

# Your Foundation News

A newsletter from the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation



Mirboo North & District  
community foundation

Spring/Summer 2015

Welcome to Your Foundation news, keeping you informed  
and involved in our Community Foundation.

100 years  
OF COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
WORLDWIDE IN  
2014



## Gippsland to Host the National 2016 Community Foundations Forum

In a great coup for Gippsland, the Bass Coast and Mirboo North & District Community Foundations have been selected to host the 2016 national community foundations forum to be held in mid-September 2016 in Inverloch and Mirboo North.

The forum is convened by Australian Community Philanthropy Ltd, (ACP), the peak body for Australian community foundations, and attracts delegates from all over Australia. It is expected well over 100 delegates will attend the 2016 forum.

The 2015 forum held in Fremantle on 18 to 21 August 2015 forum was a great success with the themes of "Impact – Collaboration – Governance" and there were many "stories from the heart" of the good being achieved for local communities. Whilst money and funding are vital there was a consensus that it was not "about the money", it's about what community foundations can and have achieved for their local communities. Community foundations focus on local issues and ideas and collaborate, partner, facilitate and provide knowledge to improve the lives of their local community people and organisations.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Gippsland organisations and Shires to attend the forum and discover how they can benefit their local communities by the formation of a community foundation. It is the best possible way to network with other Not for Profit organisations to understand how to form and create sustainable community foundations.

Planning for the 2016 Forum has commenced and more details will follow as plans are progressed.

For further information contact:

**Kate Buxton**

info@australiancommunityphilanthropy.org.au  
0419 350 240

**Kate Dwyer**

info@bccf.org.au  
0418 592 305

**Derrick Ehmke**

info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au  
0418 301 092

[www.australiancommunityphilanthropy.org.au](http://www.australiancommunityphilanthropy.org.au)

### Contact Details

info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au  
0418 301 092  
PO Box 327 Mirboo North, 3871 VIC

### Directors

Paul Pratt - Chair  
Rob Kiddell - Vice Chair  
Walter Aich

Kate Buxton  
Ned Dennis  
Grant Irving

Wendy Major  
Diana Mueller  
Jodie Pincini

[www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au](http://www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au)

Strong Foundation, Strong Communities

# Australian Community Philanthropy Appointment



## Exciting Appointment of Kate Buxton as Executive Officer of the Australian Community Foundations Peak Body.

Mirboo North and District Community Foundation is delighted to announce the appointment, as from April 2015, of Kate Buxton, as the Executive Officer of Australian Community Philanthropy Ltd (ACP).

ACP is the peak body of Community Foundations in Australia and has an exciting and challenging strategic plan for the future development and the growth of community

foundations in Australia. The local focus being one of the major points of difference with other philanthropic organisations.

Research presented at the annual Community Foundations Forum in September 2014 confirmed there are now 38 Community Foundations (CF's) operating in Australia with \$310m+ in Funds under Management and \$21m+ granted annually.

Ian Bird, CEO of Community Foundations Canada likened the Australian situation to the history of the Canadian movement, where in 1992 there were 28 CF's and today there are 191 with a \$4 billion asset base, generating over \$158 million in annual grants.

Importantly over 82 per cent of shires in Canada are now serviced by a community foundation. The foundations are deeply involved in the social and economic aspects of their communities. As Ian emphasised it is about a lot more than the money it's about what can be achieved with CF's and other organisations working together collaboratively and in partnerships.

One of ACP's aims is to have 60% of Australian Local Government Authorities (LGA's) represented by a community foundation. We are certain that Kate with her experience, drive, determination and commitment will be a major contributor in achieving this and the other strategic goals of ACP. Kate's appointment is an acknowledgement of the depth of talent and expertise within small rural communities and once again these communities "pushing above their weight".

We congratulate Kate on this important appointment and wish her every success for the future. The Board is very pleased that Kate will remain a Director of Mirboo North & District Community Foundation, but due to her new appointment and time commitments has resigned as the Chair of the Foundation.

Mirboo North & District are also represented on the Board of ACP by MNDCF's Executive Officer, Derrick Ehmke who serves as Treasurer of ACP.

