



community report

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2003 - 2005



'To champion the economic and social strength of Australia's regional, rural & remote communities through partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy and



FRRR gratefully acknowledges the generous sole support of the Bendigo Bank in the production and distribution of this our second Community Report

FRRR Community Report 2003 - 2005



FRRR Office in Dudley House,
Bendigo, Victoria.

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FRRR Board, Patrons and Staff Feb 2002

Introduction

How it started

When Sidney Myer arrived in Australia as a penniless Russian immigrant in 1889, he began an enterprise in country Victoria that would flourish and become a leading national retailer.

His marriage to Merlyn Baillieu was to become the foundation for a dynasty that etched its name firmly in Australia's history, not only as successful retailers but as the nation's earliest and most enduring philanthropists. Well before philanthropy became the catchcry for socially aware business, the Myer family made it part of its livelihood.

To celebrate Sidney Myer's life and to recognise the centenary marking his arrival in this country, the descendants of Sidney and Merlyn Myer initiated a major giving program to the Australian community in 1999.

Among their gifts was \$1 million to establish a national foundation for rural communities.

After an international search for ideas and a Regional Australia Summit convened in 1999 by the then Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, (a farmer from Mullaley in NSW), the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) was born. It would combine the feeling of the regional summit which said philanthropy could play a strategic role in enhancing the assets - natural and human - in regional Australia's economic and community development. In short, regional Australia, reeling from tough times thanks to drought and the impact of globalisation, wanted to show it could help itself. The Federal Government kicked in \$10.7 million in 1999/2000 and a further \$3.8million from 2000/2001 to 2008/2009.

Setting up

FRRR began in 2000, setting up its permanent headquarters, appropriately in the home of Sidney Myer's first store - in the regional Victorian city of Bendigo. There it continues to operate

from historic Dudley House and to follow the principles and ideals first set down by the Regional Australia Summit.

To date, FRRR has allocated \$6.6 million and has leveraged millions to help communities renew themselves

How it works

FRRR works by attracting support (cash and in kind) from businesses and other trusts and foundations, private individuals and communities. These donations are then distributed through a number of programs as grants for the benefit of rural and regional Australia.

Communities and projects wanting support send in written applications. These are then assessed. The FRRR board then approves projects, according to available resources and FRRR staff distribute grants accordingly. At the completion of each project, recipients are required to provide a project report.

Following are the programs through which grants were distributed from 2003 to 2005.

Annual Grants: Grants from this program support health, social, economic, cultural, environmental and education projects

Community Foundation Program: This program helps seed and support development of community foundations. For example, FRRR produces how-to kits for setting up foundations and provides training and development. It also supports national programs through the community foundation network.

Pratt Water Projects: These projects seek to address community responses to water management and salinity.

Small Grants for Small Rural Communities: This program supported by many partners provides grants of up to \$5000 for small rural communities.



From left Tim Fairfax AM, Ian Allen OAM, Bill Kelty, Mark Bethwaite, Dr Wendy Craik, Sidney Myer, Ken Matthews OAM, Margaret Smith AO and seated The Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC and FRRR CEO Sylvia Admans.

Rural Education Program: Led by private donors, this program funds education projects, particularly in drought affected areas.

Gardiner Foundation Partnership Program: This program provides small grants to Victorian dairying communities for community projects.

ANZ Seeds of Renewal: This program provides grants of up to \$10,000 to rural communities.

Wicking Trust (Caring for Ageing in Rural Australia) Program: This program provides grants of up to \$10,000 for community projects that address ageing and aged care issues in rural Australia.

Donation Account Program: FRRR receives tax deductible donations on behalf of eligible organisations and projects.

Back to School Program: This program delivers vouchers mainly through Community Foundations to help families help meet school costs such as uniforms, books, shoes etc.

For businesses, organisations and individuals who wish to support rural and regional Australia and FRRR's programs, tax deductible donations can be made directly to the foundation. These can be made via credit card or cheques.

A message from the Chairman

the Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC

The past twelve months demonstrated the significant benefits offered by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) in helping re-build regional and rural communities, combat economic and social pressures and tackle the consequences of widespread drought.

As a philanthropic organisation, FRRR focuses on supporting programs in rural and regional communities in which people can help themselves; country towns and cities are helped to grow, children educated, jobs created and the pressures to move to the city combated. The challenge is complex and yet so rewarding.

FRRR faces that challenge, guided firmly by its mission to "champion the economic and social strength of Australia's rural, regional and remote communities through partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy and government".

Its beginnings reflect this mission. FRRR was established as a partnership between the major philanthropic trust, the Sidney Myer Fund and the Federal Government through the Department of Transport and Regional Services. FRRR continues with the generous and unfailing support of our patrons. Particularly Mr Baillieu Myer AC, son of the late Sidney Myer and former Deputy Prime Minister the Hon John Anderson MP, whose joint efforts in sponsoring the Regional Australia Summit in October 1999 initiated the FRRR concept.

This report offers some insights into a few of the projects FRRR supports and the inspirational stories of people in rural and regional communities determined to combat adversity and develop their communities.

FRRR seeks to cheer them on by backing their initiatives and helping them help themselves. FRRR support is in many forms - direct grants, leveraged funds, the introduction of partners, acting as guarantor, directing corporate funds and talking through ideas.

Critical to FRRR's success are our founding members, the Sidney Myer Fund and the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services whose generous support I applaud. I thank our continuing partners The Pratt Foundation, ANZ, Perpetual Trustees, The RE Ross Trust, The Myer Foundation, the William

Buckland Foundation, Bendigo Bank and Freehills and strongly commend their generosity.

This past year I welcome as new FRRR partners the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, the Community Enterprise Foundation and the Wicking Trust.

As significant supporters of the Rural Education Program, particular thanks go to our great benefactors Sarah and Baillieu Myer, Janet and John Calvert-Jones, Gina and Tim Fairfax, Robert Maple Brown, Ian McLachlan, Hugh MacLachlan, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, Neilma Gantner, Carillo Gantner, Mark Bethwaite, John and Julia Anderson. Caltex Ltd and Prime TV have also provided vital support during this period. Your generosity has opened meaningful doors for the future to many young people whose careers otherwise could have been seriously prejudiced.

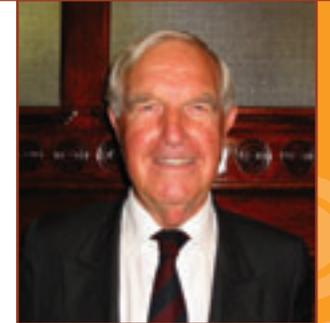
FRRR patrons and board members continue to give exceptional input, voluntarily and enthusiastically - my sincere appreciation for your considerable contribution to the effectiveness of the Foundation.

Sid Myer and Ken Matthews resigned from the board during the year and to you both personal thanks from all your former board colleagues for your commitment and enthusiasm. Their places have been filled by Samantha Baillieu and Mike Taylor, to each of whom I extend a warm welcome.

The FRRR Bendigo team - our outstanding CEO Sylvia Admans, diligent company secretary Andrew Long and our excellent office staff, Glenda Elliott, Audrey Elston, Esmae Barnes and Amanda Winchcomb - have all worked assiduously and effectively over the past year. On behalf of the FRRR board I extend our thanks for their tremendous work and commitment to our shared mission.

Since the beginning of this financial year there has been rain across much of inland Australia and some indication that the worst of the drought has passed. This is a great basis from which to set new momentum for FRRR and its philanthropy into the year ahead.

Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC



CEO's Message

Sylvia Admans



There is a great tradition in Australia of talking about the resilience of our rural areas and people. Let me tell you, that resilience has taken a battering and yet in the four years as chief executive officer of this foundation, I have personally seen evidence of that resilience growing stronger than ever. The next decade is likely to see the eyes of the nation and the international community turn increasingly to our rural and Indigenous communities in particular as we begin to examine how we care for and service our isolated communities in an urbanising world. This timely examination is well deserved and FRRR looks forward to it.

In the meantime, a modernising world is throwing up new and ever greater challenges for rural and regional people and yet they continue to come up with ideas and ways of building and strengthening and renewing their communities.

It has been a great privilege to hear their stories, hopes and dreams and, more importantly, to help realise those hopes and dreams. This is the foundation's critical role.

We are helped tremendously by various supporters and donors and I thank them.

The foundation also continues to grow and strengthen partnerships and reach out to new partners, both in government and in the private sector. For example, the Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program extended its support this year for another three years. ANZ, a great supporter, will continue its support this financial year and thanks to a series of vignettes secured by ANZ, FRRR had its first real television exposure.

I have been delighted to work with other small grants programs such as the Gardiner Foundation and the Wicking Trust. Last year FRRR instigated a youth incentive fund in partnership with The Foundation for Young Australians, which promises to match funds raised by young people in community foundations. This relatively new form of philanthropy is taking off as communities learn the value of motivating their own people to collect funds and make grants in their own towns and regional cities. This is as

much about building skills as it is about dishing out money. It shows that renewal can happen when people are committed to it.

In 2004, the Myer family requested we establish a Back To School program in which vouchers redeemable for clothing and books could be handed out to families at the start of the school year. The demand for the \$50 vouchers has been nothing short of phenomenal and their distribution through community foundations has helped strengthen community links.

Over the past two years we have had some staff changes. Company secretary Andrew Long joined us in 2003 and has offered tremendous support. Natalie Elliott left us in September 2004, Glenda Elliott, joined us the month before as executive assistant. Audrey Elston joined us full-time in October 2004 as the grants manager, Esmee Barnes in March 2004 as the office manager and our administrative assistant Amanda Winchcomb in June last year. They are a great team and I want to acknowledge their great support and enthusiasm for our mission.

FRRR continues to operate out of Bendigo's historic Dudley House and we thank the building's owner, the City of Greater Bendigo, for providing a long lease.

I would like to thank the rural and regional people of Australia for their warmth and keenness to work with FRRR.

