

Your Foundation News

A quarterly newsletter from the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation



Mirboo North & District
community foundation

Winter 2013

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

The Mirboo North and District Educational Support Fund Launched

The Mirboo North & District Community Foundation is delighted to announce the launch of the Foundation's first named fund, the "Mirboo North & District Educational Support Fund". This will be the first of such Foundation funds in the future covering a range of community interest and needs.

Financial hardship is one of the biggest barriers rural tertiary students face when enrolling in post compulsory education (e.g. TAFE, University, Independent Tertiary College). The Mirboo North & District Educational Support Fund will be available to assist students, both mature and young adults, with relocation expenses, study set-up costs, and scholarships.

The fund will be open for applications from residents of and persons with a strong connection to Mirboo North & District who are planning to enrol in eligible post compulsory study.

The formation of this fund has been made possible through a generous donation from the former Mirboo North Community Support Co-operative, which has now wound up. The Foundation is very grateful to the former Board and past members of the Co-op for entrusting these funds to us for the long term benefit of the community.

This donation from the Co-op is a fine example of community organisations working together in partnership for community benefit.

Details of the criteria and application process for the 2014 study year will be available shortly.

Contact Details

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0418 301 092
PO Box 327 Mirboo North, 3871 VIC

Directors

Kate Buxton – Chair
Paul Pratt – Vice Chair
Ned Dennis
Rob Kiddell
Grant Irving

Wendy Major
Diana Mueller
Norman walker.

www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au

Strong Foundation, Strong Communities

A Growing Philanthropic Recognition Amongst Australians



There is a growing recognition amongst Australians that leaving a social legacy for future generations is a truly satisfying experience.

One way this can be achieved is by establishing a sub-fund through a Community Foundation for a particular area of interest or community need.

In addition to our Community Grants Program the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation is keen to address our community's needs through the establishment of named funds. In July this year we will launch our first named fund the Mirboo North & District Educational Support Fund. Over the next few years, we hope that community members and organisations will play an increasing role in helping us establish more named funds.

Setting up a named sub-fund is an easy way to involve a group, family or company in a meaningful and fulfilling philanthropic experience. Examples of funds that have been established by other Foundations are conservation and environment, animal welfare, education and scholarships, health and wellbeing, arts, sports and recreation, research, community development, disaster relief.

What are Named Sub-Funds?

An initial investment is made in the form of a binding trust agreement to ensure the wishes of the Donors are honoured. Sub-funds can be started with small amounts

from a pool of contributors or with a single contributor. The Donations may be tax deductible and, after an initial investment has been made, funds can be added to over time by other individuals or organisations.

The funds may be themed funds (e.g. educational support), or in the name of the contributing individual, family group or organisation. Donors and contributors may choose to be anonymous if they prefer. Funds are invested and managed under strict regulatory regulations and under the conditions discussed and agreed with the Donor/s.

If you are interested in finding out more about these sub-funds personally or for your organisation and benefiting your community please contact our Executive Officer, Derrick Ehmke as per details on the back page of this newsletter.

Bequest Sub-Funds

Bequest sub-funds are a particular area of named funds where Donors can leave a legacy in their will or during their lifetime to benefit the local community. The fund is tailored to allow people to support their favourite causes, and to provide for the needs of the community, now and into the future.

The gifts may be made during the donors lifetime, with potential income tax benefits or in the donors wills. All money given is invested and some income, typically 5%, is distributed each year to the local community or to the cause agreed with the donor. This then becomes an endowment fund for the long term.

A voluntary Community Foundation sub-committee of ATO accredited "responsible persons" administer the funds as per the wishes of the benefactor. This ensures there will be sound management of the donor capital, and informed distribution of funds.

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. Donations and bequests enable you to make a meaningful contribution to a cause you are passionate about and many charities simply wouldn't be able to undertake the important work they do without the support of their donors.

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 real benefits to the givers psychological, spiritual and emotional well-being.

There are also administrative and regulatory benefits in making bequests through a community foundation sub-fund.

- Avoids the individual donor having to deal with complex governance and compliance regulations

- Avoids ongoing trusteeship issues for the donor

Supporting the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation through a donation, named sub-fund or bequest is a way that people from all walks of life can help address local needs with local solutions and opportunities – building the capacity of the community, now and for generations to come.

“If you want to be happy, help people, because you are the one who gets the help - if they get help that's a bonus.”

Dalai Lama

“I want to give enough for my children, but not enough so they can do nothing.”

Warren Buffet

“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.

“Back to School” Program Help for Students and Families.

