

SOUTHERN FORESTS FOOD COUNCIL INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 1 JULY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2023





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SOUTHERN FORESTS FOOD COUNCIL INC. ABN 19 882 662 408



SOUTHERN FORESTS FOOD COUNCIL INC.

The Southern Forests Food Council Inc. (SFFC) was founded in 2010 by a group of passionate local producers who recognised that the wealth and abundance of produce grown in the region was both ripe for major food production expansion and made the area perfect for agri-tourism.

The SFFC was made possible by the efforts of the local producers, the generous support and contribution through the State Government's Royalties for Regions fund, and the unwavering support of the Shire of Manjimup.

The SFFC is committed to unifying the area's world-class and diverse producers to strengthen the region's economy, attract investment and export opportunities, promote regional pride, and create sustainable jobs. It represents local producers, culinary and agri-tourism operators who live and work in what is WA's premier food bowl, aiming to ultimately establish the Southern Forests agricultural production as the major driver of long-term economic activity for the wider region.

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The **vision** of the SFFC is to:

Build the region's reputation for quality food.

The **objectives** of the SFFC are to:

- Grow the value of agriculture and food production, create careers, and encourage growth of local populations.
- Establish and maintain unifying regional brand(s).
- Strive to achieve price premiums for produce from the region.
- Achieve consumer recognition of the region as a desirable culinary and tourism destination and an ethical producer of quality food.
- Sustain the effort through ongoing viability of the Food Council.



CHAIR'S REPORT

This year marked the ten-year milestone for the Southern Forests Food Council, with immense gratitude for our members, supporters, and stakeholders. The SFFC is proud to acknowledge the milestone, the people involved, and the many outcomes and activities undertaken throughout the past decade.

The SFFC continued to deliver a range of activities and services for our members.

Brand & Marketing

The SFFC undertook key brand and marketing initiatives such as the annual retail marketing campaign with greengrocer partner Gilbert's Fresh Markets, the second iteration of WA's Great Graze which showcased over 30 WA agribusinesses and was attended and enjoyed by the Minister for Agriculture and key DPIRD executives, a regional display and produce activations at the Perth Royal Show in collaboration with the Shire of Manjimup, and engaging social media activity across a range of platforms which saw further exposure for Genuinely Southern Forests produce, producers, and region.

Snapshot of social media engagement for 2022/23.

	Facebook	Instagram	MailChimp	Website
Followers	6,500	00 4,300 I,200 subscribers		15,200 visits
Reach	65,000	23,500	00 50% open rate 7,400 Goo	

Industry Development

Through its role as SW WA Drought Hub Regional Node Lead for Manjimup the SFFC participated in and hosted various workshops and outreach with local producers to increase awareness, resilience, and adoption for drought and climate resilience initiatives, including initial exploration into a carbon benchmarking program for the region.

New industries are a focus for the State Government as the region undergoes the tumultuous Native Timber Transition Plan, with the SFFC supporting local businesses to engage with the grants programs and providing letters of support for members.

The SFFC continues to support local industry groups by providing secretariat services to Wine Industry Southern Forests and the Manjimup Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Supply Chain Development

Supply chain opportunities were supported through our major sponsor getFresh Merchants, as well as representation at HortConnections national conference and WA Retailer Awards in collaboration with Market West, a trade stall at Meet the Buyer trade show, and hosted grower visits and meetings with Eastern States market partners.

Regional Development

The SFFC concluded and acquitted the Regional Arts Fund partnership initiative with Southern Forests Arts hosting half a dozen Southern Forests Food & Art Tours as part of the project including international visitors and a collaboration with RAC Karri Valley Resort. The partnership with both Southern Forests Arts and RAC Karri Valley Resort continues beyond the grant project with future tours planned and tickets selling successfully through RAC Travel.