It's incredibly gratifying working with them. They are regular people trying to improve the lot of their communities and they do it really generously.

Lastly, I would like to thank the FRRR board and chairman Ian Sinclair for their support. Together I believe we are making an impact.



FRRR Staff

About this Report

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report includes stories about some of the projects FRRR and its partners supported in 2003-2005. The stories identify those characteristics that clinched FRRR's support. By reading this, it's hoped future funding applicants will understand what makes a project ripe for FRRR's support. We hope also that our supporters can see for themselves the real difference that their investments make.

The projects are grouped under FRRR's 13 main aims. Those aims are to:

- Help rural communities build their own capacity to develop by encouraging leadership training, mentoring, networking and partnerships
- Recognise and enhance the role of women in rural community building, farm management and business development.
- Develop innovative and economically and socially sustainable business ventures, especially those that use advanced information technology
- Enhance community wellbeing by improving rural communities' ability to plan and manage
- Support people to get training and education to improve their job prospects, especially in new or expanded business
- Support environmental projects that add value to existing products, use best practice in natural resource management and sustainable development while creating jobs
- Support Indigenous Australians to realise their economic and social aspirations
- Recognise and help volunteers build rural communities
- Support young people to remain in secondary and tertiary education, to enhance their leadership skills and to reduce youth unemployment
- Establish regional community foundations
- Support cultural projects that boost a sense of belonging and create jobs
- Support economic and social research projects that add to the body of knowledge available to rural and regional communities to enable them to plan their futures more effectively
- Support health or community services projects which address key issues in rural areas such as suicide, depression, preventive health, or seek to improve access to services through the developing new networks or links which extend current services



Rural Capacity Building Projects Focused on Leadership Training, Mentoring, Networking and Partnership Building.



Supporting People through Drought and Fire (Victoria)

Upper Murray AgCare - Grant \$5,000
Source: Gardiner Foundation
Small Grants Program



After drought and fire had ravaged their farms and spirits, the people of Dederang in the Kiewa Valley, 85 km south of Albury in north east Victoria, were ready to be inspired by some-one who had been through the wringer. In September 2004 that person appeared, thanks to a night organised by Upper Murray AgCare, a support network for people in the predominantly grazing and dairying area. Sam Bailey, a northern NSW farmer who was made quadriplegic in an accident as a young man and had subsequently gone on to run his own farm, was a guest speaker at the Dederang Hall. He also met with some of the region's young farmers around a kitchen table. Organiser and dairy farmer from nearby Kergunyah Ken Jones said Sam had inspired the community just when they needed it most. "It was at the end of the drought. People were feeling fairly low and prices (for milk) were fairly low at the time. Here was this person who had been through a life threatening experience and had taken this positive approach. People were so impressed with what is possible. It left an impression in their minds that though they were doing it hard, other people had done it harder and had recovered." That night, even after the lights were turned off, people stayed and stayed, talking in the dark. The \$5000 grant also helped fund a get together in Corryong which 1000 people attended. About 60 women turned out to be pampered at a women's pampering day at Cudgewa, also partly funded by the grant.

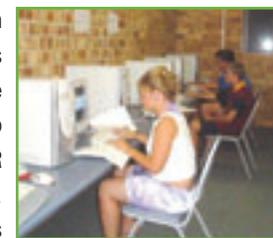
FRRR works closely with its partners. The Gardiner Foundation and FRRR saw this project as one that would educate and stimulate during drought. It reached isolated dairying communities.

Equipping Isolated Students with Computers (Queensland)

Chinchilla Student Accommodation Association Inc Qld - Grant \$8,000
Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



Most kids in suburban Australia come home to computers when they arrive home from school but not so students at a hostel in Chinchilla in outback Queensland. The kids, students at Chinchilla High School, are from properties and stations too far out of town to travel daily so they board during the week at the Leichardt House Rural Student Hostel in Chinchilla, about 300km north west of Brisbane. When a new wing was added, the hostel wanted computers so the senior students could be linked to the world to complete their studies. The \$8000 from FRRR and ANZ helped buy eight of the 15 computers. It's a wonderful facility, says parent Glenys Carter whose son, Phillip, 15, lives at the hostel. "It means the children can come home at the weekends and they can do their schooling and play sport. It's been a huge bonus and a privilege for the community. The kids now have access to the information technology that their urban counterparts take for granted." Next year the hostel is expecting a full house with 36 students.



ANZ Seeds of Renewal began as a program to provide practical help in the 2003 drought. This project was in an exceptional circumstances declared area, was well thought out, well budgeted and looked to the future. It invested in young people's education and helped boost vital community infrastructure (a hostel).

Providing Places to Play (Western Australia)



Kulkarriya Community School - Grant \$5,000
Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities
Program (The Pratt Foundation)



Before the kids at the Kulkarriya Community School on Noonkanbah Station near Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley played basketball, they'd have to mark the lines with flour from the local community store in the shifting black soil. What they needed was a permanent basketball court. It would be great for physical education classes and community tournaments, plus its construction would

employ community members and use local resources. School principal at the time Josh Bell says the independent community school in the Yungngora Aboriginal community chose a rammed ant bed design. Yep, that's ants nests rammed until they set like concrete. After a few setbacks, thanks to wet season conditions, the court was built. Former Olympian and revered national runner Cathy Freeman officially opened the court to great fanfare.

The remote location, community commitment and need made this project a standout. The community did the work and capitalised on the results by attracting champion athlete Cathy Freeman to open the courts. Well done!



Taking Outback Kids to Canberra (Northern Territory)



Mataranka Primary School - Grant \$20,000
Source: Rural Education Program

In the grounds of the Mataranka Primary School, 430km south of Darwin, is a 1200 tree forestry plot planted by students. And in that plot is an African mahogany tree, a tribute to the REP's \$20,000 grant that paid for 16 students and six adults from the school to take a 12-day journey to Canberra to attend the National Landcare Awards in September 2004. The school's forestry plot, called Tall Timbers, was planted by students to encourage their understanding of Landcare. It won the Territory's Landcare award and earned the school the chance to represent the NT at the national awards. "It was a journey of a lifetime," says school council president



Maryanne Lewis. Parliament House, the National Botanical Gardens, the National Gallery and the Australian Institute of Sport were on the school's itinerary but for some seeing snow during a tour of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme was the highlight. Year Five student Simeon Ryan had no doubt about the greatest benefit of the trip: "Going to Canberra showed the people of Australia where Mataranka is," he said.

This project helped an isolated community realise ambitions to visit Canberra to attend the National Landcare awards as finalists. It was funded because it exhibited excellence, education, community commitment and because the community raised \$22,000 of their own to leverage funds from FRRR's Rural Education Program.

Recognising and Enhancing the Role of Women in Rural Community Building, Farm Management and Business Development

Skilling Home Tutors (mostly mums) in the Outback (Queensland)

Cairns School of Distance Education -
Grant \$6,490
Source: Rural Education Program



When you live on a station in the gulf country 900km north of Cairns and you're teaching your children at home, options for formal technology lessons are few. Yet children need to know how to use discussion boards, conduct online chats and operate digital technology. In a bid to educate mums who educate their kids at home about computer technology and programs, the Cairns School of Distance Education

sent technology co-ordinator Theresa Feletar on an eight-week tour of the outback to conduct workshops. The Technology on the Road program was a hit. Theresa travelled to Cullen, Normanton, Georgetown, Mt Garnett, Mt Carbine, Mareeba conducting workshops wherever she could find a venue. "We held some in the mums' homes, another in the Mt Garnett shed, the Cullen Rodeo Grounds, we went wherever we could," says Theresa. "Where there were spare seats we offered them to members of the public, people in councils. There was no point having them sit empty."

Theresa says mums travelled from far and wide to attend. "Being able to spend two full days and nights with them without interruption was great. It's also good for them to have contact with each other."

Narelle Lucy, who is home schooling the last of her three children at home on a cattle station, near Mt Garnett, four hours drive from Cairns, drove 25km to the station next door to attend the three day workshops. "It was absolutely fabulous," says Narelle. "Now I'm teaching my son Bradley how to write a story and add a digital photo which he has to publish as part of his schoolwork. We need these workshops to keep head of our kids and to make sure they're able to use the technology."

The workshops were so successful; the Cairns School of Distance Education is now applying for grants for another Technology on the Road program. "Education Queensland doesn't provide any money for this so it comes down to grants," Theresa says.

The Rural Education Program likes to support more remote communities hit by drought. This project met both those criteria. Research has shown there is a growing need to train home tutors.

Supporting Women through Drought (NSW)

Ivanhoe Central School - Grant \$2,750
Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (Myer Foundation)



Years of drought and hand feeding stock can get a little wearing so the women from stations and farms around Ivanhoe, population 650, in southwest NSW, appreciated a diversion in 2003 when farmer and talented craftswoman Ellen Pippin set up and ran sewing classes, with an FRRR grant. The classes which ran for 30 weeks taught women how to knit, sew and do alternations. "We don't have any tailors here," says Ellen, "and there was nowhere for the women to go to do things. It was just great to sit down and have a cup of tea together. It took the pressure off a bit. We're about 300km from Broken Hill, 277km from Mildura and 265 km from Griffith, so it's about a three-hour trip to the shops."



By providing simple equipment, FRRR helped turn a great idea into reality for women in south-west NSW. FRRR acknowledges that community support and development is even more critical in times of drought.

Building Community Through Technology (Queensland)

Condamine State School Parents and Citizens Association - Grant \$6,000



Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program

In Condamine, the Country Women's Association branch, the school, rugby club, local computer classes and the community's Melbourne Cup day function all share one thing in common: they all rely on the school's data projector and laptop computer for learning and for fun. The school used an FRRR grant to buy the equipment. Kids used it to learn how to create groovy multi-media presentations. Community groups used it to run workshops on how to use computers, the Internet and e-mail. And soon the Parents and Citizens Association began to hire it out to community groups for presentation days, social gatherings and fundraising ventures. Now the projector is the centrepiece at gatherings of the local rugby club (they love watching the finals on the big screen), the Isolated Children's Parents Association and the local CWA which uses it for their International Banquet and the community's Melbourne Cup gathering. Such events strengthen community ties, the CWA says.

