

Your Foundation News

A newsletter from the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation



Mirboo North & District
community foundation

Autumn 2016

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



National Community Foundations Forum 2016

We are thrilled to announce that the Mirboo North & District and Bass Coast Community Foundations will be hosting the 2016 National Community Foundations Forum at the RACV Club Inverloch from Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 October 2016.

It is expected that over 100 delegates from all over Australia will be attending this annual exciting and informative Forum.

There will be respected and expert Australian and International speakers and participants in the interactive workshops to foster discussion and ideas on how to:

- strengthen and grow community foundations and, consequently, the communities they serve
- engage, inspire and educate
- bring together community foundations, government, corporate business and philanthropy to catalyse and advance knowledge
- create and encourage multi stakeholder dialogue
- influence including policy makers and donors.

Delegates will gain in valuable knowledge and experience by:

- networking with a wide range of expert and influential persons

- learning from each other and expert speakers
- exchanging ideas and be inspired
- understanding the role of place based philanthropy in communities of the future
- delivering collective impact at a local level
- the role of the donor – collaborative giving.

It is worth noting 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.

For more information refer to the Australian Community Philanthropy (ACP) website;

www.australiancommunityphilanthropy.org.au



Australian
Community
Philanthropy



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Strong Foundation, Strong Communities

Community Youth Farm Project

A social enterprise that supports the disadvantaged through community, education & employment opportunities.

The Foundation has been investigating the feasibility of partnering and collaborating with other organisations to create and operate a community enterprise farm within the Mirboo North District which will provide practical life skill and employment opportunities for young people by engaging them on a community owned and operated farm together with experienced and skilled senior citizens to mentor them.

The Foundation believes that with our and other partnership resources there is an opportunity to create an environment to help young, and particularly underprivileged, people to improve their life and employment situations.

Examples of the aims of the program are:

- engage in enjoyable, productive and meaningful activities that encourage and reward young people from refraining from harmful AOD use and criminal activities
- develop generic work skills that improve the readiness of young people to enter the competitive job market

- develop horticulture, farming, and small business specific work skills that can help young people secure paid employment in Gippsland or in other agricultural communities
- increase knowledge of healthy nutrition and ecologically sustainable food production practices and systems among young people, their families and other participants
- strengthen community engagement, and enhance community social interaction
- promote Mirboo North and the district as a good place to live, thus creating economic and social opportunities
- promote practical environmentally farming and renewable energy programs.

Due to the long term and potential resource requirement of a project of this nature, the Foundation is acutely aware of the need to “hasten slowly” and conduct an independent study to review the feasibility of the project and to learn from both the successes and pitfalls of similar projects. We are pleased to announce that Kate Dwyer, ex EO of Bass Coast Community Foundation has been appointed as the independent consultant for the study. Kate commenced work at the end of March and the target date for the final report is end June 2016.

The Foundation also understands this is a project which requires strong positive relationships and collaborations with a wide range of organisations in our district and regional community. We welcome the views of and a chat with any organisations interested in joining us on this exciting journey of discovery.

We suggest viewing the Cana Farm, NSW website. Whilst this community farm has been operating for a number of years and has significant supportive resources it gives a picture of what is possible with collaborations and partnerships in the long term.



This furniture is made in the Cana workshop from recycled timber. It's another example of the work done through their TAFE Outreach programs.

For more information contact:

Derrick Ehmke
info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au
0418 301-092

Strategic Grants Program

A strength of the not for profit community is its' ability to develop creative, Innovative and robust community needs and benefits. The Mirboo North & District Community Foundations Strategic Grants program provides grants to programs that:

- provide strong evidence that the programs will after a period of 2 to 3 years, become self-sustainable and embedded in the organisation/s running the program

- test, demonstrate, trial or pilot a new concept;
- support the expansion or scaling up an innovative, proven pilot program; or
- conduct research to build the understanding of an area or issue related to disadvantage.

There is a comprehensive 4 stage application process for a strategic grant:

- a telephone consultation with MNDCF,
- an Expression of Interest application,
- a full application
- an in person presentation to the Board.

The Foundation encourages interested organisations to discuss their eligibility and potential program/project that may fit this criteria with the Foundations Executive Officer.

Supporting Our Youth

Mirboo North & District Community Foundation continues its active support for our district youth, who are the future of our district and indeed Australia and the wider world.

