



**FRRR**

Foundation for Rural  
& Regional Renewal

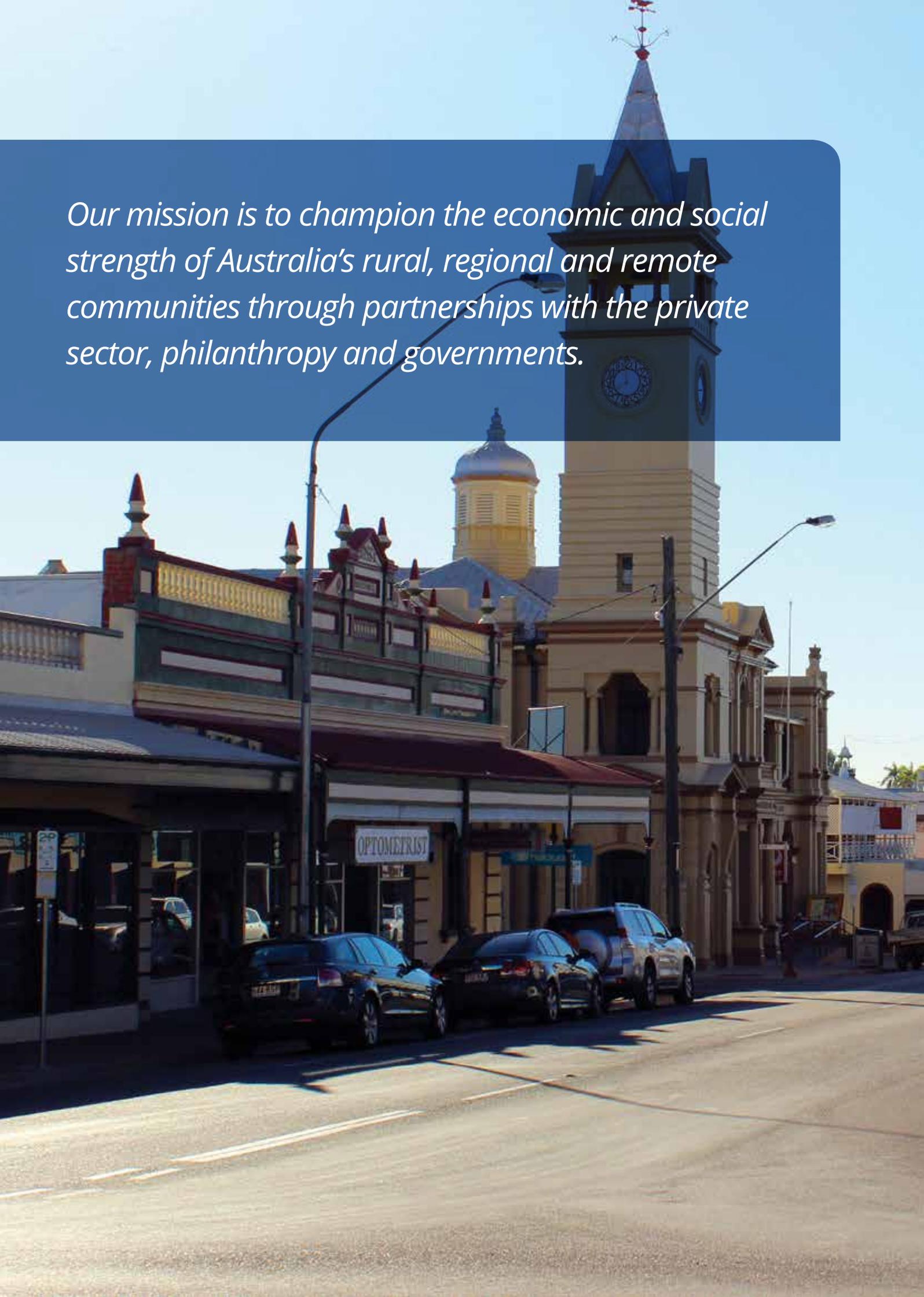
*Connecting rural communities  
with philanthropy*

**2015/16**

.....  
ANNUAL REVIEW



*Our 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 & Regional Renewal (FRRR) was formed in 2000 in collaboration with the Sidney Myer Fund and the Federal Government in response to concerns about economic and social decline in many rural, regional and remote areas. Our founders believed that philanthropy could play a key role in enhancing the environmental, built and social assets of regional Australia to support community and economic development.

We do this by connecting the private sector, philanthropy and governments and act as a conduit to grass-root community groups, helping donors to target investments where they are most needed. We are both a grant maker and a grant seeker and have a national reach and a local focus, which is informed by the communities themselves.

Fundraising in these communities is a challenge, as many smaller organisations don't have the structures in place to attract tax deductible donations. Some philanthropic organisations can't give to community groups that don't have deductible gift recipient status. FRRR's status in the Tax Act enables us to channel funds to these organisations, so long as it's for a charitable purpose. Donors can get the tax deduction and communities can access their philanthropy, which they couldn't have otherwise.

This year's Annual Review shares stories of what these communities do with the support they receive, and provides an overview of FRRR's operations during FY2016. We hope you find it interesting and welcome your feedback to [news@frrr.org.au](mailto:news@frrr.org.au).



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2015/16 was another successful year of effective regional support by FRRR. My special thanks to our generous donor partners, committed community leaders, dedicated directors and talented staff who made it so.

There have been changes. Early in the period Alexandra Gartmann resigned after making a major contribution to the growth of FRRR. Our senior program manager Natalie Egleton was appointed CEO. Natalie hit the ground running, continuing to build and strengthen the Foundation, establish and deepen our donor partnerships, create new programs to meet rural and regional community needs, and lead our capable staff effectively. Her efforts are appreciated.

On the Board too, one of our founding Directors, Mrs Margaret Smith AO, resigned after 15 years of outstanding service. My particular thanks to Margaret for her enormous contribution and constant enthusiasm. It is wonderful that she continues to share her experience and skills as a member of the Small Grants for Rural Communities and Caring for Ageing Rural Australians assessment committees.

I particularly acknowledge the generous contribution of each FRRR Director and those who serve on sub-committees and program assessment panels. All do so voluntarily, giving their time and expertise to support rural, regional and remote communities. Directors exercise the powers and responsibilities vested in them by Corporations Law and our Constitution to sustain the health and viability of the Foundation and are responsible to ensure the objectives of FRRR are achieved. I thank each of them for their commitment.

Thanks and congratulations too, to our staff, who so effectively service our national and far flung programs from FRRR's Bendigo base. Through the inevitable pressures of leadership change, they have provided on-going excellent service to the thousands of community groups who have contacted the office this year and diligently processed the many grant applications received. The Board appreciates your efforts.

We are deeply grateful to our network of donors and partners for maintaining their financial and personal support of FRRR programs and particularly those who have renewed or extended their commitment. We welcome those who are new and look forward to working with all of you in tackling the complex needs of rural, regional and remote communities.

We thank our Patron-in-Chief, General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and our Patrons, Mr Baillieu Myer AC, Lady Southey AC and the Hon John Anderson AO for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for FRRR and its purpose. The foresight of our Patron founders in establishing FRRR and their continuing commitment to it are greatly appreciated.

Nationally, the relatively smaller rural and remote population base, low profile and the dilemma of distance mean that many worthwhile local initiatives struggle to come to fruition and need the assistance of FRRR and our partners. Much has been achieved in our first 16 years, but recovery from natural disasters, achieving social equality and sustaining community wellbeing remain of concern for many in rural, regional and remote Australia. FRRR will continue to work closely with our partners in supporting local leaders as they tackle these challenges.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Sinclair'.

*Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC*  
**Chairman**



# ABOUT FRRR

*Our long-term vision is to have vibrant, sustainable and adaptive communities across rural, regional and remote Australia.*

Rural communities face increasingly complex challenges, including transport limitations, inequality in accessing services such as health and education, drought, natural disasters, industry decline and population fluctuation, to name a few.

We believe that these challenges can be overcome, and that local communities are best-placed to know what support they need in order to do so. That's why our efforts are focused on supporting creative and innovative community leaders, providing resources for projects and programs that create the changes communities aspire to achieve.

We do this in three ways:

## 1. Influencing

Using our knowledge and understanding of rural, regional and remote issues, and our extensive networks to increase awareness of those issues and drive change that delivers maximum benefit.

## 2. Enabling

Strengthening regional capacity for growth, development and adjustment through the voice of the communities themselves.

We also provide facilitation services to assist groups to lead and face change so that regional and local communities can choose paths to their futures.