Providing equipment to one organisation in a remote community had benefits for many other organisations. This made it easy for FRRR, through the ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program, to support this drought project.



Protecting Women from Domestic Violence (NSW)

Linking Women With Safety Across the Communities - Grant \$1,430
Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (Perpetual Trustees, JS Love Charitable Trust)



About three years ago Linking Women with Safety Across the Communities was formed in response to growing awareness of domestic violence in the central NSW towns around Narromine. Commonly referred to as Links, the organisation employs six domestic violence community liaison officers, whose job is to care for women who seek help. "We support women in court and we go out to communities explaining what domestic violence is and what can be done," says new administrator Sandra Monaghan. The officers are based at Nyngan, Warren, Narromine, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran and Coonamble. FRRR saw that Links was providing invaluable support for isolated women with few means of protecting themselves so it arranged a grant for Links to buy packages, kits, books and videos which the liaison officers use at public talks and information sessions. Janine Powell, the domestic violence community liaison officer at Narromine, carries the kits with her when she addresses schools and CWA groups. "Our name is getting out there more and people are more aware of domestic violence as a result," says Sandra. Links chairperson Debbie Beahan says the FRRR grant has helped provide support, information and education to victims and survivors of domestic violence.

FRRR supported this project because it helped address the important issue of family violence and it created resources that could be used into the future.

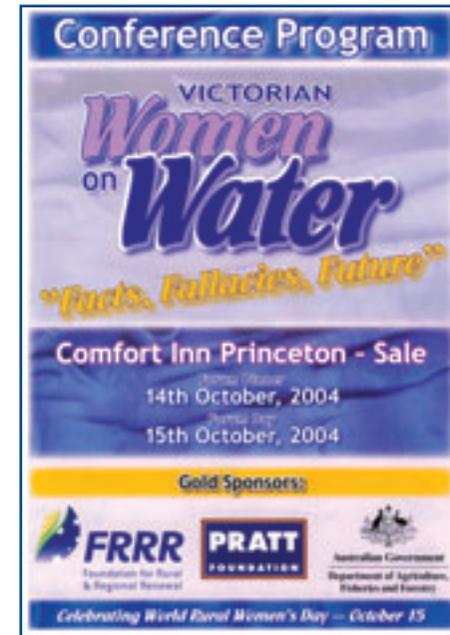
Recognising and Enhancing the Role of Women in Rural Community Building, Farm Management and Business Development

Giving Women a Voice in Water Reform (Victoria)

Wellington Shire Council Victorian Women's Water Forum - Grant \$10,000
Source: The Pratt Water Program



Extensive water reforms across Victoria in the past decade had largely proceeded without the input of women until a group of women from Sale in Gippsland stood up and declared they wanted women to be more educated, informed and involved in the debate. Through the Wellington Shire Council and with the help of a \$10000 grant from FRRR and the Pratt Foundation, they ran a Women on Water Forum, drawing high profile speakers who addressed the Victorian Government's major white paper on water. It proposed massive water buybacks which will affect many country women on farms and in towns. The forum, on World Rural Women's Day on October 15 2004, attracted 120 people. Since then, a website has been set up and research, examining the social impacts of water reform in Gippsland, is planned. One of the organisers, Mary Salce, believes the forum's impact has been long lasting. "We are now finding that the Victorian Government is finally starting to include some social impact studies of water reform."



This project recognised The Pratt Foundation's desire to encourage widespread community involvement in water and to educate the community about water.



Developing Innovative Business Ventures or Using Advanced Information Technology and Electronic Commerce to Enhance and Create Business Opportunities

Supporting a Community Newspaper (Victoria)

Lockington Community News -
Grant \$1,450

Source: Gardiner Foundation Small Grants Program



Rarely do the achievements of those in small country towns win space in big regional and metropolitan newspapers so the people of the dairy farming community of Lockington in northern Victoria have their own newspaper. Written and compiled by about 30 volunteers, the newspaper runs as a business, although community groups can advertise for free. An FRRR grant paid for a new computer on which to write, edit photographs and lay out the paper. It's published fortnightly and has a print run of 600. "It's been very important especially during the drought to keep the sense of community and to highlight local people's achievements," said newspaper committee president Michele Mustey.

Supporting a community newspaper has benefits beyond keeping a community informed. This project matched the Gardiner Foundation's strategy of building local leadership and training. It helps people in a small community develop new skills, it values volunteers and the community hears good news.



Setting up a Mentoring Program for Young People (Queensland)

Lead On Cairns - Grant \$25,000
Source: Rural Education Program



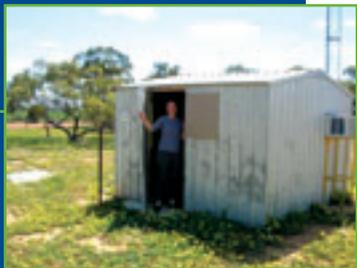
Getting young people to stay and grow personally, socially and in business in country areas, is the goal of the mentoring organisation Lead On. In June 2004, Lead On opened in Cairns. Less than a year later, with the FRRR's help, 65 young people were involved, as board members, setting up a website, being trained to produce radio shows, teaching older people how to use computers and running a short film festival.



Their work continues as they gain support from established businesses in Cairns in northern Queensland. "We believe that by growing the capacity of a young person by increasing their self-esteem, sense of purpose and ability to engage with others will, in turn, enhance the community." This is their motto.

FRRR considers projects that skill and develop young people critical to the future of rural and regional Australia. The Lead On organisation does this through a successful national model involving business.

Developing Innovative Business Ventures or Using Advanced Information Technology and Electronic Commerce to Enhance and Create Business Opportunities



Bringing Radio to an Isolated Community (Western Australia)



Beacon BONKers (a subsidiary of the Beacon Progress Association) - Grant \$5,000
Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



Most communities take radio for granted. A choice of stations and plenty of listening options is a given but this was not so for the people in and around Beacon, a wheatbelt town of about 250 people, 350 km north east of Perth. With just two stations audible and a desire for more suitable music for the area's young people, four Beacon women, then ranging in age from 20 to 30, decided to change this. Graduates of a Community Builders Course, they called themselves The BONKers (short for Builders of Nurturing Communities) and set about raising \$39,000 to build a re-transmission tower to get FM music. It would help boost the area's tourism potential and add another marketing outlet for local business, plus add more modern listening. The women in the drought-struck community, which already collectively owns and runs its own general shop, slowly began raising funds. A local farmer donated land and another donated a shed.

"Once we got the project kick started and because we got the funds from FRRR, the radio station came out and put the re-transmitter up so it didn't cost half as much as we thought it would," says BONKer, local primary school teacher, volunteer ambulance driver and farmer Megan Beagley. Megan says it's been great having more modern music to listen to and that the area's farmers, who spends hours on tractors with just a radio for company, appreciate having more than Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers to listen to. "They get a bit more Powderfinger now," she laughs.

FRRR supported this because it was such a novel project, it was clearly community driven and had great benefits.

Promoting a Country Show with a Website (Victoria)



Ararat Agricultural Show -
Grant \$1,800
Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (The RE Ross Trust)

Donna Dunmore knew that putting the Ararat Agricultural Show on the Internet had paid off when she got a phone call from a Sydney kitchen goods company wanting to run a stall there. "They were going to be in Victoria at the time and checked out our show on the Internet and decided they'd like to come," says Donna, the show's administrator. The show, which has been going for 143 years, in this rural city of 7500 people in south-west Victoria, is unusual in that it is growing in popularity unlike many others in country areas. More entries, more stalls and greater interest is largely due to the work the locals put in, Donna says, but funds are also vital. The show society gives a Horsham business a free full page ad in its annual program in return for maintaining the show's website. "A lot of people get the program from our website now which saves us a lot of money because sending them out by mail used to cost us \$1.50 each," Donna says. "Grants help a lot. Having those funds behind us means we can upgrade the showgrounds."

Support from The RE Ross Trust made it possible for FRRR to fund this worthwhile project. Communities that seek to use technology to their advantage and apply it in a practical way are more likely to be successful.

Opening an Exhibition Centre (Victoria)

Orbost Exhibition Centre -
Grant \$50,000

Source: FRRR Annual Grants Program



Living in a timber town in a time of changing community and government policy about logging is not always easy. The East Gippsland timber town of Orbost, 600km east of Melbourne, found another way to tackle such divisive politics and set about building an exhibition centre that would show off the wood works, both functional and artistic, created by the region's many talented woodworkers. With support from FRRR and many other organisations, the people of Orbost built this cultural arts space, opening it in December 2004, seven years after it was first proposed. The centre now houses one of Australia's most impressive wood design collections. It also holds about 12 art exhibitions annually, giving local artists a vital place to market and sell their works. Manager Ruth Hanson says that without FRRR's funding, the project would never have got off the ground. "I was working seven days a week co-ordinating the building. The FRRR money went into project management. It was wonderful. And thank you to FRRR for having faith in us."

This project was clearly about a community trying to find a solution to large restructuring issues. The project managers also already had substantial support from state and federal government and FRRR was able to offer a flexible grant to allow the project's completion.



