

FRRR ANNUAL REVIEW 2012/13



GRANTS BY STATE

FRRR supports rural, regional and remote communities no matter the state or territory.

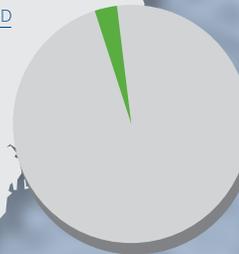
Our grants are currently weighted toward south-eastern Australia, but we are actively encouraging applications and partnerships with donors and communities in all states to ensure more philanthropic funds reach community groups nation-wide.



NT GRANTS
AWARDED
2%



TAS GRANTS
AWARDED
3%



SA GRANTS
AWARDED
7%



WA GRANTS
AWARDED
6%



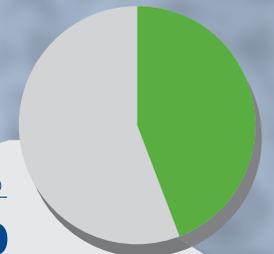
QLD GRANTS
AWARDED
16%



NSW GRANTS
AWARDED
22%



VIC GRANTS
AWARDED
44%



“With its wide reach across Australia, its long experience in working with communities at the grass roots level and its special tax provisions, FRRR is unmatched as a leader in rural philanthropy.”

Helen Morris, OAM

About FRRR

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) takes a leadership role in assisting regional communities to respond to social, cultural and economic change. By working with communities around Australia, we can strengthen their capacity to drive and manage change.

Our role in philanthropy is unique. We are the only national organisation offering small, discretionary funds to small regional communities across Australia.

Established in 2000 by the Australian Government and the Sidney Myer Fund as a partnership between philanthropy, government and business to stimulate rural and regional renewal in Australia, FRRR is an important conduit for philanthropy. Many organisations, large and small, channel funds through the Foundation to rural and regional communities. By 30 June 2013, we had distributed more than \$40 million in grants and provided substantial capacity building support.

Our reach is broad. As an Item 1 DGR entity, FRRR is able to receive funds from Item 2 DGR entities as we are covered by Subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and specifically listed as

a recipient for deductible gifts under section 30-105. This means that we can support any not-for-profit organisation, for projects that are charitable and promote rural and regional renewal, regeneration and development. It is important to note that our endorsed definition of charitable includes economic development, recognising the strong link between sustainable communities and economic prosperity. FRRR can also receive donations from non-charitable organisations and provide tax deductible receipts.

Our grant programs are developed in collaboration with our partners and respond directly to community need. Our range of programs include a core group of grants made on a regular basis and programs that are established for a specific purpose, which may run for a limited time.

This report outlines and celebrates the work we have done in the 12 months to 30 June, 2013.



Scan this code to view the full length version of our annual review online.

In the past, the majority of donor funds were dispersed within the following year but increasingly we are engaging in longer-term partnerships. This means FRRR can offer longer-term, multi-year grants to communities giving them the ability to pursue extended programs and priorities.



A few words from the Chairman ...

The year has been busy and very effective for the donors to FRRR and for our grant recipients.

Our major focus is still to help address the ongoing challenges for community groups in small regional, rural and remote areas. Their smaller population base and lower profile often leaves them neglected in national and state funding programs and worthwhile local initiatives struggle without the assistance FRRR provides.

Another priority, too often ignored, has been medium to long term natural disaster recovery support.

Fire, flood, cyclone and storms, repeatedly and often devastatingly, are common to our Australian experience. With remarkable generosity the wider community gives for immediate assistance and governments at all levels respond.

Immediate help is essential, but over the years, FRRR's experience has been that community renewal and individual recovery take much longer.

As at 30 June 2013, FRRR had more than \$8 million committed to future grant programs. Funds for granting have increased but so too have requests for support. To meet its charter, FRRR must therefore continue to seek to broaden and deepen its donor base and find creative ways to leverage funds by collaborating with those who are similarly committed to building a stronger rural, regional and remote Australia.

Working with government, business, private individuals and philanthropic bodies goes to the very heart of our rationale and I am delighted to report this year FRRR increased the number of donors with which we collaborate.

To each donor I formally record the Board's sincere appreciation and thanks for your commitment to the wellbeing of those communities which benefit from your philanthropy.

Finally but far from least, I would like to thank our Patrons Mr Baillieu Myer AC, Lady Southey AC, Hon. John Anderson, and Patron in Chief Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for FRRR and its purpose.

Much has been achieved by the Foundation but the challenges for so many communities in rural, regional and remote Australia remain. The Board will continue to fully support FRRR's important work towards local solutions, community development and rural renewal.

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

The Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC
Chairman



And from the CEO ...

Last financial year was one of change, as we grew both our networks and programs to meet the ever-evolving needs of rural, regional and remote communities.

Programs and products

“Rural communities” are not homogenous: each is unique and while there are common issues, the way in which these issues need to be tackled differs in nearly every situation.

In 2012/13, we delivered 14 programs. This included a new program to support those affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires, developed in conjunction with the Victorian government, and funded from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

There was increased emphasis on place-based programs during 2012/13, and we worked closely with Community Foundations and with local communities on whose behalf we hosted Donation Accounts. We have been able to take these models and share them more broadly across the community.

Evaluation and constant improvement

To ensure our programs meet the needs of both donors and community groups, we regularly undertake formal evaluations of our programs. This year, we examined the Back to School (BTS) and the Rural Early Childhood programs. The response to both of these programs was overwhelming, with the researchers reporting almost universally positive endorsement. That is not to say that there weren't suggestions for improvement. We've used the information we gleaned to shape our new education program, REAPing Rewards, and to update the Back to School program for 2014.

Sharing our knowledge, raising our profile

FRRR is in a privileged position: each year, we receive thousands of applications from community organisations (1,923 in the 2012/13 financial year) and get to see first-hand the issues they are facing and the innovative

solutions that they develop and implement to address these challenges.

We believe that an important part of our remit is sharing these lessons – particularly the strategies and ideas that have worked, and the lessons where they have not - as widely as possible.

We do this in many ways – by speaking at conferences and events, issuing reports, Chairing the Rural and Regional Affinity Group within Philanthropy Australia, continuing to be active on social media, including the launch of a YouTube channel, and distributing our monthly newsletter to nearly 6,000 people.

Organisational capacity

Our ability to deliver on these expanded programs of work is dependent both on ongoing and indeed increasing donor support. Our donors are incredibly supportive and I thank them for their willingness to collaborate.

