



# ANNUAL REPORT

LOTUS OUTREACH AUSTRALIA

2023

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We educate women  
because it is smart. We  
educate women because it  
changes the world.  
Drew Faust

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# President's Report

Welcome to the Lotus Outreach Australia (LOA) 2023 Annual Report - and thank you for taking the time to learn more about our small but effective organisation.

December 2023 brings us to the end of our most recent three year MoU with our in country NGO partner, CWCC. LOA funds the GATE Program in Phnom Penh Cambodia, which saw the completion of high school for 100 scholarship girls. We had an outstanding final year pass rate of 71%, on par with the national pass rate, and it will be exciting to watch what happens to these girls and their promising futures.

The end of an MoU is always a time for reflection and growth, and so in preparing for a new three year MoU starting January 2024 we have made a few changes to the GATE PP program, choosing to stagger the intake of scholarship girls over the next three years, looking ahead to how we can best support them as they graduate.

We are continuing to fund additional tuition out of school, which has proven essential to ensuring the girls are receiving the highest quality of education, and we are enlisting our in-country partners to work closely with the schools to advocate for more access to this tuition.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our donors and sponsors, who have shown continued extraordinary generosity over the years. It is because of you that we are able to look forward and plan the next three years with confidence in our ability to see a new intake of girls through to the end of their schooling. The Lotus Outreach Australia board and I don't take this responsibility lightly, and your continued backing allows us to make such a commitment.

It is important to remember that we are influencing the lives of real, individual girls, who have their own hopes and dreams. It is such a privilege to know that the work we are doing is supporting them to fulfil their own potential, so when we receive news of their achievements after school, we are reminded of why our programs exist. I was thrilled to hear that 13 of the GATE PP graduates from 2022 are now engaged in university or tertiary education - evidence of how empowered they have become in their own lives. Even more impressive when you think that these scholarship recipients are the first in their families to complete a high school education, and to think of tertiary or vocational training.

Looking forward to 2024, I am excited for some new campaigns in Australia, and the continued success for girls in Cambodia.



Charlie Cristi



Charlie Cristi



# An overview of LOA

Lotus Outreach Australia is a Not-For-Profit organisation. Our mission is to ensure the education, health, and safety of the most marginalised and exploited girls in Cambodia. Guided by the UN's Millennium Development Goals regarding extreme poverty, universal education, gender equality and empowerment of women, we advocate for the human rights of these women and children by providing educational access and opportunities.

We work from the basis that prevention is better than cure. In partnership with respected Cambodian Government registered NGOs, we identify girls at risk of the worst forms of child labour and trafficking.

Our intervention provides educational opportunities through our Girls' Access to Education (GATE) scholarships program in Phnom Penh.



GATE is a highly successful program, seeing girls from the very poorest families access and succeed at high school before going onto vocational training or to university, or finding meaningful employment. Our projects focus on sustainable change for families and communities through the education of their girls. By supporting families in dire poverty to become self-sufficient, we create the possibility of an alternative future for these girls and change the potential opportunities for whole communities and future generations.



GATE PP provides

- Scholarships, uniforms, school supplies, bikes to transport to school as well as healthcare for around 100 at-risk girls.
- Nutritional support for families in dire poverty. This has been shown to lessen the pressure on families to put their girls into child labour in order to feed their families.
- Advocacy, in association with the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC), to inform the community of the dangers of trafficking, the importance of human and child rights, and the immense value of girls' education to their families in terms of gaining employment and future economic opportunities



Lotus Outreach Australia is a successful, effective organisation with strong governance and proven programs.

It is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) and is incorporated as a Registered Charity with NSW Department of Fair Trading since 2004.

It has a fundraising authority with NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing.

LOA is an affiliate of eight Lotus Outreach organisations globally, originally founded by renowned teacher and film-maker Khyentse Norbu Rinpoche. Our programs are managed in collaboration with local Cambodian NGOs and funded entirely by LOA.

LOA has charity tax concessions with the Australian Tax Office.

Tax deductibility for donors is recognised through our OAGD DGR 1 status conferred by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Tax office.



