



The Compassionate Friends Victoria



ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020



1.	Board Article
3.	Staff at TCFV
5.	Volunteers
7.	Sibling Chat Responder
8.	Engaging our community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trivia Night• Candlelight Memorial• Golf Day• Bunnings BBQ• Jog for Joey
15.	2020 Statistics
16.	TCF Solar Panels
17.	Treasurer's Report
21.	Board Members



Board of Directors Reflection on 2019 - 2020

We are living in tumultuous times. This period of time as the world responds to the COVID-19 crisis has been described in many places as “unprecedented”. Those of us born since the baby boom era, post-World War 2, have never known such challenging circumstances. The many layers of impact of this crisis continue to unfold, with our responses as a society and under government regulation, changing regularly. Here in Victoria we have experienced the challenges of an extended lockdown, with considerable restrictions on our activities and movement.

While this report includes the second half of 2019, before the impact of the Covid19 pandemic really hit us, the devastating reality of 2020 has dominated our activities significantly. In 2019 our activities continued in what we now fondly think of as ‘normal’ times. Support groups met regularly face-to-face, volunteers worked enthusiastically in the office, regular annual events happened and the various initiatives of TCFV continued to develop.

There were also challenges in this period, with considerable change within the Board of Directors, as a number of Board members resigned for various reasons. A group of new Board members was elected in October of 2019 at the Annual General Meeting. You can meet the current Board members later in this Annual Report. The 2019 President, Andrew Weatherhead, continued in his role for a short time and Treasurer Daniel Bendel has continued in his role.

While these societal changes have had a massive and often devastating impact on individuals and families, they have also forced changes upon organisations such as The Compassionate Friends. In 2020, the Canterbury office has been largely closed, support groups have not met physically and communal and social activities have stopped. Our goal has been to maintain a strong level of support for our members and for newly-bereaved families who have made contact with us. Increased remote phone support services and the use of the creative digital responses have enabled us to provide continued support for bereaved families during these challenging times. The Zoom world has become familiar to many.

In the midst of these wider changes, there have also been some significant changes in the TCFV environment. The Board of Directors elected in October undertook a review of the operations of our organisation. The financial platform upon which we function and deliver our important services has been of concern to the Board and Staff for some time. A number of strategies have been considered to improve our diminishing financial position. This was happening before the current COVID-19 crisis and was made all the more urgent in the midst of this situation.

The Board sought advice from both an organisational perspective and from a financial perspective. A detailed analysis of our finances over the past three and a half years showed a general decline in our financial position and a serious decline in liquidity (cash resources). As a Board, our fiduciary responsibility to keep the organisation functioning was seen as one of our primary functions. We have all experienced the support of this organisation in the most difficult of times and we are determined that our number one priority is to ensure this support will remain available to families who need it in the future.

The financial analysis considered a number of options to address this situation. In the current environment, attempts to increase our fundraising income were seen to have a limited chance of success. The report ultimately concluded that the only realistic solution was to decrease our expenses through a restructure of our staffing arrangements. The Board determined that this restructure should have as little impact as possible on our delivery of services to families and therefore the reduction in staffing needed to come from the management side of the organisation.

In what was a very difficult decision, the Board decided that at this time, the organisation was unable to continue with the role of a Chief Executive Officer. This meant that John Sedunary could no longer be supported in that role. As a Board and on behalf of the entire organisation, we recognise how difficult this decision was for John. We have appreciated his dedicated work and management over the four and a half years of his tenure. John oversaw a number of achievements in that period including expanding our support groups, revitalising the Australian Compassionate Friends, and helping TCFV to realise our dream of owning our own home.

The changes in our operations that have resulted from this staffing

restructure have overlapped with the changes in our operations brought about by these current circumstances. The Board, under the leadership of our President, has worked together as a team to pick up many of the responsibilities and tasks. The Staff have already stepped into a challenging new time, working from home and supporting the delivery of our services in a more remote fashion than has ever been our practise. As the roles and responsibilities brought about by this staffing restructure have played out early in 2020, there have been impacts on how our staff have operated. As the year unfolded, some part time staff appointments were made to facilitate our on-going services and projects. We are all determined in these trying times to continue with our core purpose as effectively as possible.

An important aspect in achieving our core purpose is to move forward strategically. The current strategic plan is being reviewed and developed by a Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, led by our President, Theresa Yeo. The disruption caused by the Covid19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions on movement and meeting together, have slowed progress for this group. A Bereavement Advisory Committee has been established, to ensure that all aspects of TCFV are consistent with

our fundamental purpose of providing peer support for grieving family members following the death of a child, reflecting appropriate attitudes and responses to the issues raised by such a bereavement.

