




2022 IMPACT REPORT

 **ARDOCH**

**REALISING CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL
THROUGH EDUCATION**

From the Ardoch Team



After two years of disruption and uncertainty, 2022 saw students finally back in the classroom for four full terms. With our primary goal being to catch up on lost time, we made a dedicated push to ensure children and young people could re-engage with their learning and regain confidence in the classroom. As such, we amplified our student wellbeing efforts to ensure the impacts of the pandemic didn't continue to affect their ability to fully participate in their education.

With the shadow of uncertainty still looming at the beginning of 2022, the vast majority of our programs were delivered in the latter half of the year. We had an intense few months coordinating with delivery partners and volunteers to meet our schools' needs across the country. And what a pay-off. What we've witnessed has been so encouraging, with both students and educators enthusiastically embracing and engaging with these programs, and applying their newfound knowledge.

Our expansion into regional Victoria provided a wonderful opportunity to build aspiration in children and young people who might otherwise have limited access to these sorts of programs. We were able to bring 33 **Learning Through Lunch** programs to six regions, inspiring a whole new cohort of kids to imagine a brighter future.

In 2022, we:

- **partnered with 186 schools and early years centres**
- **supported over 20,000 children**
- **delivered 700+ programs across Australia.**

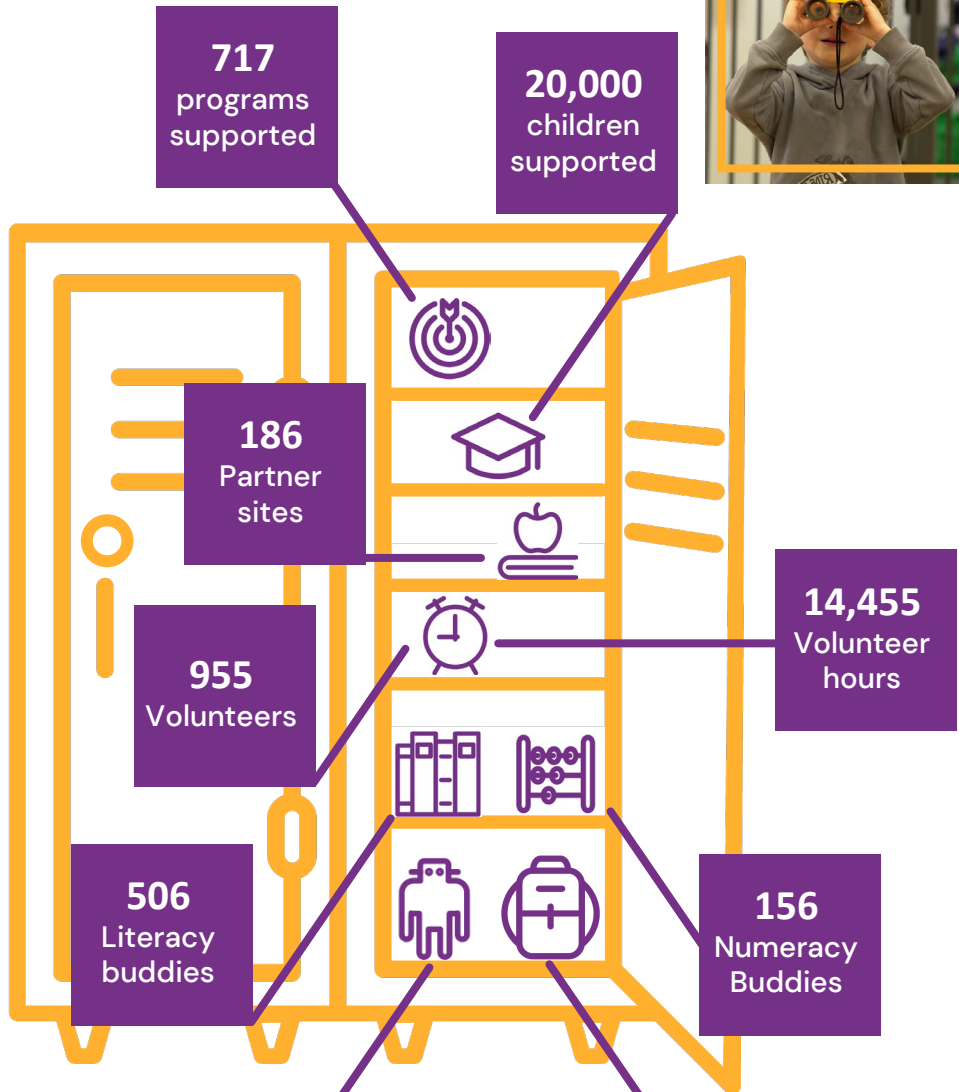
And while we're pretty proud of these numbers, they don't tell the full story. Because our ultimate aim is to ensure every child and young person in Australia can reach their full potential through education – regardless of where they live or the disadvantage they may face. Above all, our programs are designed to increase engagement in education, build aspirations and enhance learning outcomes for the children we work with. We hope you enjoy this summary Impact Report sharing how you have made this possible.

