

# Your Foundation News

A quarterly newsletter from the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation



Mirboo North & District  
community foundation

Spring/Summer 2014

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



Hello all Foundation members, readers and community foundation supporters. It has been a year of initiatives from the Foundation with new partnerships, an expanded vision of what we believe we can achieve together and an emphasis on longer term outcomes and benefits for our community.

The Foundation has been involved in a number of challenging and exciting initiatives. We have:

- implemented our 4th round of community grants to the value of \$50,000
- allocated \$70,000 for longer term more strategic grants
- worked in partnership with South Gippsland Shire Council, YMCA Ballarat and the community to ensure the continued operation of the Mirboo North St Andrews Child Care Centre
- seen the first group of students benefit from our Educational Support Fund with a second annual round to be launched in November 2014
- facilitated the establishment of a Mirboo North Schools Wellbeing Program
- continued to grow the capital of the Foundation for the long term benefit of the community
- participated as a member of the Mirboo North town planning group to promote projects and programs and expanded /improved facilities for Mirboo North
- been actively involved on the Board and as a member of Australian Community Philanthropy, the peak body of community foundations in Australia.



Mirboo North Schools much loved Chaplain, Norm Da Silva, with fans.

Mirboo North & District Community Foundation has since 2010 distributed over \$350,000 to benefit our local community. (See page 2 "For where we've helped")

Please spread the word about the good community work Community Foundations do and in particular the work of the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation and share our news with family and friends.

We welcome your membership of and participation in your local Mirboo North Community Foundation to benefit the Mirboo North and district community.

Kate Buxton, Chair

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Strong Foundation, Strong Communities

# Community Foundations are a growing force in philanthropy

As the global movement celebrates 100 years, the Australian Community Foundation movement is becoming a significant force in the Australian philanthropic landscape

Research presented at the annual Community Foundations Forum in the Yarra Valley in Victoria in September 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 billion 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.

While there are several operating models, most CF's are independent, place-based, community-owned philanthropic vehicles which raise funds, primarily from a specific geographic location to give back to that community in the form of grants.

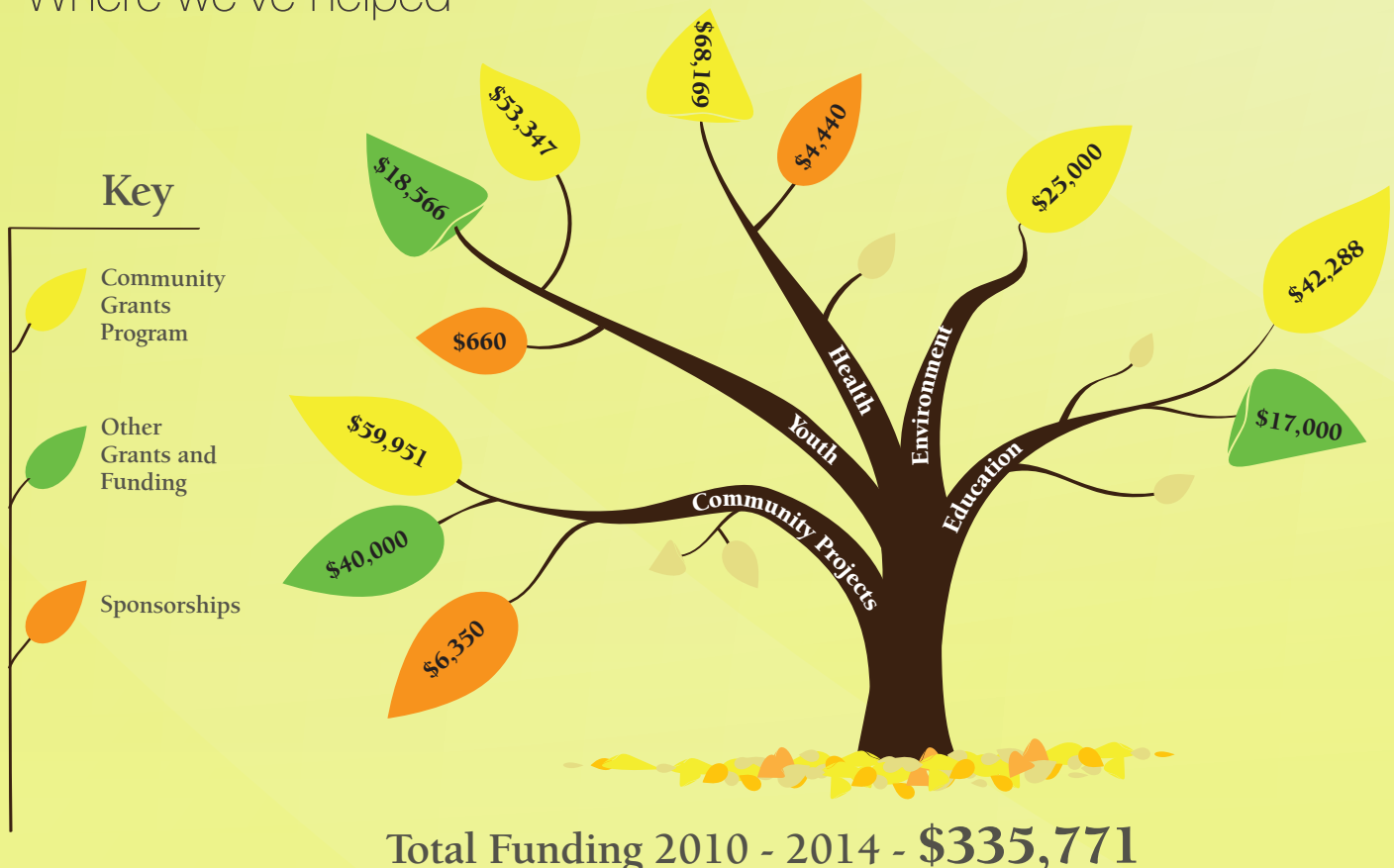
Alexandra Gartmann CEO of the Federation for Rural and Regional Australia (FRRR), one of the organisations that helped to establish the CF movement, says that the Australian movement is at a tipping point. *"There are some great things being achieved across Australia, with the CF movement spreading and professionalising. There is a deep level of knowledge and we are already seeing the potential for true ground level impact on key social issues facing our nation. To achieve this however, the sector needs support and resourcing to harness the collective, build capacity and work to influence and affect change."*

