



OUT HERE FOR GOOD

Annual Report 2025

OUT HERE FOR GOOD

The John Villiers Trust (JVT) is an independent trust that supports charitable organisations working in country Queensland to build better, fairer, more resilient communities.

We believe the future of rural, regional and remote communities is in the hands of young people. Therefore, our focus is on supporting the wellbeing and development of young Queenslanders living in country communities, where our namesake - John Villiers - spent much of his life.

Established on John's death in 2002, JVT nurtures his legacy of supporting organisations to achieve sustainable, transformative change.

We aim to listen to and amplify the voices of rural, regional and remote communities and collaborate with likeminded donors, funders and advisors, to achieve greater impact in country Queensland.

To learn more about The John Villiers Trust, [visit our website](https://www.jvtrust.org.au).

Show your love for country Queensland and help The John Villiers Trust achieve transformative impact and amplify the voice of rural, regional and remote communities.

The John Villiers Trust (ABN 83 508 203 243) is a Public Ancillary Fund registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Taxation Office. Donations to JVT of \$2 or more are tax deductible in Australia.



To make a donation visit: jvtrust.org.au/giving/

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The John Villiers Trust acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of Australia and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Our strategy and goals

Our Strategic Intent

Vision

Vibrant Queensland communities enriched by strategic giving.

Mission

To achieve transformative impact in Queensland communities through active engagement and strong partnerships.

Scope

We focus on support for children and youth in rural, regional and remote Queensland communities.

Our Goals

Communities

Build strategic relationships to better understand the needs of communities and to inform our grant making and other activities.

Partnerships

Build partnerships and engage in collaborations to leverage collective resources.

Growth

Strengthen the Trust by growing its resources for expanded impact for today and tomorrow.

Success criteria



INVESTMENTS THAT BUILD ORGANISATION AND SECTOR CAPACITY WHICH WILL OUTLAST OUR INVOLVEMENT

To build momentum that will outlast our involvement, we invest in capacity building for charitable organisations and the sector that supports the community.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS

We are committed to collaborating with other funders to increase support for rural, regional and remote Queensland.



HARM PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION TO BRING BETTER OUTCOMES

We believe early intervention is the wisest investment: it prevents harm and drives better outcomes for communities in the long term.



PROJECTS THAT HAVE MULTIPLE OR DEEP IMPACTS

We are looking to support projects that have multiple or deep and long-lasting impacts for rural, regional and remote Queensland communities, children and youth.



IDEAS THAT ARE COMMUNITY LED, DRIVEN OR INFORMED

We understand each country community is unique and their input about their needs is crucial in shaping the most successful solutions.

Highlights



202

grants since 2002 totalling

2002

\$13,923,688

2025

In FY25



7

new grants



\$2.5M

approved in
new grants



\$1.2M

funding distributed

Our impact 2020-2025



6,807

individuals have
participated in programs
our grantees are delivering.



72%

of our grants directly
benefited children and
youth aged 13-18 years.



\$25M

in additional funding
has been leveraged for
Queensland causes we
have supported.



Message from the Chair

Collaborating for better outcomes

The past 12 months has seen JVT adapt and evolve to better support the needs of rural, regional and remote communities. We have continued to hone our focus to ensure we are supporting the initiatives that match our priorities and best set communities up to thrive. We have also concentrated on building and strengthening our partnerships to create long-term, meaningful, positive change and transform outcomes for Queensland children and families.

When we helped establish the Queensland Kids Funders Alliance (QKFA) in 2022, our intent was to bring together a group of philanthropic foundations to explore opportunities where we could add additional value by collaborating on joint partnerships. Since then, QKFA has expanded, allowing us to strengthen our commitment to collaboration, sharing resources and connections, and together explore more opportunities.

A highlight of the past year was the Minderoo Foundation and the Paul Ramsay Foundation joining QKFA in supporting Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership's new five-year strategy. We are so grateful to our partners for sharing our commitment to collaborating with an increased impact to make things better for country Queensland kids.

Our partnership with TQKP has strengthened during FY25. The Thriving Kids in Disasters initiative has progressed from the initial report to the [Action and Investment Plan](#) released in April 2025. Our ongoing

commitment to this program, and the broader work of TQKP, has been formalised with an additional grant, which you can read more about [here](#).

FY25 funding highlights

Along with TQKP, our grant recipients in FY25 have all demonstrated their willingness and ability to build organisational and community capability and capacity and scale their work to support more Queenslanders in the future.

