



2018/19
Annual Review

Deeper knowledge, broader reach

Our year at a glance

FRRR – championing rural communities

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) is a charity focused solely on rural, regional and remote Australian communities. We were founded in 2000 at the instigation of the Sidney Myer Fund and the Australian Government, who believed that philanthropy could help respond to economic and social decline in country Australia.

Strong regional communities are critical to a strong Australia – a vibrant, innovative, forward-thinking, dynamic nation that can embrace challenges and maximise opportunities. At FRRR, we are driven by our commitment to strengthening the social and economic fabric of these communities to ensure a sustainable future, whatever comes their way.

This report looks back on our activities during 2018/19 and showcases some of the wonderful things that rural communities can achieve, with just a little support and encouragement.

We acknowledge and extend our respect to the Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which our Foundation is located in Bendigo, and to the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our programs are assessed and delivered. We pay respect to their ancient and continuing cultures, their connections to the land, and to the Elders, past, present and emerging.



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What we do and how we work

Rural, regional and remote communities face many challenges accessing health and education services, employment and maintaining economic sustainability. They also need to adapt and be prepared for the increasing frequency and likelihood of extreme weather events.

Invariably local leaders have the answers and a clear vision for their communities. They just need help to bring their ideas to life and to combat some of the inherent challenges associated with location, population and particularly, securing funding.

More than money...

FRRR's work builds capacity in communities, including strengthening their fundraising, grant-writing, and project development capacity. We develop resources and tools that are right-sized for the small towns and remote places that we work with. As part of this, we spend time on the phone, visit communities, run workshops and always do our best to bring a community voice into our thinking. By doing these things alongside granting, we seek to foster greater self-reliance and sustainability.

That's where the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) plays a key role. We can fund a wide array of charitable projects, including those that focus on economic development. **Our special tax status** also enables us to receive funds and distribute them to not-for-profits that don't have deductible gift recipient status (DGR) and **therefore** often can't access philanthropic support.

Collaboration and working in partnership is part of our DNA. Working with the private sector, philanthropy and governments, we have distributed nearly **\$100M in mostly small grants, to support more than 10,000 projects.**

At FRRR, we also share our knowledge and our insights about the challenges and opportunities in rural communities with other institutions and the broader population.

We provide support through three interconnected pillars:

1. Grantmaking

The bulk of our resourcing and effort is focused on making grants to communities. These are primarily funded through donations and grants from other trusts, foundations, businesses, governments and individuals. These grants are spread across seven focus areas that we believe underpin vibrant, adaptive and sustainable rural, regional and remote communities.

These three pillars are interconnected, and it takes this multi-faceted approach to help create vibrant, sustainable communities.

2. Influencing

We connect with hundreds of diverse communities, gaining insights into their challenges, pressures, and opportunities. This national perspective allows us to observe trends, spot leading practice, and connect people and ideas – it is a cycle of two-way insights and learning. We share our insights with rural leaders, philanthropists and policy makers.

3. Enabling

Many donors want to give to rural, regional and remote communities, and there are many great initiatives that are unable to access that funding due to limitations on tax status. Using FRRR's special tax status we act as a broker, making connections and leveraging funding through pooling and redistributing funds to not-for-profits and community foundations.

Diligent governance

FRRR is a company limited by guarantee, and a registered charity.

It must comply with Corporations Law, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, and its Constitution. FRRR is governed by an independent Board of Directors who are highly regarded and experienced in rural affairs, business and philanthropic practice. FRRR is also guided by a group of esteemed Patrons, each of whom lends their support as requested.

2018/19 was a seminal year for FRRR, as our **last two founding Board members – the Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC and Bill Kelty AC - retired effective 30 June 2019.** Together, they played a guiding role in FRRR's journey. While coming from opposite sides of politics, they worked together seamlessly in the interests of rural, regional and remote communities. We thank them sincerely for their service.

Tim Fairfax AC will re-join the Board and take over as Chairman from January 2020. In the interim, FRRR is ably guided by Deputy Chairman Anne Grindrod. We acknowledge the contributions of all of FRRR's Board members, who voluntarily provide time to attend quarterly Board meetings and participate in grant assessment committees.

FRRR has strict protocols around how each grant is assessed, with virtually all grants reviewed by an assessment committee, chaired by an FRRR Director, and includes donors and subject matter experts. Our thanks go to the people listed to the right, **who all voluntarily provided their expertise on our committees.** Grants recommended by committees are reviewed and approved by the full Board. Our CEO approves some grants where they fall within her delegated authority. All other operations are governed by policies, approved by the Board, with operational processes regularly reviewed. FRRR's accounts are audited annually by KPMG.

FRRR Patrons:

- His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor General of the Cwth of Aust. (to 30 June 2019)
- Baillieu Myer AC
- Lady Southey AC (to January 2019)
- The Hon John Anderson AO

FRRR Board:

- Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC, Chairman
- Tim Fairfax AC (Chairman elect – effective January 2020)
- Anne Grindrod, Deputy Chairman
- Annabel Dulhunty
- Bill Kelty AC
- Fred Grimwade
- Ian Allen OAM
- Paddy Handbury
- Patrick Myer
- Dr Steven Kennedy PSM
- Sue Middleton
- Bruce Scott OAM
- Andrew McKenzie JP
- Lisa Norden (**Company Secretary**)

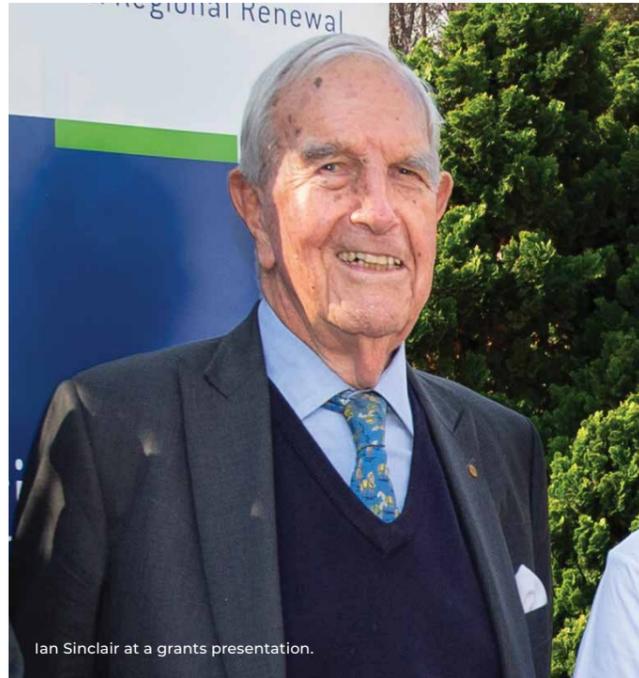
Committee Members:

- Alexandra Neill, Heywire Alumni
- Andrea Gordon, Community Rep.
- Andrew Coghlan, Red Cross
- Bruce Lloyd, Community Rep.
- Caitlin Scholfield, Gardiner Dairy Fdn
- Carmen Smith, Heywire Alumni
- Clive Noble, Gardiner Dairy Fdn
- Dan Hirst, ABC Heywire

- Diana Hallam, Australian Government
- Dr Janice Hirshorn, Donor Partner
- Elizabeth Corbett, Donor Partner
- Fiona Higgins, CCI Giving
- Fiona McKenzie, Orange Compass
- Fleur Anderson, Community Rep.
- Geraldine Roche, The Sally Fdn
- Gina Fairfax, Tim Fairfax Family Fdn
- Jack Heath, SANE
- Jenny Lau, ANZ
- Jenny Wheatley, Vincent Fairfax Family Fdn
- Liza Raynes, ANZ
- Lynda Vamouskis, Beyond Medical Education
- Lynn Jenz, Findex Community Fund
- Mandy Moore, NSW Office of Emergency Management
- Maree Shelmerdine, Sidney Myer Fund
- Margaret Smith AO, Community Rep.
- Marita Wright, CCI Giving
- Mark Diamond, National Rural Health Alliance
- Matt Linnegar, Australian Rural Leadership Fdn
- Nick Stacey, Heywire Alumni
- Patrick Moriarty, Our Community
- Prue Pateras, Donor Partner
- Sam Lonard, Dept of Health & Human Services VIC
- Samantha Jorgensen, Tim Fairfax Family Fdn
- Sandy McKenzie, Community Rep.
- Tim Fairfax AC, Tim Fairfax Family Fdn
- Yongyan Xia, Heywire Alumni
- Yvette Funke, Monsanto



FRRR's Board and advisors meeting in Brisbane.



A message from Ian Sinclair

2018/19 was extraordinarily challenging, but a year of record activity by FRRR.

Severe and protracted drought impacted every rural industry and most communities across eastern Australia. There was severe flooding in north Queensland and major fires in several states. Large and small towns, pastoral, farming and horticultural regions all suffered, and with them schools, hospitals, town services, local jobs and community confidence.

Natural disaster assistance from governments is helping and so does FRRR delivering diverse programs, particularly to small and remote communities often difficult to reach.

Since inception, community contributions - both in-kind and cash - have been around three times FRRR's investment. This is helped by the involvement of FRRR staff in making projects work and the ease of understanding the FRRR application and granting process.

Almost \$400M in community expenditure, cash and in-kind, catalysed through FRRR is a quantitative measure of the Foundation's efforts over almost two decades.

Many have contributed and, as I retired as Chairman on 30 June 2019, I want to extend my thanks.

All Directors since incorporation have been generous with their time and sound in their advice. To each of them my personal appreciation for making the Foundation work.

I am delighted that Tim Fairfax AC is to be my successor and that Anne Grindrod, as Deputy Chairman, is acting in that role until Tim assumes responsibility in January 2020.

