



2021/22
ANNUAL
REPORT

About this Annual Report

This annual report provides information on RuffTRACK during the reporting period between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022.

It includes our highlights, financial results, and strategies to harness the talents of young people and support them reach their full potential.

This annual report includes a Co-founder report, a Chairperson report, and our financial statements.

RuffTRACK is proud to be a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. RuffTRACK Limited ABN: 16 637 113 896.

 You can find more information about our services and programs by visiting our website: www.rufftrack.com

Feedback or questions

For more information or to ask a question about our 2021/22 Annual Report, please email us at: office@rufftrack.com.



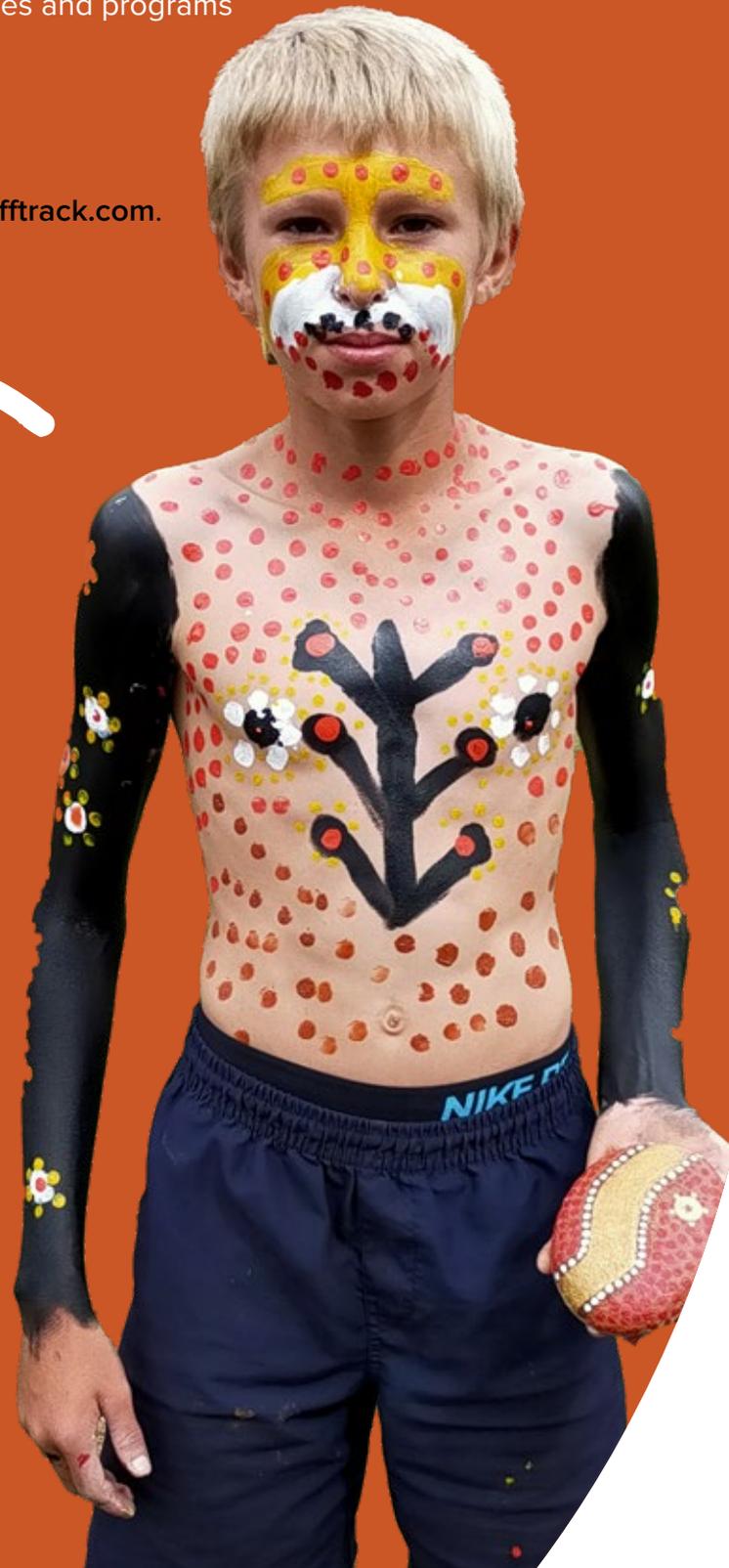
Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that the Darug people were the original custodians of the land on which we meet today at RuffTRACK Farm.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and acknowledge the Aboriginal people for their custodianship of this land.

