

Providing *SUPER FUN*
social *LIFE CHANGING*
opportunities
for young
people with
a disability.

A group of young people are standing in a circle, holding hands. They are wearing colorful shirts in shades of yellow, purple, orange, and blue. The scene is outdoors, with trees visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Flying Fox is shaping an entire generation of young people who are driven to create an inclusive world for people of all abilities.



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We are as motivated as ever to expand our programs to provide opportunities to those on our waiting list and beyond.



1. The Need

EVERYONE DESERVES TO HAVE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN. *HERE'S WHY*

Flying Fox is a great place to be right now. Our buddies, staff, board and everyone in between have been working hard over the past year to provide incredible opportunities for young people with a disability to have fun and make friends. We have also been readying ourselves for further growth and evolving our strategy and capabilities. We are excited to share so much of the good stuff with you within this report.

In amongst the good, we recognise that there remains an overwhelming need for programs like ours. Loneliness and social isolation are prevalent within the lives of so many young people with a disability. We receive feedback every day encouraging Flying Fox to grow to provide more regular social opportunities and to support our campers to get out and about, especially during difficult times like school holidays.

We have an extensive waiting list for two main reasons:

1. Flying Fox camps offer a unique and special experience. They're run by young people, peers and equals of our campers, who are relentless in their passion for inclusion as well as for fun.
2. Flying Fox has the drive and ability to provide an inclusive environment for campers with a wide-range of support needs, including those with multiple and complex disabilities who are regularly excluded from other programs.

We are as motivated as ever to expand our programs to provide opportunities to those on our waiting list and beyond.

In the meantime we have done so much over the past year that is worthy of celebration. The many successful camps, our growing relationships with special schools and other partner organisations and, of course, our incredible 5th birthday party stand out as highlights. But what stands out most for me are the friendships that have developed between buddies and campers. Every day, social media is filled with photos of campers and buddies hanging out outside of camps, demonstrating that Flying Fox is playing an important role in creating those connections and breaking down barriers between people with a disability and mainstream society.

The past year has seen us grow in sophistication as an organisation as well as in our reach and impact. We are incredibly grateful to our generous supporters, partners, staff, board, buddies and campers who are all so passionate about Flying Fox and who all play such important roles in making our organisation what it is today.

Thanks so much and have fun!

Dean Cohen
CEO, Flying Fox

2. Manifesto



We're on a mission

At Flying Fox we're on a mission to positively impact lives through the power of fun-filled, youth-led, social interaction and support, and everything we do is based on these core beliefs.

WE BELIEVE



- ⇒ that everyone deserves to have fun.
- ⇒ that life is richer when differences are celebrated.
- ⇒ that through education and shared experiences we can break down barriers and encourage social inclusion throughout our community.
- ⇒ that society has a long way to go, but we can create a place where all people are able to hang out and make friends.
- ⇒ that as energetic, passionate, driven young people we are the most equipped to provide cool opportunities and a world that includes everyone.
- ⇒ in living the good that we hope to see in our world.
If not now, when? If not you, then who?

In a nutshell, we run the most fun activities you could think of for a group of people who so often miss out!



FUN
+
YOUTH LED
+
SOCIAL CONNECTION
+
INSPIRING INCLUSION
= FLYING FOX

3. Programs

Flying Fox programs are shaping a generation of young people who are driven to create an inclusive world for people of all abilities.





3. Programs

Programs that enhance lives

Flying Fox programs offer campers and buddies a range of fun-filled experiences and connection in a warm, safe and supportive environment.

CAMP SABABA  CAMP WINGS 



- Sleep-away camps for young people with a disability.
- Campers are supported by Flying Fox trained volunteer buddies as well as professional support staff.
- Junior and Senior camps run in summer and winter.
- Around 25 campers attend each camp supported by at least 50 buddies.

SHORTZ 



- Weekend getaways for small groups of young people with a disability.
- Currently located in the holiday homes of generous supporters.
- Looking forward, our new Tova House (see page 24) will give Shortz a permanent new home and allows us to grow the program to accommodate those on our waiting list and more.

SOCS



- Camps and weekends away for the siblings of young people with a disability.
- SOCS provides time away and an opportunity to connect with others who share a similar life experience in a supportive, friendly, fun-filled environment.



