



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**PREPARED BY KAT KENNY & JULIE GILL**

# CONTENTS

<b>OUR MISSION &amp; VISION</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>OUR HISTORY</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>MAKING TRACKS MOB</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>WHAT IT MEANS TO BE MAKING TRACKS FAMILY</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>OUR PROGRAMS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>OUR OUTCOMES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>EXCURSIONS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>WORK CREW</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>PUSH UP CHALLENGE</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>COMMUNITY VENTURES</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>DRIVING</b>	<b>20</b>



<b>PARTNERSHIP - KIRKALA PITHILUKU</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>BACKTRACK</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>OUR IMPACT</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>OUR BOARD</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>OUR PEOPLE</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>MESSAGES FROM</b>	
<b>OUR CHAIR</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>OUR CEO</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>YOUTH AT RISK RESEARCH NETWORK</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>FINANCIALS</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>OUR SUPPORTERS</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>OUR FUTURE</b>	<b>33</b>





## OUR MISSION

**At Making Tracks our mission is to inspire and empower disengaged youth.**

## OUR VISION

**For all youth to live happy, healthy and whole.  
Daring to dream, believe and achieve.**

# OUR HISTORY

The Making Tracks team is highly experienced and committed to the health and wellbeing of local youth. Staff were originally employed by an Independent Secondary School, which closed at the end of 2018. As a result of the closure and with support and guidance from the local community and BackTrack, the staff committed to establishing a new organisation. Making Tracks became an incorporated association with DGR status in 2019.



Making Tracks supports youth who are disengaged from mainstream schooling and have significant welfare challenges. Our youth experience homelessness, have health issues, and the majority have been in contact with the legal system. Indigenous youth are overrepresented in this cohort. Making Tracks students are the most vulnerable and at-risk youth. Making Tracks team understands that a “one size fits all” approach to education does not work, particularly for our most vulnerable. We provide a holistic alternative learning environment with wrap around wellbeing support for individuals, families, and communities.



Our youth experience intergenerational disadvantage and unemployment which is compounded by complex social issues including domestic violence, mental health, poverty, and substance abuse.



# ABOUT US

Making Tracks team understands and holds the philosophy that a “one size fits all” approach to education does not work, particularly for our most vulnerable. We provide a holistic alternative learning environment with wrap around wellbeing support for individuals, families and communities. We believe youth need to feel they belong in order to strive for and achieve their goals. Our daily engagement and education programs are underpinned by the principles of the “Circle of Courage” which demonstrates that emotional health requires a sense of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. Making Tracks is committed to empowering our youth with skills and self-belief.



Making Tracks invest in youth who live with intergenerational disadvantage and hardship. We believe youth need to feel they belong in order to strive for and achieve their goals. Our daily engagement and education programs are underpinned by the principles of the “Circle of Courage” which demonstrates that emotional health requires a sense of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. Making Tracks is committed to empowering our youth with skills and self-belief.

Making Tracks delivers a holistic approach to improving youth engagement, functional life skills, education and employment opportunities. Our focus is initially on engagement to build self-esteem and new skills. This leads to youth making healthy decisions for themselves and ultimately becoming positive contributors to their community.

# MAKING TRACKS

MOB



# MAKING TRACKS

MOB



# MAKING TRACKS

MOB

SHARE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PART OF MAKING TRACKS FAMILY

FAIR  
BEAMING  
OPEN  
KEEN  
LEARN  
PREPARING  
ENGAGING  
FOOD  
FANTASTIC  
GIVING  
100%  
FUN  
ARTISTIC  
LEARN  
ENGAGING  
GOOD  
GENEROUS  
APPEALING  
INDEPENDENT



# MAKING TRACKS

## MOB



**“I WAS SUSPENDED 3 TIMES IN THE FIRST TERM OF YEAR 10. I WAS TOLD I WOULDN’T GET MY ROSA...**

**THEN I STARTED AT MAKING TRACKS AND IN 2019 I COMPLETED MY YEAR 10 ROSA.**

**I AM NOW IN YEAR 11, HAVE MY LICENCE, BANK ACCOUNT, TAX FILE NUMBER AND HAVE APPLIED FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP.”**

