into a new space on the East Campus. Big things have been happening around Baimbridge College, with the majority of classes and staff migrating to the West Campus in preparation for future renovations. We were able to move into what was previously known as the VCE Centre or the original High School Library. It has provided us with a fabulous space to utilize in mentoring and also an office space for me. This space has been a welcoming and warm retreat for our students and mentors, and allowed me the chance to support our mentors and mentees on a closer level. A big thank you also to Trish Munro at Hamilton Toyworld for her generosity in providing new games to fill our new space with.

In March, we were honored to be invited to celebrate the Baimbridge College Presentation Ball with two of our mentees, Bailey and Nyah. It is always an honour for mentors to be invited along to these milestones in our student's lives.

On a personal note, 2019 was a very difficult year for me, and I must begin with some big thank-yous to a number of people, who supported both myself and the program whilst I had to have a lot of personal and bereavement leave in the first half of the year. A dedicated Committee of Management, who allowed me flexibility and compassionate support through this difficult time. Ewan MacDonald and the Education Support staff at Baimbridge College for coordinating support for the program in my absence. For a dedicated team of mentors, who in my absence, stepped up and used their initiative to continue mentoring our students as best as they could. Not everything went to plan, but I am very proud and grateful for the way our community rallied together with a mutual goal to ensure our mentees received the best support. And through this time, we have learnt a lot of lessons that we can remember for the future.

Sadly, during this time we missed out on some of the key activities we enjoy throughout each year; mainly our involvement with the Western District Health Service door-knock appeal. Each year our mentors and mentees have proudly supported our local health service by fundraising in the streets around the school grounds to raise money for new medical equipment for WDHS. It is one of the highlights of our year, and a time where our young people are encouraged to give back to the community that so generously supports them. It is just another way of them feeling a sense of belonging and responsibility in this community that values them so much. I was happy to see in my absence, that even though a coordinated effort was not planned, one mentoring couple still put up their hands to participate.

"Every great achiever is inspired by a great MENTOR!" Laila Gifty Akita

Throughout the year, there are opportunities to celebrate the efforts of our volunteers and youth mentoring. One such celebration is National Volunteer Week held in May; an opportunity to show our gratitude to all of our volunteers, without who this program could not run. We took the opportunity to hold a celebration following our AGM at the end of May. The outstanding dedication of our mentors was also recognised when we received a volunteer's grant to purchase some new equipment for the mentoring space; including kitchen appliances and first aid equipment.

This year's AGM presented us with a first milestone achievement, having a Standing Tall graduate, Amba Chace, come full circle and get nominated onto the Committee of Management. She had such a positive experience in her own mentoring journey, that as an adult, she wanted to give back and be a part of this leadership team. We are excited to see what she can bring to the committee from her unique perspective of having been a mentee herself.

We continued our valuable partnership with the Southern Grampians L2P programs, with a number of our mentors being trained up as L2P mentors as their Standing Tall mentees approached 16 years of age. This allowed their mentoring partnership to continue in a different capacity, being able to gain their learner driver hours together, as well as spending time together in Standing Tall.

We are grateful to groups in the community who want to become a part of our supportive village. This year we welcomed the Hamilton Veteran Vintage Classic Driver's Club as a partner with the program. The club hosted a large rally over the Queen's Birthday weekend, and raised money for the program throughout their weekend.

In Term Three, we celebrated with Iluka and Jade; two of our mentees who successfully participated in the P2E (Passport to Employment) program. They joined with students from across the region to learn employment seeking skills. We were once again honoured to join them in their graduation celebration at HIRL.

The final week of October each year, we celebrate National Youth Mentoring Week. This gives us a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the power of mentoring with our mentors and mentees. We were delighted to be joined by our program ambassador, Milly Tapper. Milly is a local Hamilton woman, who has had many mentor figures in her journey to become a champion Olympian and Paralympian. She shared some of the highlights of her journey and also shared about some of the people who helped her along the way. We enjoyed a BBQ lunch together, followed by some Table Tennis challenges against our champion guest.