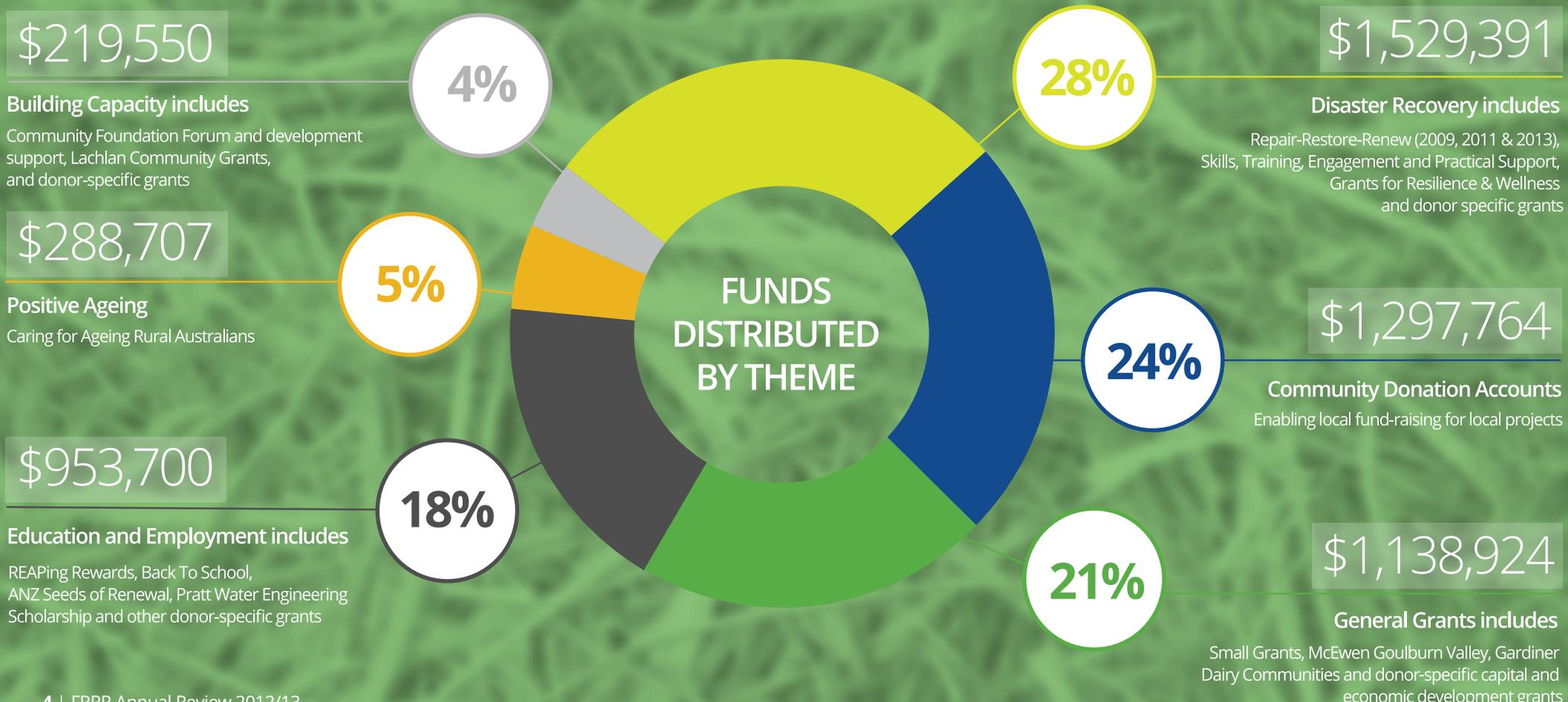
The success of the Foundation is also highly dependent on our staff who continue to demonstrate - in so many ways - their belief in the work we do.

All in all, it has been a busy and productive 12 month period, which has set us up for an even stronger 2013/14. I look forward to reporting to you again next year, and in the meantime, invite you to explore this report in detail to gain greater insight into our achievements.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra".

Alexandra Gartmann
Chief Executive Officer

THE NUMBERS



FRRR is both a grant-maker and a grant-seeker, and nothing that we do could be achieved without the support of our donors and partners.

We work together with these donors in varying ways – we may run a program on their behalf or collaborate with them to provide funding for programs addressing a specific rural issue.

The following donors contributed to FRRR's success in 2012/2013, and we thank all of them most sincerely for their ongoing support.

Founding Members

Commonwealth Government of Australia
Sidney Myer Fund

Donors

Alf & Meg Steel Fund
ANZ Banking Group
ANZ Trustees, who administer:
▶ The McEwen Foundation
▶ The William Buckland Foundation
▶ The Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Trust
▶ The Robert William Robertson Estate
Aurizon Community Giving Fund
Aussie Farmers Foundation
Australian Community Foundation
Bertalli Family Foundation
Betty Fulton Fund
The Carbine Club
Davies Family Foundation
Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) NSW
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Department of State Development, Business and Innovation VIC
Deutsche Bank
Doc Ross Family Foundation
The Estate of the Late Edward Wilson
The Gardiner Foundation
Geoff & Helen Handbury Foundation
The Ian Potter Foundation
The John & Janet Calvert-Jones Foundation
John T Reid Charitable Trusts
The Maple-Brown Family Foundation
McCusker Charitable Foundation
The Myer Family Company
The Myer Foundation
Origin Foundation
The Pratt Foundation
Perpetual Trustees, who administer:
▶ The Berrembed Trust
▶ The Estate of the Late Harold Gordon Jones
▶ The H & L Hecht Trust
▶ The Julian Flett Foundation
▶ The Ledger Charitable Trust
▶ The Margaret Lawrence Bequest

▶ The Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
▶ The SBA Foundation
Portland House Group
Price Family Foundation
The QBE Foundation
Queensland Community Foundation
The Rali Foundation
The R.E. Ross Trust
The Rees Family Foundation
School Aid Trust
Sid & Fiona Myer Family Foundation
Sidney Myer Fund
Suncorp
Stan and Maureen Duke Foundation
State Trustees, who administer:
▶ The John Sylvester Feehan Charitable Trust
▶ William Austin Zeal Charitable Trust
▶ William Henry Hutchinson Charitable Trust
Target
Thyne Reid Foundation
Third Link
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation

The Trust Company
Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
VISY Employees Community Fund
Wilson HTM
The Yulgilbar Foundation

Partnerships

▶ Australia Post
▶ ABC Heywire
▶ ACER/Tender Bridge
▶ Australian Community Philanthropy
▶ Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
▶ Desert Knowledge Australia
▶ Herbert Smith Freehills
▶ Regional Australia Institute
▶ Philanthropy Australia

Individual donations (\$5,000 and above)

Neilma Gantner
Alexandra Gartmann
Lady Southey, AC
Noel Weaver

SMALL GRANTS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Small Grants for Rural Communities is FRRR's longest running program and it has the broadest scope.

The past year saw FRRR fund 311 small grants to a value of \$847,000.

Community meeting places: a big part of Small Grants



The program opens twice a year, providing grants of up to \$5,000 for projects that have a clear public benefit. From Groote Eylandt, NT to Triabunna, TAS and Nabawa, WA, small communities the length and breadth of Australia benefit from this program.



Canine conundrum

Groote Eylandt, NT, \$3,500

Wildlife and animals in and around the communities of Groote Eylandt have a group of volunteer carers and animal lovers in the Groote Eylandt Animal Care (GEAC) organisation. However the remote location of the archipelago poses a challenge.

GEAC volunteers look after injured wildlife out of a shed and provide a worm and tick program on an ongoing basis for the many camp dogs in the communities of Groote Eylandt, the largest island in the Gulf of

Carpentaria in north eastern Australia. These diseases can become an issue - causing health problems to the human population if not controlled.

The group joined up with a local vet from the East Arnhem shire who visits three times per year to undertake animal sterilisations and operations at no charge, however, the vet has to charter a plane because she brings an anaesthetic machine, oxygen cylinder and equipment each visit.

