

STANDING TALL IN HAMILTON INC.

Annual Report

2021-2022



**Standing Tall in
Hamilton Inc.**
School-based Mentoring

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Hamilton Inc.
School-based Mentoring

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ABOUT US

Standing Tall in Hamilton Inc. (STiH or Standing Tall) is a registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). STiH is an award-winning, not-for-profit, school-based mentoring program that works with students in grades 4 to 12 attending our partner schools.

Our Program offers positive guidance, support, routine and encouragement to students to help them develop a healthy connection to school and take advantage of the opportunities that education provides. We work in collaboration with local primary and secondary schools, and we are supported by many local community groups business and philanthropists.

Students currently studying in Years 4 to 12, who wish to be involved may apply to be considered for the Program.

STiH accepts referrals for students in need, and whose school may have exhausted all other means to engage students with their education. We provide support via our school-based mentoring Program that offers education and activities targeted at disadvantaged young people to help them gain skills to succeed in life.

Our goal is to build the resilience they need to break the cycle of disadvantage they are experiencing and give them an opportunity for a brighter future.

Our Vision

To support students in need to fulfil their full potential, build their resilience, live rich and rewarding lives and be valuable members of our community.

Our Mission

To recruit, screen and train mature and professional members of our community who are keen to provide support to students in need.

Our Purpose

To support young people that:

- Believe they would benefit from the support of an adult mentor.
- Need relief from the impact of disadvantage, trauma etc.
- Are at risk of disengagement from their education and the community.
- Are lacking positive adult engagement or role model.
- Are suffering economic hardship, poverty, or live in a sub-optimal home environment.

We recruit, screen, train and match mentors to:

- Help students who are not coping with their schooling.
- Work with young people to help them enjoy their time at school.
- Reduce absenteeism by participants.
- Pass on valuable life skills and improve attitudes and respect.
- Build self-esteem through support and encouragement.
- Improve respect for themselves and others.
- Reduce the risk of early disengagement from education, whilst encouraging the continuation of educational pathways to further study or engagement in work.



OUR TEAM

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



Robert Vecchiet
President



Joan Lewis
Treasurer



Ewan Macdonald
Vice President



Natalie Templeton
Secretary



Doug Ward
Committee Member



Elise Rhook
Committee Member



Bianca Higgins
Committee Member

PROGRAM STAFF



Dee Barrera
Program Manager



Mel Fitzpatrick
Program Manager

Read more about our team on our website
www.standingtallhamilton.com.au/who-we-are/



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After the rapid evolution of Standing Tall in Hamilton Inc. over the past two years I am delighted to be able to report to this year's Annual General meeting that the program is in a great position.

That is not to say that we have not been on something of a roller coaster ride of emotions in the last 12 months but things are very positive now and the future is bright indeed.

At the end of 2021 we were sad to lose the services of Emma Brian and Michelle Winnell who had done such a fabulous job of laying the foundations of an expanded Standing Tall program in our community. Emma and Michelle were well organised and energetic and managed to link in with our local schools and community mentors taking Standing Tall from essentially a one school program to a whole community mentoring program in the space of one year.

Our worry at losing two capable individuals at a critical time was laid to rest when we appointed Dee Barrera and Mel Fitzpatrick as Manager and Co-ordinator respectively in early 2022.

Dee and Mel have taken Standing Tall to another level of awareness in the Hamilton district in a short period of time. Under their care the number of schools participating, students in the program and mentors from our community have expanded. The profile of the program and the value of a significant adult in the life of a child has been highlighted. Our community has shown an appreciation of what Standing Tall offers our young people and has supported the program providing services and finances to keep the program going well into the future.

The successful fundraising program run this year is one significant part of our story. The second is the successful application for charitable status and tax deductibility of donations. Standing Tall in Hamilton is now registered with the Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission (ACNC) and donations over two dollars can be claimed as a tax deduction (DGR status) thanks to the in-kind support of Mr Michael Fitzpatrick of CoggerGurry Chartered Accounts.

We are currently well placed to consolidate the progress we have made to date. I would like to thank members of the Committee of Management that give their time to support Standing Tall and Dee and Mel in their work. Equally I would like to thank Dee Barrera and Mel Fitzpatrick for the great job they have done this year and for the progress they have made taking student mentoring to our schools.

I would sincerely like to thank Rowly and Judy Paterson and The Handbury Foundation for their generous commitment to Standing Tall, for their financial donations, and for making themselves available to guide and support our committee and staff throughout the year.

Finally I would like to thank all the businesses and individuals that have given their time, services, advice and financial support so that our young people can benefit from having a "significant adult" in their life. The concept of "it takes a village to raise a child" is alive and well in Hamilton.

Thank you all.

