



2016/17 Annual Review

Connecting rural communities
with philanthropy





Lend your support

The work that FRRR does to support local community leaders is only possible with the generous support of our donor partners. This report sets out what we have achieved in the last 12 months, as well as the ongoing challenges and opportunities. If you'd like to lend your support, there are many ways you can do so:

All contributions, small or large, help to create viable, vibrant and adaptive rural communities.

Donate Now

<http://bit.ly/2Bp2GSB>



Ways to help



Online via website: No contribution is too small, with every donation over \$2 tax deductible.



Bequests: Leave a legacy, which can be directed to support rural, regional and remote communities.



In-kind: Volunteer your time, or provide services like IT support or electronic equipment, or items we fund regularly like paint or IT equipment.



Gift a friend: FRRR is registered on the Karma Currency website, which has the ability to send a gift voucher on your behalf.



Workplace Giving: FRRR is registered on the Good2Give, and Goodcompany (part of Karma Currency) online platforms. Or speak to us to arrange a presentation to your team.



Trust administration: We can manage a trust fund on your behalf, providing an efficient, effective and impactful way to administer your philanthropy.



FRRR's mission is to champion the economic and social strength of Australia's rural, regional and remote communities through partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy and governments.

Welcome

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) was formed in 2000, at the instigation of the Sidney Myer Fund and the Federal Government. Our founders believed that philanthropy could help respond to concerns about economic and social decline in many rural, regional and remote areas.

We still do this today, acting as a conduit for philanthropy to grassroots community groups, and helping donors to target their support where it is most needed.

FRRR firmly believes that initiatives led by local communities are most effective in addressing the issues that affect them.

That's why we also invest significant time and energy in capacity building. At the same time, we believe we have an important role to play in sharing our insights about the challenges and opportunities in rural communities.

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About FRRR

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) was founded in 2000 to harness the power of collective investment between government, business and philanthropy to improve the lives of those living in rural, regional and remote Australia.

We believe that local people are best-placed to know what is going to work best in their communities, so we focus on helping communities address local opportunities and challenges, to deal with factors of distance and service access, and to maintain and build community cohesion and strength.

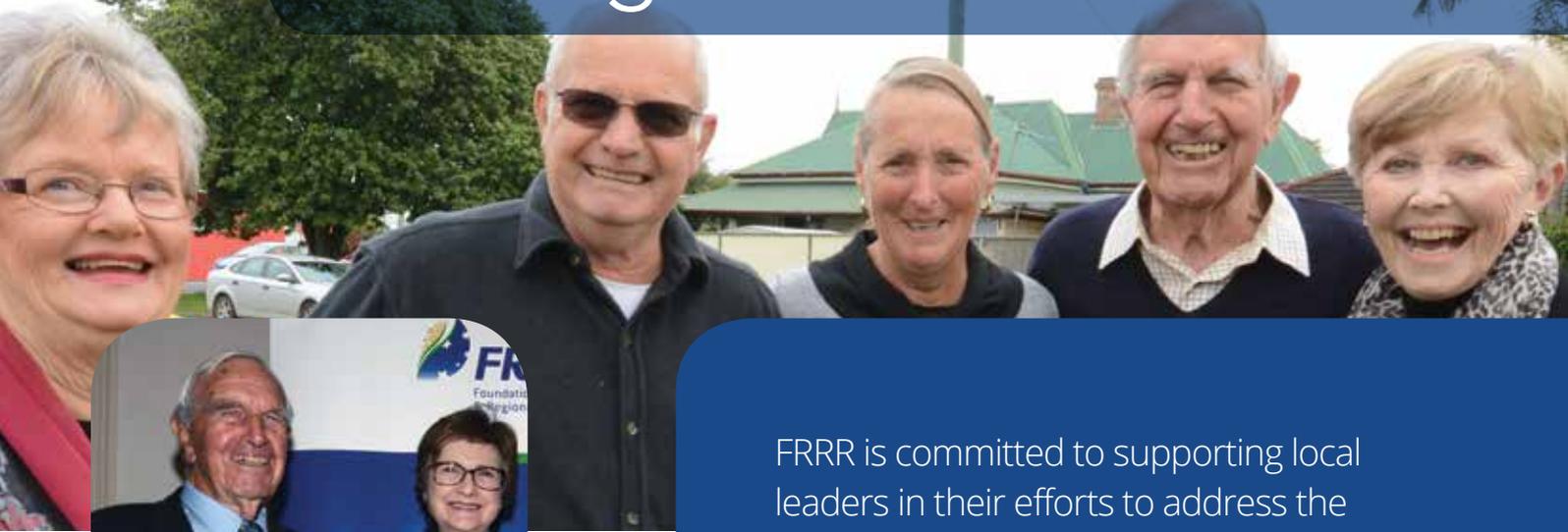
FRRR plays a critical role as a connector, working across the philanthropic sector as a conduit for philanthropy to rural communities. We are also unique in being the only organisation focused on rural, regional and remote communities, which has the ability to fund any kind of charitable project other than sport, including economic development. As an Item 1 DGR entity, FRRR is able to receive funds from Item 2 DGR entities, so we can help donors reach groups they normally can't.

Most of our work involves making grants to community groups, but we also leverage our experience to help communities enhance their capacity and capability. We share the insights we have from working with thousands of community groups each year to increase understanding and awareness of the particular issues and challenges in rural communities, and drive change that delivers tangible benefit.

“Granting through FRRR provides the John T Reid Charitable Trusts with the opportunity to fund groups who would not be eligible to apply directly to the Trusts. It is really pleasing to read the reports from FRRR about the efforts made by local communities and outside volunteers.”

Jane Reid, Trustee, John T Reid Charitable Trusts

Message from the Chairman



FRRR is committed to supporting local leaders in their efforts to address the challenges of today and harness the opportunities of tomorrow.

FRRR was established to help communities in rural, regional and remote Australia address the challenges of smaller populations, distance from major services, adverse seasons and relatively unequal opportunity. It does not exercise the responsibility of government nor provide services available in some states but not others. It seeks to fill gaps and ensure that communities do not miss out because their voice is muted against the understandable noise of major cities.

The communities are diverse and many face major challenges in meeting expectations in health, education, employment and economic sustainability, accessing viable transport and managing the effects of extreme weather events. Accessing funds and providing the resources to meet local needs in these days of rising expectations fuelled by instant telecommunications is not easy.

The FRRR role in enabling community groups to access philanthropy and help meet those needs is increasingly significant. In FY 2016/17 nearly \$6.7 million was distributed by FRRR to support 743 community projects.

We are deeply appreciative of each individual donor and partner who supported FRRR in our mission towards more vibrant and sustainable rural, regional and remote communities. A special thank you to those who have renewed or extended their commitment and a big welcome to all new donor partners. We look forward to working with each of you.

On behalf of the Board, I thank our Patron-in-Chief, His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and our Patrons, Baillieu Myer AC, Lady Southey AC and the Hon John Anderson AO for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for FRRR and commitment to promoting our purpose. I feel confident FRRR is justifying the expectations of our Founders and greatly appreciate the continuing personal endorsement our Patrons provide.

I gratefully acknowledge the significant service and contribution of each FRRR Director and their individual commitment over the past 12 months. Each carefully exercises the powers and responsibilities vested in them by Corporate Law and by our Constitution. All have a passion for rural, regional and remote communities and give their time and expertise voluntarily, including service on sub-committees and assessment panels. Particular thanks to Bill Kely AC for his incisive Chairmanship of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Foundation.

Tim Fairfax AC has retired from the Board after years of extraordinarily committed service. I extend personal thanks for Tim's outstanding contributions to making FRRR effective.

The 2016/17 financial year was Natalie Egleton's first as CEO and on behalf of the Board I congratulate and thank her, as well as the entire team, for their hard work and effective mission delivery. They are dedicated and passionate about the purpose of FRRR and their support and diligence is appreciated.

Last but not least, I express my sincere thanks to all the dedicated community leaders and their fellow-workers across the Australian outback. FRRR is committed to supporting you in your efforts to address the challenges of today and harness opportunities for tomorrow. Together we can help overcome the consequences of drought, disaster and individual difficulty and make a better future.

Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC
Chairman

Message from the CEO



While much has changed since FRRR's inception 17 years ago, many similar pressures remain for rural, regional and remote Australia. This calls for a focus on building local capability and capacity to adapt and respond to global and domestic challenges. In this respect, FRRR's role is more important than ever.

The past year has been one of listening, learning, focusing in on purpose and articulating the most impactful roles that FRRR can play in strengthening the people, places and prosperity of rural, regional and remote communities.

We are privileged, thanks to the support of nearly 600 donor partners, to help catalyse effective locally-led responses to the ongoing and emerging challenges facing rural Australia. Our partnerships continue to grow and evolve and together we have continued to develop and deliver programs that provide targeted support and respond to the evolving needs of communities. This year, we made 743 grants totalling nearly \$6.7 million to projects that help build and sustain vibrant, adaptive rural communities.

It is all too easy to take the relationships that underpin this for granted, but they are fundamental, as is the trust given to FRRR by communities and our donor partners, to reflect and respond to their priorities and needs, and work alongside them to deliver positive outcomes. These relationships are deeply valued by all of us at FRRR.

Prioritising our role of conduit / connector was the driver behind moving to a state based structure, which has enabled deeper listening and dialogue with communities about what matters to them. Over the past year, the FRRR team and I have travelled thousands of kilometres to meet with communities, deliver workshops, roundtable events and presentations, and spent more than 410 hours on the phone talking to community leaders. The innovation, resilience, and determination demonstrated at every level within communities never ceases to inspire and impress the whole team.

These first-hand experiences and insights mean we can shine a light on the challenges and the dynamic approaches being taken by communities, contribute to thought leadership on key issues, highlight what is possible with informed, practical and targeted funding support, and leverage FRRR's model to increase that support.

As I foreshadowed last year, we've been reviewing and evaluating the grants and support provided by FRRR and its partners since 2000. This deep-dive has enabled us to more clearly articulate the



various roles that FRRR plays in supporting communities. We now have a new framework that will underpin FRRR's grants application, assessment and evaluation going forward. We are very grateful to the Sidney Myer Fund for supporting this work.

Also, we continued to enhance our donor management systems, and laid the groundwork to move to an online granting system, thanks to the support of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. In time, this will make it easier for community groups to apply for funds, at the same time as improving the efficiency of our operations.

Looking ahead, our focus will remain resolutely on providing grants and other support to allow local leaders to implement local solutions to local problems. We will also continue to listen to communities, and reflect our very grassroots insights to influence policy, where appropriate. And we will continue to seek ways to be an even more effective connector and conduit and leverage our unique status and position just as our founders intended.