Providing support for bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents is why we exist. We continue to support people in this new environment and we continue to work on the development of an increasing range of support opportunities.

TCFV has always worked by standing together in tough times. May we stand strongly together in these challenging times, for ourselves and for the wider community.

Board of Directors:
Theresa Yeo, President; Kevin Purvis, Vice President; Lisa Gelbart, Secretary; Daniel Bendel, Treasurer; Jo Knoll, Harriet Clegg

The Compassionate Friends Victoria
Ph: 98884944
www.tcfv.org.au
National Help Line:
1300 064 068





Staff at TCFV

We are fortunate to have dedicated and caring staff at TCFV. In the course of an eventful year, our staff have remained engaged and available, even when working largely from home in the second half of this financial year.

Jenny Galati has continued in her role as Volunteer Coordinator, events manager, phone answerer, office organiser, magazine guru, caterer etc etc. We are very grateful for the commitment Jenny has for TCFV and appreciate her work which is often above and beyond what her position description actually describes. For many people, as their first point of contact with TCFV, Jenny is a warm and welcoming presence. Working with volunteers through the office is an important aspect of Jenny's role, as volunteers are the very heartbeat of a peer to peer support organisation like TCFV. The Volunteer Week celebrations were an on-line event this year, reaching an even wider group of participants via Zoom.

See the video of Volunteer Week at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoOhcAWQcQs>. Other examples of the events Jenny has been involved in are seen throughout this Annual Report.

Andrew McNess fulfills his role as Groups Coordinator diligently, keeping an oversight and caring interest in our various support groups. He supports and trains group leaders effectively. In the newly formed Bereavement Advisory Committee, Andrew has made significant contributions, as he has on the Risk Management Committee. In this period of lockdown, Andrew has managed our shift towards digital means of communication and is our "King of Zoom". Andrew makes these comments about key items of his role this year:

COVID-19 RESPONSE: the events of COVID-19 have of course required the organisation to achieve an effective realignment of group-related support. The organisation's response has included:

- A number of metro and regional support groups, along with other group-related forums - art therapy, discussion workshops - crossing over to an online

platform. Art Therapy was offered by Lauren Foster, as a volunteer and then funded by DHHS. Some significant events, such as the annual Walk to Remember, were transferred to a virtual platform this year, with individuals conducting their own walk and posting photos on line.

- An increase in the utilisation of the organisation's "follow-up call" system specifically for group members.
- Groups leaders providing phone "check in" with their local group members.
- National collaboration for additional online support, with The Compassionate Friends Queensland offering helpful Zoom training in the early days of lockdown.
- Upcoming online sessions for newly bereaved.
- Ongoing policy modification in response to DHHS guidelines.

SUPPORT IN EASTERN VICTORIA: although some planned activity has been restricted by the events of COVID-19, the year has nevertheless seen the establishment of group support in the Lakes Entrance / Bairnsdale region.

This development builds upon the establishment of the Warragul Support Group in 18-19 and the ongoing regional contact work of Traralgon ex-group leaders, Tricia and Trevor Ronalds.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: a grant from Department of Social Services has supported TCFV personnel who provide telephone support (group leaders, phone responders, Centre-based volunteers). Training has included mental health first aid, supporting young adults and suicide prevention refresher training.

Paul Gadsen in finances and **Jesse Bendel** in IT have worked hard behind the scenes in the delivery of their services. They are always ready to respond to questions from those less familiar with the territory they manage. Their input is invaluable in keeping the machinery of the organisation running as smoothly as possible.

In other sections of this Annual Report we have acknowledged the contributions of staff who have departed during this year. We thank John Sedunary, Karen Phillipzig and Cadia McMahon for their contributions to TCFV.

Other changes in staffing arrangements have seen us re-engage with **Margherita Riccioni**, who had previously worked in a grant applications and fundraising position. Margherita had been involved in the successful grant application to the Bank of Melbourne, which funded the Siblings Chat Responder Project. She was able to continue on from the work done by Cadia McMahon and move this project forward, with a launch date in August 2020. Sue Brown and Jenny Galati facilitated the training of the Chat Responders. We are looking forward to the appointment of a project officer to support the Siblings Chat Responder Program.

A further focus in this year has been the development of Community Education projects in the City of Boroondara and in the La Trobe Valley. These projects are funded by the City of Boroondara and by The Coopers Foundation Charitable Trust, respectively. The implementation of both these projects has been put on hold for the time being, as we await to see the outcome of the Covi19 lockdown restrictions. **Sheryl Sazenis** has been appointed to implement these projects. She has also taken on a part time role in wider Community Education and Communications.