**BA-16YRS.**

**“WHEN I LEFT SCHOOL IN YEAR 7 I WAS TOLD I WOULDN’T FINISH HIGH SCHOOL. I ENROLLED IN DISTANCE EDUCATION AND STRUGGLED TO COMPLETE WORK AS I HAD BIG GAPS IN MY LEARNING.**

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF MAKING TRACKS I AM NOW COMPLETING MY YEAR 10 ROSA, GOING FOR MY LICENCE IN 2 WEEKS AND HAVE A PART-TIME JOB”**

**FV- 15YRS.**



# OUR PROGRAMS

## Wellbeing support (case management):

- Connection to services, bringing in others to supplement learnings. Focus on personal development
- Support with personal documents, white cards, birth certificates etc.



## Education - academic studies:

- A modified school-based curriculum
- English, Maths, Science, Arts, PDHPE, History & Geography

## Life Skills - Driving Licenses:

- Professional driving lessons
- Financial support for L's & P's tests and Identification



## Engagement:

- Work Crew, Go-Karts, Animal Husbandry, Arts, Music,

## Employment pathways - Careers:

- Job readiness, work experience, resumes



# OUR PROGRAMS

## After school program:

- Supporting community- non-school aged, school aged and beyond
- Afternoon tea
- Structured academic support
- Team building games and activities

## Distance Education Students:

- Provide space and support



# OUR OUTCOMES

**BECAUSE...** Many youth in broken Hill are disengaged from the mainstream education system with nowhere to go.

**WE BELIEVE...** Providing an alternative learning environment with wrap around wellbeing support will enable youth to feel they belong and can achieve their goals.

**SO, WE PROVIDE...** Daily activities which provide training, engagement and wellbeing support for youth who are not in any form of training or employment.

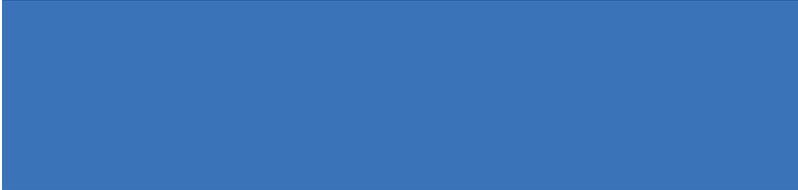
**THAT LEADS TO...** Empowered youth with the skills and self-belief to choose and pursue their own destiny in life.

**AND RESULTS IN...** A reduction in intergenerational disadvantage and negative perceptions towards disengaged people in the community.

Programs are mapped to achieve the following key outcomes

## **Education & Skills Development**

Youth engagement in daily activities designed to develop and strengthen functional life skills



# OUR OUTCOMES

## **Social & Community**

Youth developing a sense of belonging and feelings of being cared for

Positive Role Modeling to broader community

## **Empowerment**

Youth developing belief in ability to create their own destiny in life

Youth identifying and pursuing personal education and employment goals

## **Health & Wellbeing**

Increased access to health and community services

Improved ability to make informed decisions around health and wellbeing

## **Economic**

Increased capacity to gain and maintain employment leading to reduced intergenerational disadvantage in the community

## **Safety**

A reduction in youth crime in the community

Informed decision making leading to a reduction in risky behaviours

# EXCURSIONS

We try to include one main excursion each term into our programs. This not only gives our youth something to look forward to, but also provides them with new experiences!

## Term 3 2019 - Mildura day trip

Our day trip saw us visit a park on the river, racing go-karts and playing ten pin bowling. We even had some free time to go shopping during lunch.



## Term 4 2019 - BackTrack in Armidale, 3 nights

This has been our biggest & longest excursion so far. We got to hang out with the guys from BackTrack. Some activities included dog training, dog tracking, photography, art and even a mountain bike race. Needless to say most of us were exhausted by the time we got back home.



# EXCURSIONS

## Term 1 2020 - postponed due to COVID-19

Unfortunately, we had to postpone this one due to COVID restrictions at the time.

## Term 2 2020 - Menindee overnight camp

Our first proper camping trip, getting back to basics in the bush. A few of the more adventurous students decided to paddle across the lake using some blow up mattresses.



# WORK CREW

**We know most of our guys learn best doing hands-on work, so this year we started experimenting with a work crew.**

Now most of our days start out with an academic lesson in the classroom before work crew go off site into the community during the middle part of the day. Everyone then comes back for lunch and some hands-on learning in our workshop ends the day.