The SFFC continues to foster agri-tourism in the region and participated in a Tourism WA workshop with a focus to enact policy change and enable an industry-wide approach. The SFFC continues to coordinate and host a range of customised food and farm tours for international visitors, school groups, industry delegations, and local events. The tours bring together over 40 local businesses to showcase the Genuinely Southern Forests region to visitors and create unique connections between consumers and our local producers.

The SFFC supported local events such as Manjimup Cherry Harmony Festival, Warren Ag Show, Pinot Picnic, Truffle Kerfuffle, and Manjimup Truffle & Wine Festival.

Sustainability

The Committee of Management farewelled valued CoM members Tori Marver and Vick Grozotis at the 2022 AGM and welcomed the return of previous CoM members Bevan Eatts and Mark Bending and new recruit Corrie Scheepers to the table. The new CoM firmly set their focus on identifying projects and investment opportunities to secure the SFFC's future viability. The CoM identified several potential projects and opportunities and made initial outreach to government agencies to seek support for the new ideas.

The 2022/23 financial year saw the further drawdown on SFFC reserve funds with new revenue vital to ongoing operations. To ensure the SFFC did not trade insolvently the CoM prepared a close-out contingent budget in the event further funding was unsuccessful and the SFFC needed to wind-up the organisation.

The SFFC undertook a member and stakeholder value survey at the end of 2022/23, with the response demonstrating encouragingly high levels of member awareness and support. The survey also identified 90% of responders seeing the value in the organisation continuing, and 95% of responders supporting the brand to continue, providing the SFFC with the necessary encouragement to actively pursue funding opportunities through the State Government.

The SFFC concluded the 2022/23 financial year with a realistic view of an impending outlook and made every attempt to secure a more viable future and in November 2023 was successful in attracting \$725,000 from the State Government.

The Shire of Manjimup provided exceptional support and guidance during this period, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to the SFFC, the local industry, and broader community, which we are immensely grateful for, and we look forward to continuing to work closely and collaboratively with the Shire of Manjimup.

We would like to sincerely thank all our members and supporters that continue on this journey with us, as we proudly share the legacies of the SFFC and Genuinely Southern Forests brand over the past decade and look forward to providing valued outcomes for the local producers and region well into the future.

Kieran Kinsella

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Chair

Southern Forests Food Council Inc.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

During the 2022/23 financial year the SFFC generated \$241,231 revenue whilst expending \$328,379 resulting in a net loss of \$87,148 and drawing down on SFFC reserve funds.

The Shire of Manjimup continues their support for the SFFC with an annual contribution of \$25,000 received to support the ongoing activities of the SFFC.

The SFFC continued to deliver against grants secured in 2021/22, including acquitting the Regional Arts Fund grant to support the development and delivery of food and art tours. The SFFC's role as the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub Regional Node Lead for the Manjimup Zone received \$50,000 in 2022/23 through the Federal Governments Future Drought Fund via the Grower Group Alliance (GGA), with a total contribution of \$150,000 to be received across three-years to 2024. The SFFC also received an additional instalment under the Small Business Hardship Grant

The SFFC generated \$144,311 through various activities including membership, supply partnerships, merchandise sales, sponsorship, the annual retail marketing campaign, collaborative marketing such as WA's Great Graze, and agri-tourism initiatives.

Operational expenditure totalled \$141,428 and comprised predominantly of wages, consultancy expenses, and insurance. Activity expenditure totalled \$186,951 and comprised predominantly promotional and marketing activities, including WA's Great Graze event, GSF cherries in support of Cherry Festival, GSF display and activation at Perth Royal Show, agritourism activities, public relations, and supply chain development.

Whilst the SFFC remains a going concern, the continued deficits, resulting in the drawdown on reserve funds and a lack of sufficient revenue, resulted in the SFFC seriously considering the viable timeframe of the organisation. The SFFC identified \$25,000 contingent budget as a provision for potential closure of the SFFC. The provision was allowed for within the 2022/23 financial reports, however was not expended. The SFFC has since been successful in securing \$725,000 in State Government support through to 2026.



STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The Committee has determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note I to the financial statements.

It is the opinion of the Committee:

- I. The financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Southern Forests Food Council Inc. as at the 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Council will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Kieran Kinsella

Chair

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Southern Forests Food Council Inc.

Monica Radomiljac

Vice Chair

Southern Forests Food Council Inc.

Dated this 19 September 2023.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

ASSETS	Bank	2022/23	2021/22
	Cash Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Cheque Account	\$10,878.83	\$5,616.13
	Debit Card Account	\$1,962.71	\$4,862.82
	Produce Coord Cash Reserve	\$46,136.79	\$100,499.79
	Produce Coordination Account	\$661.33	\$9,059.82
	Total Bank	\$59,639.66	\$120,038.56
	Current Assets		
	Accounts Receivable	\$3,109.48	\$12,448.24
	Petty Cash	\$70.35	\$61.25
	Prepaid Insurance	\$3,241.32	\$3,178.00
	Term Deposit #1	\$85,738.46	\$103,692.13
	Total Current Assets	\$92,159.61	\$119,379.62
	Total Assets	\$151,799.27	\$239,418.18
LIABILITIES	Current Liabilities		
	Accounts Payable	\$2,673.59	\$1,857.52
	Accrued Employee Entitlements	\$13,790.33	\$17,045.33
	GST	\$5,118.69	\$6,306.41
	PAYG Withholdings Payable	\$916.07	\$840.05
	Unspent Grant Funding	\$0.00	\$9,420.00
	Total Current Liabilities	\$22,498.68	\$35,469.31
	Non-Current Liabilities		
	Provision for SFFC Closure	\$12,500.00	=
	Total Non-current Liabilities	\$12,500.00	-
	Total Liabilities	\$34,998.68	\$35,469.31
	Net Assets	\$116,800.59	\$203,948.87
EQUITY	Current Year Earnings	\$(87,148.28)	\$(73,652.72)
	Retained Earnings	\$203,948.87	\$277,601.59
	Total Equity	\$116,800.59	\$203,948.87



PROFIT AND LOSS

1 JULY 2022 – 30 JUNE 2023	2022/23	2021/22
INCOME		
SFFC INCOME		
Agri-Tourism	\$28,779.08	\$16,309.09
Collaborative Marketing	\$21,950.00	\$2,544.00
Domestic Distribution	\$9,183.34	\$17,538.50
Membership	\$18,981.82	\$21,900.00
Merchandise	\$26,226.99	\$17,968.52
Packaging	\$14,738.77	\$10,722.90
Retail Marketing Campaign	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Sponsorship	\$5,132.45	\$10,337.00
SFFC Other Income	\$11,818.54	\$2,665.82
GGA Drought Hub Grant	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00
Regional Arts Grant	\$9,420.00	\$5,580.00
Shire of Manjimup	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Tourism WA Hardship Grant	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$5,000.00
WA Small Business Hardship Grant	\$12,500.00	
Total Trading Income	\$241,230.99	\$183,065.83
Gross Profit	\$241,230.99	\$183,065.83
OPERATING EXPENSES	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
OPERATING COSTS		
Administration	\$5,656.72	\$3,412.30
CoM Expenses	\$2,122.21	\$3,024.69
Consultancy	\$8,610.00	\$10,950.00
Insurance	\$7,798.80	\$7,638.60
Legal	\$5,918.80	\$0.00
Office Equipment	\$2,928.89	\$5,105.00
Rent	\$1,299.99	\$5,199.96
Utilities	\$3,832.77	\$4,502.23
Wages	\$103,259.33	\$91,130.19
Total Operating Costs	\$141,427.51	\$130,962.97
ACTIVITY COSTS		
Agri-Tourism	\$36,527.40	\$17,721.69
Membership and Sponsorship	\$9,170.23	\$197.02
Packaging	\$10,453.33	\$6,140.68
Promotion and Marketing	\$86,151.69	\$47,176.47
Public Relations	\$18,240.00	\$18,841.82
Supply Chain Development	\$26,409.11	\$35,677.90
Total Activity Costs	\$186,951.76	\$125,755.58
Total Operating Expenses	\$328,379.27	\$256,718.55
Net Profit	\$(87,148.28)	\$(73,652.72)





NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- I. <u>Statement of Accounting Policies</u> This financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the SFFC to fulfil the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Southern Forests Food Council Inc. Rules of Association. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Incorporation's Rules of Association and, in the opinion of the Committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members.
 - a. The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis in Australian Dollars and is based on historical costs. The financial report has been prepared using the going concern assumption.
 - b. Property, plant, and equipment which have a purchase price of less than \$6,500 have been expensed in the year of purchase. Those which have a purchase price greater than \$6,500 are recognised as an asset and are depreciated over their useful life.
 - c. Employee Entitlements accrual is raised for the amount of annual leave owed at the balance date, 30 June 2023.
 - d. The SFFC is exempt from Income Tax.

INCOME

- 2. Agri-Tourism includes ticket sales for customised agri-tourism experiences.
- 3. <u>Collaborative Marketing</u> includes contributions and sponsorship for WA's Great Graze, and Shire of Manjimup contribution for Perth Royal Show activation.
- 4. <u>Domestic Distribution</u> includes income generated through domestic supply chain partnerships such as through Perth wholesale market partners and inter-state wholesale agents.
- 5. <u>Membership</u> includes membership fees for 16 Associate Members, 72 Genuine Members, and 14 members opting for additional fee-for-service activities.
- 6. <u>Merchandise</u> includes the sales of Food of the Southern Forests cookbooks (35), GSF gournet hampers (100), GSF cherry sales, and other GSF merchandise sales.
- 7. Packaging includes packaging sales through the SFFC office as well as a rebate paid by SFFC packaging partner on all Genuinely Southern Forests cartons sold through the partnership.
- 8. <u>Retail Marketing Campaign</u> includes retailer contributions for their involvement in the annual Perth Metro Retail Marketing Campaign.



- 9. <u>Sponsorship</u> includes a major sponsor, a service sponsor, and a member marketing sponsor.
- 10. <u>SFFC Other Income</u> includes, secretariat service fees, project coordination service fees, and interest received on SFFC bank accounts.
- 11. <u>GGA Drought Hub Grant</u> to deliver the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub Regional Node Lead services under a funding agreement with the Grower Group Alliance through to 2024.
- 12. <u>Regional Arts Grant</u> is to support the development of a partnership between Southern Forest Arts and the SFFC to explore, develop, and deliver food and art tourism offerings for the region, including the appointment of an agri-tourism coordinator.
- 13. <u>Shire of Manjimup</u> provide funds to support the on-going operation of the SFFC with a commitment in place to 2024.
- 14. WA Small Business Hardship Grant COVID-19 stimulus funds for small business.

EXPENSES

- 15. <u>Provision for SFFC Closure</u> a contingent allocation for costs associated with the potential wind-up of the organisation, including \$2,500 admin for make-good of office, \$5,000 legal, and \$5,000 for brand assets (trademark, ASIC, domains etc.), and \$12,500 provision for employee entitlements. These contingent expenses were allowed for but not expended in 2022/23.
- 16. <u>CoM Expenses</u> includes Chair travel and accommodation allowance, and expenses related to the monthly CoM meetings and the Annual General Meeting.
- 17. Consultancy includes financial consultants, including auditor and bookkeeper.
- 18. <u>Legal</u> for IP trademark legal services. Note: includes a \$5k legal provision for closure but was not expended in 2022/23.
- 19. Rent includes the storage shed lease which concluded in 2023.
- **20.** <u>Wages</u> includes salaries for the part-time General Manager, Marketing & Project Coordinator and Retail Promotions Officer, superannuation, and employee entitlements i.e. leave.
- 21. <u>Agri-Tourism</u> covers the operating costs to coordinate and host agri-tours, as well as promotional and marketing activities to support the development of agri-tourism initiatives.
- 22. <u>Membership & Sponsorship</u> includes the cost to implement the tiered membership structure and support the sponsorship program.