Volunteers

The Compassionate Friends is based on the peer to peer mutual support of bereaved people. Many people connect with the organisation in a time of extreme need. The organisation continues to meet those needs through the contributions of many volunteers. In the past twelve months, the following people have been recognised for their significant contributions. The Rhys Harmer award is named in honour of the son of our founders, Margaret and Lindsay Harmer. This report is taken from the Awards Presentations last year.

RHYS HARMER AWARD

Sue Sweeney & Jan Brown

We wish to thank Sue Sweeney and Jan Brown for their nearly two decades of facilitating group support in the Benalla region. In that time, they have also been bereaved parent contacts in the Benalla region.

Their work with Compassionate Friends is just one way in which:

- Jan has honoured her 15-year old daughter Kellie, who died on 6 August 1995, and
- Sue has honoured her 5-year old son Joseph, who died on 24 March 1996.

Sadly, we lost Sue on 26 August 2017. She is survived by sons Tom and Ben.

We thank Sue and Jan for their work in the region. We are most appreciative that Jan could be here to accept the Rhys Harmer Award on behalf of herself and the Sweeney family.

Genny Nunan - Sarah McNab is here to receive the award on behalf of Genny. Genny & Tony Nunan lost their youngest child, James aged two, on 14 October, 1994.

After James died, Genny became a tireless worker for The Compassionate Friends in many ways, whilst still caring for her young family. While Genny was on the Committee of Management she became a public speaker to pharmacy groups, doctors and many other professional organisations. Tony also was a contributor as Chair of the Annual General Meetings.

In later years, as TCF became a part of The Defence Lake Attack supporting charities' funds, they were able to assist with supplies contributing to that event.

Genny took on the responsibility for the roster of the afterhours phones, staffing the phones as well as volunteering in the Centre. She was committed in her efforts for the newly bereaved, at the same time working and caring for, not only her family, but the TCF family too. When Jo & John Knoll lost their son, Matt, Genny persistently encouraged her mother, Enid Fraser who worked with Jo, to keep suggesting to them to come into TCF. Enid persisted. After reading Genny's letter of 'welcome to the club that no-one wants to join but we are glad you have found us' Jo arrived at the Centre and found someone who knew and understood their pain.

Life has many sad twists!

In 2009, Genny and Tony had to sadly join us again after their daughter Sarah and her husband, David McNab, gave birth to Sophie Catherine, who died at birth on 18th December that year. Bereaved parents' grief, and then bereaved grandparents' grief, watching their child grieving for her baby.

We thank Genny and Tony Nunan, parents of James, and grandparents of Sophie. We thank Sarah and David McNab, parents of Sophie who are here today to receive this award.

And we thank the Nunan family for all that they have contributed to The Compassionate Friends of Victoria as worthy recipients of the Rhys Harmer Award for 2019.

We also acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the following long-standing volunteers, who have reached significant anniversaries of their volunteering in this past year:

20 Years

Mrs Jo Knoll

Centre Volunteer, Centre Phone & After Hour Phones volunteer, Community Education presenter, Suicide Outreach Support, Gathering Committee member, 40 Years of Compassion Committee member & Tee off for TCF Golf day Committee member, event volunteer, contributor to the magazine

30 Years

Mr & Mrs Jon & Sue Stebbins

- Facilitators of Suicide-bereavement support group for two decades,
- Coordinators of TCFV group leader training for over two decades,
- Continue to provide outreach support to group leaders,
- helped develop and facilitate newly bereaved program,
- developed templates for TCFV workshops,
- contributed articles on bereavement and peer support for publications such as Grief Matters and Our Community Place

Mrs Ronda McIntyre

- Regional Contact & Facilitator of the Horsham Support Group
- has done much promotional and advocacy work for TCFV in the Horsham community

We also acknowledge the work of the telephone responders team, working in conjunction with Jenny Galati. Particular appreciation was expressed to Pat Morrow and Dot Zeuschner. Pat and Dot regularly staff the phones during long weekends and holiday periods. A sincere thankyou to those two generous volunteers.





Our new Sibling Support Chat Service

This project was established in the 2018 – 2019 financial year with generous grant support from The Bank of Melbourne and was led by Cadia McMahon. As a bereaved sibling herself, Cadia made a very helpful contribution to the establishment of this new service. She put together the initial group of volunteer responders and helped TCFV to focus on this new area of bereavement support. An extension to the grant was obtained early in 2020 but Cadia chose not to extend her contract into 2020. Margherita Riccioni, who had been involved in the original grant application process, stepped in to move this project forward. Some aspects of the original proposal have been reshaped and much work has been done to move towards the launch of this new service late in August, 2020.

The Chat Service provides an online chat-based peer support service specifically for bereaved siblings aged 18-30 years.

TCFV recognizes that the loss of a brother or sister can continue to have a profound impact on the individual for many years after the event.