Our work crew has cleared yards and rubbish, assisted with tree removal, removed weeds, and helped transport large items. Currently we don't charge for these services, as it is a great learning experience and a way to give back to our community, especially our Elders.



# CHALLENGE PUSH UP CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself physically, learn about mental health, engage in some friendly rivalry and help our organisation support mental health and suicide prevention through The Push-Up Challenge. [www.thepushupchallenge.com.au](http://www.thepushupchallenge.com.au)

Over the course of 21-days in May the Making Tracks team were challenged to complete 3,046 push-ups in total, representing the number of lives lost in Australia to suicide in 2018.

We worked together as a team towards the combined daily target. The number of push-ups changed each day to reflect a vital mental health statistic, so along the way we received some mental health tips and facts.

Making Tracks decreased our weekly food budget during The Push-Up Challenge and donated this \$200 to one of our local supporters: Broken Hill Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation who provide mental health support to young Australians aged 12-25 years. This was a great opportunity to support and strengthen our partnership with such an amazing organisation within our community.



# COMMUNITY VENTURES

Keeping our community safe during Covid 19 is a priority at Making Tracks. Working with the Local Area Command and with donations from RMS, Making Tracks students designed and painted stay safe signs on all the entries and exits into Broken Hill.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

**Our pitch at The Funding Network in Sydney allowed us to share in a “cheezels” tradition started by Bernie at Backtrack...what a legend.**

What an amazing 12 months it has been for Making Tracks. Being invited to “pitch” at The Funding Network in Sydney was a fantastic opportunity for our youth to share their journeys and have generous community members invest in their future. We connected with incredibly inspirational corporations such as Bed Down and Creating Chances as well as The Funding Network team. It cannot be understated how truly grateful we are for this opportunity. We also met local member Mark Coulton when we received FRRR funding in conjunction with ANZ. These financial investments have allowed us to continue program delivery and purchase resources such as 2x vehicles, 1x trailer and 10x swags. These resources allow us to continue delivering our program more efficiently. Thank you.

We raised \$1500 with 3x BBQ's, which was a great effort and such a great learning opportunity for our youth.



Parkees MP Mark Coulton met with students and staff from Making Tracks Far West NSW. PICTURE: Mylen Durr

## Nationals deliver funding

By Mylen Durr  
More than \$40,000 has been granted to Broken Hill's Interhealth Family Practice and Making Tracks Far West NSW.  
Parkees MP Mark Coulton visited the city yesterday to present the two organisations with federal government grants. Interhealth has received \$19,500 after being selected under the first round of Transition Assistance Funding, which aims to help providers transition to the NBS.  
"People on a disability through the very broad spectrum of people, that's one of the challenges," Mr Coulton said.  
"If everyone was the same then it would be easier to provide the services."  
"So the more organisations that can modify their businesses so that they can deliver services to maybe a certain cohort is good."  
Mr Coulton also visited Making Tracks Far West NSW which received \$20,600 in funding under the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's (FRRR) initiative. The grant funding was also matched by ANZ Regional Business Banking.  
Mr Coulton said the FRRR initiative plays a major role in helping regional all communities cope with emergencies and natural disasters.  
"Making Tracks Far West NSW is a philanthropic organisation that aims to boost self-esteem, community engagement and work readiness skills in disengaged youth."  
"While they've been taking part in the program it's always an opportunity for them to learn and improve," Mr Coulton said.  
"They're valued as citizens and I think these programs, if we put the word there, should make efforts for people they live the rest of their lives."



# DRIVING

With the support of Silver City Driving School our youth gain driving hours with an experienced driver. The skills and knowledge they develop is invaluable in establishing safe driving patterns and behaviours. Gaining a driving licence is fundamental to our youth accessing gainful employment, health and wellbeing services and breaking the cycle of disadvantage that comes from limited access to transport.