## 3. Grantmaking

Providing funding, and occasionally in-kind resources, to help community groups undertake the projects they determine are important to local success. These grants address four factors that we have identified are key determinants of vibrant and adaptive rural communities.

Key Determinant	Focus Areas
 <b>1. Strong Leadership &amp; Community Capacity</b>	Investing in and developing leadership, skill and capacity of individuals and organisations, enhancing inclusion and strengthening culture.
 <b>2. Sustainable Community Infrastructure</b>	Projects focusing on improving local infrastructure – creating places that enable communities to connect and grow their identity.
 <b>3. Equitable Access to Opportunities</b>	Equitable access to quality services and opportunities in culture, arts, education, health, well-being, communications, transport, food and environment.
 <b>4. Vibrant Local Economies</b>	Projects that enhance a sustainable economy, providing jobs, growth and wealth for the community.

Each of the 27 programs offered in 2015/16 was designed to address at least one of the key determinants. Many, such as Small Grants for Rural Communities – one of our longest running and most in-demand programs, supports a number of them.

Below is a list of all our programs and their main focus area.

Programs Operating in FY 2015/16	Maximum grant	Focus area
ANZ Seeds of Renewal	\$10,000	Enhances education and employment opportunities in communities with fewer than 15,000 people.
Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities	\$5,000	Cotton farmers in Qld or NSW nominate a worthy local community group.
Back to School	\$50	Provides access to quality educational experiences for children and families in need, helping them to start the school year on an equal footing.
Caring for Ageing Rural Australians	\$10,000 - \$80,000	Supports ageing through enhanced access services and infrastructure with small grants available nationally and large grants for communities in Victoria.
Clearinghouse Grants	Various	Projects FRRR has assessed and endorsed but is unable to fund are shared with other donors, who then offer support.
Community & Philanthropy Partnerships Week (CPPW)	\$10,000	Helps grass-roots community groups and their philanthropic partners showcase and promote the great work they are doing.
Community Foundation Support	Various	Scholarships to the annual National Community Foundations Forum, and support for the sustainability of the sector and the peak body, Australian Community Philanthropy.
Community Group Futures	\$10,000 - \$20,000	Supports organisations in 2009 Victorian bushfire affected areas in considering their viability, sustainability and future role in their communities, and/or strengthens organisational capability.
Creating Inspiring Rural Community Leadership & Engagement (CIRCLE)	\$25,000	Develops local leadership capacity to drive strong and adaptive local communities and economies.
Culture, Arts, Tourism & Community Heritage	\$20,000	Supports culture, tourism, arts, history and cultural heritage projects.
Donation Accounts	Unlimited	Helps non-DGR NFPs to fundraise tax effectively, utilising FRRR's DGR status by receiving funds on their behalf for an agreed project, purpose or region.
Fast-Track Ag Innovation	\$150,000	A pilot program for four farmer groups in Victoria across four primary industries to address main production constraints.
FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants	\$10,000	Tackles the issues concerning young rural people by implementing ideas from the annual Heywire Regional Youth Summit.
Gardiner Dairy Foundation Working in Dairy Communities	\$5,000	Strengthens small Victorian dairy communities, helping build their capacity to deal with local issues and enhance existing community infrastructure.
Grants for Resilience & Wellness	\$20,000	Supports community-strengthening and resilience-building projects in areas affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires and helps build capacity.
Innovation for Community Impact	\$50,000	Addresses persistent social issues facing communities in ten regional NSW LGAs - focused on the needs of children in out-of-home care, vulnerable teens and those facing domestic violence.
LEGENDAIRY	\$7,500	A partnership with Dairy Australia to support its LEGENDAIRY initiative and showcase Australia's most passionate regional dairy communities.
McEwen Foundation Grants for the Goulburn Valley	\$10,000	Helps disadvantaged children, young people and with provision of accommodation for the elderly within the Goulburn Valley, Victoria.
REAPing Rewards	\$10,000	Supports education providers to give rural, regional and remote children and young people equal opportunities to quality educational experiences.
Repair-Restore-Renew 2013	\$20,000	Helps communities affected by natural disasters to recover by addressing needs that have emerged since 2013 disaster events.
School & Beyond	Various	Funds initiatives aimed at keeping students in areas affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires in school or engaged in vocational education training, and ultimately employment.
Small Grants for Rural Communities	\$5,000	Supports needs of community groups in small rural, regional and remote locations, prioritising those with 10,000 people or fewer.
Social Change 101	Various	Helps local change-makers in areas affected by 2009 Victorian bushfires to gain skills and knowledge from local business and social enterprise experts to bring their ideas to life for the benefit of their community.
Social Innovation Fund	Various	Addresses pressing and persistent social issues in Wagga Wagga, Eden and Kempsey in NSW, such as access to education and youth employment, particularly for vulnerable children and young people, and strengthens community engagement, identity and pride.
Stronger Community Foundations	Various	Provides capacity building support and mentoring for five Community Foundations established with VBAF funding after the 2009 Victorian bushfires.
Tackling Tough Times Together	\$10,000 - \$50,000	Helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through drought.
Tailored Grants	Various	One off grants made in partnership with philanthropic donors, targeted to specific activities, causes or locations outside of FRRR's ongoing grant programs.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



## **There is simply no organisation that does what FRRR does.**

I was honoured to be appointed as FRRR's CEO and have the opportunity to build on the strong legacy created by my predecessors, especially Alexandra Gartmann and Sylvia Admans. Thanks to their strong leadership and the support of a very committed Board and staff team, I have inherited an organisation that is very widely respected and strongly supported in many quarters.

Since my appointment in December 2015, I have met with most of our donor partners and spent much time visiting communities. I continue to be **inspired and impressed by the dedication and commitment of local leaders.**

The social fabric and economic vitality of communities is only sustained through the tireless efforts of these groups and individuals. I continue to be amazed by their ability to leverage the often small philanthropic investments to achieve some truly inspirational outcomes.

Although I had been at FRRR for more than three years, it was only once I stepped into the role of CEO that I truly realised the breadth of FRRR's impact and reach. We play a critical role as a connector, working across the philanthropic sector as a conduit for philanthropy to rural communities. We work hard to identify the ways

that philanthropy can best support communities – cutting out the noise and deepening the focus to understand what will really make a difference.

In this Annual Review, we endeavour to give you some insight into their stories, and to showcase the range of projects that FRRR has been able to support, thanks to the contributions of our donor partners.

We now have **more than 150 donor partners** who share our belief that rural, regional and remote communities can do a lot with just a little support from philanthropy. In the last year, we have seen more donors commit to **place-based programs** – such as the Social Innovation Fund program, which is supporting projects in Wagga Wagga, Kempsey and Eden in New South Wales. We have seen more organisations leverage FRRR's tax status to fundraise for local community programs using our Donation Account service, such as the Barossa Foundation to support recovery from the Pinery bushfires in South Australia.

This year, we've also seen more donors asking us to channel funds toward specific projects, through **Tailored Grants** (formerly known as Annual Grants). This allows donors to direct funds toward projects with which they closely identify. One such project is the Nhill Early Years Hub in Victoria. The donor wanted

# Our Staff

This year we have seen a number of changes within the staff team, commencing with the appointment of Natalie Egleton as CEO. In the course of the year, we said goodbye to three team members but welcomed Mandy Grinblat, Jacki Dimond, Janet Phillips and Kimlarn Frecker. Our team remains small but effective, and currently comprises 7 full time staff, 8 part-time and contractor staff, 2 casuals, 1 consultant and 1 volunteer ambassador.

We recently moved to a state-focused, rather than program-based structure. We believe that having designated people working on each state will deepen our presence and networks, and help to better design and build on our grant programs to deliver greater benefits to rural, regional and remote communities. This change also allows us to better utilise the wide range of skills of our talented team members.



to support a project in Victoria that enhanced infrastructure for education. We knew that the Hindmarsh Shire Council had a commitment to match State and Commonwealth funds to enable the small town of Nhill to build an integrated early years centre.

*It's here that we excel, as a connector and collaborator – helping local communities drive change, by facilitating their access to philanthropy.*

In the coming year, our focus will be ensuring that we continue to be responsive to the needs and gaps in communities and supporting them to move **beyond gap-filling, to adapting and thriving**. We will continue to refine what we do and how we do it, and drive for efficient and effective philanthropy.

I am very grateful for the support from the Sidney Myer Fund to assess the impact FRRR has had to date, and the findings will be used to guide the development of a framework to better capture the impact of our programs going forward.

I also appreciate the support of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development in helping us move to an online granting system, which should make it even easier for

grant applicants, as well as make our operations even more efficient.

