

People, Place, Prosperity

November 2018

An update for FRRR's donor partners



Your support makes a difference

Featured project: Seed funding for youth employment project has lasting impact

"It gave us credibility, enabling us to attract further funds for other projects... without that initial funding, we would have never have got the program off the ground."

- Sergeant O'Regan

Four years ago, the Bowen branch of the PCYC received an \$8,000 [ANZ Seeds of Renewal](#) grant towards equipment for its Greener Futures program, which provides hands-on experience in the horticulture industry and assists youth to become more employable.



FRRR recently spoke to PCYC Branch Manager Sergeant O'Regan about the impact of that grant, and to understand more about how Cyclone Debbie affected the PCYC, and her community.

She highlights the importance of ongoing diverse support from philanthropy and of having a strong foundation in the community.

[Read more...](#)

From Natalie's desk ...

Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on the [first edition of *People, Place and Prosperity*](#). I was pleased that so many of you found it useful. So, here we are again.



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Since the September edition, we have announced the significant expansion of the [Tackling Tough Times Together program](#), thanks to very generous donations from a wide range of corporates, philanthropic partners, government and individuals. This means that support is now available nationally - even for communities that may not yet have a formal drought-declaration. There is already strong interest and we anticipate announcing the first grant recipients before the end of the year.

We have also finalised a new five-year agreement with Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF), which will be formally announced at the VFFF AGM next week. It will see us working in at least three NSW communities over the next five years to build their capacity and capability, so they can go from surviving to thriving. Keep an eye on our website or [LinkedIn](#) for more details. Both of our organisations are very excited about this program, and we anticipate that in time, we will have significant learnings to share with the sector.

I also want to take this opportunity to give you a heads up that we are looking to make some changes to the way we group our grants programs. This is driven by a desire to make it as easy as possible for community groups to access the funding they need, ensuring the funds you donate get to those that need them, when they need them. There will be targeted options for donors to support the diversity of needs in our communities. We will provide more details very soon, but there is [a snapshot below](#) of how we plan to restructure our programs, which would be done in the new year.

In closing, I want to thank you again for your support this year. We frequently hear stories about the long-lasting impact of even the smallest grants - such as the impact of a \$50 [Back to School](#) voucher - or the way that funds are a catalyst, as they were for [eRaced](#) and the [Bowen PCYC](#).

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None of that is possible without your ongoing support, your trust in FRRR and our shared belief in the important role of rural, regional and remote communities. Thank you.

Until next year ...

Natalie

Natalie Egleton
Chief Executive Officer

Granting Update

This financial year, FRRR expects to grant out \$10 million to communities, and so far we are on track to do so, especially with the expanded Tackling Tough Times Together program. Since September, 79 projects have been awarded grants totalling just over \$860,000, although not all of them have been announced as yet.

Two of the programs recently announced are [Enhancing Country Health Outcomes \(ECHO\)](#) and [In a Good Place](#), both of which were new this year. Each program was in high demand, and offered larger grants focused on addressing gaps in primary health care provision and service access, and on the substantial issue of mental health respectively in rural, regional and remote areas.

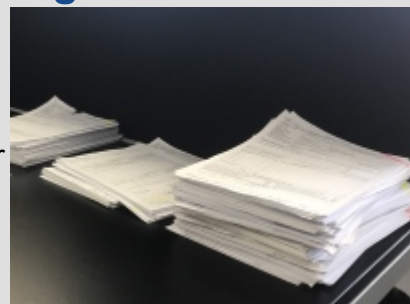
The FRRR team is currently assessing another 350 applications, most of which are for our flagship [Small Grants for Rural Communities](#) program. The levels of enquiry have been high since we launched the national [Tackling Tough Times Together](#) program, and we also have a number of applications to other programs that are seeking support for drought-response, so we expect to award grants through that program in the next month or so.

In terms of trends - and it's not surprising given the impact the drought is having on so much of rural Australia - many recent requests have been for mental health initiatives. There are also applications for projects that help keep community members connected and supported that would typically have been funded within the local community.

Future focus: Streamlining our grant programs

The work we've undertaken this year to improve our systems and processes has highlighted an opportunity to simplify the way we group our grant programs, making it easier for applicants, and for us to administer and report on.

We have developed a new structure, which reflects a more contemporary, accessible and flexible model that is intended to be equally relevant to our grantees and donor partners. We have



tested the new approach with some community groups and a few of our donor partners, and it has been well received. While it's still being refined, we hope to start the transition early in the new year.

Where we run programs on behalf of donor partners, they will continue, but we are likely to have fewer FRRR-led programs, and will combine the programs that offer grants for similar purposes. We also plan to have programs open all year round, with designated assessment windows, so community groups can apply when it suits them. There will also be some larger value, longer-term grants alongside our flagship small grants.

There will be minimal direct impact for our donor partners, and we will continue to ensure your funds support projects that align to your objectives and meet the needs of rural, regional and remote communities. We will communicate more soon.

Community-driven philanthropy in action

Diversifying during drought

With the ongoing drought taking a toll on local agriculture industries, the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, in far west Queensland's Channel Country, realised that it was crucial to diversify the region's income streams.