Many parents are struggling to cope with ever increasing costs of student's school expenses. A program to help these families in which the Foundation has participated for the past 2 years is the Federation for Rural and Regional Renewal's (FRRR) “Back to School's” grant program which distributes \$50 Target vouchers for school requirements.

The program is an initiative of FRRR, and the Sydney Myer Fund and is supported by VISY, The Aussie Farmers Federation, The Julian Flett Foundation, The Edward Wilson Trust, The Wyatt Benevolent Foundation, Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Government and Target.

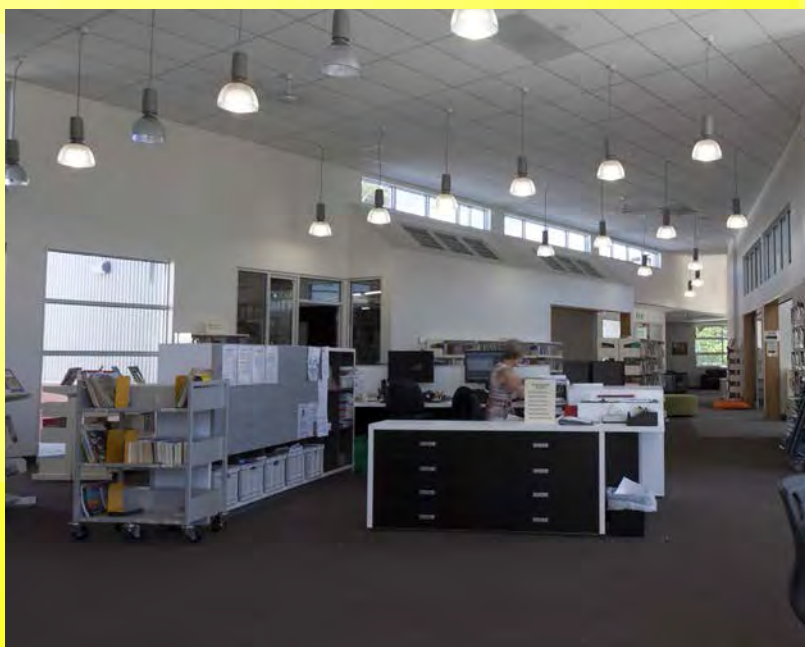
The results and joy these vouchers can bring to struggling families is best summed up in some of the responses of parents and school teachers.

“I felt a bit like Santa Claus when I was passing them out. Often my contact with families is about students being unwell or not progressing in a way we would like them to or some such, so it was lovely to have a much more pleasant reason for communicating with them on this occasion.”

“I've also seen one new parent, who appeared reluctant to come into the school, seems much more inclined to do so and looks more relaxed. I gave the family 2 of your vouchers as her partner has terminal lung cancer, making this an especially tough time for them all.”

This year the Foundation received \$4,000 in vouchers to benefit local Mirboo North and District families. These vouchers were distributed to Mirboo North, Boolarra, Narracan and Thorpdale schools.

The Foundation will once again seek to obtain these vouchers for students in the Mirboo North district in 2014.



Mirboo North Art Show and Arty Gras

These premier events held over the Mother's Day weekend, provide great social and economic benefit to Mirboo North and District. The Art Show has now been running for over 30 years and generates over \$20,000 for the Mirboo North Primary School as well as providing an opportunity for local and regional artists to showcase their abilities and artwork.



Both events were once again a huge success for Mirboo North with fine weather and increased numbers in attendance.

The Foundation is delighted to be able to sponsor both the Arty Gras and for the first time a new prize of "iPhoneography" for the Art Show. "iPhoneography" is an art form using only an iPhone, or equivalent, for the total photographic production process.

The Foundation looks forward to many more successful years for both of these important events for Mirboo North and District.



Foundation Community Grants 2013 Opens 26th August

The Foundation is pleased to announce that our 2013 Community Grants program will open on 26 August 2013 and close on 4 October 2013.

Since our first grant round in 2010 we've supported community groups and organisations who have delivered a wide range of outstanding projects aimed at making our District healthier and more sustainable. During this time we have provided over \$225,000 to the community and other organisations.

The Foundation is a perpetual resource for the Mirboo North and District community and we are looking forward to the exciting projects that will come from this year's grant program.

As part of the 2013 Community Grants Program the Foundation

will be providing grant application training sessions for all potential grant applicants. These sessions will provide an invaluable insight into successful grant writing and will include information on budgeting, evaluation and telling your grant story. Whilst attendance is not mandatory we strongly encourage all organisations who are thinking of making an application to attend. Attendance will definitely assist in successful application making.

Grant training and information sessions will be held in Mirboo North, Boolarra and Thorpdale during the week commencing 26 August 2013 at dates and times to be announced.