In closing, I wish to thank Ian and the other FRRR Directors for being so welcoming and supportive as I transitioned into the role of CEO. It is an honour to work with these highly experienced and passionate individuals, as well as our patrons, Baillieu Myer AC, Lady Southey AC and the Hon John Anderson AO, without whom we would not be in the strong position we are today.

It's certainly an exciting time for FRRR, and we look forward to continuing to develop more truly **collaborative partnerships**, sharing knowledge and resources to drive for the impacts that we all want to achieve for rural, regional and remote communities.

*Natalie Egleton*  
Natalie Egleton  
Chief Executive Officer



# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

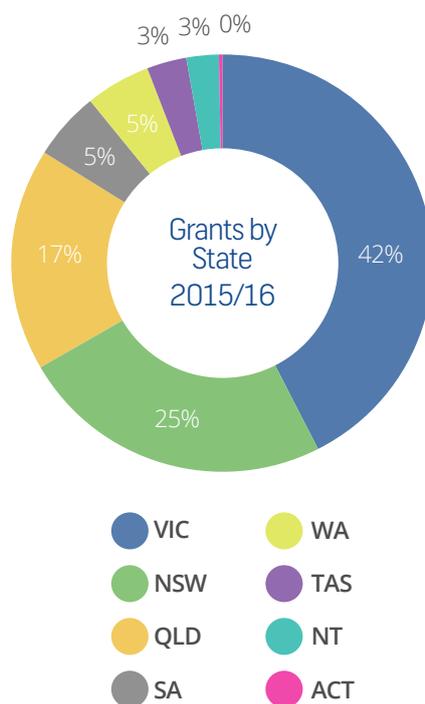


By the end of June 2016, FRRR and our donor partners had distributed more than \$66 million in grants to more than 8,000 organisations. This means that together with our fellow donors, at a minimum, we have **helped to implement \$260 million worth of projects**, all of which enhance the lives of those living in rural, regional and remote Australia.

Our core activity is **distributing small grants** to not-for-profit community groups for charitable purposes. We help local people in the communities we support across Australia to **implement local solutions**, and this year we approved distribution of more than \$6.4 million. On average, **for every dollar we invested, a further \$3 are contributed** either in cash or in-kind by the local community. For some communities, the leverage is even greater.

While grants ranged from \$50 to \$175,000, the average was a little over \$8,300, and the median was closer to \$5,000. This is on par with last year.

As the chart below shows, the majority of funds went to Victoria. This reflects the start of the distribution of additional funds committed by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF) to support the continued recovery of the areas affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires, as well as where donors request their funds are channelled.

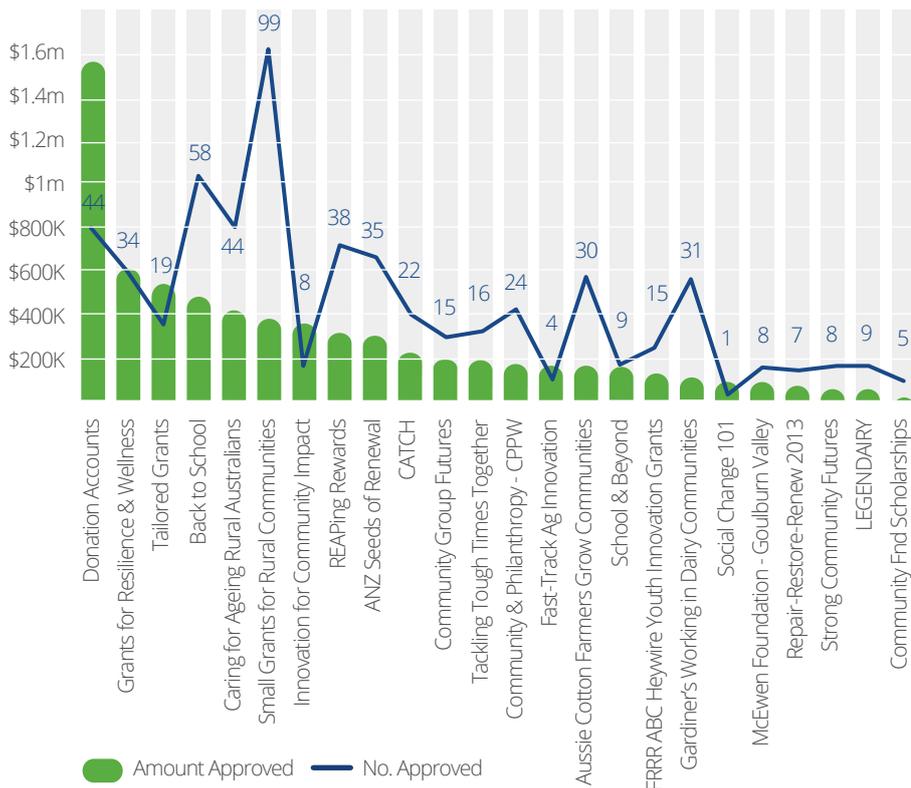


In total, more than **1,450** applications were received across our 27 programs. Regrettably, we were only able to make **distributions to 583 projects**. This is fewer than last year, as only one round of Small Grants for Rural Communities and of REAPing Rewards were granted out this financial year, both of which are high volume programs (nearly 700 applications).

Natural disaster recovery continues to be an important area of need, with more than \$3 million requested to support 187 disaster impacted communities. The **program where we were able to meet least demand** was Tackling Tough Times Together, where only 16 out of 77 applications were awarded \$191,247 (\$1,504,783 was requested). Despite reports of good rains in much of Queensland and northern New South Wales, these areas remain affected by drought, so the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation's commitment of \$330,000 per annum for the next three years will be put to good use.

Our most in-demand program and **where we have the biggest impact** is our Small Grants for Rural Communities program with 327 applications received requesting nearly \$1,203,835 in funds. In FY15/16, we awarded \$341,104 across 99 projects.

## GRANTS AND FUNDS DISTRIBUTED



As the chart above shows, the next highest number of grants distributed was through our Back to School program with **9,097 students receiving \$50 vouchers via 58 local organisations**. Education remains a major priority for rural communities; we received more than \$3 million in requests for funding for education-related initiatives, but could only award just over \$415,000, 13% of total requests.

There are always some wonderful projects that we can't fund, so we collaborate with other funders and refer applications where there is alignment and fit. Again, we **referred a number of these projects to potential funders** including the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, as well as working with communities to help them access alternative funding.

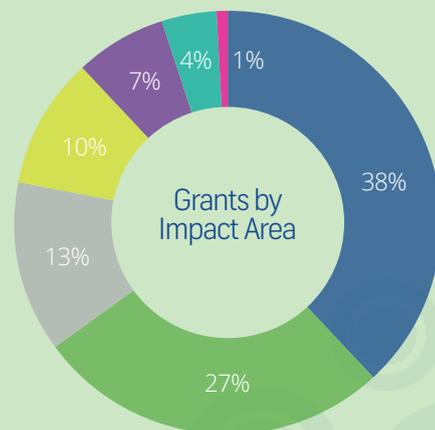
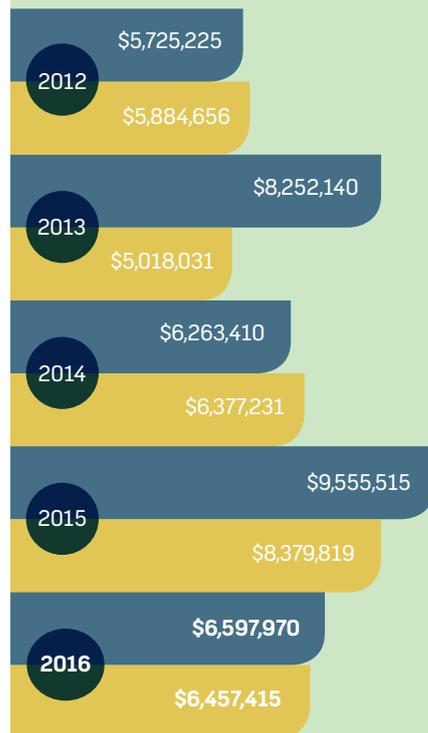
These grants are all only possible thanks to contributions from more than 150 donors and partners. This year, they contributed **\$6,597,970** toward both FRRR's grant programs, and the various projects on whose behalf we hold donation accounts. This figure is down on the prior year, as last year the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund made a significant donation, most of which is to be distributed over the next six years.

Looking back over the past five years, the funds in and out this year are consistent with what we would expect.