The recently launched Sibling Support Chat Service represents a vital early intervention program with a focus on peer support for the social and emotional wellbeing of bereaved siblings.

To help deliver this groundbreaking program and to support our current team, we are looking for bereaved siblings who are interested in providing peer support to other bereaved siblings. This is part of our pilot project, funded by the Bank of Melbourne Foundation.

Are you:

- Ready to use your experience to help others by sharing your story and listening?
- Aged 18- 35 years
- Prepared to undertake training? (Some online, some face-to-face, totaling up to 2 days)
- Available to volunteer for a 3-hour weekly shift sometime between 3pm – midnight, 7 days a week? (Don't worry, we won't roster you for hours you're not happy to do)
- Prepared to undergo a Police Check?

If so, please contact us ASAP. We'd be delighted to have a chat to you about a possible Volunteer role for you as an App Responder, providing on line chat based peer support. Please contact Theresa Yeo on theresay@tcfv.org.au



Engaging our Community

TCFV Trivia Night 2019

Social and fundraising events are an important part of the TCFV culture. We look forward to a time, after this lockdown period, when we can resume these functions.

The descriptions below in this report from the magazine show how a social event can impact TCFV members.

After a slow start, tickets for our Trivia Night started selling like hot-cakes and by the time the evening had come around, we were nearly at capacity with 110 tickets sold. People often avoid going to Trivia Nights because they feel they aren't any good at trivia, but our event has become a popular social evening for our bereaved families to share with their friends, to connect with TCFV friends and enjoy a night out in a safe environment with other bereaved families with questions that aren't too challenging.

Below are a couple of responses from two people who attended the Trivia Night:

"I attended the Trivia Night as a newly bereaved mother with family and friends. When I first



heard about the night, it wasn't something I thought I would go to. It's difficult going to events that are meant to be fun when you are feeling great sadness after the loss of a child. You don't think it's even possible to laugh again and even if you do for a short time, it does not relieve your grief, but gives your mind a break and a chance to breathe.

For me, being involved with Compassionate Friends has helped me through difficult times and made me realise we are not alone. It's comforting being involved and taking part in their social activities, giving you the opportunity to connect

with others and share your stories. Having some time out and a few laughs does not mean you're over it, nor should you feel guilty for it, as we all need to be reprieved at times to give us the strength to carry on. My family and friends all had a wonderful time at the Trivia Night, and we look forward to the next one. Thank you to TCFV for organising the event and making it a memorable night for all of us."

Dianne Russell
(Bereaved mother of Renee, 24)





"The TCFV Trivia night was a fun night and the venue was warm and cosy on a very cold night outside. It was lovely to see over 100 family and friends of TCFV, all enjoying themselves for a little while. The generosity of the Bowls club has helped to make this a huge success, and the meal that can be purchased on the night is delicious and reasonably priced. The Year 12 students from Essendon studying Certificate III in Events were amazing in how they took control of the questions, answers and the running of the raffle. Mark it in your diaries for next year even if you're not good at trivia (like me). So much fun can be had at the tables all through the night, helping a great cause and you never know, you could end up so much wiser!"

Pat Burns
(Bereaved mother of Darren, 31)

TCFV is pleased to say that along with the enjoyable evening had by everyone, we raised \$4,536 from the night.

Candlelight Memorial 2019

Across the world, candles are lit at 7pm on the second Sunday in December to honour the light of our beloved sons and daughters,



brothers and sisters and grandchildren, taken from us far too soon. To acknowledge this occasion, TCFV hosted its annual Candlelight Memorial, welcoming our bereaved families and friends together to connect and draw strength from each other at a difficult time of year.

Over 80 people attended to hear Karen Philippzig, our guest speaker, share her inspiring 800 km journey across Spain to honour her daughter Bree, along with other readings and gentle music. Karen finished her years of employment with TCFV during this year, having made a significant contribution in many ways, including leadership of a bereavement support group. She worked hard in expanding our Community Education activities and was a key player in many of our social and fundraising events. Her Camino experience also served as a fundraiser for our organisation.

At the conclusion of the evening, everyone was invited to write a personal message onto paper flowers and watch them slowly open in water, before enjoying supper and conversations with others who understood the additional pain that comes at this time of year.

Our service simply wouldn't be possible without the kind support and donations from members and organisations. Our thanks go to

Camberwell Uniting Church who provide us the venue at a significantly reduced cost and to Bunnings Box Hill who, each year, provide us with the lovely flower seedlings for everyone to take home.

Special thanks go to the volunteers who gave of their time to provide a beautiful service to others and who helped the event to run smoothly. This event allows members to come together and share their grief in a safe space, so it is very appreciated by all who attend.