## Board of Director Changes



Following Kate's resignation as Chair the Board have great pleasure in announcing that Paul Pratt has been appointed the new Chair and Rob Kiddell the new Vice-Chair. Both Paul and Rob are founding Board members of Mirboo North & District Community Foundation, long standing well respected members

of the community and have, and are still, serving in a voluntary capacity on many community organisations.

We wish both Paul and Rob well in their appointments and look forward to their valuable contributions to the Foundation and the community in future years.



The Board is also delighted to announce the appointment of Jodie Pincini as a Director of the Foundation as from July 2015. Jodie hails from a well-known and respected family in Mirboo North and has been a passionate supporter of many organisations and causes in the district, particularly in the Youth Sector. Jodie has a Bachelor of Economics degree from Monash University and has

been working as a Chartered Accountant for the past 20 years. She is also a Director of KRED Enterprises Charitable Trust, an Aboriginal owned trust to promote economic and business development opportunities to Aboriginal people in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

# Supporting Local District Students

The Mirboo North & District community Foundation recognises that financial hardship is one of the biggest barriers rural students face when enrolling in post-compulsory education such as TAFE or university.

The Foundation is pleased to announce that Educational Support Fund grants will once again be offered for student's tertiary enrolling in the 2016 scholarship year

## Applications:

- Open 9 November 2015
- Close on 15 January 2016
- Grants awarded on 29 January 2016.

In 2015 the Foundation has awarded \$20,500 to nine local students to help them commence their tertiary studies.

Kate Buxton gave an insight at the 2015 recipients awards night in March into the sorts of costs that families and students face and why financial hardship is one of the most significant barriers for rural students.

“Before you even take your seat on the first day at uni or TAFE, it's likely that you'll have spent at least \$5,000 on books, stationery and other materials, a laptop and your accommodation bond.



*The 2015 Educational Support Fund recipients with Kate Buxton and Diana Mueller*

Latrobe and Monash Universities helpfully estimate on their website that the average yearly living costs for a student moving to Melbourne are a staggering \$27,000. And that's an annual cost. Students can save a bit if you live in campus housing – that's if you are lucky enough to be able to get it! And, to be clear, this doesn't include tuition fees which most students will defer to a student loan or HECS debt.

## So, given the costs what's the point?

Well, further education is good for all of us; it's good for the individuals that do it, it's good for communities and it's good for society. Apart from the fact that without further education we wouldn't have competent doctors, nurses, vets, therapists, architects, scientists, I could go on. According to research, further education leads to increased rates of social cohesion, longer life expectancy, greater tolerance and better

general health. Regionally based universities and TAFES help to shape a regional environment that is open to new ideas and diversity. Economic benefits for society include increased tax revenues, faster economic growth, greater innovation and labour market flexibility.

But, it doesn't matter how great a particular course or institution is, if we can't get the students to it.

And this is where the Foundation makes a contribution through our Educational Support Fund. Our recipients for 2015 are all embarking on learning journeys that will benefit us all. The scholarships that we have provided will, I know, be more than repaid through their future achievements.”

The Foundation wishes all the recipients the best of success and thanks the former Mirboo North Community Support Co-operative whose generous donation made this fund possible.

## New Strategic Grants on offer from the Foundation

When Mirboo North's St Andrews Child Care facilities were threatened with closure in 2013 the Foundation took a leading role in the community partnership that formed to identify a solution to the issue.

The Mirboo North & District Community Foundation is set to launch a Strategic Grants Program in response to the need for longer term community strengthening programs which make a lasting and real difference to the organisation's Mirboo North and Districts catchment.

The Foundation's Executive Officer, Derrick Ehmke, said *"the Strategic Grants Program is an opportunity for the Foundation to forge partnerships with organisations to deliver sustainable projects that meet the*

*social, economic, environmental, health, educational or cultural needs of our community. Whilst not service providers we bring our capacity as a locally embedded flexible organization with substantial funding dollars to the table. We see this as a collaborative process. We are particularly interested in projects and programs that may not fit into a traditional one year funding cycle, but require a longer term funding commitment and which become embedded in the provider organisations."*

Significant funding has been allocated for these strategic grants and dependent on financial circumstances this funding will be continued annually.

Owing to the size and longer term nature of the program the application process is more comprehensive than the Foundation's annual grants program and comprises of a 4 stage process.