We continue to see an **increase in the number of Donation Accounts** being used across the country, with seven new accounts set up and a further 10 renewed. As at the end of the financial year, we hosted **44 accounts**, or sub-funds. Of these, 31 were active in their fundraising efforts, raising more than **\$1.5 million through more than 520 donations**. Other accounts were just getting started or in review and renewal.

**44 DONATION ACCOUNTS**  
**7 NEW AND 31 ACTIVE**

## FUNDS IN/OUT, OVER LAST 5 YEARS



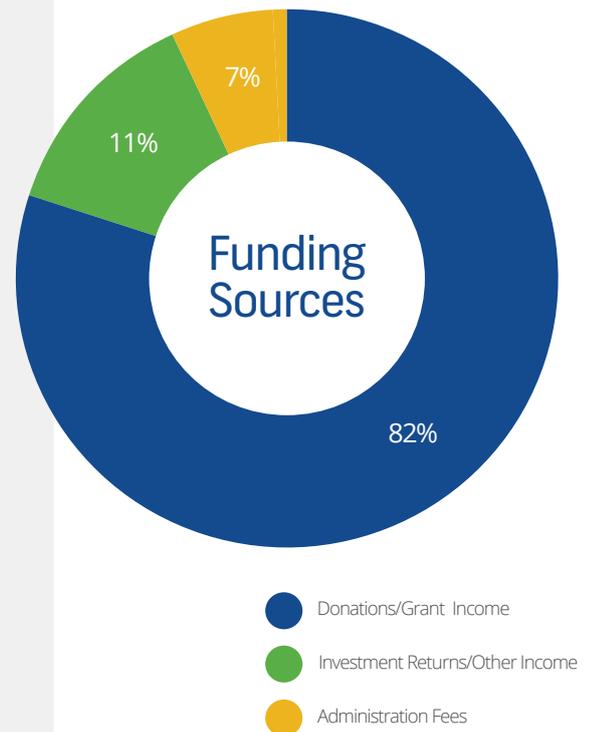
- Education
- Social Welfare
- Health
- Culture
- Economic
- Environment
- Employment

## An efficient, well-managed organisation

As you would expect, we follow strong governance processes, especially given we administer funds on behalf of a number of organisations. FRRR's Finance and Audit Committee oversees all aspects of financial management of the Foundation. Our accounts are audited each year, ensuring our financial processes meet all statutory requirements.

Thanks to prudent oversight from our Finance and Audit Committee, our corpus continues to grow, despite lower returns on investments this year. We manage our operating costs closely, putting a great deal of effort into ensuring that as much of the funding we receive goes directly to the grant programs as possible. This year, the income from our investments and other activities, such as advisory work, covered nearly all of FRRR's day to day operating costs, enabling us to keep our administration fees low and thereby ensure that the vast majority (more than 90%) of funds donated to FRRR go directly to communities to assist them. The administration fees received enable us to provide additional community outreach and capacity building for rural communities.

We have invested in several initiatives that will drive further benefits in the future, including continuing to streamline our granting processes. This will help us remain **one of the most efficient Foundations operating in Australia.**



*"The Yulgilbar Foundation and FRRR have a long history of collaborative projects to support, replenish and rejuvenate rural, regional and remote communities across Australia. The partnership is one that has made many significant changes to the landscape of this country. We are particularly proud of receiving a joint award from Philanthropy Australia for our partnership on the Tackling Tough Times Together program."*

Samantha Baillieu  
Yulgilbar Foundation

## Measurement and evaluation

We apply significant discipline to the administration and design of our programs. The numbers on the previous page tell only part of the story; they don't necessarily demonstrate the impact of the grants or whether the funds have been well-spent. Those insights come from the acquittal reports provided by grant recipients, which must be delivered within 12 months of the funds being awarded. By analysing this feedback, and ongoing engagement with grantees including community visits where possible, as well as regularly reviewing our programs, we ensure that the grants are having the desired impact.

This year we engaged professional research organisations to help us evaluate the impact of our Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT), Skills Training Engagement & Practical Support (STEPS), and Culture, Arts, Tourism & Community Heritage (CATCH) programs.

As a result of the TTTT report, for example, we made a number of changes to the program. This included increasing the value of grants available, expanding the amount of time groups have to implement the program and changing one of the objectives to place more emphasis on investing in people and building capacity.

This is one example of how we ensure that the funds we receive from our generous donors and partners are making a real impact and benefitting rural, regional and remote communities.

If you would like further information about any aspect of our performance, contact FRRR's CEO.

# New and evolving programs

## Education

We believe that all Australian children should have the right to a quality education and access to lifelong learning and skill development, no matter where they live. Our objectives are to reduce educational inequality and build the capacity of our rural and remote schools.

For the last three years, we have run the REAPing Rewards program, which was designed to support locally-driven projects and programs that directly benefit people up to 18 years of age, and their educators. We are currently evaluating the areas that need support in terms of education, and expect to relaunch this revised program in the 2016/17 financial year.

Despite the advances in technology, infrastructure and signs of regional growth and prosperity, rural, regional and remote communities are directly and deeply affected by contemporary social, economic and environmental challenges: climate extremes, global economic trends, and the tyranny of distance in relation to accessing quality services and opportunities are just some examples. Disadvantage takes many forms in rural, regional and remote communities, most visibly evident in a range of indicators including health, education and employment.

FRRR plays a vital role in responding to current and future needs of rural, regional and remote communities, and in supporting donors who want to help those communities.

This year, we launched and reviewed a number of new and current programs and we continue to work on others with our donor partners. A brief snapshot of this work is below.

## Kapikarnpi Community Fund

FRRR has recently assumed management of this Fund which was originally established with \$500,000 from Nickel West. The Fund was formed to support the Kapikarnpi peoples of the Wiluna and Leonora Shires in Western Australia, and improve their health and wellbeing; promote education and training; enable participation in employment; and enhance cultural strength and citizenship.

## Domino's Give for Good Grants

This new national small grants program, funded by Domino's Pizza Enterprises Limited, supports community projects around education and youth initiatives, leadership and entrepreneurship, and natural disaster recovery and preparedness.

## Disaster Resilient: Future Ready



This program, in development with our partner The Prince's Charities Australia, aims to help communities better prepare for disasters, and be more resilient should they eventuate. It involves extensive community consultation and research to evaluate and develop reality-tested indicators, methods and tools for building resilience. We are currently looking for more donor partners to kick off this program.



## Fast-Track Ag Innovation

This program, which is designed to help farmers translate research into action, is now in its third and final year. We are exploring other ways that we can continue to support sustainable farming, which is the foundation of viable rural communities.

## Culture, Arts, Tourism & Community Heritage (CATCH)

Thriving and sustainable local economies are built on diverse assets that directly benefit local residents and help to bring in outside resources. Arts, tourism and community & cultural heritage are critical platforms that many small towns need support to strengthen and we continue to explore how best to do this.



# OUR STRATEGY IN ACTION

Over the past sixteen years FRRR has supported more than 8,000 organisations across rural, regional and remote communities. You will notice on our interactive map on our website that you can hone in on a particular region and even community, and pull up a list of all the projects we have supported in that location.

The regional map illustrated here highlights the different ways in which we help different community groups across a region to address the priorities that they identify. While the map is fictional, all of the projects are actual examples.

Scan the QR code below to go to the interactive map on our website and explore projects in your community.



Citizen science program monitoring habitat



Lifesaving lessons at community pool



Meals on Wheels kitchen upgrade



War Memorial Museum video production



Mobile art, craft and music workshops



Community festival at local hall



Clothes and shoes for disadvantaged school children



Engaging youth with agriculture



Establishing a heritage walk to attract visitors

 Fencing following bushfires

 Rejuvenation of community garden

 Bringing in speakers for Women's Farming Network

 Solar panels for community hall

 Creek bank regeneration

 Equipment for local Men's Shed

 Hosting a mental health awareness workshop

 Musical instrument upgrade at high school

 Community leadership program

 Bus service to attend local events and workshops

 Farmers' market

 Safety improvements to community boathouse

 Job training for disengaged youth

 Renewal of main water supply



# INFLUENCING

The FRRR team is often on the road, checking in with rural, regional and remote community leaders, assessing the impact of the grants we provide, and importantly listening to communities about their ongoing needs. We gain insights into the innovative, progressive and persistent ways that community groups across Australia tackle issues and achieve great results, and endeavour to share these lessons as widely as possible.

This year, we worked in a consultative capacity with a number of large corporations including Westpac and Australia Post, helping them shape and implement some of their community programs. We also worked with a number of disaster recovery committees, including for the bushfires that ravaged South Australia late last year.