In closing, as the second anniversary of my appointment as CEO approaches, I sincerely thank the Board for their support and guidance. I also want to formally acknowledge the commitment and passion of all the staff. In the face of considerable change, the team has remained diligent, supportive and focused to ensure that support reaches communities where it will make a real difference.

I hope that the stories that we've shared in this year's Review give you greater insight into the impact of the work we do together, and look forward to your feedback.

Natalie Egleton

Natalie Egleton
Chief Executive Officer



The year in review

>\$7.2M
via 776 donations

590
unique donors
74 donated more than once

46%
of donations supported FRRR's collaboratively funded programs

Largest donation **\$824,766**
Smallest donation **\$1.53**

\$824,766

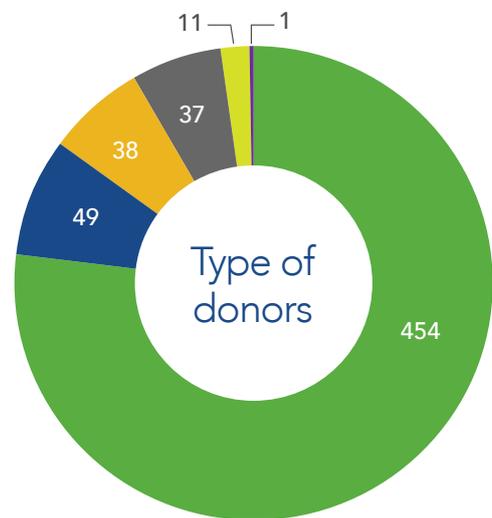
Median donation **\$190**
Average donation **\$9,437**

This year, FRRR's work was supported by 590 philanthropic, government, business and individual donors and partners. Together, they contributed \$7,231,627.

Pleasingly, the number of individuals supporting FRRR is growing. While the amounts they contribute may be smaller than institutional donors, their collective impact is significant, and we greatly appreciate these contributions.

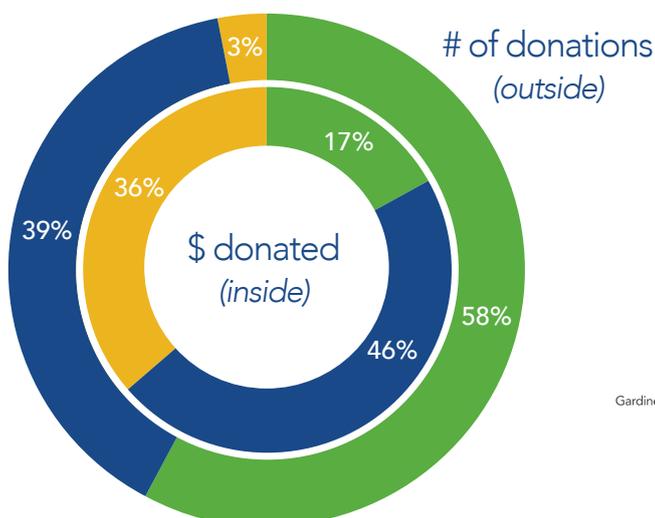
As shown below, the largest number of donations received supported various fundraising accounts. A significant number of donations were also made to FRRR's Repair-Restore-Renew program, to support Cyclone Debbie recovery (113) and to the Back to School Program (99).

The highest value of donations supported our various collaboratively funded programs.

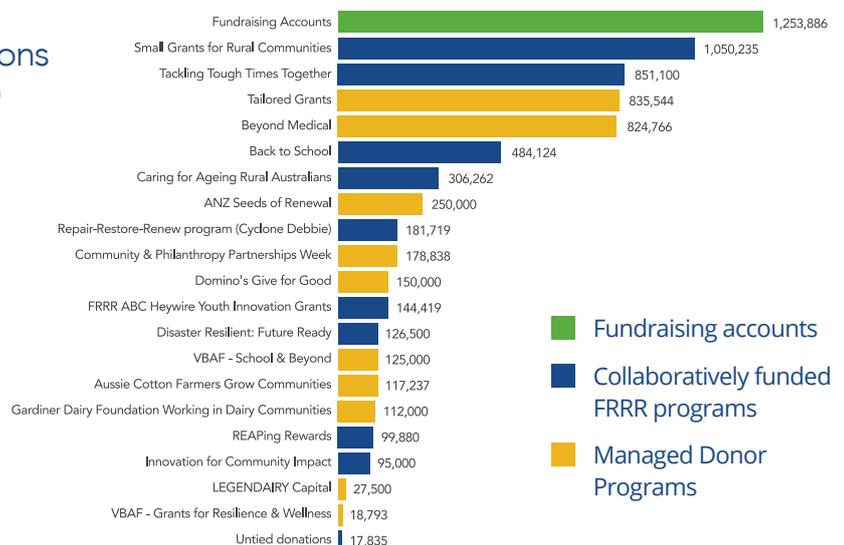


- Individuals
- Foundations / Trusts
- Businesses
- Other Organisations
- Community Foundations*
- Government

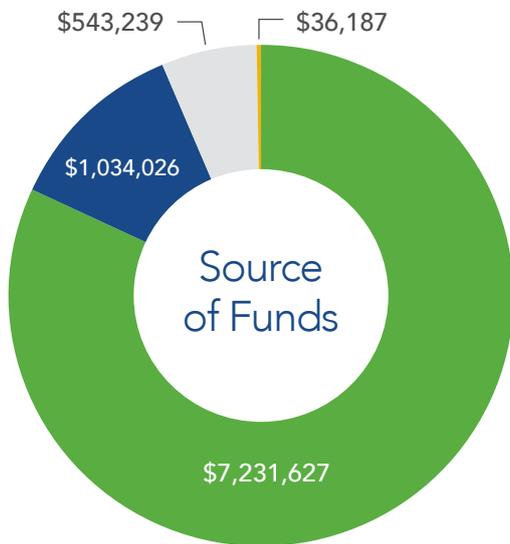
Donations by volume vs by value, by type of grant program supported



Donations by program



- Fundraising accounts
- Collaboratively funded FRRR programs
- Managed Donor Programs



FRRR has continued to keep the costs of program delivery to a minimum, thanks to the prudent investment of our corpus. Despite reduced investment returns, the corpus grew by 6%, and now sits at \$26,518,356.

Returns from these investments, together with other activities such as advisory work and subletting part of our office, covered nearly all of FRRR's day to day operating costs, enabling us to keep our administration fees low and pass on more than 90% of donated funds directly to rural, regional and remote communities.

- Donations received
- Interest and investments
- Admin fees
- Consulting / other fees

It has been a pleasure to be involved with FRRR and provide support for the Small Grants for Rural Communities program.

So many projects are deserving and the money we can offer through FRRR multiplies many times over, leveraging other sources of support and encouraging the communities to develop their skills and services.

It has been very satisfying to see what is being done and we look forward to hearing more about opportunities to contribute in this way in the future.

Private donor



Funds in/out over last 5 years

The funds in / funds out chart above shows activity this financial year reflects the general trend over the past few years.

Community capacity building

The administration fees we receive enable FRRR to undertake additional community outreach and capacity building for rural communities. For example, grant-seeking workshops, webinars and resources, and phone-based support. With recent investments in technology, including a donor management system and an online grant management system, we expect to continue to enhance our efficiency and capacity to provide additional support to communities.



incoming calls: **2,478**
 Minutes on calls: **24,780**
 Equivalent to: **55 days**

Calls to FRRR's freecall 1800 grant assistance line

40%

of applicants are first time applicants to FRRR

60

conferences, events, panels and round-tables

8

roadtrips plus numerous one-off visits to communities

11

grant-seeker sessions

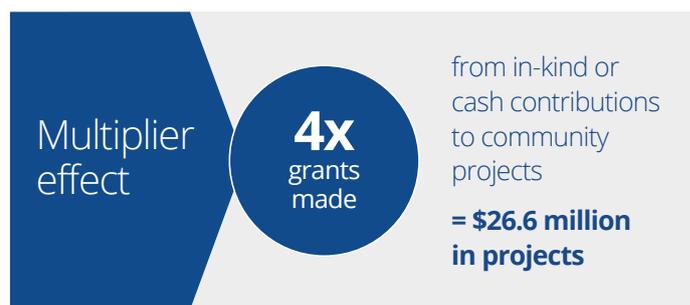
Granting Highlights



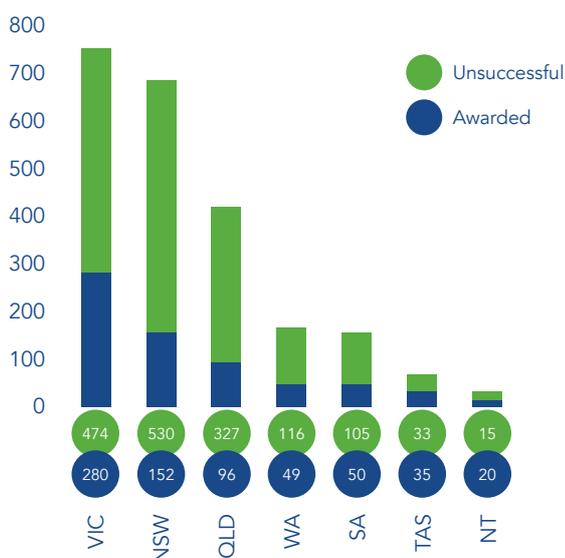
Grants and funds distributed

In 2016/17, FRRR distributed nearly \$6.7 million via 743 grants to not-for-profit community groups in rural, regional and remote Australia. On average, for every dollar we granted, a further \$3 was contributed by the local community either in cash or in-kind. This means that in the last financial year alone, FRRR and our donor partners supported projects valued at more than \$26.6 million.

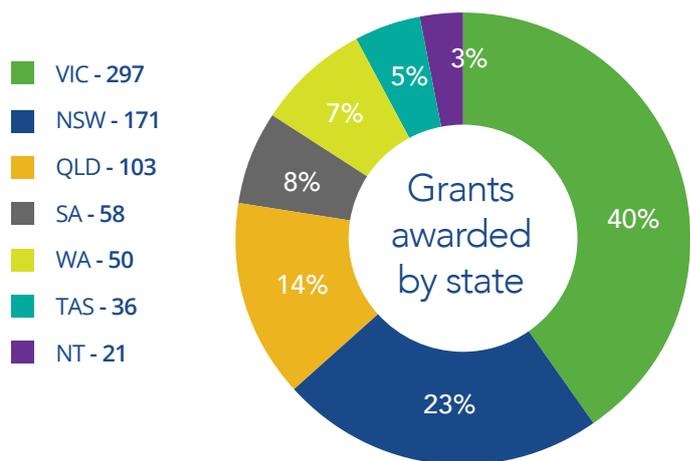
In total, we received 2,285 applications, requesting more than \$16 million in support, as contributions toward projects valued at more than \$52 million. We were able to fund about 30% of applications.