November brought us sad news with the passing of our esteemed Patron, Dr Geoff Handbury AO. Mr Handbury had been a long-time generous supporter of Standing Tall in Hamilton and the legacy of his dedication to the program lives on in the success stories of our students who have benefited greatly from his generosity over the many years he has supported our program. Mentees, Harley and Georgina were honoured to serve as ushers at his memorial service. Mr Handbury will be greatly missed by the Standing Tall community.

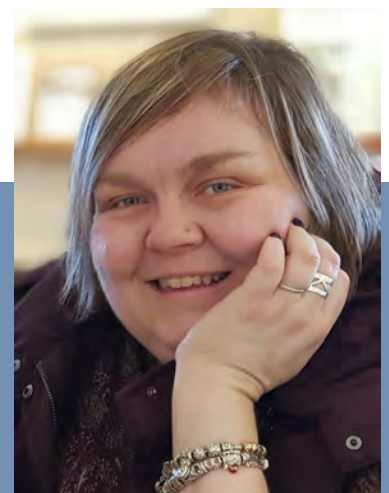
We ended the year well with a fantastic Christmas and Graduation party in the Standing Tall centre. Mentors and Mentees were joined by their families and community supporters to celebrate the successes of 2019. We celebrated five mentee graduates; Harley, Ethan, Bailey, Justin and Iluka. It has been a privilege to witness their mentoring journeys over the years, and we wish them well in their futures after Standing Tall. We are certain that the relationships formed and experiences gained through Standing Tall will carry on into their lives in the outside world.

A big thank you to our dedicated team of volunteer committee members and mentors. I feel immensely fortunate to work with teams of such devoted community members who give up their time to invest in the lives of our young people.

And to our wider community of supporters and sponsors who contribute to the work of our program each year. We thank you for your continued generosity. Each donation contributes to the growth of our young people into valuable and contributing members of our community.

We look forward to what is ahead in 2020.

Program Coordinator
JANE CROWE



Financial Report for the year ending 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

As in 2018, the Standing Tall in Hamilton program survived with far less funding than prior years while at the same time sustain the program's positive aspects.

Funding received in 2019 has not covered the program's operating costs for the year, however, it has been possible to continue the program with savings from the previous year. Once again we received financial support from the community along with grants from local philanthropists, or philanthropists who have an historic connection to the area such as H. V. McKay, the harvester machinery name that will resonate with many farmers in the area. Standing Tall is extremely grateful to the local Hamilton businesses, churches, service clubs, individuals and families for their ongoing support of the program during 2019.

In 2019, and for the first time, Standing Tall also received a Volunteer Grant from the Federal Government. It is important to note that the sustainability of the program is not just about finances, it is also about in-kind contributions of volunteers who give their time each week during school terms to spend one hour with a matched mentee.

Funding in 2019 was again sought by using the following three strategies:

1. The "Grants Hub" which is an award-winning on-line business where members can search for grants across Australia. This is a valuable resource to Standing Tall as most of the funding that is available to not-for-profit organisations is listed in programs like these. Local, state and federal government grants are also listed on this website.
2. Letters of request for funding were sent to local community services and businesses.
3. Loyal community followers of Standing Tall.

This Treasurer's report will deal with:

- Financial results to end of December 2019
- Budget for 2020

2. FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2019

As a result of the three above mentioned strategies used to obtain funding in 2019, there has been a reduction in funding received, however it has still been another successful year for Standing Tall, with a closing balance at year end of \$40,711.00 to carry forward into 2020. This result is due to:

- a. Cash donations by various supporters that were used to cover some expenses during the year.
- b. Continued support from local and district business, church and community groups that saw almost \$11,000 raised. While this amount is down on the previous year, it is still a wonderful contribution to the program.
- c. Applications through the Grants Hub to local trusts/foundations for grants and/or sponsorship where a further \$12,500 was raised.

3. BUDGET 2020

The budget will again be conservative and with careful monitoring should see another successful year for Standing Tall in Hamilton community in 2020.

However, as stated in the Treasurer's Report for 2018 cash reserves are important to enable progress but is becoming more and more difficult each year as we compete with multiple organisations for the same pool of funds.