The Mirboo North & District Community Foundation grew out of a desire to find new ways to respond to the issues facing our community in areas such as mental health, education and the environment. We are committed to enhancing the social and economic strength in our community by providing funding support for locally based projects and by working in partnership with other organisations in response to identified need. We believe that by working together our community has a bright and sustainable future.

One of the greatest satisfactions people can experience is giving and helping others, improving the lives of those less fortunate and ensuring their communities remain viable. We need your help in ensuring that this Foundation remains an effective and responsive organisation. There are a number of ways you can get involved: By becoming a member, volunteering, attending our regular networking events, donating, for example to our Educational Support Fund, or establishing a bequest.

**Contact our Executive Officer, Derrick Ehmke for to see how you can help.**

## Where we've helped



# News flash

Alexandra Gartmann, CEO of FRRR has been appointed as a member of the re-established Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership enlisted to advise on giving trends and promote best practice in the Not for Profit sector. We congratulate Alexandra and FRRR on this important appointment which will ensure the views of rural community organisations including Community Foundations are represented in this initiative.

Minister for Social Services Kevin Andrews, said:

*"The Partnership will investigate incentives and barriers to philanthropic giving, so that companies, trusts and foundations are not burdened by unnecessary obstacles or red tape as they try to achieve their objectives.*

*The members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in the areas of philanthropy, business, charity work, social enterprise and regulatory structures.*

*By working together, we can harness the skills and resources of businesses, community organisations and individuals, to help solve complex problems and strengthen the social fabric of our communities.*

*It will consider how innovative investment and financing can better support a culture of giving and volunteering in Australia."*

## Supporting local district students with educational grants

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 delighted to once again offer educational support grants to local district students commencing their studies in 2015.

Funding will be open to:

- Australian citizens or permanent residents.
- people enrolled in or intending to enroll in a recognised course of study in 2015
- people with a connection to Mirboo North and district.



*The 2014 Educational Support Fund recipients with Harry Ballis of Federation University Churchill and Colin Kiel of the Mirboo North Support Co-op.*

Funding will be awarded on the basis of:

- **equity:** for example, students experiencing socio-economic disadvantage or hardship
- **merit:** for example, academic criteria or non-academic criteria where there is sufficient connection with educational objectives.