We deepened our relationship with ABC through their Heywire initiative, helping to put the spotlight on past alumni and

attract funding support for their future activities at the annual Heywire Summit Dinner. We also supported an impact evaluation of the program using a CIRCLE grant.

The FRRR Board met in Canberra in September 2015, taking the opportunity to brief around 14 Members of Parliament and Senators on what FRRR does, the projects we've supported in their electorates or States, and the current areas of priority for rural communities.

During the course of the year, a number of our Board members, our CEO and staff spoke at several conferences and events, including the Tasmanian Landcare Conference, Gather in the Glen, grant-writing workshops across regional Victoria, the Community Foundations Forum, the ABC Heywire Summit, and the AEGN Conference, to name a few.

We participated in the inaugural 'Philanthropy meets Parliament' event where our work was referred to as a great example of the opportunities a partnership between philanthropy and the Federal Government can unleash.

**We also worked with Philanthropy Australia to launch Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week, an initiative supported through the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership.**

We took the opportunity to co-host a roundtable on disaster preparedness and resilience with Prince's Charities Australia (PCA). **Together with PCA we are investing in a world first program of community-led preparedness activities.** This program requires \$1.5 million in funds and has the endorsement of HRH The Prince of Wales.

## Achieving more together

The inaugural 2015 Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week (CPPW) program, which is supported through the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership and managed by Philanthropy Australia in partnership with FRRR, was celebrated by numerous community organisations from across Australia. Twenty-three grants were awarded to help groups showcase their partnerships, around the theme of 'achieving more together'.

One of the recipients was **The Broome Seagrass Monitoring Project**, managed by Environs Kimberley in WA. The Broome Seagrass Monitoring Project is one of the most successful community science projects in Australia, engaging a large number of project partners, volunteers and Indigenous Rangers.

The group used a \$6,787 CPPW grant to thank their volunteers and partners for their critical contribution at a celebratory dinner, as well as create a 10-year report card containing data and trends on the health of the seagrass, and summarising the project's history.

**Eureka Mums Ballarat**, in Victoria, rehome new and pre-loved baby goods and nursery equipment to families in need. They work in partnership with more than 20 welfare agencies, healthcare providers and community organisations, and support more than 60 case workers. With a CPPW grant of \$7,025, Eureka Mums hosted a morning tea to thank their volunteers, a gala dinner for supporters and partners to celebrate their success, and produced a booklet which is now part of the Eureka Mums' media kit. 📖



# ENABLING

One of FRRR's fundamental tenets is that locals are the best people to make the important decisions about what is needed in their community. But sometimes, they need just a little help.

*We help communities to strengthen their capacity and deliver outcomes, by leveraging our tools, services and knowledge.*

This is done in a variety of ways, including running workshops about granting, hosting webinars to share our knowledge on topics, such as grant-writing and reporting, and providing advice and support to Community Foundations. In the last year, we worked closely with four Community Foundations established with funding from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, working with them to support community engagement, governance knowledge and practice, funding strategies, and future visioning.

In addition to our granting programs, perhaps the most tangible way we enable communities is through Donation Accounts. These allow both donors and rural communities to utilise our DGR status, enabling people to make a tax deductible donation towards their project. One community organisation that has used this facility to great effect is BlazeAid.

## BlazeAid achieves maximum impact with a Donation Account

The 7th of February 2009 is etched in many Australian's memories and will be forever associated with irreparable loss to families and livelihoods. Out of the ashes of Black Saturday, BlazeAid was born, responding to the urgent need to rebuild fences and secure thousands of livestock across Victoria.

Since then, BlazeAid has continued to assist farmers and rural residents affected by natural disasters right across Australia by clearing, fixing and rebuilding damaged infrastructure.

In January 2013, the Thyne Reid Foundation contacted FRRR because they wanted to make a substantial donation to support BlazeAid's recovery efforts, but they wanted the donation to be tax deductible. However, BlazeAid did not have deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. Within 24 hours, FRRR set up a Donation Account for BlazeAid, allowing Thyne Reid and many subsequent donors to make tax deductible donations. In the last financial year alone, \$501,388 was donated to BlazeAid via FRRR.

The founder of BlazeAid, Kevin Butler, recently wrote to FRRR to reiterate the significance of the Donation Account to them.

"The number of donations we receive as a result of being able to provide tax deductibility continues to be extremely high, often attracting very large sums. Thanks to large and small donors, and with the help of 1,700 volunteers, we have helped 628 properties, cleared 1,898 kilometres of fences and rebuilt over 845 kilometres of fencing," wrote Mr Butler.

Debbie Butler, administrator for BlazeAid says that FRRR is well regarded by philanthropists.

"Having FRRR accepting donations on our behalf provides another layer of accountability for those wishing to make large donations. Without this facility, it's likely that BlazeAid would not attract the amount in donations that it does," she said. 





## Firming the Foundation

The Denmark Community Foundation has been working hard to ensure it's able to better service the community of Denmark, WA. They received \$23,500 from FRRR's Creating Inspiring Rural Community Leadership & Engagement (CIRCLE) program (funded by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development) to enhance their capacity.

Dr Gillian Sellar, Chairperson of the Foundation explained that having recently obtained DGR2 status, they were ready to pro-actively engage both donor and community stakeholders, but wanted to ensure they had the right systems and processes in place first.

"The FRRR CIRCLE grant provided Denmark Community Foundation with an opportunity it otherwise mightn't have been able to fund, to conduct some essential strategic planning workshops and marketing activities, which have assisted us in 'firming up the Foundation'.

"We now have a social media presence along with a new website, however, the most important outcome is the new confidence some Board members and associates found through the strategic planning process.

"Like so many other country towns, Denmark has a range of community groups that sometimes compete for the same limited 'pots of honey'. As part of our strategic plan, we intend to engage more with such groups and local businesses," said Dr Sellar. 🌱



## Sustained commitment to Okines

The Okines Community House operates in Okines, a town of about 5,000 people, 40 kilometres south east of Hobart, and hosts a wide range of activities and programs for the local community. Okines Community House is a strong and trusted organisation in the region. They reach out and involve many different groups, and are great advocates for the wider community.

FRRR has made six grants over the past six years to Okines Community House, for a variety of projects from building shelter and seating around the community pizza oven, to creating a community mosaic, offering children and adult cooking classes as a way to encourage healthier eating, IT training facilities and workshops, the development of a community garden and providing drama, dance, art and music workshops, culminating in a community event. These grants were funded through a range of grant programs, including ANZ Seeds of Renewal, Small Grants for Rural Communities and the ABC Heywire Youth Innovation program.

Each of these projects has contributed to creating and bringing together a healthier and more vibrant community. 🌱

**Foundation Barossa** established a Donation Account with FRRR to fundraise to support the recovery of communities affected by the devastating 2015 Pinery bushfire in South Australia. One long-term project that is likely to be supported by the Pinery Bushfire Appeal is the revegetation and redevelopment of gardens within fire impacted communities. Local community groups have already been busy propagating and growing thousands of native seedlings, which in turn is helping to rebuild lives and recreate a sense of place.

**Revitalise Hinchinbrook** was a series of three strategic workshops that helped raise economic morale while the north Queensland community recovered from Cyclone Yasi. The Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Tourism received a \$5,000 grant through the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program to support this initiative, and as a result, several successful tourism projects have been implemented, bringing much-needed tourist dollars to the town. 🗝️



# GRANT MAKING

## STRONG LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY CAPACITY

*Communities with strong local leadership have proven to be best placed to be sustainable. It takes investment in people of all ages, as well as investment in the capacity of organisations, to equip them to better address community-specific needs and in turn, bring a community together. There are a number of FRRR grant programs that have successfully supported these kinds of initiatives.*

### Untold stories bring the community together



In a five-year period, the Yarrawonga district in Victoria was impacted by drought, flooding and a tornado. With a \$1,000 grant from the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, donated by The Estate of the Late Edward Wilson, the Yarrawonga and Border CWA ran a series of writing workshops. Their aim was to encourage rural and isolated community members to talk, reflect and write about the important women in their lives, while also working through the effects the hard times have had on their families.

The CWA hosted 240 participants in 30 free sessions and collected 125 stories about local women, recounting their lives from settlement to the present day.

In their final report to FRRR, they wrote that they had no idea how important these sessions were to become for the participants who began turning up at the CWA rooms every Monday morning to write about their story, as well as sit and talk to others.

One of the project coordinators, Noel Hunt explained that so many stories remain untold and are lost when people have passed away.

“But to share what other women have gone through, what other girls have gone through makes us appreciate everything they left to us in our lives.”