- Discuss your potential program/project with the MNDCF Executive Officer to ensure the criteria are met

- Expression of Interest application (EOI) to be completed once MNDCF have advised the program/project meets the criteria
- Full application completed. A short list will be determined from the EOI's and a full application invited
- Personal presentation to the Strategic Grants Panel.

There is also a longer time frame for the program.

- Opens for discussion with Executive Officer 19 October 2015
- Selected applications close 29 January 2016
- Grants awarded March 2016

### Please note:

The strategic grants program is additional to the Foundation's annual community grants program which is being run for the 6th consecutive year and which has contributed over \$350,000 to our local community organisations.

## Supporting and Sponsorship of the Arts

The Foundation is proud to be a major sponsor and supporter of the very active Arts community in Mirboo North and District. Some may ask why are the Arts important to rural communities?

- The Arts bring communities and people together. They assist in preventing social isolation, all ages participate; learn together, skills transfer is achieved.
- The Arts encourage Creativity and promotes can do attitudes, self esteem
- The Arts foster social and economic benefits such as micro-business Incubators, tourism/festivals/retail spending.
- Rural communities suffer the tyranny of distance from major Art Centres

The Foundation is proud to have supported the following Arts activities over the past 6 years:

- Mirboo North Art Show – the major sponsor
- Mirboo North Arty Gras
- Mirboo North Art Space
- Boolarra Festival
- Boolarra Youth Theatre
- Fiddlehead Festival Yinnar
- Thorpdale Potato Festival

## Partnership with Mirboo North Community Shed ensures continuation of the Mirboo North Community Bus Service



The community bus service plays a vital role in assisting community members who have difficulties with transport in travelling to sometimes essential functions and facilities in the region. This community service has been operated for many years by the Mirboo North RSL who are no longer able to operate the service.

After discussions with the RSL the Foundation and the Mirboo North Community Shed have formed a partnership to take over

the community bus operation and continue this valuable service. One of the two buses has been “gifted” to the Foundation by the RSL who will continue to use the second bus for their own use and as a back-up for the community service. This is another good example of community organisations working together to provide much needed services for their community.

Our thanks to the Mirboo North RSL for providing this service over many years and in particular to David Halliwell who was the person responsible many years ago for the commencement of the service. We also thank the South Gippsland Shire for their continued support by providing a Fuel Card to meet some of the operational costs of the community bus.

This vitally important community service will continue as before providing much needed transport

services to the residents of the Mirboo North district, particularly those who have difficulty in finding suitable transport facilities.

The Mirboo North & Community Foundation will be the owners and financial backers of the bus facilities with the Community Shed providing operational and community booking services. For users, the migration from the RSL will be transparent.

- The phone number for bookings will remain as 0409 057 880.
- The Bus will continue to be available for hire.
- The bus will be based at the Mirboo North Community Shed.

The partnership is keen to provide as many services to the community as can be effectively managed.

We welcome ideas on any additional services.

## The Artspace, a new Community Arts Organisation



The Mirboo North Artisan Store has now become a local community incorporated association with a vibrant and enthusiastic committee of management. This has been achieved in order for the Arts Space to grow and reach its full potential as a community based not-for-profit volunteer organisation.

The Foundation is pleased to support this new initiative for 3 years as the first of its “Strategic Grants Program”. We look forward to a long and successful association with the Art Space and to it becoming a self-sufficient and permanent facility in Mirboo North.

### What will Change?

- There will still be retail store, but in addition there will be workshop space and a gallery space for art exhibitions.
- There will be opportunities for locals of all ages to access training and development in a broad range of artistic areas through workshops.
- It will be a place for the Arts in its broadest sense: not simply visual arts and hand crafts but also music, performing arts and literature
- It will become an incubator for new artistic endeavours and the development of new artists and arts managers in the local community and beyond.

### How can you become involved?

- Become a contributing artist, a workshop facilitator and volunteer for the Art Space.
- Become a member and receive newsletters and updates on workshops
- Get involved as a volunteer to assist in the running of the store and workshops.

