



ECFA

Estonian Cultural Foundation in Australia Ltd.
Eesti Kultuuri Sihtasutus Austraalias

ABN: 50 091 457 911

Chairman: Dr Juho Looveer - (02) 4500 3816 - juho.looveer@gmail.com

Director & Secretary: Ms Ingrid Galloway (née Tartu) - 0419 497 117 - ingrid.galloway@exemail.com.au



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Re: Summary of Activities of the Estonian Cultural Foundation in Australia (ECFA) 2023

The Estonian Cultural Foundation in Australia is pleased to provide a summary of events and activities undertaken during the year 2023.

Our last AGM was deferred until February 2023 due to Covid-related issues.

In recent years we have moved our funds into investment portfolios. As of 30 June 2023, the company generated \$37,520 surplus from our investment portfolio. The details of financial results are shown in the Annual Accounts. .

From funding decisions in 2021, we have paid the Sydney Eesti Maja Co-Op (officially [the Estonian House Co-Operative Society Limited](#)) the last instalment of the funds to support the renovations required to enable the house to continue. Stage 1 of the works is complete and the Society has advertised the upstairs spaces for rent. Hillar Ranniko has managed the renovation work team and notably, most of the work has been given pro bono.

Following from this, as detailed below, we have also supported the Melbourne Estonian House (Eesti Maja) Co-Op, as they are looking to downsize and sell their current premises.

We are waiting reports and pictures from other funding recipients. Once received, these will be posted to our website.

The Estonian Cultural Foundation in Australia (ECFA) uses its funds every year to support various groups or projects which aim to further Estonian culture and language across Australia, and bring together people with Estonian heritage or interests. This includes any activities held anywhere in Australia, and we look at these as partnerships where we support these activities. Donations or bequests are most welcome, to keep on supporting Estonian culture and heritage across Australia.

In July 2023, the ECFA Board was pleased to announce a number of funding awards to promote Estonian culture in Australia. A total of just over \$24,000 was awarded and included the following organisations and individuals:

Adelaide Estonian Dancers Vikerkaar = \$1,228,

- for the purchase of dance costumes

Kino! Community Library Project (Estonian Society of Sydney Inc.) = \$700

this project aims to create a substantive and accessible DVD library of Estonian contemporary and classic films with English subtitles.

Kino! already provides education and entertainment to the Sydney Estonian and broader community through fortnightly kino and retro-kino movie nights.

Mudilasring: Estonian Children's Playgroup in Sydney = \$3,000

This group meets fortnightly and promotes Estonian language, music and culture among Estonian families and strengthens the Estonian community in Sydney. The playgroup continues to be a place for Estonian families and children to meet, speak Estonian, sing, dance, and celebrate holidays.

Estonians in Newcastle = \$1,000

Support for Estonian children who live outside of Sydney to get acquainted with Estonian language and culture through songs and dances.

Payment for Legal information with regard to sale of Melbourne Estonian House = \$10,000 – this advanced funding loan is to enable the Melbourne Eesti Maja Co-op to seek legal advice as to how to proceed with the sale of the Melbourne Estonian House

Estonian Archives in Australia = \$700

following the move to the new purpose-built room, gallery tracks are required to ensure Estonian Art is on display for visitors to the Australian Archives.

Kooskõlas Choir (Australia) = \$4,000

support airfares associated with bringing a conductor from Estonia, mid 2024, in order to work with the choir in camp and then to perform in a public concert in preparation for the Laulupidu 2025 audition process..

Estonian Society of Sydney (SES) = \$5,000

SES planning to bring the renowned virtuoso pianist, composer, and songwriter Rein Rannap, to perform in Australia. The funding will support the airfares required for a concert tour in early in 2024..

Estonian 'Sõrve' Childrens' Camp (1 - 8 January 2024) = \$8,000

the annual camp, is a key cultural and social Estonian community event, that has been running for over 60 years, and provides a rich experience for

children and all adults, sharing customs, heritage, language, dancing and singing..

Hans Ots Award = \$500

The purpose is to provide financial assistance to children or leaders who are resident in Australia and who, because of excessive cost of travel, financial or other hardship reasons would otherwise not be able to attend the annual children's summer camp. In agreement, this year's grant was reduced due to a surplus from previous years.

The Oaks Historical Society received funding in the previous year, for the restoration of the Kungla sign in Thirlmere. This sign was officially unveiled on 30 September 2023.

We have redeveloped our website, and post news there as pertinent and available.

One issue rather pertinent to all Estonian groups in Australia, indeed all over the world, is the aging and declining membership. This is common for all ethnic groups, and has been noted in other countries as well. However, with the funds we manage, we need to consider the future and possible implications.

We are also discussing the future of the Estonian diaspora in Australia, and the level of funding we will need to allocate in future years. Some of the relevant questions (raised in the evaluation of the Melbourne Estonian House) are:

What is the future of the Estonian Community across Australia?

Will there be an Estonian community in the future?

We look forward to continue working with the Estonian diaspora in Australia, to enhance Estonian culture and language and community.

I thank my fellow Directors for their ongoing contributions throughout the year, and look forward to continuing this work in the coming years.

Dr Juho Looveer

Chairman

19th September, 2023

ORGANISATION NAME **Estonian Cultural Foundation in Australia, Limited**

Board Members/ Positions (2023)

Dr Juho Looveer – Chairman

Dr Peeter Muttik – Deputy Chairman

Ms Ingrid Galloway (née Tartu) – Secretary

Mr Allan Mülle – Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS : - Mr Hillar Ranniko

Ms Maie Barrow

Mr Sulev Kalamäe

Ms Kristi Barrow

Mr Lembit Suur