

Get to know the Foundations Directors

So that you can get to know our Directors better, we are profiling the Foundations committed voluntary Directors. In this issue we profile Norman Walker our Chairman and Paul Pratt our Vice Chairman.

Norman Walker Chairman



Norman is a very active member of the Mirboo North and District community and is involved in a number of community organisations in the district. He has degrees in Economics from the University of Queensland and the A.N.U.

He was until recently the coordinator of the regions Bushfire Recovery plans and implementation which has been acknowledged as a major contributor to the recovery of those affected. Norman has held senior executive positions in the Federal Public Service, including Centrelink, Social Security and Housing.

He has also held senior executive positions in the Victorian and Queensland State Public Service in Transport, Housing, Regional Development and Electricity Commissions.

For his service to the public Norman was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2003, particularly for his contribution to the improvement of customer service in Centrelink. He is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Paul Pratt Vice Chairman



Paul is a solicitor, practising in civil litigation, who qualified at the University College London, migrated to Australia in 1988 and was admitted as a solicitor in Victoria in 1995.

Paul has been extensively engaged as a committee/board member in many community organisations in the Mirboo North district for many years. His extensive involvement includes Mirboo North Primary School, Chair School Chaplaincy Committee, SCOPE Adult Education, President Mirboo North Junior Football Club, Team Manager Mirboo North Netball Club, Parish Councillor St Mary's Anglican Church, Mirboo North Community Association and Mirboo North Aged and Community Care.

Paul's legal and governance skills and record of enthusiasm for serving the community have, and will continue to be, of major benefit to the Foundation and the community.

In Closing...

We welcome comments, questions and ideas and change of contact details to Derrick Ehmke, our Executive Officer per contact details below.

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.

Directors

Norman Walker - Chairman
Paul Pratt - Vice Chairman

Rob Kiddell
Kate Buxton

Jeanette White
Carol Elliot

Ned Dennis
Grant Irving

Contact Details

info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au
0418 301 092

P.O. Box 327 Mirboo North 3871, VIC

www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au

Strong Foundation, Strong Communities

Your Foundation News

A quarterly newsletter from the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation

Edition 3 Autumn 2012



Mirboo North & District
community foundation

Welcome to the 3rd edition of Your Foundation news, keeping you informed and involved in our Community Foundation.

Congratulations to the 2011 Grant Recipients



Twelve new community projects valued at more than \$50,000 will soon be up and running, thanks to the support of the Foundation. The Awards were announced in November 2011 with one of the recipients, the Boolarra and District Youth Company giving a delightful musical performance for the attendees. Thank you Boolarra Youth for a warm and heart rending performance

Foundation Chairman, Norman Walker, said that "my colleagues and I are delighted that the number of applicants was double the number in 2010. The application value was more than twice the amount allocated for this second round of community grants from the Foundation. It's an immense privilege for us to be in a position to support the community in this way".

Message From the Chairman

The year has started well for the Foundation. We are cautiously optimistic that we will exceed our income projections for 2011/12, with our investments meeting our performance targets. We remain focussed on growing the financial legacy held in trust by this Foundation.

The community grants made over the last 2 years continue to deliver benefits to those organisations and people for whom the grants were made.

Members and grant recipients will have received an invitation to a "GET TOGETHER" at 7 pm on 21 March. We are delighted to have Noel Trengove, CEO of the Ballarat Community Foundation as guest speaker. You will also have the opportunity to hear from some grant recipients about what they have been able to achieve with our support. It is an opportunity to chat with Board members about what this Foundation is about.

Please feel free to invite friends. We want to give members the opportunity to engage with the Foundation.

Successful Grant Recipients

The successful community organisations who have been awarded the Foundations 2012 community grants to benefit their communities are:

\$10,000 to the Boolarra and District Youth Theatre Company for an arts based youth education program culminating in the production and staging of "Boolarra in the Park" a Shakespeare style *Midsummers Night Dream* in Spring". This will provide the youth of the district with an opportunity to work with skilled professionals and develop a theatrical production.

\$5,000 to the Mirboo Recreation Reserve for the construction and installation of a much needed children's playground.