Application success rate, by state



As in previous years, most applicants were from VIC, followed closely by NSW and QLD. Pleasingly, we received increased applications from NT, TAS and WA this year and there was a greater success rate, reflecting the positive impact of the state-based staffing model.

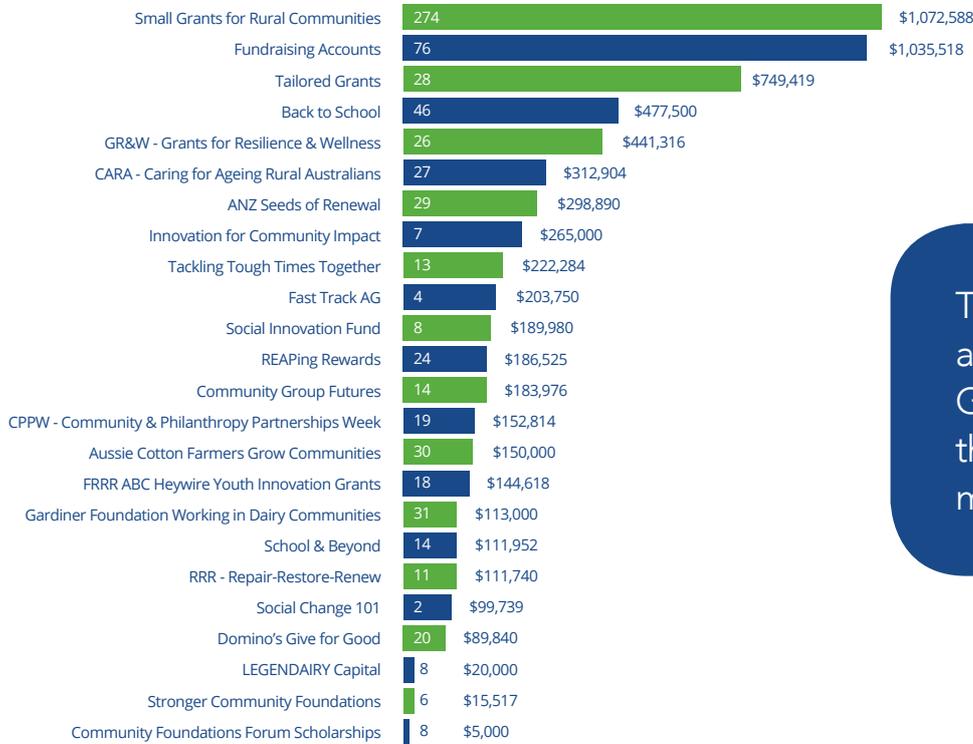


Overall, the grants awarded by state were similar this year to 2015/16, although there was a slight increase in the number of grants awarded in WA, SA and Tasmania. Once again, due to more funding being available in Victoria via targeted programs such as the 2009 bushfire recovery programs and the Gardiner Working in Dairy Communities program, there was a higher percentage of grants awarded in those states. The Northern Territory had the highest success rate, with 57% of application requests granted.

Grants by program

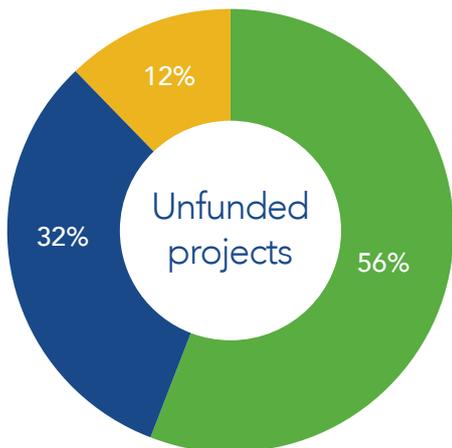
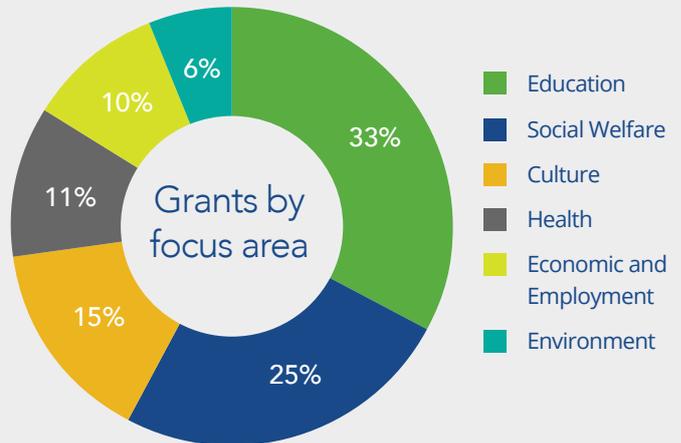
In 2016/17, FRRR ran 24 active granting programs. Our **most in-demand program**, with the broadest reach, is the **Small Grants for Rural Communities** program. We received 1,217 applications requesting \$5,125,194 in funds and awarded \$1,072,588 to 274 projects. This represented just 23% of all applications.

The program where we had **most unmet demand** was **REAPing Rewards**, our education small grants program. We received 217 applications but could fund only 24 applications, reflecting an 11% success rate. This reflects the fact that the program was under review and we were not actively seeking funding partners, and therefore had limited funding available.



The most popular program, as in previous years, was Small Grants for Rural Communities, through which we distributed more than \$1 million.

One of FRRR's unique features is the ability to support a broad range of charitable projects that strengthen rural, regional and remote communities. The grants made this year reflect this breadth. While we had a high level of unmet demand in the REAPing Rewards program, grants focused on education outcomes have been made across most of our programs and represent the highest percentage of grants awarded by category.



There were around 1,500 unsuccessful grant applications, but more than 1,000 of them were worthy of funding or would be with just a little more work on the application or project. This is one of the reasons why FRRR puts so much time and effort into building capacity in rural, regional and remote communities.

- Eligible projects but needed further development
- Ineligible or unsuitable projects
- Strong projects but insufficient funding

Supporting fundraising

62 FUNDRAISING ACCOUNTS



\$250,000
LARGEST
DONATION



\$5
SMALLEST
DONATION

450
DONORS

\$2,714
AVERAGE
DONATION

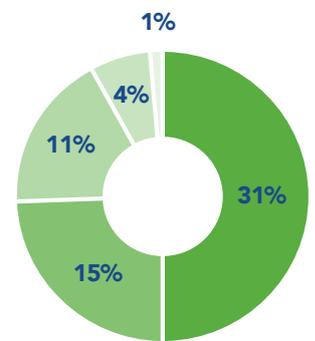
In 2016/17, FRRR partnered formally with 62 not-for-profit organisations to facilitate fundraising on their behalf through FRRR Fundraising Accounts (formerly Donation Accounts). These accounts enable both donors and community groups to leverage FRRR's DGR status. Donors can make a tax-deductible donation to FRRR, requesting it is granted toward a specific project.

The accounts support a wide range of initiatives, from the running costs of the Wycheproof Community Car; to supporting students studying by distance education; assisting communities recover after natural disasters (see story page 26); running community-led small grants programs and even a community-owned social enterprise that conducts energy education and social benefit projects.

Last year, 12 accounts were renewed and there were 17 new partnerships established. In total 37 accounts were active, attracting \$1,253,886 in donations. FRRR made 76 grants, distributing \$1,035,518 to these projects.

Fundraising accounts, by state

- VIC
- NSW
- QLD
- SA
- ACT



Helping the John Wallis Foundation build local capacity



The John Wallis Foundation works with FRRR to fundraise for and deliver their annual Small Grants Program.

Giving Sub-Fund Accounts are a great vehicle for other donors to support a project, or in some cases, it helps donors reach organisations that their tax status means they can't ordinarily support.

FRRR hosts a Giving Sub-Fund Account for the John Wallis Foundation Small Grants program, and this financial year it was very active, receiving **102 donations** from a **mix of large and small donations raising over \$64,000**.

FRRR's team also supported the assessment of these grants this year. Twenty-three projects across Australia received grants of up to \$3,000 for the 2017 Addressing Deep & Persistent Disadvantage Small Grants Program, sharing in \$61,843.

The funding helps build capacity within communities to deal locally with the

issues surrounding disadvantage; and strengthens local leadership.

Liz McAloon, Executive Officer of the John Wallis Foundation, said the program was specifically designed to respond to the issues raised in the 2015 Dropping off the Edge (DOTE) report commissioned by the Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia.

"The DOTE report revealed that complex and entrenched disadvantage is experienced by a small number of communities across Australia, with few signs of improvement over the past 15 years. The 23 grants we've funded this year confirms there is capacity within the local community to address entrenched disadvantage. With the right support, these locally-led organisations can be creative and focus on those who most often 'drop off the edge,'" Ms McAloon explained.



Our Strategy in Action

Helping build strong, vibrant, sustainable rural communities

Thank you FRRR for believing in small rural communities. The funding programs you offer are truly amazing. Cannot praise you enough in words... Thank you for having faith in the future of small country communities.

Sue Pukallus - Bymount, Qld

Our long-term vision is to have vibrant, sustainable and adaptive communities across rural, regional and remote Australia. Everything FRRR does is designed to strengthen and bind the people, place and the prosperity of these communities.

There are three main ways in which we go about this:

1

Grant making, to help community groups address the gaps or take advantage of opportunities they have identified. The funding may help kick-start a project and attract other contributions, support the ongoing maintenance of a project, or enable its completion. No matter the purpose, our grants are typically leveraged three-fold through either additional cash or in-kind contributions.

2

Building skills and capability, so communities can better help themselves. We provide resources and advice around leadership and governance, provide feedback on project ideas and applications; deliver webinars and run workshops on grant-writing, as well as providing support for Community Foundations as they get off the ground and become sustainable.

3

Enabling communities to fundraise - FRRR can partner with not-for-profits without DGR1 status to receive donations and grants for specified purposes and re-grant those funds onto the partnering organisation.

In addition to this, we take the knowledge and insights that we gain from interacting with hundreds of communities and assessing thousands of projects each year, and share those with our extensive government, business and the philanthropic networks to influence policy outcomes and decisions.

Our recent review of previous grant applications identified seven areas where communities seek support. The following pages share examples of some of the grants we've made and initiatives we've put in place to help local leaders address local challenges and opportunities, with local solutions.

FRRR's grants help local community groups to focus on:

1

Building community resilience

2

Developing organisational resilience & capacity

3

Acting on environmental challenges / opportunities

4

Contributing to a culturally vibrant community

5

Supporting lifelong learning, education and/or training

6

Building economic strength & sustainability

7

Promoting individual & community health and social wellbeing

Building community resilience

Community resilience is increasingly important, particularly as communities face new and ongoing challenges, such as natural disasters, persistent drought, limited access to health services and fluctuations in global trade.

