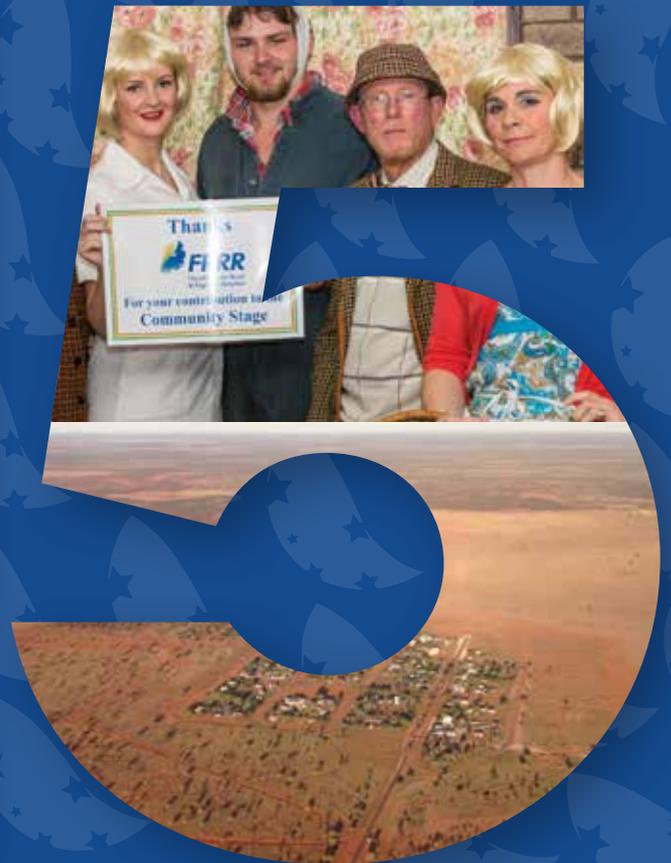


2014/15
FRRR ANNUAL REVIEW



Connecting rural Australia & philanthropy, government & business since 2000

Who we are

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) was formed in 2000 in collaboration with the Sidney Myer Fund and the Federal Government. We are a not-for-profit (NFP) organisation, whose sole purpose is to champion the economic and social strength of Australia's rural, regional and remote communities. We do this by harnessing the power of collective investment and partnerships between the private sector, philanthropy and governments.

We are unique; our tax status, unlike many philanthropic funders, allows us to fund and support any type of organisation or group, so long as the project is charitable and promotes rural and regional renewal, regeneration and development.

Connecting rural communities with philanthropy since 2000



What we do

FRRR is both a grant maker and a grant seeker. We have a national reach and a local focus, which is informed by community development. We work by attracting support - both cash and in-kind - using our expertise and networks. These funds are then distributed through a number of programs for the benefit of rural and regional Australia. Not-for-profit groups operating outside major cities receive support to solve local issues in the way that best suits their community.

Since our formation in 2000, we have distributed nearly \$60 million to more than 7,400 community groups.

In this review we celebrate 15 years of connecting rural communities with philanthropy, as well as report on activities over the last financial year.

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Message from the Chairman

2015 marks the 15th anniversary of granting by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).

It was formed with the objective of ensuring that those living outside the major capitals were not forgotten in broad national initiatives but were helped to help themselves.

In 1999 FRRR was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee through the personal commitment of Baillieu Myer AC and then Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson AO. Legislation introduced by the Howard Government gave FRRR unique tax status allowing granting to community organisations without DGR status and in 2000 it commenced operations.

In subsequent years federal governments, Labor and Coalition, have endorsed the concept and with this support, and that of State governments, donors and program partners, FRRR has distributed nearly **\$60 million to more than 7,400 community groups** to date.

The concept and tax status are important but this remarkable record has been possible only because of the **extraordinarily generous support** of the Sidney Myer Fund, the Pratt Foundation, ANZ Trustees, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, the McCusker Charitable Foundation, the John T. Reid Charitable Trust, the Qantas Foundation and many other Foundations, Trusts and individual donors.

Local leaders are adept at building **vibrant, sustainable communities** but sometimes they need a little help. That is the role of FRRR - to serve as facilitator, using its own funds to generate philanthropic support to help fill the gaps where local leaders tell us they need it.

Small Grants for Rural Communities is the longest running and most popular program, with funds often going to renew local facilities or to a project that gives a community a sense of identity.

The initiative for some of FRRR's other long-running programs such as Back to School has been from donors themselves. This was seen as a way to help children go to school and originated with the Sidney Myer Fund. It is still going strong and has now supported more than 122,000 students.

FRRR continues to **respond to adverse issues** affecting rural, regional and remote Australia including medium to long-term help to offset the impact of natural disasters. This financial year with the generous support of Tim Fairfax AC and Gina, the family of Bails Myer AC and Sarah and other donors, the Tackling Tough Times Together program was devised to help Queensland and New

South Wales communities severely affected by their protracted and devastating drought. As you will read later in this report, support for natural disaster recovery – or survival – represented 17% of all FRRR grants this year.

Looking to the future FRRR has a **positive strategy to increase our granting**, thanks in no small part to the efforts of our departing CEO, Alexandra Gartmann, and her very capable and dedicated staff. Alexandra has made a major personal contribution to the effectiveness of FRRR and will be missed.

As Chairman, it is delightful to hear frequent praise from donors, committee and community members acknowledging the helpful and positive way in which Alexandra and her team work. I formally record the Board's appreciation for their outstanding efforts especially in what has been a challenging year with a flooded office, operating temporarily from the office of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and finally the move to a new Bendigo location.

I also acknowledge the significant **voluntary contributions of my fellow Directors**. In addition to their normal responsibilities they serve on Board sub-committees and program assessment committees and so keep in touch with their governance obligations as well as program delivery in a most commendable way.

This year, we have been joined by Annabel Dulhunty and Annie Grindrod as Directors, both of whom bring valuable experience of rural communities and philanthropy. They are most welcome.

I also record my appreciation for the efforts of all those individuals who assist the board in assessing grants, lending their expertise in particular areas to ensure we make fair and balanced decisions.

I pay tribute too, to all the local leaders who have delivered on the more than 7,400 projects FRRR has funded to date - the **community members who serve voluntarily and tirelessly** on not-for-profit organisations across the country. As some of the project snapshots in this report attest, their efforts are critical to building stronger, more vibrant rural, regional and remote communities.

In this, FRRR is proud to play a small part.

Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC
Chairman

A message from Baillieu Myer AC

As one of the driving forces behind the creation of FRRR I am more than happy with the progress of the organisation over its first 15 years.

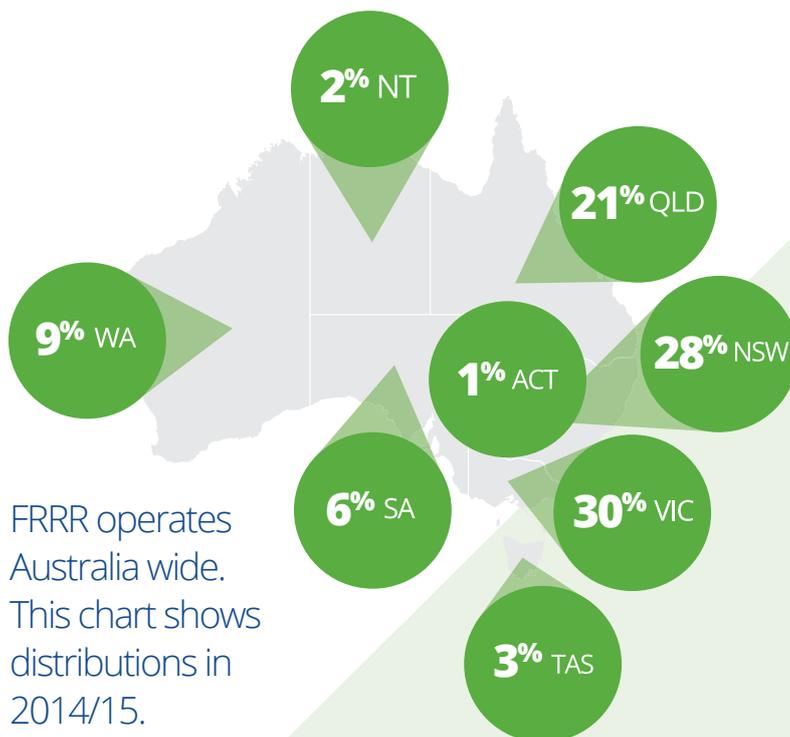
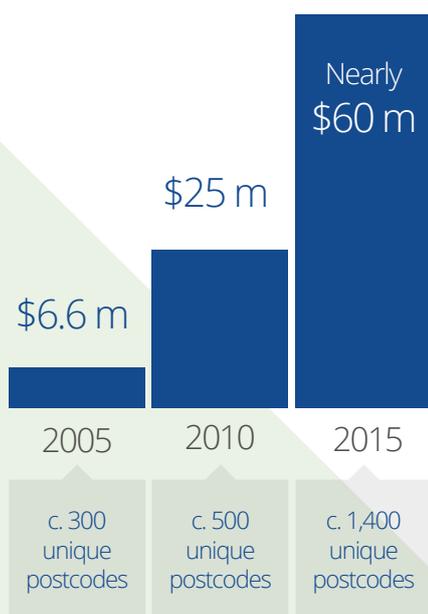
It has been ably led by its first and only Chairman Ian Sinclair AC, a dedicated Board and two long-serving, outstanding Chief Executives, Sylvia Admans and Alexandra Gartmann.

The record of its first 15 years is recorded in this report and speaks for itself. Every dollar contributed by Government, by Philanthropy, by Partners, and by individuals has made a real contribution to rural, regional and remote Australia.

I wish FRRR well in the years ahead.