There will be two categories of grants this year:

- grants up to \$5,000
- grants up to \$20,000 for larger more strategic projects.

Full details of the dates, criteria and application process will be available on our Website on 26 August. If anyone would like an initial discussion please contact our Executive Officer Derrick Ehmke:

0418 301 092
info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au



Mirboo North Community Plan

The Mirboo north district is actively engaged in developing a Community Plan. The Foundation is represented on the Community Plan working Group, along with representatives from a number of community organisations, sectors and the South Gippsland Shire Council. The Foundation has been able to play an important role facilitating discussions and connecting groups in this process.

This is a new role for the Foundation and some of the other organisations involved and also a pioneering initiative for developing town Community Plans in partnership with the local Shire Council.

A number of public meetings have been held for the community to identify and prioritise projects and programs they regard as important in Mirboo North. A number of project teams have been formed for some of the projects/programs identified.

One of these was the formation of the Mirboo North and District Community Energy Hub project team to prepare a business case to determine how feasible, and if so, a high level plan for the following outcomes for the districts of Mirboo North, Boolarra, Yinnar, Dumbalk, Thorpdale and surrounding areas.



- Delivery of a range of energy efficiency services across the community
 - Development of an energy demonstration facility and community education/training capacity
 - Competitively deliver renewable energy technologies across all sectors of the community where viable
 - Development of commercially competitive on farm and industry based renewable energy solutions and technologies such as solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and micro-hydro
 - Provide bulk electricity buying benefits to affiliated energy consumers
2. Medium Term – energy improvements via partnerships, planning, fundraising and governance (bulk buying, assisting with affordability etc.)
 3. Long Term – local generation at scale via planning, fundraising and a suitable governance structure. There was a definite strong support for such an enterprise.

These three types of energy services can be developed in parallel and require individual business plans.

This major community project requires a high people resource that are mostly fully committed in a small community. The Mirboo North and District Community Energy Hub is seeking further support from community members with various skills and expertise to join or support the project moving onto the next stage. If you are able to help please contact Ian Southall:

The Foundation provided a grant of \$20,000 for the initial study which has now been successfully completed with the project recommending and proceeding to the next three pronged staged approach:

1. Short Term – energy efficiency planning and fund raising (audits, information, education, advice and referral)

0413 590 220
ian@ecohubgippsland.com.au

Memberships

The Mirboo North and District Community Foundation values the contribution our members make to our organisation. If you would like to become a member, please fill out the form detach the page and send to **Derrick Ehmke, PO Box 327 Mirboo North, 3871 VIC**

As a member you will receive

- Regular newsletters updating you of the Foundations activities and news
- Invitations to Foundation networking functions and events
- Voting rights on the election of the Directors
- An opportunity to contribute to the direction and activities of the Foundation

Membership fees are used in the operation of the Foundation which includes the development and distribution of brochures, newsletters, office costs such as stationery, website updates and contributes to the cost of member's functions. Membership dollars do not contribute to the community and other funds.

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

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: _____

Directors Profile

Wendy Major



We are delighted to announce that Wendy Major joined the Board in May 2013. Wendy was an independent volunteer team member of the 2012 Foundations Community Grants program leading to her joining the Board.

Wendy moved to Mirboo North from Bairnsdale, around three years ago and immediately became involved in the

Mirboo North community. She is currently the Executive Officer of the South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) which puts her in a great position to understand the needs of youth in education and employment.

Wendy has extensive experience in serving on a number of Community organisations Boards and we look forward to her making a valuable contribution to the Mirboo North community.

Robert Kiddell



Robert is a certified financial planner, lawyer, notary and company director who has wide community and professional interests. He is a former shire councillor, a Life Member of Apex, he was the inaugural president of the Mirboo Community Association, a former Secretary of

the Gippsland Law Association, Chair of the Gippsland Chapter FPA and a Fellow of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program. His current extra curricula activities include:

- Chairperson Uniting Church in Australia Gippsland Presbytery;
- Squadron Leader in the RAAF Specialist Reserve;

- Mirboo North Cemetery Trust;
- Chairperson Mirboo North Uniting Church Council;
- Director Francis Gregory Foundation;
- Mirboo North Schools Chaplaincy Committee; and
- Chair, Mirboo North Community Shed

Robert has extensive experience and expertise in the legal and financial spheres. His local business interests have included being one of the original directors of Strzelecki Brewing Company Limited and Mirboo Tourism Pty Ltd. Robert also led the return of banking to Mirboo North as Managing Director of Grand Ridge Agencies for 12 years until the current Community Bank was established.

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.**

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.

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