# PARTNERSHIP

Making Tracks have developed a strong partnership with Kirkala-Pithaluku (KPAC) to support the Broken Hill community. KPAC supports Making Tracks youth through service delivery and program delivery. These programs contain three components:

**(1) TRANSPORTATION** to and from Making Tracks and related activities

**(2) SERVICE DELIVERY of:** the Go-Kart program (Outback Skidmarks) and the Yard Crew Program

**(3) ACCESS TO SITE for:** Go-Kart storage, Women's group meeting place, KPAC meetings, After School Program

The success of the partnership demonstrates the commitment of Making Tracks to the youth of Broken Hill and the wider community. Making Tracks understands the diverse needs of the Broken Hill community and has demonstrated their commitment to KPAC and the broader community by doing whatever necessary to reengage disengaged youth.

Four Making Tracks youth gained their Go-Kart licence, with 2 participating in a race day at the local track. These events keep our youth engaged on weekends and provide opportunities to socialise, develop mechanical and driving skills.



# BACKTRACK

BackTrack was introduced to the Making Tracks team in October 2018, when its Founder and CEO Bernie Shakeshaft visited Broken Hill to provide mentorship to the local Indigenous group, KPAC, who worked closely with the Eagle Arts School.

At the time, the Eagle Arts School was in the process of closing due to a restructure. This change was going to have a significant impact on the local community, including the 60 young people who were attending their alternative education program every day. Without an alternative to mainstream education that could meet their complex needs, these young people were at high risk of completely disengaging from education, training and work and getting caught in a cycle of entrenched disadvantage that could affect the rest of their lives.

We knew a return to mainstream schooling wasn't viable for this cohort of kids but that keeping them engaged in learning was essential. Determined to find a solution for these young people and the passionate and dedicated teachers who were in need of work, BackTrack collaborated with Julie and the team.

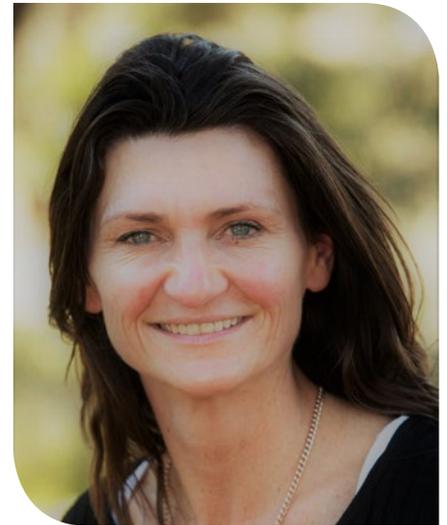
To guide this collaboration, BackTrack engaged them in our structured community mentoring initiative. This initiative has grown from BackTrack's own successful youth program in Armidale NSW, which helps young people engage with education and training, become work ready, find jobs and pursue positive life pathways. We offer like-minded organisations the insights, coaching and resources they need to launch a BackTrack-style program in their region.

Without any funding but with buckets of passion, Making Tracks were able to make their vision a reality and became an established Not For Profit organisation with DGR1 status in February 2019. BackTrack and the Making Tracks team set about rallying support and within three months, they had their FY20 operating budget secured, an agreement in place with the local schools to be an alternative school provider and were back to racing their Go-Karts in partnership with KPAC.

# BACKTRACK

Driven by a strong alignment in mission and a 'don't give up' attitude to boot, Making Tracks have successfully navigated the new operating environment they find themselves in, with the support of BackTrack's mentoring. The result has been the successful delivery and management of a thriving youth program that is successfully engaging the local community.

The journey has been both fast and joyous with Making Tracks. BackTrack are really impressed with their grit and determination. From the (literal) dust, an impressive organisation has risen that will continue to support Broken Hill's youth and unite older and younger generations.