Baillieu Myer AC

Cumulative distributions



FRRR operates Australia wide. This chart shows distributions in 2014/15.

\$60 million

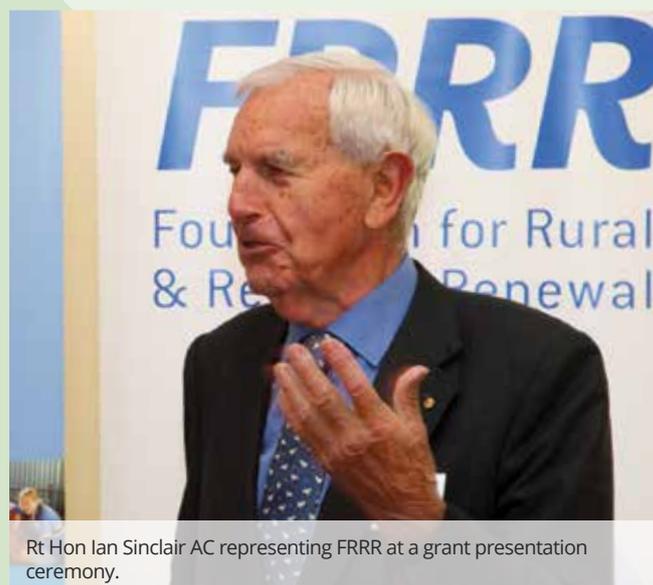
distributed to >7,400 groups

Average grant
\$6,793

Grants ranged from
\$50 - \$300,000

“Thank you for this grant. It is much appreciated because it allowed this Rangelands restoration workshop to go ahead, which has strengthened community ties.”

Alys McKeough, MEEKATHARRA, WA - SGRC grant - \$3,500





Our History

FRRR has been connecting rural Australia and philanthropy since 2000. Its formation arose out of concern about economic and social decline in many rural areas and a proposal at the National Regional Summit in 1999 which followed discussions between Baillieu Myer AC and then Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson AO.

At the time the Sidney Myer Fund was seeking a way to acknowledge the centenary of the arrival of their name-sake in Australia in a manner that would benefit country people, while the Government saw the Summit as a means to find ways that rural and regional Australia might address the decline, especially in the wake of one of the worst droughts in living memory.

The Summit communiqué recognised the 'opportunity for philanthropy to take a strategic role in enhancing the natural and human assets of regional Australia for community and economic development'.

FRRR was incorporated and awarded charitable status in 1999. The Sidney Myer Fund gifted \$1 million and during the Summit, the Prime Minister, John Howard OM AC, pledged a \$10.7 million grant to be awarded in 2000, with a further \$3.8 million to be

offered as an incentive to raise further capital. In addition, ANZ Trustees and The Pratt Foundation each donated \$1 million. The additional indirect support of the broader Myer Family organisation was invaluable, especially its financial management, governance, accommodation and advice.

Early in its inaugural year, FRRR ran its first grant round, receiving more than 260 applications from across Australia. The program had two parts, the first for high priority projects that could make an impact, and the second with a medium term focus on rural capacity building or economic development.

Community Foundations

Among the projects funded in the first round were a number of feasibility studies for community foundations - a relatively new concept. Focused support from FRRR and Philanthropy Australia helped drive the movement forward.

FRRR saw potential for Community Foundations to drive rural and regional capacity building in Australia. Among the first feasibility studies funded was for the Bruce Rock Foundation in WA. At the same time, FRRR began to receive requests from these foundations to hold their funds in trust until they had sufficient money to operate independently. And so the concept of Donation Accounts emerged. It took six years before the first Donation Account - on behalf of the Bendigo and Central Victoria Community Foundation - was opened to receive tax deductible donations.

Finding a permanent home

FRRR was initially based in the Myer Foundation's premises in Melbourne, and then offices were established in Norton Summit in South Australia. This location proved difficult and with the appointment of Sylvia Admans as CEO the Foundation moved to Bendigo in 2002, appropriately the hometown of Sidney Myer's first store.

FRRR remains Australia's only national philanthropic Foundation dedicated to rural and regional Australia.

Over the past fifteen years we have established a diverse and robust grants program and developed active partnerships in local communities both at the grassroots level and within the philanthropic, business and government sectors.

The timeline overleaf highlights some of the significant milestones across the years.

Lasting Legacy: Whale World

In 2002, the Jaycees Community Foundation in Albany received a grant for \$200,000, which enabled them to convert a “fairly basic regional attraction” into an international-standard award-winning heritage icon known as Whale World.

Executive Chairman of the Foundation, Peter Snow, says the funding was critical to their idea getting off the ground. “It provided the funding that enabled us to match and secure a Lotterywest grant of some \$500,000 that enabled us to complete all three oil tank theatres,” he explained.

The grant primarily went toward the development of a 3D movie about whales - “Giants Exist” - which Peter says “was (and remains today) the key “techno” exhibit at what is now Discovery Bay Tourism Experience (DBTE). It was the first animated whale movie and is still the most popular of our suite of theatres and galleries.”

DBTE required a further \$2.5 million investment in ensuring sustainability through a multi-faceted tourism precinct featuring natural and built heritage on the one site. Peter says that the “the FRRR grant “grub staked” all of these developments.”



The 3D film funded by FRRR in 2002 is still attracting visitors to Whale World.



Organic farming workshops funded via FRRR gave producers knowledge to enhance their profitability, which benefited local communities.



The Myer, Fairfax and Calvert-Jones families instigated the Rural Education Program to ensure children weren't disadvantaged during the drought.



Natural disaster recovery grants have become an increasingly important part of FRRR's work.

“Once you’ve been touched by FRRR, as an employee, or as a grant recipient, you realise what a very special organisation it is. It’s vital for rural Australia’s success to have an entity as flexible and creative as FRRR.”

Sylvia Admans, past CEO of FRRR and donor partner

Skilling up organically

Rural Organics was one of the first organisations to receive a grant from FRRR. They received \$50,000 to run a series of workshops for primary producers about obtaining organic accreditation and how to use it in marketing. The program was built on experiences in achieving organic accreditation for their cropping, cattle, wool and sheep-meat businesses. In partnership with Australian Organic Limited, Rural Organics was able to encourage and mentor environmentally sustainable agriculture in several rural areas, supporting farmers through the change process and helping to open up new markets.

Andrew Monk, Chair of Australian Organic, says the project was catalytic, particularly in the Western Division of NSW. “The workshops taught farmers new skills. They helped producers to recognise they were sitting on great assets and the skills to capitalise on the purity of their produce to generate additional income. The flow on from the farm gate into the local community helped to sustain and build local communities.”

- 👤 Peter Cook appointed CEO
- 🏠 FRRR based in Norton Summit, SA
- ✍️ First Board meeting held
- 👥 Supported first rural community foundation
- 👤 Patrons named – Hon William Dean AC, Baillieu Myer AC, John Anderson AO, Lady Southey
- 📄 Received Type 1 DGR status

2000

- 💰 First grants awarded include:
 - 🌱 Rural Organics
 - 🏠 Orbost Exhibition Centre on the Snowy River Inc.
 - 👥 Lead On (Real Life Young Regional Leaders Projects)
 - 🏠 Bruce Rock Foundation Community Foundation feasibility study

- 🏠 Established permanent offices in Bendigo
- 👥 Hosted Community Foundation Forum in Katoomba, NSW

2002

- 💰 Small Grants for Small Rural Communities launched
- 🎓 Rural Education Program launched to support drought-affected children
- 💰 Pratt Water grants awarded
- 🐋 Albany Whale World grant for 3D film about whales

2004

- ★ Won the PM's Community Business Partnership Award for Strategic Impact on the Community

2006

- 💰 Initiated disaster recovery program, after Cyclone Larry
- 💰 First Donation Account opened
- 👥 Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) launched
- 👥 Dairy Farmers' Creating Greener Pastures launched
- 📧 Australia Post Stretching the Envelope program launched

- 🗣️ FRRR discussed at the Regional Australia Summit by the Prime Minister
- 🏠 FRRR operates out of Myer Foundation offices
- 📄 Constitution drafted

1999

- 🌊 Busselton Underwater Observatory project

2001

- 👤 Sylvia Admans appointed CEO
- 👥 FRRR and Philanthropy Australia launch the Community Foundation Kit
- 👤 Peter Hollingsworth AC, OBE becomes Patron in Chief

- 💰 Gardiner Foundation Working in Dairy Communities partnership launched
- 💰 ANZ Seeds of Renewal partnership launched

2003

- 👤 Hon Michael Jeffery AC becomes Patron in Chief

- 💰 Back to School launched

2005



The board with John Anderson AO at the opening of FRRR's Bendigo offices.