We would like to thank all of our Partners for their incredible support in 2022. We know we cannot do it alone and we value our partnership with you, creating the communities we believe will best support children and their learning.

We look forward to another year working in partnership with you and your respective teams.

Sincerely,
Lisa Jones, CEO

Our 2022 Impact



34
Robotics
programs



561
Broadening
Horizons
Programs

Measuring Impact



Ardoch Outcomes Framework

Ardoch uses an outcomes framework that is common to all our programs to measure the impact of our work. Ardoch's programs are mapped to the learning outcomes in the Australian curriculum. In each of our programs we seek to make a positive impact on factors that support positive educational outcomes.

The 2022 program survey data was collected using the CAASE (Confidence, Academic programs, Aspiration, Social Skills, Engagement in learning) Outcomes Framework. The CAASE Framework used a series of surveys which explored the impact of our programs around these themes.

As Ardoch is implementing a new Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework for 2023, with the updated key impact areas of CAWSE (Confidence, Aspiration, Wellbeing, Social Skills and Engagement), the 2022 data will not undergo a full analysis under the old framework. We also use surveys with focus groups, stories of change and interviews to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of how we can deliver the best possible support to the children and students we support.

However, during the transition to the new framework, this report represents a summary of outcomes against the CAWSE framework, with the inclusion of satisfaction ratings and qualitative data.

Ardoch Outcomes Framework

Confidence	Confidence in the ability to learn and improved comfort in trying any new environment or experience
Academic Programs	Improvement and practice of specific skills that are identified in the curriculum
Aspiration	Aspiration to learn and explore opportunities beyond school
Social Skills and Wellbeing	Improved skills in communication and working with peers and adults and reflecting on identity
Engagement	Engagement, incorporating a desire and interest to participate, in classes, in school attendance, the specific topic the program is delivering and in continued education post-school

Literacy



Literacy goes beyond a child's success in their English class. The ability to read, write and understand text is used every single day, inside and outside the classroom, and is a lifelong skill. But it does even more than that. Foundational literacy skills also help build children's reading, writing, communication and social skills.

Ardoch offers a range of programs that help develop children's literacy skills including:

- Education volunteers
- Writers in Residence
- Literacy Buddies
- Literacy focussed excursions and incursions



“ Just wanted to let you know that Loretta has been AMAZING. She has the perfect energy and enthusiasm. We love her and want to keep her!”
– Teacher

Education Volunteers

Ardoch places volunteers in primary and secondary school classrooms to engage students in targeted reading, writing and language exercises. While strengthening foundational literacy, the programs are designed to improve children confidence, engagement, and interaction with literacy.

Education volunteers tell us it is an incredibly rewarding experience, working one-on-one or in small groups to support children develop their literacy and numeracy skills. All of our reports tell us that this program is incredibly impactful and make a big difference to the children who benefit from it.