The following three key points will influence the direction of the 2020 budget:

1. The reduction in community funding. Standing Tall is just one of many community not-for-profit organisations competing for funds in an environment that changes annually.
2. The increased competition and changes to tax status requirements of not-for-profit organisations that has an influence on the number of applications available to Standing Tall through the online program "The Grants Hub".
3. Local, state and federal government funding is just as elusive as in the past with some funding only being available through invites to apply. An application for funding through the Southern Grampians Shire Council Greater Grants is currently being prepared and will hopefully show in the 2020 budget. This money will be spent on Standing Tall projects as nominated in the application.

4. GENERAL COMMENT

We acknowledge and thank Jane, who continues to do an excellent job as the Standing Tall program coordinator. Her commitment to the students and volunteers is commendable.

We must also acknowledge all volunteers and supporters of Standing Tall in Hamilton. There are many people who have contributed their time to advise, donate and/or assist in the future progression of this great program.

We thank you all.



Committee Treasurer
GLEND A CADDEN

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Opening Balance as at 01/01/2019	\$61,652.92	\$61,652.92
REVENUE		
Uniting Church	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
St Andrews Church	\$0.00	\$500.00
Rotary Club of Hamilton North	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Radleys of Hamilton	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Peter Cook	\$0.00	\$603.50
Other gifts/Community Donations	\$21,000.00	\$2,018.11
Total Community Revenue	\$21,000.00	\$10,621.61
HV McKay Charitable Trust	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Other Grants	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Total Grants/Foundations Revenue	\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00
Federal Government Volunteer Grant	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00
Total Local/State/Federal Government Funding	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$42,700.00	\$22,321.61
Membership Received	\$120.00	\$0.00
TOTAL REVENUE AVAILABLE	\$104,472.92	\$83,974.53
EXPENSES		
Salaries & Wages	\$38,000.00	\$36,208.01
Superannuation	\$0.00	\$3,290.17
Workcover	\$500.00	\$539.94
Office/Admin Expenses/Postage	\$1,500.00	\$1,405.47
Advertising/Marketing	\$250.00	\$155.19
Courses/Training	\$250.00	\$149.09
Meeting/Training Expenses	\$200.00	\$313.90
Donations/Gifts/Awards	\$80.00	\$95.09
Camps/Excursions/Activities	\$250.00	\$471.17
First Aid Materials	\$0.00	\$280.25
Equipment	\$0.00	\$354.50
FUNDED EXPENSES	\$4,700.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$45,730.00	\$43,262.78
NET CASHFLOW/OUTFLOW	-\$2,910.00	-\$20,941.17
BUDGET TOTAL	\$58,742.92	
CASH AVAILABLE FOR 2020		\$40,711.75

Our 2019 Financial
STATEMENT

Platinum (\$25k +)

Gold (\$15k +)

Silver (\$5k +)

The Gall Family Foundation
HV McKay Trust
Hamilton Uniting Church
Argyle Shop
Gwen & Edna Jones Foundation

Bronze (\$1,500k +)

Rotary Club of Hamilton North
Federal Government Volunteer Grant
Ray & Joyce Uebergang Foundation

In Kind Support

Baimbridge College
Brophy Family & Youth Services
Victoria Police

Community Donors

Mibus Brothers
Hamilton Livestock Association
Faye Gumley
Keith & Elizabeth Haines
Robyn Agnew
Elaine Grey



Our
SUPPORTERS

We are supported by a generous
community that seeks to invest in
the lives of our young people.
Thank You!

Darrell Agnew

Bob Cadden

Peter Elsworthy

Joanne Hartwich

Roger Lewis

Doug Palmer

Richard Thatcher

Doug Ward

Sally Beggs

Karyn Dyson

Catherine Fraser

Ian Johnson

Karen Mitchell

Margy Stevenson

Michael Vaughan

Karen Watt

Min Youngman

Our 2019 MENTORS

A special thank you to the mentors for 2019, who have dedicated their year to investing in their mentees, and are making a huge impact on young lives.



A black and white photograph of three people jumping joyfully on a grassy hill. They are silhouetted against a bright, hazy sky. The person on the left is in a jumping pose with one leg extended forward. The person in the middle is jumping with both arms raised high. The person on the right is jumping with one leg bent and arms outstretched. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a bright sky.

STANDING TALL IN HAMILTON INC

Baimbridge College

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