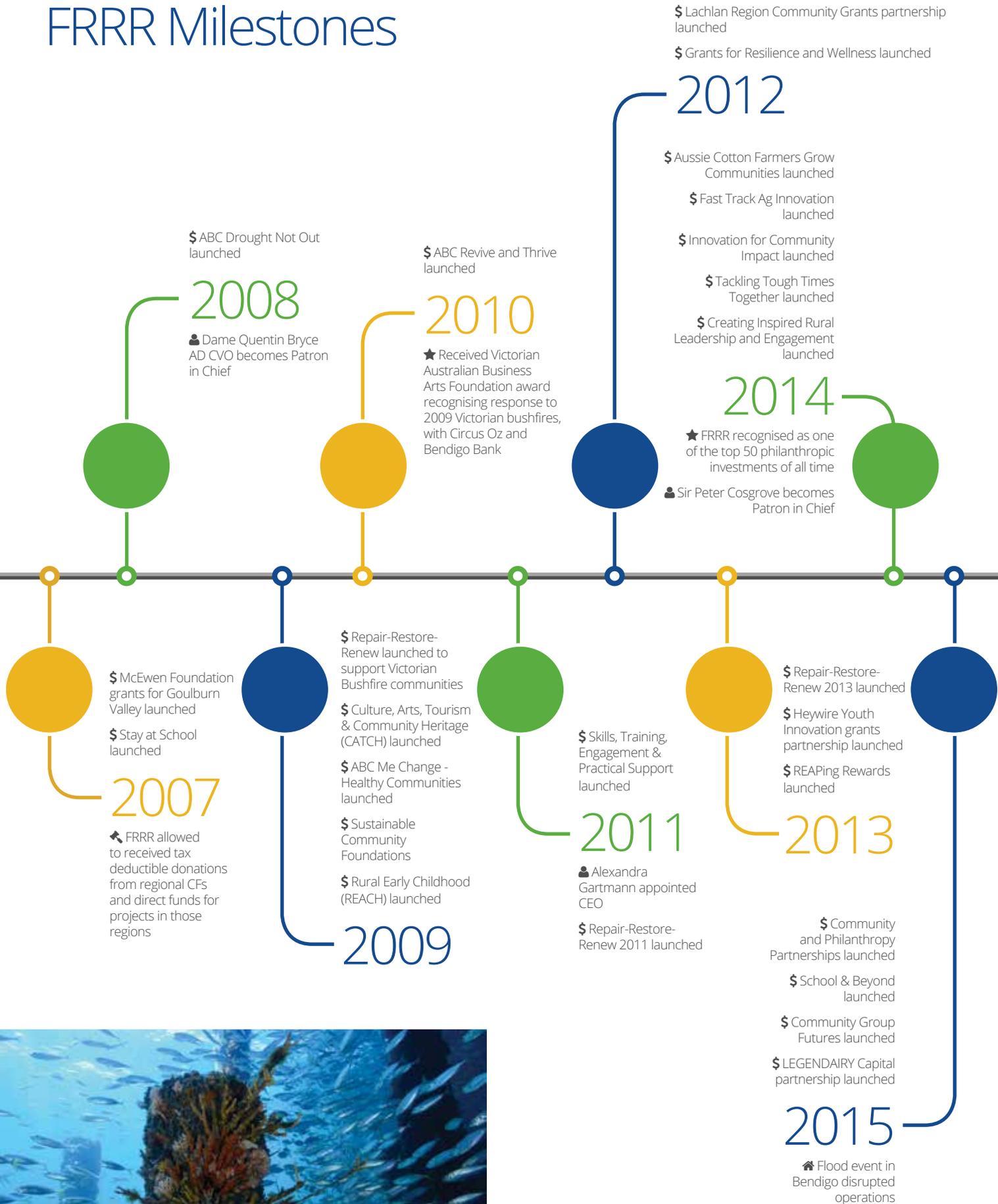


Cyclone Larry was one of the first natural disasters to which FRRR responded.



ABC Drought Not Out brought isolated graziers together during the drought at events like the Culgoa cricket match.

FRRR Milestones



Busselton Wharf Observatory was one of the first grants funded by FRRR.



Our Strategy – 2014/15 and Beyond

FRRR's vision is vibrant and adaptive rural, regional and remote communities.

We believe this can be achieved by harnessing the economic and social strengths that exist in communities and, in partnership with the private sector, philanthropy and governments, providing resources for projects and programs that create the change communities aspire to achieve.

We strive for long-term sustainability, enabling communities to address both current and future challenges. We take an asset based approach, seeking to build on and enhance, rather than simply replacing what was once there, or merely filling gaps.

Key determinants of vibrant communities

Communities have different needs at different times, depending on the economic, social and physical environment, and the composition of their community. Through research and past experience we have identified several factors that are consistently prevalent in viable, vibrant and adaptive communities.

By investing in projects that address these factors, we believe we can positively effect change and help to create sustainable and vibrant communities.

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

The way we work

FRRR's aim is to help build and sustain vibrant communities across rural, regional and remote Australia. We do this in three ways:

- 1 **Building capacity:** helping communities strengthen their capacity and drive outcomes, using our tools, services and fifteen years of experience.
- 2 **Influencing:** using our knowledge and networks to increase awareness and drive change that delivers broad benefit.
- 3 **Grant-making:** directing collaborative funding to NFP groups undertaking charitable activities in their local communities.

Each of the programs offered in 2014/15 was designed to address at least one of the key determinants. Many, such as Small Grants for Rural Communities, support a number of them. This is a snapshot of the programs.

Program	Max grant	Focus area
Annual grants	Various	Funds directed on behalf of donors to specific causes or locations, outside FRRR's standard programs.
ANZ Seeds of Renewal	\$10,000	Enhancing education and employment opportunities in rural, regional and remote 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	Access 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	Supports older people to access services and infrastructure.
Clearinghouse Grants	Various	Projects FRRR is unable to fund, that are shared with other donors, who then fund them.
Community Foundation Support	Various	Funds scholarships to the annual community foundation forum, supports sustainability of foundations and the peak body Australian Community Philanthropy.
Creating Inspirational Rural Community Leadership & Engagement (CIRCLE)	\$25,000	Developing the local leadership necessary to effectively prepare for and respond to structural and economic change and natural disasters.
Culture, Arts, Tourism and Community Heritage	\$20,000	Supports culture, tourism, arts, history and cultural heritage projects.
Donation Accounts	Unlimited	Helps non-DGR NFPs to fundraise, by receiving funds on their behalf for an agreed purpose.
Fast-Track Ag Innovation	\$150,000	A pilot program for four farmer groups across four primary industries to address one of their top three production constraints.
FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants	\$10,000	Tackling the issues concerning young people by implementing ideas from the annual Heywire Regional Youth Summit.
Gardiner Dairy Foundation Working in Dairy Communities	\$5,000	Aims to strengthen small Victorian dairy communities, to help build their capacity to deal with local issues and enhance existing community infrastructure.
Grants for Resilience and Wellness	\$20,000	Provides assistance towards community-strengthening and resilience-building projects for communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires to build strength and capacity for the future.
Innovation for Community Impact	\$85,000	Addresses pressing and persistent social issues facing communities in ten regional NSW LGAs, particularly focused on the needs of children in out-of-home care, vulnerable teens, and those facing domestic violence.
McEwen Foundation Grants for the Goulburn Valley	\$10,000	Supports charitable projects focused on young people and older people within the Goulburn Valley district, Victoria.
REAPing Rewards	\$10,000	Supports locally-driven projects and programs that directly benefit people up to 18 years of age, and their educators.
Repair-Restore-Renew 2013	\$20,000	Helps communities affected by natural disasters to recover by addressing needs that have emerged since 2013 disaster events.
Rural Infrastructure	\$82,500	Targeted larger grants designed to enhance community infrastructure and respond to the interests of donors.
Small Grants for Rural Communities	\$5,000	Supports community priorities in small rural and remote locations in Australia. Priority is given to communities with 10,000 people or fewer.
Tackling Tough Times Together	\$10,000 - \$50,000	Helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the drought.



Message from the CEO

This has been a remarkable year. We have reached many milestones but importantly have enabled more groups across rural, regional and remote Australia to achieve their own goals for the betterment of their communities.

We awarded a record \$8.4m (up from \$6.4m in 2013/14), and supported 757 community projects. It was also another bumper year for the Back to School program, with 14,828 students receiving vouchers.

None of this would have been possible without our donor partners' ongoing contributions and commitment. I thank all our donors – large and small – for your support. **Every contribution makes a real difference to those living and working in communities outside the capital cities.**

It takes hard work and persistence but local leaders are best-placed to galvanise a small community around an issue, identify the solution and then secure funding to implement it. This belief guides our grant making. This year, we invested considerably in enhancing these local leadership skills, through the Creating Inspiring Rural Community Leadership and Engagement (CIRCLE) program. Through webinars and videos, as well as grants, we helped to grow local capacity.

We are grateful to those community leaders who hosted us during the year. Seeing things first hand, speaking to those dealing with the issues day-in day-out, ensures our programs remain responsive. These visits, together with regular reviews of our programs and **consultation with our partners and sector experts**, saw us develop several new programs. This included three programs to address youth disengagement, volunteer fatigue and organisational capability in communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires. We are also working on a national program around Community Preparedness and Resilience.

An area of major focus this year was a new program targeting drought-affected communities. Tackling Tough Times Together was funded initially by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and Yulgilbar Foundation, who recognised the importance of mental

health and community connections and support during extended drought periods.

Family violence and youth disengagement were the focus of a new program in three NSW communities, called Innovation for Community Impact (I4CI). It is one of the most **collaborative programs** we have run, with donors involved in determining the areas of focus, choosing the partners and the priorities in which to invest.

2014/15 also saw the launch of the Fast-Track Ag Innovation program, in partnership with the William Buckland Foundation, to help primary producers adopt new technologies and practices and solve their greatest production challenges. This is the first of a three-year program that will support four producer groups in regional Victoria in the table grape, dairy, broadacre cropping and mixed farming industries. And we formed a new partnership with the Monsanto Fund, providing small grants to cotton growing communities.

It is fitting that in our 15th year, we also partnered with Philanthropy Australia to launch Community Philanthropy Partnerships Week (CPPW), an initiative supported through the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership. The culmination is a week-long celebration in December to showcase the way that partnerships between grassroots community groups and philanthropy can help build strong and vibrant places to live and work.

There is great value from long-term partnerships – with donors, communities and stakeholders. Building partnerships takes time and effort, but FRRR has solid foundations and committed partners, so communities will be able to continue the great work that they do for years to come.

I acknowledge our patrons, Baillieu Myer AC, Lady Southey AC and John Anderson AO and the support, guidance and generosity of the long-serving FRRR Board. Without their commitment, we wouldn't be in the strong position we are today. I thank them all for their support, especially Ian Sinclair AC who has been a great source of advice and counsel.