Some of our initiatives are:

Educational Support Fund

This program is now in its 3rd year and in 2016 we have again provided grants to 5 local students to assist them at the start of their studies, which is always a difficult financial and adjustment time.

The Hassett family of Boolarra have 4 daughters, 3 of whom have now continued with tertiary education and

all 3 have been awarded grants from the Foundation. We congratulate the Hassett's in encouraging their daughters to continue studies in difficult health and economic times, well done. Their mother Michelle spoke at the presentation to the recipients of the issues and need to ensure our youth were given every possible opportunity whatever their circumstances.



The 2015 Educational Support Fund recipients with Paul Pratt and Diana Mueller

FRRR Back to School Vouchers

An article from a teacher of 2 decades in a recent "The Big Issue" publication summarised well the situation of needy students and families.



"School teachers can easily spot a student whose family are having financial difficulties e.g the downcast eyes during the group reminder that the excursion monies are due next week. Chances are the \$40 bus and entrance fee will be needed to pay for next week's rent. It is really tough for these students to become part of the normal educational and social activities of their school. It's even tougher these days with the expense of electronic equipment and communications becoming such essential educational tools.

Many underprivileged students think of school as a cage in a zoo. Trapped and on show, they are unable to camouflage that which makes them "different". These students and their parents want nothing more than to succeed in life so they can break through the cycle of despondency and dependency."

We acknowledge and thank FRRR and the major sponsors, who from 2005 to 2015 have distributed 122,200 vouchers totalling \$1.6 million Regional and Rural schools in Australia.

Mirboo North Secondary College Emergency Relief Fund

The Foundation has for some years provided an Emergency Relief Fund for the Mirboo North Secondary College, assisting students to be able to fully participate in school activities and excursions.

This fund is intended to assist students who are in the type of situation described in the "Back to school vouchers" article above.



Community Grants for our Youth

Recent Grants have been made to:

- both Mirboo North schools “Brekkie Clubs” which provides the students with something to eat and socialise and be relaxed and happy before starting their learning
- St Andrews Child Care Centre for a safer flooring project
- Mirboo North Playgroup for safety equipment
- Thorpdale Recreation Reserve for a Safety Fence
- Mirboo North Swimming Pool for the “Mirboo North Idol” talent competition
- Boolarra Playgroup for playgroup equipment
- Mirboo North Kindergarten for outdoor equipment and a play area
- Boolarra Festival for a schools drumming performance
- Mirboo North Primary School for new signage
- St Mary’s Anglican church for a teenagers movie night
- Mirboo North Secondary College for a Music Resonance program
- Yinnar Primary School for a Greening the Community program
- Mirboo North Primary school and Secondary College for the continuation of their mental health and wellbeing programs
- The importance of mental wellbeing starts at a very early age and the Foundation has been a strong and consistent supporter of the Mirboo North Primary School and Secondary College’s programs, in particular the Kids & Mind Matters Programs. A recent very successful example of this was the Mirboo North Primary Schools Expo held in March. It was a fun filled day for the students and their parents not to mention even the teachers had fun. All were involved to better understand the interaction between students, parents and teachers.



Named Funds and Bequests

Inspiring Generosity for our Community – “Your Gift Working Forever”

The Foundation is delighted to announce a bequest of \$225,000 from the estate of the late Joe Zadnik of Allambee South. The Foundation is one of a number of benefactors including other social purpose organisations. Joe and his wife Martha, were long standing residents of the district and the Foundation will honour their bequest and commitment to the local community by investing the funds in a named fund so that their legacy will be continued into the future.

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

Bequest funds need not effect 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 gives psychological, spiritual and emotional well-being.

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 locals can give back to their community. 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.

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.

“I want to see other people benefiting from what my husband and I have worked and saved for. This gives me a real sense of joy.”

**Ray & Elva Shepherd
Acorn Foundation, New Zealand**

Do you know about the services of the Mirboo North Community Bus?



- Private hire available (11 seats + driver)
- At reasonable rates private hire bookings can be made on 0490 057 880

- Mirboo North to Leongatha via Dumbalk. Monthly route every 3rd Friday – depart Mirboo North 11.00am / depart Leongatha 3.00pm
- Pickup from Baromi Park car park / Pickup opposite General Store in Dumbalk
- Senior discount & club discount available
- Mirboo North to Morwell. Monthly route every 3rd Wednesday – depart Mirboo North 9.00am / depart Morwell 2.00pm
- Pickup from Mirboo North Senior Citizens Club rooms.