**Mel from BackTrack**

## FROM MAKING TRACKS:

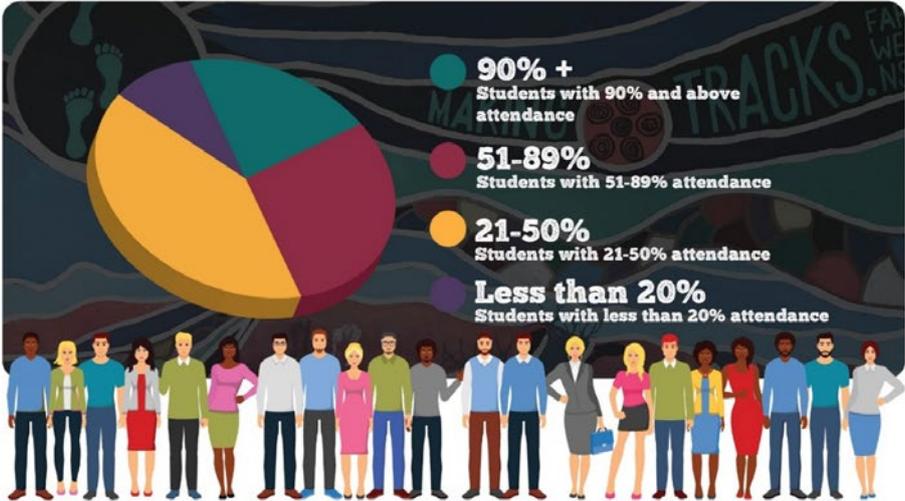
"To establish a NFP organisation that can support the Broken Hill community has been a steep learning curve and an accomplishment that has only been possible by BackTrack's mentorship and encouragement. It's no understatement to admit that this journey could not have progressed with such ease and momentum without their experience, networks and ongoing support. BackTrack's ability to share the skills and learnings they have developed over many years has been fundamental in building our capacity to deliver Making Track's various programs. We are forever grateful and thankful to have such a fantastic organisation investing in our community. Thank you BackTrack!"

# OUR IMPACT

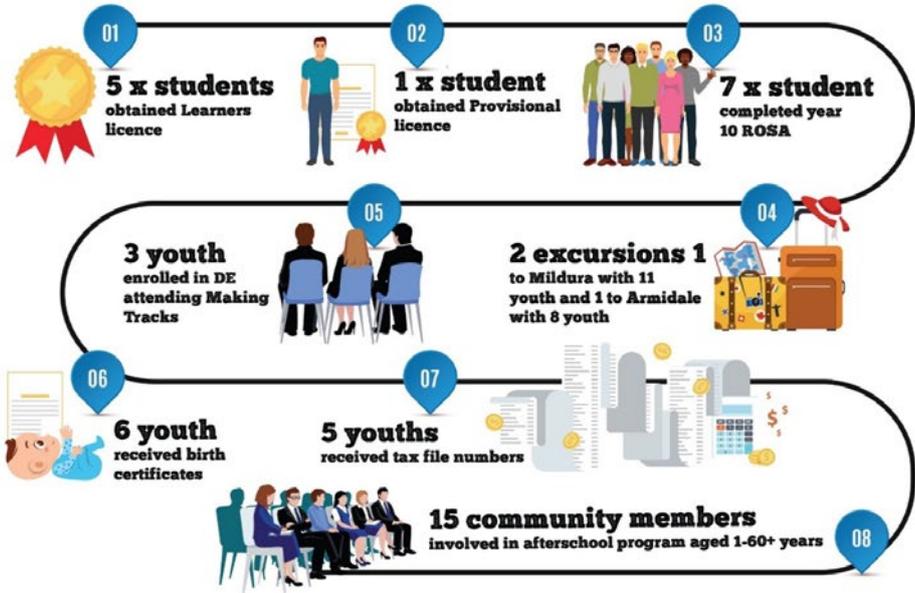
2019/2020



## 2019 ATTENDANCE



**23 Youths**  
enrolled in Making Tracks Youth programs aged 12-21 years



# OUR BOARD

## 2019/2020



### **Chris Doherty, Chairperson**

Chris has 37 years involvement in education including 20 years as an educational leader and 6 years' experience in special education. Chris' leadership and commitment to rural and remote education has provided him with an in depth understanding of the unique challenges youth in these areas experience. Since his retirement Chris has continued to support the local community through his active involvement as a board member of many organisations including Rotary,

Country University Foundation, member of community mine committee and PELO for the University of New England. Chris identified Making Tracks programs as fundamental to filling a gap within education and his involvement as Chairperson allows Chris to share his wealth of experience and expertise. Chris acknowledges Making Tracks programs address the educational and wellbeing needs of Broken Hill youth as is proud to be a part of the team.



### **Dionne Devlin, Vice Chairperson**

Dionne Devlin has lived and worked in Broken Hill the far west region of NSW in a variety of community development roles. She is passionate about the development of the people and assets of the region. In recent years Dionne has worked more closely with young people with a focus on health, wellbeing and finding opportunities for youth growth and development. Dionne is proud of the work done at Making Tracks and looks forward to many years ahead.