"Thank you for organising such a beautiful occasion and of course, for just being there. You can be assured we feel very grateful indeed."

"Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the slideshow. Though I couldn't be there, it was very much appreciated that my son was included."

"What a special evening this was and so comforting to be around others who, without words, knew how we felt, and we knew their pain too. Thank you for all the work you did."

Below is a small excerpt from Karen's speech:

"So often as I walked, I realised how much the Camino was like the grief journey. When I would meet people along the way, they would ask me how long I had been training for the Camino. I would say to them training is a strong word. I made the decision to do the Camino 18mths ago and then promptly put it aside and didn't face it until I had no choice."

I realise now, I have been training for the Camino for 20 years. I felt physically and emotionally exhausted. Some days I'd feel ok and then unexpectedly, I'd feel crappy. There were days I hated the shoes I was wearing and days where I was at peace with it. Days where I walked completely alone and days where there seemed to be simply no end in sight."

And numerous days where I thought I was crazy and wondered what on Earth I was doing."



I climbed seemingly endless mountains, stumbled down rocky, steep paths, walked silently through forests and fields of nothingness. The stillness that grew in my mind filled me with peace. As the kms dropped away, so too did the weight of my grief."

I was talking about Bree in a way I never had and helping people to understand the impact of grief. The more I talked, the easier it became."

With each heart I let go of, the written words began to pour out of me. It still took 500 kms of walking before I reached a point where I felt ok sharing Bree's hearts in her blog."

If you would like to read more about Karen's journey, you can visit www.bagofhearts.com





Golf Day at Riversdale Golf Club held 15th October 2019

The first TCFV Golf Day was held at Riversdale Golf Club last year under sunny skies and with no wind – perfect for a great day's game on a really beautiful course.

Riversdale Golf Club and its members supported our cause and enabled us to have a full field in this inaugural event. The Ambrose team event enabled golfers of all talent levels to enjoy a positive golfing experience. Our thanks go to our long-hitting professional who knocked several drives on, or near to, the short par 4, twelfth hole for each team. Several attending golfers spoke to members of our organising committee expressing

the positive experience it gave them to be surrounded by others with loss.

We thank Riversdale Golf Club for the welcoming light luncheon and, after the golf, a very enjoyable Presentation Dinner and Auction.

We are grateful to donors who enabled us to have a very successful auction/fundraising night. Non- golfers who came to the dinner are much appreciated also.

TCFV Golf Committee wishes to thank Geoff Sowden and Dagmar O'Brien who were both members of our committee and so very valuable in making this day such a success.

The Compassionate Friends Victoria intend to hold this function again

in the future. It is hoped that another Golf Day can be held in 2021. Geoff Sowden commented, "We are targeting for Oct 2021 at Riversdale, but are exploring possible options for an early event in another location".



Golf Day Bruce, Frank, Kim, Danny



Golf Day Committee Jenny, Jo, Geoff, Gagnar, with MC Ian and President Andrew



Golf Day winners John, Jason, Mark, Shay



Golf Day Lunch

Bunnings BBQ Fundraisers

Originally held at Box Hill, Bunnings sausage sizzles have been held once or twice a year since 2013 at several stores in the Melbourne metropolitan area. These events usually raise between \$1000 and \$2000. We work with a team of about twelve people each time and the response I have received from those who help has been surprising and heart-warming.

Apart from raising some much-needed funds, the Bunnings sausage sizzles provide a space where bereaved parents can meet and chat on an informal basis, with the unspoken advantage of shared common ground.

Events like these also provide an excellent opportunity to inform the public about TCF and to spread the word about the support we can give to bereaved parents and siblings.

We have been unable to host sausage sizzles this year, and look forward to re-igniting this fundraising opportunity next year.





Jog For Joey, Celebrating 50 Marathons In 50 Days, 22 February 2019

A highly significant event in the life of TCFV in 2019 was the Jog for Joey program. It involved a series of 50 marathons and a 24 hour run, undertaken by Sean Bell. These events were held in memory of Joseph Moschetti. The article below appeared in the TCFV Magazine. It is an inspirational account of how a bereaved family found a way to continue the process of grieving, healing and growing.

A brief history of Jog for Joey

Jog for Joey is in honour of Joseph Thomas Moschetti who passed away unexpectedly in his sleep at 18 years old.



Upon hearing of the insensitive ways that our family and other bereaved families can very often be treated by those close to them, Sean Bell wanted to do something to help. So along with Sean, my husband Rob and I we decided to form Jog for Joey to raise funds for TCFV.

On 4 January this year Sean set out to run 50 marathons in 50 days. The success of the 50 Marathons in 50 Days was better than we could have ever imagined, Sean on behalf of Jog for Joey was on several radio stations as well as making the Channel 7 and Channel 10 news and had an article in the Sunday Herald Sun. Jog for Joey gained sponsorship and raised funds for TCFV.