We are proud to be helping TQKP, University of the Sunshine Coast, The MaraWay, Schools Plus, and DeadlyScience make a difference today, and enable them to create meaningful change in the future. See pages 6-8 to learn more about some of our latest collaborations.

The year ahead

With our new five-year strategy in place, we are excited to further develop our partnerships, support more standalone grants when appropriate, and in the longer term, consider more place-based programs.

This is an evolution of the work we have been doing in recent years. Our focus remains on supporting initiatives that help children and youth in rural, regional, and remote Queensland to thrive - through prevention and early intervention and driving meaningful systems change.

Above all, we remain committed to elevating and amplifying country voices. We look forward to continuing to build trusting relationships with country Queensland communities to provide opportunities for advocacy.

Our focus remains on supporting initiatives that help children and youth in rural, regional, and remote Queensland to thrive - through prevention and early intervention and driving meaningful systems change.

Leadership update

Our Board has also evolved in the last year. Our CEO, Lea-Anne Bradley, resigned after four years steering the organisation to become a trusted partner and strategic funder. We were delighted to welcome Board member Fiona Maxwell to the CEO role; her knowledge of JVT places her well to build on the excellent work of Lea-Anne and continue the work of developing and driving our next five-year strategy.

Better together

We are extremely grateful to our grantees, funding partners, country communities, and donors who share our vision and passion for seeing rural, regional and remote Queensland communities thrive. Thank you to our JVT Directors, committee members, staff, and collaborators for your commitment to creating long-term, sustainable change.

Dr Ian Galloway AM, Chair

Organisations & projects we supported across FY25



ARACY: Every Child Thriving

2022 - 2025

Thriving Queensland Kids Country Collaborative Partnership Officer

\$255,000 for three years to co-fund a position as part of [Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership \(TQKP\)](#) to put 'boots on the ground' and amplify the voices of country kids.

[Read more >](#)



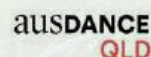
White Box Enterprises

2022 - 2025

Strengthening futures through social enterprise

\$300,000 over multiple years to co-fund an Indigenous Business Coordinator role to boost Indigenous enterprises, youth employment and bring new income sources into country communities.

[Read more >](#)



Ausdance QLD

2022 - 2026

SafeDance for Kids

\$100,000 over multiple years to help build a transformative safety education program for children learning all styles and traditions of dance. Cultural training will also support safe participation in dance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

[Read more >](#)



Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)

2023 - 2025

Amplifying the youth voices of Queensland

\$100,000 over three years to increase the impact of the FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Program. This includes funding for outreach, capacity building, and youth-focused projects in Queensland.

[Read more >](#)



Cowboys Community Foundation

2023 - 2026

Boarding for success – evaluating our impact

\$150,378 over three years to improve evaluation methods to ensure NRL Cowboys House is achieving its intended impact: to provide unique, culturally-safe boarding for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from remote north Queensland attending partner schools in Townsville.

[Read more >](#)



The Waltzing Matilda Centre

2024 - 2026

John Villiers Outback Art Prize

\$52,500 for a further three years to include a new Children's Art Project and Digital Exhibition, which encourages budding artists aged 5-14 years to get involved with the John Villiers Outback Art Prize, and gives them a voice and opportunity to express themselves through art.

[Read more >](#)



ARACY: Every Child Thriving

2024 - 2025

Thriving Kids in Disasters project Phase 2

\$106,931 to build on the findings of the phase 1 TKiD report and build partnerships and an action plan to respond to its recommendations.

[Read more >](#)



CQUniversity & ArcBlue

2024-2025

Q-SEED Phase 2: Co-designing employment opportunities with young people, youth organisations, and employers

\$196,260 to see this program to fruition, strengthening social and economic outcomes and increasing job opportunities for at-risk youth in Townsville.

[Read more >](#)



The Bryan Education Foundation

2024-2026

Integrated School Hubs

\$300,000 over two years to help The Bryan Education Foundation establish a 10-year program to improve the learning and wellbeing of children and families in rural and regional Queensland.

[Read more >](#)



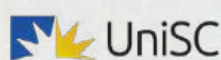
The MaraWay

2025

Creating a farm-based residential program to divert and transition youth into work opportunities

\$50,000 to complete a structured co-design process, a feasibility study, model and business case to create a self-sustainable regional farming enterprise and supportive environment for vulnerable youth.

[Read more>](#)



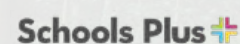
University of the Sunshine Coast

2025 - 2027

Raising educational aspirations and career pathways for First Nations youth

\$291,978 over three years to upskill education and support staff to make the Marigurim Yan program sustainable and scalable so it can help build self-belief, motivation and confidence in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students.