"Every moment on camp was a success for my son. He was given caring buddies who made him feel confident to try new things – and everything he tried was greeted with cheers."

Parent Testimonial

EDUCATION



- A range of fun and engaging programs with students and educators in schools and in youth groups where we explore themes related to disability and inclusion.
- Comprehensive training and leadership opportunities are provided to all of our volunteer buddies and a range of professional development programs are available to our team.
- Flying Fox Education programs upskill hundreds of participants each year whilst simultaneously changing attitudes and perspectives on disability in our community and beyond.

4. Impact



How you're helping us make a difference

We've been creating fun times and warm friendships since 2014. Thanks to you, we are now positioned for growth and poised to welcome even more young people with disabilities, their families and buddy volunteers into our Flying Fox fold.

VOLUNTEER BUDDY PLACES FILLED

2018

485

2019

510

2020 (Projected)

582

TOTAL CAMPS



2018

11

2019

11

2020 (Projected)

16

3 Camp Sababa & Wings

2 SOCS

6 Camps for partner organisations

5 Camp Sababa & Wings

0 SOCS

5 Camps for partner organisations

1 Car enthusiasts drive day

3 Camp Sababa & Wings

2 SOCS

6 Camps for partner organisations



SHORTZ



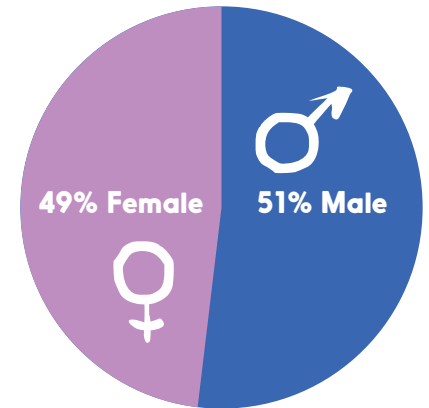
TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMS



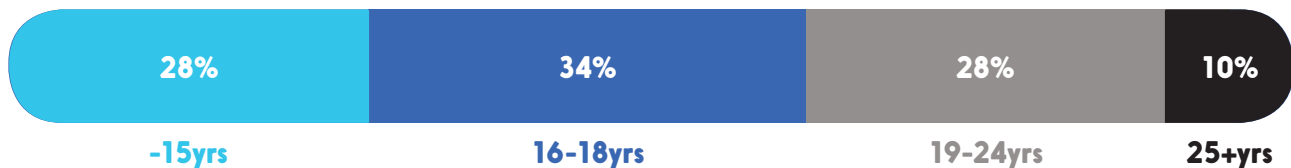
CAMPER PLACES FILLED



CAMPERS GENDER



AGE – CURRENT ACTIVE CAMPERS (2019)



5. Team

Our team strives to create an inclusive society by connecting people with a disability and the community.



FULL-TIME OPS TEAM



Dean Cohen
CEO



Tayla Cohen
Fundraising & Community Engagement



Ricki Sher
Shortz Program Manager

PART TIME TEAM



Casey Rosengarten
Camper Coordinator



Zack Stein
Camper Coordinator



Ryan Kagan
Camper Coordinator



Julia Kretzmer
Camper Coordinator



Matt Beaconsfield
Logistics Coordinator



Timnah Sheezel
Logistics Coordinator



Brody Velleman
Buddy Coordinator



Nat Gabriel
Buddy Coordinator



Bianca Stern
Education Coordinator

5. Flying Fox Team

OUR BOARD



Nicky Carp
Founder, UHG



Amanda Coombs (Chair)
General Manager,
Commonwealth Private; Founder
Giant Steps; Disability Champion



Sam Herszberg
Owner, H5 Group



Justin Joffe (Secretary)
Co-Founder, Flux



Rochelle Serry
Founder, ThinkHatch Marketing
& Communications; Cancer
Consumer Advocate



Josh Smith
Investment Associate, Jagen



Jessica Stimson
Communications Advisor;
Parent to Flying Fox Camper



Luke Sullivan
Executive GM Asset
Services, UGL

We strive to create an inclusive society by connecting people with a disability and the community.