Robert Vecchiet
PRESIDENT



FINANCE REPORT



Treasurer's Report for Financial Year ending 30 June 2022

Opening Balance 1/7/2021	\$.	90,383
Plus Income	\$.	175,192
Less Expenses	(\$.	127,499)
Carry over funds 30/6/2022	\$.	138,076

Detailed Financial Report on page 6.

This report highlights the efforts of all concerned in sourcing new funding to ensure the Standing Tall program is able to continue into the near future.

With the mentoring expansion program now well underway, salaries will continue to be the major expense for the organisation. This cost allows for 46 hours per week of paid employment to manage and coordinate the program.

The increasing number of schools that are joining the program require the coverage of 2 staff part-time during school hours to ensure the program is safe and successful.

Actual expenses were down slightly on budget due to the continuing interruption that Covid-19 had on the program for the first 6 months of the financial reporting period.

The website has been redeveloped, and this cost was essentially offset by in-kind sponsorship from AdSign.

Equipment costs of new 'iPads' for training and mentoring purposes were incurred but this was also offset by a grant from WDEA Works Foundation.

Mentor training costs were less than budgeted as training is now essentially conducted by the Standing Tall staff and in future will be supported by a new software database and 'Childsafe' training package introduced in July 2022.

The level of carry-over funds on 30 June 2022 include some funding sourced in late June which relate to the fundraising challenge 'to raise \$140,000 in 140 days'.

The committee has been encouraged by the increasing widespread support shown by the local community.

The organisation received notification of our official registration as an Australian charity from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) on 1 July 2022. Our Charity registration was backdated to commence on 14 June 2022. With this, we received Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, which now allows donations to be recognised as tax deductible for amounts of \$2 or above. This will greatly assist in seeking future grants from charitable foundations as well as improving the ease of receiving both business and general community support.

Joan Lewis
TREASURER



Financial Report

1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Income	Financial Year 2021-22	
	Budget	Actual
Community Donations	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,591
Sponsorship -	\$ 125,000	
-Platinum (\$25,000 +)		
The Handbury Foundation		\$ 122,500
- Silver (\$5,000 - \$14,999)	\$ 5,000	
Iluka Resources LTD		\$ 5,000
Ace Radio		\$ 5,000
AdSign		\$ 5,000
- Bronze (\$2,500 - \$4,999)		
CoggerGurry		\$ 2,500
Westvic		\$ 2,500
- General	\$ 17,000	
Radleys of Hamilton		\$ 2,000
Hamilton Rotary Club		\$ 2,000
The Wholistic GP		\$ 2,000
Presence		\$ 2,000
Hamilton Uniting Church		\$ 1,500
Glenn Howell Optometrist		\$ 1,000
Natalie Templeton		\$ 415
Mattiske & Henderson Insurance Services		\$ 150
Grants, Government and Non Government -	\$ 10,000	
The Gall Family Foundation		\$ 10,000
Southern Grampians Shire Council (Greater Grants Program)		\$ 2,500
William and Lindsay Brodie Foundation		\$ 2,000
WDEA Works Foundation		\$ 2,916
Southwest Community Foundation		\$ 1,500
Memberships	\$ -	\$ 120
Total Cash Income 21 - 22	162,000	\$ 175,192
Expenses		
Administration/Bank fees	\$ 100	\$ 18
Advertising/Marketing	\$ 2,500	\$ 8,212
Employee Salaries and Oncosts	\$ 95,000	\$ 85,140
Insurances	\$ 2,600	\$ 3,670
Licences, Software, Web, Police checks	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,946
Mentoring consumables	\$ 1,000	\$ 520
Mentor Training	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,198
Office Lease	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,280
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 2,400	\$ 5,601
Office Utilities	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,981
Professional Services	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,932
Total Cash Expenses 21 - 22	\$ 125,000	\$ 127,499
Opening Cash Balance 01/07/2021		\$ 90,383
add Income less expenses July 2021 - June 2022		\$ 47,693
Closing Cash Balance 30/6/2022		\$ 138,076



PROGRAM REPORT

What an action-packed year we have had! Full of new beginnings, new schools, new students, and new mentors. Since we (Mel and Dee) began working at Standing Tall, in February and March 2022 respectively, we have focused on the continued expansion of the program. Our priority has been to ensure that every student in the Southern Grampians Shire who would like to have a mentor, can access one.

Thank you to the previous Program Team, Michelle Winnell and Emma Brian, for working hard to ensure all our systems were in place to enable the continued smooth roll out of the program. Thank you for ensuring that there was a large pool of wonderful community-minded people, trained and ready to begin mentoring our next generation.

A big thank you also to our Committee of Management (CoM) for your endless support as we navigated our new roles, and especially for trusting us to bring new ideas into the organisation. We feel valued and respected, and we truly appreciate the positive working culture within our team. Thank you.

The 2021/22 financial year has been transitional for us, with some interruptions due to Covid-19, we were still able to focus on expanding the program and build a strong foundation with all our new school partners, mentors, and students.