Some of the past participants still meet once a month and CWA branch members gained valuable skills in the planning, project management, budgeting, recording and collection of the stories and images. 

**A Drought Breaker event** was organised in just three months by the Croydon Rodeo and Campdraft Association, thanks to a \$45,000 Tackling Tough Times Together grant funded by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation. It involved a mix of activities, including a cricket match, a concert, presentations on motivation and mental health. The Royal Flying Doctor Service and Sea Change offered support to participants, alongside the fun activities.

**Mareeba's legacy is in safe hands**, thanks to a \$4,000 grant from the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, donated by The Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, to help deliver the 'Our Legacy' project. Volunteers at the Mareeba Heritage Centre in far north Queensland participated in four workshops and received training in preventative conservation, disaster planning, archival care and textile care.

**The annual Community Foundations Forum** was held in Fremantle and brought Community Foundations from across Australia together to learn, network and think strategically about the future of community philanthropy and its role in strengthening communities. FRRR sponsored several scholarships, enabling Community Foundation staff or Board members to attend the event, and ran a workshop on grant program design. FRRR gratefully received an Inspirational Award for 'remarkable innovation and action to strengthen Community Foundations'. 🌱

## #theRACEDarwin

The Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory Inc. used a \$10,000 FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grant to work with Multicultural Youth NT (MyNT) to plan, hold and film an event based on the popular TV show, The Amazing Race. It was called #theRACEDarwin, with RACE being short for 'Racial and Cultural Experience'. This fun activity was a great way to break down racism and raise awareness of the cultural diversity in Darwin. #theRACEDarwin proved popular and the footage was widely visible across social media platforms popular with the diverse Gen Y target audience. 🌱



## Fitness connects a community and saves lives

The Fit For Free program has been offered by the Toolangi District Community House Inc. for the past six years, with the last few years supported by FRRR through the Grants for Resilience & Wellness (GR&W) program, funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. Initially intended as an interim measure to help local residents recover from the devastating bushfires of 2009, the program has ended up being an integral community fitness and wellbeing program.

In the July 2014 GR&W round, FRRR agreed to fund an evaluation of the impact of this long-term program. The results were truly remarkable, showing not only improved physical fitness, weight loss and reduced diabetes, but perhaps more importantly, clear evidence of improved mental health and greater community connectedness.

Kerry Starr, Coordinator at the Community House, is passionate about the program's impact.

"There were a number of participants originally on anti-depressants who no longer are, but one went as far to say that the program was the only thing that made her life worth living. It made her get out of bed.

"We have found that one of the most beneficial parts of the program is the discussion afterwards over some fruit and a drink. This is where people share their stories and support one another."

The community as a whole also gained from this program, with improved support for local activities and services, as well as a marked increase by participants in volunteering and involvement in community groups. This is a strong indicator of increased connectedness and, therefore, resilience. 🌱



# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE



*Building and sustaining thriving small communities is a constant challenge, but one of the key success factors is investing in the things that support a community and giving them a sense of belonging and pride. Supporting places or projects that bring people together and give them the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences creates social capital for stronger communities.*

## Musical playground brings a community together

Music crosses all genders, ages, disabilities and cultures, helping people to express themselves, improve cognitive skills and encourage social interaction. With this knowledge, the people of Yarram in Gippsland, Victoria, decided to make the most of the space they had to create an outdoor musical playground.

The Yarram Recreation Reserve Committee of Management was constructing a new multi-purpose community facility using money raised through local fundraising, a Victorian government grant and many volunteer hours. However, they didn't have money to complete the external areas. They wanted to create an outdoor learning space to cater to the diversity of users and encourage visitors to the area.

With a \$60,000 Tailored Grant received from a very generous private donor, they

were able to create an outdoor musical playground to provide a stimulating learning space for children, older people, people with a disability, and families with children using the new community facility.

Even before the final landscaping was complete, children were taking the musical equipment for a test run, creating and hitting high notes, with music ringing out from the playground, according to Jack Millier, President of Yarram Recreation Reserve Inc.

"The kids play on it all day from early morning to late at night. Once a week we have an elderly group drive into town to have a play, as well as a school who support children with disabilities.

"The two local state schools even hold music classes using the instruments. The instruments are highly tuned and so make an amazing sound. You really need to come and visit to hear how good it is," said Mr Millier.

The playground has also attracted some media attention, drawing visitors from interstate, giving a boost to the area. [🔗](#)



**Award winning regeneration** has resulted from FRRR's support of The Friends of the Yarraman Creek. Their first grant was a Small Grants for Rural Communities grant of \$3,500 funded by The Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation. It went towards restoration and regeneration of the Yarraman Creek bed area, which was severely damaged during the January 2011 floods in south eastern Queensland. They recently won the *Healthy Waterways 2016 – Waterway Stewardship Award* and acknowledged FRRR for our initial support.

*A Greek proverb: "A society grows great when old men (and women) plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."*

### More bums on seats

The Mataranka School Council in the top end of the NT used a Small Grants for Rural Communities grant of \$5,000 funded by the Pratt Foundation to buy tiered aluminium seating and address a lack of seating at events in the community. As a result, attendance has increased and students and their families have been able to get more involved.

### Healthy lifting for residents and staff

is now a reality, thanks to a Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) grant of \$36,170, funded by the Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation. The new lifting devices were anchored to the ceilings at Coinda Village in Benalla, Victoria. These devices improve safety, dignity and create a more homely environment for residents with dementia, and a safer workplace for staff. 



## Panels secure cinema's future

Narooma, on NSW's far south coast, relies heavily on tourism, with a population of around 7,500 that trebles over the summer months. The community-owned Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers War Memorial is used as a cinema and theatre, and attracts both locals and visitors. Despite its popularity – it hosts around 40,000 visitors a year - its viability was under threat due to high power costs, mainly attributed to the energy demands of the cinema projector.

A \$10,000 grant funded by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation through FRRR's Culture, Arts, Tourism & Community Heritage (CATCH) program went toward the purchase and installation of 40 solar panels (10kw).

Laurelle Pacey, a committee member, said the system should generate about 25% of the hall's power consumption.

"This will improve the commercial viability of the hall's operations, and therefore ensure that this much-loved and hugely important tourist attraction continues to operate, as it has done since it was built in 1926." 

## My Place, Our Place – Goomalling Yarns

In the 1960's, Goomalling in WA's wheat-belt, hosted an Aboriginal reserve housing 10 indigenous families, some of whom still reside in the area.

To build stronger relationships and educate locals and visitors about the cultural significance of Goomalling, the Country Arts Network WA partnered with the Shire of Goomalling and the local Noongar Aboriginal community on an intergenerational community history project. It combined hip-hop, oral histories, photography and printmaking to tell the stories of those who lived on the reserve.

With a \$17,600 grant through the Culture, Arts, Tourism & Community Heritage (CATCH) program, funded by the McCusker Charitable Foundation, more than 350 photos were identified. You can see some of the photos online, as well as listen to some of the fascinating stories: [canwa.com.au/project/bush-babies](http://canwa.com.au/project/bush-babies). 



# EQUITABLE ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES



*Communities in rural, regional and remote locations are disadvantaged when it comes to accessing funding and having equitable access to quality services and opportunities, such as health, education and transport. Our grants seek to help local community groups bridge the gaps or enhance what already exists.*

## Marine science program goes inland



More than 580 students in rural and regional Tasmania benefitted from a \$5,000 REAPing Rewards grant to the Woodbridge School and Marine Discovery Centre (MDC).

The MDC wanted to upgrade and expand their outreach program to give inland schools the opportunity of a hands-on marine science experience. This grant, funded by the Ian Potter Foundation, covered travel expenses, resources to safely transport live animals, and a flat screen display to support the classroom presentation. The funds were also used to maintain the purpose-built touch tank constructed by MDC for travelling.

MDC's teacher, Andrew Walsh, travelled more than 2,100 kilometres visiting six schools and allowing students who live a long way from the ocean to enjoy hands-on marine activities linked to the Australian Science Curriculum.

Without access to this program, students would have missed out on the opportunity to explore and learn more

about the marine environment of their state, explains Mr Walsh.

"Many of the schools I visited had children who had never been to the ocean, let alone come across any live marine animals. It was so rewarding to see them gain in confidence – for one autistic child, it was the first time he'd opened up and engaged in class. The joy in the teacher's eyes was priceless," said Mr Walsh.

Christine Farnell, Principal of South Arm Primary School said it was a fantastic experience for their students.