# Cambodia Report

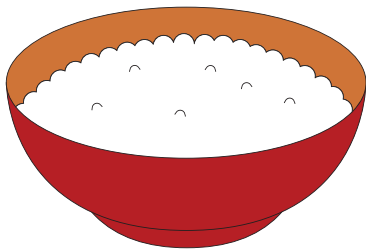
Girls Access to Education Phnom Penh is a small but highly effective program. We award the number of scholarships to the extent we are able to effectively meet the individual needs of our scholarship girls and their families, working together with schools, teachers and our in-country partners to overcome barriers to completing education as they arise.



LOA partners with 4 schools on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. Local Education Working Groups (LEWGs) consisting of school principals, dedicated teachers and local authorities, work together with these schools to monitor girls regularly. 340 home visits were conducted in 2023.



At the start of each year, our in country partner identifies new scholarship students and provides them with a new bicycle to help them get to and from school safely.



The GATE PP program has distributed approximately 23,000kgs of rice in 2023, to the poorest of the scholarship girls' families. 38 families have benefited from the nutrition support program which not only feeds families, but importantly reduces the pressure on girls to drop out of school to find work.



All 100 scholarship recipients received new school uniforms and learning materials at the start of the school year at a ceremony during which our in-country partners provided guidance on the importance of education and the risks of leaving school early in Cambodia.



All 100 students received enough stipend to attend additional tutoring for 4 subjects throughout the year, overcoming one of the biggest barriers to completing their high school education.



# A Case Study - Nita\*

Nita is 17 years old, and completed year 12 this year. She lives with her mother and her younger sister. Nita's mum sells cakes by the roadside to try to support her two daughters to stay in school, but the money she earns isn't enough to even cover school materials, let alone feeding her girls and keeping a roof over their heads. A couple of years ago, Nita's mum approached her own mother for support, and they decided it was best that Nita drop out of school and find a husband, with the hope that the husband's family might be able to support them financially.

But Nita didn't want to drop out of school and get married. She dreamed of becoming a lawyer so that she could help poor and vulnerable families like her own, and she knew that she needed to finish school and get into university to achieve that dream. Nita's luck turned when she heard about the GATE program scholarship through her school. She applied, and during the interview and assessment process, was found to be hard working and studious, despite living in extreme poverty, and so was awarded a scholarship.

Receiving rice support made an immediate difference to Nita and her family, reducing the daily stress of feeding the family. A new bike also meant that Nita could get herself to school, and didn't need to rely on her mother, giving mum more time to sell cakes. Because Nita receives school materials and uniforms from the GATE program, she no longer feels guilty about pursuing her career dreams when her family had asked her to drop out.

Part of the GATE program is providing life skills education to scholarship recipient families, and though this, Nita's mum and grandmother now support her plans to stay in school, as they understand the benefits of education and the risks of early marriage for girls.

\*Name changed to protect her identity



# Spotlight - CATALYST

The GATE Program supports girls to stay in school, and sees them through to their year 12 graduation, but this is not the end of their journey. LOA is part of an international network of Lotus Outreach organisations that together provide many opportunities for further education for our girls.

One such support is CATALYST, a program run by our in-country partner Lotus Outreach Cambodia, with funding from Lotus Outreach affiliates.

CATALYST started in 2010 in response to the fact that less than 2% of women in Cambodia had any education past high school. The program recruits graduates from the GATE programs across Cambodia and supports them to succeed in tertiary education.

\$1800 supports one girl for one year of vocational tuition, food, residence, class fees and a daily allowance.



# Fundraising

Thank you to Cloudy Ku and HER Music who generously fundraise for Lotus Outreach Australia at their events. HER music promotes equality in the music scene in Australia and overseas. They have donated \$2500 in 2023.



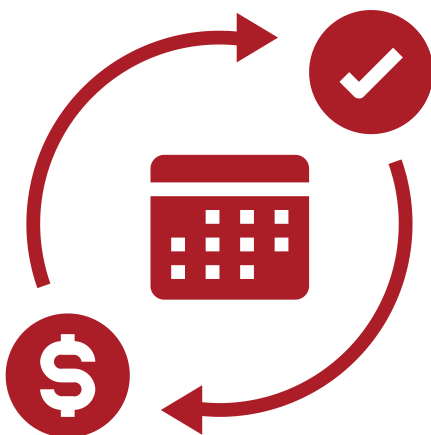
We have been very fortunate to partner with Lotus Outreach International in the 1000 coffee campaign that has brought in over \$2600 for the GATE PP program this year.