Bill Kely AC, a Director from the beginning and Chairman of the Finance and Audit sub-committee, has also retired. Bill has been extraordinarily helpful in his wisdom and economic acumen, and on behalf of the Board I extend our sincere appreciation. Long-time Director Fred Grimwade is Bill's worthy successor in this role.

“

FRRR's success in martialling philanthropic funds has been assisted because most administrative costs of granting were covered by income from the Australian Government's \$10M initial corpus.

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Our Patrons Bails Myer AC, Lady Marigold Southey AC (until 1 January 2019) and the Hon John Anderson AO have been wonderful in maintaining their interest and commitment. Mr Myer and Lady Southey, as senior members of the Sidney Myer Fund (which with the Australian Government is one of the two members of FRRR), have been extraordinarily generous and contributed significantly to FRRR's success. To each Patron, including the Governors-General who have all agreed to serve as our Patron in Chief, the Board extends its deep appreciation.

Federally since incorporation, the Secretary of the Department responsible for regional affairs in governments of either side has served as a Director. Each has provided invaluable advice and helped coordinate granting to small and remote communities, most of which miss out on programs designed for more populous centres.

The engine room of FRRR is its staff and I highly commend the outstanding efforts of Natalie Egleton, our CEO, who has taken FRRR to new levels. Natalie is an excellent administrator, maintaining the high standards set by her predecessors Alexandra Gartmann and Sylvia Admans.

Other staff of FRRR equally deserve recognition and thanks.

Delivering small grants to widely dispersed communities requires special skills and remarkable commitment. The Board and I commend and thank each of you.

I also extend the Board's appreciation to those who voluntarily assist on assessment committees and Board sub-committees. You ensure FRRR programs produce intended outcomes.

Our partners and donors are at the core of all granting. The Foundation is particularly indebted to you and appreciates your trust and generosity. The Foundation works closely with each level of government, and in medium-to-long-term natural disaster relief, this has significantly increased the assistance available.

FRRR's value is more than the summation of the efforts of all its contributors and supporters, and its **achievements are best reflected in the thanks from grant recipients.**

The most emotive are those hand-written letters from outback children who have received a Back to School \$50 voucher that purchased their first new pair of shoes or a new school dress.

For them this is proof there is a future.

To you all, my thanks for your support.

Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC
Chairman - 2000-2019

A word from the Deputy Chairman

Over the past four years I have had the honour and pleasure to work with the Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC as a member of the FRRR Board. He has been at the helm since the organisation's inception in 2000 and the legacy Ian leaves is enormous.

His enthusiastic leadership, commitment and vision for FRRR has established us as a highly respected and trusted organisation that works effectively with governments, donors and philanthropic partners to enable generous and respectful support to rural and regional communities throughout Australia. Ian's rich experience and knowledge of rural and regional Australia has propelled the increasing depth and breadth of reach for FRRR. We will miss his wisdom and cheerful affirmation of what can be achieved if we all work together for change.

It is my privilege to take on the position as Acting Chairman until Tim Fairfax AC joins the Board as Chairman in January 2020.

FRRR is entering an exciting new chapter as it approaches its third decade. There is much work to do to respond to the challenges our rural, regional and remote communities face and to maximise the many opportunities that our regions offer for our nation's prosperity. As Directors, we will continue the great work of FRRR - enabling the ideas from rural and regional leaders to come to fruition to build stronger, more liveable, vibrant and sustainable communities.

Anne Grindrod
Deputy Chairman



Ian Sinclair, Anne Grindrod and Natalie Egleton met with Hon Mark Coulton MP and Hon Michael McCormack MP.

CEO's Message



This reporting year saw the end of my third year as CEO of FRRR and concluded the strategic plan we agreed in 2016. It has been a record year of granting and outreach, but also of organisational evolution, which has set us up well for the years to come.

I am delighted to report that we have achieved nearly all of the strategic plan's goals set – and in some cases exceeded them. You can read more detail about our performance on page 10.

In terms of funding and partnerships, **it was a record year for FRRR**. We received more than \$11.7M in donations and distributed **nearly \$11.6M** in grants. There is more detail about how these funds were awarded on page 16.

This record distribution was only possible with the generous support of our donor partners, and particularly a **\$15M contribution from the Australian Government to support drought-affected communities over three years**. This funding, together with contributions from another 14 corporate and philanthropic donors, plus hundreds of

individuals, allowed us to expand the Tackling Tough Times Together program to support communities battling drought nationwide. This is a wonderful example of the convening role that FRRR can play in harnessing investment around a critical issue.

A new five-year **\$5M partnership with the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation** led to the Investing in Rural Community Futures program, which addresses a gap identified in FRRR's 2018 Impact Report around strengthening organisational capacity of grassroots not-for-profit organisations. It will see three communities in NSW supported with grants, as well as skills training, coaching and mentoring, to develop the

capability and capacity of not-for-profit organisations to address the challenges and opportunities they face as a local sector and community.

We are also very grateful to the hundreds of other donors, large and small, who lent their support to FRRR's programs, or to fundraising accounts. Every donation helps us make an impact. Thank you.

A challenge for an organisation with the breadth of FRRR's, is working efficiently, effectively and responsively. This year we restructured and consolidated FRRR's grant programs and, in response to feedback from grantees, launched Strengthening Rural Communities, an evolution of the flagship Small Grants for Rural Communities program. It provides larger value grants and is now open year-round.

Our granting activity is informed heavily by our work with communities. The insights and relationships built through this engagement help us build a **unique 'ground-level' perspective of issues being grappled with by policy-makers and other community leaders**. As a champion for rural, regional and remote communities, we utilise this perspective to bring a community voice to decision-making through submissions on policy issues, such as mental health and education, and in championing the importance of philanthropy supporting rural, regional and remote communities. You can read more about our work in this regard on page 14.

Facilitating not-for-profit fundraising and seeding start-up initiatives are ways that we invest in community leaders and their ideas. Not-for-Profit Fundraising Accounts and partnerships with Community Foundations enable funds to reach really exciting projects that couldn't otherwise access philanthropy, while the leverage created through partnering with Community Foundations sees far greater impact than either could achieve alone – more of these stories can be found on page 18.

“More than ever, I am convinced that locally-led solutions that capitalise on and leverage momentum and commonalities of experiences and approaches across regions are the only ways to level the playing field for those in rural, regional and remote Australia.”

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Looking ahead

As we enter FRRR's 20th year, it's timely to review what role FRRR should play to help communities respond to ongoing challenges and opportunities, because one thing is for sure, there is no such thing as business as usual. **I continue to be inspired by the resilience and commitment that local leaders have to creating strong communities**, and am motivated by exploring what more FRRR can do to support country people.

FRRR's operating environment – and that of the communities we support – is extremely dynamic. This calls for deep organisational intelligence and adaptive capacity, which needs to be purposefully developed and supported. This will be a key part of FRRR's next five-year strategy. So too will be sustaining FRRR's growth, while retaining expertise and the value of small grants to small and remote communities. At the same time, there is an opportunity for FRRR to step up and do more.

I thank the Directors of FRRR for their support over the past year, and particularly acknowledge the two founding Directors who retired during the year, Ian Sinclair and Bill Kelty. As FRRR's Chairman, Ian Sinclair has been a wonderful support to me since I assumed this role. It's difficult to effectively articulate the important role he has played in guiding FRRR during his 19 years of service. Both personally and professionally, I am very grateful to have worked with him over the last three years. I look forward to working closely with Anne Grindrod until Tim Fairfax assumes the role of Chairman in January 2020.

I also want to recognise Bill Kelty, who provided exceptional stability, leadership and wisdom in FRRR's establishment, development and growth. I will personally miss his guidance a great deal, especially on financial matters.

Finally, **I want to acknowledge the fantastic group of people I am honoured to work with**. We have been through a lot of change over the last 12 months, including growing the team to deliver on our new programs and introducing new systems. I am extremely grateful for the commitment, purpose and focused effort of each member of the team. I am particularly **proud of our shared deep interest in addressing the issues and challenges for rural, regional and remote communities**, and above all their empathy and willingness to always have a chat with an applicant or work with our partners.

I encourage you to explore this review, and I look forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary and reporting on yet more wonderful impact in next year's report.

Natalie Eggleton

Natalie Eggleton
CEO

A committed team

The backbone of any well-functioning organisation is a strong team of can-do staff.

All of FRRR's staff live in rural and regional communities of differing sizes and make-ups, and many are local volunteers. So, in addition to their areas of technical skill, they have good insights into some of the challenges and opportunities that small towns experience.

In 2018/19, FRRR's team grew in response to the expansion of the Tackling Tough Times Together program and the launch of

the Investing in Rural Community Futures program. Most staff work in Bendigo, Victoria, but there are now also team members based in two rural NSW towns.

In addition to new people joining the organisation, this year several staff moved into new roles. While the continued focus on becoming more efficient and effective, and growing FRRR's reach has meant it's been a challenging year, the team has responded with aplomb. This is helped by an extended team - of the four-legged variety! Over recent years, FRRR's offices have become dog-friendly, and there is even the occasional (uninvited) visit from the neighbourhood cat.



Carolyn McMillan (centre) with other FRRR staff meeting with donor partners from the John Wallis Foundation.



Fiona Bradshaw

“

That fact that FRRR now plays a diverse and highly valued role nationally owes a great deal to the personalised and supportive assessments each of you provides and the sympathetic ear given to all enquiries. You are critical to FRRR's success. You are the engine that makes our Foundation tick and our granting effective.