Education Volunteers commit two hours each week for at least six months to the partner site they are matched with. Ardoch had 81 volunteers going into schools in 2022; this is priority area to grow in 2023.

888
Students supported



3065
Volunteering hours

\$113,405
Volunteering value (AUD)



57
Partner sites supported

“ [The teacher] is going to work out a lesson plan for me to do activities with the children using the resources box so the activities will fit into the curriculum. I'm looking forward to that. The resources box looks great! The children are lovely.” – Volunteer

Literacy



82% of volunteers surveyed observed improvement in the speech/communication confidence of the students they work with.

80% of teachers surveyed observed improvement in students' engagement in class as a result of engagement with an Ardoch volunteer.

Writers in Residence

In this program, published authors deliver book-writing workshops to students at our partner primary schools. Children develop skills in writing, composition, and individual expression through creativity.

“Vikki inspired us to read, to use ‘show, don’t tell’ and use figurative language. Most importantly, she inspired us to keep trying.”

– Student

In 2022, our Writers in Residence programs resulted in:

427
Students supported



12
Books written



12
Schools supported



99% of students described feeling a positive emotion after completing the book.

90% of students were able to identify collaboration skills that either they used or witnessed with their peers during the Writers in Residence program.

STEM

Science, Technology Engineering, Mathematics



The skills a student learns from taking part in STEM subjects are considered a very important part of a child's education, and for good reason. Technology is constantly changing, the demand for skills in these STEM areas is high, and the range of occupations related to STEM skills is continuously growing.

The skills a child can learn through STEM education, including digital literacy, critical analysis, problem-solving and creativity, can be highly useful in their everyday life. STEM education aims to prepare children for this fast-changing and technology-driven world and give them tools and skills to succeed in it.

Ardoch offers a range of programs that help develop children's STEM capabilities including:

- Robotics
- Project Magnify
- Numeracy Buddies
- STEM-focussed excursions and incursions

Robotics

Ardoch provides age-appropriate robotics kits and tech boxes to partner schools to give students opportunities to learn coding, engineering, and problem-solving skills.

The program also encourages students to engage in teamwork and improve their collaboration skills. We also assist teachers to undertake professional development to improve their confidence in using the kits and supporting student learning.

In 2022 Ardoch delivered Robotics Tech Boxes or adapted programs to 33 schools in 2022, with:

25
Tech boxes
delivered



24
Teachers
trained



11,929
Students
supported



33
Schools
supported



STEM

Science, Technology Engineering, Mathematics



Numeracy Buddies

This program brings together classes of primary school students (little buddies) who are matched with workplace volunteers (big buddies) from STEM fields. Together they work to solve maths problems through an online blog.

In 2022, Ardoch supported 14 Numeracy Buddies programs, with:

278
Students supported



2328
Volunteering hours

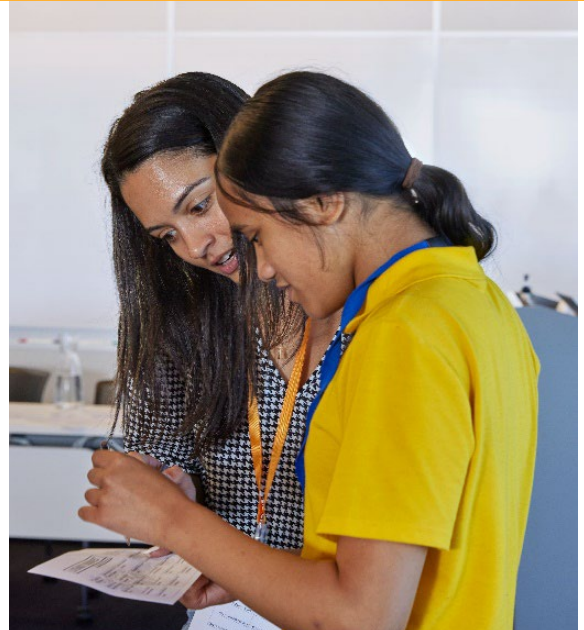


\$86,136
Volunteering value



13
Schools supported

“ It has made me confident speaking with people and asking for help but mostly speaking with adults.”
– Student



90% of students surveyed felt more confident with numeracy tasks after the program.