You can pledge to forego a number of coffees each month to support Girls Access to Education at [1000coffee.org](http://1000coffee.org)



Lotus Outreach Australia was privileged to attend the teachings and empowerments given by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche in Sydney this November. It was an important opportunity to share the work of LOA with Rinpoche's students.

Generous cash donations brought in more than \$6000 over the three day event.



Above and beyond anything else, the support from our amazing regular donors keeps LOA and GATE PP running. When people choose to sponsor a girl, they are enabling LOA to make long term commitments to our GATE program in Cambodia, supporting the sustainability and longevity of the program so that we can see girls through to the end of their schooling with confidence.

Regular donor support funded more than three quarters of our commitments this year.



# Our Team



## **Charlie Cristi - President (Child protection officer, Communications)**

Charlie lived in Phnom Penh for many years, after going to Cambodia in 2010 as a volunteer through AUSAID. During this time she worked closely with LOA and LO Cambodia as a volunteer, whilst working as a teacher of Art and Design at one of the International Schools.

She then spent 3 years working with the Ministry of Education in Bhutan, advising them on inclusive education, before moving to Wellington, NZ, where she currently coordinates support for students with additional needs and trauma.

Charlie has a Masters in Special Education and a Graduate Certificate in Trauma Aware Education. She also currently sits on two school boards in New Zealand.



## **Jane Lyttleton - Vice President**

Jane Lyttleton is an author, teacher and practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). She trained in genetics and biochemistry at the University of London, and studied TCM in Australia and China. She lectures at universities in Sydney and internationally, and sits on the Board of NICM at Western Sydney University where she is an Adjunct Fellow. Jane has long been dedicated to the education and health of women and children. She helped establish Lotus Outreach Australia in 2004 after she and a group of Lotus Outreach members traveled to Thailand and Cambodia meeting local groups working to combat sex trafficking.



## **Madeleine Lawler - Secretary**

Madeleine brings her tertiary education background and professional consulting experience to the role with Lotus Outreach Australia. She has a diverse management background in non-profits, government and private sector entities and is proud to support LOA with its powerful program elevating and protecting girls in Cambodia.



# Our Team



## **Maria Berry - Donor Manager, Communications**

Maria is a doctor of Chinese medicine and has completed Asian studies in London and China.

While living and working in Asia she and her husband adopted a young girl from a Khmer orphanage. Back home in Australia she and her family are very aware of the privilege that free education, healthcare and other supports offers our children.

Maria wants to offer some of her good fortune to her adopted child's Khmer peers.

She is inspired by what LOA offers its scholarship girls and is moved by the donors who give so generously and graciously.



## **Aniko Papp - Governance Officer**

Aniko graduated from UTS with a degree in law and has been practising as a solicitor for over 30 years, being admitted to the NSW Supreme Court and High Court in 1988. She joins LOA after being the deputy Managing Lawyer of NAAFLS, which is an NGO providing legal services to Indigenous clients in NT remote communities, predominately in the field of women's rights, family violence, victims of crime, family law, child protection. Prior to that, Aniko was in private practise in NSW and has experience in almost every aspect of the law.

Aniko has a wide variety on boards supporting women both in Australia and overseas. Aniko is passionate about empowering girls and women through support and education. Aniko was a fundraiser, treasurer and social media person for the Lismore Greens for over 5 years.



## **Charles Berry - Treasurer**

Charles Berry was British, born in Asia and has lived in several Asian countries. He is big brother to an adopted Cambodian sister. He is now proudly Australian.

As a young adult he recognises the excellent support and education his sister had growing up here. He now helps LOA to support the welfare of young girls and women in Cambodia. Charles is pursuing a career in finance.