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*Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC, Chairman
From a message to all staff*



Some of FRRR's Directors and Staff at FRRR's offices in Bendigo.



Kate Nolan and Lisa Mahon, part of FRRR's grants assessment team.

Team highlights

Hayley Troy, Development Officer

"This year I attended the Heywire Summit in Canberra - I had no idea what to expect as it was my first time working on the Heywire program - but I had a blast. The young people that attend the Summit are from all over the country, and watching them grow and have the courage to stand up in Parliament House and pitch their ideas in front of hundreds of people was awesome."

Alli Mudford, Investing in Rural Community Futures Program Manager

"IRCF is a different way of thinking, a different way of granting and at its core is very much a developmental piece of work. It's a privilege to be working with Tumut, Leeton, Junee, Nambucca Valley and Moree; each very different, and with such a depth and breadth of not-for-profits working within their boundaries. From my office in Coolah in rural NSW, it's refreshing to work on a program that has long-term funding, and a flexible approach that really allows us to listen, re-imagine and respond to the future of these communities."

Fiona Bradshaw, Program Support Officer, Tackling Tough Times Together

"Being a part of the Drought Team, I speak to community members daily about what is happening all over Australia - I am truly in awe of the passion, dedication, creativity, empathy, empowerment and drive of so many. To come to work every day and have the honour of working with people who are pulling together, supporting and encouraging each other, and getting the job done, is a privilege."

Carolyn McMillan, Administration Officer and Executive Assistant

"I am consistently surprised and uplifted by the community spirit that exists in regional and remote communities. These communities can sometimes do it tough, yet continue to possess a positive outlook."



FRRR Director Patrick Myer, with Natalie Egleton and Hayley Troy at the annual Heywire Summit dinner.



Alli Mudford (second from left) meeting with local leaders in Nambucca Valley, as part of the Investing in Rural Community Futures program.

Year in review

Fundraising activities

2018/19 was a record year for FRRR, as we raised **\$11.7M thanks to more than 960 donations from 623 unique donors** (420 of whom were new to FRRR this year). Ninety-seven donors made more than one contribution.

The majority of funds came from philanthropic entities (more than \$5M). The Australian Government contributed more than \$3M, mostly toward Tackling Tough Times Together. Several of FRRR's long-term corporate partners also increased their support, including ANZ, who contributed an extra \$500,000 on top of the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program.

Although not reflected in the numbers above, we also **secured several multi-year commitments**, which gives us certainty for several programs, including the Tackling Tough Times Together and Investing in Rural Community Futures programs.

The greatest number of donations came from individuals, including several who contribute regularly via workplace giving. Many of these were donors who supported our campaign for drought support, and were introduced to FRRR via partners like NRMA and Rex Airlines who actively helped to promote us.

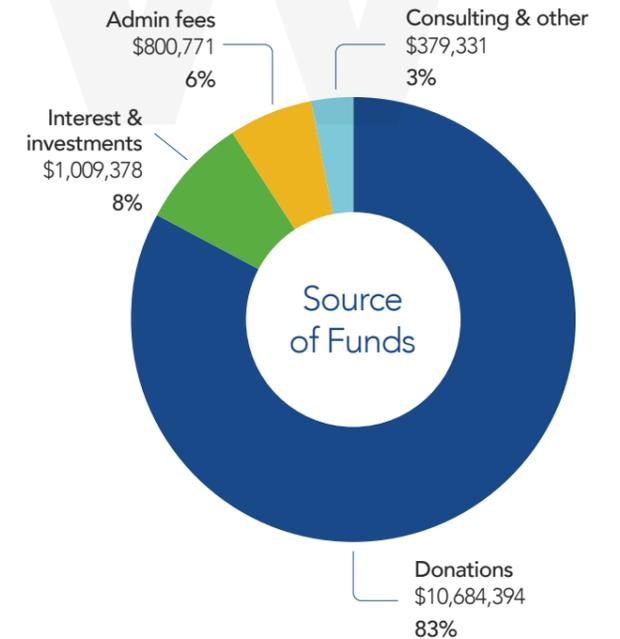
We greatly appreciate all donations, whether it is the smallest we received (\$2), or the largest (\$2.8M). FRRR simply cannot do any of the work that we do without the support of our donor partners.

Operational performance

In terms of FRRR's operational performance, we fund much of our day-to-day operations via returns on FRRR's corpus. Despite granting out nearly \$100M since inception, thanks to prudent **management of these funds, the corpus has now grown to \$13M.**

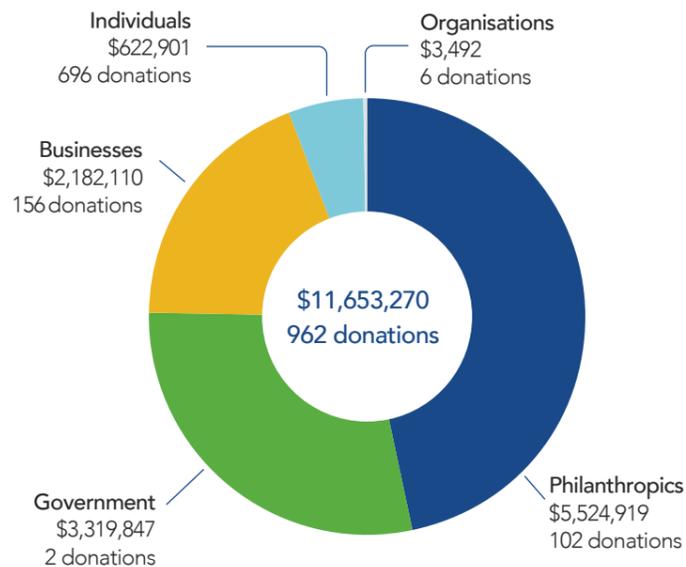
Investment income was better than budgeted thanks to higher interest, fund income and imputation credits. The balance of operational costs is funded via administration fees and strategic project management fees.

Operational expenses were largely in line with budget, with most of the cost being staffing expenses. These increased, as we brought on new team members to manage Tackling Tough Times Together, Investing in Rural Community Futures and the expansion of the Disaster Resilient: Future Ready (DR:FR) program, which will roll out into Victoria in FY 2019/20.



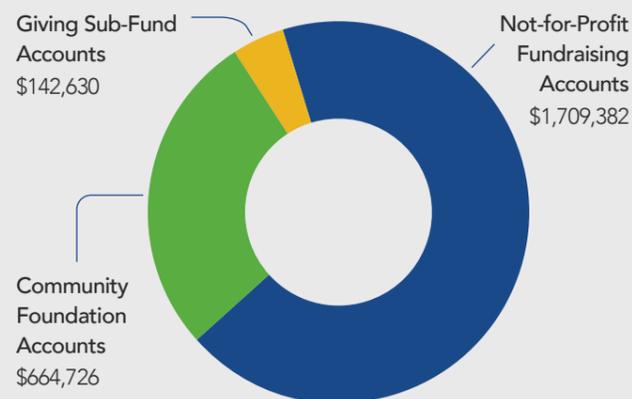
Donations by organisation type

(by dollars & number of donations)



Fundraising Accounts

These accounts involve FRRR partnering with local not-for-profit groups, community foundations or donors to raise and direct funds toward specific organisations or initiatives that otherwise could not access philanthropic funds. **This year, more than \$2.5M was raised via 64 fundraising accounts.** One of those was the John Wallis Foundation, which attracted more than 45 donations. While they no longer hold an account, it has been a pleasure to partner with John Wallis Foundation for a number of years.



The median donation to fundraising accounts was higher than to FRRR's grant programs, at \$214.

Supporting local fundraising priorities

The Steven Noble Memorial Sub-Fund, Port MacDonnell SA

When local footballer Steven Noble lost his life in a road crash at Mt Gambier, SA, aged 27, it devastated the Limestone Coast community. The Steven Noble Memorial Sub-Fund was established by family and friends who wanted to honour him. The Sub-Fund supported a community bus to service Port MacDonnell, Allendale and Kongorong. FRRR facilitated the flow of funds from the Stand Like Stone Community Foundation Public Fund, via an FRRR Community Foundation Account.



Red Earth Community Foundation, South Burnett QLD

In June 2019 the Red Earth Community Foundation South Burnett (RECF) Fundraising Account was renewed to enable RECF to support their leadership activities and charitable projects led by local non-DGR entities in the South Burnett region. Recently this partnership supported two donations totalling \$58,000 (net) to contribute to the purchase of seven buildings in Proston. Community group Proston QLD Ltd used the funds to purchase the buildings and will now refurbish them to house a Community Information Centre and attract new businesses (cafes, retail) to reinvigorate the shopping precinct.

Rotary Club of Mission Beach, Mission Beach QLD

Deadly stinging jellyfish in summer, and a lack of a community pool, meant no swimming or even water play for children and other community members in Queensland's Mission Beach and surrounds. The Rotary Club of Mission Beach opened a Not-for-Profit Fundraising Account with FRRR in 2014 to help raise funds for a community water park on the foreshore. The Account enabled donors to receive a tax deduction. This financial year, it raised \$14,500. The Splash Pad is now a reality, filled with families and children enjoying the new water-play facilities. It offers an opportunity for visitors to experience the facilities at the Mission Beach beachfront, bringing much-needed tourism to the area, post Cyclone Yasi (2011).



A collective effort

Rural communities are integral to Australia's culture and economy.

Our donor partners, ranging from large organisations to individuals, understand and appreciate the importance of rural Australia. We are delighted to have their support to help local leaders find appropriate and relevant solutions to challenges, and to harness opportunities.