- 23. <u>Packaging</u> includes the development of Genuinely Southern Forests packaging for members.
- 24. Promotion & Marketing includes seasonal recipe development, gourmet hamper and merchandise development, retail marketing campaign activity, coordination and delivery of WA's Great Graze event, regional showcase and activation at Perth Royal Show, and digital communications activity. Note: includes a \$5k marketing provision for closure but was not expended in 2022/23.
- 25. <u>Public Relations</u> includes PR and digital communications services to continue to grow awareness for Genuinely Southern Forests brand, produce, and region.
- 26. <u>Supply Chain Development</u> predominantly includes domestic activities such as Meet the Buyer trade show activity, Market West collaboration, and producer engagement contract services.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of the Southern Forests Food Council Inc. GRAHAM M SHERRIFF
Audit & Accounting Services
ABN 13 575 170 127
PO BOX A391
AUSTRALIND WA 6233
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I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of the Southern Forests Food Council Inc., which comprises the Balance Sheet & Statement of Changes in Equity as at 30 June 2023, Income Statement & Statement of Cashflows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the statement by members of the council.

Board of Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board of management of the Southern Forests Food Council Inc. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board of management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management Board of management's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA). I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinions.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As is common for an association of this type, it is not practical to maintain an effective system of internal control over income (excluding Grants & Interest) until their initial entry into the accounting records. Accordingly, my audit of income (excluding Grants & Interest) was limited by this factor, to the amounts recorded in the financial records.

Auditors Qualified Opinion

In my opinion, except for the matters referred to in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* in the paragraph above, the financial report of the Southern Forests Food Council Inc. presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Southern Forests Food Council Inc. as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



GRAHAM M SHERRIFF

Audit & Accounting Services ABN 13 575 170 127 PO BOX A391 **AUSTRALIND WA 6233** Mob: 0400 572 449 grahamsherriff@hotmail.com

Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of the Southern Forests Food Council Inc.

Emphasis of Matter

I draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements whereby in order to continue as a going concern, Southern Forests Food Council Inc. is dependent upon obtaining additional funding as well as maintaining existing funding, sponsorships & memberships. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Basis of Accounting
Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Southern Food Council Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 2015 (WA). As a result the financial report may not be suitable for any other

Graham Sherriff MIPA BBus

Principal Dated: 15th September 2023

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

NAME	EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS
Kieran Kinsella Independent Chair	After a long career in State Government senior executive roles including CEO of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority; Extensive experience in strategic leadership of major redevelopment projects; Served on various State Government and not-for-profit boards.
Monica Radomiljac Vice Chair	Grape, wine, potato, beef, marron, and truffle producer; Agricultural Produce Commission Chair; previous positions include Secretary of Pemberton Wine Region Association, WoWA board, Timber Towns Wine Show committee, Rottnest Foundation board, and Unearthed Pemberton committee.
Ben Arnold Treasurer - skills-based	Extensive international experience in risk management, internal audit, governance and process improvement. Current founder and director at A&P Advisory. Current and past experience serving on various boards and audit & risk committees.
Nial Twigger Secretary – skills-based - resigned	Previous board experience including Wines of Western Australia (Treasurer), Great Southern Wine Producers Association (Chair and Treasurer), and Agricultural Produce Commission. Financial, business development, and advisory experience.
Mark Bending	Operates a mixed farming business. Director of the Accredited Grass Fed Beef Coop and the Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme. Formerly served on the CoM from 2014-2020.
Bevan Eatts	Multi-generational farmer. President of the Manjimup Chamber of Commerce and WA Water Users Coalition. Bevan formerly served as chair of the SFFC from 2012-2018.
Corrie Scheepers	Owner-operator of Ampersand Estates and Rainfall Distillery. Background in change management and technology advisory, Corrie has worked with multiple listed companies including Crown, Rio Tinto, Deloitte and BHP. Corrie has a broad network, and relevant skill base to assist SFFC.