Oh What A Night

After months of planning the day was finally here, Sean was running his 50th and final marathon and the celebration of this was to be held at the Manhattan Hotel in Ringwood. Sean ran most of his last marathon at Vermont Football club along with many other runners, but the final 100 meters was running into the Manhattan along with Joseph's brother Harry and some of Joseph's closest friends from primary school, high school and SEDA where Joseph was attending Year 12 when he passed away.

I went into the Manhattan knowing that the event was well planned

and that almost 400 tickets had been sold. However I was still worried, would people turn up, would the food be OK, would people be sensitive and compassionate towards my family and I, would people be able to have a good time despite the fact the speeches were going to be sad and emotional, I did want people to celebrate but I also wanted them to remember and think of Joseph, was I expecting too much?

The evening began at 7.00 pm and as the night went on I knew I had no reason to worry. Rob kicked off the speeches and anyone not realising what the night was about soon got the message there was hardly a dry eye in the room. Also speaking that night was Sean talking about his 50 marathons, Samantha Gash our guest speaker talking about motivation and having a reason to run, please look Samantha up on social media she is an inspiring and amazing young woman. Later on Harry, Joseph's brother spoke, you could hear a pin drop and once again there was not a dry eye in the house with people openly sobbing when Harry spoke about the day only a week before when he woke up and opened his eyes on a normal Saturday morning meaning he had lived a day longer than his brother ever got to. He spoke of how Joseph's passing had affected him and would affect him for the rest of his life.

The last speech of the night was by Andrew Weatherhead the TCF President, Andrew spoke about TCF and I think everyone was openly shocked when he mentioned that 25,000 people under the age of 50 die every year in Victoria but only about 250 families ever contact TCF. Andrew is a mesmerising public speaker and if you ever get the chance to see him speak please take up the opportunity.

The night was an overwhelming success, the room was packed well beyond what we ever imagined, the bar was five deep at times as people tried to get drinks, people were dancing and despite being in tears during the night people looked like they were enjoying themselves. We raised almost \$14,000 from this one night and the Manhattan reported back that they had their best night behind the bar for months!

The biggest success for me however was the numerous people who came up to me on the night and spoke to me of Joseph and said how much they still thought about him. Others shared their stories of loss and some came up and admitted they had not always done the right thing but would try harder in the future to be a Compassionate Friend. After the night we also received messages from people saying how they wanted to change their ways for the better in the future. We had friends contact us

who we had not heard from for a while and we know that hundreds of people have now heard of TCF as a result of Jog for Joey, this means that someone out there who may have lost a child, a sibling or a grandchild now know they have somewhere to turn for support.

At the end of the Jog for Joey journey we were happily able to donate, over the past 2 financial years, approximately \$30,000 to TCFV.

One friend best summed up the night for me, she told me that you could feel the love in the room. Joseph, I think we did you proud.

Jane Moschetti
Bereaved Mother of Joseph Thomas Moschetti 6.7.98 – 30.7.16





By the Numbers

We recognise the impact of changed circumstances on our numbers this year. Both staffing changes and Covid19 responses have had their impact on some of our statistics.

28 Number of Support Groups in Victoria:	259 Number of Support Group Meetings:	2,328 Number of other calls received:	14 Number of Member Events:	19,227 Total Volunteer Hours:
1,775 Number of Participants on those meetings: (1600 at a venue, 175 on line)	4,300 Number of TCFV Magazines distributed:	114 Information Packages sent to bereaved families:	416 Number of participants:	2,650 Number of Anniversary Cards Sent:
16 Families using Time Out Accommodation				
2,000 Number of e-newsletters distributed:		1,553 Number of Grief Support Calls Received:		