We will work together for a united city that respects this land and values the contribution to our community and culture of all people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

We also acknowledge the many other clans of the greater Darug Nation, whose traditional lands occupy over 1,800 square kilometres in what we now know as Western Sydney.



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Our Purpose

We support young people to change their lives and re-integrate into society.

Our Vision

To harness the talents of young participants and provide them with skills to:

- keep alive
- stay out of prison
- secure a future.

Our Mission

Keep Kids Alive, Out of Prison and Skilled Up for a Better Future.



WHO ARE WE



The RuffTRACK program is modelled on a similar program in Armidale NSW, BackTrack, aimed at engaging vulnerable young people and helping them develop life and work skills to plan their future pathways.

Co-founded by David Graham or more commonly known as Farmer Dave, RuffTRACK supports young people aged between 12 and 17 years of age who have disengaged with school and the community.

We support them in education and skill development to transform their lives.

Our programs are based on the following:

- agricultural education
- building relationships
- self-generated income projects
- public speaking
- community outreach services
- connecting to Country.
- animal care and training

We work closely with Hawkesbury Local Area Command (Police) and the incredible BackTrack to fundamentally change young people's lives.

When a young person joins RuffTRACK, they bond with a dog in their first days. This partnership takes them on a journey of learning responsibility, caring for others and communicating without violence.

The team then travels the country, demonstrating their skills and giving them purpose and a reason to give life a serious go.

The skills developed during this time are endless and include:

- aluminium fabrication
- dog training
- mechanics
- animal husbandry
- domestic skills
- nutrition and physical education
- building healthy relationships
- driving and licence attainment
- welding
- bushcraft
- effective communication
- woodwork...
- carpentry
- horticulture
- and a whole lot more!
- conflict resolution
- landscaping
- dog sports
- leather work



OUR HISTORY

We started making tracks in the Hawkesbury in 2019, inspired by the effective BackTrack program for vulnerable young people facing challenges in Armidale, New South Wales.