FRRR Directors and staff met with Desert Uplands group in Queensland.

“We were so lucky to receive a grant from FRRR. It is so difficult for some rural communities to be able to afford all the requests we need to promote our areas. I just wanted you to know how grateful we are to be one of your recipients in the recent round of funding. The equipment is being ordered as we speak and will be an added attraction to the Ararat area.”

Gwenda Allgood – Grant Recipient

This is my last report as CEO and looking back over the last year, I am immensely proud of what we achieved, especially considering our offices were flooded in January and we had temporary premises for several months. This challenged our operations significantly but each member of the team stepped up and I thank them for their loyalty, dedication and commitment to supporting rural communities.

I am humbled by all the people across rural, regional and remote Australia seeking to improve their community. I shall always have a strong bond with FRRR and I am pleased to be able to leave it in a strong position, so that it can continue to connect rural Australia and philanthropy for at least another fifteen years.

Alexandra Gartmann
Chief Executive Officer



A well-timed visit to WA's wheatbelt - just in time for this FRRR funded sculpture to be erected.



Learning about a trade training program that has evolved from an FRRR grant in Charters Towers.

The year in review

Thanks to FRRR's donor partners, 2014/15 was another record year. Generous donors and partners contributed \$9.5m (up from \$6.3m last year), which included funds to support programs both this financial year and over years to come. We awarded and granted out \$8.4m (up from \$6.4m in 2013/14) including \$1.8m via 39 active donation accounts (\$1.8m via 45 accounts last year).

This funding enabled us to support 757 community groups with grants, as well as distribute 14,828 Back to School vouchers. This represented 31% of the total applications (2,445, compared to 2,080 last year).

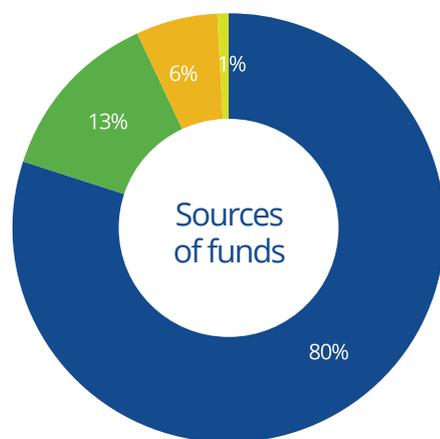
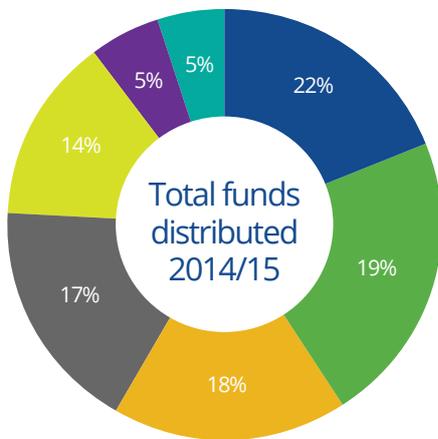
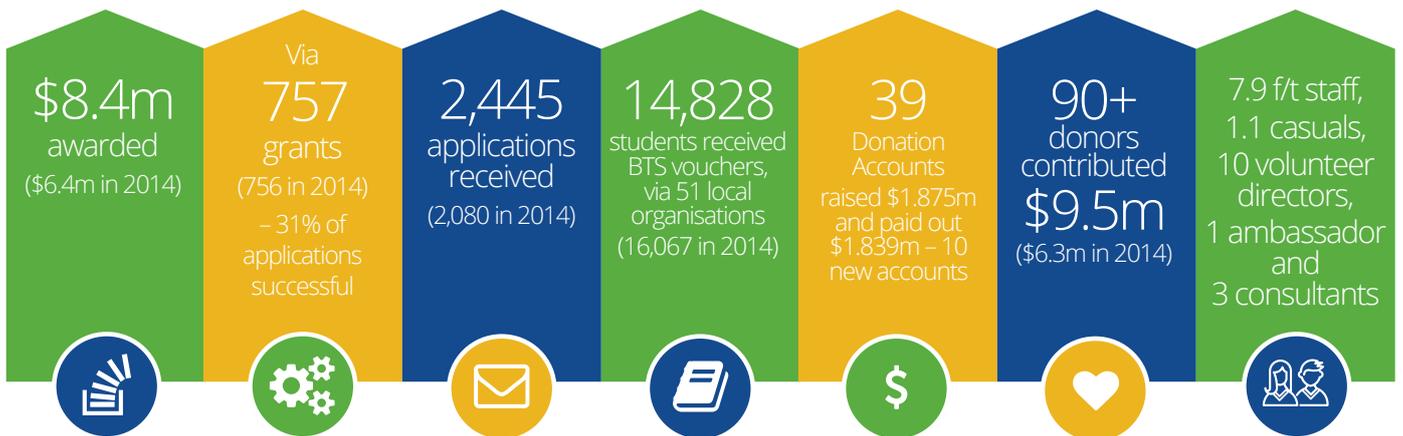
As the chart opposite shows, the largest single grant program is Small Grants for Rural Communities, through which we distributed nearly \$840,000 to 245 projects. This was closely followed by the

new Tackling Tough Times Together program, which helped 67 communities affected by the ongoing drought in Queensland and New South Wales.

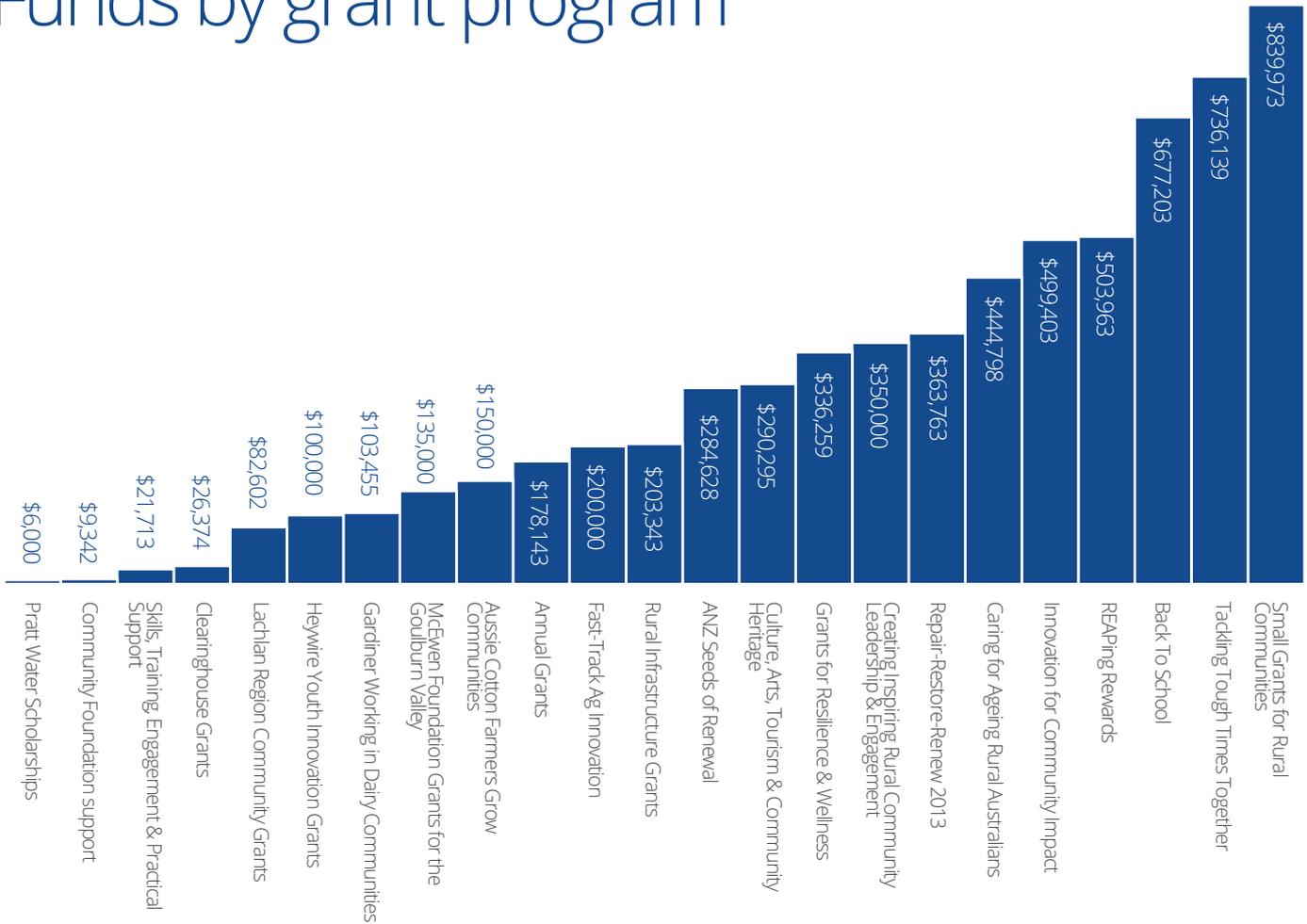
Natural disaster recovery remains an important area of focus, with a further 65 communities receiving support valued at more than \$720,000.

The next highest funding area was education, with more than \$1.4m going toward 113 projects.