85% of students said that the Numeracy Buddies program made them more interested in numeracy.

85% of students felt that this program helped them know how to talk to an adult.



“ Students now see a purpose not just in numeracy, but overall their academic studies, especially after the visit to our buddies' work site.”
– Teacher

STEM

Science, Technology Engineering, Mathematics



Project Magnify

Project Magnify is a STEM focused event designed to “Magnify” student aspirations through exciting activities and extraordinary speakers with careers in STEM.

In 2022, Ardoch supported the following Project Magnify programs.

366
Students supported



4
Female industry talks



2
Sessions run



13
Schools supported

“ [My most memorable moment was] having the feeling of flying a plane and learning the history about different planes.”
– Student



96% of students were able to state 3 new STEM related ideas that they learned about during the program.

83% of teachers said that the program had a large impact on the students' interest in STEM,

“ It was an empowering moment for all our students to learn the valuable lesson that anything is possible.

The presentations were incredibly informative and inspiring for our students, this in conjunction to spending more time with their buddies, they are very lucky! Another key moment was seeing the way the students cheered on their Big Buddy in the Glider competition – it demonstrates the friendship they have formed which was pretty special.

The programs that Ardoch run are second to none and such a valuable learning and social opportunity for our students”
– Teacher

STEM

Science, Technology Engineering, Mathematics



Broadening Horizons – STEM

Students engage in STEM inquiry through science-focused incursions and excursions aimed at sparking engagement and applied learning among students. These programs complement Ardoch's Numeracy Buddies and Robotics programs, which share a focus on hands-on learning and engaging students' curiosity.

In 2022 Ardoch delivered 312 Broadening Horizons – STEM incursions and excursions, with:

9508
Students supported



40
Excursions



272
Incursions



93
Partner sites supported



98% of students were able to identify one or more new STEM related things that they learned from their participation in the program.

96% of students were able to identify one or more new experiences that they were willing to engage with during their participation in the program.

“Everyone loved it, they thought Brandon was very engaging and kept the kids entertained throughout the session. And that's not easy with young children this early in the year.

Teachers were thrilled with it all and were speaking about it all day.”
– Teacher

“It felt exciting when I got to hold a cockroach, I've never seen one that big before. I felt nervous at first but when I got the hang of how to move my hands, I didn't feel nervous anymore.”
– Student

Pathways Beyond School



Students are more engaged in education and motivated about their future when they have a clear understanding of how they might live and work when they leave school.

Ardoch's Pathways Beyond School programs aim to give students an understanding of the broad spectrum of opportunities they have – and build their aspirations to help them succeed at school and life.

Volunteers are critical to the success of this program, offering valuable insights into careers and experiences. Pathways Beyond School includes the following initiatives:

- Learning Through Lunch
- Speed Careers
- You-Niversity
- Mock Interviews
- Industry Visits

Pathways Beyond School

In 2022, Ardoch delivered 152 *Pathways Beyond School* incursions and excursions, with:

5250
Students
supported



2339
Volunteering
hours



\$86,543
Volunteering
value (AUD)



62
Partner sites
supported



“The Learning Through Lunch excursion was a fun and educational excursion for all our grade five and six students.

The visit to GOTAFE provided an excellent hands-on experience opportunity for students to learn about educational pathways and opportunities after secondary college.”

– Teacher



Pathways Beyond School



“ The most memorable and interesting things were those with the nurse, the police, the lawyer and Ardoch. Their past careers are interesting. One of the most interesting things about lawyer is that you don't need as high of an ATAR score in order to do law in university, in fact, many universities offer law degrees.