Promoting a Farmers/Growers Market (Western Australia)

Gascoyne Growers Markets -
Grant \$2,500

Source: Small Grants for
Small Rural Communities Program (Myer Foundation)



It's no secret that farmers markets are much loved by shoppers because they're outdoors, they can talk to the people who grow what they're selling and it's a social experience. The market at Carnarvon, 600km south of Karratha in north-west Western Australia, is no different. With a large backpacking and tourist flowthrough, plus a significant Vietnamese and indigenous population, the town began its market to give local food growers a place to sell their produce. Marketing the market was important so the market organisers, a voluntary committee of growers, sought FRRR funds to design and produce promotional bumper stickers and to produce promotional postcards that could be left at tourist bureaus and in motels. Today market crowds peak at 2500 and stallholders' businesses are growing. Stallholder and Gascoyne Growers Market chairperson Jenny Payet attests to the success of the promotion. "As a direct result of the market, we have developed a hydroponic business for Asian greens which we produce on our property 7kms out of Carnarvon," Jenny says. "Another stallholder is now supplying organic produce to markets in Geraldton, 500kms south and we have helped get a honey producer market ready for next year." Indigenous musicians play at the market, the travelling West Australian Opera has performed there and organisers are working with local health workers to encourage more indigenous people to shop there in a bid to tackle high diabetes rates. "Indigenous people love to be outdoors so the market has created an environment conducive for them," Jenny says. They also love to pick up, smell and taste the food which they can do."

FRRR in supporting this project was able to grow an embryonic business venture to realise its true potential. Other benefits have been creating community inclusiveness promoting tourism, and creating healthier communities, aside from the business outcomes.

Projects that Enhance Community Wellbeing Through improved use of Community Resources



Equipping Kids for School (National)

Back to School Program (2005)
Grant \$162,500
Source: Sidney Myer Fund



There were many touching responses after the FRRR, through the Sidney Myer Fund, distributed \$150,000 to help parents of disadvantaged children prepare them for a new school year. Using the vouchers FRRR was able to leverage more until the total value was \$162,500. The money was distributed through Australia's emerging community foundations, through the Isolated Children's Parents Association in the Northern Territory and through some local governments in Tasmania. They handed out \$50 vouchers for school uniforms, clothing, school bags, books and stationery. Parents from Broken Hill to Bega, Buderim to Bendigo, Menindee to Mt Morgan, Lismore to Longreach and beyond redeemed the vouchers. In some cases teachers took children shopping. It was a wonderful exercise in building the profile of community foundations and many foundations learnt more about their own communities. Ballarat Foundation executive officer David O'Callaghan said discovering the extent of inadequately clothed primary school children was "an eye-opener". "The reports of the number of students who attend primary school with "underwear and sock" problems were, to say the least, alarming," David says. He discovered that some teachers buy students underwear and socks from their own wages. Perhaps the most touching response was the following by one grateful parent after seeing her daughter in new clothes.

"I cried when she came out just wearing her undies and her singlet and said to my best friend "see my new school stuff". I didn't think about it before. I always made sure her dress and socks were good so people wouldn't know, but I couldn't buy her new undies and singlets. I didn't know it was such a big deal to her."

At the instigation of the Sidney Myer Fund, FRRR designed and developed this program. It enhances the role of community foundations locally by getting them to provide practical assistance for families at the beginning of the school year. After a successful evaluation this program is to continue. One private donor has even pledged money to benefit the school in his hometown.

Helping People Fund Household Basics (NSW)

Deniliquin Regional Social
Development Group - Grant \$10,000
Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



There are families in the southern NSW farming town of Deniliquin whose financial situation and lack of credit history means they can't buy household white goods such as vacuum cleaners, washing machines and refrigerators. In 2003, the FRRR contributed \$10,000 to establish a no-interest loans scheme. The Regional Social Development Group has since handed out 13 loans. Applicants (Health Care card holders) must work on budgeting and repayment plans with family workers. "The beauty about this is that the money is recycled," said the group's manager of children and family services Danielle Scoullar, "so it comes in and goes out again. We have many people here who have had a long history of welfare dependency. This is about ensuring those people can get access to basic needs. We've provided loans for everything from a lift chair, to fencing to car repairs."

The project helped a community hit hard by the drought and by offering a No Interest Loans Scheme was able to provide much needed household goods for community members. Sustainability was another attraction because the money is re-used. It's a clever use of resources. Thanks to ANZ's Seeds of Renewal program, FRRR was able to fund this project.

Providing Tools for Woodworking classes (Victoria)

Dunolly and District Neighbourhood Centre - Grant \$2,500
Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (The William Buckland Foundation)



Surveys in the central Victorian town of Dunolly showed people wanted to learn how to work with wood and retiree and woodwork teacher Mike Hiley's backyard shed just wasn't big enough for the job. The Neighbourhood Centre decided to build a shed. FRRR funds bought the tools and now people such as retired receptionist Theresa Milne are learning how to make stools, carve wood and how to use a lathe to make table legs. "It's something different. You are never too old to learn," Theresa said. "We call it our community shed," said centre co-ordinator Sharon Skinn.

The William Buckland Foundation, initiator of and contributor to The Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program, seeks to support public education projects or public science projects. Providing resources such as tools helps people learn new skills.

Building Community Networks (Victoria)

Bass Coast Shire Council
Creatively Connecting Communities Mother Goose Parenting Program - Grant \$5,000
Source: Gardiner Foundation Small Grants Program



Thirteen mums and their children aged 0-5 took part in an eight-week program in Wonthaggi, 150km south-east of Melbourne, which engaged them in songs, rhymes and storytelling. Called Mother Goose, the program was presented by people trained by its Canadian founders. It was the first time it was run in Victoria. For Geraldine Archibald who worked for the Creatively Connecting Communities plan in Bass Coast Shire, it was especially exciting because of the relationships and networks it built in the community. The idea was to offer a forum for young parents to meet and to encourage them to play creatively with their children. Like other Victorian shires, Bass Coast had been created by amalgamating smaller shires in the late 1990s and its demographic was changing as new families, many from Melbourne, moved into the region.

"It gives parents the opportunity to connect with their children and with their community in a fun and positive way," Geraldine said. Mother of six-month-old Isabella, Shakira Golding, said that Mother Goose gave her the time to have fun with her daughter. "Isabella is enjoying the songs and finger play enormously," Shakira said. "She is beginning to recognise her favourites and has a huge smile on her face the whole time."

The Mother Goose Parenting Program continues today and is run by Neighbourhood Houses.



Projects that Enhance Community Wellbeing Through improved use of Community Resources

Building a Community and Youth Complex (Victoria)

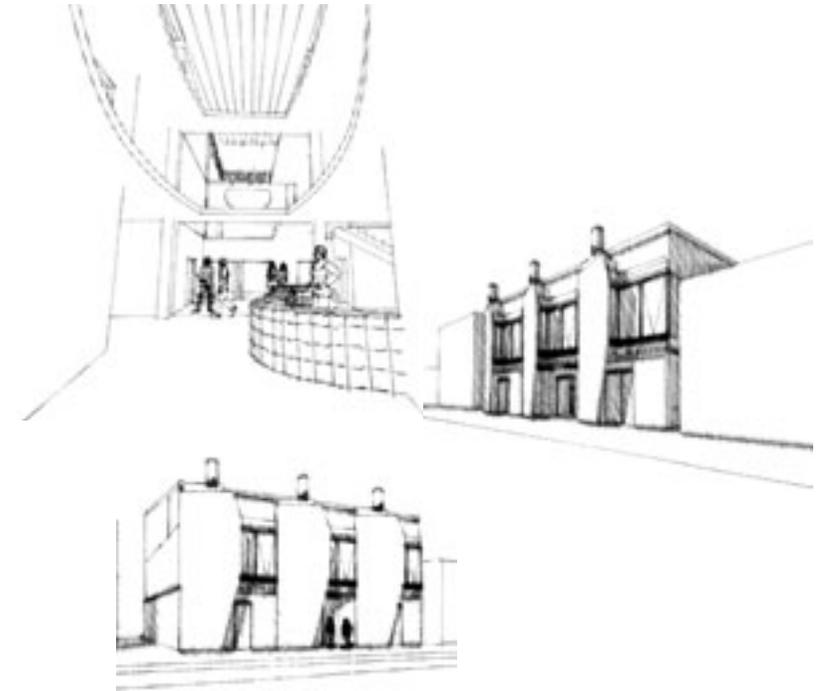
Brophy Family and Youth Services -
Grant \$15,000

Source: FRRR Annual Grants Program



South western Victoria was home to some of Victoria's earliest Irish settlers and is loved for its windswept coastline, its dramatic views and the Great Southern Whales that pass by. The area also has high levels of youth homelessness, prompted by domestic violence, and drug and alcohol misuse. Brophy Family and Youth Services, a community organisation based in Warrnambool which services all of south-west Victoria, was keen to establish a place where young people could go to have fun and find support and affirmation. With help from FRRR, Brophy expects to begin construction of a new community and youth centre in April. "Over the years the demand for youth services in this district has increased exponentially," says Brophy's director Francis Broekman. "Teenage years are a time of transition, crisis and development. More young people are seeking to find what it is they need to resolve. Most of them don't know where to go or how to go about it. We want to deliver preventative services so these young people don't need intervention services at the other end. By having entertaining and educating services, we want to develop young people's capacity to deal with life."

Francis says FRRR's funds will go towards establishing a video conferencing area and small screen cinema.



FRRR supported this project because the video conferencing will link people in outlying areas, making it unnecessary for them to travel long distances for services.



Supporting People to Find Education and Training to Improve Job Prospects, Especially in New or Expanded Business

Buying an Aquaculture Tank for Fish Farming Students (Queensland)

Gilroy Santa Maria College -
Grant \$6,194

Source: Rural Education Program



In 2003, the Gilroy Santa Maria College, a secondary school with 332 students at Ingham in Queensland, decided to expand its curriculum. The area offered few prospects for technical education, other than in sugar production which was experiencing a severe downturn. A school-based traineeship in barramundi farming was introduced. The college needed a 10,000 litre tank and associated equipment to house the fish so that students could apply the theory they learned about rearing barramundi fingerlings. The plan fitted with regional changes. Two recently opened aquaculture businesses needed staff. The FRRR grant helped buy the tank which will remain an important training tool for budding aquaculturalists preparing to work locally.