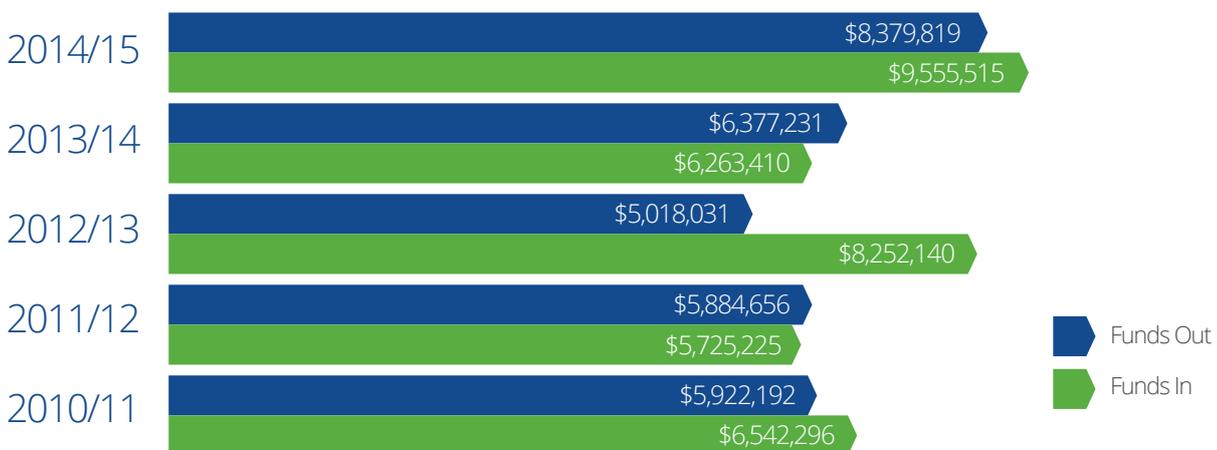
While grants ranged from \$50 to \$85,000, the average grant was \$8,000, although the median was closer to \$5,000 as we distributed a small number of higher value grants.



Funds by grant program

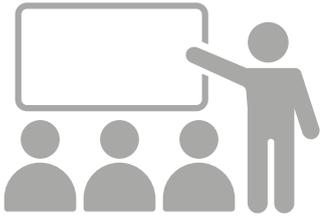


Funds in / funds out, over last 5 years



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this year the funds received grew significantly. In part, as in 2012/13, this reflected additional funds from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund that are to be applied to future years. However, this year's increase also reflected the growth in the number of partners and programs.

Funds out also increased significantly, again due to several new programs that responded to community and donor needs.



In the following pages, we address each of the key determinants of sustainable communities and highlight some of the projects we've funded and how they are helping create vibrant and adaptive rural, regional and remote communities.

Local Leadership and Strong Communities

There is consensus that communities with strong local leadership are best placed to be sustainable. This requires 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.

Our goal is to support local leaders as they create viable, vibrant and adaptive communities. A highlight of this year was the Creating Inspiring Rural Leadership and Engagement (CIRCLE) program. Through a series of webinars and films, we shared information about how to strengthen leadership. We also reviewed the leadership training landscape and provided grants to enhance leadership development and capacity options.



The South Burnett Community Leadership Program in action.

Investing in people is investing in our future

After a decade of drought and then two devastating floods in quick succession, the Red Earth Community Foundation (RECF), in the South Burnett region of southern inland Queensland, saw an opportunity to develop a community leadership program.

In partnership with Vision 21, RECF launched the South Burnett Community Leadership Program in March 2014. FRRR and our donor partners have supported them on this journey.

"To build local leadership capacity, we designed a program suitable for anyone involved in their local community, their industry or the region. Our aim was to improve their effectiveness in their current roles and to equip others to take on a leadership role," Foundation Director Georgie Somerset explained.

RECF chose to customise a program as there was nothing available that they could afford, nor that took into consideration the limited availability and commitments individuals were dealing with, especially in the aftermath of the floods.

RECF received support through FRRR's Creating Inspiring Rural Leadership and Engagement (CIRCLE) program to evaluate the program. We also granted a further \$15,000 through the Repair-Restore-Renew 2013 program to enable flood-affected residents of the South Burnett region to participate in the 2015 leadership program, to run a workshop for the alumni of the 2014 program, and a future workshop for the combined 2014 and 2015 alumni.

We also host a Donation Account enabling them to leverage our tax deductible status to help them fundraise. With this support, RECF hopes to be able to run the leadership program on an annual basis.

"It is about investing in our people and investing in the future. Passing on skills and mentoring the next generation of leaders ensures the sustainability for our industries and our regions right across the country," explained Georgie.



Watch the video which explains how they did it and some of the key considerations in designing the program.



The Tools of Survival program taught young people vital life skills.



FRRR donor partners and staff attended the launch of RRCLP.

Equipping young people with life skills

Young Australians regularly face challenges that they feel ill-equipped to deal with, such as bullying, drugs, alcohol and losing friends due to accidents. For those in rural areas, these problems can be exacerbated by distance and isolation. In addition, to further their education or start their career, they often move away from their hometown and have to deal with life changes without their usual support networks.

The Tools of Survival concept was developed at the 2014 Heywire Regional Youth Summit. The proposal was to find ways to give young people the skills they need to manage these situations, as well as cope with the pressure of final exams, finding work and starting university.

Thanks to an FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation grant to Mid West Health, the concept became reality in South Australia. The program involved seven workshops covering everything from first aid and mental health, to budgeting and interview skills. Annika Kirvan, who was studying remotely, attended all of the workshops and said she got a lot out of them. "Tools of Survival made me more confident in my own abilities and gave me skills I might not have gotten otherwise. I got my first aid certificate, which is pretty handy! And I learnt budgeting and what to expect when I move out."



Renmark students making a vision tree for their transition plan.

Skilling up local leaders

The Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program (RRCLP) supports people living in the 2009 fire-affected local government areas of Mitchell, Murrindindi, Nillumbik, Yarra Ranges and Whittlesea in Victoria. This new program takes up to 24 participants on a 10 month experiential learning program. They meet local leaders and explore issues and opportunities for the region, and learn about leadership styles, attributes, ethics and values.

FRRR supported the program through the GR&W and STEPS programs, and hosted a Donation Account to which Deutsche Bank contributed. These funds have supported the feasibility study, business plan, marketing collateral and road shows, program manager salary for one year and funded five program places. Eleven people have now done the program, with 70% reporting an increased capacity to access the resources and skills in leadership and 66% being more actively aware and being a more influential advocate in their community.

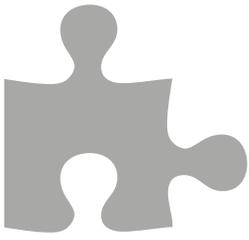
Grants in brief

International Day for Women of the North - Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd in Qld received a \$3,122 Small Grant to run a workshop to inspire women and increase their capacity as natural resource managers thanks to The Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation.

Beating the blues in the bush - Ravenshoe Community Centre Inc. in Qld received a \$9,478 FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation grant. In response to a number of recent suicides, the youth group developed a TV advertisement and undertook a media and community outreach campaign.

An early start on leadership skills - A REAPing Rewards grant of \$3,000 enabled the Renmark Children's Centre in SA to engage students at all year levels in developing a plan to better help them transition between grades.

Understanding Crowdfunding - An \$1,800 Small Grant funded by the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees) allowed The Atherton Tablelands Chamber of Commerce in Qld to present four workshops on how crowdfunding can become an important new funding source.



Sustainable Community Infrastructure

It is critical to invest in the things that support a community and give them a sense of belonging and pride. By investing in places people can meet, such as halls, museums or theatres, we create opportunities for people to come together to share knowledge, experiences and learn more about the history and culture of where they live. This creates social capital for stronger communities.



The new shelter shed decorated with swans attracts visitors to Swanpool.

Transforming the heart of Swanpool

Swanpool, in Victoria, has a population of just over 500 people. The community was keen to host more events, as a way to bring people together and encourage people from outlying communities, as well as tourists, to visit the town. But their audio-visual equipment wasn't up to scratch.

Thanks to an \$18,400 grant through FRRR's Culture, Arts, Tourism and Community Heritage program they have been able to invest in a new portable sound and lighting system and some artwork in the local shelter and pavilion area. It was funded by the Ledger Charitable Trust managed by Perpetual.

Dr Ian Herbert, one of the project managers of this initiative, said that within his community, a grant such as this goes a long way.

“We have the volunteers and we have the skills but money is often hard to find.”

“Both the sound and lighting system have been used for a number of events, with Swanpool Hall now being seen as a viable venue option. Several bookings are now in the calendar,” explained Dr Herbert.

The creation of a shelter with beautiful artwork, most appropriately depicting swans, was completed earlier this year. LED lighting between the panels of swans comes on after dusk so this artwork, magnificent in daytime, shows up in all its glory at night.

“The most significant outcome of this artwork has been to increase visitor numbers and to put us on the map as a tourist destination rather than just a toilet stop. This quality artwork is a drawcard and talking point,” Dr Herbert said.



New wiring and a switchboard make the hall safe to use for the many community groups that meet there.



The new kitchen at the local hall in Trafalgar, Vic has enhanced this community asset.

Old hall, new spark

It might not be possible to teach an old dog new tricks, but you can give an old hall a new spark of life.

It just takes a very committed group of local volunteers and a little philanthropic support.

The Tintenbar School of Arts, just north of Ballina in NSW, is the only community facility in the area, serving some 4,000 residents. It's used regularly by the local Red Cross, playgroup, Landcare, sporting groups and the Tintenbar Community Aid Network, which supports elderly and disabled residents.

The community-owned hall, which has been in use since 1905, was showing its age. Thanks to determined fundraising efforts, local volunteers have restored the hall over the last 12 years. All that remained to be done was new wiring, lighting and switches, a new power box, and new locks to make it all secure.

With a \$2,500 grant from the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, and an innovative final fund-raising campaign, they were able to put in place these final touches.

Sheila Aveling, Hall Secretary, explained that the grant complemented their 'pledge a plank' fundraising campaign, and meant that these final improvements could be made.