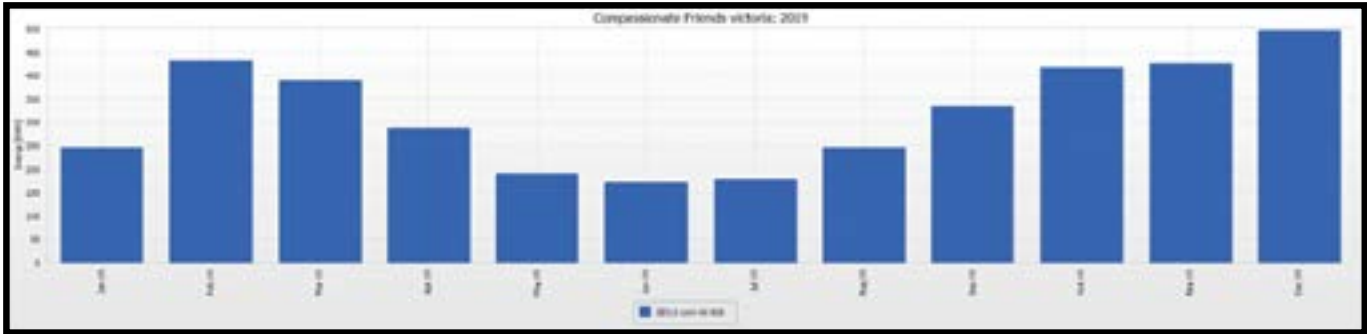


The Compassionate Friends Solar Panels

Now that we finally have our own home, we had been considering installing solar panels with the 2 objectives of reducing our power bills and doing our bit for reducing emissions. After a review of options, we installed them in January 2019. The performance of them is very close to the initial estimates.

- Both buildings;**
- Annual production: 6,400 Kwh
 - CO2 Avoided: Approx. 4.4 Tons per annum.

Actual usage for 2019 (bottom building only);



Rear of our property showing 2 sets of Solar Panels





The Financials

I am pleased to report for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 an audited surplus of \$55,342 on revenues of \$628,030.

We had a major change in Board members during the year. The new Board was concerned about the declining financial position over the last few years.

The Board undertook a comprehensive review of our financial position from late last year until early in 2020 including commissioning an independent accounting report

As a result of the report we undertook a restructuring which has enabled us to improve our financial position whilst maintaining our delivery of vital services to our members.

A key measure of financial strength is the ratio of current assets to current liabilities, that is the ability to pay our short-term liabilities. This ratio had been steadily declining over the last few year to 0.65 on 30 June 2019, meaning that there

was \$0.65 of current assets (which is cash and other assets that are expected to be converted to cash within a year) for every \$1 of current liabilities.

At 30 June 2020, this ratio had improved to 1.0, meaning that \$1 of current assets is available to pay \$1 of current liabilities.

Despite the challenges of Covid19 the organisation has been able to continue to fund new initiatives with the support of our members and our external supporters.

In the first half of the year we held successful Bunning barbeques and a Golf day which raised approximately \$10,000. These are as important for our social networking and support as they are for fundraising.

Our usual second half funding dropped significantly due to Covid 19 (e.g. our end of year dinner, other functions and donations), however this was made up for by the federal government Covid cash boost program.

We also ran an end of year tax program raising approximately \$7,500 Our external supporters and the projects initiated are listed below;

We thank them most sincerely.

The majority of all our daily operating costs that enables us to employ our staff and deliver key services and education is funded by the State Government Department of Health and Human Services.

They also funded an extra \$15,000 to cover our extra costs of working offsite including the purchasing of equipment to provide off site support groups and enable our staff to continue their valuable work from home (to be spent in the financial 2021 year).

The budget for financial year 2021 also looks positive and we are looking forward to not only getting back to where we were but also to resurrect programs such as “The Gathering” and Compassionate Employer Awards.

As we become a financially stronger organisation we will be better able to fund our services to members and community education - which are our reasons for being.

I would like to thank our bookkeeper, Paul Gadsden for doing much of the hard work.

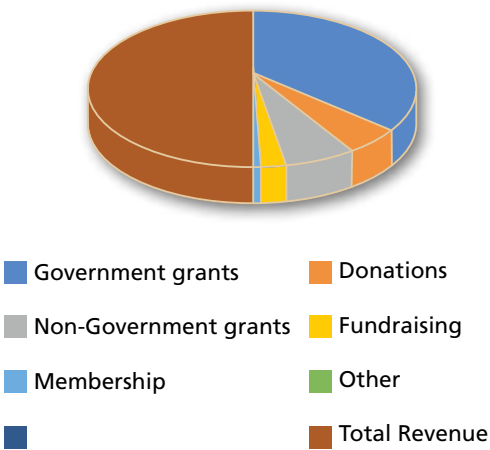
Daniel Bendel
Treasurer

Supporter	Program	Grant (received or spent)
Department of Social Services	Training for telephone support (e.g. mental health, first aid etc)	\$4,500
City of Boroondara	Community strengthening program – in Boroondara	\$6,048
Coopers Brewery Foundation	Community education Latrobe valley	\$10,455
5point Foundation	Sustainability and internal capacity building and Sibling support chat and responder program	\$16,871
Grenet Merrin Foundation	Promotion of The Compassionate Friends	\$1,000
Bank of Melbourne	Sibling support chat and responder program	\$36,428
Tobin brothers	Pamphlets and brochures	\$3,212
Jog for Joey	Funding general support services	\$13,696