Through this project students have interacted with potential employers and brought back improvements for their own school business. The Rural Education Program supports projects that will assist students with future employment, increase their understanding of business and provide practical experience.



Equipping a Community Radio Group with a Computer (Victoria)

Central Highlands Broadcasting -
Grant \$1,912

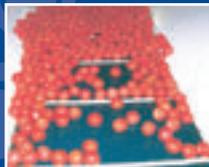
Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities
Program (The William Buckland Foundation)



In Kyneton, a town of 4500 people in central Victoria, a band of volunteers runs a radio station called 100.7 Highlands FM. With more than 28 per cent of its townspeople aged 21 and under, plus a considerable number on disability support and aged care pensions, Kyneton needed a way of bringing people together. The volunteers considered that radio could do just that and set out to train people to become presenters, technicians, fundraisers etc. They needed a computer to work with broadcast compatible software, so the locals could pre-record radio segments. Central Highlands Broadcasting president Jacqueline Mott said the computer, made possible with an FRRR grant, made programming more flexible. "Our station, like many around regional Australia, offers a forum, a chance to speak up about local issues and we believe this is the way to build a stronger community at a time when community values seem threatened," Jacqueline said.

This project supported by the William Buckland Foundation, bought equipment that helped volunteer radio operators develop new skills. FRRR recognises the important role that community radio plays in skill development.

Supporting People to Find Education and Training to Improve Job Prospects, Especially in New or Expanded Business



Interpreting Quality Assurance Requirements for Vietnamese Vegetable Growers (South Australia)



Virginia Horticultural Centre - Grant \$5,000
Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (The Pratt Foundation)

When big supermarket chains indicated that they expected all their fruit and vegetable grower suppliers to be quality accredited, the management of a growers' group at Virginia, north of Adelaide knew they had a challenge. How could they get the Vietnamese speaking growers, who made up about one-third of the region's producers, to understand and meet the quality assurance guidelines. Few spoke English. "The quality assurance program is hard enough for English speaking people to understand," says Virginia Horticulture Centre general manager Mike Redmond. The centre began a program called Expanding Horizons which translated the Freshcare Quality Assurance Program into Vietnamese. "We published it in Vietnamese on one page and English on the other," Mike says. The forms that the farmers are also required to fill out _spray diaries, chemical management and handling records and risk management records_ were also translated and published, with the help of FRRR's grant. It was an idea that took off, spreading around Australia and earning the Virginia Horticulture Centre an innovation and service delivery award from the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia. The VHC has extended their program and is now training Vietnamese speaking staff to help farmers conduct internal audits which they must do to maintain their Freshcare status. "The support of the FRRR has really helped us because we don't have a big budget," Mike says. "We rely on membership fees but that's only enough to keep our doors open and the rest we earn through training services and other commercial projects. Grants like these are a big help."

The Pratt Foundation support enabled FRRR to make a grant that helps assist with increasing diversity in rural and regional Australia through appropriate training resources and continued investment in the horticulture industry.

Taking Kids to Town to Check Out Tertiary Education (Western Australia)

Nannup Youth Advisory Council - Grant \$1,100
Source: Rural Education Program



Seeing a stage show or Sidney Nolan's artworks, watching ships load sawdust bound for Korea and sitting in on lectures at a university are not possible in the West Australian inland town of Nannup, 300km south of Perth. For those possibilities, young people have to travel elsewhere and in 2003 they did with the help of an FRRR grant. Year 8,9 and 10 students from Nannup District High School went to Bunbury on an excursion organised by the shire's student social worker Jaye Edwards during her work placement. FRRR considered this a great opportunity for kids to check tertiary possibilities and it gave Jaye a chance to test her organisational skills as well.

FRRR recognises it's really important that kids in rural areas know what tertiary education choices exist and a project such as this allowed them some exposure.



Giving Indigenous Trainees A Place to Live While They Work (Western Australia)

Wunan Foundation - Grant \$20,000
Source: Rural Education Program



Finding a place to stay that offers home comforts and a steady environment is not always easy for young people arriving from other communities to train and work in Kununurra in northern Western Australia. Rental housing is expensive and rare, and young people have to share with many others to afford it. It's not always the most settled environment for those trying to educate themselves and establish themselves in jobs. The Wunan Foundation, which encourages socio-economic independence, runs a hostel called Wunan House, providing safe and affordable accommodation for young indigenous people. FRRR, through the Rural Education Program, funded scholarships for two young people to stay at the hostel. Recipients Codie Rose, 23, and Skeeta Benning, 17, are both from Derby 700km south west of Kununurra. "They would have had to find a place and probably share with four or five other people and that wouldn't be anywhere near as good as Wunan House," says Wunan Foundation business development manager Paul Davis. "The steady environment is good because it keeps those who stay here in a routine. All meals are included. There is a main common room and dining room. The kids have rooms which they share with one other person. They have ensembles and TVs." Codie, whose parents are separated and whose siblings are spread across Western Australia, completed a certificate in business and administration while at Wunan House and is now employed as a field officer with Kimberley Group Training, matching trainees with employers. He now hopes to complete the next level of training and eventually hopes to record his own music and become a personal counsellor, helping others. "Wunan House is exactly what I wanted because it offered me security and stability," says Codie who left school in Year 10. "It's right in town near my job and I've always got a place to come home to."



If I hadn't moved into Wunan House I don't think I would have stuck it out. I would have arrived at work late or not at all. The Wunan Foundation and the scholarship have been really important to me. It's given me peace of mind. It's made me feel stable."

The Rural Education Program supported this project because it enables young indigenous people to realise their full potential.

Science Education Goes Bush

Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre - Grant \$75,000 over 3 years Source: FRRR Annual Grants Program



Every year 16 young science communication graduates go bush, travelling with a semi-trailer full of science activities and exhibits. Each year for three years, FRRR has funded Questacon's Science Circus, as it is known, with \$25,000 to go outback visiting remote areas in the Kimberley in northern Western Australia, central and eastern Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, and the Torres Strait Islands. With exhibits to explain elementary science, the graduates demonstrated flight, balance and pneumatics and explained things such as why part of a flame is blue, how slime is made and how to create rocket balloons and bubbles big enough to accommodate humans. During a visit to one school in Arnhem Land, one teacher noted that "the notion of science is such a Balinda (white) concept for these kids and it is not something that they are at all familiar with. There is very little basis for the western concept of science within their culture." As well as taking science to the outback, the young graduates learnt about indigenous communities from Yirrkala in the north-eastern tip of Arnhem Land to Thursday Island and beyond.

This project exposed remote communities to the possibilities of science and exhibits which cities take for granted. Questacon designed a program specifically for remote communities as a direct result of FRRR's funding.



Environmental Projects That Add Value to Existing Products, Demonstrate Best Practice in Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development and/or Create Jobs in New or Emerging Related Business

Educating Kids about Recycling and Water Conservation (Queensland)

Thangool State School - Grant \$5,000
Source: Rural Education Program



A worm farm, recycling bins, a greenhouse and a paper shredder are signs that the Thangool State School in central Queensland is going green with the help of the FRRR. "Pride in the school surroundings has lifted," says

parent Anita McLure since the school bought the above mentioned equipment and began teaching children about waste recycling, soil testing, mulching and propagating seeds. Students and teachers also used propagated seedlings to replant the drought-affected school grounds. In the last report about the program, the pre-schoolers were waiting to see which soils produced the best sunflowers.



This project taught students in small Queensland school important aspects of environmental management in a drought affected community.

Involving Young People In River Restoration (NSW)

Oz Green My RiveR Murray, NSW (stage two) - Grant \$38,500
Source: The Pratt Water Program



Wendy Hopkins, 29, was working as an environmental management scientist when she embarked on a youth leadership program run by the non-government organisation Oz GREEN. The program, called Youth Lead and run at Albury, Renmark and Murray Bridge, invited young people from the Murray-Darling River Basin to find out more about themselves and how they could help create change to address environmental and social problems across the basin. Now Wendy is working with OzGREEN. "Through Youth Lead I have been through this process of trying to work out what I want to do and how I can actually make a difference," Wendy said. "It really brought home to me that I was passionate about helping people connect more with themselves, with others and with nature and I think that's part of the (MD Basin's) problem. There is a disconnection there." OzGREEN co-founder and chief executive officer Sue Lennox said that as well as funding the Youth Lead programs, the FRRR grant will help fund a basin-wide congress of young people in Canberra. People aged 10-18 from across the Basin are now being coached by top lawyers on how to present their arguments for action when they meet politicians in Canberra at the congress. "It's easy for the Federal Government when they see kids coming to Parliament to say 'oh aren't they sweet and cute' and to not take them seriously, but we're going to make sure they do," said Sue Lennox.

FRRR was proud to support OzGreen in all its river projects including those on the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Darling. Involving young people in water management issues is critical to FRRR and The Pratt Foundation.

Encouraging Leadership in the Murray Darling Basin (NSW)

Australian Rural Leadership Foundation - Grant \$110,000



Source: The Pratt Water Program

Rising salinity and increasing pressure on water resources in the Murray Darling Basin has consistently been in the headlines for more than a decade. With the country's major food bowl under threat, it became more obvious than ever that Australians from all walks of life would have to band together and develop ways to rehabilitate and care for the basin. In 2002 the first of three leadership programs in the basin began. The aim of the Murray Darling Leadership Program was to develop leaders who would step out and make a difference to the basin's future. FRRR and The Pratt Foundation realised the importance of nurturing people who could help lead the community and develop ways to work through the basin's problems. Collectively they funded two scholarships in each of the three programs. Recipients included Brad Williams of NSW Irrigators and Michelle Ward of the Macquarie River valley peak irrigation group Macquarie River Food and Fibre in the first program, Deb Kerr from the Ricegrowers Association of Australia and Mark McLean of the Twynam Agricultural Group in the second program. Chris Hogendyk, general manager of the cotton and wheat growing and processing company Auscott Macquarie and Alexandra Anthony, a farmer and director of the private irrigation company Murray Irrigation Ltd, from Moulamein NSW were the recipients in the program's third year. Michelle went on to play a key role in working out a water sharing plan for the Macquarie River and says she emerged from the program with a strong focus on learning about other parts of the Basin and realising the extent to which people in the Basin must be involved in change. 2005 graduate Chris Hogendyk, who also chairs the irrigator group Macquarie Food and Fibre, says the program helped create "incredible self-awareness"



and gave him skills to work in a range of different environments. "I am hoping to use some of those skills in the community to achieve some natural resource management outcomes," he says. Alexandra Anthony, who is also on the central executive of the Ricegrowers Association of Australia, says every single part of the program was a learning experience. "We had to develop an education program between 16 of us across the basin. It really tested us trying to communicate, but even that was a learning experience."