"Our small committee has worked extremely hard to renovate and restore our Hall from a state of near collapse ten years ago, to a very desirable place to hold functions. We now have very happy user groups. Without the support of foundations like yourself, small communities find it extremely hard to keep facilities like old community halls in operation."

Grants in brief

Community garden grows community change: When bushfires hit Dunalley in south-east Tasmania, the community garden fell into a state of neglect, as volunteers focused on rebuilding their homes. Thanks to a \$14,966 grant funded by John T. Reid Charitable Trusts and FRRR, the community was able to rejuvenate the garden when the time was right. Local students now frequent the garden and gardening workshops are held for locals to encourage adoption of environmentally sustainable practices at home.

Kitted out for 'kitchen kapers': A \$4,450 Small Grant funded by The R. E. Ross Trust, matched by local fundraising, enabled the Anglican Parish of Trafalgar, in Victoria, to kit out the kitchen in the Parish Hall, a vital community meeting centre. Several local groups across the community, including youth, pre-schoolers, families and elderly people, benefit from what locals describe as a wonderful community asset.

Drama-TIC change: After 15 years without them, the Nambucca Entertainment Centre in NSW has refurbished dressing rooms and working showers. Thanks to a \$2,200 Small Grant funded by the Bertalli Family Foundation, the 30 community groups that use the building - including amateur dramatic societies, fitness groups and dance troupes - can be confident the facilities are safe and hygienic.

Romp and chomp: Children cared for at the Three Springs Childcare centre in WA, now enjoy more active play, thanks to a \$2,298 REAPing Rewards grant, funded by The Ian Potter Foundation. The swing set purchased with the grant, together with a new climbing frame, allows for fundamental movement skill learning experiences and informal play activities, in line with national recommendations for physical activity.

Programs in Action



New stockyards mean vital social events like field days and gymkhanas can continue.



Robert McGuirk with Brenda Pedlar, teaching Gurrumala (formerly Donydji) students about healthy eating.

New stockyards maintain connections

Hungerford is an isolated community on the Qld / NSW border, approximately 280 kilometres north-west of Bourke. It's been in drought for nearly four years.

The Hungerford Sports Ground hosts field days and an annual gymkhana, both of which are well-attended and important for maintaining social connections.

Such events are critical to maintaining social capital, but they require the right infrastructure to facilitate this interaction.

The state of the stockyards at the ground was affecting participation; they were unusable and organisers had to bring in temporary yards. Treasurer Kylie Baty explained that improving the yards was integral to the continuity of these two events.

As Doug Clifford, President of Hungerford Sports Association Inc. explained, "Retaining and growing friendship and support networks is a vital component of coping with drought. With isolation and financial restrictions limiting people's ability to attend social functions, it is important that we protect and ensure the continuity of key social events."

The Hungerford Sports Association received a \$9,750 grant through the Tackling Tough Times Together program thanks to the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, to replace the yards. Local volunteers came together to construct steel stockyards, designed to stable horses during the gymkhana and house livestock at the field day.

It had an immediate impact, as the new yards attracted 10 more exhibitors and approximately 400 visitors for the 2015 Hungerford Field Day, providing a great opportunity for locals to reconnect.

Gurrumala community development project

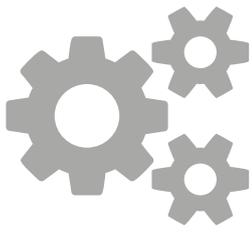
Gurrumala (formerly known as Donydji) is a small, remote, indigenous community 650 kilometres east of Katherine, in the Northern Territory. Health and social problems are much less evident than in larger communities, however fewer than 1% of Yolngu children complete Year 12 and unemployment rates are around 80%.

In 2002 Gurrumala had no school or training facility, limited and poor quality accommodation, no gardens, no employment and a diesel power plant that functioned only intermittently. Today, thanks to the joint efforts of Latrobe University, The Rotary Club of Melbourne, a small group of volunteers and the financial support of several philanthropic trusts, it has a school, with a teacher's residence; a training workshop; housing designed in conjunction with local residents; solar power; and a community garden that has led to the development of home gardens around houses and the successful launch of a small contract cleaning and maintenance business.

This has been possible, in part, thanks to an FRRR Donation Account that the Rotary Club of Melbourne has leveraged to attract tax deductible funds from various individuals, organisations and associations.

The next priorities are stabilising the education program, providing ongoing training for young adults, supporting the development of cottage industries and working with local authorities to ensure funds allocated for maintenance are spent on maintaining essential services like power and water.

Robert McGuirk, Chairman of Rotary Club of Melbourne's Indigenous Programs Committee, said the work at Gurrumala remains ongoing. "The Committee is aware that achieving a largely self-sustaining community in this remote part of North East Arnhem land is a long-term project that will continue to have its frustrations, as well as its wonderful success stories."



Equitable Access to Opportunities

People in rural, regional and remote locations deserve access to quality services and opportunities, such as health, education and transport. But this is often not the case. Our grants help local community groups enhance what already exists, or fill the gaps.



Back to School vouchers help students get the basics and fit in.



A new pool hoist ensures everyone can use the local pool.

Inclusion solution: just add water

Australia has an ageing population, however, many communities lack the local facilities to care for aged residents. On Magnetic Island, Qld elderly residents were unable to safely access the community pool and could not participate in water-based therapy.

To rectify this, Magnetic Island Community Care (MICare) received a \$9,990 grant from FRRR's Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) program thanks to the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation. They purchased a new hoist for the pool to provide safe and dignified access for frail or mobility-impaired visitors, and those with a disability.

With additional funds from the Magnetic Island Rotary Club and with the support of Lifetec, MICare installed the hoist and trained volunteer pool supervisors and MICare staff on the new equipment.

Phil Landon, President of MICare said the new hoist is a terrific asset for the whole community.

"There is a real need to provide gentle aqua-based exercises to local patients, and to simply let them share the joy of a plunge in the pool when a drench with the garden hose just won't do. We are proud that we've been able to remove the physical barrier that was excluding some of our community from the swimming pool."

Having shoes for school

Through the Back to School program, children and families in need receive \$50 vouchers to purchase school essentials. Wearing a uniform that fits, shoes without holes or having new stationery makes a difference. As one Principal said, "At the end of the day, all students come to school to learn. The vouchers ensure that the kids can dress the same as their peers, have dry feet over winter and the basic tools to complete class activities. The difference it makes for a few benefits all."

Programs in Action



Films will help disadvantaged groups understand the support available.



New IT equipment means more students can get their learner driver's licence.

Domestic violence has no divide

The Innovation for Community Impact (I4CI) program supports innovative responses to some of the deepest issues facing communities in the Hunter New England, Mid-North and Central Coast regions of NSW. The approach is underpinned by a belief in the power of the collective over individual or isolated action and by an aspiration for communities to lead the change they wish to see. The issues include domestic and family violence, education disengagement, youth recidivism and unemployment.

For people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, these issues can be particularly challenging. They often don't know their rights or how to access support, particularly when it comes to dealing with domestic or family violence.

The Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre Ltd received \$15,000 from the I4CI program, thanks to the NSW Department of Families & Community Services and the Flannery Family Foundation. It was used to develop a series of communications aimed at informing and supporting women from CALD backgrounds who may be experiencing domestic violence.

As part of the project, they filmed 24 vignettes showing examples of all forms of family and domestic violence. "The actors came from various cultural backgrounds and were very realistic in their performances. The scenes were simple and at times no speaking occurred. This will make the DVD a valuable resource no matter the level of English of the viewer," explained Nellie Srisurapon, from Northern Settlement Services and a member of Central Coast Domestic Violence CALD committee.

Driving employment options

Lifeskills Plus provides services to people with disabilities in Mudgee, NSW. One of their programs, Transition to Work, assists school leavers with disabilities to obtain employment. Getting a job brings great benefits for the individuals concerned, including a sense of achievement and fulfilment and ultimately being able to support themselves financially. By participating in mainstream employment, people with a disability also help change community prejudices regarding disability.

Through the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program, Lifeskills Plus received five Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets valued at \$4,245. Providing IT equipment via Lenovo is a new addition to this program in 2014.

The equipment makes it easier for Lifeskills Plus to teach young people with disabilities to get their driving license. Being able to drive creates opportunities for them, as public transport in Mudgee is extremely limited and workplaces are spread over a large geographic area.

The group plans on offering the training three times per year and Mudgee youth are already benefiting from the technology.

"Previously we only had three computers, but now all driver knowledge test training participants can practise on-line at the same time. This means more time for each person and gives them better chances of succeeding," said Bob Lejeune, Business & Community Liaison Officer, Lifeskills Plus.

"We are so excited to have received an FRRR grant. It will make a significant difference to our ability to meet our local community needs via enhancing consumer participation. Thank you to FRRR for this opportunity."

Primary and Preventative Health, Western District Health Services – Hamilton, VIC



Forum participants gained new knowledge and support.

Wellness Forum brings locals together

“The prolonged drought in central western Qld has impacted upon both the physical and mental health of many members of the community. The people in the area are suffering extreme financial, physical and emotional hardship,” explained Jenny Lindsay from the Stonehenge Action Group Inc.

To alleviate some of the stressors, the inaugural Stonehenge Wellness Forum was held last year, with the support of a \$3,000 grant through FRRR’s Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) program thanks to the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation.

The Forum’s aim was to enhance people’s social and emotional well-being and offer preventative health assessments for people living within three hour’s drive of the township of Stonehenge which has a population of just over 100 people.

“With this grant we were able to showcase an array of exciting guest speakers and fabulous trade displays,” Jenny said. Sessions ranged from fitness to business strategies, personal values to health and nutrition, as well as art. A beautician and masseuse were also on site to pamper guests.

Drought affects the physical and mental health of everyone, no matter the age, or gender or size of your community and so the forum was open to everyone.