- Senior discount & club discount available

Please note all bus runs are subject to availability of volunteer drivers. New volunteer drivers are always welcome.

We are keen to hear from the community their ideas on what additional routes and services may be beneficial and feasible. Please email us at admin@mirboodistrict-foundation.org.au or contact Di Kiddell 0490 057 880

Mirboo North Italian Festa



The Mirboo North Italian Festa held on Sunday 21st February exceeded all of the organisers' expectations. Estimated crowds of 5,000 people, many from Melbourne and other parts of Victoria, enjoyed a wonderful array of Italian food and entertainment in the beautiful surroundings of Baromi Park. There was something for everyone with free children's activities, grape stomping competition, bocce, displays of Fiat and Ferrari cars, art and history, cooking demonstrations, performances, music and comedy and of course food and market stalls. From ravioli to cannoli- there was something for everyone!

The Festa has its origins in celebrating the Feast of Saint Paul, patron saint of Solarino, Sicily. Commencing in 1966, the Festa was rejuvenated this year to re-engage the younger generations, and revitalize their interest, knowledge and understandings of their Italian traditions and heritage.



After an open air Mass in the park, young men carried the statue of Saint Paul, commissioned and transported from Italy 50 years ago, just as their grandparents would have done in the early years of the Festa. The procession included children in traditional costume holding brightly coloured ribbons followed by the congregation.



The festa united three and four generations of families, providing entertainment and activities for grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren.

The Foundation is privileged to have been a major sponsor of this new format St Paul's Festa, which was a huge success. Congratulations to the organising committee and the volunteers who helped with the setting and packing up. A truly wonderful collaborative effort by the Italian and the Mirboo North & District community.

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: _____

A Community Renewable Energy Project

Communities across Australia are coming together to make the most of their clean energy potential by establishing solar, wind, bioenergy and hydro-power projects that involve and benefit local people. Mirboo North is no different with the Community Energy Hub active in the last 3 years delivering workshops, events, energy efficiency, information and education by building a website.

What is community renewable energy? Community-owned renewable energy projects are those that help decarbonise, decentralise and democratise our electricity system and demonstrate that renewable energy technologies work. They develop local renewable energy resources for electricity, heat and fuel in ways that reflect the motivations and aspirations of the local community; maximise local ownership and decision making; share the financial benefits widely; match energy production to local usage. One of the strengths of community renewable energy is that every project is slightly different, being tailored to each community's needs and context.



Why is community renewable energy important? Community-owned renewable energy projects create social, political, environmental, economic and technological benefits by strengthening local economies, building community participation, resilience & empowerment, educating people about renewable energy and involving them in creating a sustainable low carbon future; directly and significantly reducing a community's carbon footprint; developing renewable energy industries, technology, jobs and training.

How to get started? Early stages of a successful community owned renewable energy project depends on a small group who are able to commit volunteering their time over a sustained period but to deliver a project a whole of community approach is very important.

The Mirboo North Community Energy Hub, together with a number of collaborators and strategic partners including state and local government are investigating the feasibility, financial needs, possibilities and opportunities for a Community based energy provider in Mirboo North & surrounding District.

The Mirboo North Energy Hub is taking a three pronged approach to planning for the districts energy needs and efficiencies.

Short Term – energy efficiency via the Mirboo North Community Shed, planning and fund raising (audits, information, education, advice and referral).

Medium Term – energy improvements via partnerships, planning, fundraising and governance (bulk buying, assisting with affordability etc.)

Long Term – local generation at scale via planning, fundraising and a suitable governance structure.

To assist with the realisation of the Mirboo North Community Energy Hub goals the following plans are in place:

Investigate and deliver feasibility business plans for Community energy projects with comMET, a consortium of local government, Energy Innovation Cooperative and other bodies in South Gippsland.

To continue to educate locals about programs in Battery Storage and New Technologies.

Work with other Stakeholders, Community Groups, and State and Local Govt to take a leading role in renewable and other required community energy needs.

Mirboo North & District Community Foundation together with a number of other local organisations is proud to be involved and provide resources that will help provide for a sustainable, renewable and efficient energy source for our district.



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.

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