FRRR supported this three-year pilot in partnership with The Pratt Foundation to ensure that people are skilled to tackle key water issues into the future. The projects hallmarks were about partnership, diversity and looking to the future.

Expanding a Town Dam to Treat and Control Septic Systems (NSW)



Bribbaree Water and Progress Association - Grant \$3,000

Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (The Pratt Foundation)

When the farming community of Bribbaree, (population 60) west of Young in NSW was forced to truck in water for household and septic use after years of drought, water bills went sky high. "Water bills for a couple of months were about equal to what we'd normally pay in a year," said Bribbaree publican and Water and Progress Association president Colin Smyth. With an FRRR grant, the association brought in a bulldozer and expanded the local dam which, when it rains and fills, is expected to keep the community watered for three years. "This will take a lot of tension out of the community," Colin said. "We've had a bit of rain and the dam is almost half full."

By expanding the local dam, FRRR was able to help the people of Bribbaree find a local solution to water management issues.



Support Indigenous Australians to Realise Their Economic and Social Aspirations

House Maintenance for Indigenous Families (Northern Territory)

Arltarpilta Community Government Council - Grant \$5,000

Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (The Pratt Foundation)



The indigenous community of about 200 people at Atitjere, 22km north east of Alice Springs, decided they wanted to learn how to keep house so they set up a homemakers program. Run by the Arltarpilta Community Government Council, the FRRR funded program introduced removable mattress covers and showed women how to wash them and taught them about other nutritional aspects of keeping house. Council clerk Donna Cole said the program showed that cleaning houses only lasted if maintenance was regular so a maintenance program was introduced. All houses in the community are now fenced and the council has introduced maintenance standards so that if, for example, a tap leak is reported it's fixed within 48 hours. It's a slow process, says Donna, but we have learnt that it takes a lot of commitment from everyone to the vet, to the nurse, the school and the council. It's always evolving."

FRRR supported this project because the idea was initiated by the community and there was a strong desire to make it succeed.

Helping Indigenous Communities Make Music (Northern Territory)

Alyangula Area School - Grant \$4,823

Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



It's amazing what a difference some song books, recorders, a pair of claves, some tambourines and triangles can make to an isolated bunch of kids who've never had formal music classes before. The Alyangula Area School on Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria introduced a classroom

music program in 2004, equipped with percussion instruments and music funded through FRRR. By 2005 teacher Ian Chambers was running class groups, lessons for interested students and a multi-instrument ensemble. "If it wasn't for the percussion instruments, the options would be very poor," Ian said. "I tend to use the percussion instruments with young kids who haven't had any (exposure to) music. They are very well used."

FRRR was able to provide support from the ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program for this Northern Territory project. The project's aspirations and remoteness were well worth supporting and helped deliver great results.

Providing Entertainment for an Isolated Indigenous Community (Western Australia)

Wiluna Remote Community School -
Grant \$3,500 Source Small Grants for
Small Rural Communities Program
(The Pratt Foundation)



Friday night football screenings and the annual highlight of the West Australian footy calendar, the Great Western Derby, have made it to the big screen in Wiluna. The indigenous and mining community about 10 hours drive north east of Perth, battles with boredom so a data projector and speakers,

bought with an FRRR grant, meant it could run movie nights and screen special events.

Principal of the Wiluna Remote Community School Lex Leslie says the events are organised by volunteer indigenous people who help publicise and clean up after screenings. "There are not many opportunities when indigenous and non-indigenous people get together in a positive way but the big football screenings, especially the Great Western Derby, help that happen. We also use the data projector for other community events. We use it for sex education and it's borrowed by the shire and the local women's group and the drug education group from the Aboriginal Medical Service."

Through the provision of simple equipment, a range of outcomes followed. It offered an opportunity for alcohol-free family gatherings and it's a resource that's used by a whole range of community groups.



Establishing a Community Garden to Build Self-Esteem in an Indigenous Community (Western Australia)

Yiyili Community Aboriginal
Corporation Grounds for Growth -
Grant \$4,000



Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities
Program (Perpetual Trustees, JS Love Charitable Trust)

They've had to fence the garden off to keep horses out and in summer when temperatures reach 42 degrees and more, growing vegetables becomes unviable but the students at the Yiyili Aboriginal Community School half-way between Fitzroy Crossing and Hall's Creek in Western Australia are gaining more than just horticultural tips in their garden. Principal Len Boyle says FRRR's grant helped at-risk school leavers and students establish a community garden. It's harvested to provide ingredients for the daily lunches cooked at the school by the indigenous women of the community. In the evening, families also wander down to pick a meal. "There are lots of health and nutrition issues here," says Len. "Diabetes and skin disorders have been very prominent but having good nutritious food to eat has made a big difference."



The 30m x 25m garden was part of the Yiyili Aboriginal Community's Grounds For Growth project aimed at helping young at-risk school leavers. "We have young school leavers employed under a Commonwealth Employment Development Program who work in the garden four hours a day," Len says. "We put the students with them so they can act as mentors and together they've made a beautiful garden."

This simple project of developing a community garden addressed issues ranging from health and nutrition to truancy and created a community meeting place.

Recognise and Enhance the Role of Volunteers in Building the Capacity of Rural Communities

Helping Accommodate Families with Disabilities (Victoria)

Families of Children With A Disabilities Support - Grant \$4,320

Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (The R.E. Ross Trust)



Around the central Victorian farming community of St Arnaud, five families, mostly with ageing parents, have been lobbying to build a house that accommodates their severely disabled children and a full-time carer. Maree Hewitt, mother of Melinda, 26, who has Praderwilli's Syndrome which in Melinda's case involves self-mutilation, says St Arnaud has some shared accommodation but not enough. With funds arranged through FRRR, the voluntary group banded together to visit politicians in Melbourne and to commission a design for the house. More recently the design has had to be changed to accommodate government policy. "We haven't given up yet," says Maree. Recently we had a Walk-A-Mile campaign and the mothers went and walked together to show the government what it's like to walk in our shoes."

"Through meetings, phone and personal contact and newsletters our group has been together for 21 years. We are all volunteers."

In an area where services were lacking, FRRR helped parents explore options for their children's future. Volunteers often need the means and FRRR is able to provide that .

(South Australia)

The Zimbabwe Connection - Grant \$3,000

Source: Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (Myer Foundation)



Jill Lambert's father was a school principal in Africa in colonial times. The former television newsreader, who has written books about his time there, was in Zimbabwe launching a book when Prime Minister Robert Mugabe began to oversee the removal of people from their farms. "I could see this picture of what was likely to happen and there was this huge pool of people with qualifications and skills in farming which, although not always recognised, are needed in Australia," Jill said. Since then she has established a volunteer network of about 14 people, mostly in country Australia, who find jobs for the displaced Zimbabweans. To date they have found work for 300 families and, with the FRRR grant, those families are linked via the Internet to their own network. Lindsay and Duncan Payne, a fourth generation Zimbabwean farmer, and their daughters, who now live in southwest Victoria, are among those families. They arrived in Australia in later 2004.

"When we first arrived we felt very lost and alone," says Lindsay. "No-one knew us and we had no background. Zimbabwe Connection is a link to a familiar world. We are all in the same boat and understand the great trauma involved in leaving a country of birth."

FRRR grants seek to enhance volunteer capacity. Rural Australia depends on its volunteers for many essential services. A new network enhanced by technology was an important project for FRRR to support.

Welcoming Displaced Zimbabwean Families

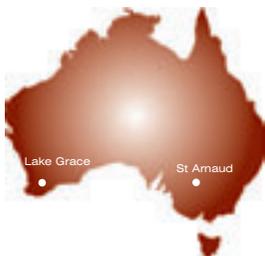
Encouraging Retired Teachers to Teach Isolated Students (Queensland)

Volunteers for Isolated Students Education (VISE) QLD - Grant \$15,000
Source: Rural Education Program



Which single-teacher school in the outback wouldn't love a qualified Reading Recovery teacher to turn up with her chemistry professor husband in tow to help with lessons. Delma Hodges and her husband Ray from Victoria's LaTrobe Valley, spent six weeks at Hebel, three hours west of Cairns, in 2004 as part of the Volunteers for Isolated Students Program. FRRR/REP funding helps VISE get retired specialist teachers out to isolated families on stations and to one and two-teacher schools. "I do the Reading Recovery and Ray puts together a science and physics program for the kids," Delma said. "It's such a privilege and a very humbling experience because you come home with far more than you've given." The Hodges were at Hebel when FRRR supporters Baillieu and Sarah Myer, John and Janet Calvert-Jones and Tim and Gina Fairfax visited. "It was a delight to see such interested people and to sit and chat with them about what we were doing." Delma said.

The Rural Education Program considers supporting VISE to be an honour. As a totally volunteer organisation that reaches into rural and remote Australia, its aim to achieve quality educational outcomes, is consistent with the aims of REP's founding donors.