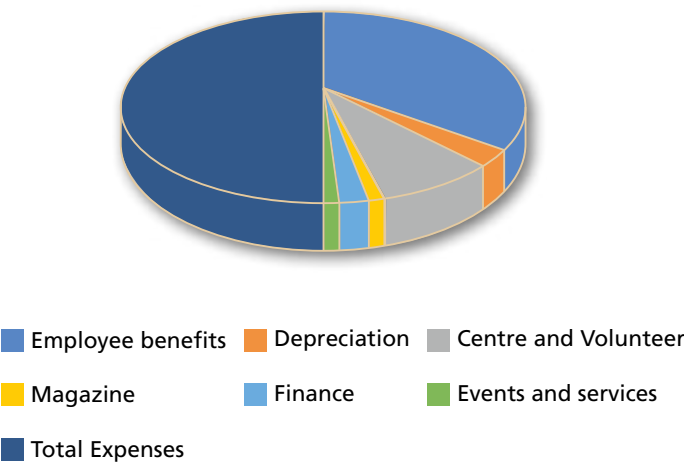
Key Financial data extracted from our Audited Financial Accounts

Revenue



	2020	2019
Government grants	459,771	379,360
Donations	60,873	53,428
Non-Government grants	74,522	116,087
Fundraising	25,137	21,796
Membership	6,017	15,216
Other	1,709	811
Total revenue	628,029	586,698

Expenses



	2020	2019
Employee benefits	401,483	461,690
Depreciation	32,300	24,544
Centre and Volunteer	92,088	95,393
Magazine	12,385	17,298
Finance	22,966	30,463
Events and services	11,466	7,932
Total Expenses	572,688	637,320
Total		



Walk to Remember 2020





TCFV Board Members



Theresa Yeo
President

Theresa migrated to Melbourne in 2001, soon after the death of her daughter, Clara. Since she started volunteering, TCFV has been her support lifeline for the past 16 years. She was on the TCFV Board from 2005-2012, mostly as Treasurer. She has been a community worker at her church and an auditor in banking, before leaving her career to start a Fair Trade shop. Since Clara's death, she has focused on volunteering. Through TCFV, she has found mutual support for her grief, meaningful use of her skills and continued learning.



Kevin Purvis
Vice President

Kevin is a recently retired Primary School teacher. Prior to that he worked in pastoral ministry for more than 20 years, in various Baptist Churches and Chaplaincy positions. In both these roles he gained wide experience in committees and boards of management. Kevin is the bereaved father of Stephen, who died by suicide in 2001. He has three daughters and four grandchildren, enjoys lawn bowls, cycling and is a member of the Croydon Film Society. The Compassionate Friends was a great support when Stephen died and Kevin looks forward to joining his wife Jenny, who leads one of the bereaved parent groups, in contributing to this important work.



Lisa Gelbart
Secretary

Lisa is a Bereavement Counsellor with more than a decade of experience. This includes the coordination and training of volunteers, group facilitation, peer support, workshops, hospital presentations and public speaking. She is bereaved of two infant sons and volunteered for TCFV for several years from 2007 and reconnected in 2018. Lisa has had numerous volunteer and paid positions in the not-for-profit sector. She combines her lived experience with her professional training and is studying her Masters of Counselling. Lisa's experience also encompasses the LGBT+ community, disability and mental health.



Daniel Bendel
Treasurer

Daniel has a Bachelor of Business (with Distinction) and Graduate Diploma in Taxation. Daniel commenced his professional career in the mid-1970s as an accountant (FCPA) and has worked for several organisations. In the last 30 years he has simultaneously worked as Director/Company Secretary at The Stafford Group and run a successful accounting practice. In 2003, Daniel joined The Compassionate Friends after his son, Joshua, died in December 2002. He became Group leader in 2006, then a Board member in 2009.



Jo Knoll
Member

Jo Knoll is married to John, the mother of three children and grandmother of two. She has worked in offices and primary and secondary school libraries. Jo joined TCFV in 1999, a year after her son Matthew died. She has completed all TCFV courses and as a trained Public Speaker for TCFV has spoken at hospitals, funeral directors' meetings, community, church and TCFV groups in the city and country. Jo has also networked with journalists, editors and film makers in the hope of seeing a documentary produced about 40 years of TCFV, to make it a household name.



Harriet Clegg
Member

Harriet is passionate about art, learning and helping others. She currently volunteers with the TCFV magazine team and is involved with the Sibling Chat Responder project. After losing her much-loved brother in 2017, Harriet has found comfort in attending the support groups to share his legacy, and she enjoys engaging with the kind staff members in the office. Working in local government and studying a Master of Social Work, Harriet is looking forward to supporting and contributing to members' experiences as part of the many services offered at TCFV.



Thank You to All Our *Supporters*, including...