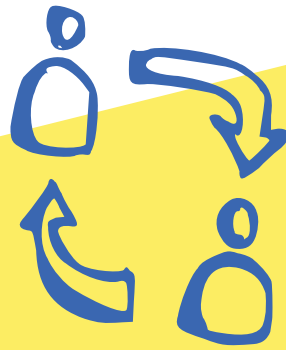
OUR PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

Pictured (left to right): Brendan Tan, Georgia Lilly, Georgia Lang, Magnolia Sithibourn, Maddie Brygel, Emily Hinds.

5. Flying Fox Team

OUR BUDDIES





"Being a buddy on camp was not only the most rewarding experience of my life so far but a profound learning experience for myself as well as for the people around me. You can never take for granted the small things in your everyday life after being involved in Flying Fox."

6. Stories

Our stories tell of joyful experiences, growth and accomplishment

Hearing firsthand from the families, buddies and campers we support is the best way to learn how our work, and your contribution, is making a difference.

CAMPER FAMILY FEEDBACK

“I can’t express how grateful I am to everyone involved for what they have given my boy.”

My son spends a lot of time in life experiencing failure. At school, at work, with friends. As a parent, it’s devastating to watch as he struggles with basic things in life.

This camp meant the world to him because every moment was a success. He was given caring buddies who made him feel confident to try new things, and everything he tried was greeted with cheers and uplifting comments. He experienced success. He experienced happiness. I wish he could attend more events like this as it was so obvious the growth in confidence he had in such a short time.

Thanks so much to you all.

“We were so glad that we learned to ‘let go’ to enrich our son’s life experiences.”

It was the very first camp experience for our 10 year old boy. It was unthinkable for us before this camp, as there were so many concerns and doubts. From the first contact with Flying Fox until the day we picked him up from camp, the love and care from all the volunteers was amazing! They are so responsible and passionate about what they do. It is a huge milestone not only for our son, but for all of us as a family too.



“All the staff of Camp Wings are truly wonderful, with beautiful warm hearts.”

Our daughter has been on a few Flying Fox camps and I am blown away by the professionalism of the young team. Everyone we met is 100% committed to our children. It's not just about looking after them, they make sure that each child has an amazing time. These are the most professionally run camps in Victoria.

“From his start as a reluctant camper, our son returned saying, “Do you think I'll be allowed to go to camp again?”

Our son went very apprehensively to his first Flying Fox camp. The staff welcomed him enthusiastically and his buddies made him feel very relaxed.

We received nightly texts about how he was going and viewed the Flying Fox Facebook page to see pictures of the day's activities. His smile got bigger and bigger as the days went on.

When he returned from camp he was beaming. His buddies were amazing. It was such a positive experience for us all.

Thank you Flying Fox!

“The care and detail shown to each camper was outstanding.”

Our son had the best time and was completely comfortable being away from home for the first time ever. All of his emotional, physical, medical and psychological needs were met with extreme kindness and understanding.

“Our teenager always comes home happy having had a fantastic time.”

Camp Wings is both a social and active camp for our teenager. He always has a great time.

The buddies get to know the needs of each camper and he is so well looked after. There are activities that he loves to participate in and others that may challenge and extend him. There are many opportunities for our teen to meet other kids his age.

“My son felt loved, valued and accepted unconditionally.”

Camp Sababa was the first ever camp my son attended. It was an amazing opportunity for him to experience what most other (typically developing) children enjoy regularly.

He had the opportunity to make new friends, participate in new activities and develop new skills.

6. Stories

SUPERSTAR BUDDIES, PROUD AND INSPIRED

“Reflecting on our time at camp warms my heart... I will be forever grateful for this experience.”

My experience on Camp Sababa reaffirmed the importance of not taking anything for granted. It provided me with a confronting reality of the challenges these young people face and made me value the strength and courage of the parents who support them.

From the moment we met our campers, all my nerves about venturing into this new experience were instantly quashed.

Camp has truly changed the way I think and feel. It has opened my eyes to the larger things in life, driving my new-found appetite to make a difference and contribute to the lives of others.



“I couldn’t be more happy or proud of what my camper achieved in the short time we were together.”

I was a bit nervous leading up to camp, but I was more confident and capable after the incredible training from Flying Fox.

“The partnership of a buddy and camper is unique... It’s the best!”

The role of a buddy is not limited to being a friend to the campers. As you experience the inevitable highs and lows, you develop an inherent need to be the carer and advocate for your camper. You want to be their biggest supporter and shower them with praise and recognition as it further fuels their enjoyment.