# Our Team



## **Anna Harper - Lotus Outreach International Liaison**

Anna Harper is the founder of The Tall Journey, guiding individuals, groups and organisations to fully embody their 'story' across NZ and the Asia Pacific region. She is exploring new pathways, integrating different 'modalities' that enable individuals to live their own unique story as a leader in all aspects of their life. She has a B.Fine Arts, M.Arts in Chaos, Complexity and Creativity, and M.Applied Science and additionally is a certified Yoga teacher, student of QiGong, and is writing a book. Her mission is to explore new possibilities. She is committed to helping at-risk Cambodian girls gain safe, fulfilled and independent lives. Anna was Treasurer for Lotus Outreach Australia from 2004- 2012, and President from 2012 to 2014. She sits on the board of Lotus Outreach International. She also sits on two boards focused on Health and Wellbeing.



## **Pisey Chea - LOCAM officer**

Pisey is from north Cambodia. She was selected into the Girls' Access To Education (GATE) program when she was in 9th grade and has been supported by Lotus Outreach until the completion of her schooling and degree. In the past, Pisey has volunteered in many capacities including data collection, advocacy and non-formal education. In 2016 Pisey started working part-time with CWCC as a community organizing (CO) staff member. This project allowed her to work with youth, villagers, and local authorities. Pisey joined the Lotus Outreach Cambodia office in March 2017.



## **Raksmei Var - In Country Representative, Cambodia**

Raksmei first volunteered as a teacher and mentor for a youth group providing social services to poor children, where she taught kids about children's rights. While also working as an English teacher at a private school, Raksmei decided she wanted to do more to help children. Raksmei completed her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting in 2004 at the National University of Management in Cambodia. In 2007, she received her Master's in Gender and Development Studies from the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. Raksmei's particular areas of focus include children's education, child and youth mobility and employment, livelihood development, child labor, human trafficking and sexual exploitation.



# LOA Partners



## Lotus Outreach Cambodia (LOCAM)

LOCAM is registered with the Royal Cambodian Government's Ministry of Interior. LOCAM supports LOA's work by acting as an intermediary between Australia and our implementing partner, CWCC, ensuring immediate monitoring and action year round. LOCAM provides regular reporting and feedback to help LOA maintain effective and appropriate programs.



## Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC)

CWCC is a local NGO registered with the Royal Cambodian Government's Ministry of Interior. Its primary purpose is to provide assistance to women and children who are victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking, working towards creating equality, peace and development. CWCC works hand in hand with LOI, LOCAM and LOA on program needs and implementation, ensuring all projects are effective and culturally attuned.

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*Helping Women Help Themselves*



lotus outreach  
INTERNATIONAL

## Lotus Outreach International (LOI)

LOA is proud to be an affiliate of LOI, based in California, USA. Lotus Outreach was originally founded by renowned lama and film-maker Norbu Khyentse. He noted a need to give a voice to abused and exploited children in Asia. Today this highly regarded organisation has 8 affiliates worldwide - Australia, USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Hong Kong and Taiwan.



# Contact Details

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ON THE WEB:

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BY EMAIL:

[info@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au)

DONATIONS:

[treasurer@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au](mailto:treasurer@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/LotusOutreachAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/LotusOutreachAustralia)

Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/lotusoutreachaustralia/](http://www.instagram.com/lotusoutreachaustralia/)



# Financial Report

Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated

ABN 13 358 876 011

Annual Financial Report

30 June 2022



Thank you!



# Treasurers Report - Lotus Outreach Australia - FY23

## Financial Statements

### Profit and Loss

Lotus Outreach Australia

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Account	2023	2022	Note Reference
<b>Trading Income</b>			
Donations Received	71,855.59	68,929.23	
Interest Income	412.84	6.02	
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>72,268.43</b>	<b>68,935.25</b>	
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>72,268.43</b>	<b>68,935.25</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Bank Fees	1,639.91	1,583.46	1
Consulting & Accounting	691.66	1,511.18	2
Donations Paid	75,678.90	74,566.97	
Insurance	0.00	2,797.54	3
Telephone and Internet	0.00	85.35	4
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>78,010.47</b>	<b>80,544.50</b>	
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(5,742.04)</b>	<b>(11,609.25)</b>	