Cam Lindsay of “Yuruga”, a property south-west of Longreach, was among the attendees. “Sometimes the perception is that this kind of event is only for women. But men who attend with their partners can really benefit. It gives you the opportunity to develop new approaches and map out your goals together. By both partners attending, you are on the same page and can go home and work better as a team,” Cam explained.

Grants in brief

Delivering allied health services to the outback:

Isolation makes it difficult for people enduring the drought in north-western Qld to access the allied health services they need. With a \$10,000 grant through the Tackling Tough Times Together program, funded by Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Outback Futures has been supporting clients in these remote areas. Services are initially delivered face to face, but once trust is established, contact continues via phone or over the internet, resulting in improved mental health and well-being.

Transport for all: Tennant Creek Transport has been focused on providing improved transport services in this NT community over many years. After establishing the first fixed route bus service using a borrowed, second-hand bus, it was evident they still weren’t meeting the needs of all residents. Utilising \$5,000 from the Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) program to augment other funding, they were able to purchase a brand new wheelchair-accessible bus and provide access to services for all residents.

Cotton grant equips bush nursing: Cecil Plains Bush Nursing in southern Qld received \$5,000 from the Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities program, funded by the Monsanto Foundation, which launched in 2014. It is more than 50 kms to the nearest medical support, so the bush nursing service plays an important role. With the grant, they have been able to purchase some important diagnostic machinery, including an Echocardiograph (ECG) and a Spirometer, to improve their medical service to the community.

Learning through play: Thanks to a McEwen Foundation grant of \$14,888, children in the communities of the Goulburn Valley in Victoria’s north now have access to early learning education. The grant funded a fully kitted out play bus that provides a mobile play scheme for children and parents with limited access to facilities, in areas of early learning, development activities and parenting support. The structured sessions support approximately 60 children and their parents each week in three locations.



A mobile play bus brings toys and early learning resources to those with limited access to local facilities in the Goulburn Valley.



Vibrant Local Economies

Our goal is for communities to be able to support themselves, now and in the long-term. Each community is different and has different resources, demographics and ecosystems. Our diverse programs support projects that help create a sustainable economy – jobs, growth and shared wealth.

More sales for Sarina Arts and Crafts

Sarina Tourist Arts and Craft Centre in Qld has been servicing visitors for nearly 20 years. Operated by more than 60 volunteers, it provides an outlet for local artists to display and sell their creations. Commission from the sales of arts and crafts helps to fund the operation of the centre, with many artists also volunteering.

With their visitor numbers continuing to grow, Sarina Tourist Arts and Crafts Centre needed to upgrade their extremely outdated IT and communications system. They wanted to provide better service to their customers and make running the centre more efficient for volunteers.

The Centre successfully received a \$2,579 grant via the Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) program. The grant enabled them to install the MYOB business accounting program and a retail point of sale system including a barcode scanner and screen.

Volunteers have been trained in the new systems, with ongoing support provided. They have seen great efficiency benefits, from customer feedback and volunteers.

Attracting more volunteers is easier, as processing sales is a far less onerous task. It also frees up time to interact with tourists to promote the work of local artists and the businesses they can visit while in the area.

Pathway to agricultural careers

When Pathways into Agriculture program was launched on the mid north coast of NSW, they were inundated with enquiries from high schools saying, “When can you come talk to our kids about this?”

Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast (RDA) secured \$80,000 funding through the Innovation for Community Impact (I4CI) program earlier this year. By creating partnerships between job service providers and networks, the programs will connect unemployed youth and Aboriginal people with training and employment pathways, as well as help students identify agricultural career pathways.

The I4CI program aims to support innovative responses to persistent and pressing social issues facing communities in regional NSW. It is funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services and private donors.

While the project is still rolling out, RDA has already made significant progress. They have appointed a full-time project officer and are compiling a matrix of agricultural training opportunities and speaking to students, schools, farmers, agri-business professionals and training providers who could potentially be a part of the program.

This project will provide the mid north coast of NSW with more career opportunities and clear pathways that encourage kids to stay, work and live in the area. Training and experience will improve their employability and ensure skilled workers are available to fill agricultural job gaps.



Jen Costello and Gloria Murray test out the new point of sale equipment at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

Making the most of pastures

Agricultural productivity has remained static in recent years, and the reduction in public research, development and extension is translating to reduced innovation.

Through the Fast-Track Ag Innovation program, funded by the William Buckland Foundation, four farmer groups across Victoria are using grants of \$150,000 each, over three years, to address one of their top three production constraints.

The Gippsland Grows Green Grass group are focussing on optimising pasture production to maximise home-grown feed, attending a series of field days and discussion groups, to learn from their peers about this important issue.

Ag Challenge's Glenn Marriott, who is facilitating the program, said it aims to put knowledge in the hands of farmers so they can make better decisions about their pasture production.

"It's about engaging people and improving productivity through better pasture utilisation. This will in turn ensure a stronger dairy industry and maximise profitability for the farmers, and in turn ensure sustainable dairy communities."



Farmers coming together to make their businesses more productive and profitable helps the local economy.

Grants in brief

Bringing back tourism to Marysville: To lure tourists back after the 2009 Victorian bushfires, Mystic Mountains Tourism hosted an Open Gardens weekend, using a \$3,000 grant via the Small Grants for Rural Communities program, funded by The R.E. Ross Trust. The grant helped them promote the event which attracted more than 1,400 people to the eight private gardens that opened their gates.

Going Online: Since 2009 Sustainable Agriculture and Gardening Eurobodalla (SAGE), based in Moruya NSW, has had a thriving community farmer's market. Thanks to an \$8,000 ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant the market was able to increase produce promotion through the creation of "SAGE Online". This project piloted the first ever online Australian farmer's market bringing produce from paddock to plate and increasing viability for local Eurobodalla farmers.

Leonora heritage trail to bring in visitors: Locals in Leonora, WA recognised the potential benefits of capitalising on their historic buildings to attract tourists and boost the economy. The Shire received a \$7,678 grant via the Culture, Arts, Tourism & Community Heritage program, thanks to the McCusker Charitable Foundation, to prepare the concept plan and undertake initial research for a Heritage Trail, guiding people to 30 major historic sites.

Dinosaurs can help beat the drought: The Outback Gondwana Foundation purchased specialised fossil preparation tools with a Tackling Tough Times Together grant. It means volunteers can meet and work in unison on an important local tourism project – the new Eromanga Natural History museum. They say it's not only something completely different for the region, but also has given them a sense of community again.



Lorraine Gordon and Theresa O'Connell, Mid North Coast RDA, on-farm discussing school based apprenticeships.



Volunteers are preparing exhibits for a new local tourist destination.

Our Donor Partners

FRRR would not be able to operate or function without our very generous donors and partners. This year has seen exceptional growth in the programs offered, and the amount of money donated and distributed.

First, we acknowledge our founding members: the Commonwealth Government of Australia and the Sidney Myer Fund.

The generous support of our 90+ donor partners – trusts, funds, foundations, corporations, government departments – plus countless individuals is fundamental to what we do. 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.

We are also dependent on many other philanthropic bodies, industry groups and individual influencers who support us. We are grateful for their support, as well as that of our many suppliers, and we appreciate the in-kind contributions they make, as well as the discounts they give to us.

Private Donors > \$5,000

- Patricia Brooks
- DJ & CL Devanny
- Earth Welfare Foundation
- The Late Neilma Gantner
- Alexandra Gartmann
- Tom Harding
- George James
- Janet McMenamin
- Sarah & Baillieu Myer AC
- Bill & Jan Rogers
- Simplot Australia

	Community Support	Recover & Strengthen	Education	Equipment & Infrastructure
ANZ Banking Group	●	●	●	
Aussie Farmers Foundation		●	●	
Barr Family Foundation			●	
Betty Fulton Fund			●	
Bruce & Jane Dyson Foundation	●			
CAGES Foundation	●			
Coles Myer			●	
Commercial Travellers' Association of VIC	●			●
Community Foundation for Albury Wodonga Region Ltd			●	
Dairy Australia	●			●
Danks Trust			●	
Department of Family and Community Services NSW	●			
Department of Health and Human Services VIC	●	●	●	●
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development	●	●	●	●
Department of Social Services	●			
Deutsche Bank	●	●		
Doc Ross Foundation	●	●		
Eric and Elizabeth Gross Foundation	●		●	
Estate of the Late John William Fleming #	●			●
Ethinvest Pty Ltd	●		●	●
Flannery Family Foundation	●			
Gardiner Dairy Foundation	●	●	●	●
Garry White Foundation	●			
Geelong Community Foundation			●	
Geoff & Helen Handbury Foundation	●	●	●	
Glover Foundation			●	
Hannaford	●		●	●
Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation #	●			●

Partners

- ABC Heywire
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Australian Community Philanthropy
- Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- JAW Communications
- Philanthropy Australia
- Prince's Charities Australia
- Regional Australia Institute
- Top Marques
- Twenty20 Graphics
- Western Plains Regional Development

"FRRR is a wonderful example of a philanthropic organisation combining evidence and data with deep human connections to the communities it serves and the care with which programs are designed, introduced, changed or discontinued, as well as the respect with which changes are communicated is testament to this."

Leonard Vary, Myer Foundation / Sidney Myer Fund

"We have been pleasantly surprised by the ease with which a disparate group of donors, including government, reached consensus on the finer points of developing guidelines, assessing applications and awarding grants. Key to this success has been the experienced and professional way FRRR has executed their role as lead coordinating agency."

