

People, Place, Prosperity

An update for FRRR's donor partners

September 2018



Welcome ...

I am delighted to welcome you to **People, Place, Prosperity**, a quarterly newsletter for our donors, partners and supporters.



Our aim is to keep you abreast of the needs in rural, regional and remote communities, share our thoughts on how best to support them and to show you how your funds are making a difference. We will also share our take on the latest trends and thinking.

We have included you on this first update as you've either donated directly to FRRR in the past or to a project or group that fundraises in partnership with FRRR, or you support our work in other ways. You can remove yourself from the list, or [customise what other information we send you here](#).

It's certainly been a busy start to the new financial year, with new programs and partnerships launching. **Thank you to each and every one of you, including the hundreds of individual donors that support us, and ultimately hundreds of rural, regional and remote communities each year.**

FRRR's approach is rooted in the belief that local people are best-placed to know what will make the most significant difference in their community. That applies no matter the circumstances, including the drought that is worsening nationwide.

FRRR is proud to be continuing to support the impacted communities, both now and once they begin their recovery. We are still finalising the details of how [the \\$15 million donated by the Federal Government](#) will be distributed, but you can rest assured, it will be put to good use, as will the contributions from ANZ, Australia Post, Aussie Farmers' Foundation and others, and the many hundreds of generous individual donations we have received, especially through the NRMA's matching appeal.

We certainly [welcome other donors](#), so if you would like to get involved in supporting FRRR's programs, which will support the whole community in drought-affected areas, please [contact us at any time](#).

Drought isn't our only focus, and below you can read a little more about what we've been working on in the last quarter, and what we have coming up. I hope you find this interesting. We want it to be relevant to you, so please [give me your feedback](#), so it becomes a useful update.

Kind Regards

Natalie Egleton
Chief Executive Officer

In this issue ...

- [Welcome ...](#)
- [Insights](#)
- [Understanding our Impact](#)
- [Drought support](#)
- [Our performance](#)
- [Community driven philanthropy](#)
- [BBQ trailer](#)
- [Creating connections](#)
- [Career pathways](#)
- [Partnering Opportunities](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Building disaster-resilient, future-ready communities](#)
- [Focus on Fundraising](#)
- [Accounts](#)
- [Mange Management](#)
- [Tomorrow Today](#)
- [Foundation](#)
- [Farmers for Climate Action](#)
- [Bronze, Bill the Bastard](#)



Bronze Bill the Bastard

Insights and Updates

Understanding our impact

Over the last 18 months, with the support of the Sidney Myer Fund, FRRR completed an in-depth review of the 26,000+ applications received since inception. We explored who and what we funded, the parties who contributed and importantly the outcomes. Our findings confirmed the value of small grants going to small groups that are in and of their community.

The review also helped us formalise our theory of change and refine our evaluation framework, which is now embedded in our systems, allowing us to more readily assess our collective impact on the people, place and prosperity of rural, regional and remote communities. [Download the full report.](#)



Drought has a broad and long-term impact

While it may seem this drought has come on suddenly, FRRR has actually been supporting communities through the [Tackling Tough Times Together](#) program since 2014, thanks to support from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and others.

Communities in Queensland and New South Wales have certainly been doing it tough, so we welcome the spotlight on these communities and the additional support it brings. But, as we've seen with other major disasters in the past, the spotlight can create pressure, with communities overwhelmed with donations and cashflow reduced thanks to physical goods being donated, instead of being purchased locally.



FRRR takes a long-term approach and we are focused on strengthening the social and economic fabric of communities as they manage through the drought. We believe very strongly that local leaders are best placed to identify the support that will make the biggest difference in their communities. However, as our Program Manager [Jacki saw recently](#), many of those volunteers are finding it increasingly tough to balance the needs of their community with priorities of their own businesses.

The additional support we have received will allow FRRR to alleviate some of those pressures and provide funds for the things that local leaders determine will have the biggest impact. If you would like to lend your support, we would certainly [welcome additional donor partners.](#)

How we're tracking ...

A snapshot of what FRRR has achieved in the last quarter, and where we are headed.