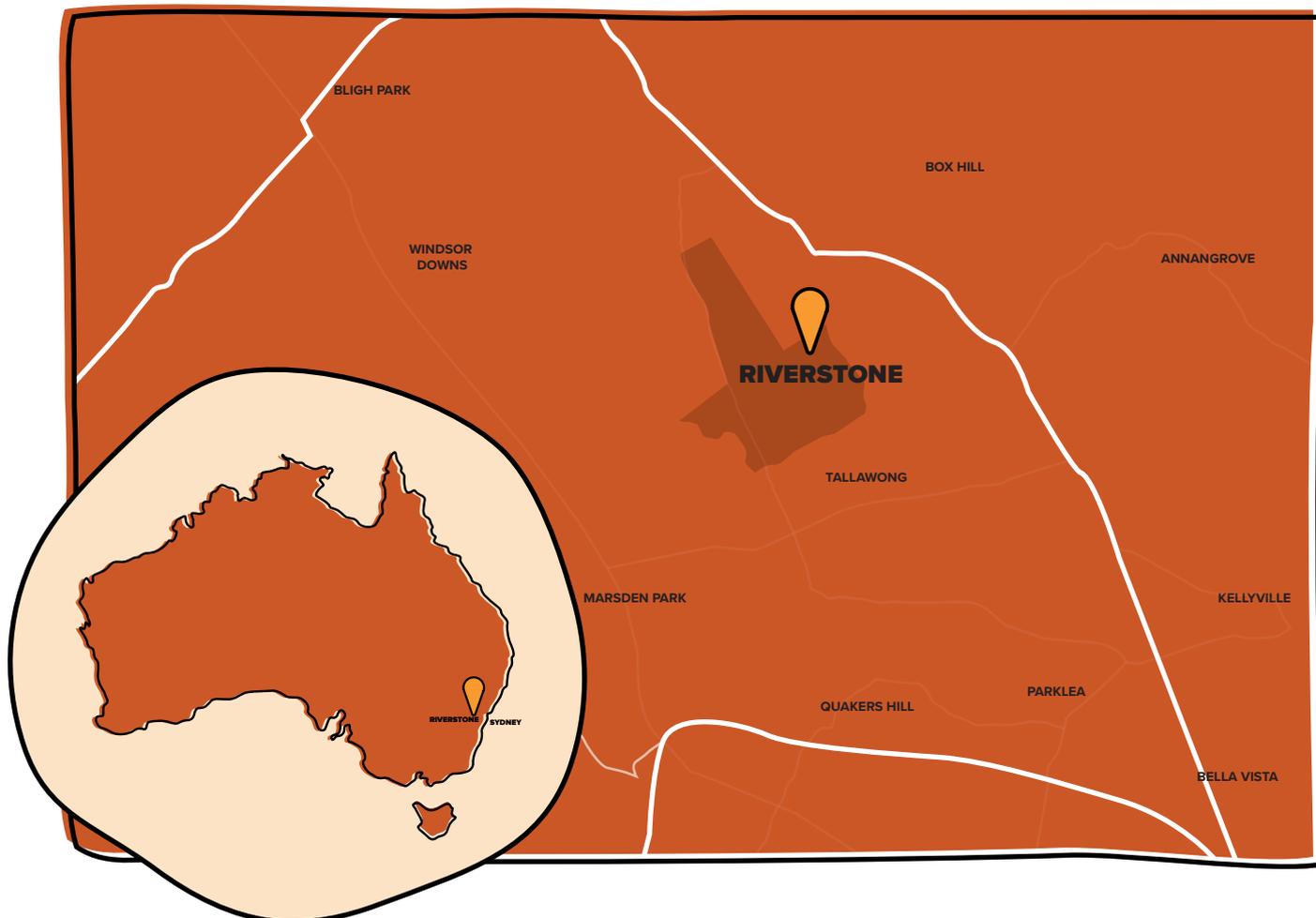
Instigated by the Hawkesbury Local Area Command team and with the assistance of BackTrack's youth workers, David 'Farmer Dave' Graham began a 12-week pilot program in September 2019. The program connects young people with animals to foster responsibility and trust.

Today, two years since our inception, RuffTRACK supports more than 50 young people a year.

OUR LOCATION

RuffTRACK is located in the Western Sydney suburb of Riverstone and on the fringe of the Hawkesbury region.

Just over 50 kilometres from the Sydney CBD, RuffTRACK is located at Riverstone.



RUFFTRACK IN NUMBERS

135

young people referred to RuffTRACK



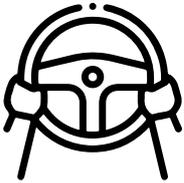
young people supported in safer accommodation

\$30,000

fundraised at our events

29

Indigenous participants



4 learner driver's licences attained

2-years

of RuffTRACK operations



48

graduates of our Round Yard Project

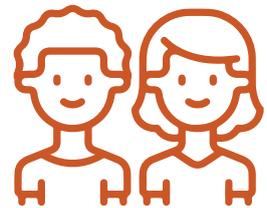


10

volunteers

6+

grants received



53

young people in RuffTRACK programs in 2021/22

\$65,000

fundraised for our Forever Farm

45

FabLads ornaments sold

\$35,000

in community donations

90%

of participants gained White Card qualification

CO-FOUNDER MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2021/22 RuffTRACK Annual Report.

At RuffTRACK, we take kids that have fallen through the cracks, kids that have experienced suspension, been expelled or who have dropped out of school, and give them a voice.