Amy Tribe, nib foundation

	Community Support	Recover & Strengthen	Education	Equipment & Infrastructure
ING Direct Foundation		●		
John T Reid Charitable Trusts	●	●		●
Julian Flett Endowment #	●		●	
Katz Family Foundation	●			
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation			●	
Marrich Equity Pty Ltd			●	
McKinnon Family Foundation	●		●	
Monsanto Fund	●		●	●
Myer Foundation Family Grants	●	●	●	●
Newman's Own Foundation	●			●
nib foundation	●			
Origin Foundation			●	
Perpetual Foundation - the Rural Enhancement Endowment				●
Pratt Foundation	●	●	●	●
Price Family Foundation	●			
QANTAS Foundation		●		
Ronald Geoffrey Arnott Foundation #	●			●
Rural Affinity Group	●		●	●
Sally Foundation	●		●	
School Aid Trust		●	●	
Sidney Myer Fund			●	
South West Community Foundation			●	
St George Foundation			●	
Stand Up		●		
The Alf & Meg Steel Fund	●			
The Baker Foundation	●			
The Ballarat Foundation			●	
The Berrembed Trust #			●	●

The Bertalli Family Foundation	●		●	●
The Caledonia Foundation			●	
The Carleton Family Charitable Trust	●			●
The George Lewin Foundation	●			
The Goldberg Family Foundation	●			
The Harris Charitable Foundation	●			
The Ian Potter Foundation	●		●	
The June Caravan Foundation	●			
The Maple-Brown Family Charitable Foundation	●		●	●
The Margaret Lawrence Bequest #			●	
The McCusker Charitable Foundation	●			●
The McEwen Foundation +	●		●	●
The Melliadora Fund	●			
The Percy Baxter Charitable Trust #		●		●
The R.E. Ross Trust	●	●	●	●
The Snow Foundation	●			
The Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation +	●			●
Third Link Investment Managers	●		●	●
Thyne Reid Foundation	●	●	●	●
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation	●	●	●	●
Tottenham Welfare Council	●			
Tuite Family Foundation		●		
Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund		●		
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation	●	●	●	●
Western Plains Regional Development	●			
William Buckland Foundation +	●		●	●
Yulgilbar Foundation	●	●	●	●

+ Managed by Equity Trustees # Managed by Perpetual

Our Committees

A fundamental tenet of our governance is to involve independent subject matter experts in the assessment of the grant applications we receive. Each of the people listed below provided voluntary support to this process, or provided expertise on other sub-committees. We thank them for their commitment to vibrant rural communities.

- Adam Blight, Monsanto
- Amy Tribe, nib foundation
- Andrew Coghlan, Red Cross
- Andrew Hunter, FACS
- Andy Fairfax, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
- Anne Leadbeater AO, disaster recovery expert
- Bernadette Flannery, Flannery Family Foundation
- Bruce Lloyd AM, former Member for McEwen
- Bruce Scott, grazier, Windorah, Qld
- Cathryn Geiger, DIRD
- Chris Wootton, Philanthropy Australia
- Dan Hirst, ABC Rural
- Dr Christine Healy, formerly ACT Bushfire Recovery Centre
- Emily Fuller, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
- Georgie Somerset, grazier, Kingaroy, Qld
- Georgina Byron, Snow Foundation
- Geraldine Roche, Sally Foundation
- Gina Fairfax, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- James Boyd, Creative Partnerships Australia
- John Huigen, Huigen Advisory
- Jonathan Bedloe, DHHS
- Katy Tyrell, Philanthropy Australia
- Leonie Martin, FACS
- Louise Burton, formerly Philanthropy Australia
- Margo Andre, Agrifood Skills Australia
- Mary Harney, Gardiner Dairy Foundation
- Michael Katz, Katz Family Foundation
- Michael O'Neill, National Seniors Australia
- Monique Edwards, ABC Heywire Youth representative
- Phil Brown, Country Education Partnerships
- Prue Pateras, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- Rachel Kerry, CAGES Foundation
- Rachel Martin, FACS
- Raoul Noffke, ANZ
- Rikki Andrews, formerly Gardiner Dairy Foundation
- Sally McKay, disaster recovery expert
- Samantha Baillieu, Yulgilbar Foundation
- Samantha Jorgensen, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- Susan Mullard, FACS
- Tania Motton, ANZ
- Wendy Craik
- Dr Wendy Scaife, Aust. Centre for Philanthropy & Nonprofit studies, QUT

Governance

The FRRR Board of Directors exercises the powers vested in it by the Corporations Law and the Company's Constitution and is directly responsible to our two members for the effective operation of the organisation.

As we distribute funds on behalf of donors and offer a number of wide ranging programs, we rigorously adhere to strong governance processes. The Finance and Audit Committee oversees all aspects of financial investment and management of the Foundation. Our Financial Reports are independently audited to confirm our financial processes meet all statutory requirements.



FRRR Board members met Hon Warren Truss Deputy Prime Minister, in Canberra in June.

Our Board

FRRR is fortunate to have a number of highly regarded figures as our Patrons and Board, guiding our activities. This year we welcomed two new Board members, Annie Grindrod and Annabel Dulhunty both of whom have extensive experience in the philanthropic sector and strong connections to rural communities. Our other Board members are also experienced and knowledgeable individuals who have strong backgrounds in both rural affairs and in the practice of philanthropy. We appreciate their support and commitment to rural, regional and remote communities.

To learn more about our Board, please visit our website.



From left: Annabel Dulhunty, Ian Allen OAM, Fred Grimwade, Annie Grindrod, Patrick Myer, Ian Sinclair AC, Paddy Handbury, Tim Fairfax AC, Alexandra Gartmann, Lisa Norden
Absent: Margaret Smith AO, Bill Kely AC.

Our staff



From left: Hannah Jakab, Jeanice Henderson, Sarah Berriman, Ian Sinclair AC, Sophie Burke, Natalie Egleton, Sylvia Perez, Alexandra Gartmann, Bernie Loughnan, Neriman Kemal.
Absent: Jodie Odgers (left); Lisa Mahon (right); Lorelee Lockett, Lisa Norden, Julie Weldon

This report marks the end of an era with our CEO Alexandra Gartmann announcing her departure after more than four and a half years. We thank her for her dedication to FRRR and for the strong legacy she leaves.

We are a small but effective team, with 7.9 full time staff, 1.1 casuals, 3 consultants and 1 volunteer ambassador.

To learn more about our staff, please visit our website.

Lend your support

[Donate Now](#)



Help us continue to connect rural Australia with philanthropy to create viable, vibrant and adaptive communities. As we have highlighted throughout this report, requests for assistance from our communities across Australia exceed our available funds and capacity.

From education to the environment, health to the arts, FRRR's grant programs help rural, regional and remote community groups implement local solutions that unlock potential.

On average we can satisfy only a quarter of the requests we receive, so we are always eager to find other ways to leverage the funds available or find other means of support. Even the smallest donation makes a difference.

If any of these opportunities fits with your giving priorities, contact our CEO, via info@frrr.org.au.

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 items we fund regularly like paint or IT equipment.



Workplace giving: FRRR is now registered on the Good2Give, and Goodcompany (part of Karma Currency) online platforms.



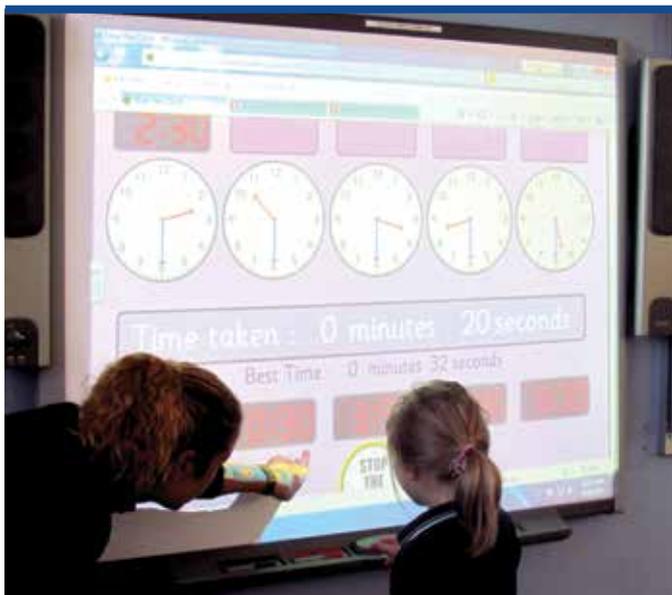
Gift a friend: FRRR is registered on the Karma Currency website, which has the ability to send a gift voucher on your behalf.



FRRR will also gratefully receive a **bequest**. It is a great way to leave a legacy which can be directed to support rural, regional and remote communities.

Current Funding Needs

Donations are the lifeblood of our organisation, allowing us to help communities in need. Here are our top priority funding needs. Please lend your support.



Children deserve a quality education, no matter where they live.



[Donate Now](#)

Culture, Arts, Tourism and Community Heritage

This program and the projects funded foster strong, vibrant communities, build local pride and regularly bring the community together. The program offers grants to support activities in areas of culture, tourism, arts, history and heritage. It continues to receive a high number of applications for support – with only 17% successful this year.

REAPing Rewards

Access to programs and resources is often a major barrier to learning for students in rural, regional and remote Australia, which in turn affects students' engagement and motivation. REAPing Rewards is a national small grants program, supporting locally-driven projects that directly benefit pre-schoolers, students up to 18 years of age, and their educators, through grants of up to \$10,000.

The Community Preparedness and Resilience project

Natural disasters are a regular part of Australian life. This new program involves extensive community consultation and research to assist rural communities to be better prepared for, and have better recovery from, natural disasters. We are collaborating with a number of organisations to help get this important project up and running, but we welcome more partners in this ground-breaking program.

Tackling Tough Times Together

The Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT) program provides targeted grants to assist the most severely drought affected communities in Queensland and northern New South Wales. It has a specific focus on funding grassroots, community-led projects that enable them to access the resources they need to support one another through tough times.



Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

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