FRRR's experience clearly shows that when a resilient community is hit by a difficult situation, they bounce back faster. There are many ways to build resilience, such as inclusive community planning, investing in community infrastructure, supporting local skill development and capacity building or strengthening local volunteerism.

The following stories share a handful of examples where small communities are looking to the future and are prioritising community resilience.

Social connection in comfort

The Community Resource Centre in Nungarin, WA provides a range of services and activities, including training, social events, desktop publishing, printing, internet, faxing and copying services. It's also the visitor information centre.

Located in the wheatbelt, Nungarin experiences very hot summers and very cold winters. Many of the events at the Centre target seniors or children who are both vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. The building had only one functioning air conditioner, which was inadequate for the space.

A \$2,930 from the Small Grants for Rural Communities Program, funded by Perpetual Trustees – WACF Charitable Trust, enabled the purchase and installation of a new air-conditioner, ensuring locals have a safe and comfortable space where they can do business, socialise and learn new skills.

In the final report, Jilly Wegner wrote, "The outcome of the project is a wonderfully efficient split system air-conditioner that keeps community activities cool or warm as required. Verbal feedback from all community members participating in workshops, events and meetings at our centre has been overwhelmingly positive, with our community very appreciative of the comfort they now enjoy."

"Our new split system air-conditioner has given our Centre a new lease on life, with staff and volunteers working on a multitude of ideas for new projects, now that we have a comfy place to host community events."



In the Barossa, recovery takes many shapes

In late 2015, the Pinery Bushfire ravaged the Barossa region in SA. Foundation Barossa is well-known in the community and knew they needed to fundraise quickly to respond to the emerging recovery needs of the community. Utilising an FRRR Community Foundation Account, they have since raised and granted almost \$50,000 to community recovery projects.

The local grants funded educational equipment, upgrading vital community infrastructure, providing transport services for cancer patients, enabling garden revival projects, constructing memorials, and publishing a historical book of the area.

Our Strategy in Action

“As a volunteer [for two organisations], the workshop gave me better personal resilience, improved my organisational skills and will enable me to better present and complete projects and cope with stressful [committee] situations.”
2015 participant.

Investing in leaders to benefit rural, regional and remote communities



The National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC) received \$18,795 from the Creating Inspiring Rural Community Leadership and Engagement (CIRCLE) program, funded by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, to implement the FRRR Growing Northern Women Leaders (NT) Program.

Designed specifically for NT rural, regional and remote women, 21 participants were taught skills to grow their leadership capability and build capacity in their own rural enterprise and / or within their community.

Over five years, NRWC has delivered eLeaders programs to 200 women living in rural Australia.

Dr Patricia Hamilton, NRWC President (2014-2016) explained that their industry experience has shown that when you invest and train a leader, that person will take this knowledge back to their business or industry, and the wider community.

“We've learnt that local leaders are on a plethora of committees and community groups. The underlying premise of the e-Leaders Program is that on average (per participant), up to 10 other community groups, and up to 100 additional people are influenced as a direct result of investing in training for that leader,” said Dr Hamilton.

75% of participants rated the program as a high-level learning experience; 25% rated the program as excellent.



Double the damage control

During significant weather events, Gracemere SES in Queensland was faced with the dilemma of which community got assistance first. While they had two vehicles, only one had a storm and rescue tray for carrying sandbags, cleaning up debris, and allowing quick access to stretchers, pole saws and ladders. After receiving a \$5,000 Domino's Give for Good grant, both vehicles are now equipped. And just in time too, as the upgrade happened within weeks of Tropical Cyclone Debbie hitting the area.

Developing organisational resilience and capability

Finding the right resources locally can be challenging for some communities. That's why we welcome grant applications that support strategic and operational planning, organisational revenue generation and fundraising, investing in local infrastructure and equipment, opportunities to foster networks, capability development and building the volunteer base.

FRRR believes that by upskilling local talent, we are investing in the long-term sustainability of the community. Equally, by investing in more efficient infrastructure and equipment, we can reduce operating costs for organisations, helping make them more sustainable. Here are some examples of these grants in action.

Ellimatta ensuring longevity



Ellimatta Inc is a not-for-profit incorporated body, focused on the wellbeing and development of all young people in the Kinglake Ranges, VIC, and they work in partnership with other Kinglake Ranges groups to support, empower and to build resilience in young people. During the past year Ellimatta has engaged with 280 young people, 10-25 years old.

The Grants for Resilience & Wellness (GR&W) program, funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF), is supporting Ellimatta to employ a Youth Development Officer and Executive Officer for three years. Their task is to diversify and increase income streams to ensure long term organisational viability, while still offering high quality youth services to the Kinglake Ranges.

Ellimatta aims to become a sustainable organisation with multiple income streams to ensure they can keep delivering reliable youth activities, programs and practical support that focus on enhancing young people's social, community, education and economic participation.

Belinda Temby, the Executive Officer at Ellimatta, said that when she started in her role in 2015, she quickly saw that the small organisation had a big job ahead.



"With the help of many, especially FRRR and the Ranges Foundation, we went from opening one day a week to three days per week, and in our first year serviced over 280 young people. We've improved young lives, by helping them get work and overcome very difficult barriers."

"Our sustainability plan is well into implementation due to FRRR's funding and support. We see sustainability as the only way to continue to offer programs and services to our youth. Our Inaugural Fun Run received wonderful support and I feel we are getting stronger. I give thanks to the FRRR team for believing that young people are worth the investment," said Belinda.



Lighting up the stage in Grafton

The Pelican Playhouse in Grafton, NSW, had produced some fantastic productions, but feedback told them their lighting was letting them down. With a \$3,000 Small Grant for Rural Communities, funded by the Bertalli Family Foundation, the theatre company installed a new lighting system. It's now being enjoyed by the whole community at theatre productions, events and live music gigs.

Preschool knows a thing or two about leveraging small grants

Moyhu District Preschool in Victoria is dedicated to keeping facilities up to date for the rural families that travel up to 30 km to attend the facility. They have transformed the kinder space with \$12,300 of improvements off the back of \$5,200 in grants. They leveraged a \$1,200 Small Grant for Rural Communities funded by the William Buckland Foundation, and a \$4,000 Gardiner Dairy Foundation Working in Dairy Communities grant; negotiated with Council; ran bake sales and other fundraising events to supplement the funds.



Keeping the children of Atherton safe

The issue of violence against women and children is a global social health issue. Change needs to happen at a cultural level and begin early.

With a \$10,000 ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant, Tableland Rape & Incest Crisis Centre, in QLD, delivered their 'Safe Hands - Early Childhood Protective Behaviours Education' program for free to staff and children at the Atherton Child Care Services.

Janelle Jacobsen, at Tableland Rape & Incest Crisis Centre, explained that safety prevention education, efficient responses and support, and messages about respect, non-violence, accountability and equality need to be taught to our children, role modelled to them and expected from them.

"The Safe Hands training means adults now have the skills to reinforce the learnings with the people in their lives. This builds the capacity for our community to collectively keep our children and young people safer," said Ms Jacobsen.

Training reached 613 children and 92 adults

"This highlights the demand for this type of training and the value of this investment," Ms Jacobsen said.



Burned Out and Burnt Out

After the 2009 Churchill-Jeerelang Bushfires in Victoria, the Churchill and District Community Association (CDCA) took on an advocacy role for the community. Recovering from the disaster themselves, members of the CDCA experienced post-disaster burnout and went into recess in 2015.

In 2016, the group reformed with the objective of taking a more sustainable approach to their work. CDCA received a \$9,000 Community Group Futures grant, funded by VBAF, to promote and attract wider ownership of the work of CDCA and recruit new members.

The consultant they engaged has already recruited new members and has developed a plan to update the strategy and structure. CDCA Treasurer Ian Gibson said, "We are confident that the FRRR-funded consultancy has provided a strong base for organisational sustainability."



Doing up little loos

Hygiene and functionality is very important when it comes to bathrooms, and the team at Dalby Day Care Centre in Queensland knew how much its children would benefit from an upgrade to their facilities. Thanks to the Monsanto Fund, a \$5,000 grant from the Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities program allowed them to bring their amenities up to regulatory standard, and the kids are happy with the new facilities!

Acting on environmental challenges and opportunities

With small communities increasingly being impacted by changing weather systems and natural disasters, there is growing interest in acting on environmental challenges and opportunities.

This year, it has been wonderful to see projects focused on building awareness of the local environment and how it can be utilised to support the local community. Projects we've funded include educating youth, supplying products and employment, and attracting tourists that in turn boost the local economy. We've also seen an increasing focus on supporting solar energy infrastructure, which not only reduces operating costs, but is good for the environment.

Mullumbimby renewable energy energises the community

The Brunswick Valley Historical Society received funding for a new air-conditioner for the Mullumbimby Museum, but they were concerned about the long-term increase in electricity costs. Community Owned Renewable Energy Mullumbimby (COREM) saw the opportunity to assist both the Historical Society and the environment, and received \$4,000 from the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, funded by the Yulgilbar Foundation, to install a 6 kW solar PV system at the Museum.

The success of the offset greenhouse emissions will be easily measurable through the solar inverter, however given the installation was in March 2017, the estimated savings to the Museum are \$1,500 per year, based on generating 20 kW hours per day @ \$0.20 /kWhr. Over the 20-year warranted lifetime of the system, at current electricity prices, this is a saving of around \$30,000.

Dave Rawlins, COREM, said that although this was a small project, it has been referred to by a community member as a symbol of hope for what can be achieved by working together and that we all can be part of the solution.

"This project was our fourth installation, and with each project completed, we gain more community trust, appreciation and support for our vision to reduce carbon pollution, whilst bringing financial gains to our local area," said Mr Rawlins.



Landcare and students flock together

Project Birdwatch brought together Napoleons Primary School students and the Napoleons-Enfield Landcare Group to foster an appreciation of the local Victorian environment. With a \$2,000 Small Grant for Rural Communities, funded by William Buckland Foundation, the students enjoyed a hands-on learning experience, constructing and painting 18 nesting boxes to house local bird life. Half of the boxes were installed in trees on the school grounds so the students can monitor the boxes each Spring to see which species make use of their new habitat over a number of years.



Grow Otways

Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN) Inc, launched the Grow Otways project, with the support of a \$7,636 ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant. The funding helped them develop a marketing plan and practice service documentation to attract new members and market their Otway Coast products.

As a direct result of the Grow Otways project, the Otway Coast Regenerative Farmers group was formed, membership is growing and sales of Otway Coast products have increased.

"Receiving this grant was truly a game changer for the SOLN, as it helped give rise to a new and highly active Landcare group who are directly linking best practice to economic outcomes for participants," said Libby Riches from SOLN.



Turning fire risk materials into rich compost

The Shire of Cranbrook in WA had no capacity to compost green waste, yet there was high demand for nutrient rich compost by the community.