GEAC applied to FRRR's Small Grants for Rural Communities program to purchase the equipment so the vet could travel with commercial airlines, instead of chartering her own flight. A grant of \$3,500 covered those costs, and reduced the cost of the vet's visit from \$2,000 to a couple of hundred dollars, meaning that she can visit much more often.

As a result, the community has healthier, happier animals. The group also educates the community about animal care, dangerous dog behaviour and the importance of desexing - giving talks and resources to schools and the community library.



The pair of presenters had developed the idea for a show – RAADDical - an acronym for Radio Announcers Against: drink driving, doing drugs, destructive doings and any other dangerous deeds you may think of!

The police were impressed, feeling that the message is more relevant to youth when presented by youth.

During the segment, Sergeant Laurie Morley from Harvey Police Station answers questions prepared by Corrine and her listeners.

A grant of \$1,500 made possible a stack of RAADDical packs containing educational material about the dangers of drugs and alcohol - these were given out to help engage young listeners with the topic.

The funding also allowed for packs containing DVDs and interactive games to be assembled as lending resources for local schools and other interested groups.

Hear it from the radio braves

Harvey, WA - \$1,500

Small towns like Harvey, WA, may not have the support services found elsewhere for young people to turn to and learn from when it comes to drugs and alcohol, but they make up for it with their dedication.

When Harvey Community Radio's youth presenter, Corrine Brislin (14 years old) and experienced volunteer presenter Tony Fantasia approached the local police about being involved in an interview segment, they were all ears.



Raised garden beds raise confidence

Deloraine, Tas - \$2,380

Giant Steps Tasmania is a not-for-profit, independent, specialist school for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). More than 50 students access the services of the school, which is situated in the small town of Deloraine, Tasmania, around 35 minutes drive from Launceston.

Giant Steps wanted to develop a sensory and vegetable garden in the backyard of their adult day support group building so that clients

could be involved in hands-on gardening, growing vegetables for cooking programs and pre-vocational work activities.

Funding of \$2,380 from the Small Grant for Rural Communities program kickstarted the project, enabling them to purchase a greenhouse and install raised planter beds.

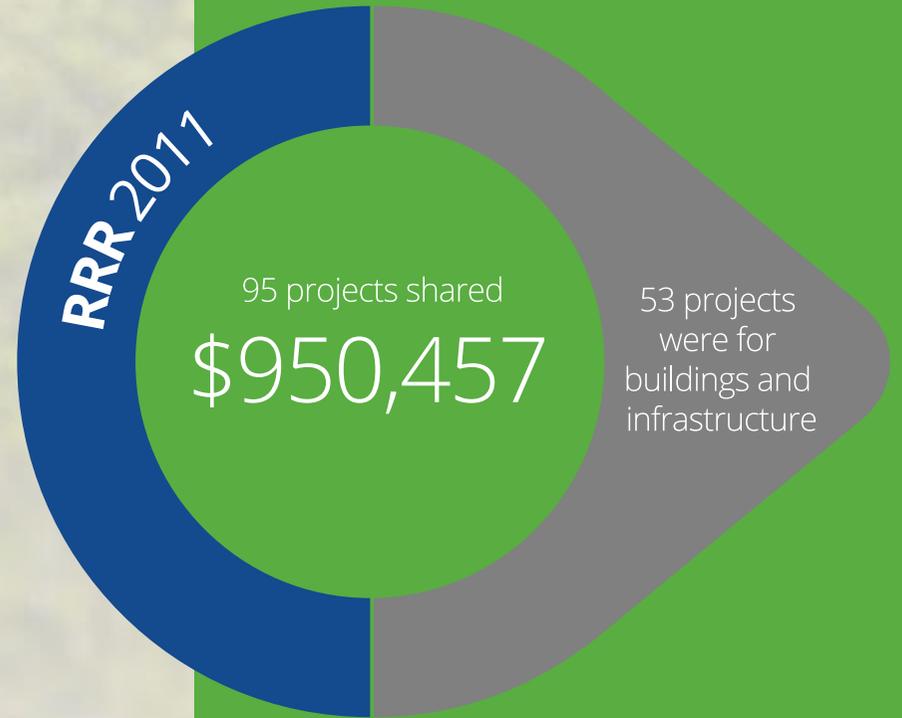
Tim Chugg, Giant Steps Principal, said the garden has provided a great activity for the students and clients, especially regarding the growth and change between seasons.

"All members of our community have watered, dug, planted, weeded, tasted, smelled, touched and listened to our garden," Mr Chugg said.

"We have seen vast improvement in the concentration and effort that some clients put into our gardening sessions, and incidents of negative behaviours are low in the sessions."

"The success of the project is measured by the happiness and pride the garden brings to clients and staff alike."

NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY



The medium to long-term effects of natural disaster events can be severe, but the community spirit we see in rural and regional areas is a strong force in combatting negative impacts of cyclones, floods and fires.

FRRR has a Natural Disaster Recovery Framework that enables us to help disaster affected communities not only rebuild and recover but to also prepare for future events, building resilience and enhancing social wellbeing, community connectedness and mental health.

This framework includes targeted granting programs and services that help ensure a collaborative response from the philanthropic sector; leveraging programs for the most effective use of available funds; and building local capacity in rural and regional communities through the hosting of Donation Accounts.

Repair-Restore-Renew

The Repair-Restore-Renew (RRR) program was established to provide ongoing assistance to natural disaster-affected communities through the medium to long-term.

Once immediate assistance from government and relief agencies has drawn to a close and moved on to the next disaster, the community's journey to recovery is often only just beginning. Planning to rebuild, strengthen and improve community infrastructure can take months or even years. For this reason, we raise funds from the time of a natural disaster, yet only open the grant program about 12 months after the event. This allows time for communities to give thought to their priorities and direction for recovery and renewal projects.

In 2012/13, FRRR ran the RRR program for communities affected by floods and Cyclone Yasi in Queensland, as well as floods in New South Wales and Victoria in 2011. In total, 13 donors contributed to this collaborative program which funded 95 projects. We also collaborated with donors on specific initiatives, such as \$700,000 distributed with SchoolAid.

The projects funded have been varied, from the physical and material - such as repairs to community halls, installation of shade covers over park areas, new lawn mowers, air conditioners, communication equipment, and generators - to the creative and emotional, including community events and arts-based recovery programs.



The Bonshaw School Chooks Return

Bonshaw, NSW, \$3,649

The students at Bonshaw Public School have their permaculture program back on track, thanks to a RRR grant.

Bonshaw is a tiny village in rural NSW, almost 800 km north of Sydney, population 60. When the nearby Dumaresq River flooded in 2011, the Bonshaw Public School suffered extensive damage from the flow of water - fences and veggie gardens were destroyed.

There was nothing but a concrete slab left where the students' chook shed once stood.

Treasurer of the P&C Committee, Cecilia Elysee took on the task of coordinating the area's rebuilding. The FRRR grant enabled the purchase of a chicken tractor, which is "essentially a mobile chook pen with an open floor allowing the chickens to scratch, dig up seeds, eat weeds and leave behind their natural fertiliser, whilst still being contained throughout the day."

The chickens play an important role in the students' permaculture program. Students

can learn about caring for animals, reducing food waste, and gardening techniques.