Details of how to apply will be available on the Foundation's website, in local media and at local schools in early November 2014.

In 2014 the Foundation awarded \$17,000 to eight local students to help them commence their tertiary studies. We are delighted that this first group of students have done well in their studies and let us know about their progress and how important the Educational Support Fund awards have been to them.



Carina Beyer studying for a Bachelor of Arts, Professional Communications at Federation University, Churchill.



*"The scholarship that I received from the Mirboo North Community and District Foundation has made it possible to complete a successful first semester in my degree, a Bachelor of Arts (Professional Communication). My average grade for assignments over the semester has been a distinction and overall I have had an exciting and eventful first semester at Federation University Churchill.*

*The scholarship provided me with the opportunity to have the best possible start to my studies and enabled me to have the finest resources at my disposal. It provided me with the funds to purchase a laptop and the required textbooks for my classes."*

Trudy Brunton, Studying for a Masters of Social Work at the University of New England, NSW.



*"I am completing a Master of Social Work to build on my previous experience and study of counseling, community work and social science. I have worked in private practice as a counsellor for a number of years including the last four years based in Mirboo North and in surrounding communities. The grant that I received from Mirboo North & District Community Foundation earlier this year very substantially assisted with my study costs and I believe has contributed towards improved grades for me this year including a number of High Distinctions (grades in excess of 85 per cent) and Distinctions.*

*When I finish my course around the middle of 2016, I will be able to offer Medicare-funded and bulk-billed mental health services to the local community, making the services more accessible to wider range of people."*

The Foundation is very grateful to the former Board and past members of the Co-op for entrusting these funds for the long term benefit of the community.

Contact our Executive Officer, Derrick Ehmke for further information

## **Mirboo North & District Community Foundation helps ensure St. Andrews childcare centre continues to operate**

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 Foundation provided new equipment funding of \$10,000 and significant financial support resources to assist recovery. The Foundation worked closely with the South Gippsland Shire Council and the new operators of the Centre, YMCA Ballarat, to ensure the continued operation of the service.



*Mirboo North & District Community Foundation, YMCA and South Gippsland Shire Council celebrate the announcement of the continued operation of Mirboo North St Andrews Child Care Centre with some of the kids from the Centre.*

Kate Buxton, Chair of Mirboo North & District Community Foundation, said that whilst this was outside of the Foundation's usual remit.

*"We could see that there was a community need for the service. We could also see that not having childcare services in Mirboo North had the potential to create a domino-effect with people leaving the district in order to secure child care in other areas."*

*"The Foundation looks forward to the long term continuation of the Centre and will continue to work closely with both YMCA and the Shire Council to achieve this outcome."*

The Centre has now been successfully operating since May 2014 with increased attendance and new equipment providing children with additional stimulating and exciting activities.

Plans for the integration of the Child Care Centre and the Mirboo North Kindergarten are under way with extensive consultations being held with the committees, parents and the community. This is being carefully planned to ensure a smooth integration.

Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council, Councilor James Fawcett took the opportunity to thank the Foundation for its timely intervention.

*"Council recognises the importance of child care services for families in Mirboo North and is delighted with the YMCA Ballarat's decision to provide that service."*

*"This is a great outcome for families, the staff and the broader community. There are a number of opportunities for greater integration of the kindergarten and child care services which are adjacent to each other and this new arrangement will make that possible."*

*"The community must vote with its feet now if the service is to remain viable. The South Gippsland Shire Council has worked closely with the YMCA and the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation to achieve this excellent result."*

## How you can help student wellbeing

### An opportunity to invest in the future



Students relaxing with Norm Da Silva.

Eleven years ago a group of Mirboo North people including a number of teachers, established the Chaplaincy Committee to provide counselling services to the students and school community of Mirboo North.

Back then the funding for chaplaincy was shared equally between the school, the government and the community. Over the ensuing period the costs of chaplaincy have increased and the share being met by the community has increased to nearly 50 per cent. This is becoming increasingly hard to sustain.

At the start of the 2014 School year the chaplain service was reduced to four days each week; three at the Secondary College and one at the Primary School.