FRRR gives country communities a \$7M boost

FRRR's financial health is looking good, with investment returns over budget and operational expenditure under budget. While we are still finalising the full year numbers, we know we **distributed at least \$7.1 million through around 600 grants**. Across all programs, the success rate was 50%, higher than the previous year thanks to some very targeted programs.

Already this financial year, we have announced 180 grants, and are currently assessing a further 380 applications. This includes requests to the Repair-Restore-Renew program to assist recovery following Cyclone Debbie, and to ECHO (Enhancing Country Health Outcomes), a new program focusing on rural GP workforce development and innovative approaches to improving access to health care in rural communities in Victoria and New South Wales. There are many others closing soon, so the team will be even busier!

We are delighted that the current round of our flagship program, Small Grants for Rural Communities, is the largest in some time, thanks to generous contributions from four new or returning donors, including John T Reid Charitable Trusts, Australia Post, Portland House Foundation, and Sidney Myer Fund. We are also in the final stages of an inspiring new partnership with VFFF that will see a dedicated focus on building capacity within not-for-profit organisations in NSW, which we will announce shortly.

To support all this activity, we have recently made some changes to the team. We now have 16 staff, with a full-time equivalent of 11.9, plus our outsourced support for communications and finance. This expanded team will allow us to extend and deepen our work to meet the complex and ever-increasing needs and priorities of rural, regional and remote communities. It means we can spend more time on the road, engaging with community groups, and in sharing our insights with our donor partners.

Community-driven philanthropy in action

This section profiles some of the projects we've either funded or visited in the last quarter, with the help and support of our donor partners. Thank you!

BBQ trailer makes a difference in Macquarie Valley

Monsanto's Aussie Cotton Farmers Grow Communities grants are making a sustainable, lasting impact. A Macquarie Valley netball club invested funds into building a BBQ trailer that can be used as a resource by all local community organisations for fundraisers. As Amanda explains in [this video clip](#), the trailer is already making a significant difference.

She says that they were "able to raise two and a half thousand dollars in just four hours, one morning by just cooking a lot of bacon and egg rolls."



Creating connection in Roughlie

Roughlie lies on a cross-roads north of Roma in western Queensland. It's home to a close-knit community that had no township or meeting place for local residents to come together.

To rectify this, a local farmer donated some land and with an initial \$9,900 Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT) grant, the Roughlie Community Centre built a shed as a place "to come together for mental and moral support [which] is vital during droughts." Subsequent grants have helped with an ablution block, which has disabled access and a covered landing.

They report that they now have a place for isolated families and drought-affected farmers and graziers to support each other, which is an enormous help with mental and emotional well-being. "This Shed helps improve connectivity and build a stronger community."



Opening pathways on King Island

Helen Thomas, Economic Development Officer at the King Island Council spoke to Candy at [Regional Voices](#) about a \$5,000 grant King Island Council has received from FRRR to pilot a vocational TAFE course for young adults.

The funding came from the [Domino's Give for Good](#) program, and the course is designed to help build skills of local youth in industries where there's high growth potential, such as tourism.

Helen highlights the importance of investing in vocational education, so that teenagers don't have to move to the mainland for study or work, as it is tough to get them back. This project takes a future-proofing approach and aims to strengthen the long-term prosperity of the community - creating new career opportunities for young people.



In the spotlight: Partnering opportunities

Below are two of our current priority funding needs. While so much focus is on drought, there are other areas of rural, regional and remote Australia that need support for different things.

Securing a positive future for rural students

Education is a fundamental right, and we know many of you (if not all) share our belief that a quality education should be accessible, no matter where you live.

However, the evidence shows there is a consistent link between where Australians live and their educational outcomes, at all stages of education.

As we highlighted last year in our submission to the [Independent Review of Regional, Rural and Remote Education](#), without investment in early education and vocational education in rural and regional parts of Australia, rural communities will suffer greatly.

The analysis of all the grants we've ever made showed that the highest proportion had gone toward supporting lifelong learning, education and training. FRRR funds education initiatives through many of our grant programs. The support ranges from early childhood, including playgroups and kinder, through primary and secondary, to vocational education and training opportunities.

However, it's an area where we currently have limited funding support from our donor partners. If you would like to help rural students dream big and ensure they can access programs, technologies and experiences that their urban counterparts take for granted, [please contact us](#).