"Using chickens to scratch and dig garden beds prepares beds for crop rotation and their fresh eggs can be utilised in the school cooking program," Mrs Elysee explained. And with a mobile chicken tractor - the chooks are likely to be in a much better position should floodwaters threaten the school once more.

NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY

STEPS

Community Leadership

Networks and Communication

Training and Skill Development

Practical Support

Skills, Training, Engagement & Practical Support (STEPS)

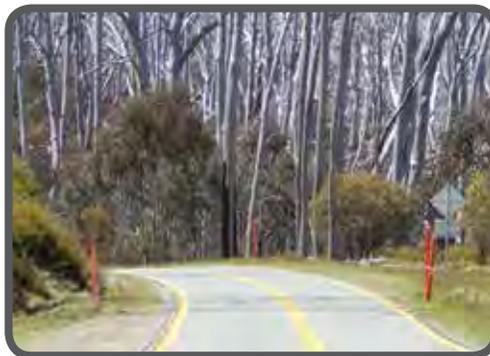
The Skills, Training, Engagement and Practical Support grant program addresses the themes of resilience, preparedness and leadership in 2009 bushfire affected communities in Victoria. It is a joint initiative between FRRR and the Department of Planning and Community Development.

During the 2012/2013 financial year, a total of **\$236,909 was shared across 17 grants for projects in 11 Victorian communities.** They were split among four types of projects, with the majority of funding going toward practical support like administrative help. This is an increasing theme, as volunteers are extremely fatigued nearly five years on from the fires, and there is still plenty to be done to help their communities recover.

Another way these issues are being tackled is by increasing the skills so more people can share the load. For example, an \$8,000 STEPS grant enabled the Continuing Education and Arts Centre of Alexandra (CEACA) to deliver training and support sessions for

60 community members in and around Murrindindi. Participants represented at least 13 different community groups, from Progress Associations to Childcare Centres, an Olive Grower's Association, an Aquatic Centre, a Men's Shed, a Rotary Club and more.

Since the training, the boards of many grass-roots community groups in the Shires of Murrindindi are better placed to understand their governance responsibilities and accountabilities. They have increased confidence to make real differences in their communities with this newly acquired knowledge.



GR&W

33%

of grants went to community gardens and cooking programs

Grants for Resilience & Wellness (GR&W)

Grants for Resilience & Wellness (GR&W) is a program focusing on the long term needs of 2009 bushfire affected communities in Victoria. Made possible by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, it recognises that, more than five years on, an important part of community recovery is having opportunities to connect and reconnect; share and learn from their experiences; engage in positive, forward thinking activities to combat the long-lasting effects of trauma; and build strengths and capacity for the future.

The program is open to all communities impacted by the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

In the 2012/2013 financial year, **12 projects to the value of \$192,224** were funded in the inaugural round of GR&W.

The Triangle Art Group (TAG) in Marysville held their first gathering in March 2009 as a response to the disaster. This group initiates projects that provide a point of connection for community members, such as the Marysville Upcycle project. With \$20,000 from the GR&W program, the project will provide a way for the community to reconnect with a place in the town that has not been rebuilt following the 2009 bushfires.

Through creative recycling of materials and space, the facade at the vacant site of the former medical and community centres in Murchison St, Marysville, will be transformed into a tourist attraction.

Items being used vary from personal items salvaged after the fires, to pieces of discarded or reclaimed timber and other recycled materials. It is an opportunity to change negative perceptions around waste, especially following the past few years of removal of debris and damaged structures to make way for rebuilding.





"The vouchers help students to be on a level with their peers and not distinguished due to their clothing." Principal, SA

Rural Education Australia Program

The Rural Education Australia Program (REAPing Rewards) was borne out of the continuing need for a grant program that supports education service providers preparing rural and regional students for their futures.

The program was created to help meet some of the most frequent funding requests the Foundation receives. In developing the program, we drew from evaluation of our previous and current education grants programs, as well as from feedback received from applicants.

Launched in June 2013, REAPing Rewards is a national small grant program that supports education in rural, regional and remote Australia from preschool to senior secondary college. The program is open to not-for-profit groups such as parent committees, community-based preschools and day care, and services involved in delivering quality, positive educational experiences for the benefit of children and youth (0-18 years) and their educators.

Back to School

The Back to School Program (BTS) is a national program which has been operating since 2005. Its ethos is to help rural students enjoy educational equality. For a program that gives in such small amounts, it has very tangible results.

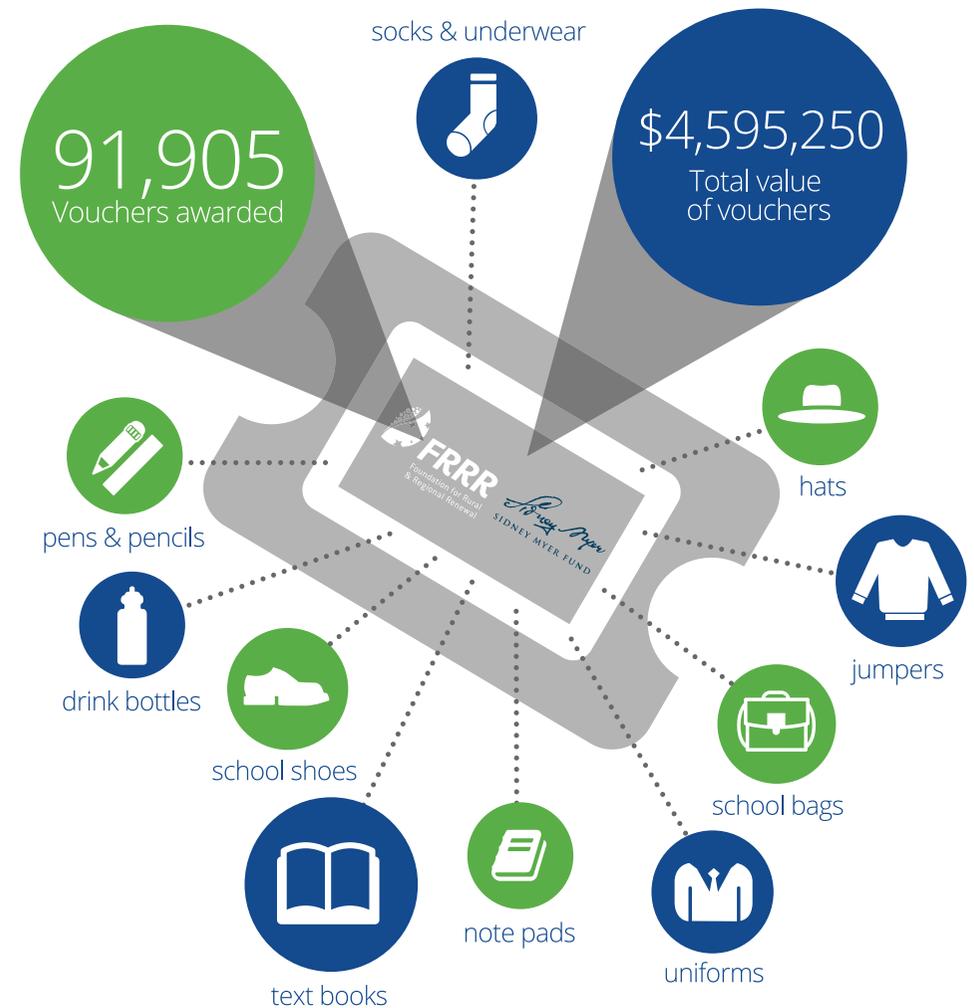
The beginning of the school year can be a great financial strain on parents and caregivers, and in some rural, regional and remote areas, economic hardship heightens these challenges. The program focuses on struggling families and children, providing \$50 gift vouchers from Target or local stores which are redeemable for items such as school uniforms, clothing, shoes, school bags and stationery – seemingly little things that help meet basic needs.