Fire risk-management is a big issue within the Cranbrook Shire and people remove significant amounts of vegetation from around their homes to prepare for the summer threat of bushfires. The Gillamii Centre, a community based land management group, saw the opportunity to develop a composting facility at the local tip.

They used a \$4,027 grant from the Small Grants for Rural Communities program funded by various private donors, to purchase a 22,000 litre poly water tank, water pump and solar panel to deliver water from a dam to compost rows.

This project is turning what is currently a waste product into nutrient rich, friable compost for use on community gardens across the Shire.



From sea shore to laboratory door

A collaboration between the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre and ClimateWatch fostered an active interest in the local environment among students in Eden, NSW.

The 'Surveying the Sea Shore' project was run for year 9 and 10 students who were enrolled in marine studies at Eden Marine High School. Made possible by a \$4,000 grant funded by the Ian Potter Foundation via the REAPing Rewards program, the project was a way to engage youth in science by showcasing it as more accessible and having the kids contribute to a national database used by scientists.

Sixty students were trained in ClimateWatch data collection methodology, before conducting field trips to a local rock platform. Over the year, they performed eight scientific investigations, an overview of seasonal changes in biodiversity and any threats to the environment.



Contributing to a culturally vibrant community

Culturally vibrant communities usually have a strong morale and an interest in preserving the local history or heritage. While there is a wealth of talent in rural, regional and remote areas, there is usually a shortage of funds to bring their ideas and vision to life. In addition to building strong local connections, they often help attract visitors to the communities. That's why many of FRRR's grant programs have the flexibility to support cultural, arts, heritage and local identity building projects.

h.ART gets Lobethal beating



Wide Reach

- 72 artists
- 53 volunteers
- 2,000 visitors
- 19 media stories
- 15 sponsors
- 5 community partners
- 6 new arts connections

The Onkaparinga Woollen Mill in Lobethal, SA, holds a strong historic connection for many locals and it was hurting morale to see it sitting empty.

The Lobethal Community Association received a \$3,000 grant from the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, funded by The Bertalli Family Foundation, to create a Pop Up Art Gallery in the empty space, and so Art at the h.ART was formed.

With FRRR's seed funding, local businesses jumped on board to offer in-kind services and equipment, and residents were also keen to get involved.

The word spread far and wide and attracted fantastic support for the four exhibitions featuring local and national artists, and for the pop up arts market. The committee had put in place a clear evaluation plan, and so were able to measure their impact. h.ART received many accolades, but the most significant one was the inclusion of tourism and culture at the woollen mill in the Adelaide Hills Council's Strategic Plan.

Adelaide Hills Councillor, Lynton Vonow, said, *"h.ART has inspired the whole community and created a presence that will ensure the ongoing living heritage of the Onkaparinga Woollen Mill. h.Art is now a key driver of the public space that will also involve the history of the Mill and other community groups."*



Cultural dishes create community cohesion

Cooking for Cohesion, an idea from the 2016 ABC Heywire Regional Youth Summit, sought to tackle racism and promote understanding in rural and regional communities via the kitchen. The project invited high school students to experience cultural diversity at the hands of local cooks from different ethnic backgrounds through the shared enjoyment of food. Cooking for Cohesion was adopted by four communities across Australia, and implemented with funding from the FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants program. They all loved the opportunity to learn about different cultures... as well as treating their tastebuds!



Excitement for Quilpie

The Outback Fringe Festival (OFF) showcases local and state-wide talent with free workshops and performances. It was supported by a Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT) grant of \$11,353, funded by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation.

The drought in Queensland has taken a huge toll on the Quilpie community, and this event gave residents something fun and different to focus on. It gave children the opportunity to experience things that those in the city regularly take for granted.

Local artists and community groups sold their artworks and crafts, and hosted workshops. Several businesses reported it to be their busiest day of trade for the tourist season, and local community groups, made between \$220 and \$1,300 on the one day of the Festival.

Holly McCarthy from the Quilpie Shire said: ***"The exposure that the OFF gave to the community of Quilpie Shire was truly incredible. The workshops were overflowing with attendees and the feedback received about all aspects of the festival has been incredible. This really brought the whole community together, creating a real sense of social cohesion."***



Puppets steal the show in rural WA

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre was established in 1981 and has performed to over 55,000 people. A \$5,000 grant from the Culture, Arts, Tourism and Community Heritage (CATCH) program, thanks to support from McCusker Charitable Foundation, allowed the troupe to take up a regional residency in Merredin, WA.

The project appealed to a broad cross section of the community, with local feedback acknowledging a positive impact on emotional and mental health and a boost in morale with increased access to arts and cultural experiences. The residency concluded with three performances of a work called Farm, which 500 people attended - a quarter of the town's population!



A little money brings a lot of joy!

Rupanyup is a small Wimmera grain growing town in VIC, with a very active and caring community, and this small grant supported the Music Memories and Friendships project. The Rupanyup Nursing Home Support Group received a \$1,000 Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) grant, funded by The Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation.

The Rupanyup Nursing Home Support Group has successfully raised funds to conduct a monthly musical program at the Nursing Home for the last 10 years. With the CARA grant, volunteers organised 10 live music activities including special programs for Mother's Day, Footy Day and the Open Day.

"The ongoing support of FRRR has been instrumental in assisting us to optimise the well-being, enjoyment and social connectedness of our residents and community members. The support is very much appreciated by all." Steve - Residential Manager.



Elcho Island recovers to their own tune

Remote Elcho Island, off Arnhem Land, NT, was devastated in 2015 by Cyclone Lam, and again by Cyclone Nathan a month later, leaving more than 200 people homeless. The Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation received a \$15,000 Culture, Arts, Tourism and Community Heritage (CATCH) grant, funded by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, to facilitate a Cyclone Recovery Concert.

The event celebrated culture and strengthening social cohesion in the dislocated community. Residents of all ages were entertained by local and visiting musicians, and dance performances. While the recovery efforts continue for this isolated community, their spirits have lifted and residents are now more cohesive in their rebuilding journey.

Supporting lifelong learning, education and / or training

Educating our kids is one of the most important things we do as a society. From early childhood development and fostering school engagement / learning, to helping people access further education and training and supporting general or life skill development, we believe that all Australians deserve access to quality education and training, no matter where they live.

We also believe education and learning new skills is a lifelong pursuit, and FRRR supports educational projects for all ages and demographics.

New skills re-engage youth



SteppinUp and SteppinOut Skills Connection Program in Leeton, NSW, used an \$8,350 ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant to engage with local youth identified as at risk of disengagement or who were already disengaged from the education system.

The program provided youth with an opportunity to develop fundamental life-skills to assist them in both attaining employment and lifelong learning. Students (mentees) were placed with local businesses (mentors) to learn new skills and reinforce the training.

Anthony Celi, Co-founder and Secretary of SteppinOut4Youth, said that Leeton High School Students completed workshops on self-esteem, interview techniques and résumé development, as well as completing training in First Aid, CPR and Working Safely in the Construction Industry.

“Following the training, students were matched with a workplace and attended once a week for five weeks. All students actively engaged in their work experience and established a strong professional relationship with their mentors,” said Mr Celi.

The students each worked in different professions; including a motorbike mechanic, car mechanic, upholstery shop, sales and mechanics for a local car dealer, hospitality, disability services, electrician, barber and as a teachers, aide.

“The outcomes far exceeded everyone’s expectations. Eight out of the nine mentees have gained further employment and / or opportunities to continue their placements outside of the mentoring program,” Mr Celi said.

“The program was an overwhelming success! We’re extremely excited about the opportunities that have been provided to these students. All students actively engaged in their work experience and established a strong professional relationship with their mentors.”

“We cannot express our gratitude enough. Without this funding, we couldn’t have provided our local youth with this amazing opportunity,” said Mr Celi.



This toy library covers miles for smiles

Up in the Top End of the NT, children don't have access to the same resources and play and learning opportunities that children in the cities do. The Smile a Mile Fun Bus and Toy Library was established in 1987 to provide enjoyment and learning opportunities to families in rural and remote locations.

The toy library is located in Humpty Doo, but the bus travels to thirteen locations. The organisation received a \$3,480 grant through the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, funded by the Yulgilbar Foundation, to add some great new items to support increased coordination, socialisation, role play, fine and gross motor skills.

Having new toys and equipment for these kids to borrow and share helps their learning and development and also eases the financial burden on parents and communities.



BTS vouchers bring relief to Eyre Peninsula families

The Eyre Peninsula Community Foundation (EPCF) has partnered with FRRR on the Back to School (BTS) program for 11 years.

BTS vouchers are used to buy clothing, footwear, school bags, stationery and other school equipment. But just as importantly, the vouchers help students to engage with school and the social aspect of 'fitting' in.

This year, EPCF distributed 910 BTS \$50 vouchers valued at \$45,000, to local families to help them purchase items for their school-aged children. In the general allocation, they received 325 vouchers. They raised a further \$9,250 which was matched by FRRR, resulting in a further 370 vouchers. They then purchased an additional 215 vouchers using their own funds. EPCF reports that the BTS program makes a big difference to families doing it tough, but unfortunately the demand always far outweighs supply.



Port Lincoln can-do kids

Port Lincoln Special School (PLSS) caters for students with an intellectual disability.

With a REAPING Rewards grant of \$6,900, funded by the Ian Potter Foundation, PLSS engaged a local film maker to bring their 'Listen Up; We're the Can-Do Kids!' project to life.

The movie is targeted at potential employers and showcases that with the support of their rural community, the students are capable, competent and can-do.

Watch the video
<http://bit.ly/2iNgIpN>



Building economic strength and stability

One of the unique aspects of FRRR is our ability to support economic development as a charitable activity. A sustainable community attracts resources, services and new residents, so it's important that the community works together to achieve this.

We support many communities that seek to strengthen or adapt their local economic drivers. For example, a number of progressive communities have used FRRR grants to diversify their economy away from a declining mining industry to focus on tourism opportunities, and some drought impacted communities are embracing new technologies and enterprises to build financial stability. We also provide support to communities for economic recovery post-emergency or disaster, to enhance agricultural development and address barriers to employment.

Overcoming the tyranny of distance with 3D technology



Over 20 years ago, the Broome Community Resource Centre (CRC) was formed and brought the world wide web to Broome. This was a gamble, and costly at the time. However, their foresight has proven to be correct!

In 2016, the Broome CRC Board once again saw a new technology that their community could benefit from. That was 3D printing and scanning. They saw it as an opportunity to engage the community and create a real buzz about what is possible with the right technology.

With a \$3,255 from the Small Grants for Rural Community program, Broome CRC bought a 3D printer and has made it available to anyone in the community.

Paul Prizibilla, Broome CRC Coordinator explained that initially they hosted various events, targeting different community groups to demonstrate the printer in action.