In this respect, FRRR is a connector and a conduit. We are driven by deep relationships, working directly with both communities and with our donor partners to help rural, regional and remote communities to not just survive, but to thrive. After all, our success as a nation depends on it.

Through this collective effort, this year FRRR was able to grant out nearly **\$11.6M to 677 community projects**. On average, every dollar FRRR grants is leveraged three times, either in cash, or in-kind, so that's an additional \$46M to help communities prosper.

All our donor partners are integral in enabling FRRR to maximise its support for rural, regional and remote communities. We are grateful for the trust they place in us.



Natalie helped judge the National Awards for Local Government.



Rex raised funds to support drought-affected communities.



The youth-led Heywire assessment committee.

Our collaborators

Those listed below either donated \$5,000 or more, or their donations from previous years were allocated to projects this financial year.

Collaborative Partners

Annabel Dulhunty
ANZ
Audi Foundation
Aurizon Community Giving Fund
Aussie Farmers Foundation
Australian Government
Australia Post
Baxter Charitable Foundation
Bertalli Family Foundation
Beyond Bank Australia Foundation Ltd
Bill and Elizabeth Corbett
Border Trust Community Foundation for the Albury Wodonga Region
Capral Limited
Counterpoint Community Services Inc
David Mactaggart Foundation
Department of Health and Human Services
Doc Ross Family Foundation
Dorothy Longfield
Dr George Jacobs and Dr Janice Hirshorn
Estate Late Harold Gordon Jones
Findex Community Fund
Geelong Community Foundation
Glencore Coal Assets Australia Pty Ltd
Greater Charitable Foundation
Grosvenor Foundation
Hannaford
Helen Lyons Foundation
Henroth Group
Hunter Water Corporation
Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation
J and M Nolan Family Trust
JH Fairfax & Son Pastoral
John T Reid Charitable Trusts
Lady Marigold Southey AC
Lowenden Foundation
nib foundation
NRMA
Paul Ramsay Foundation
Perpetual Foundation – Julian Flett Endowment
Port Waratah Coal Services Pty Ltd
Portland House Foundation
REIV Charitable Foundation
Rex Airlines (Regional Express)
Ronald Geoffrey Arnott Foundation
Rural Affinity
Santos
Scenic World Shared
Sidney Myer Fund
Sparke Helmore Lawyers

Stand Like Stone Foundation

Stockland CARE Foundation
The Argo Foundation
The Ballarat Foundation
The Deloitte Foundation
The Garry White Foundation
The Ian Potter Foundation
The Pratt Foundation
The Ross Trust
The Sally Foundation
The Snow Foundation
The Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation*
The William Buckland Foundation*
The Yulgilbar Foundation
Third Link Investment Managers
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
Vertel
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation
Westpac Group

Leading Change Partners

Doc Ross Family Foundation
H & L Hecht Trust
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Maple-Brown Family Foundation
Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
Qantas Foundation
Ronald Geoffrey Arnott Foundation
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

Named Program Partners

ANZ
Bayer Fund
Beyond Medical Education
CCI Giving
Gardiner Dairy Foundation

Partnerships

ABC Regional
Herbert Smith Freehills
Regional Australia Institute
Schools Plus

Memberships

Australian Community Philanthropy
Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
Philanthropy Australia

* Managed by Equity Trustees

Fundraising Account Donors

Ann Emmett
Anthony Stevenson
Aussie Farmers Foundation
Australian Communities Foundation
Carino Pty Ltd
Christopher Blaxland
Clare Herschell
Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation
Ian Johnson
Jericho Cup
John Owen Seivour
John Wallace
Kathy Duff
Kofi Foundation
Lyn Collingridge
Marrich Equity Pty Ltd
Morris Family Foundation
Pat O'Connor
Paul Ramsay Foundation
Perpetual Foundation – Julian Flett Endowment
The Willow Foundation
Peter Duncan
Peter Evans
Reid Malley Foundation
S.M. Robinson Private Ancillary Fund
Sandra Alsop
Southern Highlands Community Foundation
Sue Matthews
The Community Foundation for Bendigo & Central Victoria Ltd
The George Lewin Foundation
The June Canavan Foundation
The Moore Family Philanthropic Foundation Ltd
The Sally Foundation
The Yulgilbar Foundation
Tomorrow Today Foundation

Influencing and enabling

FRRR works hard to share our knowledge and skills to help build capacity in the communities we serve. However, we are just as interested in these communities sharing their experiences with us.

Through supporting communities to pursue their goals, FRRR collects and documents a wide range of insights which we then share broadly, with the aim of:

- widening the reach of these solutions to other communities, governments, corporates and philanthropics; and
- growing shared connections and networks between what can seem to be somewhat disparate communities.

Capacity building in communities

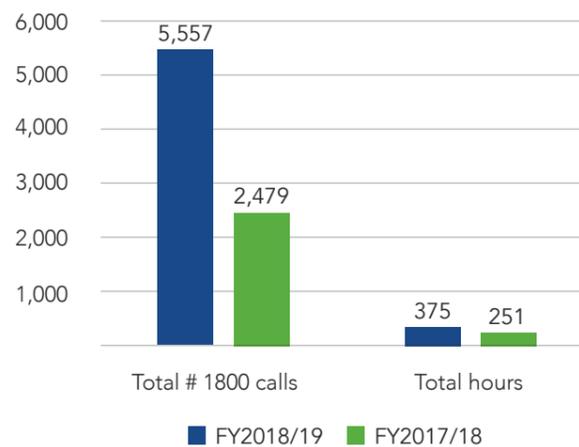
FRRR visited more communities than ever before in 2018/19. Staff conducted ten regional tours, **visiting every state at least once and going to more than 80 communities**. There were **41 grantseeker workshops and presentations** conducted to assist with knowledge development, strategic and project planning.

There was extensive community consultation too, as we began to rollout the **Disaster Resilient: Future Ready pilot program** in regional NSW, as well as scope the **Investing in Rural Community Futures program**. The national **expansion of Tackling Tough Times Together** also drove many visits, as we explained the availability of this program to support drought-affected communities.

There were also some sessions where FRRR was asked to be part of a community planning session, such as in Theodore QLD. FRRR was asked to support the community in considering how best they could work together to create a positive future for Theodore. FRRR Staff shared examples from other towns across Australia that successfully regrouped and rebuilt following the impacts of natural disasters, industry closures and population migration. At the end of the visit, the community had expanded their toolkit of options for working more collaboratively and creating a clear vision for their town.

Listening and sharing

FRRR's free 1800 number is an easy way for communities to be in contact with FRRR. In the last year, **calls to this number more than doubled**. In 2017/18 there were 2,479 calls; this year, 5,557 calls were received. While the increase is no doubt due in part to the expansion of the Tackling Tough Times Together program, it also reflects an increased awareness of FRRR and the services we provide.



Sharing the message far and wide

FRRR also draws on what we learn from communities and contributes to various inquiries, such as the Productivity Commission Review into Mental Health, as well as speaking at conferences, panels, events and committees.

We used these opportunities to share examples of innovative local responses as well as putting the spotlight on the challenges and inequities in rural, regional and remote communities.

Some of the opportunities we had this year to share insights, learn and broker impact included:

- Judging Panel, National Awards for Local Government
- Participating in Australian Environmental Grantmaking Network's Central Australia Field Trip to Alice Springs and outlying remote communities
- Presenting to Hannaford's employee conference in Brisbane
- Presenting to Rural Councils of Victoria's Mayors, Councillors and CEOs Forum on partnering with philanthropy
- Presenting at Regional Development Australia Conference, Tweed Heads on community-led regional development
- Facilitating and hosting a Rural Funders' Group Breakfast during the Philanthropy Australia conference on service inequity.

Continuous learning

FRRR conducts regular evaluations of its grant programs to ensure that lessons learnt by community groups are collected and shared, and our knowledge of program creation, delivery and evaluation is deepened. We leverage that knowledge in many ways. For example, the way we approached our most

recent program, **Investing in Rural Community Futures**, was informed by key learnings from the **Disaster Resilient: Future Ready (DR:FR)** NSW pilot program. Similarly, the lessons from DR:FR will also inform the expansion of this program into Victoria, which is scheduled to occur next financial year.

The **Art Resides Here** project was all about sharing lessons learnt. It was an opportunity to work with communities to explore the impact of the multitude of arts projects that FRRR has supported.

Art Resides Here, which was funded with the support of The H & L Hecht Trust involved revisiting five Victorian communities - Cavendish, Crossley, Nathalia, Rupanyup and Strathewen - to explore the role of the arts in their towns' vibrancy.

The project involved a photographer and interviewer working with the community to document the project and what they had learnt. This was then used as part of a presentation at Artlands 2018, the national regional arts conference. It will culminate later this year in the publication of a book telling the story of the projects and their impact in the words of the communities.

This project confirmed that the arts can underpin significant renewal and help to create connected rural, regional and remote communities.



Granting to rural communities

In terms of granting, 2018/19 was a record year in many ways – from the total value of funding requested, to the value of grants awarded.

Across 44 rounds, the FRRR team assessed 1,478 applications seeking more than \$26M in support.