[Read more >](#)



Schools Plus

2025 - 2028

Improving attendance for First Nations students, strengthening cultural identity and enhancing well being

\$120,000 for Schools Plus to plan, implement and embed the Culture Heals program at Mossman State School, fostering cultural engagement and connection for First Nations students, supporting academic success, and building educator and community capability and involvement.

[Read more>](#)



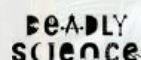
ARACY: Every Child Thriving

2024 - 2030

Thriving Kids in Disasters project Phase 3

\$1,500,000 over five years to support TQKP deliver on their strategy to help reduce the disproportionate rates of developmental vulnerability among Queensland children and young people, specifically through place-based engagement and initiatives.

[Read more >](#)



DeadlyScience

2025 - 2028

Deadly STEM in Schools program

\$450,000 over three years to help DeadlyScience deliver engaging, hands-on STEM workshops to students across remote Queensland, with a specific focus on reaching First Nations communities, giving young people the opportunities they need to thrive in the world of STEM.

[Read more >](#)

Read the case studies on the following pages for more detail on some of these initiatives

Case Studies

Cowboys Community Foundation: Boarding for success

Making quality secondary education accessible to First Nations students from remote communities.

JVT is committed to supporting initiatives striving to Close The Gap on access to learning for country Queensland kids and youth.

That's why we have committed three years of funding to improve evaluation methods to ensure NRL Cowboys House is achieving its intended impact.

That is, to provide unique, culturally safe wrap-around support, services and accommodation for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from remote north Queensland, while they attend high school in Townsville.



Supporting country Queensland

NRL Cowboys House is removing distance as a barrier for First Nations students from remote north Queensland communities. As well as providing a home away from home, they offer vital support for these young people that helps them achieve great steps forward in their education, aspirations and wellbeing.

To read the full case study [visit the JVT website.](#)



Making a difference

The evaluation project is co-funded by JVT and Hand Heart Pocket. By pooling funding, we can achieve more and NRL Cowboys House is able to invest more heavily in this evaluation and in building the capability of their team. The aim is to:

- collect data that measures short/long-term outcomes
- continuously identify opportunities for improvement/service gaps
- use evidence-based approaches for future planning, growth, and funding requests
- achieve and deliver its mission/vision, and
- continue to address community needs.



Case Studies

University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC): Marigurim Yan

Building strong futures for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Marigurim Yan, the Butchulla word for 'strong walk', is the inspiration behind a research-based educational program guiding First Nations youth to dream big and think deeply about their futures.

The University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC)-led program is helping young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students living in regional and remote areas build self-motivation and personal accountability using culturally appropriate, and locally-driven ways. Their new-found confidence and drive are resulting in students being more future focused, and engaged in achieving educational, career, and life aspirations.

With JVT's funding, local Indigenous education workers and support staff will be trained and mentored to deliver the program to make it sustainable and scalable, independent of further funding.



Making a difference

Demand for the program has increased following a successful pilot that resulted in increased school attendance, engagement, and improved academic achievement.

With JVT's support, the initiative will develop and evolve to create a long-term program with the potential to be adapted and adopted by regional and remote communities throughout Queensland and make a difference to many more First Nations students.



Supporting local community

Marigurim Yan is a futures-focused program based on building self-belief, motivation and confidence in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students in years 7-9 at school – and the educators and workers who support them.

To read the full case study [visit the JVT website.](#)



Case Studies

The MaraWay Empowering youth futures



Creating a farm-based residential program to divert and transition vulnerable youth into work opportunities.

As owners of Bilwon Farm near Mareeba, the Cairns Regional Community Development & Employment ATSI Corporation (operating as The MaraWay) saw an opportunity to put their property to good use to support their local community. Their challenge was to determine how their existing assets could be transformed into a sustainable enterprise and an impactful education and work hub, for local youth and the wider community.



The MaraWay is a self-funded Indigenous social enterprise dedicated to changing lives and strengthening communities.

With JVT's grant, The MaraWay will complete a structured co-design process, a feasibility study, model, and business case for Bilwon Farm to become a self-sustainable regional farming enterprise and supportive environment for vulnerable youth.

Supporting country Queensland

The MaraWay co-design project aims to change lives and strengthen communities by establishing a sustainable program tailored to engage and empower young people through capability building, training, and employment. Deep and broad community insights will be used to ensure the Farm meets the needs of locals now and into the future.