Building disaster-resilient, future-ready communities

For the last 12 months, we've been working on the [Disaster Resilient: Future Ready](#) initiative - a project that aims to establish an evidence-based model of community-led disaster preparedness. At its core is the principle that local communities have the knowledge, leadership, skills, and networks needed to withstand the impacts of natural disasters on their people, economies, and places. However, this is not always formalised, activated nor sustained, which places them at greater risk.

This program aims to develop a road-tested model through a number of place-based pilots that can be adopted and adapted by other communities. FRRR will lead the program with support from the project's research partners at Sydney University, and provide grants to pilot communities to test and evaluate initiatives.

We recently kicked off the pilot with three NSW communities in partnership with the NSW Office of Emergency Management through their Get Ready NSW program and with the support of a number of private donors who are contributing to program delivery and grants. There are already a lot of learnings and we look forward to sharing these in the coming months.

We are also currently preparing to roll the program out in Victoria in partnership with the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and Emergency Management Victoria. The first stage will be a roadshow to engage with potential pilot communities and start the process of pilot site selection. We look forward to sharing more on the Victorian pilot in early 2019.

This program welcomes more partners and still requires further funds to support grants to pilot communities and the evaluation. If you have an interest in working collaboratively to develop community-led, place-based responses to natural disaster preparedness, please [get in touch](#).



In Focus: Fundraising Accounts

While FRRR is best known for our granting programs, a sometimes lesser-known part of our grant-making work is FRRR's [Not-for-Profit Fundraising Account and Community Foundation Account partnerships](#). These accounts now make up a significant proportion of our distribution activity (30 per cent since the start of FY2010/11). This reflects the value placed by communities, organisations and individuals on being able to partner with FRRR to co-fundraise and distribute funds locally.

FRRR currently has over 60 formalised partnerships supporting significant projects that address specific issues impacting rural communities, or within specific communities or regions. The partnerships enable an acceleration of fundraising for the projects, as FRRR receives donations and then directs funds to the partner organisations for projects that deliver on the agreed issues or focus area of the account partnership.

Last financial year, more than \$2.2M was distributed to these partnerships from FRRR. The accounts enable both donors and community groups to leverage FRRR's DGR status and are helping to address a wide range of issues and opportunities, from climate change to preserving community heritage.

Read below to learn about four other not-for-profit fundraising accounts that are being used by communities to raise the money they need for important projects.

Mange Management

[Mange Management Inc.](#) runs an ongoing program to treat free-living wombats afflicted with mange to conserve the species. The plight of wombats with mange has been an ongoing concern for many years and is an animal welfare issue. Unless treated the infestation progresses, and eventually the wombat is so severely compromised it dies a slow and agonising death. Mange Management distributes free treatment kits, advice and support to landowners and other volunteers enabling them to treat wombats that would otherwise suffer and die. The Bare Nosed Wombat Conservation project aims to eradicate mange and stop the suffering.



Tomorrow Today Foundation

[Tomorrow Today](#) is Benalla and district's Community Foundation, helping to build a stronger, more prosperous and resilient rural community. They are fundraising to purchase a property in central Benalla to provide a permanent base for the organisation and the many educational programs and activities it runs for local children and families. It will also provide an ongoing source of income to sustainably fund the operations of Tomorrow Today, for enduring community benefit.



Farmers for Climate Action

[Farmers for Climate Action](#) works with farmers, scientists and other experts to find ways to make farming more sustainable in a world where climate change is having an impact on Australia's agricultural industries. They are using the partnership with FRRR to help them scale up, host educational events and connect farmers in Victoria with experts and advocate for change to create sustainable farming practices.



Bronze, Bill the Bastard

A donation to the [Bronze, Bill the Bastard](#) project enables the rich cultural heritage of the Australian Light Horse to be recognised and celebrated, through the bronzing of the life-size sculpture of Australia's Greatest Warhorse, Bill the Bastard.

A dedicated team is committed to having the model statue bronzed and placed within the 1st Australian Horse and Australian Light Horse Memorial Precinct, in Murrumburrah NSW. The project seeks to commemorate the end of WW1 and provide a place to learn, honour and remember the significant contribution of the Australian Light Horse to the freedom that all Australians enjoy today.