"Then the ABC interviewed me on the local morning radio show, which really kick-started things. Watching people engage with the printing process and having 'light bulb' moments has been very exciting. This has been a hugely successful project that has allowed the CRC to re-engage with the community, from individuals, through to service clubs, schools and businesses," said Mr Prizibilla.

Users have made a wide range of things, from personalised luggage tags, joiners for a toy train set, and even an anti-vibration camera mount for a drone.

"In remote communities, this technology is really important. It allows us to tap into and use global collective imagination and knowledge. It's another tool to help us overcome the tyranny of distance," said Mr Prizibilla.



Practical hospitality training

Kimberley Group Training (KGT) received a \$13,000 ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant to help address the high youth unemployment rate in Kununurra and surrounding communities in the East Kimberley region of WA. KGT delivered pre-employment and Certificate I Hospitality training for more than 10 disadvantaged youth. The program has been highly successful due to the community business partnerships and philanthropic contributions supporting the project.

As one of the participants said, "There's nothing better than getting out of the classroom and seeing how things are done in the real world!"

Putting Felton on the map

In 2008, the residents of Felton were confronted with the prospect of an open cut coal mine and petrochemical plant being built on their land. The odds didn't appear to be in their favour – no community had ever stopped a coal mine proceeding in Queensland but four years later, the Friends of Felton secured their future.

To celebrate this outcome, the locals decided to showcase their local agriculture and encourage visitors to the area. The Felton Food Festival was formed in 2012 and the town of 250 people now hosts more than 7,000 visitors each year to taste local produce directly from the farmers.

A \$5,000 grant from the Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities, funded by the Monsanto Fund, has supported the growth of the festival, along with over 170 volunteers helping with all aspects of running the event.

Our Strategy in Action



Locally-grown produce boxes take off

The Food Hub' is a social enterprise run by Grow Lightly Connect in Korumburra, Victoria. It provides around 40 local families with locally-grown produce boxes on a weekly basis. They started small and now have about 70 growers, with an annual turnover of \$200,000 – three quarters of which goes directly to the growers.

A grant of \$4,273 from the Gardiner Dairy Foundation Working in Dairy Communities program helped support this growth by purchasing equipment and completing storeroom renovations at their distribution hub. With the community nurturing the local agriculture and food system, every Sunday morning at 8am volunteers head to the hub to pack boxes.



New idea, new appeal for visitors

The idea of a bike path linking Jurien Bay to Cervantes, in WA, was floated at a 2015 community planning workshop as an option to stimulate economic growth in the area. Both communities immediately saw the benefits of a 27 km running and cycling path, as a lifestyle option for residents and a new attraction for visitors.

The Jurien Bay Chamber of Commerce successfully obtained \$1.1 million of funding for Stage 1 via four major grants, including \$500,000 from an FRRR Tailored Grant, funded by the Ardross Group, in conjunction with Fremantle Community Foundation. This involved laying a 7.4 km path, signage, beach access tracks, bike stands, shelters and a toilet. Additional stages will be added over time.

Several significant nature reserves are in the local vicinity, which draw international visitors to the Turquoise Coast region, and this new bike path will provide easy access to lovely picnic spots and a path for casual or competitive exercise. A real tourism drawcard!



Outlook improves at Marion Bay

Access to the beach at Marion Bay, Tasmania, was disrupted when drought breaking rains caused damaging floods. To support their recovery, the Marion Bay Coastcare received a \$15,000 Repair-Restore-Renew grant, funded by FRRR, to build a viewing platform, making it easier for locals and visitors to enjoy the local beauty. It was also a much-needed morale booster for the community.

Promoting individual and community health and wellbeing

Healthy communities are happy communities! Access to local services to support both physical and mental wellbeing are critical, but in rural and remote communities, that often means leaving town.

FRRR is pleased to support projects that promote physical and mental health, access to infrastructure and support needed to live well locally, assist community cohesion and engagement and promoting community safety.

Goldfield girls strike self-esteem gold



The Goldfields in WA has one of the highest suicide rates in Australia. With persistent, intergenerational drug and alcohol abuse, there are few opportunities for young people to receive self-development and leadership experiences.

Tjupan Ngalia Land Council Aboriginal Corporation received a \$5,000 grant from the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, funded by Kapikarnpi Community Fund, to support the inaugural Goldfields Girls program.

In support of the application, Leonora High School principal, Jennette Maxfield, wrote: "I see this program having a positive impact on the school's efforts to increase engagement of secondary school students."

Based on the successful Indigenous young women's program, Kimberley Girl, young women aged 16-25 were given five days of personal and professional workshops. The aim was to help them realise their self-worth, gain confidence to dream big and empower them to set and reach goals.

It culminated in the Goldfields Girl fashion parade, where they could put their new skills into practice. Breanna Taylor, a 24-year-old from Leonora, was crowned the winner and is now the ambassador for girls around the Goldfields area.

The program is giving hope to the community. Wendy Duncan, Goldfields Girl Patron, said, "If these girls are going to change the world, they need a chance. The most beautiful thing is seeing the young ones, little 12 year-olds, saying I want to be Goldfields Girl."*

*Source: GWN7 News

*Breanna, who lost her brother to suicide, said she would focus on a stronger mental health program and teach kids about feelings. "It's ok to be sad, we all have bad days but we don't have bad lives." **

Opening the doors of a Women's Shed

The Charters Towers Women of the Outback Shed saw the need for a safe space for women in Charters Towers, to learn basic skills and improve social wellbeing. In 2016, after experiencing an increase in domestic violence cases amongst local women, they opened the first Women's Shed in Queensland, thanks to a Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT) grant for \$2,700, funded by the Aussie Farmers' Foundation.

The shed invites women to attend workshops with the aim to teach a new skill and empower these women. They hold a variety of workshops, including an Asian cooking class and carpentry skills course and attendance numbers show it is a much-needed program.



Take a plate and check on your mate

Northern Tasmania was affected by floods in 2016. The area was already dealing with other challenges, all of which had affected people's mental and physical health. 'Talk About it. Save Your Bacon' is run by Rural Health Tasmania and funded through a Tailored Grant, co-funded by several donors. The grant supported two events addressing mental health and services that help build connectedness and resilience.

The first was the Circular Head Youth Fest, held for over 450 students at the Smithton High School. Tasmanian Voice finalist, Matthew Garwood, spoke about the importance of family, peer networks and school services to support stress, anxiety and depression.

The Redpa Football Club, hosted the second event, which encouraged community members to keep tabs on each other to help prevent suicides, especially among men, who often don't speak about these matters. Sadly, the community had lost two men to suicide the week prior to the event. The night went ahead, and featured Young Australian of the year Mitch McPherson, who lost his brother to suicide. Nearly 100 people attended the health checks and a good discussion was held.



Better sight for Ouyen residents

The Australian College of Optometry received a Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) grant for \$8,196, funded by the Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation, to purchase a slit lamp to enhance the level of eye care to patients in Ouyen, Victoria.

A slit lamp allows a thorough examination of the eye under magnification and it can detect and support the management of a range of eye diseases. This dedicated slit lamp is a great asset to the Ouyen public eye clinic – patients receive early intervention and are treated locally, rather than travelling 100 km for specialist appointments.



Fostering an intergenerational connection

A \$4,550 Community and Philanthropic Partnerships Week (CPPW) grant funded a launch day for the Musical Project Toolkit – a resource now used by Alzheimers Australia. The toolkit was born out of a unique partnership between a dementia respite service and two home-based child care services in Tasmania, who run a musical playgroup that fosters intergenerational connection and promotes good health and wellbeing.



Women moving forward with support

The Hunter Region Working Women's Group Ltd (HRWWG) created Moving Forward, a mentoring program enabling women who were isolated, socially disadvantaged and had experienced domestic violence to support themselves and feel secure.

Utilising an Innovation for Community Impact (I4CI) grant of \$82,000, the funding which came from NSW FACS, covered a project manager and mentor trainer, program establishment costs, a graduation event, travel and more.

This project supported 30 women and their families, allowing them to focus on their future and how to manage financially through paid work. Moving Forward was an innovative approach to support women leaving domestic violence in a new way by building their skills and self-direction, and reducing economic vulnerability.

'Jane' (mentee) has a disability from an accident that paralysed the left side of her body. Jane wrote and published a book that assists people in to do everyday tasks one handed, like tying shoelaces. She is also working on a series of children's books relative to disability and domestic violence.

Evolution of disaster recovery support

The needs of communities affected by natural disasters evolve and people still need support five, seven, even 10 years after the disaster.

We believe that communities that are supported to build their capacity will be better able to respond to the impacts of natural disasters

2017 marked eight years since the 2009 Victorian bushfires. Over the years, FRRR has worked in partnership with the Victorian Government and philanthropic sector to run programs to support evolving recovery needs.

The first grants were for physical things to make people feel safe via the **Repair-Restore-Renew (RRR)** program. UHF radios, water tanks, replacing lost infrastructure or improving facilities at local halls, where people had sheltered. But then we started to hear concerns around volunteer fatigue and emotional wellbeing, and a lack of the skills needed to rebuild the communities.

The **Skills, Training, Engagement & Practical Support (STEPS)** program was designed to support community groups in the affected areas, including those that took on key roles to help drive community rebuilding and recovery. STEPS funded projects to enhance leadership skills and generally improve the ability of not-for-profit groups to support their communities. It also provided funds to help employ people to take on some of the roles people had been doing on a voluntary basis, recognising fatigue.

With local services and bricks and mortar re-established, attention turned to the need to reconnect and build resilience for the future.

The **Grants for Resilience & Wellness (GR&W)** program commenced in 2013 and funded community strengthening and resilience-building projects, focusing on the connectivity and wellbeing of community members themselves.

This year saw the 10th round of GR&W. It backs a diverse range of projects that hold small communities together and help people feel supported - from early childhood centre upgrades to installing a community path around a creek.

Young people affected by the fires have emerged as some of the most vulnerable and at-risk in these communities. The **School and Beyond** program has been established to help keep students in school or engaged in vocational education training, and ultimately employment. Funding is provided to service providers, ensuring support can be directed to those most in need, and delivered in the best way for the individuals at the right time.