# OUR BOARD

## 2019/2020



### **John Harris, Secretary/Treasurer and Public Officer**

John has had 35 years' experience working on community boards, serving as board member, secretary, treasurer and chairman. Serving currently on two state appointed boards, John was the first Chair and is now Secretary / Treasurer for Making Tracks Far West NSW Inc. After 18 years in the Mining Industry, John has worked in the community for 25 years, mainly in education, youth services and with Aboriginal people. John has worked with disengaged youth for the last 5 years, in both administration and teaching / mentoring roles.



### **Mikey Cutmore-Stokes, Board Member**

Mikey is a proud Barkinji man who has used his life experiences to learn new skills and help others. Mikey started a Agriculture Traineeship with Backtrack in 2014 and has since gone on to gain many qualifications including; Cert 2 in Agriculture, small motors and volunteering, first aid, white card, fire warden, forklift, chainsaw, food handling, barista and chemcert. He has also gained coaching certificates in archery, NRL coaching and referee and drumbeats facilitator. Mikey believes in sharing his knowledge with the local community and is a PCYC Vision Program Volunteer and a Making Tracks Board member. Mikey understands firsthand how Making Tracks programs support the youth and community of Broken Hill and surrounding areas.



### **Heather Smith, Board Member**

Heather is passionate about youth living happy and healthy lives and, in her youth, held the Australian Triple Jump Record. Heather returned to her hometown of Broken Hill and identified a real need to engage the local youth and get them off the streets. Heather's passion and desire to help others led her to become Director of the local PCYC. In this role Heather has formed a strong partnership with Making Tracks, recognising their ethos and programs as making a positive impact on the youth they work with and the wider community. Heather continues to make a difference in the lives of local youth and recognises Making Tracks programs and her strong partnerships with them as another layer of support for Broken Hill youth.

# OUR PEOPLE

## MAKING TRACKS MOB



**JULES GILL**

CEO, Administration Officer



**KAT KENNY**

Teacher/Youth Worker



**JOHN HARRIS**

Finance & Admin Officer



**JAMIE GILBY**

Youth Worker



**LEIGHTON ADLAM**

Youth Worker



**GARRA**

Desert Dog



**SHAR ROBERTS**

Teacher/Youth Worker



**KATHY EBSWORTH**

Youth Worker



**FIDDY**

Desert Dog

# MESSAGE FROM

## CHAIR - CHRIS



Working in a community program with challenging, disadvantaged and disengaged young people takes a dedicated team that are thinking and working with a never give up approach. That is Making Tracks. I am proud to be a part of this program as a board member and chair.

Making Tracks has an extremely committed staff and community, supporting the lifelong learning of the young people they work with. Their work through the Covid 19 pandemic has been outstanding.

Making Tracks is well supported by the Back Tracks Program, the local High Schools, our Police, the Police Boys Club, Maari Ma and the Broken Hill community in general as a team approach to continue the positive life skills of our group of young people.

The staff are passionate, innovative and flexible as they work towards long term goals to support the young people involved in Making Tracks program.

Making Tracks continues to seek ongoing funding through philanthropic and government sources to build the future of the extremely successful program.

It has been a privilege to be a board member of the Making Tracks Program over the last couple of years. To be elected chair at the 2019 AGM was a real honour. I am confident the board, staff and community will continue to support the Making Tracks Program and the young people involved in it.

Well done Making Tracks.

Chris Dougherty

Chair 2020

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



After 18 years teaching in mainstream and special education, operating a weighbridge during Cotton Ginning and Grain Harvest seasons for 4 years and two years as a Regional Foster Carer Support Worker I recognise that there can be no “one size fits all” approach to education if we are to raise happy, healthy and competent youth.

Making Tracks was born from the needs of the Broken Hill community to address intergenerational disadvantage and gaps in education and employment outcomes for its youth. With the help of BackTrack and in recognition of the significant opportunities the not for profit sector enables, Making Tracks provides holistic support to youth, their families, and the wider community.