By working with local Community Foundations the program is able to direct these valuable 'micro grants' to the families that they will make the most difference to.

In 2013 the program assisted **more than 13,000 children**. To date, this program has dispersed **\$4,595,250 to nearly 92,000 children**.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Back to School: The \$50 BTS vouchers fund so many essential items for students in need



CARING FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS



In many cases, service providers in rural areas rely on volunteers and a new trend in this year's program was more support for those who give their time to palliative and dementia care.

Projects for keeping busy were popular, and the program funded equipment for men's sheds as well eReaders for those who find traditional books harder to read due to deteriorating eyesight.

Tapping into the possibilities

Sheffield, Tas - \$4,200

A music therapist working with residents at an aged care facility has had great success using iPads to engage her clients, which in turn improves their health.

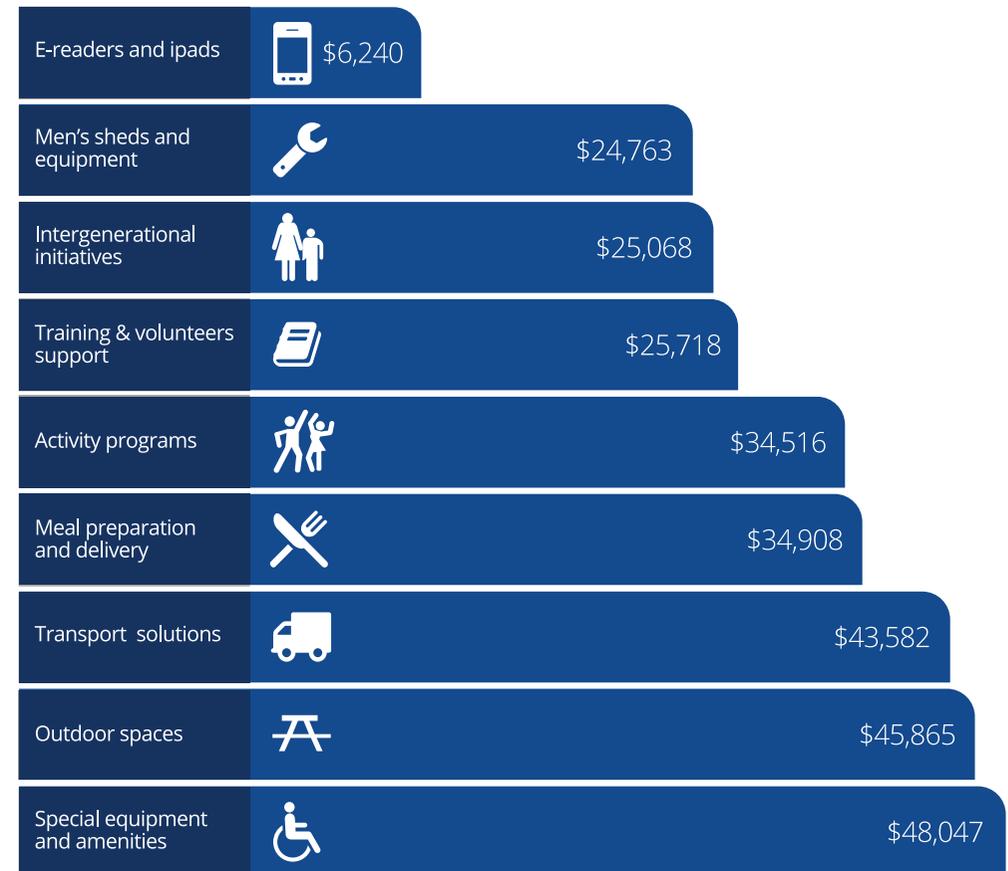
Tandara Lodge is a Residential Aged Care facility in Sheffield, north-west Tasmania. Forty-one residents are cared for at Tandara, and a high percentage of them have some form of dementia.

Music can be a powerful tool for health and wellbeing. Thanks to a CARA grant, the organisation purchased iPads, iPod Shuffles, noise cancelling headphones and an Apple TV to be used in sessions with music therapist, Alex Morse.

The iPads have been found to improve aged care residents' memory, fine motor skills, attention and engagement in activities.

This project helps put new technology within easy reach of older people. Many free or

low cost iPad app's could be very suitable in this setting, and while 'Angry Birds' might not take over from the Sunday crossword any time soon, as you can see from the picture, Tandara's residents are happy to plug in and give it a go!



Broad-based projects: Funds were spread across a wide range of categories.

Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) Program

As more people seek to 'age-in-place', the Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) program becomes more and more important. It provides grants of up to \$10,000 for a broad range of projects and services that strive to ensure the comfort, safety and wellbeing of Australia's ageing population.

A significant increase in enquiries and applications has highlighted the growing need for this targeted small grant program.

In 2012/13, the CARA program awarded 38 grants, totalling \$288,707.

These included grants to food services groups like Meals on Wheels, gentle exercise groups, and enhancing outdoor social areas with ramps and wider "walking frame friendly" paths.

CULTURE, ARTS, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE

“The project enabled us to capture valuable historical stories on camera which will be an enduring resource for future generations.”

Culture, Arts, Tourism and Cultural Heritage (CATCH) is a targeted grants program that supports unique and valuable projects that enrich and preserve local culture and heritage. Not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for projects of a cultural, historical or public tourism nature, assisting in providing community renewal through economic stimulus.

The program, launched in 2009, was on hiatus during 2012 while FRRR sought funding partners to ensure the program could be operated on a national scale.

There is an obvious continued need for such a program - the graphic represents a sample of the projects FRRR supported in the 2012/13 financial year that would have been awarded funds via the CATCH program had it been running. (These projects were instead funded under the Small Grants for Rural Communities program). Thankfully, the program will run again in 2014, although we welcome ongoing funding support.

A great example of what can be achieved via CATCH funding is the story of Woodanilling's participation in the Making Movies Roadshow in Western Australia.

“We might be small but we’ve got a big spirit”

Woodanilling, WA - \$1,000

Woodanilling in WA, affectionately known as Woody, is 250 km south-east of Perth with a population of around 400 people.

Residents rarely get to experience artistic events in their own shire, and had never had a movie making event.

The Film and Television Institute's Making Movie's Roadshow (MMR) is a touring program offering digital film-making workshops and outdoor cinema screenings to remote communities in WA - capturing and sharing the region's unique stories on film.

A 2010 CATCH grant of \$1,000 enabled the Woodanilling Heritage And Tourism (WHAT) Focus Group to bring the program to Woody for 10 participants.