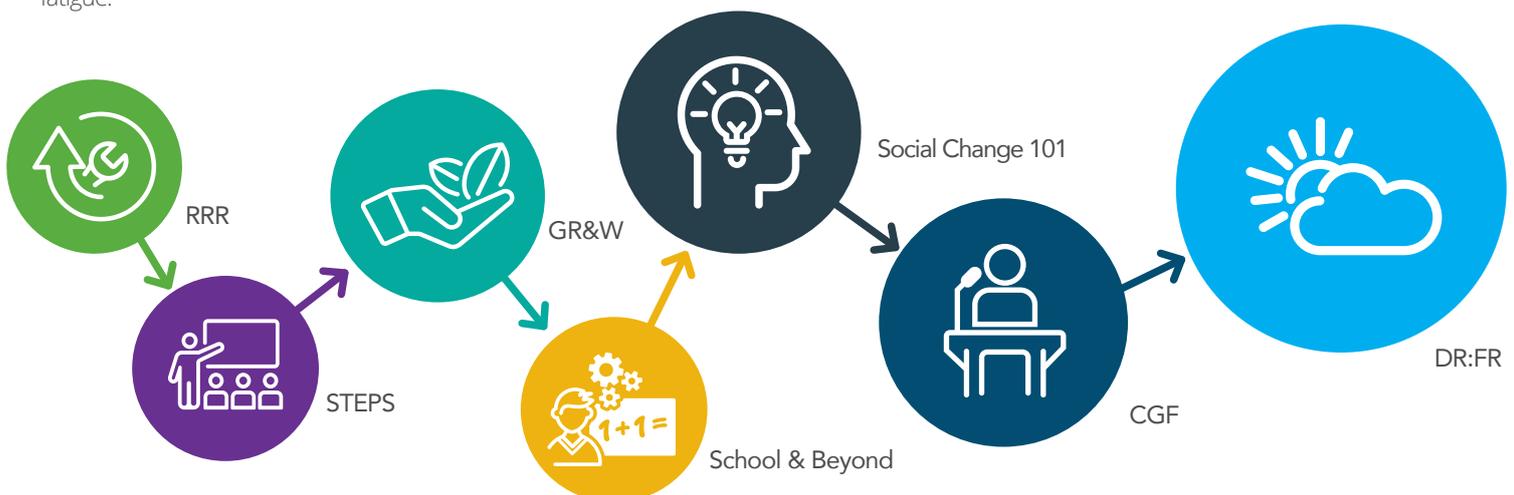
Another gap and ongoing challenge is the economic recovery of the fire-affected communities. **Social Change 101** was developed to support local change-makers to develop their ideas for social enterprises. These businesses can simultaneously tackle social problems, improve communities, provide people access to employment and training, or help the environment. This

year saw us launch the second and third Social Change program in the Mitchell and Murrumbidgee Shires. Last year's participants in the Alpine Valley's program are now working on an idea to build a village of tiny houses to provide safe accommodation for people who are experiencing homelessness, as well as setting up a service for children that will encourage reading as a fun activity.

The final string to the multi-faceted support this partnership is providing is **Community Group Futures**. The program provides resources to help organisations assess their viability, sustainability and future roles in their communities, and to reduce operating costs, through the installation of new infrastructure like solar panels.

Disaster recovery will remain a strong part of FRRR's program of work and from our experience we know that the communities with a strong sense of cohesion and social capital recover better. Significant preparatory work this year on the **Disaster Resilient: Future Ready** project will come to the fore in 2017/18.

If communities do this work before a disaster occurs, we see a more cohesive approach to addressing community needs and sustainable recovery. When community leaders and groups join forces to meet local needs - the possibilities are endless! We look forward to reporting on the outcomes of this program next year.



Our Strategy in Action

Claymation project breaks down fears

Watch the video
<http://bit.ly/2jwq7Rw>



After Black Saturday, many students in the Strathewen community experienced terrible trauma. There was subconscious negativity attached to local fire trucks and protective clothing.

The CFA for Arthurs Creek and Strathewen received a VBAF-funded Grant for Resilience & Wellness (GR&W) grant for \$19,430 to work with Grade 5 and 6 students to develop a clay animation – Claymation - about Fire Danger Ratings.

Through excursions, students learnt about fire plans, then worked with experts to bring them to life in clay.

The launch of the films was a chance for students to showcase their learnings to more than 80 people, many of whom had been involved directly in the project. The benefits of this project far exceeded expectations. There is now a strong connection between the staff, students, local fire brigade and community. The

school even has a waiting list of locals who want to help with the next project!

But the best outcome of the project is that the students who participated in the excursions are no longer afraid when they see the fire trucks.



"The Claymation project exemplified what GR&W is all about - many community groups working together, and utilising the local CFA skills to increase preparedness. This was true community dedication!"

Janet Phillips, Programs Manager for Natural Disaster Recovery.

New skills support social enterprise



FRRR's Social Change 101 program, supported by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, provides an opportunity for local change-makers to learn from leading business and social enterprise experts to gain the skills, knowledge and networks to bring their social enterprise idea to life for the broader benefit of their community.

Quercus Community House in Beechworth, VIC, jumped at the opportunity to participate.

Trish Mom, the Events Manager, wanted to utilise the Neighbourhood House infrastructure and community garden while making money to support the Quercus food programs, but wasn't sure of the best way to do it.

At the end of the program, Trish had developed Q-Pizza - a social enterprise that now fires up the pizza ovens on the first Saturday of every month.

"My background is in hospitality, so the financial components of the course were new to me. At the end of the program, we needed to complete a full business plan - I had to work through the start-up and on-going costs and develop the business plan looking three years ahead," said Ms Mom.

"This has been a valuable tool. I am continually looking back to see how Q-Pizza is tracking to the business plan, and I'm still working toward the three-year goal of employing a co-ordinator to manage the project."

"It has also been incredibly beneficial to utilise the networks made during the course, people who have different backgrounds and experiences but we all want to make a social impact."

Each year, Quercus Beechworth serves around 2,000 free meals to people and families in need in the Beechworth community, so money raised by Q-Pizza social enterprise is a great help financially as well as for spreading the word about their services.

Enabling and Influencing



An important part of FRRR's remit is to enhance the capacity of communities, helping them build skills on the ground. This year, we did this in several ways:

- running **grant-seeking workshops** in Tatura, Camperdown, Wonthaggi, Goondiwindi, Gunnedah, Blue Mountains and Inglewood, and presenting to Museums & Galleries Qld;
- **hosting webinars** with Our Community, covering bequests and planned giving, sponsorship and crowdfunding;
- funding **scholarships** for eight leaders to attend the annual National Community Foundations Conference;
- facilitating the attendance of five people at the innovative **Harwood Labs** sessions, to prompt new ways of thinking and engaging in community development;
- spending more than **400 hours on the phone** to communities, advising and supporting them.

FRRR's heart is with local communities but we also have an important role in sharing what we know about life in rural communities with policy makers and other funders.

This year, that included:

- contributing to the **Giving Australia 2016 research project**;
- contributing to the NSW Office of Emergency Management Recovery Capability Workshop and meeting with Queensland Government representatives to explore **community engagement opportunities**;
- participating in the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership **Community Empowerment Roundtable**, the **CSIRO megatrends project reference group**, **Community**

Energy Congress and **Impact Investing roundtable**;

- sitting on the steering committees to plan the **National Community Foundations Forum** and the **Australian Regional Development conference**;
- having input to the Department of Education Connected Beginnings **philanthropy consultation**;
- presenting a **Philanthropy Australia Cyclone Debbie webinar**, exploring what philanthropy can do to aid recovery; to the **Rural Education Funders group**; and at an **AEGN professional networking session** sharing FRRR's new assessment process;
- speaking at the **Victorian Regional Leadership Summit**;
- mentoring rural youth at the **ABC Heywire Summit**;
- partnering with the Regional Australia Institute on the **Lightbulb Moments project**, helping rural businesses grow;
- leading a **research project into rural education funding**, collaboratively delivered by FRRR, Schools Plus, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Sidney Myer Fund and Origin Foundation.

Increasingly, we are asked to **share our expertise with corporations** too, providing insights into the issues and challenges facing rural communities. This year, we presented to a number of organisations, including Monsanto, Stanwell and Rural Affinity.

Our Strategy in Action



Neriman visited 14 community groups in the Northern Territory. It built her understanding of the complexity of life in remote areas and the important role of grants. A highlight was learning about the Tangentyere Artists, a social enterprise focused on improving arts skills, providing professional development, arts industry training, marketing and promotional services to local artists.

Insights from the road

As rural communities continue to respond and adapt to changes in policy, land use, water use practice, climate change, industry shifts and the impacts and consequences of digitisation, FRRR will continue to play an important role.

Since moving to a state-based leadership structure, our Program Managers have visited Tasmania twice, South Australia twice, New South Wales several times, south-east Queensland, Alice Springs, the Goldfields region in Western Australia, and undertaken multiple trips around Victoria.

These visits deepen our local insights, allow us to assess past impacts, build our awareness and profile, strengthen networks and relationships, and ultimately support the case for further support of rural, regional and remote communities via FRRR's programs.

There is danger in assuming that all communities in a region are affected by the same issues. Within just a few kilometres, needs and priorities can change. That said, there are some common themes. Some of the most prevalent and consistent we heard this year were:

- **importance of community meeting places** - no matter where we travelled, local halls are central to the community. But maintaining them is an ongoing challenge;
- **tackling the challenges of economic uncertainty** - community-led tailored solutions, crafted by local partners and



When Natalie and Jacki visited the Bellata Hall in NSW (population 407), it was being painted. The addition of the movie screen and air-conditioner (both Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities grants) had reinvigorated the venue, created a new income source and provided a positive venue and activity for local young people.

community members, have the best chance of success;

- **need for improved access to fresh, nutritious food** - ensuring food security is becoming more prevalent, and an increasing focus in many communities;
- **isolation, exacerbated by limited public transport** - this affects people's access to employment and educational opportunities, and affordable access to goods and services;
- **mental health** - a very real issue, particularly amongst youth and farmers.

We will continue to act as the connector and conduit, reflecting a grassroots perspective to influence thought leadership and policy, and ideally where the money can and should go. We'll also continue engaging directly with communities to help build their resilience and adaptive capacity.



Mandy and Natalie met the Jordan River Service team in Tasmania, who deliver a range of services relating to family support and food security, including a breakfast club delivered through local schools. They are also involved in a community produce pantry, helping address food security.

Mandy and Natalie had two days in South Australia. Day 1, they presented to the Philanthropy Australia SA network and met with representatives from several NFP's working across the arts, environment and community services sectors and day two was spent with Foundation Barossa. This trip provided opportunities to talk about FRRR, as well as learn first-hand about key challenges facing SA communities.



In Appreciation



Our Donors, Our Partners

“VFFF values FRRR’s deep knowledge of life in Australia’s rural towns and the responsive approach to community driven initiatives. Giving to rural areas is a cornerstone of VFFF’s distribution policy and FRRR’s generosity in sharing their insights with us increases the impact of our work.”

Jenny Wheatley,
Vincent Fairfax Family
Foundation

FRRR works with trusts, foundations, government departments and businesses in many different ways – from collaborating on programs addressing a specific issue, to working together to pilot an idea or focus on a particular area, running a program on their behalf or simply sharing our experience and networks to ensure funds are directed where they are most needed.