Honouring Volunteers with a Town Clock (Western Australia)

Lake Grace Development Association - Grant \$4,000
Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



In the middle of the town of Lake Grace, 350km south-east of Perth, stands a tall steel tower and a clock therein. Those who pass through this wheatbelt town might simply appreciate the clock for its time-telling but for the 650 townsfolk, the clock means much more. Born out of a community project to revive the town and boost morale during a period of continuing drought which robbed the area of one-fifth of its population, the clock amid surrounding street improvements, stands as a tribute to the volunteers who help keep the community alive. The Lake Grace Development Association which represents 25 community organisations and 200 volunteers developed the idea. "With the new street landscaping and restoration of the nearby station master's house, the clock creates a focus in the town centre," says association President Jill Duckworth. "These improvements to the main street mean that people from Lake Grace and the surrounding shire are taking great pride in the town. The success of the town centre development project has fostered a sense of achievement despite the economic uncertainty and social stress caused by the drought."

This project was ideal for an ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant because it helped support a community through drought. It also generated strong local support and developed the management skills of people in the community desirable attributes for an FRRR-fund recipient.

Support Youth to Remain in Secondary and Tertiary Education and/or Reduce Unemployment and Enhance Youth Leadership Skills

Kids Creating Business Out of Local Crops (Victoria)

Kaniva College -
Grant \$11,000

Source: Rural Education Program



Victoria's major chickpea growing area is around Kaniva in the state's central west, just 20km from the South Australian border. It's only natural then that enterprising teachers and parents would turn to one of the region's staple products to offer their kids lessons in business and a real life learning experience. Kaniva College, a Prep to Year 12 school with 250 students, wanted to embark on a pilot project in which students would cook, flavour and package chickpeas for sale. FRRR/REP could see this was an excellent way for students to develop organisational and business skills and so gave \$11,000 to get the project started. This helped pay the wages of a supervising teacher and buy equipment such as deep fryers. Department of Education and Training liability concerns have hindered its commercial development but Kaniva Chicks, as the product is known, sells locally and next year the school plans to embrace the project further, incorporating it in subjects for all Year 8 students. "It really benefits the kids who are practically oriented," says principal Rod Jones. "FRRR were very good to us because we mucked them around for 12 months. They kept our submission alive. We have nothing but good things to say about them."

Teacher Sharon Maddern says that without the FRRR/REP grant the project would never have got off the ground. "Their support has been invaluable," she says.

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Year 7 student Tom Hicks, who chairs Kaniva Chicks' business meetings, loves cooking the chickpeas. "It's a great idea because it gets people to know stuff about cooking," says Tom. "It's a good career booster too." Year 8 student Matthew Wallis finds the marketing hard but there are bonuses. "It makes me feel good when I see the packets on the shelves," he says.

FRRR is keen to support innovative and entrepreneurial projects for young people. Kaniva showed initiative in developing such a project and the Rural Education Program made support possible.

Showing Kids a Future in Farming (Queensland)

Ravenshoe State School -
Grant \$2,400
Source: Rural Education Program



Entering livestock in country show judging requires confidence and knowledge of what makes a good breeding animal and how to present it well. The Ravenshoe school, west of Innisfail in Queensland, believes in encouraging students to see the opportunities in its surrounding rural district and does this through animal husbandry classes on its own farm which students help run. An FRRR/REP grant funded their entry and equipment for cattle and show judging.

"The greatest value in this project lies in the high degree of self-esteem and self confidence among participating students and in the greater appreciation generally of young people's role in this area," said principal Cameron Wallace. "Students are able to make informed decisions about employment and career possibilities in the business of farming and breeding cattle and poultry."

This project directly benefited students at a small Queensland school by exposing them to a new set of skills relevant to rural industries.



Giving Young Men a Go (Victoria)

Typo Station - Grant \$4,000
Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



Building skills and community links is the key aim of three-day programs called "Toil and Spoil" that Typo Station runs for troubled and vulnerable 14-17 year-old boys at Cheshunt in north East Victoria. In this particular follow-up program for graduates of the station's five-week intensive personal development programs, the boys worked on a King Valley Farm and helped replant an eroded creek bank with trees. "One of the main purposes is to get the lads to think beyond themselves and to think of others," says Typo's chief executive officer Andy Kay. After the work, the boys went tobogganing on Mt Buffalo.



About 150 kids annually stay at Typo Station which has been running for 13 years. Independent evaluation shows that 70-80 per cent of them build better relationships at home and school and develop better life skills that help them manage anger and aggression. "They come to us pretty well as broken boys and we hope they leave as young men with the confidence to know where they want to go in life," Andy says.

He says the generous support of philanthropic foundations and organisations is vital to Typo and the lives of these young men. "We are not government funded. It's tough going and we rely on trusts and funds and local community support to sustain us. For the young blokes, it's reassuring to know that there is a community out there willing to support them.

FRRR liked this program's goals of building skills and of creating positive futures for at-risk young people in a rural setting.

Establishing Regional Community Foundations

A community foundation is an independent philanthropic foundation which builds up donations and contributions from locals and outsiders for distribution within its own geographic area. Their chief role is to make grants, boost community leadership and to attract partnerships that address needs in their area. Such foundations already exist in Tasmania, Geelong and Benalla as well as in Melbourne and Sydney.

FRRR has led the way in encouraging some 16 rural & regional foundations and in 2004 in conjunction with Philanthropy Australia hosted the fourth annual Community Foundation Forum in Bendigo. It was here that a representative from the Philippines learned of community foundations and since then, the Philippines has sent two representatives to Australia to learn more. During their visit, Marissa Camacho-Reyes and May Corpuz visited FRRR in Bendigo, hence establishing as part of their Australian tour of community foundations a strong international link.

In the past FRRR has strongly supported Community Foundations in Tasmania and Benalla. That support continues, with more recent contributions to two newer foundations in Ballarat in southern Victoria and in Bowral in NSW's Southern Highlands and in Mt Gambier in South Australia.

Community Foundations also became key distributors of more than \$150,000 of vouchers to help clothe disadvantaged children at the start of the school year.

Here we feature just some of the community foundations that FRRR has funded.

Ballarat Foundation - Grant \$20,000 Source: FRRR Community Foundation Program - Ballarat, Victoria



FRRR has recently made two grants to the four-year-old Ballarat Foundation. The grants were used to help the foundation market itself and the other was to encourage youth in philanthropy. Executive officer David O'Callaghan says the marketing grant has helped inform the community about the foundation's aims.

"We've developed a marketing campaign. The local newspaper, The Ballarat Courier, has been running advertisements for us for free every week and we've been doing paid advertisements at reduced rates as well. We've developed brochures and folders and graphics and printed material to present to groups and to our supporters so people are now starting to learn what the foundation is. We have thank you nights for our donors and all this helps get the ball rolling. Telstra has just committed to giving us \$100,000 annually. We have a board of 12 people and 70-100 people on other committees. We've been dispensing small amounts since we began. For example we gave the RSPCA an air conditioner for its dog shelter, we've given Palm Pilots to Ballarat Hospice so nurses can feed information about patients directly into the computer and if any of the patients need help, their medical records are available quickly."



"FRRR have been fantastic to us. They are always helpful and they are always there to give us advice in any way, shape or form. We would not be at the stage we are at now if FRRR and the Myer Foundation were not there to help us."

-David O'Callaghan, Executive Officer, Ballarat Community Foundation

Wingecarribee Community Foundation - Grant \$12,000

Source: FRRR Community Foundation

Program Youth in Philanthropy Initiative - Bowral, NSW



At Bowral in NSW, young people are a vital part of the Wingecarribee Community Foundation. Since it officially began in 2002 the foundation (named after the shire which has its headquarters in Bowral south west of Sydney) has always acted by the credo that young people have a right to



take part in community decisions and that it is up to adults to help them do this. It quickly established a youth philanthropy committee which then set about learning about philanthropy and how it could help make things happen for the region's young people. FRRR kicked in \$11,000 to help the Youth In

Philanthropy Incentive Fund get established and when a 19 year old girl was elected to the Wingecarribee Shire Council and donated to \$2000 to the fund, FRRR matched this too. Travis Holland, then a 16-year-old schoolboy joined the young philanthropists' committee called Making A Difference three years ago and he's been hooked ever since. "Before the committee existed the council tried setting up a number of youth committees but the involvement levels were very, very low," says Travis. "But MAD has been a solid presence in the community. The councillors are really interested in what we have to say. We originally started as a service organisation like Apex but now we make grants and people take us seriously. Without FRRR we wouldn't have been able to do what we are doing."



Stand Like Stone Foundation - Grant \$30,000

Source: FRRR Community

Foundation Program - Mt Gambier, South Australia



The poet Adam Lindsay Gordon's beautiful words live on in the name of the newly formed Limestone Coast Community Foundation. Called Stand Like Stone, it's based in Mt Gambier and covers 21,376 sq kms and seven local government areas in South Australia's south east. FRRR gave the foundation \$30,000 to get it started. One year later, in October 2005, executive officer Sally Klose says the foundation has received its first major donation of \$45,000. "We've been talking to community groups, explaining how the foundation works," says Sally. "It's a completely different mindset for them. People involved in community groups are used to raising money and spending it, whereas we're saying why don't you raise it, give it to the foundation who can invest it and distribute the earnings. It's more a solution to ensure there will be funds for the community for the future.



"For example we have one community here that wants to sell its memorial hall. We have said to them why don't you put the money from the sale of the hall into the foundation to be distributed." To date, the foundation has distributed funds to the Tenison Woods Primary School in Mt Gambier to provide breakfasts for school children. It paid for one woman to attend a Women on Farms gathering,

It gave out 200 \$50 vouchers from the Back to School Program to disadvantaged children to buy school uniforms. It has appointed a community fundraising officer and is now seeking sponsors to help fund administration costs. It has also just appointed two young people, a 17-year-old and an 18-year-old, to its board of directors and next year it will make its first formal round of grants.