In addition to the weekly school-based mentoring program, some key priorities we have been working on to help strengthen our organisation include:

- Secured charity registration with ACNC.
- Developed a new website with AdSign.
- Secured Microsoft 365 Business Premium Account grant – secure, cloud-based files and email accounts to staff and CoM.
- Launched Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn channels.
- Built relationships with philanthropic, business, and community partners.

- Completed eight grant applications and acquitted one.
- Presented at the Hamilton View Club, Sportswomen's Association and Rotary Club.
- Re-established relationship with the team at Standing Tall in Warrnambool.
- Launched a mentor recruitment campaign, received and processed 26 new expressions of interest applications.
- Investigated, reviewed, and purchased new Child Safe Training platform.
- Hosted a business supporters' night which was attended by 35 local businesses.
- Launched our fundraising campaign, raising an average of \$1000 per day since our launch, ensuring we were on track to reach our target in the next financial year.

Child Safe Training

Investing in updated Child Safe training was also a priority for our team. As an organisation, we are committed to providing best practice recruitment procedures and ensuring that our volunteers have updated Child Safe Training and are well versed in the National Child Safe Principals, Victorian Child Safe Standards and our Volunteer Mentor Code of Conduct. We are dedicated to ensuring the safety of every child in our Program and ensure our compliance with Child Safe Standards. To assist us maintain and strengthen our child safe culture, we partnered with ChildSafe Australia, a Children's Harm Prevention Charity that provides practical tools and a secure training platform to help us transition from policy to good practice and improve our child safe culture. In addition, we have worked actively to ensure that we have a visible presence during each of our school-based mentoring sessions.



PROGRAM REPORT

continued...

Fundraising

One of our biggest challenges was our fundraising campaign to raise \$140,000 in 140 days. Launching in May, we set a high target because we wanted to support a minimum of 70 students in our Program. It costs \$2000 per student per year in our program. This may seem dear for a not-for profit organisation supported predominantly by volunteers, but the budget is used carefully to ensure we operate a safe, effective, and professional school-based mentoring program. These funds cover things such as insurances, governance, mentor recruitment including processing applications, conducting interviews, security screening, on-board training, child safety training and ongoing refresher training, resources, processing student referrals, planning and session supervision.

Mentoring

Student Referrals have been coming through regularly this year with even more expected from 3 of our newest schools in the second half of 2022. Through our mentoring sessions we have been witness to the formation of many strong friendships and have seen firsthand the difference that another caring adult can make in the lives of our students. It means a lot to our students to have a mentor in their life who is willing to listen, offer non-judgemental guidance, and who is there consistently just for them.

This financial year there were:

- 32 students matched with mentors
- 141 mentoring sessions at our active schools
- 550 volunteer hours
- 78 locals applied to become mentors.

Of the 78 applications received:

- 32 completed Expressions of Interest forms
- 15 completed our recruitment process and are awaiting a mentee match
- 8 paused their mentor application due to changes in personal/work circumstances.
- The remainder were matched with students and began weekly mentoring sessions.

To all our mentors and students, a sincere thank you to each of you. You are the program, and we are so proud to be together with you throughout this journey.

We are grateful to the entire community of the Southern Grampians for the ongoing support and we are looking forward to a bigger and better 20th year for Standing Tall.

Dee Barrera
PROGRAM MANAGER

and

Mel Fitzpatrick
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Photo courtesy of Hamilton Spectator.



OUR PHILANTHROPIC, BUSINESS, & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



The Handbury Foundation



Ace Radio
Iluka Resources
AdSign
The Gall Family Foundation
CoggerGurry Chartered Accountants
Finchetts



Radley's of Hamilton
Rotary Club of Hamilton
The Wholistic GP
Presence
The William & Lindsay Brodie Foundation
Southern Grampians Shire Council
WDEA Works Foundation



Hamilton Uniting Church	Brophy Family and Youth Services
Glenn Howell Optometrist	Westvic Staffing Solutions
Southwest Community Foundation	
Mattiske & Henderson	
Woolworths	
Tosca Browns	
Claire Hilsdon	



Hayley Taylor	Hilary Jackson	Wendy Davies
Erin Parker	Alana Brown	David Davies
Emma Brown	Peter & Bronwyn Dwight	Peter Cook
Andrea Hayes	Caroline MacDonald	Kristy Hibberd
Stuart Perry	Jannie Ryan	Chris Irving
Mrs M C Willis	Andrea Sherman	Keith & Elizabeth Haines
Stewart Otton	Lauren Davies	Carolyn Vankalken
Gwenda Riley	Georgina Paton	Narelle Frichot



OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL PARTNERS



OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL PARTNERS



MENTORING IN ACTION



MENTORING IN ACTION



Standing Tall in Hamilton Inc.
is grateful for the ongoing support we
have received from philanthropists,
foundations, businesses, clubs, schools,
churches and individuals. Your
generosity is helping us build a more
resilient community together.



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