We can do this because we take the time to see them, hear them and connect them to a community that loves them.

RuffTRACK offers simple solutions. We provide young people with skills, and we show them how to communicate effectively without violence and mitigate and manage their anger and anxiety. We also teach them life skills such as driving a tractor, welding, carpentry, horticulture and agriculture.

Our secret ingredient to all this work is dogs.

Many kids that come to RuffTRACK come from broken homes and disconnection, and what our dogs do is create a sense of belonging, reminding our young people that they have a place and value.

We aim to break all the cycles that have impacted these kids in the first place and set them on a pathway to a solid career through skill development and using the dogs to create kindness, compassion and trust.

Dogs are incredible animals, and when you add kids to that mix, you get magic.

I want to thank our supporters and donors over the last 12 months in a tough year.



In our second year of operation, we were impacted once again by COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns. Yet despite these impacts, our village of RuffTRACK supporters of volunteers, donors and our Board have been amazing.

I look forwards to the next 12 months and saving kids one paw at a time.

David 'Farmer Dave' Graham

RuffTRACK Co-Founder and Manager



CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE

We have three jobs at RuffTRACK; keep kids alive, out of jail, and skilled up for the future. This is not possible to achieve without the dedication of our hard-working staff, volunteers, and donors.

It takes a village to raise a child, and at RuffTRACK everyone that has an interest in our program is a part of that village. From the number of supporters on our social media to those that travel to shows to watch our young people perform and to those that support us financially, we are very thankful to have you as part of our village and to give our young people the strength and courage to turn up each and every day, working towards changing their future.

It has been another busy and challenging year as we've overcome Covid and flooding in the Hawkesbury. Our young people took it in their stride, helping the community recover from not one but two floods, clearing flood debris, helping clean out flood-affected houses, and offering support.

As soon as restrictions lifted, we took our learning off the RuffTRACK farm and headed to the Sydney Royal Easter Show and the Hawkesbury Show where we put our dog skills on display, presenting to our village the bond between each young person and their dog.

We're pleased to see our social enterprises taking off, Lawn Lads and Lasses, FabLads, our school incursion program, and the black summer fire fencing work. The Board is excited to watch the goals and strategies for 2022/23 unfold and pave the path forward for our organisation with the goal of ultimately purchasing our own farm in the very near future.



Our team of staff and volunteers grew and so did our fundraising events, helping us continue to be in the face of the public telling the RuffTRACK story, and raising much-needed funds to keep the wheels turning.

RuffTRACK thanks our local Police in the Hawkesbury and Riverstone Local Area Commands, the Hawkesbury PCYC, and the strength of our sister tracker organisations, especially BackTrack, who provide so much knowledge, advocacy, networking, and guidance to our team.

On behalf of the Board, we thank you all for your dedication to keeping kids alive, out of jail, and skilled up for the future.

Janine Yeates

Volunteer Chairperson



OUR PROGRAMS

We support young people to change their lives and re-integrate into society.

When young people join RuffTRACK, they bond with a dog in their first days. This partnership takes them on a journey of learning responsibility, caring for others and communicating without violence.

We have two programs available at RuffTRACK to help young people realise their potential, grow at their own pace, and connect with their community.

The Round Yard Project

The Round Yard project offers a range of experiences and learning opportunities from horticulture and mechanics to arts and crafts, and healthy relationships.

It is our foundation course and has been designed to engage and help young people learn in a supportive and fun environment.

Led by our trade leaders and volunteer peer supports, the course helps young people develop their inner skills of:

- career drive
- companionship
- competency
- cohesion
- compassion
- consideration
- commitment
- compatibility
- consistency.

The course runs with participants' current schooling and aligns with each 10-week NSW school term. Participants can also gain assistance with their schoolwork and dog training during the course.

Attendance is Tuesday and Thursday at RuffTRACK Farm, Riverstone.



The dogs are the heart of our programs. They teach kids responsibility and respect and build up trust. Many kids have lost trust in humans, and our programs and dogs help them build relationships again.