Both principals strongly support the chaplaincy service and see it as an integral part of the wellbeing service to the school community.

Whilst the chaplaincy service is having a positive impact and is highly valued by the community, demand for the service is increasing. With this in mind an initiative aimed at ensuring the continuation of the support service has been established through the "Mirboo North Schools Wellbeing Program."

The goals of the program are to:

- restore chaplaincy support services to full time in 2015
- provide a viable and sustainable chaplaincy support service to the Mirboo North combined schools regardless of government funding
- provide funds for increased wellbeing and counselling programs at both Mirboo North schools.

A Named Fund account has been established within the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation and all donations to it are tax deductible.

The organisers of the program are appealing to individuals and businesses to donate on a regular basis for example weekly, fortnightly, monthly. They hope to achieve a target of around 200 people donating \$10 per fortnight which would provide \$52,000 per annum and would help ensure the continuation of the program and potentially add other wellbeing services to the school community.

The Foundation is proud to be supporting this student wellbeing program by donating \$50 for each of the first 200 donations made to the program. That's potentially an extra \$10,000 of funding towards the program.

The program will be officially launched in the coming weeks but in the meantime further details are available from Chris White at [wazzris@bigpond.com](mailto:wazzris@bigpond.com) phone **0409 181 484**.

Donations can be made by electronic transfer, or deposit to the Bendigo Community Bank, Mirboo North. Schools Wellbeing Program, BSB 633 000 Account Number 143 248 508 Tax Deductible receipts will be issued by the Foundation by 30 July each year or on request.



# 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 local philanthropists can give back to their 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 foundation. There are no establishment fees, 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.

Our Executive Officer, Derrick Ehmke would welcome a chat with anyone interested.

## Welcome to Walter Aich our new Director



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Walter Aich our first Director from the very active community of Dumbalk.

Walter joined the Board in March 2014 and has since been involved in the Board and the Community Connections and Grants and Allocations Committee. Walter was a member of the 2013 Community Grants panel which served as a good introduction to understanding the Foundation.

Walter has an extensive background in education with a Bachelor of Science Education and a post graduate Bachelor of Education. After more than 20 years as a secondary science and maths teacher, Walter moved to hold senior positions with the Gippsland Regional Council of Adult, Community & Further Education (ACFE Gippsland) within the Department Education and Early Childhood Development

(DEECD) and Planning and Community Development.

He has been very active in many community organisations and events, having held the positions of Deputy Group Officer CFA Mirboo Group of Brigades, Chairperson South Gippsland Relay for Life Committee and Captain Dumbalk Rural Fire Brigade and is a member of the Dumbalk Progress Association.

We look forward to Walter making a valuable contribution to the Foundation and the Mirboo North and 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Second:

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Thorpdale kindergarten sensory garden

In November of 2013 Thorpdale and District Kindergarten received a grant of \$5,535 from the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation to develop a sensory garden.



*Reading Chair with kinder children and funders  
at the Teddy Bears Picnic opening*

The Kindergarten's grants officer, Jo Keily, the Kinder Principal Brigitte Williames, and parents are thrilled with their design and the end result for the children of the district. At the Teddy Bears Picnic opening on 16 October Jo and others explained how they felt about the outcome of the project.

*"This means a lot to the Thorpdale kindergarten. We had dreamt for many years of developing an area for the children and community to explore their five senses and unwind."*

*The main key area of our new garden development was once just an old garden shed that was unused and therefore was wasted space. The area now consists of a dry river bed, with bridge and surrounding garden with various touch, smell and taste elements. There are olive trees, jasmine and herbs just to mention a few of the plants.*

*There is the sound of music with outdoor tubular bells and musical sculpture installed. Chalk board for creativity and opportunities to write and draw outside. Along with an archway, donated by Bunning's Morwell, with a creeper to give depth to the garden.*

*The children are working on a mosaic currently to hang in the garden as a feature piece which will be the final touch. But the main feature in the newly designed sensory garden is the reading chair built by local woodworker Mr. Tatterson. It is an amazing chair allowing adult and several children to sit together and admire the garden.*

*We are very proud of the end result and special thanks to the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation without whose grant we would not have been able to create this wonderful sensory garden for the children of Thorpdale and 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 email us on **[info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au)**

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

*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*