In total, **677 grants were awarded, valued at \$11.6M.**

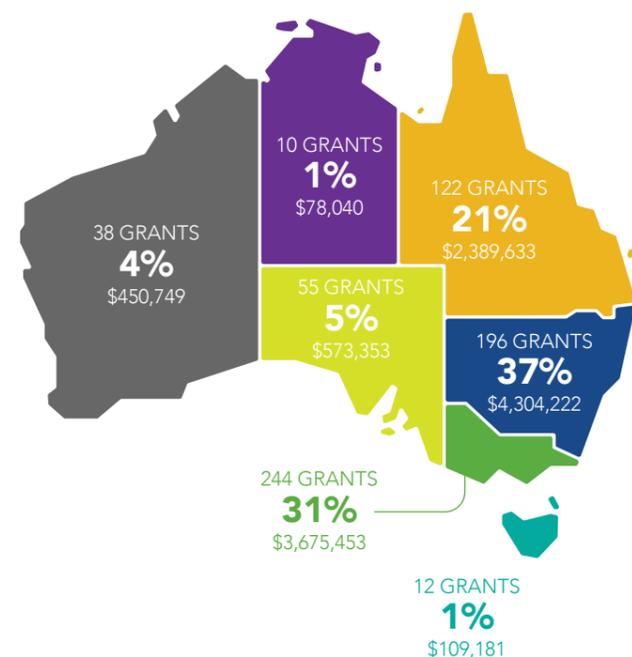
This reflects a 44% success rate in terms of the number of applications awarded, just under our target of 50%. (The dollar funding success rate was slightly higher at 46% of requests.)

The median grant was \$7,000. Despite the challenges in rural, regional and remote communities, most community groups are incredibly resourceful, but need help to either kick-start their project or fill the shortfall after local fundraising options are exhausted. **It is often those small grants – around \$5-7,000 – where we see the greatest impact as they are catalytic and typically leveraged at least three times through in-kind and cash contributions.**

We know that generally **80% of the projects funded would not have happened without the FRRR grant.**

The number of grants were spread across the country, with most going to Victoria (36%), closely followed by NSW (29%).

In dollar terms, most funding went to NSW, with more than \$4.3M in funds awarded (37%), followed by Victoria which received \$3.7M (31% of funds).



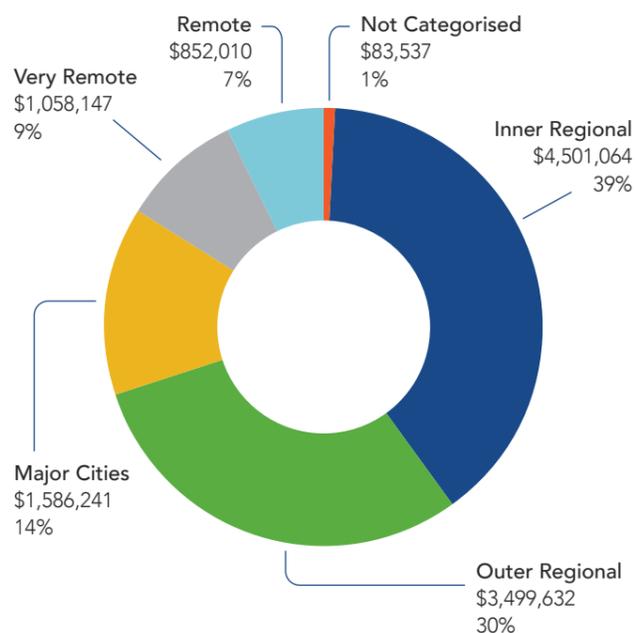
A Tailored Grant for \$994,000 was the largest grant awarded. It went toward a disaster recovery project in Queensland.

The largest grants awarded via FRRR's regular granting programs were five multi-year grants, each totalling \$150,000 via Tackling Tough Times Together for drought support. Two focused on building community resilience; another two on promoting individual and community health; with the remaining one supporting lifelong learning, in particular parenting skills.

The smallest grants of just \$500 went toward scholarships for attendance at the annual Community Foundations Forum, while others went toward mentoring and training, and another supported the capacity of a community foundation.

This year, most grants went to either inner or outer regional areas. However, there was still more than \$1.9M awarded to either remote or very remote locations.

Grants Awarded by Remoteness



More than **50% of applications** were unable to be funded, although many would have been deserving of support. The most frequent reason for projects not to be funded was the need for the project was not strongly demonstrated, closely followed by community support not strongly demonstrated; next most common was that projects didn't align with program objectives.

The most under-funded area, by a long way, was promoting individual and community health and social wellbeing (\$4.78M via 258 requests not funded). Next highest in dollar value was building community resilience (\$2.97M via 175 requests). FRRR continues to seek to grow our donor base, so we can fund more projects like these in future.

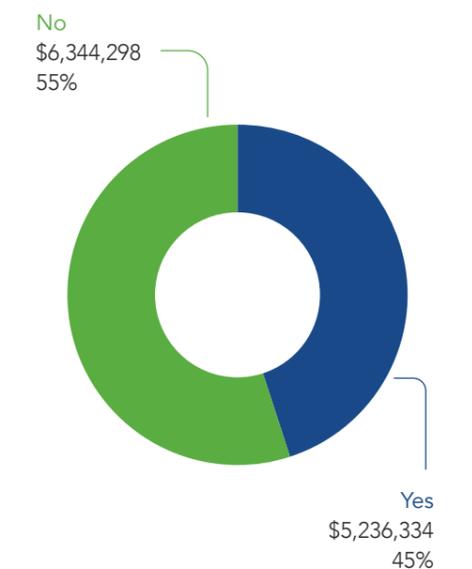
At the start of last year, we had 28 programs running. We identified opportunities to improve our efficiencies and make the process simpler. We created a more contemporary, accessible and flexible model that met the needs of both FRRR's grantees and donor partners.

After consulting community groups and donor partners, we have streamlined and simplified our grant programs. We consolidated several small grant programs into the Strengthening Rural Communities program, which we now run year-round. This means community groups can apply whenever it suits them, with grants awarded quarterly.

People, Place & Prosperity	Targeted Impact	Leading Change
Smaller grants that support a broad range of community issues in smaller rural, regional and remote communities	Small to medium grants for projects that focus on major issues causing disadvantage and inequity	Larger grants and programs responding to system-level challenges or opportunities identified by FRRR or partners; trialling new approaches

Unsurprisingly, given the intensity of the drought, as well as ongoing disaster recovery and resilience efforts across the country, **more than 45% (\$5.2M) of all grants awarded went to projects for emergency / disaster support.** This includes more than \$1.2M to support the continued recovery of communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires. In total, there were 484 applications for projects to support disaster or emergency response, with 243 approved (36% of all applications). Most grants were awarded to NSW - 76 (\$1,1723,171), followed closely by VIC - 73 (\$1,235,710), and QLD - 64 (\$1,905,750).

Grants for Disaster Preparedness and Recovery



Supporting diverse community priorities

Our online Grants Gateway enables FRRR to analyse what kinds of activities are being supported. Most grants awarded this year supported building community resilience (187), followed closely by supporting lifelong learning and education (144), and promoting individual and community health and wellbeing (130).

Most funding (rather than number of grants) went to building community resilience (\$4.2M), followed closely by promoting individual and community health and social wellbeing (\$2.1M).

Fewest grants were awarded for acting on environmental challenges (26, valued at \$247K) and building economic strength and sustainability (64). By value though, building economic strength and sustainability grants totalled \$1.4M (ranking 4th in order of funds distributed).

Grants by Funding Focus Areas



Helping local leaders create a vibrant rural Australia

After nearly 20 years of working with communities, FRRR knows that **initiatives led by local communities** are the most effective in addressing the issues that affect them. We see this every day through grant acquittal reports and the conversations we have with local leaders. The following pages provide a snapshot of some of the remarkable, selfless work that is being done to address the local challenges rural, regional and remote communities face, so they can continue to survive, thrive and create vibrant places to live and work.



Tech, Tea and Tales - sharing knowledge.



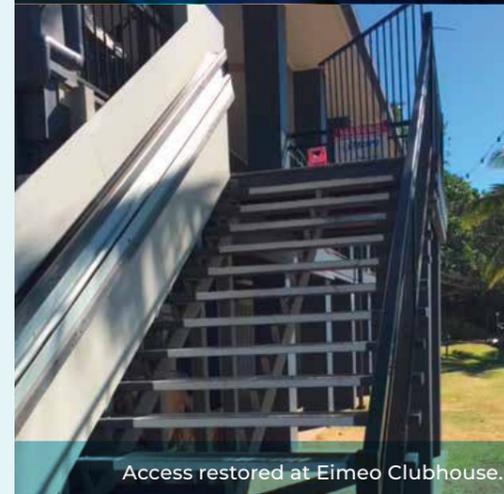
The CWA Hall - the only venue in Collie!

“ It was a wonderful way of connecting with someone from a different generation and learning new skills at the same time. ”
Older Participant, Tech, Tea and Tales

Building community resilience



Resilient communities are functional communities - and arguably, the need for resilience in rural, regional and remote communities has never been greater. Resilient communities make the best use of existing resources to withstand and recover from adversity and respond to opportunities. FRRR supports communities to increase resilience in many ways, some examples of which are showcased below.



Access restored at Eimeo Clubhouse.



A new kitchen for Hyden, WA.

Tech, Tea and Tales

The Black Saturday bushfires left deep scars in the Victorian community of St Andrews. Lives were lost, homes destroyed – 120 properties were directly impacted – and many pets, livestock and native fauna were lost too.

This led to significant change in the makeup of the community – old residents moved away to start fresh, while new ones arrived to establish their life. Rebuilding connections – creating social cohesion – was a real challenge, especially across generations.

To address this issue, Nillumbik Shire Council partnered with the St Andrews Community Centre to deliver Tech, Tea and Tales. The project involved creating an environment where older and younger people could share stories and create connections - no matter their age or circumstances.

A grant from FRRR, funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, helped train and employ five young people as

'Tech and Story Helpers'. Twenty-seven older community members came together twice a week for five weeks at the St Andrews Community Centre. The participants and their assigned young person met for one hour each week, often starting with technological help, then moving onto conversation – tales – using Story Starter questions. Stories were recorded on mobile phones and edited together into a mini-documentary that was shown at a community celebration event.