"Due to our distance from Woodbridge, we are unable to make use of the Marine Discovery Centre, as the cost of buses and time for travelling impact us enormously, so without the FRRR grant this is an experience that our students would have missed."

Mr Walsh plans to run the MDC outreach program next year, benefitting more schools and children across Tasmania. 

**Speak Out 4 Kids** is a specialised therapeutic group program for children aged 8-12 in the Nambucca Valley who are impacted by domestic and family violence. An Innovation for Community Impact grant of \$45,000, funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, helped Kempsey Family Support Services teach children protective behaviours and safety strategies, as well as build confidence and resilience. As one 10-year-old boy said:

*"Coming to this group has made me realise I can be myself and not act the way my dad did towards my mum."*

**Connecting Women in Gippsland Conference 2016** was a program of socially inclusive events designed to reduce barriers and support women from

rural townships who have a disability or are experiencing disadvantage. A Grants for Resilience & Wellness grant of \$37,000, funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, provided free transport for 24 women in fire affected areas to attend the event. A single mum with no child support said that the free ticketing and transport allowed her to attend the event.

**The 17th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival** brought together 180 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media practitioners and industry partners from across Australia to the Lajamanu community in NT to participate in workshops and forums. A Small Grants for Rural Communities grant of \$5,000, thanks to the Bertalli Family Foundation, allowed them to run a photographic skills workshop delivered by Professor Wayne Quilliam, NAIDOC Artist of the Year.

**Back to School (BTS) vouchers** have made a significant difference to two brothers in years 7 & 8, whose father has drug and alcohol problems. The boys frequently attended school without food, adequate equipment or uniforms, and were disconnected from school. The school's Wellbeing team used the \$50 BTS vouchers to purchase uniform items, sports gear, USBs and stationery for them. They are now attending school regularly, always in their correct uniform and are more connected and engaged with school.

**Similarly, two boys who were shuttled** between their mum and foster care were often unable to participate in school outings and arrived at school hungry and without basic equipment for class. Thanks to BTS vouchers, the school was able to give both boys the correct uniform, including school coats which they had been going without during winter. [↗](#)



## Palatable furniture builds youth skills



This project aimed to address school engagement, participation and completion for at-risk students. It provided students who are at-risk of disengaging and leaving school with practical skills and a recognised qualification, by running 'Palatable Furniture'.

This hands-on course taught students from the Wyong Shire region in NSW how to make and market furniture from recyclable wooden pallets. Uniting Care

Burnside Branch channelled \$20,000 received from FRRR's Innovation for Community Impact program into this project. This program is a collaboration between FRRR, NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Philanthropy Australia and eight philanthropic donor partners, with Wyong Outreach TAFE. They provided teachers and mentors for 16 students to gain a Certificate 1 - Access to Work and Training.

The project had great support from the staff at the school and a local business, Wave Zone, donated the pallets.

One of the significant outcomes was that participants re-engaged with their school and local community as a result of marketing the furniture they had made.

Feedback from the students themselves highlighted the success of the program. As one student said, "I thought I was just doing something to get out of school... but what I did was learn things... this was real education." Another commented, "I want more of this... I want to learn more." [↗](#)

## Life Saving Skills for everyone

An FRRR grant enabled children who would otherwise have been excluded due to financial limitations to participate in a program that literally saves lives.

With \$9,000 received from the McEwen Foundation Grants for the Goulburn Valley program, 885 students from 13 schools in Echuca, Shepparton and Yarrawonga were able to participate in Life Saving Victoria's Open Water Learning Experience (OWLE) free of charge.

OWLE is a targeted aquatic education and safety program for youth from culturally and linguistically diverse networks, who are at high risk of drowning. As one teacher said, "Without this generous donation, our students probably wouldn't have been able to attend." [↗](#)

# VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMIES



*Investing in economic renewal is critical; it can leverage further investment which can make a huge difference to a small community. FRRR's goal is for communities to be able to support themselves, now and in the long-term. Our diverse programs support projects that help create a sustainable economy – jobs, growth, and shared wealth – across different demographics and ecosystems.*

## Growing business in the bush



Norseman, which is in the Goldfields-Esperance region of WA, 726 kilometres east of Perth, had a population of 5,000 people in the 1970's. It's now less than 1,000 people. Despite being the gateway to South Australia, the town is often bypassed and local businesses are doing it tough, feeling the impacts of a decline in the mining industry and the increase in online shopping.

The Esperance Local Enterprise Initiative Committee Inc., a not-for-profit organisation that delivers training initiatives and management advice, identified a need for small, face-to-face digital and business training workshops to help local small businesses to maximise efficiencies of scale and break into the online market.

With a \$9,000 ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant they were able to deliver 18 workshops, designed by the Small Business Development Commission of Western Australia, to local small business owners and prospective owners across the region. The workshops

were customised to take account of the local situation and included business basics, website basics, online marketing, understanding business financials and The 12 Step Business Plan.

These small-scale, face-to-face workshops not only created a good learning environment but also provided a rare networking opportunity, explains Colin McArthur from the Esperance Local Enterprise Initiative Committee Inc.

"Retail is really struggling with increasing costs and a downturn in the market, so any efficiencies to be gained using technology is of benefit.

"The feedback from most attendees indicated they would adopt their learnings into their businesses immediately.

Overwhelmingly, however, they agreed there is a need for further business training opportunities," said Mr McArthur.

As a result, they are currently in the process of identifying local experts and training them to deliver ongoing support to these communities. 

## Blackall–Tambo gets going online

Drought impacts everyone, not just farmers, with flow-on effects for small businesses in local communities. Blackall and Tambo in Queensland are two such towns, with businesses reporting significant reductions in turnover. However, for many there are opportunities online, if they know how to capture them.

Through a \$7,500 grant from the Tackling Tough Times Together program, thanks to support from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, local leaders were able to run marketing and digital training workshops. These enabled at least eight small businesses to strengthen their online presence and alleviate the impact of drought and the economic downturn.

Participants learnt about digital marketing channels including websites, blogs, social media, electronic newsletters and digital advertising, focusing on what would work best for their businesses.

The participants found the workshops very beneficial, with one, explaining how much she got out of it.

*"I now have a marketing plan with measurable targets and outcomes and I know how to analyse the social media and website stats. I actually understand what my website is really for and what it will (hopefully) do for me," she said.*



## On-farm training for a career on the land

Ag Gap is a unique rural training program designed to encourage youth to embrace careers in agriculture and rural life during their gap year after high school. This year saw the launch of the Hay Inc. Rural Education program, a version of Ag Gap. Fifteen participants from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania completed an intensive and hands-on introduction to the basic concepts in stock handling and property maintenance on various properties in the Riverina, NSW. This was possible in part, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants program.

## Innovation in table grape production

Through FRRR's Fast-Track Ag Innovation program, the Australian Table Grape Association and InnoGrape received a \$150,000 grant, thanks to the William Buckland Foundation, managed by Equity Trustees.

The aim of the program is to help growers adopt the latest science, technology and innovation. There were 119 producers from the Sunraysia/Murray Valley region who attended workshops about the latest in production, packaging and marketing of table grapes for domestic and export markets. The group also produced six short training videos.

As a result, participants have increased knowledge, with a number of growers changing or modifying practices in the management of their business. The group is now in the second year of this three-year program and continue to innovate.

**Dirranbandi Arts Council, Qld, got the locals talking** with a \$5,000 Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities grant, funded by the Monsanto Fund. They produced an interactive audio panel adjacent to sculptures in the Rail & River Precinct. It explains the sculptures and talks about the town's unique history of floods, drought, isolation, indigenous groups, environment and land use, as well as discussing stories like the Dirranbandi Dandy.

**Live and eat local:** The 2016 Hopetoun Women on Farms Gathering used \$3,400 from the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, funded by the William Buckland Foundation, managed by Equity Trustees, to educate the locals on incorporating locally grown lentils in their regular diet. The motivation was two-fold: to encourage healthier eating in the farming community, and to support the locally grown pulse farmers.

# IN APPRECIATION

*"My family's Foundation, the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, has worked with FRRR to channel support toward important projects in rural, regional and remote Australia. This is where FRRR comes into its own. FRRR staff know the communities, the organisations and it's great that they are able to team up with ABC to bring ideas from the next generation to life."*

**Prue Pateras**

Tim Fairfax Family Foundation

## Our Donors, Our Partners

Our founding members, the Commonwealth Government of Australia and the Sidney Myer Fund, believed that philanthropy can play a vital role in enhancing environmental, built and social assets for community and economic development in rural, regional and remote Australia. Both organisations continue to remain closely involved, supporting us and rural communities in many ways.

