

# Your Foundation News

A quarterly newsletter from the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation



Mirboo North & District  
community foundation

*Edition 2 Winter 2011*

*Welcome to the 2nd of our newsletters to keep you informed and involved in our Community Foundation.*

## 2011 Community Grants Round Open Soon

Up to \$50,000 in Community Grants is available to community organisations in Boolarra, Dumbalk, Mirboo North, Thorpdale, Yinnar and adjacent rural communities. Mirboo North and District Community Foundation has announced its second round of Community Grants with grants of up to \$10,000 per project available to eligible organizations to undertake projects that will benefit these local communities.

In line with the Foundation's strategic direction, the focus for this year's grants will be on health and wellbeing and youth. Applications for projects that do not fit within these categories will also be considered and assessed on their merits and potential benefit to the community.

Foundation Chairman, Norman Walker said "It's an immense privilege for the Foundation to be able to once again support the community in this way. We were encouraged by the high standard of projects presented to us for potential funding last year, and look forward to seeing what the communities propose in 2011".

Applications for the grants will open on 5 September 2011 and close on 14 October 2011. Application forms will be available on our website at [www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au](http://www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au), or by telephoning the Foundation's Executive Officer on **0418 301 092** from 5 September 2011.

There will be an information session for interested organisations on Monday 5 September 2011 at 7PM at the Mirboo Nth RSL Hall, 1 Baromi Road, Mirboo North.

## Future Strategies and Aspirations

At its recent planning day the Board established the Foundation's strategic direction and priorities for the next four years. These include:

- Improve the **health and wellbeing** of the community by investing in projects that address identified needs.
- Contribute to the development of projects and initiatives that **support young people** in our communities.
- Develop strong **strategic relationships** with the community and relevant partners.
- Develop and establish a long-term plan for investment priorities within the community for larger projects that will make a significant difference to the health and wellbeing of people living in the area.
- Create a strong community connection by taking a leadership role in demonstrating the value of philanthropic action and by involving the community in projects, donor programs, planning and evaluation.
- At a minimum, maintain the relative value of the corpus through prudent management of funds.
- Establish a fundraising program that includes seeking grants, tax deductible donations, bequests and corporate sponsorships.

## News

### Changes to the Board of Directors

Regretfully Ailsa Rikards has, due to personal circumstances, resigned from the Board. Ailsa has served on the Board of Mirboo North Aged Care, Mirboo North Community Care and subsequently on the Foundation's Board. With her nursing expertise in Aged Care she has made a valuable contribution to the organisation and community. We thank Ailsa for her dedication and contribution and wish her well for the future. No doubt Ailsa will retain her interest in the Foundation as a member. We look forward to catching up at future meetings Ailsa.

### Board of Directors Vacancy

With Ailsa's departure there is now a casual vacancy on the Board. This appointment, as per the Rules, can be made by the Board "to hold office until the completion of the term of the vacated position", which will be the November 2012 AGM. To ensure independence, we have appointed a Board nominations sub-committee which comprises 3 independent local persons and 2 Board directors to oversee and recommend this appointment to the Board. Expressions of Interest for this appointment will be advertised shortly.

## Directors

Norman Walker - Chairman  
Paul Pratt - Vice Chairman  
Rob Kiddell  
Kate Buxton  
Jeanette White  
Carol Elliot  
Ned Dennis  
Grant Irving

## Contact details

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## 2010 Grants Projects Update

### Mirboo Recreation reserve



The Mirboo Recreation Reserve has successfully installed their two safety fences. Thomasine Bales of the Recreation Reserve said "The safety fences have already been put to good use and we are grateful for the opportunities the Foundation is providing and the significant difference it has already made to the local community".

### Dumbalk Community Noticeboard



The Dumbalk community has installed their public noticeboard which is now meeting a long outstanding community need. The official launch was held on Tuesday 17 May 2011 and guests included South Gippsland Shire Councillors and representatives, Telstra and the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation Chairman Norman Walker and Executive Officer, Derrick Ehmke who officially opened the noticeboard. This project was a partnership between the Foundation, Dumbalk and District Progress Association and Telstra, who provided the land for the noticeboard to be sited on.

### RSL Memorabilia



The Mirboo Nth RSL has commenced their project to restore, frame and build displays of RSL memorabilia to showcase the history of the service of local men and women. They are aiming for a completion and opening day in November 2011.

### Mirboo North Arty Gras Festival and Art Show



The 30th Annual Mirboo Nth Primary School Art Show and the 4th Arty Gras Festival were held in May on the Mother's Day weekend. The Foundation provided funds to the organising committee to develop and implement a media and marketing strategy for the event. The events were highly successful, with visitor numbers up significantly on last year.

### Mirboo North Branding Project



The Foundation provided funds to Mirboo Country Development Inc. to develop a brand for Mirboo North to help underpin the social and economic development of the community. The project is progressing well with community engagement almost complete. The project should be finalised by the end of August 2011.

### Mirboo North Secondary College Curriculum Innovation Award



Mirboo North Secondary College developed the year 9 Community Breakout program in response to data indicating year 9 students were disconnected from the local community. This program is in its second year and involves students in the community for 1/3 of their time in school.