\$5,000 to Uniting Care Gippsland for their program "Celebrating Youth Through Community Arts and Activities" at the Mirboo North Grainstore. This will involve young people in producing drums and skate boards they can use and exhibit.

\$3,000 to South Gippsland Primary Care Partnership auspiced by General Practice Alliance (GPA) South Gippsland for the "Act. Commit, Belong" (ABC) program. This campaign encourages and promotes good mental health in adolescents and has been a proven success in Western Australia.

\$5,000 to Mirboo North Secondary College for the Year 8 'Get Real' personal development program for students, that will have flow-on benefits across the school and broader community.



\$5,000 for Mirboo North Secondary College to enable students to participate in the 'Year 9 Community Break Out' program and strengthen the bond between students and community groups. This program won a Gippsland Curriculum Innovation Award in 2010.

\$3,200 to Dumbalk and District Progress Association for the purchase and installation of a community visual and audio system to assist the community to run training and other events.

\$4,000 to the Mirboo North Arty Gras Festival and Art Show (auspiced by Mirboo Country Development Inc) to enable the development and implementation of a joint media and publicity campaign to attract more visitors and enhance the social and economic outcomes for the district.

\$5,000 to the Mirboo North Walter J Tuck Reserve for an audio and sound system to provide improved facilities for training and events for the community and public, particularly for the local youth.

\$1,400 to the Mirboo and District Historical Society to relocate and preserve the old Police Lock-up in a prominent position for tourist, visitors and the community to enjoy and to preserve a piece of local history.

\$1,620 to Ridge Writers (auspiced by Mirboo Country Development Inc) to deliver a program of workshops for community members to encourage self-expression, personal development, self-discovery and empowerment.

\$2,145 to Mirboo North RSL for a new electronic step for the community bus to assist physically challenged users of the service.



Mirboo North and District Community Foundation delivering the FRRR "2012 Back to School" program

For the first time, the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation will be partnering with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Mirboo North Secondary College to support students through the "2012 Back to School" program. The "2012 Back to School Program" is a national program that provides \$50 Target gift vouchers for students in need.



FRRR has granted \$1,000 to the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation to provide 20 vouchers to students attending the Mirboo North Secondary College. These vouchers are redeemable for items such as school uniforms, clothing, shoes, school bags and stationery items. The program has been supported by various trusts and foundations, particularly the Sidney Myer Fund whose generosity, together with FRRR, has been the financial backbone of the program. The Mirboo North and District Community Foundation has supported the Mirboo North Secondary College over the past 2 years by providing grants to assist with the delivery of innovative programs that benefit the students and community.

Karen Lanyon of Mirboo North Secondary College said:

"These vouchers will be a major benefit to those of our students who require assistance in meeting the ever increasing costs of attending school and providing basic resources, enabling them to focus more directly on their learning and improving their participation in school life. We thank both Mirboo North and District Community Foundation and FRRR for their help in supporting our students".



Sponsorship Grant

A Sponsorship grant of \$1,000 has been awarded to the Mirboo North Senior Citizens Centre Inc in supporting Senior Citizens to stay connected in their community by making transport available through the Mirboo North RSL community bus.

Gerry Rabach of the Senior Citizens Centre said " This sponsorship will mean that many Senior Citizens who are currently unable to partake in many of the Centres activities through lack of transport will now be able to do so and enrich their lives and enjoyment in the company of others".

Board of Directors Vacancy

The Foundation has a one casual vacancy for a Board Director. This is a voluntary position to serve on a Board which is committed to providing benefits to the Mirboo North and District Community. Board meetings are held monthly and Directors all serve on one or more sub-committees, which meet bi-monthly. The Board and Foundation are strongly pro-active in supporting the Community and working in partnership with other organisations in achieving this outcome.

The honorary Board of Directors are responsible for the formulation of strategic directions, governance and regulations, prudential financial management, implementation and monitoring of plans to achieve the foundations objectives for the benefit of the community. If you would like to participate and contribute to the future development of Mirboo North and surrounding district and MNDCF, we would be pleased to hear from you by contacting our Executive Officer, Derrick Ehmke, as per the contact details in this newsletter, or any of our Directors.