Making a difference

The project aims to create an environment that strengthens individual and community connections, fosters cultural identity, and provides a clear path toward future growth opportunities.

Importantly, the community has 'skin-in-the-game', with business, family, and youth leaders, working together to make Bilwon Farm a vital resource for youth empowerment and regional development.

To read the full case study [visit the JVT website](#).



Our Board



Dr Ian Galloway AM
Chair



Dr Cherrell Hirst AO
Director



Ashley Davis
Director



Persephone Lobb
Director



Tony Gambling
Director



Douglas Bates
Director



Fiona Maxwell
CEO

For the full biographies of our Board members see our website:
<https://jvtrust.org.au/about/our-people/>

Investment update

JVT continues to strengthen our financial position while supporting rural, regional and remote Queensland communities.

JVT's portfolio has performed strongly in FY25, our first financial year requiring the standard 4% minimum distribution rate under Public Ancillary Fund (PuAF) guidelines.

Despite heightened volatility in investment markets during March and April, JVT's investment portfolio recovered strongly through to 30 June, ending the financial year at \$25,477,824.

The grants we distributed to support rural, regional and remote Queensland communities increased from \$517,091 in FY24 to \$1,231,533 in FY25, which is a 138% increase on the previous year.

Investment markets endured severe volatility from late February until May, driven by a strong shift in US trade policy, centred on the introduction of large tariffs for goods imported into the US. By early April the ASX All Ordinaries Index had fallen by 15%, although markets quickly recovered when a pause in the introduction of these tariffs was announced, allowing time for countries to consider negotiating with the US.

The asset allocation of JVT's investment portfolio remained consistent with the slightly higher growth target set the previous financial year. Our 75% growth asset target (ie, equities and property) and 25% in defensive assets provides a measure of stability and creates an opportunity to rebalance towards growth assets if and when sharemarkets fall substantially.

Our focus on children and youth, and lasting partnerships, reflects our aim of creating transformative, long-term impact. We will continue to look for opportunities for sustainable growth within our current risk appetite, to ensure we are able to continue to support country Queensland communities well into the future.

Ashley Davis
Finance and Investment Committee Chair

Financial summary

The John Villiers Trust

Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2025

		2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
REVENUE			
	Franked dividends	272,469	307,690
	Unfranked dividends	57,249	52,701
	Distribution income	500,303	156,427
	Imputation credits on dividends	123,985	135,815
	Interest and other income	269,623	242,816
	Donations	19,238	16,689
		1,242,867	912,139
OPERATING EXPENSES			
	Administrative expenses	(152,321)	(153,554)
	Audit fees	(10,600)	(10,000)
	Employment costs	(198,013)	(201,730)
	Insurance	(17,841)	(16,011)
	Investment management	(134,105)	(125,286)
	Software licences	(16,571)	(14,801)
	Trustee commission	(42,500)	(35,000)
		(571,950)	(556,382)
OPERATING SURPLUS		670,917	355,757
Net grants approved during the period		(2,472,008)	(668,191)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(1,801,091)	(312,434)
Other comprehensive income	Change in fair value of investments in financial assets	1,789,128	2,140,794
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(11,963)	1,828,360

The John Villiers Trust

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2025

		2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS			
	Cash and cash equivalents	335,122	722,595
	Trade and other receivables	470,623	252,684
		805,745	975,279
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
	Investments in financial assets	27,053,861	25,680,974
		27,053,861	25,680,974
TOTAL ASSETS		27,859,606	26,656,253
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
	Grants approved but unpaid	637,978	596,666
	Trade and other payables	54,374	66,613
	Employee benefits	5,895	11,731
		698,247	675,010
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
	Grants approved but unpaid	1,308,537	109,403
	Employee benefits	1,929	8,984
		1,310,466	118,387
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,008,713	793,397
NET ASSETS		25,850,893	25,862,856
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Attributable to Capital Account			
	Settlement sum	6,669,808	6,669,808
	Retained surplus	13,981,410	15,210,647
	Investments revaluation reserve	5,199,675	3,982,401
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		25,850,893	25,862,856

A full copy of The John Villiers Trust financial statements is available on the [ACNC website](#) or by contacting us at admin@jvtrust.org.au

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Stay up to date on all our latest news, and grant and partnership opportunities.



Sign up to
our newsletter

The John Villiers Trust
ABN: 83 508 203 243
jvtrust.org.au

Registered Charity Number: CH3199

Image: © Helen Selff