To be able to accomplish so many little wins together, from being able to have a meal with the whole group to learning to roller blade, ignites a shared sense of fulfillment, pride and joy.



“Her development made this an experience I will treasure forever!”

The relationship we built with our camper was incredible. From being quite reserved and not wanting to participate at the start, to the final day where she was front and center for the dance activity and constantly laughing and smiling made this an experience I will never forget.

“My experience as a buddy was challenging, humbling and incredibly rewarding.”

While there are difficult moments, there are also moments when your camper has a breakthrough, or laughs or smiles. Those moments of joy I will never forget. I am truly grateful to Flying Fox for the opportunity.

“I will always be grateful for this opportunity to help someone who doesn't always get the chance to experience some of life's basic joys have the best time of their life.”

Being a buddy was the most rewarding experience of my life so far. There's no better feeling than providing a fun summer camp for these kids just like we had when we were younger.

You can never take for granted the small things in everyday life after going on Camp Sababa with these incredible kids.

“Camp was one of the most important things I have done in my life.”

Befriending and interacting with the campers transformed my understanding of disability and the human condition.

I expect that the challenges I faced, the experiences I had and the things I learnt will stay with me forever and continue to teach me lessons as I move through life.



“It was seriously the most amazing experience of my life. THANK YOU for allowing me to be a part of it!”

I am especially grateful to the campers for showing me true courage and strength. This experience gave me a new found perspective and attitude towards life - teaching me that no matter what obstacles life throws at you, you can overcome them and you should never let your insecurities limit you. Such a special, inspirational and life-changing experience!



6. Stories



WORDS FROM HAPPY CAMPERS

I love Camp Wings because I met some very interesting characters.

I laughed a lot and made new friends. I'm looking forward to the next camp.

My favourite thing about camp was the talent show because I got to sing 'Next to You' by Chris Brown.

The swimming was a tonne of fun. And the water slide. That was great too. My buddies looked after me and we had a lot of fun together.

I really enjoyed all the activities and hanging out with my buddies. It was the best time ever meeting them.

7. Plans for growth

What more can we do?

Reaching new heights and expanding programs into the future.

In addition to our annual summer and winter camps our Shortz weekend getaways provide more frequent, regular access to social connection. Happily, we're now expanding to meet a growing demand.

The Shortz program is low cost, an easier commitment for volunteers and efficient for our staff to facilitate. The two nights away are also more comfortable for many camper families – for some of their children have never spent a night away from home. Feedback from all camper families confirms that they are thrilled with the support and care provided to their children.

To increase our programming, since demand outweighs our ability to provide places on the Shortz program, we recently purchased our very own Flying Fox home, Tova House.

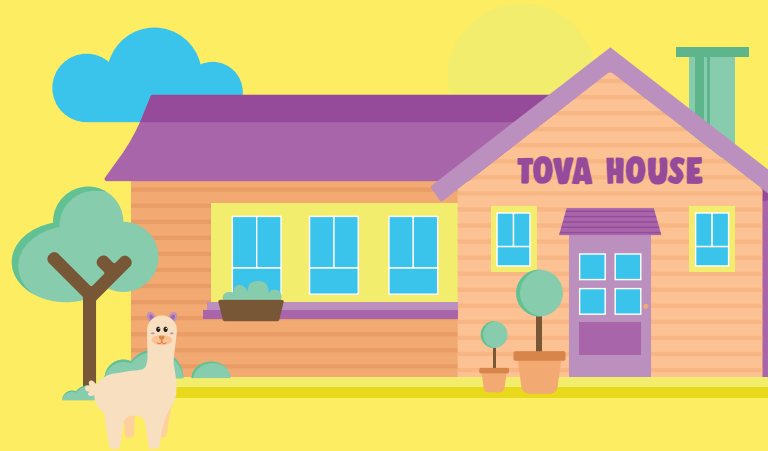
A need for consistency and stability

To date, generous families from our community have donated the use of their holiday homes for each Shortz weekend. We are incredibly grateful to all these families, but moving from house to house does pose challenges. Many of our campers rely on strict routines and have trouble adjusting to new environments. Also continued reliance on our supporters to loan us their properties makes it difficult to schedule enough Shortz getaways to meet the ever-increasing demand.