# Treasurers Report - Lotus Outreach Australia - FY23

## Balance Sheet

Lotus Outreach Australia

As at 30 June 2023

Account	2023	2022	
<b>Assets</b>			<b>Note Reference</b>
<b>Bank</b>			
Lotus Australia Relief Fund 1	149,131.53	179,143.38	
Lotus Australia Relief Fund 2	58,774.92	35,241.49	
St George Freedom Cheque	319.95	319.95	
St George Power Saver	680.05	680.05	
Westpac Community Solutions On	8,273.55	7,537.17	
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>217,180.00</b>	<b>222,922.04</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Accounts Receivable	(1,234.26)	(1,234.26)	5
Australian Foundation for Peoples of Asia and the Pacific	0.06	0.06	
Term Deposit	122,363.21	122,363.21	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>121,129.01</b>	<b>121,129.01</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>338,309.01</b>	<b>344,051.05</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
GST	322.82	322.82	6
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>322.82</b>	<b>322.82</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>322.82</b>	<b>322.82</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>337,986.19</b>	<b>343,728.23</b>	
<b>Equity</b>			
Current Year Earnings	(5,742.04)		
Retained Earnings	343,728.23		
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>337,986.19</b>		

# Treasurers Report - Lotus Outreach Australia - FY23

## Statement of Cash Flows

Lotus Outreach Australia

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Account	2023	2022	
<b>Operating Activities</b>			<b>Note Reference</b>
Receipts from customers	71,855.59	68,935.25	
Payments to suppliers and employees	(78,010.47)	(80,544.50)	
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(6,154.88)</b>	<b>(11,609.25)</b>	
<b>Investing Activities</b>			
Other cash items from investing activities	412.84	106,745.73	7
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>412.84</b>	<b>106,745.73</b>	
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>	<b>(5,742.04)</b>	<b>95,136.48</b>	
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	222,922.04	126,551.30	
Net change in cash for period	(5,742.04)	95,136.48	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	217,180.00	221,687.78	

## Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Bank Fees account comprises of fees paid to St George, Westpac, eWay, Gravity and Amex
2. Consulting & Accounting comprises of fees paid to Xero
3. Insurance has reduced YoY due to cessation of Directors Insurance
4. A number of Gravity fees were booked to the Telephone and Internet account in the prior year. No adjustment has been raised.
5. As in prior year there is an outstanding receivables balance (credit) at year end relating to an overpaid donation. Receivable will be carried until the refund is processed or forgiven.
6. GST liability is not applicable as a registered NFP.
7. There have been no large movements in investments during the financial year, leading to a reduced YoY investment activity.

# Treasurers Report - Lotus Outreach Australia - FY23

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## Subsequent Events

Management notes two significant investments have occurred post balance date.

### Investment A - St George Term Deposit

Interest rate		5.00%
Maturity date		17/07/2024
Indicative interest amount	\$	6,016.44
Current interest instruction	Pay-out	

### Investment B - St George Term Deposit

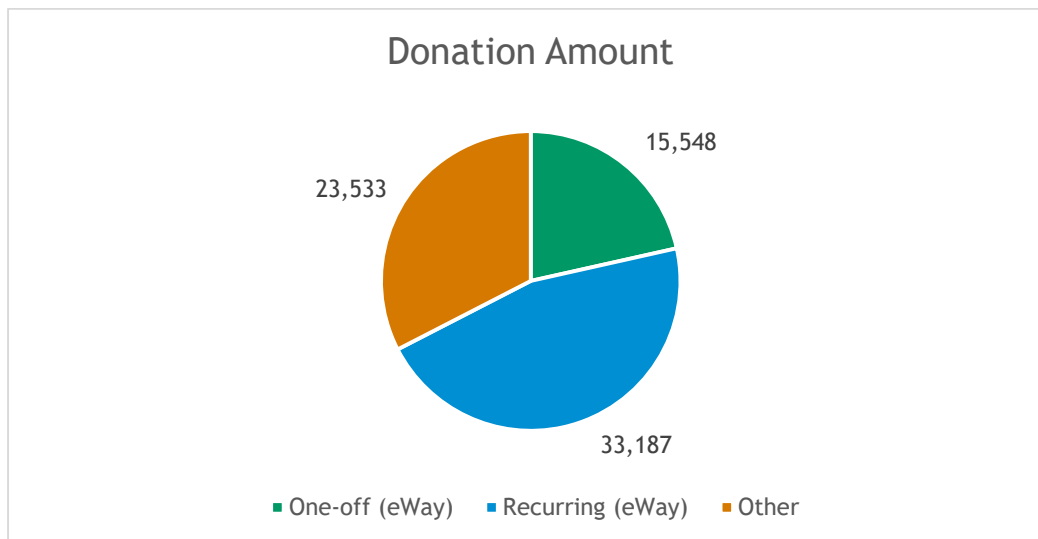
Interest rate		4.85%
Maturity date		17/09/2024
Indicative interest amount	\$	6,079.11
Current interest instruction	Roll-over	