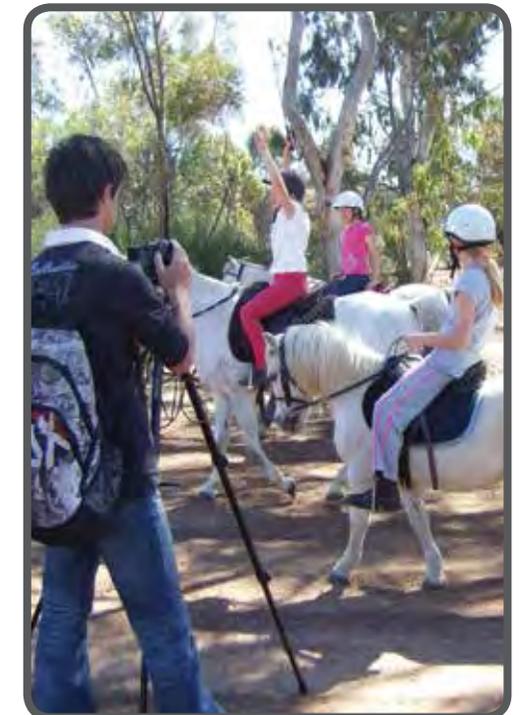
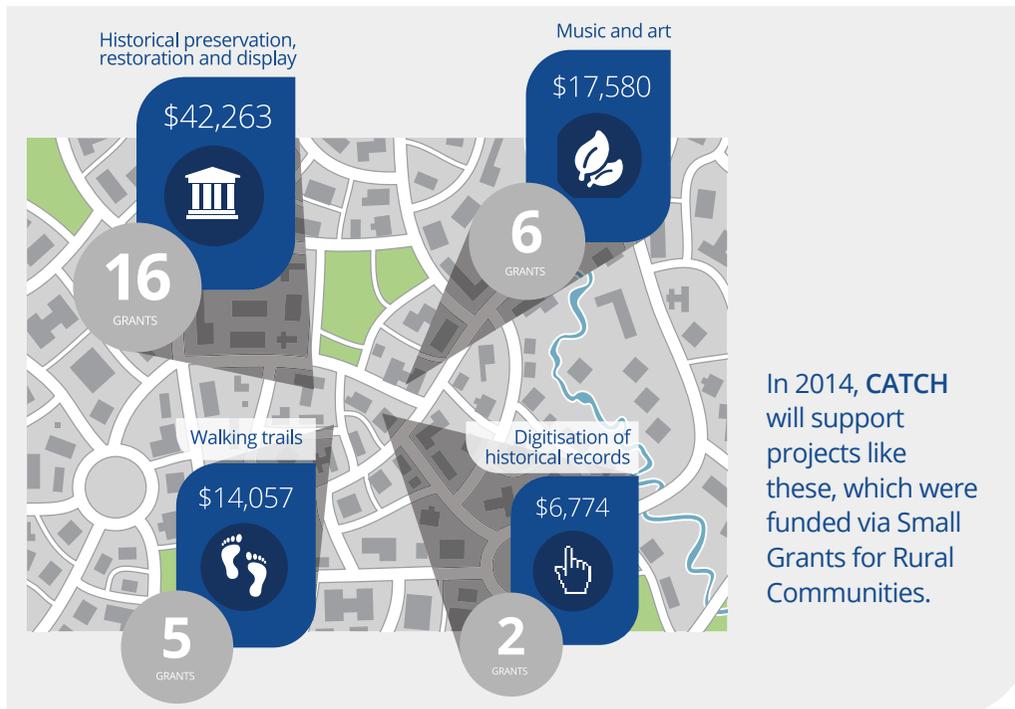
Two movies were made over the whirlwind week, *The Diary* - a horror movie filmed in the allegedly haunted Woodanilling Tavern, and *Welcome to Woody*, featuring a group of young Woodanilling girls riding their ponies around the Woodanilling Heritage Walk to learn about local history.

A well-attended outdoor public screening of the films was held on the last night of the roadshow, with plans for the films to be continually played for the enjoyment of locals and visitors alike on a touchscreen television in the new visitor interpretive centre at the Woodanilling railway building.

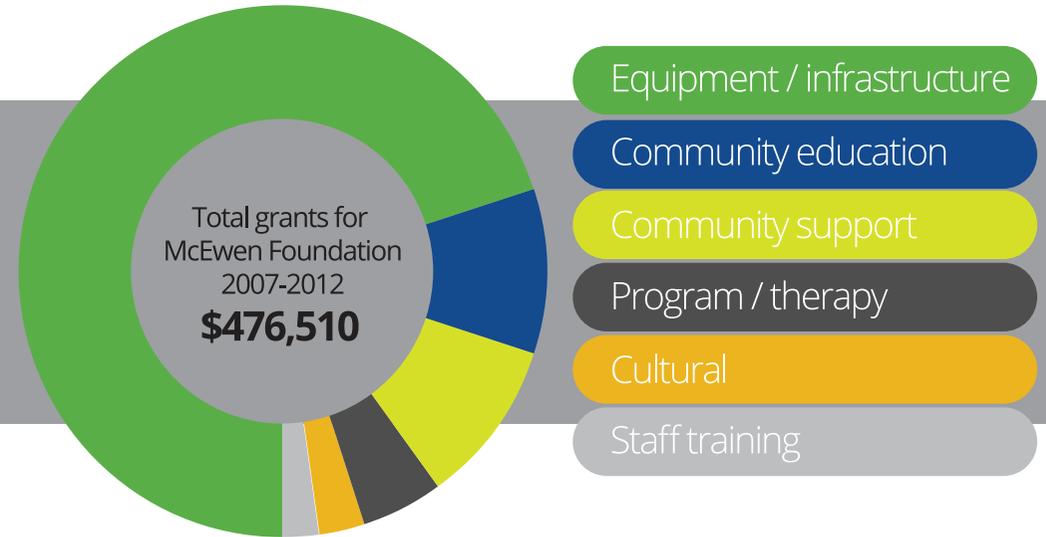
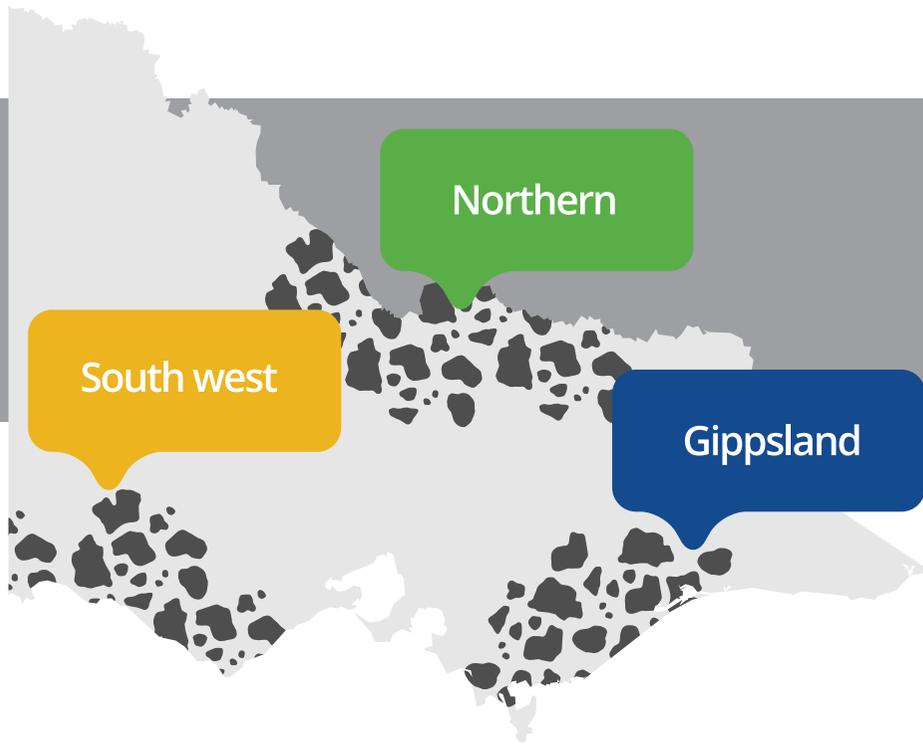
Ms Annabel Pauley, WHAT Chairman, said it was a fantastic opportunity for all ages.