The documentary recorded how things used to be and showcased the resilience and a sense of community spirit. It also captured the strength of the new connections that are sure to last for a long, long time.

Grant: \$20,000
 Donor: Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund



View video

An open and shut case

With its nearest neighbour 40 km away, Collie in central NSW relies on having its own meeting place. The CWA Hall is the only venue in town and the 194 residents use it extensively for CWA activities, Rural Fire Service meetings, a mobile playgroup, garden club meetings and church services.

However, the 70 year old hall was showing signs of wear and tear. A \$5,000 grant allowed for a much-needed facelift. The external doors, badly weathered and very difficult to open and close, were replaced and general maintenance was also undertaken.

As Collie enters a third year without rain, the now accessible and secure CWA Hall can continue to bring the community together during these challenging times.

Grant: \$5,000
 Donor: Bayer Fund

Access all areas - for everyone

The Eimeo Clubhouse is a hub for the community, with its facilities used extensively by local community groups for functions, education programs, information sessions and social gatherings.

Eimeo, located just outside of Mackay, midway up the Queensland coast, was pummeled by Cyclone Debbie, with rainfall records smashed and widespread infrastructure and property damage totalling \$3.5 billion.

It rendered Eimeo Surf Life Saving Club's chair lift inoperable, meaning locals with limited mobility could no longer easily access the clubhouse.

Anyone with a disability or injury had to be physically helped to the second floor. This was a safety risk to staff and members, as well as affecting the visitor's dignity.

The Club was initially unaware of the damage to the chair lift, and so it was not included in the insurance claim for damages. In the wake of Cyclone Debbie, the Club's insurance excess increased by 50%, and was more than the cost of the chair lift repairs.

A \$3,068 grant allowed the chair lift to be repaired and reinstalled. The grant also helped fund the crane that was required due to the weight of the chair.

With the chair lift back in operation, Eimeo SLSC was again able to offer the local community, and dedicated volunteers, an all-inclusive venue that is safe and accessible. All local residents, including those in wheelchairs and/or elderly, can once again access the second-floor meeting and training facilities.

Grant: \$3,068
 Donor: ANZ

Community friendly kitchen

The Hyden Community Resource Centre (CRC) is a vital hub for the small town, which is 330 km east of Perth in Western Australia. However, the kitchen and art and craft area were over 20 years old and no longer functional or adequate for community needs.

A \$5,000 grant, plus the support of local tradespeople and businesses, meant they could install a modern kitchen that meets health and safety standards and offers superior facilities to the Hyden community. A professional oven and dishwasher were also purchased, much to the delight of those using the space.

Grant: \$5,000
 Donor: Hannaford



Mural on Longreach High School.

Promoting individual & community health & social wellbeing



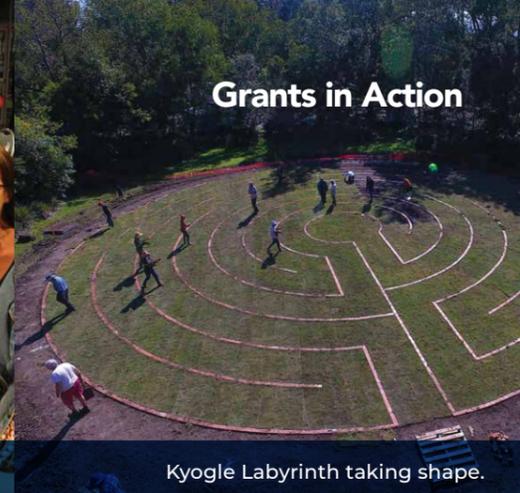
About one-third of Australia's population lives in rural, regional and remote areas. For many, these places are conducive to healthy living and improved wellbeing. However, access to health services and health-related infrastructure is often lacking when help is required, including support for mental health and preventative services. Attracting and retaining qualified staff is a particular challenge. Philanthropy increasingly plays an important role in helping these communities to bridge the gaps to provide more equitable access to healthcare and wellbeing services.



Dedicated nurses worked out of hours.



LGBTQI connected in Coffs Harbour.



Kyogle Labyrinth taking shape.

Grants in Action



Murals brought Longreach together.

Strengthening and celebrating leadership diversity

Coffs Harbour in NSW hosted a very successful LGBTQI festival, The Coast Out, until 2014. In 2017 the local LGBTQI community decided to revive the festival, and in so doing, upskill young people in event management.

Through the Boambee East Community Centre, they held 15 wide-ranging consultations with local LGBTQI people, community groups and businesses. This led to two 'taster' events: a youth-focused day, before a shorter adult evening event.

Young people actively helped organise and promote their event, the 'Mid-North Coast Rainbow Fair', which attracted over 500 attendees. Games, live music, costume-making, circus, face-painting, information sharing, portrait taking, and dancing all occurred, not to mention lots of glitter.

The 'Our-Coast PrideFest' evening was also a success, attracting another 100 plus attendees to participate in barefoot bowls, a dance party and drag show. Together these smaller events energised the community to host a successful PrideFest weekend in late 2018.

This project was recognised globally as best practice at the prestigious CAPTISS Conference in Singapore in 2018. The organisers offered the following tips for others wanting to run a successful event:

- The more partners, the lesser the load and greater the impact (even if it means a bit of coordination and management of group dynamics).

- Roadblocks can arise, but if you are prepared to be resourceful, they can turn into opportunities.
- Roll with uncertainty and change – that's life!
- It's okay not to have all the answers and be explicit about it. It allows others with more expertise to step in and contribute, making both the project itself and community, stronger.

Grant: \$7,700
Donors: Australian Government, The Sally Foundation, Vincent Fairfax Family Fdn and Friends of FRRR

Compassionate end-of-life care at home

Carers, family and friends who support their loved ones with end-of-life care at home often experience compassion fatigue. Supporting these carers, alongside improving the comfort of chronically ill community members, was the primary motivation for Anam Cara House. They wanted to provide the Colac community in Victoria with extra nursing support for community members choosing to live their final three months at home.

Funds were used to engage palliative care nurses, patient care attendants and registered nurses.

The benefits of the In-Home Respite service have been significant. For example, one community member caring for their partner with end-stage cancer needed surgery. With a registered nurse able to stay with the person's partner, the carer felt comfortable having the procedure. In addition, the nurse was able to suggest

some modifications to her medication, which improved her comfort levels.

The service has also reduced unnecessary hospital admissions, which can lead to acute emotional and psychological distress, as well as the actual physical pain involved in being moved in and out of the home when seriously unwell.

Anam Cara House Colac attributes the high level of referrals to proactively engaging local stakeholders and adopting a strong collaborative approach. As a result of these relationship-building efforts, other support opportunities have now been created, including a Bereavement Support group and related training for group volunteers.

Most importantly, however, community members are receiving seamless care, clearly communicated and administered by multiple groups in the region.

Grant: \$37,143
Donor: Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation

Colourful response to the drought

Longreach Shire in Central West Queensland has been in drought since January 2014. It's been a tough time for the whole community.

Recognising the importance of bringing people together, and the power of creative experiences, Longreach State High School used an FRRR grant to engage a well-known mural artist and youth worker.

In all, around 60 students and community members painted nearly 165m² of large-scale murals around Longreach.

The project brought together a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds to co-create the artworks, which celebrate the local culture and environment.

The murals highlight the values and characteristics of the early pioneers and outback legends, including resilience, innovation, endurance and creativity – all important during this ongoing drought.

In addition to increasing artistic skills, the project helped to connect people who may be experiencing mental health or wellbeing issues with local service providers in a non-threatening environment.

The murals are now attracting tourists and have helped reinforce the community's identity, general wellbeing and sense of pride.

Grant: \$15,000
Donors: Qantas Foundation and Tim & Gina Fairfax

Supporting lifelong learning, education and /or training



As individuals, we are a work in progress. Formal and informal learning opportunities throughout life foster the continuous development and improvement of knowledge and skills needed for employment, personal fulfilment and vibrant, thriving communities. However, for those living in rural, regional and remote Australia, the opportunities for learning aren't as abundant as in metropolitan areas. FRRR supports these communities to fill the gaps - from basics such as uniforms and stationery for school, to training courses for skills development.



Community computer room in demand.



Literacy support in action.



Grants in Action

Healthy paws, healthy people.

Learning robotics in Napoleon.

Learning the love of literacy

Daylesford is around 105 km north west of Melbourne. Like any small town, some children struggle with certain aspects of their learning, which can have a significant impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Following an assessment of student literacy skills, the Daylesford Primary School identified a number of children whose reading was below the expected literacy standard. To support these students, they implemented a research-based one-on-one initiative to develop their students' reading and comprehension capacity outside of the regular curriculum. The MultiLit (Making Up Lost Time in Literacy) program also seeks to build self-esteem and confidence.

The School first received an FRRR grant for this program in 2013 and saw significant improvements in the children. The program has attracted regular support ever since, including a Tailored Grant this year for \$25,000 that enabled another 18 students to participate in the program.

Once again, it delivered great results. One child started the year having to have text read to him. By year's end, he was reading independently.

Trevor Edwards, Principal of Daylesford Primary at the time, explained that the learning confidence gained by these children had transferred into other areas of study.

"We are most proud of the fact that we not only provide a highly effective and individualised learning program but an environment where students' wellbeing, self-esteem and confidence is enhanced and nurtured.

"The most challenging component is determining who can participate in the program, as there are many students who need this individual assistance. We prioritise and support those children with additional reading needs, but the generous funding has everlasting impact."