A home for our community – Introducing Tova House

With the overwhelming success of our Flying Fox 5th Birthday Party celebration, coupled with the tremendous goodwill of our major donors, we raised the funds required to purchase our very own rural property.

Tova House gives us our own permanent location and the capacity to run Shortz getaways every weekend of the year. It also provides opportunity to add other programming into the Flying Fox calendar to support the needs of our campers and their families. We're so excited to welcome you all there soon!





More Camps. More Support. More Fun!

Increased programming & support

- Tova House allows us to provide more fun and social opportunities for our campers, more respite opportunities for families and more volunteering and community engagement opportunities for buddies.
- A consistent home for our programs ensures a sense of comfort and ease for campers and their families.

Partnerships & financial sustainability

- More programs means better support for families and a sustainable future for Flying Fox.
- Renting our home to community groups or families requiring accessible accommodation provides an additional income stream.
- Expanding our existing relationships with schools like Giant Steps and Jennings Street means more camps for their students throughout the year.



8. Financials

2018-19 was our most impactful year ever. We raised more money, supported more young people, provided more respite for families, offered more opportunities for volunteer buddies and enriched more lives than ever before.



Flying Fox - Profit and Loss FY19*

Income

Programs	\$	172,030
General Donations	\$	310,696
5th Birthday Fundraiser**	\$	762,143
Other	\$	3,533
Total Income	\$	1,248,403

Expenses

Staff Costs	\$	210,189
Programs Costs	\$	195,521
5th Birthday Fundraiser Costs	\$	135,672
Administration Costs	\$	44,989
Finance, Insurance & Depreciation Costs	\$	51,309
Occupancy Costs	\$	6,964
Total Expenses	\$	644,644
Surplus before capital costs***	\$	603,759

Annotations:

*These accounts are unaudited

**Some funds from the Flying Fox 5th Birthday Fundraiser have been donated over multiple financial years

***Surplus from FY19 to be used for house purchase in FY20

ENRICHING MORE LIVES.



9. Supporters

Our wholehearted thanks goes to the supporters who make our programs possible

- **The Shine On Foundation**
- **Spotlight Foundation**
- **Gandel Philanthropy**
- **Helen & Bori Liberman Family Foundation**

**THANK
YOU!** 

- Alter Family Foundation
- P & S Bassat Foundation
- Robert & Nina Bassat
- Natalie & Andrew Bassat
- Sally & Larry Benge
- Berlinski Family
- Besen Family Foundation
- Barry Bloom & Family
- Rodney & Vanessa Brott & Family
- BSP Lawyers
- Bursztyn Family
- Brandon & Nicky Carp
- Russell & Louise Casper & Family
- CCIG Capital
- Cher Family Foundation
- Simon & Lisa De Winter
- Dodge Family Foundation
- Dorman Family Foundation
- Executive Edge Travel
- Finkel Foundation
- Fouress Foundation
- Gary Peer & Associates
- Lower Kinder Gimmel - GBH



- Hamersfeld Family
- Sam Herszberg & Family
- Vicki Herzog
- James Vivian Dermal Therapies
- Ruth & Jeff Kestenberg
- Ella & Ben Kohn
- Krongold Family
- Sara Lederman Charitable Foundation
- Alla & Peter Lew & Family
- Modara Pines Charitable Foundation
- Gary & Kristin Neiman & Family
- PSN Foundation
- River Capital Foundation
- Grant Roberts
- Marcus Rose
- Lana & Dean Sheezel & Family

- Wayne & Tammy Shub
- Victor Smorgon Foundation
- Jack & Robert Smorgon Families Foundation
- Sony Foundation
- Suzanne & Graeme Southwick
- Aimée & Paul Southwick
- SPS Corporation
- Brenda & Lionel Steinberg
- Roy & Sylvia Tashi
- Rodney & Idit Teperman
- The Panel
- Debbie & Jacob Weinmann & Family
- Zagame Automotive Group
- Keren & Reuben Zelwer
- Plus numerous anonymous donors.

Thanks also to Arnold Bloch Leibler Lawyers and Cohen Fasciani Accountants for their pro bono guidance and support.

We're excited to continue supporting young people with disabilities and their families through more fun positive social experiences.

**ALL ABOARD
AS WE SOAR ONWARDS
AND UPWARDS!**

FLYING FOX



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