We are deeply grateful to the nearly **600** generous donors and partners who trusted in us to achieve their giving goals. This included more than **400** individual donors, who collectively gifted more than **\$900,000**.

We also received incredible support from in-kind contributions and suppliers applying discounts, which is an enormous help for both FRRR and the grassroots community groups we support.

The list on the following page are the names of the generous donors that either gave during FY 2016/17, or whose donations from previous years were allocated to projects this financial year.

The Impact

- *Nine funding rounds*
- *145 applications, requesting \$1,609,424*
- *Distributed 77 grants, totaling \$607,500*
- *Average grant \$7,890*
- *44 organisations supported*

McEwen Foundation leaves lasting legacy

This financial year marked the end of a 10-year partnership with The McEwen Foundation. They first partnered with FRRR in 2007 to deliver a small grants program to the communities in the Goulburn Valley.

The partnership made a significant impact and provided valuable support in the areas of youth development and supporting at-risk children, providing early learning

opportunities, and accommodation options and facilities for elderly residents. The McEwen Foundation will continue its support of the region through the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project.

Lasting impact at Shepparton Retirement Villages

Shepparton Retirement Villages Inc. received seven grants via the program over a nine-year period, totalling \$71,668. The grants were put toward a wide range of infrastructure and wellness programs.

Jo Breen, PR, Fundraising & Marketing Manager at Shepparton Retirement Villages said the seven grants could be viewed independently, but each one was part of the overall care plan they follow at the Villages.

“Without these grants, we simply could not provide the exceptional level of care that we are widely recognised for. We’re proud of that but know we’ve had many partners help us achieve this standing.”

Donors and Partners

ANZ Banking Group +
Arbonne Charitable Foundation ^
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Ruffin Falkiner Foundation ^
Rural Affinity Group
SAGE Foundation
Sally Foundation +
SchoolAid Trust
Sidney Myer Fund
South West Community Foundation ^
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The Alf and Meg Steel Fund *
The Ballarat Foundation
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The John Wallis Foundation +
The Julian Flett Endowment
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Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
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Patrick Myer
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Sally White
Terry & Carol Crabb ^
Tim Fairfax AC
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Partners:

ABC Regional
Herbert Smith Freehills
Philanthropy Australia
Regional Australia Institute
Schools Plus
The Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership
The Prince's Trust Australia

Membership Bodies:

Australian Community Philanthropy
Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
Philanthropy Australia

^ Donation Account Donor # Managed by Equity Trustees * A Sub-Fund of the Australian Communities Foundation + Managed Donor Programs



"The commitment from FRRR allowed us to go to our community with some funds already in the bank, lessening the "ask" requirement and providing confidence that the project would come off. It is helpful to leverage this with other funding bodies to gain additional support."

**Jo Breen,
Shepparton Retirement Villages**

Good Governance



"For 15 years, ANZ has partnered with FRRR to deliver the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program. This program exemplifies ANZ's purpose to shape a world where people and communities thrive and also aligns to FRRR's goal to strengthen rural, regional and remote communities. FRRR has provided expertise in grant management processes to assist ANZ to support the most deserving projects to the communities where our customers live. I'm proud of ANZ's long-standing investment in Seeds of Renewal and gratefully acknowledge FRRR in successfully delivering this program."

ANZ representatives

Our Board

FRRR is fortunate to have people who are highly regarded and experienced in rural affairs and philanthropic practice as our Patrons and Board members. We appreciate their support and the commitment of our Board members in working towards our vision of vibrant, adaptive and sustainable small communities across Australia.

FRRR Patrons:

- His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
- Mr Baillieu Myer AC
- Lady Southey AC
- The Hon John Anderson AO

FRRR Board:

- The Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC, Chairman
- Ms Annabel Dulhunty
- Ms Annie Grindrod
- Mr Bill Kelty AC
- Mr Fred Grimwade
- Mr Ian Allen OAM
- Mr Mike Mrdak AO
- Mr Paddy Handbury
- Mr Patrick Myer
- Mr Tim Fairfax AC

Our Committees

Each grant assessment committee is chaired by an FRRR Board member, and where possible, subject matter experts assist the grant assessment process. The people listed below provided voluntary support in this way, or provided expertise on other sub-committees. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to rural communities:

- Adam Jenkins, United Dairy Farmers Victoria
- Alexandra Gartmann, Managing Director and CEO, Rural Bank
- Alexandra Neill, ABC Heywire
- Alice Macdougall, Herbert Smith Freehills

- Amy Tribe, nib foundation
- Andrew Coghlan, Red Cross and VBAF Panel
- Andrew Fairfax, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
- Andrew Lester, Dairy Industry, Tasmania
- Andrea Gordon, Community Representative
- Anne Leadbeater OAM, Disaster Recovery Expert
- Anne Long, Greater Charitable Foundation
- Bernadette Flannery, Flannery Foundation
- Brittney Hunter, ABC Heywire Youth Rep
- Bronwyn Hutchings, NSW Department of Family & Community Services
- Bronwyn Spencer, Domino's Pizza Enterprises
- Bruce Lloyd AM, former member for McEwen
- Bruce Scott, Grazier, Windorah, QLD
- Caitlin Rudorfer, ANZ Representative
- Chris Wootton, Philanthropy Australia
- Dr Christine Healy, former Director, ACT Bushfire Recovery Centre
- Christine Linden, ANZ Representative
- Dagmar Parsons, National Seniors
- Dan Hirst, ABC Regional
- David Basham, Dairy Industry, SA
- Emily Fuller, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
- Emily Kinnear, ANZ Representative
- Felicity Lindsay, NSW Department of Family & Community Services
- Georgie Somerset, Grazier, Kingaroy, QLD
- Geraldine Roche, Sally Foundation
- Gina Fairfax, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- Harm van Rees, Agricultural Industry Advisor
- Ian Zandstra, NSW Farmers, Association
- Janice Hirshorn, Donor
- Jamie Lovell, Dairy Industry, NSW
- Jeanette Long, Agricultural and Media Consultant
- Jill Herbert, NSW Department of Family & Community Services
- John Elferink, SA Dairy Farmers' Association
- John Harney, Domino's Pizza Enterprises
- Katie Tyrell, Philanthropy Australia
- Krystian Seibert, Philanthropy Australia
- Laura Daley, NSW Department of Family & Community Services
- Lawson Butler, ABC Heywire Youth Rep
- Liz Corbett, Betty Fulton Fund
- Margaret Smith AO, former FRRR Board member
- Mary Harney, Gardiner Dairy Foundation
- Melanie Cooper, PMCBP
- Micah de Smit, ABC Heywire Youth Rep
- Mike Logan, Dairy Industry, NSW
- Monica Cheah, Porter Novelli
- Monique Edwards, 2013 Heywire Winner
- Natasha Busbridge, Dairy Australia
- Nathan Scholz, Domino's Pizza Enterprises
- Patrick McClelland, Porter Novelli
- Phil Brown, Country Education Partnerships
- Prue Pateras, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- Rachel Kerry, CAGES Foundation
- Rachel Martin, NSW Department of Family & Community Services
- Ross McInnes, QLD Dairy Farmers' Organisation
- Sally McKay, Disaster Recovery Expert
- Sam Lonard, Dpt of Health & Human Services
- Sam Wedgwood, Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association
- Samantha Baillieu, Yulgilbar Foundation
- Samantha Jorgensen, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- Sandy McKenzie, Community Representative
- Shane Meijer, NSW Department of Family & Community Services
- Shekiba Nasery, ABC Heywire Youth Rep
- Stephen Coats, Dairy Industry Advisor
- Susan Mullard, NSW Department of Family & Community Services
- Suzi O'Dell, Dairy Australia
- Tim Crimp, Western Australian Farmers Federation
- Tim Roache, Gardiner Dairy Foundation
- Warrick Tyrell, Dairy Industry, WA
- Dr Wendy Craik AM, former FRRR Board member
- Dr Wendy Scaife, QUT



FRRR's staff are all passionate about rural and regional communities, and many of them live in small towns, so they know the opportunities and challenges.

They are inspired on a daily basis by the people they chat to across the country and the work they are doing to build great places to live. Here they share some of their highlights from the year.



"It continually amazes me how much social, economic and educational activity one small grant of \$5,000, or less, can generate. I've also been inspired by the generosity of our philanthropic partners - they truly share our faith in grassroots organisations to make a real difference."

Jacki Dimond

"This year I've learnt about growing grapes and oysters, the dairy industry, and the impact of natural disasters on the wellbeing of communities. I've visited inspiring projects and been lucky to meet many organisations and philanthropists who generously support rural communities to become more vibrant and sustainable."

Mandy Grinblat



"My trip to Alice Springs reminded me how creative and inventive this town is, despite its high population turnover. There is no 'one story' or 'one solution' or 'one truth' in a community - there are multiple perspectives, multiple beliefs and multiple opinions and all have some carriage."

Neriman Kemal

"One of my favourite things about working for FRRR is being part of the Back to School team and getting feedback from the children, or their parents, who received vouchers. It makes the hours of gluing all worth it!"

Hayley Troy



"The creativity, dedication and resilience of volunteer groups in disaster affected rural and regional areas never ceases to amaze me. People continue to step up, plan activities and enhance resources that will support community recovery, even when they're personally affected."

Hannah Jakab

"This year my curiosity has been piqued by the Social Enterprise space. This is a developing field for community organisations, and as such warrants research and understanding of where such an enterprise sits on the spectrum of small business and how to successfully run viable and beneficial initiatives."

Janet Phillips

"My highlight this FY was attending the Australian Food Hubs Conference. The knowledge I gained has enabled me to provide better advice when applicants call, including suggesting opportunities that could become part of their in-kind contribution to strengthen a grant application."

Lisa Mahon



"Congratulations, you have been awarded an FRRR grant!" Saying this is one of the best parts of my job. The genuine gratitude, and 'can do' attitude of rural communities is a constant source of inspiration."

Jeanice Henderson





"I found that the staff were always on hand and prepared to discuss my concerns with knowledge and patience - happy to assist with queries I may have on the process or application."

Woodgate Community Events Inc.

"I would like to thank FRRR for its support. The Community Trailer is a fantastic asset to our community and it will support the activities and initiatives of community groups on Phillip Island for many years to come."

Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre Inc

"This FRRR grant kicked the project off giving us confidence to apply for further funding to complete the project."

Nuggetty Landcare Protection Group

"Emergency service units in the Gilgandra Community are very thankful for being able to train with realistic weight and dimensional mannequins. This will greatly improve our effectiveness within the community."

SES – Gilgandra

"Thank you! Your support has created a beautiful environment for our pre-schoolers."

Yeoval Preschool Inc



Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our programs are assessed and delivered. We pay respect to their ancient and continuing culture, their connection to the land and to their Elders, past and present.