Grant: \$25,000
Donor: Bill & Elizabeth Corbett

Healthy paws, healthy people

Groote Eylandt is the largest island in the Gulf of Carpentaria in north-eastern Australia. Locals speak the Anindilyakwa language.

Dogs are a significant part of family and culture in Indigenous communities – not only for their companionship and protection but also as part of Dreamtime stories, songlines and kinship. However, understanding of companion animal needs, responsible pet ownership and the connection between human and animal health are somewhat limited.

There are also limited animal health services due to funding constraints, logistics, cultural differences and various other priorities.

East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC) saw an opportunity to deliver school-based education to embed the knowledge of how to care for companion animals within the community.

They also recognised music and song are a wonderful way to involve students and decided to use it to increase animal health education.

An FRRR grant helped them bring Shellie Morris, an Indigenous singer / songwriter, and Courtney Falls, an education officer from Animal Management in Rural & Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) to Groote Eylandt for a series of school visits with the local vet.

Courtney delivered resources on dog health and animal welfare, while Shellie Morris worked with the students to develop a song about dog health in Anindilyakwa language. All primary school students were involved in the project, which was also supported by local community radio stations.

A lasting outcome of this project is that the song is played every morning, and students discuss if any pets are sick. This has had a huge impact on the Groote Eylandt animal management program, as teachers pass the information on to the vets on the island. It has also led to discussion among the local kids about their dogs and what they can do to help them.

Grant: \$9,586
Donor: The Ian Potter Fdn



Listen to song

The future is robots

To give their students a well-rounded education and offer opportunities in STEM, the Napoleons Primary School in central-west Victoria purchased six new iPads to compete in Robotron 2017. The grant enabled the entire school to learn

basic robotics and demonstrate their new skills in a community-wide competition. The children were able to engage in fun but essential future learning, potentially improving their career pathways.

Grant: \$2,694
Donor: Third Link Investment Managers

Tech hub in the scrub

The Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS) division of the Tangentyere Council, NT, is responsible for establishing and maintaining computer rooms and public wifi hotspots in remote Aboriginal communities. These places have very limited access to services, and household resources are minimal and stretched. Publicly accessible computers and wifi hotspots are therefore essential and are a key part of CAYLUS' strategy.

Using a \$10,000 grant, the Tangentyere Council was able to provide, replace and repair essential technical resources in community computer rooms and wifi hotspots. At least 1,500 people benefited directly from the project. Young people enjoy the enhanced status and recognition for their computer skills in their home communities and are often asked to assist both younger and older family members with online activities.

Grant: \$10,000
Donors: Australian Government, The Sally Foundation, Vincent Fairfax Family Fdn and Friends of FRRR

Small grant, unimagined impact

FRRR's Back to School program provides a \$50 voucher that can be redeemed for school essentials – such as stationery, clothing, footwear and other school supplies. In 2018/19, FRRR distributed 11,683 vouchers valued at \$584,000.

A hallmark of this program is the discrete nature of the support. Community-based organisations, support services, or schools identify children in need and gift the voucher, without parents having to complete unwieldy forms or ask for help.

It is hard to believe that \$50 can make such a difference, but it can significantly improve a child's confidence, self-esteem and educational engagement.

Redemption of the vouchers also supported the local economy in over 33 rural and regional areas, going to a mix of local businesses and Target.

“

I'm not sure that we will ever know the ripple effect that these vouchers bring to the wellbeing and mental health of the parents who receive them, and in turn their thinking about how their life is at the time, and how they value themselves as providers for their children. I also see the smiles and hear the laughter of those children as they engage with others at our school without feeling different because they don't fit in. Thank you.

”

Principal

Building economic strength and sustainability



When local economies in rural, regional and remote Australia are strong, we all prosper. But diversifying these economies beyond agriculture can be challenging. It takes resources and creativity to be sustainable. A robust and sustainable community attracts resources, services and new residents.

FRRR is proud to be able to support communities in rural and regional Australia to have a more prosperous future.

Sunset on the Barcoo Way.



Dawn fishing along the Barcoo Way.



Beverley volunteers outside a local B&B.



The story of Woomelang captured in iron.



Showing off Tatura's new coffee machine.

Iron art adds interest in Woomelang

The small - and declining - town of Woomelang in Victoria's Mallee region wanted to attract tourists to the road less travelled and leverage the success of the regional Silo Art Trail.

The Woomelang & District Development Association (WDDA) came up with the "Woomelang Tough as Iron" project to regenerate Cronomby Tanks Reserve - a rugged sanctuary that has free camping and picnic facilities and attracts campers, ornithologists and bushwalkers.

The joint endeavours of local artist Phil Rigg and the farming community led to the Cronomby Tanks 'Iron Art Trail'. It features iron installations that challenge the notion of creative life in the country. The Trail is now mentioned as a point of interest on traveller websites and features on the itinerary of many who pass through the town. It is a project that strengthened its economy, as well as the spirit of the community.

Grant: \$3,500
Donor: Bertalli Family Fdn

Connecting over coffee in Tatura

A coffee enterprise was the Lions Club of Tatura's idea to engage the area's unemployed youth. They could not have foreseen the remarkable social outcomes that emerged from what was initially a simple training program.

A \$3,000 grant helped purchase a coffee machine and associated café equipment such as milk jugs, tamper and grinder. They were also able to attract additional funding for participants to receive barista training through a partnership with a local coffee van.

The project evolved into the "Coffee Hub" - now a permanent feature of the Tatura Community House, which has created remarkable opportunities for social connectedness among local groups while bringing in a small income for the community house.

Grant: \$3,000
Donor: The John Wallis Fdn

Diversifying during drought

With the ongoing drought taking a real toll on the local agriculture industry, the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council knew that it was crucial to diversify the region's income streams and support the local economy and broader community.

Given it is such a beautiful area, it was an obvious choice to focus on developing the tourism industry. The Council received a \$45,000 grant to help engage a skilled tourism consultant to work with local stakeholders to identify and develop a 'tourism trail' and assist with the development and creation of a promotional website.

With the help of the consultant, the Council was able to support local operators to develop products and services around the river, landscape, local connections, regional stories, culture and heritage, events, and food and lifestyle. Five regional photographers were engaged to help capture the trail and bring it to life on the website.

The outcome was 'The Barcoo Way', a tourist trail perfect for families and adventurers. The grant also enabled the regional Council to promote the tourist attraction and raise awareness of the trail far and wide. And it's working!

Since its launch in May 2018, there has been a huge increase of visits and bookings at campsites along the Barcoo Way route. The early results saw an 850% increase in bookings at each campsite. With more tourism in the area, there is also a positive flow-on effect for the local economy, making a considerable difference in dire times of drought.

This project was recognised by The Australian Philanthropy Awards, winning Best Small Grant. It is an excellent example of how philanthropy can help communities secure their future.

Grant: \$45,000
Donors: Tim Fairfax Family Fdn and Qantas Foundation

No missed opportunities in Beverley

The heritage wheatbelt town of Beverley lies 130 km east of Perth on the Avon River. Education is available locally to year 10 only, and the region has little economic diversification. It has high youth unemployment. There is, however, a fledgling tourism industry.

The Beverley Community Resource Centre (CRC) received a \$6,795 grant to support a project designed to improve customer service and local knowledge to support economic growth in their town. The aims of the project were two-fold - increase the employability of the volunteers and strengthen the local economy through the delivery of more uniform, comprehensive information for visitors.

A team of 40 local community members participated, including seniors, the unemployed and students, together with CRC's five part-time staff.

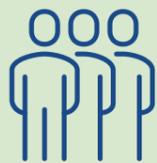
As well as customer service training, the team partook in several familiarisation activities, including visits to local accommodation and wildflower sites, a town heritage walking tour, and guided tours of two local museums. A volunteers' handbook and updated policies and procedures for the centre were also developed.

With a mix of new residents and long-term locals, the level of knowledge and understanding of local tourism offered was quite mixed. The CRC's Dee Ridgeway says the surprising quantity of information people need to know reinforced how important it is to undertake training and tours.

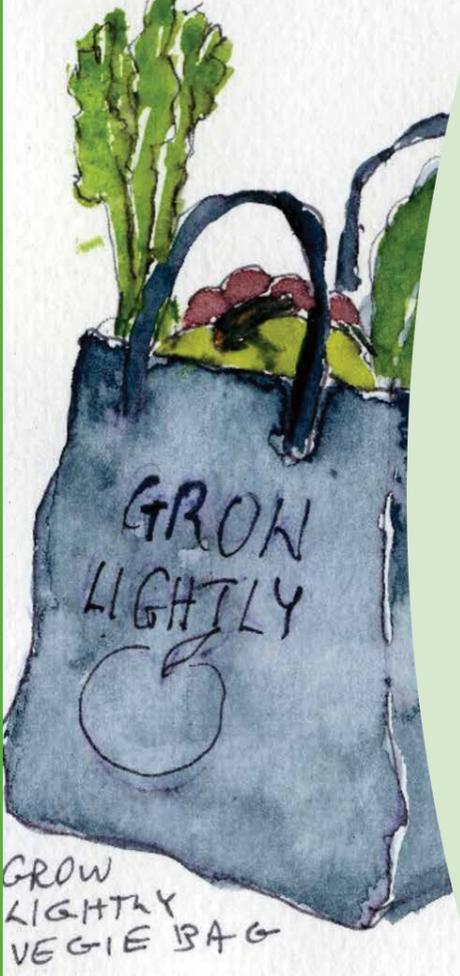
The volunteers now have a range of skills, and it is anticipated that they will volunteer a minimum of 1,824 hours each year. Perhaps most importantly, the new team will keep the visitor information centre open on weekends and public holidays, so as not to miss out on crucial opportunities to promote the area.