Cultural Projects Which Result in an Increased Sense of Belonging and/or create Employment

Fostering Friendship and Music in a Drought (Western Australia)

Hyden Progress Association -
Grant \$6,050

Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



A performance by the WA Opera Company in the small community of Hyden, 360km east of Perth, was more than just an overnight sensation for the district's 800 people. Called the Wave Rock 'n' Opera (because Hyden is home to the spectacular Wave Rock) the extravaganza engaged the Kondinin Technical and Further Education (TAFE) art group to provide backdrops, an artist was

brought in to also decorate the hall and create a huge Dame Joan lookalike and students were treated to educational opera performances in their schools beforehand. The Hyden Progress Association, which has already started its own community foundation, began fund raising and local groups chipped in, with the Country Women's Association (CWA) preparing supper, the local shire donating hall hire, the local motel donating accommodation and committee members manning the bar and preparing the venue.

"It was a glamour event and a celebration of where our community has come to," says wheat producer and beef feedlotter, Jane Mouritz, who helped pull it together. Patrons travelled from 250kms away. "People got really dressed up and talked about it for weeks afterwards," Jane says.

ANZ Seeds of Renewal in 2005 supported Public Tourism projects. And the Hyden opera project fitted the bill. They already had many partners on board and FRRR was one more.

Equipping an Outback Drive-In Cinema (South Australia)

Outback Open Air Cinema -
Grant \$6,000

Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



When streetlights came to the mining town of Coober Pedy, 680km south of Alice Springs, they posed problems for drive-in goers. Old projectors couldn't throw enough light up on the town's drive-in screen. The streetlights washed out the image. For the town of 3500 people with few formal leisure options and which normally hosts a Big Screen film festival every year, it was a blow. New equipment, including upgraded projectors, was needed to improve the image on the big screen. Realising the

importance of this cultural activity to this isolated multicultural community of 3500 people, FRRR stepped in and donated \$6000. A recent report from the voluntary committee suggested that with the help of another \$7000 won for a national volunteers award, the committee will be able to upgrade the projector and present a quality image. "This is one of only two drive-ins left in South Australia," says cinema committee secretary Stephen Staines, "and we're waiting on the guy who owns the other one to come and upgrade the projectors."

ANZ's support allows this worthwhile public tourism project to proceed. The significance of projects such as this to isolated communities cannot be underestimated.

Building a Network for 15 - 18 Year-Olds (Tasmania)

Tasmanian Regional Arts -
Grant \$9,000

Source: ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program



In Sheffield and other areas around north-west Tasmania, isolation and economic disadvantage can spell trouble for teenagers, but calling in hip-hop and rap artists proved a fitting confidence booster. Tasmanian Regional Arts and local governments set up Arts Mosh, in which young people from isolated areas got together at workshops where they wrote and performed rap songs. They learnt how to write lyrics for rap and how to create zines (street magazines) using disposable cameras and writing text to illustrate matters of concern or things they identified with. FRRR's funding helped hire Tassie hip hop artist DJ Chilli and Australia's number one rap outfit



Native Ryme Syndicate from Queensland to conduct the workshops. Since then the zine project has expanded statewide and the zines have been turned into multi-media clips available on a website. Erin Gleeson, who did a workshop with Native Ryme at Devonport, was totally inspired. "Native Ryme came to Devonport for three workshops and they would have to be the most emotionally powerful types of performers that I have ever listened to. They inspired me to be myself and to learn from my mistakes and to believe in what I do in life," she says.

FRRR understand the significance of taking diverse cultural projects into rural settings. The Arts Mosh has proven the influence this can have on the lives of young people and influence them in how they view their community.



Projects that Boost the Health and Community Life of Rural Australians

Teaching Mental Health First Aid (Victoria)

Aspire: A Pathway to Mental Health - Grant \$5,000.
Source: Gardiner Foundation Small Grants Program



It's well known that one in five Australians will suffer a mental illness in their lifetime but recognising the signs and being able to respond appropriately is a skill few practise. Aspire: A Pathway to Mental Health, a service in south-west Victoria, ran workshops to train people to do just this. Jillian Johnston, a farmer from Ellerslie near Warrnambool, was among those to complete a course to teach others mental health first aid. "It was five days of very intense training," says Jillian. Keen to destigmatise mental illness, Jillian and other graduates are now available to talk to groups. "I have people in our district who have come and asked me for information about schizophrenia, bipolar disorders and post-natal depression and the information and aids I've been able to hand out have been great."

This project fitted well with the Gardiner Foundation priority of employment and training, as well as supporting those within a dairying community.

Equipping a Choir for Outdoor Performances (NSW)

Tumbarumba Voices - Grant \$4000.
Source: Small Grants for Small Communities Program (The Pratt Foundation)



Just 1700 people live in Tumbarumba on the western slopes of the Snowy Mountains in south east NSW. But the timber and farming community has a lot to sing about and a local group called Tumbarumba Voices does exactly that. A 25-member choir that also provides musical accompaniment for local theatre productions, it is often called upon to sing a Carols by Candlelight, on Australia Day and at the local festival called TumbaFest. Singing outdoors requires amplification and Tumbarumba Voices asked FRRR to fund equipment include amplifiers. Former Choir member Lori Cameron says the choir is thriving. Outdoor performances are now welcome and the amplifiers are popular for other occasions around the district, too, including the local school swimming sports.

Community singing had become increasingly popular, providing health, cultural and social benefits. FRRR was pleased to support this innovative project.

Providing Counselling During Drought (NSW)

Murrumbidgee Valley Rural Counselling Service - Grant \$50,000

Source: The Pratt Water Program

Peter Gerarde-Smith has seen it all - separations, nervous breakdowns, suicides and intergenerational issues in farming families - in his nine years as a rural financial counsellor in the Murrumbidgee Valley farming community in south central NSW. After three years of drought and with another on the way heading into the spring of 2004, he sought help for this community-run counselling service for farmers and small rural businesses. Hail and wind damage to grape and citrus crops in December 2004 and into January 2005 posed even greater challenges and demand for financial counselling skyrocketed. Funds from the federal and state governments fell short and the MVRCS can't charge for its services. The Pratt Foundation came to the party granting \$50,000 through FRRR to keep the service going. For Peter, who is used to lobbying for every penny to keep the counselling service going, it was a great relief. He was able to help 230 families - about 58 more for the year thanks to the grant. "The FRRR grant was absolutely tremendous help given the pressure we've been under in the past three years," he says. "FRRR were good to deal with, very professional and it was easy to work out with them a program to suit. They were certainly enthusiastic"

Peter says conditions remain tough but the work is great. "In every case you help people," he says. "It's a positive outcome. It's not a downer."



Murrumbidgee Valley Rural Counselling Service Chairman, Foy Darcy and Murrumbidgee Valley Rural Counselling Service counsellor Peter Gerarde-Smith with Mayor John Dell

Pratt Water projects are about more than the science and this project recognises that communities in irrigation areas need support to be resilient, MVRCS does just about that and FRRR is proud to be able to extend its services.



Support Economic and Social Research Projects that add to the Body of Knowledge Available to Rural and Regional Communities to Enable them to Plan their Futures more Effectively

Researching the Impact of Drought on Rural Children's Education

Charles Sturt University Centre for Rural Social Research - Grant \$100,000

Source: Dept of Education, Science and Training/FRRR's Rural Education Program



Aware the drought really had begun to wreak havoc in country communities and concerned about the impact on the education of young people, REP sought to have some research undertaken. This year FRRR/ REP enthusiastically supported efforts to find out exactly how drought was affecting rural and remote young people's access to education. Conducted by researchers from one of Australia's foremost rural social research institutions, and funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training, the research adopted a qualitative approach, conducting in-depth interview with students, their families, teachers and community members. Researchers Dr Margaret Alston and Jenny Kent from the Centre for Rural Social Research at Charles Sturt University visited seven communities Hay, Balranald and Cootamundra in NSW, Longreach and Blackall in Queensland and Cohuna and Kerang in Victoria and their surrounding regions to conduct the interviews. As this FRRR report was going to print, the researchers' final report was being presented to the Reference Group. It is expected that this major study into how drought affects country kids' education will shine a

light on an aspect of country life that is fast becoming a matter deserving the nation's critical attention. Dr Alston, who has extensively researched rural issues, says she found this one of the most personally disturbing because of evidence that access to education is not always equitably provided.



About the Programs

Annual Grants:

Applications are accepted year-round. See www.frrr.org.au for criteria. It is advisable to call FRRR before applying.

Community Foundation Program :

Applications are accepted year-round. See www.frrr.org.au for criteria. It is advisable to call FRRR before applying.

Pratt Water:

Applications for grants in this program must address water management and salinity matters. Priority is given to projects in the Murrumbidgee region. Application forms are on the website and applications close four times a year.

Small Grants for Small

Rural Communities Program:

This program offers grants of up to \$5000 to communities of up to 10,000 people for a range of community projects. Applications close March 31 and September 30 each year.

Rural Education Program:

This program provides grants from a few hundred dollars up to \$25,000 for education related projects. Priority is given to drought affected areas. Applications forms are available on www.frrr.org.au.

Applications are considered quarterly.

The Gardiner Foundation:

This annual program offers grants of up to \$5000 to Victoria dairying communities of up to 10,000 people. Please visit the website for details.

ANL Seeds of Renewal Program:

This annual program offers grants of up to \$10,000 to rural communities with a population of 15,000. Funding priorities are determined annually. Please check website for details.

Wicking Trust:

This annual program provides grants of up to \$10,000 to communities of up to 10,000 people for projects that address ageing and aged care issues in rural Australia. Please check website for details.

Donation Accounts:

Applications for establishing a donation account within FRRR are considered at any time. Contact FRRR for more details.

Back to School Program:

This annual program is delivered through Community Foundations and other organisations. Contact FRRR for more details.

If you would like to donate to FRRR or want to apply for a grant, check www.frrr.org.au or email info@frrr.org.au or phone 1800 170 020 or (03) 5443 7300.

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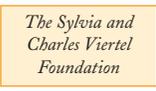
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