“It is doubtful the participants would ever have experienced the production of a movie from start to finish had it not been for the MMR coming to their home town,” Ms Pauley said.

“One 14 year old showed a natural talent for filming and is seriously looking at pursuing work experience opportunities with the FTI in Fremantle. This project may see him develop a future career in the film and television industry. The impact this had on Woodanilling was enormous.”



DONOR-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS



Gardiner Foundation Working in Dairy Communities

Investing in the ongoing development of Victorian dairy industry communities is the central aim of the Working in Dairy Communities program. For the last 11 years, the program, which is funded by the Gardiner Foundation, has helped these communities implement solutions to the issues that concern them.

This program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for innovative, community-driven projects that help to build dairy communities' capacity to deal with local issues and enhance existing community infrastructure.

In 2013, **28 community projects shared \$100,000**. Projects ranged from improvements to outdoor spaces like playgrounds, indoor spaces like halls, and a bus to go between the two! Programs and events were also funded, including a support group for isolated women involved in the dairy industry and a first aid course for farmers.

While these small grants provide valuable seed funding for many projects, we noted a particularly strong ability of those organisations who receive grants to leverage the funding: on average, they raise four times the funding they receive from us via this program.

McEwen Foundation Grants Program

The McEwen Foundation Grants Program invests in the wider Goulburn Valley District of Victoria. It is run in partnership with the McEwen Foundation, which is managed by ANZ Trustees.

The program offers grants of up to \$15,000 for projects that assist the communities in this regional area, especially preferencing those relating to Junior Legacy, charities, hospitals and accommodations for older people, in keeping with the wishes of the Late Lady McEwen.

As illustrated above, since 2007 FRRR has distributed more than \$475,000 through this program.

In the second half of 2012, **9 grants were awarded to the total value of \$67,500** for projects benefiting the young and the ageing, including mobility training for people with vision loss, funding for a nurse-led MS support office and a community awareness program about using child restraints in vehicles.



FRRR/ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants

In February 2013, 32 young people from regional and rural Australia gathered in Canberra for the annual Heywire Regional Youth Summit. Together they shared their views on issues that matter to them and collaborated to refine and develop seven ideas to improve the lives of young Australians.

In an exciting new initiative aimed at making these ideas a reality, FRRR partnered with ABC Radio to launch the inaugural FRRR/ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants. The grant program offered funding of up to \$10,000 to assist communities to adopt and pilot the Heywire Summit ideas.

The ideas ranged from a body image campaign called Fresh Face Friday, to youth-led mental health workshops in high schools, to an innovative drink-driving campaign.

More information about all seven ideas is available from www.abc.net.au/heywire.

FRRR called for applications to the program at the end of the 2012/2013 financial year, and funding was awarded in July 2013. The level of enthusiasm and innovation among participants in this program is commendable, and one of our priorities is to keep this program as a part of our annual calendar.

ANZ Seeds of Renewal program

This program, run in partnership with ANZ Banking Group, aims to build thriving communities in regional Australia by advancing education and employment opportunities.

The ANZ Seeds of Renewal program awarded **35 grants totalling \$250,000** in 2012.

New technology is among the most commonly requested funding, but we can only fund a limited number.

	REQUESTS	FUNDED
Desktop Computers	52	17
Laptop Computers	56	18
iPads / Tablets	73	13
Smart Boards	3	1

we also funded
2 projectors and
6 laser printers

Since 2003, the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program has provided more than \$3 million to over 635 community projects across Australia.

These included some interesting social enterprise projects, including an intermediate employment program training youth via development of a mountain bike trail; a range of projects to stimulate the economy, including the development of three websites for e-commerce and community hubs; and a high demand for equipment for use in a variety of educational settings including men's sheds, high schools, and community meeting places.

As well as keeping people connected through training in computer skills and digital literacy, the program supported projects that provide skills in hospitality, business, automotive repair and growing food for youth and

adults, creating opportunities for personal, professional and community growth in rural and regional Australia.

As shown, IT requests are a particularly strong trend in many of FRRR's grant programs, and we welcome any opportunities to discuss in-kind donations of this kind of equipment to help meet the growing needs of rural communities to bring their facilities and schools up-to-date.

BUILDING REGIONAL CAPACITY

Community Foundations

Community Foundations are philanthropic organisations that build capacity within a defined geographic area. They seek to build a permanent resource for the community, and to implement local solutions to local issues. They do this by facilitating partnerships between groups, making grants to charitable projects and involving local people in training and projects, enabling skill development and confidence growth.

Community Foundations give communities the opportunity to take control of the issues that surround and affect them, and they are a mechanism to address concerns of reduced/declining support and services in rural and regional areas.

FRRR works with a number of Community Foundations, funding things like initial feasibility studies, providing administrative support and hosting donation accounts for community fundraising efforts.

One of the newest additions to the list of community foundations across Australia is the Into our Hands Foundation. It brings together fire-affected communities from the Alpine,



Indigo and Wangaratta regions, which had been approached by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF) and urged them all to 'think big' as to how they could spend the remaining funds.

FRRR funded a feasibility study and leadership and planning training for community members, and after many late-night meetings across the region, a proposal was put to VBAF to create a Community Foundation fund. Into Our Hands was launched in March 2013.

Donation Accounts

Donation accounts are a service provided by FRRR to help community organisations fundraise more effectively.

In essence, FRRR lends its ability to receive tax deductible donations to community organisations that don't have the necessary tax status. Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, as it is known, is a great incentive to those willing to donate, and therefore it helps communities fundraise more quickly.

FRRR offers three types of donation accounts:

- ▶ Project Donation Account
- ▶ Regional Donation Account
- ▶ Small Grants Program Donation Account

The **Bower Progress Association** opened a donation account in 2008 to raise funds to enhance the Bower hall. The hall is the meeting point for the SA town's 150 residents and the venue for many valued events and activities.

Their first milestone was raising funds for a photovoltaic solar power system. Since then, they have painted the walls, replaced furniture, widened doorways for easier elderly

and disabled access, installed a bbq area, playground, storage shed and rainwater tanks.

To increase the Association's income and address a gap in services in the community, they acquired the Bower Postal Agency. Volunteers operate the agency and the association will receive \$2,500 that will be essential to the Association's viability.