To get involved simply drop in or contact the Art Space by email at [artspaceatmirboo@gmail.com](mailto:artspaceatmirboo@gmail.com)





# Inspiring Generosity For Our Community

“Your Gift Working Forever”

Have you thought about the personal satisfaction and benefit of leaving a perpetual legacy to help your community by making a financial ‘gift’ or bequest to a worthwhile cause through the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation via a Named Fund?

Named Funds are a way you can give back to your community via the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation. These Named Funds can be a donation/gift in the donor’s lifetime or a bequest in the name of the donor or the donor’s family. The name may honour someone in their lifetime or preserve the memory of a family member, friend, pioneer or outstanding citizen.

When you donate to the Foundation your gift is added to the corpus of the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation from which income is derived for annual distribution as grants. The funds are invested with an emphasis on security and under the guidance of professional advisers.

Whilst donors who give tax deductible donations may nominate a particular organisation or charity whom they prefer as recipients

of the fund, by law, distributions and grants can only be made at the discretion of the Board of the Foundation.

Setting up a Named Fund through community foundations also has the benefits of:

- an efficient and easy alternative to setting up a permanent, private fund. There are no establishment compliance issues or ongoing costs such as accounting, audit and legal costs
- being a long-term, appreciating community asset, all donations are responsible and ethically managed in perpetuity.
- the Named Fund will continue to offer a lasting legacy to your philanthropic endeavours in our local district
- on-going trusteeship of the fund by the Foundation who will continue to manage the Named fund
- tax deductible donations if established during the lifetime of the Donor.

## Bequest Sub-Funds

Bequest sub-funds are a particular area of named funds where Donors can leave a legacy in their will.

Bequest funds need not impinge on the amount bequeathed to family and friends to any great degree.

A small portion, say 5 to 10% of an estate may be bequeathed to the fund with remaining 90% going to the benefactor’s family and friends or other causes.

The benefactor decides what proportion of their estate to donate to a charitable cause or bequest and provide a sufficient legacy for family and others whilst leaving a lasting legacy for other needy and worthwhile causes.

## What are the Benefits to the Donor?

One of the main reasons people are becoming more philanthropically minded nowadays is the satisfaction that comes from knowing that they have helped improve the lives of those less fortunate than themselves. Bequests enable you to make a meaningful contribution to a cause you are passionate about.

Many of us know the wonderful feeling that comes from supporting a worthwhile cause. A recent study by Harvard Business School found that donating time or money to a charitable cause can lead to givers psychological, spiritual and emotional well-being.

# Membership Application Form

I would like to become a member of the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation.

Mr     Mrs     Ms     Miss     Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership to the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation is on an individual basis. Annual Membership is:

\$ 20 per person                       \$10 for concession card holders

I would like more information on the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation

I would like to receive more information on how to make a donation to the Foundation

I would like to receive more information about the Community Grants Program

The Rules of the Foundation require any potential member to complete the following. If you would like to become a member and are unsure of current members to complete your form, please contact our Executive Officer who will be pleased to assist.

*I agree to adhere to and be bound by the rules of the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Proposer:

I \_\_\_\_\_ being a financial member of the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation, nominate the applicant for membership of the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Secunder:

I \_\_\_\_\_ being a financial member of the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation, second the applicant for membership of the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# What Would Australia do Without the Not For Profit Sector?

A recent Bureau of Statistics review has revealed the following fascinating statistics on the contribution made to Australia of not-for Profit organisations:

- They have assets of over \$200 billion
- They generate Revenues of \$100 billion
- They employ 8% of the Australian workforce. Five times the number employed in the Mining industry and more than in agriculture and fishing combined.

This is a massive contribution to Australian and international communities and is obviously a major factor in the Australian economy.

Whilst comparatively small in comparison Community Foundations are a growing segment of the sector.

We are indeed a fortunate country to have such a vibrant Not-for Profit sector assisting people and communities in need. We look forward to the continued growth of this sector and (in particular) community foundations serving their local communities.

## In Closing...

We hope this newsletter has been useful to you and we welcome comments, questions and ideas.

Change of contact details should be forwarded to **Derrick Ehmke, PO Box 327 Mirboo North, 3871 VIC.**

If you are reading a hard copy of this Newsletter and would prefer to receive a copy via email, please send an email to: **info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au**

Please remember to advise us of change of email or postal address.

*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*