- David 'Farmer Dave' Graham



The Core Program

This program is an excellent example of how far we can take young people and support them to make positive changes for their future.

The core program covers a wide variety of educational activities to build young people's skills in:

- animal husbandry
- arts and crafts
- budgeting
- computer skills
- construction
- engagement and interaction within the community
- food technology
- horticulture
- Indigenous cultural awareness
- landscaping
- literacy and numeracy
- mathematics
- metal and woodwork
- performing arts
- plumbing
- science, including biology and agriculture science
- small and large engine mechanics
- public speaking, confidence building, vocal coaching, and articulation
- sustainability (land management and household management)
- working cohesively and successfully in groups.

The Core program is an opportunity for participants to obtain Certificates I and II in a range of TAFE courses that will help them in their future careers.

Participants aged 14 years and nine months old or older are eligible to participate in a Rural Operations Certificate II Traineeship.

We transport participants from their homes to the RuffTRACK farm in Riverstone each Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the Core program.

I've been here for nearly three years now and it's amazing being with the dogs. The dogs have taught me to keep going, they just keep trying. My favourite activity is Dock Dogs because I love seeing how far the dog goes.

- 16-year-old RuffTRACK participant

OUR IMPACT

We are giving young people real world experiences in a classroom without walls. Imagine an education that's not on zoom or from a book but real life where pilots can show you exactly what's involved in their career path, and why maths and literacy are essential.

- David 'Farmer Dave' Graham

Life skills

We provided our participants with a range of experiences to increase their skills knowledge and build their self-esteem.

In 2021/22, participants learnt math skills with Mr G on Mondays. Our maths lessons focus on essential skills for life and future careers, from taxation, budgeting, and wages to understanding why superannuation is necessary and how it is calculated.

We had volunteer teachers visit RuffTRACK to share their wisdom and training, in our hands-on environment, such as changing a car tyre and checking and changing the oil of a car.

We provided shepherding training to all participants and their dogs. This type of training is about creating bonds with their dog, building the brain's capacity to see other perspectives, and getting in touch with the notion of calmness and focus.

Our supporters at Hebron Farm in Lower Portland along the Colo River provided a workplace for participants throughout the year to build on their skills. Our participants had the opportunity to plant, harvest, and train in the safe operation of chainsaws, power tools and brush cutters onsite.

Training

Our participants received their White Card (Construction Induction Training Card) in 2021/22.

This training is recognised across Australia and educates workers on the different safety requirements and guidelines when working on

construction sites. It provides a clear overview of the occupational and safety hazards they may face at a worksite.

Three participants commenced a Certificate III in Rural Operations, while another three achieved their Certificate II in Agriculture.

FabLads

We launched a self-generating income social enterprise called FabLads.

This creative participant-led initiative involves participants creating rustic dogs, garden ornaments and gifts from metal using welding equipment and a computer numerical control (CNC) plasma fabrication machine. These works are sold on the RuffTRACK website and at various agricultural shows.

The program has been successful, with 45 ornaments sold during the 2021/22 period, generating approximately \$5,000 income for our FabLads participants.

FabLads provides a pathway to employment through high-level skills development and attainments in metal fabrication, MIG (metal inert gas) and TIG (tungsten inert gas) welding.

Thank you to our generous donors who have made the purchase of welding equipment and the CNC plasma cutter possible.

Our FabLabs products are available on our RuffTRACK website: www.rufftrack.com/shop



RINGER
VESTER





Bushfire and flood recovery

2021/22 was a devastating year in New South Wales, plagued by unpredictable weather patterns due to La Nina.

The RuffTRACK work crew worked hard throughout the Hawkesbury to help communities impacted by bushfires and floods.