With the previous St George term deposit expiring post balance date, LOA has maintained enough liquidity to continue making donation payments after making these investments.

# Treasurers Report - Lotus Outreach Australia - FY23

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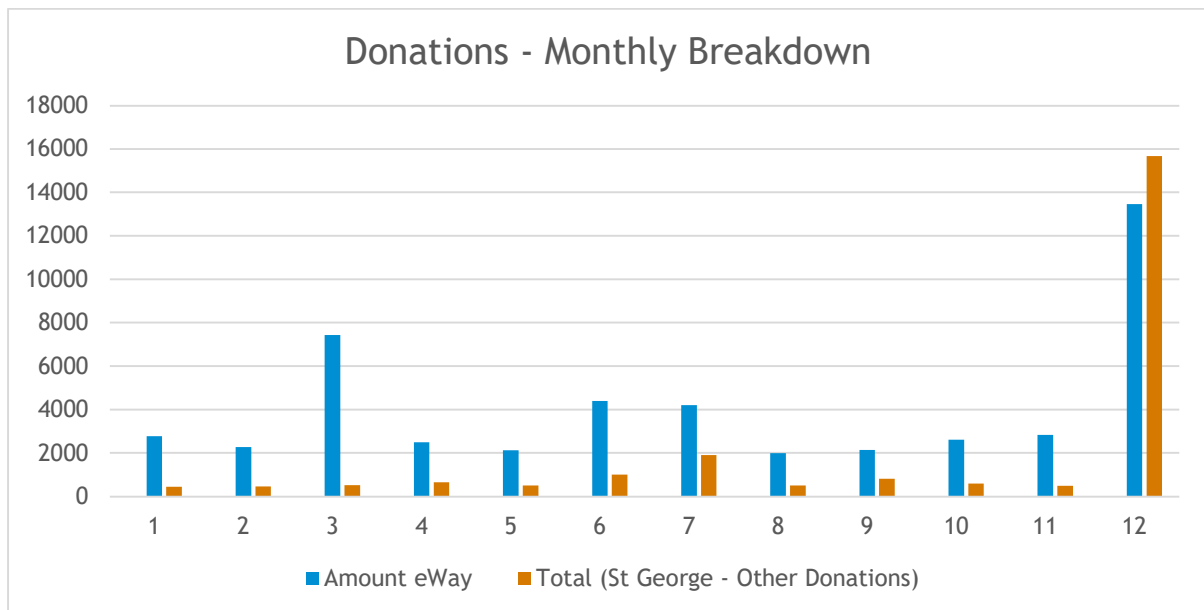
## Donations Throughout the Year



Donation Group	Donation Amount	Percentage
One-off (eWay)	15,548	21.51%
Recurring (eWay)	33,187	45.92%
Other	23,533	32.56%
Total	72,268	100.00%

# Treasurers Report - Lotus Outreach Australia - FY23

## Donations Throughout the Year



Month	Amount eWay	Total (St George - Other Donations)	Total
1	2,776.00	446.99	3,222.99
2	2,277.00	455.68	2,732.68
3	7,428.00	517.24	7,945.24
4	2,487.00	644.48	3,131.48
5	2,128.00	498.11	2,626.11
6	4,401.00	1002.59	5,403.59
7	4,208.00	1908.21	6,116.21
8	1,988.00	503.57	2,491.57
9	2,138.00	817.36	2,955.36
10	2,614.00	584.25	3,198.25
11	2,836.00	488.8	3,324.80
12	13,454.00	15666.15	29,120.15
Total	48,735.00	23,533.43	72,268.43