I am passionate about working with communities toward improving health, wellbeing, education, and employment outcomes. As a mum of 3 Indigenous daughters I recognise that despite best efforts, gaps exist in mainstream schooling in providing a holistic, individual and relevant education system for our most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

I was raised to believe it takes a village to grow independent, happy youth and build strong communities. I am grateful and thankful for the support of our village. This journey is only made possible with the support of all our believers, dreamers, doers, staff, board, funders, volunteers, mentors, and trail blazers.

It is always such a privilege to work with youth and communities and we are grateful and thankful to be welcomed into such an amazing community.

Living happy, healthy, and wealthy lives should be an expectation for all. I am Thankful and Grateful for the opportunity to share my experience, passion, and love of what I do and look forward to welcoming more family on our journey, supporting as many youth as possible to make this a reality.

*Julie Giff*

Making Tracks CEO



Making Tracks is a member of the YARRN (Youth At Risk Research Network) which is being driven by the UNSW Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. This is a national study to identify innovative ways to engage at-risk youth.

Making Tracks commenced data collection to better understand and analyse young people's pathways. This in-depth analysis will look at education, health, crime statistics, suicide risk, well-being, drug and alcohol, employability skills and identity. This type of analysis is completed every 6 months or more frequently with individuals who are identified as needing additional monitoring based on risk factors.

Evaluation of the BackTrack research shows reduction in crime among young people and some other aspects (eg improved school attendance), but not others.

The cost benefit (economic) analysis and the results show the BackTrack program returns about \$3.50 in cost savings (reduced crime, increased employment, etc) for every \$1 invested. Given that Making Tracks is based on the same logic, we would expect to see similar results.



"YARRN supports Making Tracks best evidence approach to working with young people and commitment to working with YARRN and contributing to the evidence base of research aimed at support young people at-risk."

Skye Trudgett, PHD, NSW

**"Making Tracks believes in all of us and supports us in making positive changes in our lives. Having more people believe in us builds our confidence and self-worth"**

**Making Tracks Participant**

# FINANCIALS

<b>Totals</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
\$ 22,835.75	Transport
\$ 78,547.84	Meal Club
\$ 3,392.95	Circle
\$ 137,045.09	Lessons
\$ 113,200.66	Engagement
\$ 16,826.33	Work Crew
\$ 70,600.59	Student Welfare
\$ 2,893.26	Research
<b>\$ 445,342.46</b>	<b>Total</b>

# OUR SUPPORTERS

We are able to help those that need it thanks to our philanthropic and in-kind supporters. Thank you! We are so Grateful and Thankful for the efforts and support of so many. Making Tracks ability to engage and achieve with our youth is made possible by the generous support of those invested in our community. Every investment in our community: in-kind and financial is fundamental to our success. When we work together as individuals, organisations, community groups, funders, donors, partners, volunteers, employers, and supporters we achieve magnificent results.

## **Special appreciation to:**

- Bernie Shankshaft
- BackTrack
- Melinda Phillips
- Jane Watson
- Radge Design
- The Scully Fund
- Maitri Foundation
- PCYC Broken Hill
- KPAC
- Cooper Investments
- Rebecca Gorman and John Seviour
- UNSW -YARRN (Youth At Risk Research Network)
- Westpac
- Local Area Command
- Department of Community Services
- As well as several private donations

**A big thank you to all “photographers” whose pictures have filled the pages of this report. A big shout out to:** Shar White, Leighton Adlam, Kat Kenny, Jules

# OUR FUTURE

## Looking to the Future, Where we're going

Making Tracks vision for the next 12 months is focused on securing multifaceted, flexible funding to continue our grass roots community work and to grow our existing program and concepts.

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Identifying potential gaps in the local employment market will provide us with a platform to establish Making Tracks social enterprises towards sustainable employment for our youth.

To maximise successful outcomes, it is essential that our social venture ideas come from our youth; "having ownership of our own business and the ongoing support and guidance of mentors will help us get the skills we need to get and keep a job". Our youth will develop work readiness skills across lawn maintenance, gardening, woodcutting cleaning, furniture removalist and customer service. These skills can be transferable across a number of industries and establishes a pathway to successful short- and long-term employment.

Establishing a sound foundation allows us to build a strong economically viable and sustainable future.





**MAKING  
TRACKS.** FAR  
WEST  
NSW

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