PAST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

•	Brad Ipsen Wayne Franceschi John Lucey Andrew Tempra Kim Edwards John Kilrain Ed Valom Alana Starkie	•	Jane Duinmeyer Luke Soussa Al Blakers Tina Thomas Nicole Giblett Simon Green Nicole Rose Bevan Eatts	•	Alexis Gandy Charlie Roberts Dougy Savage Mark Bending Tony Fontanini Alex Wilson Jake Ryan Dean Baker	•	Carlo Pessotto Mitchell East Neil Miles Victoria Howe Tori Marver Vick Grozotis Nial Twigger
•	Jessica Phillips	•	Vic Peos	•	Nikki Griffiths		

COM MEETING ATTENDANCE

The SFFC Committee of Management met IO times in total during the 2022/23 financial year. 8 of those meetings were ordinary Committee meetings, I being special meeting which included matters requiring immediate attention, as well as many informal sessions for discussion. The Committee have moved to bi-monthly meetings and hosts member meetings in the off months or special Committee meetings as required. Below is a summary of Committee attendance at these meetings.

NAME	DATE APPOINTED	ORDINARY Meetings Total Meetings:8	SPECIAL MEETINGS TOTAL MEETINGS: 1	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TOTAL MEETINGS: 1
Kieran Kinsella	Nov 2019	7	1	1
Monica Radomiljac	Nov 2014	7	1	1
Ben Arnold	Oct 2019	8	-	-
Tori Marver	Apr 2019 – Oct 2022	2	-	1
Vick Grozotis	May 2019 – Oct 2022	1	-	1
Nial Twigger	Oct 2019 – Aug 2023	1	-	-
Mark Bending	Oct 2022	3	1	1
Bevan Eatts	Oct 2022	5	1	1
Corrie Scheepers	Oct 2022	4	1	1



LOOKING FORWARD

2022/23 has been a year for reflection, with the SFFC's ten-year milestone allowing the organisation to proudly look back over a decade of people, activities, support, and achievements. The SFFC also found itself in a potentially dire situation with its future outlook at risk, however the Committee, our staff, and key stakeholders undertook many difficult discussions and decisions over the course of the year, and we are thrilled that we were able to emerge with a positive outcome.

We are immensely grateful for the Shire of Manjimup's exceptional support and guidance during this period, and we look forward to continuing to work closely and collaboratively with the Shire of Manjimup to benefit the region and its producers.

The SFFC is delighted with the State Governments contribution of \$725,000 to strengthen the SFFC efforts, enhance the Genuinely Southern Forests brand, and help secure the SFFC's future viability. We are pleased to reforge the connection with the State Government through the support of both the Minister for Regional Development Hon Don Punch MLA and the Minister for Agriculture Hon Jackie Jarvis MLA and look forward to exploring opportunities to strengthen the link between industry and government.

The funding will enable the SFFC to focus on activities and implement strategies to secure our long-term sustainability and enhance the brand, including an innovative project to connect new markets, provide greater transparency and efficiencies for producers, and demonstrate the local industries commitment to ethical and sustainable practices and produce.

The SFFC is looking forward to reinvigorating its enthusiasm for new projects and new opportunities with a new Committee under a new dynamic.

Your input remains vital to our efforts, and we will continue to actively seek input from our members on opportunities and activities that are of value and relevance, so please get involved to make the most of these opportunities.

We are proud of the efforts and achievements over the past decade, we are genuinely excited about what the future holds, and we look forward to working with you to find out.



Southern Forests Food Council Inc.

ABN 19 882 662 408

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