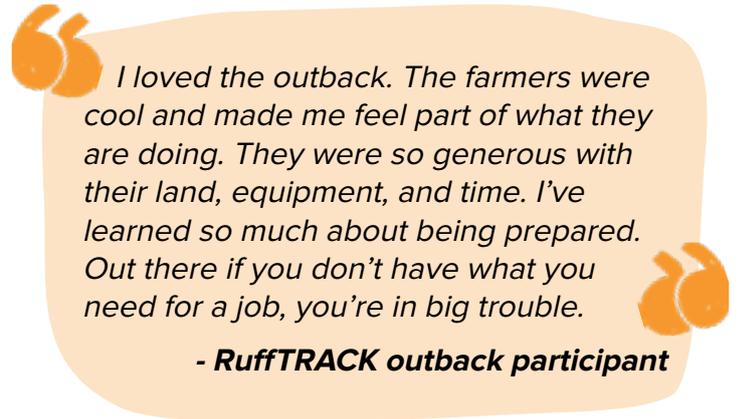
In the MacDonald Valley, crews cleared flood debris from fences and rebuilt fence lines.

The work was intense, with fence lines between farms often in areas of complex terrain. The crew spent three weeks in the Valley clearing lines, repairing and constructing fences.



In early 2022, the crew volunteered in Lower Portland to help farming communities after the February 2022 floods along the Hawkesbury River. The crew once again cleared flood debris from fence lines and helped replant organic vegetable plots at Hebron Farm.

Our participants also spent time doorknocking in the Hawkesbury suburbs of Windsor, Bligh Park and Pitt Town following the March 2022 floods. These communities were hit hard with water and electricity supplies cut and, in some instances, no formal assistance. RuffTRACK stepped up and helped clear debris, move furniture, and provide help wherever possible.



Other highlights of 2021/22

In our two years of operation, RuffTRACK has built programs that collectively create opportunities for young people to learn and find future employment.

From the simple notion of bonding with a dog, the magic that can happen from this relationship, such as teamwork, resilience and knowing your value, are ingredients every young adult needs when growing up.

Other highlights from 2021/22 included:

Tomorrow Makers

In February, we were over the moon when RuffTRACK founder Farmer Dave was awarded a 2021 Tomorrow grant from The AMP Foundation.

The \$75,000 grant enabled us to purchase a skid steer bobcat for our emergency recovery work.



Connecting with the outback

Our Term 1 2022 participants and their dogs made the 1,000-kilometre journey to Queensland for a change of scenery and to gain invaluable experience.

The 10-day trip, funded by a \$15,000 Sisters of Charity Foundation Community Grant, was an opportunity to expand their cultural experiences and see how people in the bush, Aboriginal communities and regional townships operate and live.

A significant focus of the trip was helping elderly or isolated farmers with physical tasks like clearing storage bins and repairing fences. Plus, bushcraft and skills, and dog sports.

Touring the show circuit

We were so excited to perform at several agriculture shows in 2021/22:

- Hawkesbury Show
- Heritage Bank Toowoomba Royal Show
- Royal Bathurst Show
- The Sydney Royal Easter Show
- Wellington Show.

We used our 'Barbara the Big Bus' to get around the show circuit, a generous gift from a bus travel company, Busways.

Our COVID-19 Response

The uncertainty of the COVID-19 coronavirus again impacted 2021/22.

At the beginning of July 2021, New South Wales was locked down due to a rise in the number of infectious COVID-19 cases in the community.

During this period, RuffTRACK was fortunate to be a safe place for participants. Our 'off farm' activities and excursions were cancelled, but our onsite program with our dogs continued as an essential service.

We implemented a range of COVID-19 safe measures to protect our participants and volunteers, such as hand hygiene, face masks and social distancing measures.



We recognised COVID-19 vaccination as our way out of premature death and severe illness. Our participants were provided information on the COVID-19 vaccines, coinciding with our animal vaccination and disease prevention lessons.

Participants were given the opportunity to drench (medicate) guinea pigs, rabbits, sheep, goats and alpacas. This process helped with the anxiety and misinformation circulating in the community. At the end of 2021, all participants and staff had completed their COVID-19 vaccination.

The 2021 lockdown was extended until October 2021, resulting in our major fundraisers, Trivia Night and Roast for RuffTRACK, being postponed until the 2022/23 financial year.