The program has been recognised as best practice in Gippsland by winning the inaugural Gippsland Curriculum Innovation Award through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The program is designed to allow all students access to a broad range of opportunities and activities above and beyond what is traditionally offered at year 9.

The Foundation is pleased to have been able to support this excellent initiative for our young students through the 2010 Community Grants Program.

## Community Foundations - *What are They About?*

We believe it important for our stakeholders to be aware of what is happening in the Community Foundations and Philanthropic sectors. We will therefore be bringing you information with each newsletter on items of interest from this growing sector.

The Community Foundation movement is rapidly growing in Australia and around the world. We are indeed fortunate that our Foundation has inherited significant capital from the legacy of the past to benefit our community. Community Foundations build a corpus of funds through donations and fundraising that is held in trust, with the interest being used to fund community projects. Some Foundations set up sub-funds to which people donate money and the money can all be directed to projects of interest to the donor. Donations to Community Foundations, including Mirboo Nth and District Community Foundation are tax deductible.

Board members Jeanette White and Ned Dennis, and Executive Officer Derrick Ehmke attended the very informative and successful Australian Community Foundations annual conference in Kingscliff NSW from 16 to 18 August 2011. The conference was organised by Philanthropy Australia and the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR) and was attended by around 60 delegates from 28 Community Foundations from around Australia. The hosts, Northern Rivers Community Foundation are to be congratulated on the excellent organisation and facilities provided. We will provide more details about the conference outcomes in future issues.

There are many examples of what Community Foundation can and have achieved for their communities, two examples of which are:

**Tomorrow: Today Foundation** of Benalla drew on the Australian Social Inclusion Board's report, "Breaking Cycles of Disadvantage", in its approach to planning and designing programs and has initiated a number of special projects to help develop a stronger, more resilient and prosperous community. The 'Education Benalla Program' aims to achieve significant and sustained improvement in education and training completion rates for young people aged 17-24 in Benalla. Tomorrow:Today also funds 'Hands on Learning', a one-day a week in-school early intervention program which aims to increase attendance and retention of students in Years 7 to 10 who are most at risk of disengaging from the school system. Ms Elizabeth Chapman, Director of the Tomorrow: Today Foundation said that support across public agencies and community groups is crucial for achieving sustainable change in Benalla.

**Geelong Community and Bass Coast Community Foundations** have been awarded grants of \$200,000 through the Victorian Governments Community Foundations Initiative program. Under this initiative, if a foundation is able to raise funds of \$100,000, the government will award them a further \$200,000. Both successfully met this challenge to benefit their communities.

Both Foundations have made grants to their communities, with Geelong making significant grants of around \$500,000 this year. We congratulate both for their efforts on behalf of their communities.

## Partnerships/Projects

The Foundation has commenced informal partnerships with other community minded organisations in the district and as part of our strategy will continue to foster and grow these partnerships, as we firmly believe that we will as a community achieve more by working together with other community minded organisations.

We believe that by networking and encouraging the sharing of resources, facilities, knowledge and infrastructure we can together achieve more for the community, particularly on larger scale projects.

We will shortly be holding get togethers with stakeholders whom we believe are potential high priority partners.

## Finance and Investment

Your Foundation's Board of Directors are very conscious of the need for "giving" and initiating projects to benefit our community. At the same time we are conscious of the need to maintain the Foundation's capital for future generations. Our financial policy simply stated is:

- To maintain and grow the capital at a minimum of the annual CPI percentage, so that in future years the Capital will have the same value as it has today.
- To grow the capital by funding campaigns through donations, bequests, named funds, grants and other sources of income.
- We will only make grants out of income or reserve monies specifically set aside for grants. Capital will not be used for grants.
- Our aim is to continue with a reasonable value grants program, and build the monetary reserves for potential major projects for the longer term.
- To prudently invest the Foundations funds via a qualified investment advisor with an asset allocation portfolio of:

	Goal
• Australian Fixed Interest	46%
• Australian Equities	40%
• Australian Property	10%
• Cash	4%

This portfolio is reviewed quarterly or on an "as needs" basis. We currently are weighted more to fixed interest, but over time will move to achieve the equities percentage goal.

## Members

The Foundation is a membership based organisation with currently around 50 members. We encourage membership, the cost of which is \$20 per annum or \$10 for concession holders.

As per the Foundations rules members elect 6 Directors and 3 are appointed by the Board.

Our aim is to grow and involve members in matters such as fund raising, assisting at events, consultation on community needs and safeguarding the community's investment.

We invite all interested people to talk to any of our Directors or Derrick Ehmke.

A reminder to those current members that have not yet paid their 2011 fees, that unless paid they will not be financial members and therefore not able to vote at the AGM. If you have any issues please contact Derrick Ehmke.

## 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, our Executive Officer per contact details on the cover page.

Please note this newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

In the interest of cost minimisation and the environment, the Foundation would prefer to email publications to our stakeholders. If you have received this newsletter by normal mail and agree to receive by email, please advise us.

Please remember to advise us of change of email or postal address. We also prefer to email, so let us have your email address, if you received this by post.