The interesting thing about being a nurse is that you get to look after patients and see them getting better and go home. The most memorable moment is when I asked questions. I was nervous at first but then it was fine.”

– Student



“ Loved the lunch! Would love to participate more. I am very passionate about mentoring youth and also promoting women in trades.”

– Volunteer

“ Students today moved outside their personal comfort zones to learn valuable lessons about the world of work.”

– Teacher



100% of students indicated that they learnt a lot about interviewing that would help them with a job interview in the future.

100% of teachers said that they strongly agreed that the students demonstrated the confidence to ask for help when they needed it.

100% of volunteers were able to recall an interesting question that a student asked about their job.

“ Exploring the TAFE building was very interesting and opened our eyes to different opportunities.”

– Student

Wellbeing



Wellbeing is linked to improved academic achievement, enhanced mental health and responsible life choices. There is substantial research indicating that children's wellbeing, engagement in education and social skills were negatively impacted by COVID and the consequential school shutdowns. This was amplified in communities facing disadvantage and regional areas. The teachers we work with echo these sentiments.



“The students in all 4 workshops were so engaged and had so much to share. One of the classroom teachers mentioned it was super applicable to the students and perfectly aligned with what they're trying to achieve. Thanks so much for setting us up – they're a fantastic school to work with and we're really grateful for Ardoch's support!”
– Workshop host

Broadening Horizons – Wellbeing

Students engage with activities that support competencies in wellbeing and physical health, including programs such as Values for Life (through Concern Australia), sporting and dance programs and performances, wellbeing, and community programs.

In 2022, Ardoch delivered 55 Broadening Horizons – Wellbeing incursions and excursions, with:

2186
Students supported



18
Excursions



37
Incursions



21
Partner sites supported

Of the 78% of students who found something challenging during the program, 50% of those students indicated that they kept trying and got it eventually.

100% of teachers observed that more than 75% of students were engaged during the program.

Wellbeing



Broadening Horizons – Culture

Students visit places of cultural significance, engage with Indigenous Australian culture, as well as attending author talks at State Library of Victoria in Melbourne and other locations.

In 2022 Ardoch delivered 36 **Broadening Horizons – Culture** incursions and excursions, with:

4067
Students supported



23
Excursions



13

Incursions



31
Partner sites supported



73% of teachers indicated that 75% or more of students demonstrated a high level of engagement during the program.

96% of students could identify a person that they socially engaged with during the program.

“Thanks for all your organising and support for our school to attend. We are so grateful for this opportunity that give our kids a chance to do things that they normally couldn't afford to do. THANKYOU!”

– Teacher

“I enjoyed exploring the library and meeting Maxine and thoroughly enjoyed making my own fashionista.”

– Student

Thank you



In a year that repeated a pattern of instability, uncertainty and disruption, the ability to deliver programs by engaging a wide variety of passionate and committed partners has been a key highlight. That we were able to deliver the range of work and programs in 2022 was only possible thanks to the committed support of:

Our Funders:

Philanthropic, corporate, community and individual supporters and the Victorian Government – who recognised the need for their support now more than ever, who offered flexibility, understanding and encouragement and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Ardoch, our education partners and, critically, the children and young people whom we support.



Our Education Partners:

who worked with us to enable adapted programs for their students, or who made space as students were back in classrooms for them to engage in our programs.



Our Volunteers:

Community and workplace volunteers alike, whose patience throughout the year in spite of many unknowns in their own lives, endeavoured to ensure they were child safe compliant so they could participate in our programs, remained motivated to write letters and blogs when their Buddy couldn't respond, and committed to their volunteering and our partnership despite setbacks. You made our programs possible.



Thank you so much to our partner's and supporters! We value each partner school, early years centre, community, corporate, government and philanthropic relationship.

We know that supporting students to have increased confidence, aspiration, academic progress, social skills and school engagement requires high levels of cooperation and commitment from many different teachers and organisations, and we value our place in the community.



Contact us

For more information on our work or how you can get involved, please contact us:

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