A core foundation at RuffTRACK is generosity. Our young people give back to our community; and this year is like no other. Our lads have shown that the future Australians are as giving and awesome as our ancestors.

- David 'Farmer Dave' Graham



OUR SERVICES

To fund our RuffTRACK programs, we raise money through several great initiatives that showcase our participants and their dogs' talents.

Show performances

Our professional, high energy and engaging performances are often the highlight of an agriculture show.

Our participants use a K9 Superwall and K9 Ninja set-up at agriculture shows to run dog training drills.

Agriculture shows are a fantastic way to showcase our young people growing, bonding, stepping up and working together.

In 2022, we delivered nearly 100 live performances at The Sydney Royal Easter Show.



The growth and professionalism of each young person and their dog was phenomenal. The joy and inspiration they brought to tens of thousands of Australians each day was nothing short of admirable.

Our 2021/22 show performances included:

- Australia's Got Talent
- Dog Lovers Show
- Hawkesbury Show
- Heritage Bank Toowoomba Royal Show
- Melbourne Royal Show
- Royal Bathurst Show
- The Sydney Royal Easter Show
- Wellington Show.



OUR COMMUNITY WORK

We were awarded a **Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant in 2021/22** from the **NSW Government** to assist landowners impacted by the **2019/20 bushfires in fencing and land regeneration work.**

We encouraged landowners in the Hawkesbury region to apply for our assistance. Thanks to the Recovery Grant, we could facilitate up to 70% of the labour cost for these works.

Throughout the year, our Work Crew replaced 245 metres of fencings, three plain top barbed wire and 1,200mm heavy galvanised chicken wire fences with 14 metal strainers in the MacDonalld Valley.

Our crew worked in rugged terrains while building their skills on the tools and machinery.

As of 30 June 2022, we have helped numerous landowners across the Hawkesbury region through the Recovery Grant program.



Bushfire Fencing Applications

If you are in the Hawkesbury region and your fences were affected by bush fire during 2019/20, you are entitled to apply to us for this assistance. Find out more information on our website.



OUR EVENTS

July 2021

- NAIDOC Week
- Term 3 2021 at RuffTRACK

August 2021

- International Youth Day
- International Dog Day

September 2021

- RuffTRACK's 2nd birthday

October 2021

- Term 4 2021 at RuffTRACK
- Step Up for RuffTRACK fundraiser

December 2021

- RuffTRACK graduation
- Christmas Party

January 2022

- Summer holiday period

February 2022

- Term 1 2022 at RuffTRACK

March 2022

- Heritage Bank Toowoomba Royal Show

April 2022

- Sydney Royal Easter Show
- Royal Bathurst Show
- Term 2 2022 at RuffTRACK

May 2022

- Hawkesbury Show
- Wellington Show

June 2022

- Support RuffTRACK Trivia Night
- Beanies for Brain Cancer 'Big Three Trek'

MEDIA AND AWARDS

April 2022

Our awesome participants participated in their first live radio interview on B Rock 99.3FM, a local radio station in Bathurst, NSW. They spoke about their lives and how RuffTRACK is changing their lives.

Finalists! We were the Government and Not for Profit category finalists in the Hawkesbury Business Awards.

May 2022

Winners! We were awarded the Hawkesbury Business Event's Community Outreach Contributor Award in recognition of our incredible work in the flood and bushfire recovery across our region.

June 2022

Our Support RuffTRACK Trivia Night gained coverage in local newspapers in the Hawkesbury region. The event is a major fundraiser for our programs.

The National Rugby League (NRL) State of Origin team, the NSW Blues, visited RuffTRACK. The team learnt about our purpose and met their team mascot, 'Bruce the Blue Heeler'. Their visit generated coverage in local Hawkesbury newspapers and on the NSWRL website.

Farmer Dave and the RuffTRACK crew auditioned for the reality talent show Australia's Got Talent. The crew led dog 'Jimmy Choo' through a ninja obstacle course on the stage.