There is still more to do, with plans to purchase a ride-on mower, develop shaded petanque lawns and external lighting, install entrance gates, tile the toilet walls, erect a new flagpole and memorial and prepare sites with purpose specific amenities for caravans, motor-homes and campers. It just shows what big change a small community can achieve with a little help.



FRRR exists to build strong partnerships between government, business and philanthropy, and to then harness the power of that collective investment to improve the lives of those living in rural, regional and remote Australia.

We strive to improve the quality, simplicity, accessibility and relevance of our grant programs to ensure that our programs are delivering for all of our stakeholders – donors, grantseekers and of course our members.

External evaluation

Each year, we aim to formally evaluate one of our major programs, to assess its effectiveness and identify ways in which we can improve.

In 2012 we commissioned independent research group ACER to review two education programs – the Rural Early Childhood Education Program (REACH), which ran between 2009 and 2011, and the ongoing Back to School program.

This evaluation informed our approach to grant programs for rural education, and helped us to shape the Rural Education Australia Program (REAPing Rewards), which launched in July 2013.



Knowledge and issues papers

It is critical that our programs remain relevant, and embrace lessons both from our own experience and that of academics and international best practice.

To remain current, we therefore regularly undertake 'deep dive' evaluations to help shape our future activities. This year we conducted two such reviews.

- ▶ **Small Grants Knowledge and Issues Paper** - reflecting upon more than 10 years of our flagship grant program.
- ▶ **Natural Disaster Recovery Knowledge Paper** - a reflection of the sector in Australia, and particularly current approaches and the role of philanthropy in assisting community recovery.

The reviews have helped to shape our future activities in both areas.

Ongoing program analysis

We conduct internal analysis and evaluation at the end of each round of our programs, issuing regular reports to donors. This enables us to identify emerging trends, and address any issues we may have experienced in executing the program.

We collate feedback from applicants both informally and through our grant acquittal process, and we strive to address any components of the application process that may prove challenging. Where there appears a need, we develop new materials and resources to help light the way.

In 2012 these materials included a new budget template and a review of our FAQ and Applying and Reporting sections of our website. We also offer 'Community Resources' sections in our monthly eNews – linking to helpful sites and documents that are publicly available online.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Through our work, we learn a great deal about rural issues and the challenges facing communities in rural, regional and remote Australia. Similarly, we gain significant insights into the innovative and creative ways in which groups are tackling similar issues across the country.

We believe that it's our job to share this knowledge, and this year we presented at or attended more than 30 events across the length and breadth of Australia.

This is just a snapshot of some of the people we met and places we went.



Ian Allen OAM
Margaret Smith AO
The Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC - Chairman
Lindy Shelmerdine
Paddy Handbury
Fred Grimwade
Alexandra Gartmann - Chief Executive Officer
Bill Kelty AC
Tim Fairfax AM
Glenys Beauchamp PSM



OUR BOARD

FRRR's Board of Directors remained unchanged from the prior year. The Board is made up of a group of experienced and knowledgeable individuals who have strong backgrounds in both rural affairs and in the practice of philanthropy.

Lisa Mahon - Grants Assessment Officer
Sylvia Perez - Administration Officer
Sarah Berriman - Program Support Officer
Alexandra Gartmann - Chief Executive Officer
Sophie Burke - Program Manager: Small Grants, Corporate Partnerships
Annie Wright - Program Manager: Qld/NSW Natural Disaster Recovery
Jeanice Henderson - Program Manager: Education, Ageing & Arts
Natalie Egleton - Program Manager: Vic Natural Disaster Recovery and Corporate Partnerships
Hannah Jakab - STEPS Project Coordinator
Leeanne Dell - Executive Assistant
Andrew Long - Company Secretary
Liz Warne - Program Support Officer
Neriman Kemal - Program Manager, Seeds of Renewal



OUR TEAM

FRRR has a dedicated team of full-time, part-time and contract staff, most of whom work from FRRR's office in Bendigo, Victoria. The team is passionate about the service they provide and driven by the inspiring success stories from our recipients.

YOUR SUPPORT

FRRR's accomplishments are thanks to a combination of the hard work of our team and Board, the dedication of the community organisations that we work with and grant to, and the continuing generosity of our partners and donors.

On behalf of the organisation, and the hundreds of communities that receive grants each year, we wish to again thank our generous donors - large and small.

One of the key aims of this report is to demonstrate the big impact that donor funds, via FRRR, have in rural, regional and remote communities.

The money goes to community organisations, by and large made up of volunteers, who are wholly committed to improving the facilities, activities, opportunities and quality of life for their community.

We can only help them with your support. If you are not yet a donor and have been moved by the stories we have shared, please consider lending your support.

No contribution is too small, and every donation over \$2 is tax deductible.

If you wish to make a bigger contribution, review where we need support to the right.

If any of these 'niches' fit with your giving priorities, please drop us a line to discuss it further with our CEO, Alexandra Gartmann.



Donate now

Contribute via
frrr.org.au/donate



Programs that need support include:

Back to School - we need to find a new major partner, to sustain this program's reach to students in need.

Natural Disaster Recovery - this is an increasing area of demand, as communities need help in the medium to long term to recover from floods, fires and cyclones.

Heywire Youth Innovation Grants - the pilot program was successful, with several communities implementing these youth-led solutions. We intend to expand it in 2014.

Culture, Arts, Tourism & Community Heritage (CATCH) Program - this vital grants program helps rural communities to implement cultural projects, preserve history and enhance tourism - reviving community spirit and economic development.

Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA) Program - this helps aged care service providers to access funding for improvements, updates and additions to their facilities, programs and other projects that improve quality of life for this group.

Small Grants for Rural Communities - this small grant program is our most popular and most over-subscribed. This broad-reaching program provides practical assistance to small communities, which is often highly leveraged.

Other ways that you could assist:

Supporting FRRR's operational costs - like any business, we have overheads like utilities, travel costs and professional services like IT and accounting fees. Rent is our biggest single cost, beyond staffing, for example. Any support is appreciated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The achievements that you have read about in this report would not see the light of day were it not for the dedicated groups, organisations and individuals who apply for FRRR grants and bring about change in their communities.

We can do nothing without the generosity and spirit of our donors and funding providers. We extend our deepest thanks to these organisations, corporations, trusts and individuals for their extensive ongoing support.

We also acknowledge the support of our Patron in Chief, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and our patrons: Mr Baillieu Myer AC, The Hon John Anderson and Lady Southey AC.

We wholeheartedly thank all grant recipients for their continually inspiring passion, wisdom, energy and enthusiasm. FRRR would also like to pass on thanks for the wonderful photos that have been provided to us and included in this report.

We acknowledge the assistance of JAW Communications and the design team who have created this report, Twenty20 Graphics and Mesuva Web Development.

Finally, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our programs are assessed and delivered. We pay respect to their ancient and continuing culture, their connection to the land, and to their Elders, past and present.

Tel: 03 5430 2399
Grant Enquiries: 1800 170 020
Fax: 03 5443 8900
Email: info@frrr.org.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/followFRRR
Twitter: FRRR_Oz

Postal
FRRR
PO Box 41
Bendigo VIC 3552

www.frrr.org.au