FRRR works with donors and partners in many different ways – from running a program on their behalf, to collaborating on programs addressing a specific issue, or simply sharing our expertise and networks. Similarly, we receive great support from many suppliers, via in-kind contributions and applying discounts, which is an enormous help.

We are deeply grateful to all 150+ of our very generous donors and partners who collaborate and trust in us that we can help them achieve their giving goals.

### Private Donors > \$5,000

- Alexandra Gartmann
- Dr George Jacobs
- Dr Janice Hirshorn
- His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
- The Late Miss Joan Edwards ^
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- ABC Regional
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Australian Community Philanthropy
- Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
- Collaboration for Impact
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Philanthropy Australia
- Prince's Charities Australia
- Regional Australia Institute



### Our Board

FRRR is fortunate to have a number of highly regarded and experienced individuals in rural affairs and philanthropic practice as our Patrons and Board members.

We appreciate the support and commitment of all our Board members in working towards our vision of having viable, vibrant and adaptive communities.

### FRRR Board

- The Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC, Chairman
- Mr Ian Allen OAM
- Ms Annabel Dulhunty
- Mr Tim Fairfax AC
- Mr Fred Grimwade
- Ms Annie Grindrod
- Mr Paddy Handbury
- Mr Bill Kelyt AC
- Mr Mike Mrdak AO
- Mr Patrick Myer
- Mrs Margaret Smith AO (to Dec 15)

### Patron in Chief

- His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

### FRRR Patrons

- Mr Baillieu Myer AC
- Lady Southey AC
- The Hon John Anderson AO

# Our generous Donor Partners

● Strong Leadership & Community Capacity ● Sustainable Community Infrastructure ● Equitable Access to Opportunities ● Vibrant Local Economies

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Arbonne Charitable Foundation ^	●	●	●	●
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Betty Fulton Fund *			●	
Community Foundation for the Albury/Wodonga Region			●	
CAGES Foundation	●		●	
Chasam Foundation	●		●	●
Clark Family Foundation	●	●	●	●
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Commercial Travellers' Association of VIC	●	●	●	●
Dairy Australia				●
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Department of Health and Human Services VIC	●	●	●	●
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development	●		●	●
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Perpetual	●	●	●	●
Perpetual Foundation - Julian Flett Endowt	●	●	●	●
Perpetual Foundation - The Henry & Patricia Dean Endowt Fund ^				●
Pratt Foundation	●	●	●	●
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The June Canavan Foundation ^	●		●	●
The Maple-Brown Family Charitable Foundation	●	●	●	●
The McEwen Foundation #		●	●	
Menzies Foundation			●	
The Myer Family Company			●	
The Myer Family Foundation	●		●	●
The Percy Baxter Charitable Trust		●		●
The R.E. Ross Trust	●	●	●	●
The Snow Foundation	●		●	
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Third Link Investment Managers		●	●	
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Tottenham Horse Sports & Gymkhana Club Inc. ^		●		●
Tottenham Welfare Council ^			●	
Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund	●	●	●	●
Victorian Regional Leadership Programs ^	●		●	
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation	●	●	●	●
Vitterra Operations Pty Ltd ^				●
The Glover Foundation			●	
William Buckland Foundation #	●	●	●	●
Wilson HTM Foundation	●	●		
Yulgilbar Foundation	●	●	●	●

# Managed by Equity Trustees

\* Sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation

^ Donation Account Donor

# Our Committees

Where possible, we involve independent subject matter experts in the assessment of the grant applications we receive. Each of the people listed provided voluntary support in this way, or provided expertise on other sub-committees. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to vibrant rural communities.

- Adrian Congiu, ANZ Bank
- Alexandra Gartmann, past CEO - FRRR
- 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
- Anne Leadbeater OAM, Disaster recovery expert
- Ben Galea, Youth Delegate, ABC Heywire
- Bernadette Flannery, Flannery Foundation
- Bruce Lloyd AM, former Member for McEwen
- Bruce Scott, Grazier, Windorah, Qld
- Caitlin Rudorfer, ANZ Bank
- Caitlin Scholfield, Gardiner Dairy Foundation
- Chris Wootton, Philanthropy Australia
- Dr Christine Healy, former Director, ACT Bushfire Recovery Centre
- Christine Linden, ANZ Bank
- Dale Camm, ANZ Bank
- Dan Hirst, ABC Regional
- David Basham, Dairy Industry, South Australia
- Emily Fuller, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
- Georgie Somerset, Grazier, Kingaroy, Qld
- Geraldine Roche, Sally Foundation
- Gina Fairfax, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- Jaimie Lovell, Dairy Industry, New South Wales
- James Boyd, Creative Partnerships Australia, WA
- Jess Weise, Youth Delegate, ABC Heywire
- Krystian Seibert, Philanthropy Australia
- Leonie Martin, NSW Department of FACS

# LEND YOUR SUPPORT

*The needs of rural, regional and remote communities far exceed our available funds and capacity.*

*On average we can satisfy only a quarter of the requests we receive. We rely on donations from Trusts, Foundations, Corporations and Individuals. As we've shown through this report, it does not take much to have an impact.*

## Here are five reasons to support FRRR:

- 1** We reach community groups that often can't access tax deductible donations.
- 2** We diligently assess the organisations and projects that receive grants, so you can be confident that your money is going to make a difference.
- 3** We are locally driven – so funds go to where our communities most need them.
- 4** Funds can go exactly where you want them to – it could be to a particular cause such as education, disaster recovery, aged care, environmental initiatives or culture and arts projects, or to a particular location.
- 5** We are efficient - our administration costs are low and so virtually all of your donation will go directly to groups in need.

We appreciate all contributions, small or large, as they help to create viable, vibrant and adaptive rural communities.



[Donate Now](#)

## Ways to help



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



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



**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.



**Bequests:** This is a great way to leave a legacy, which can be directed to support rural, regional and remote communities.



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



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

- Margaret Smith AO, former FRRR Board member
- Mary Harney, Gardiner Dairy Foundation
- Melanie Cooper, Department of Social Services
- Michael O'Neill, National Seniors
- Mike Logan, Dairy Industry, New South Wales
- Monique Edwards, 2013 Heywire Winner
- Patrick McClelland, Porter Novelli
- Phil Brown, Country Education Partnerships
- Prue Pateras, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- Rachel Kerry, CAGES Foundation
- Rachel Martin, NSW Department of FACS
- Ross McInnis, Dairy Industry, Queensland
- Sally McKay, Disaster Recovery Expert
- Sam Jorgensen, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- Samantha Baillieu, Yulgilbar Foundation

- Susan Mullard, NSW Department of FACS
- Suzi O'Dell, Dairy Australia
- Tonii Skeen, Youth Delegate, ABC Heywire
- Warrick Tyrell, Dairy Industry, Western Australia
- Dr Wendy Craik, former FRRR Board member
- Dr Wendy Scaife, QUT

We also 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.

## Priority Funding Needs

Donations allow us to assist communities in need. Here are our top priority funding needs. Please lend your support.



### Small Grants for Rural Communities

This is our most widely sought after grants program. In the last two years, we have received 3,003 applications, requesting \$12,363,901. Unfortunately, while many more were worthy, we could fund only 808 projects. Rural groups have less capacity to raise funds and access to resources to address their issues.

Donations can be targeted to a specific geographic location, demographic and/or towards a particular type of project. In 2017 we are aiming to raise \$1 million to distribute nationally.



### Education

All Australians have an equal right to have a quality education and skill development, no matter where they live. REAPing Rewards and Back to School focus on school-aged students and early childhood learning. As little as \$50 can have a significant impact – it could mean going to school in the right uniform. Our financial target for next year is \$700,000.

*"FRRR gives us the opportunity to work with a trusted and credible partner. The FRRR team has networks, influence and experience which help us disseminate our funds in a far more cost effective and efficient way than we can achieve on our own. FRRR acts as a conduit, enabling us to support rural, regional and remote communities in a professional manner with insight and empathy."*

Mary Jung

Community Investment Manager, Wilson Group Limited



### Preparedness and Disaster Recovery

Natural disasters strike each and every year in all parts of rural, regional and remote Australia. We are seeking to create a Community Recovery Fund, which can be deployed effectively when the gaps appear, and when communities need support. We aim to raise \$500,000 for this fund and maintain this amount annually.

In partnership with The Prince's Charities Australia, we are also running Disaster Resilient: Future Ready, an innovative and world leading project that seeks to assist rural communities to be better prepared for, and have better recovery from, natural disasters through community consultation and research. \$1.5 million is required to deliver the pilot.



**Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal**

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