THE
MINI NINJA
RED CATTLE
DOG



Dave

OUR PARTNERS

We are a grassroots organisation that is highly community driven. Our incredible programs are the result of the valuable collaboration between:



OUR SUPPORTERS

We could not provide our programs to young people without the generous support from:



Help us buy our forever farm

We are growing every term, with more than 100 young people on our waiting list.

If 600,000 generous people donate just \$5, it will help fund a new farm that will have more spaces to educate young people and provide safe accommodations.

You can help us buy our forever farm by donating on our website:

<https://rufftrack-limited.grassrootz.com/rufftrack-forever-farm>

GOVERNANCE



Our Board



Janine Yeates
*Volunteer
Chairperson*



Michael Cauchi
Volunteer Board



Mishie
Volunteer Board



Nicholas Yang
Volunteer Board

Our Crew



**Dany
Aboumelhem**
Volunteer Board



**David 'Farmer
Dave' Graham**
*Co-Founder and
Manager*



Tara Palffy
*Operation
Manager*



**Constable
Belinda Flynn**
*NSW Police Youth
Liaison Officer*



Phil Pickford
Youth Worker



**Uncle Dave
Wagner**
Youth Worker



Ashton
*Trainee in Rural
Operations*



Our Volunteers



Terry Gainey
*Volunteer
Mathematics
Teacher*



Jenny Bellamy
*Volunteer
Support Adult*



Elaina Bohman
*Volunteer
Support Adult*

Volunteer with us

We are always seeking new volunteers to join our RuffTRACK family.

Volunteering opportunities include:

- bus drivers to assist with morning and afternoon pick and drop offs
- experienced dog trainers
- tradespeople specialising in mechanics, carpentry, landscaping, welding, metal or aluminium fabrication
- arts and crafts experts
- elders who can share their skills and craft knowledge in woodwork, carving, leather works, mechanics, welding, and animal husbandry
- cooks and cleaners.

For more information on becoming a RuffTRACK volunteer visit our website:
www.rufftrack.com

**A special mention to the fundraising team led by
Kylie Jones-Gentle for all their hard work.**



OUR FINANCIALS

DETAILED PROFIT OR LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
INCOME		
Grants received	262,316.99	36,500.00
Operational income	326,415.87	128,881.89
Sponsorship income	9,000.00	18,500.00
Donations	139,738.91	254,660.32
Other income	7,958.35	-
ATO cash flow boost	-	20,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	745,430.12	458,542.21
LESS: EXPENSES		
Accountancy, audit and bookkeeping fees	23,292.10	5,238.54
Advertising & marketing	3,849.42	1,560.18
Depreciation	26,920.04	16,943.00
Dog & livestock costs	12,024.60	23,873.67
Donations	13,310.00	220.00
Electricity	6,273.77	3,304.48
Funded project direct costs	23,601.32	7,850.99
Holiday pay	14,124.86	-
Insurance	6,433.14	5,112.18
IT system expenses	8,749.89	1,171.22
Long service leave	1,369.07	-
Motor vehicle expense	19,399.97	28,042.92
Postage	350.62	498.89
Printing & stationery	6,303.10	2,105.70
Program expenses	82,234.66	33,305.54
Rent - Outgoings	514.83	1,104.50
Rental Lease	36,400.00	35,000.00
Repairs & maintenance	415.00	2,061.42
Salaries & wages	259,203.53	140,326.32
Staff training & conferences	253.05	3,732.82
Subscription	9,060.00	5,232.27
Sundry expenses	11,066.50	4,294.60
Superannuation contributions	26,778.16	13,241.46
Telephone	2,662.91	2,927.72
Travelling expenses	5,758.66	5,540.84
Tools & Replacements	5,028.19	5,920.02
Uniform	7,574.51	8,326.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	612,951.90	356,935.78
NET SURPLUS BEFORE INCOME TAX	132,478.22	101,606.43





RUFFTRACK

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RuffTRACK



rufftrack



RuffTRACK Marketing

This Annual Report was designed by [We Fly Creative & Kayrative Studio](#).