Using a [Tackling Tough Times Together](#) grant of \$45,000, funded by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and Qantas, the Council engaged an expert tourism consultant. They worked with local stakeholders to identify and develop a tourist trail, and assisted with the creation of a website to showcase the region's attractions.

'[The Barcoo Way](#)' is the result - a tourist trail perfect for families and adventurers seeking access to places 'off the beaten track'.

And it's working! Since its launch in May 2018, bookings at camp sites along the Barcoo Way drive route are up more than 850%. With this influx of tourists to the area, the Council reports positive flow-on effects in the local economy, making a huge difference in dire times of drought.

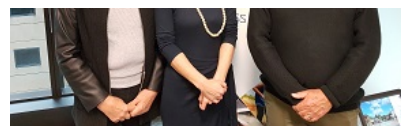
[Read more ...](#)

Mallacoota is doing it for themselves

Mallacoota, in south-east Victoria, is an isolated, remote and ageing community. While its official



population is around 600, that swells to around 7,000 during Summer, which puts a lot of pressure on local services, including medical services.



It had got to the state where the one remaining GP was planning to close the clinic due to the pressure - plus she wasn't making any money.

But this resourceful community wasn't going to let that happen. They took matters into their own hands, agreeing to use funds that had been raised for an aged care facility to purchase the medical clinic. They created the [Mallacoota Community Health Infrastructure and Resilience Fund](#) (CHIRF) to run it and set about recruiting new doctors.

As a result of their hard work, a clear vision, strong local leadership and lots of persistence, they now have three doctors. They recently secured a \$300,000 grant toward building a new medical centre. Through the ECHO program, FRRR has also awarded them \$136,864 to develop and implement additional services including a general mental health program, a pilot after-hours service, and to continue the Dr Search workforce recruitment program. Next on their list - the aged care facility.

[Read more ...](#)

Partnering opportunities

Back to School: help students start the school year ready to learn

Children just want to fit in at school. But the reality is that many parents can't afford to give their children new uniforms, shoes or even underwear - let alone new school bags or the latest stationery. Sadly, that means children can be picked on - or simply feel they stand out, all of which affects their readiness to learn.



That's where FRRR's [Back to School](#) vouchers can play an important role. The impact of a \$50 voucher that can be redeemed for school supplies, uniforms, underwear, shoes, bags or stationery. Last year we had requests for 13,822 vouchers but were only able to fund 11,556 – 2,266 children missed out!

The impact is far more than monetary... They can significantly improve the confidence, self-esteem and educational engagement of the students, as well as offer families the opportunity to better connect with their school, as this feedback we received about a Wongan Hills' student confirms.

A young student in the care of the Department of Child Protection Services had never had new school clothes. When she was being measured for her new uniform, her eyes were glowing and you could just tell that she was in heaven... being measured for new clothes was a simply unique and wonderful experience for her!

When she came to school the next day dressed in her new winter clothes, she was radiant... she kept telling everyone, "Look how soft it is!", as she stroked her new school jumper like it was a kitten!

The new uniform made a huge difference to her pride in her appearance and she seemed to be a lot happier as she can see she looks just like the rest of the kids in her class – neat, clean and in school clothes! This one voucher has already made a significant difference to this six-year-old child's life!

We have already had expressions of interest seeking 4,000 more vouchers than we can fund, so if you can help, please [donate here](#). FRRR absorbs the administration cost for this program, so 100% of your donation will go directly to supporting children in need.

Fundraising Accounts

FRRR's [Not-for-Profit \(NFP\) Fundraising Account and Community Foundation Account](#) partnerships provide a way for community groups to attract additional philanthropic support for specific projects, that are approved by FRRR's board. Here are two projects doing great work in their communities which would welcome your support.

LightnUp

[LightnUp Inc.](#) create artworks inspired by light and shadow and work with communities to tell their stories and create celebration. Although based in Lismore in northern NSW, their vision is to lighten the hearts of communities across Australia and beyond, through art-based activities.



Their premises flooded following Cyclone Debbie, damaging 90% of their lanterns and most of the furniture. They used their fundraising account to raise money to repair some of the damage. They are now focused on essential repairs to their workshop to meet Council requirements and raising funds for their 2019 Lismore Lantern Parade which will mark their 25th anniversary.

In the last six months, they provided creative workshops and activities for more than 1,500 people aged 5 to 80 years, from as far north as Palm Island to Geelong and Far West NSW. They've recently been working in NE Arnhem Land. Learn more: <https://www.lanternparade.com/> and [support their work in communities](#).

Friends of St Brigid's

The [Friends of St Brigid's Association Inc.](#) formed in 2006 when the Koroit community were informed



that their local church and hall were being sold. The community in rural south-west Victoria, has raised funds and taken out a community mortgage to buy the precinct on behalf of the community to keep the precinct as the 'St Brigid's Australian-Irish Cultural Heritage and Community Centre'.



Using their [fundraising account](#) to maximise funds raised, they are currently focused on restoring the roof of the church which is in need of urgent repair. The local Men's Shed has been helping with the works to keep costs down.

Thanks again for your support of rural, regional and remote communities. If you have any questions about the above, or would like to reach out for a chat, please contact Sarah Matthee, Partnerships and Services Manager at (03) 5430 2399 or s.matthee@frrr.org.au.



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