Grant: \$6,795
Donor: ANZ

Developing organisational resilience and capacity



Community organisations are an essential part of the social fabric of rural, regional and remote Australia. These groups, with their many and varied skills and roles, bring locals together – and the community benefits. Fulfilling their purpose requires a strong local leadership base that's prepared to work together and to find ways to remain relevant, sustainable and resilient. FRRR is increasingly supporting these organisations to enhance their leadership skills or find ways to meet their ongoing obligations more effectively.



Gloucester's generator home and dry.

Fresh produce delivery.

“ I'm not sure if FRRR really understands how important the support is that they are able to provide for ongoing assistance for community recovery. ”

Nina Lunde,
Kinglake Ranges Rotary Club.



New kit bags for Ngangganawili paramedics.

Governance training in Kinglake.

Leading by example

The Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges is one of the longest serving community groups in the Kinglake Ranges and district. It oversees many community projects and supports local groups with their events and projects.

Kinglake Ranges is still recovering from the Black Saturday bushfires, and the importance of groups like the Rotary Club cannot be understated. It is therefore crucial that it operates with strong governance.

In 2016, the Club had some new Directors, and needed to ensure they could fulfil their responsibilities to govern the Rotary Club effectively.

The Club received funding to engage a professional facilitator to run a Grassroots Governance workshop. It provided a practical introduction to the roles and function of the Board and expectations of Directors, as well as insights into governance.

“The funds to manage this type of community initiative aren't readily available through normal income streams due to the challenges of rebuilding so many different areas of the community at the same time,” explains Kinglake Rotarian Nina Lunde.

Grant: \$1,100
Donor: Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund

Growing together with Grow Lightly

Grow Lightly Connect (GLC) was established in response to the lack of locally grown produce available to local consumers and, conversely, the lack of local outlets available to local growers.

The GLC Growing Together project was focused on further increasing access to locally grown food, improving health outcomes in the community and contributing to a more robust local economy. With their \$5,000 grant, they were able to fund a consultant to undertake market research on the feasibility and requirements of this expansion, and the development of a business plan.

Extensive community consultation across Southern Gippsland highlighted places where there was interest in local produce but no ready access. GLC developed a bulk sales program for enterprises wanting to use local produce, which now regularly supplies 13 customers. Six are located on Phillip Island, which has traditionally had limited access to fresh, locally-grown food.

GLC's Chairman Gil Freeman says there's still room for further growth, but the issue is finding the time to build the business.

“There are now more than 100 small growers contributing to the social enterprise, in addition to the 15 larger-scale growers. The more extensive network of local outlets is also providing local growers with greater economic security.”

Grant: \$5,000
Donor: Gardiner Dairy Foundation

Double duty club house

In Cape Gloucester in north Queensland, the Gloucester Sports and Recreation Association (GSRA) Club House is the designated Recovery Centre during disasters or severe weather events.

After Cyclone Debbie, it took 29 days before power was restored. This meant no running water, as it needs electricity to keep the showers and toilets operational. That prompted GSRA to install a permanently wired emergency generator.

However, the generator, SES disaster recovery equipment and other supplies were in an open and easily accessible spot, which put them in danger of interference or vandalism.

An FRRR grant helped enclose the area to protect and store the vital equipment. With this security in place, GSRA can be confident everything will be working when needed most. This will allow them to offer residents running water, showers, toilets and a reliable central communication station, should it be needed.

Grant: \$8,538
Donor: ANZ

Desert paramedics get new kit bags

The Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Services (NAHS) plays an integral role in health service provision across the 184,000 square kilometres of the Central Desert Region. NAHS is a critical first point of contact between the community and the WA health system. It delivers more than 10,000 episodes of health care each year to up to 4,000 clients.

Their Community Paramedics not only provide traditional emergency ambulance care, but also in-home extended care services, reducing the numbers who need to go to hospital or clinics.

With FRRR's support, NAHS was able to upgrade the response bags in its emergency ambulances. The bags in use were ageing and inconsistent, and there was a concern this could lead to confusion in an emergency. They were also difficult to clean, cumbersome and not ergonomic, increasing the risk of injury to paramedics through manual handling incidents.

They now have modern, fit-for-purpose ambulance kit bags. The new bags are ergonomically designed and have an internal layout that allows equipment to be protected and laid out in a way that is logical and easy to access. Most importantly, they are easy to clean, avoiding pathogens such as HIV, hepatitis and vegetative organisms. This new equipment assists in the provision of safer services for the community of Wiluna.

Community Paramedic Wade Bloffwitch says, “Grants such as this are vital to the operation of community-controlled, not-for-profit health services across the country. NAHS thanks FRRR and their donors for their commitment to the community.”

Grant: \$4,333
Donor: Kapikarnpi Community Fund

Contributing to a culturally vibrant community



Arts and culture play an essential role in community liveability - the social, cultural, economic and environmental attributes that make up the quality of life. Cultural activities are integral to providing opportunities for communities to come together, fostering a sense of collective identity, spaces for interaction and shared experience, and contribute towards people having a stronger attachment to place. A culturally vibrant community is also a strong driver of tourism and investment. Many of FRRR's grant programs encompass the support and promotion of culture and the arts, as highlighted in some of the projects below.

Paint it and they will come.

Soaring art draws crowds to SA's Wheatbelt

The Kimba Community Development Group dreamt of capturing part of their South Australian community story on a giant grain silo. They saw an opportunity to use it to create community events providing an alternative to the regular sporting activities, as well as attract tourists and bring economic benefits to the town.

A \$4,500 grant helped kickstart their vision. A working group was set up to negotiate an MOU with silo owners and gain support from the Council. Then the artist, Cam Scale, ran community and student workshops to generate ideas on what could be on the silos.

Interest skyrocketed as the first brushstrokes were made, with students checking out progress after school and buses making impromptu detours so all could see what was happening.

Progress stories were lapped up on social media and volunteer hours soared from

200 to 1,800. Donations began flowing in, sufficient to expand the public viewing area and to create a promotional video. In September 2018, 300 people attended the official opening.

The outcomes speak for themselves. The town's free camping area has been extended to accommodate the increasing number of tourists staying overnight. Kimba tourism brochures need to be replenished every few days; and a local cafe experienced their busiest trade ever around when the silo art was revealed. There has been a general increase in bus tours stopping for lunch at the hotel, and the Kimba Art Prize and Exhibition also received a record number of entries.

Best of all, community pride is at an all-time high.

Grant: \$4,500
Donor: Bertalli Family Fdn



View video

Updating attitudes and building community connections

Shorewell Park near Burnie, Tasmania was built in the 1970s as a community housing estate. For many in the wider Burnie community, Shorewell Park was perceived as a 'no go zone'. Despite the stereotypes, it is not the community it was in the 70s, or even a decade ago. Today there are many new residents, attracted by relatively affordable housing and close access to a shopping centre, and they take pride in their homes and gardens. But the old perceptions linger.

The Ten Days on the Island festival committee, in collaboration with Urban Theatre Projects, wanted to engage everyone in a more inclusive conversation.

Through community consultations, it was decided that this would be best done via an event that was a community celebration, dinner party and a blind date all rolled into one! An FRRR grant helped cover the costs of developing and staging the event.



Photo: Julie Millowick

Educating people about the red gums.

Grants in Action

Hands-on mapping in Lachlan Shire.



Breaking down barriers in Shorewell.

Festival shines light on iconic red gums

For centuries, red gums have dotted the landscape in south-west Victoria and south-eastern South Australia. Community members from Cavendish, Victoria understand the importance of these trees to the local natural environment and set up the Red Gum Festival Development Group Incorporated (RGFDG).

Using funds from FRRR they organised an arts festival designed to explore and celebrate all aspects of the red gum species, and hopefully, increase community understanding and willingness to protect the local environment. The Festival not only had food stalls, exhibitions of wood-turning and musical performances, but also science-based exhibits and a symposium featuring experts in forestry, conservation and tree science and a bus tour of notable tree specimens and new plantations. These contributed to a document that is being shared with local Landcare groups, farmers and other interested parties to help preserve the trees. There is also a plan to generate a map of red gums to monitor their size and health.

Fifty Shorewell residents and 50 Burnie residents chosen at random from the electoral roll were invited. Guests were given some conversation starters and there was live entertainment.

While some people were nervous and a little reluctant at first, the event was a success. Ultimately, many misconceptions were laid to rest. It was a solid start to a longer-term project aimed at using the arts as a vehicle for building empathetic citizenship.

Grant: \$5,000
Donor: Bertalli Family Fdn

Grant: \$3,410
Donor: William Buckland Fdn, managed by Equity Trustees

Mapping knowledge, protecting Country, building resilience

A \$4,996 grant from FRRR helped Geomancia, the Growing Lachlan Alliance, and the Murrin Bridge Local Aboriginal Land Council deliver a hands-on mapping workshop at Barooga Karrai on Wiradjuri country in remote NSW. Funds covered the trainer's fees, travel and accommodation costs, computers and catering.

This 'Land Skills Learning' day included tuition in field surveying and mapping using hand-held tablets to record places of cultural and environmental importance, strengthening community capacity and local partnerships.

Jamie O'Neill, CEO of Murrin Bridge Local Aboriginal Land Council, explains that it is extremely worthwhile and essential to educate the local Aboriginal community on mapping techniques using modern technology and to identify sites of cultural significance.

"Education and training will be long-lasting and this project... will be extremely important and beneficial to the local community, creating pathways to alternative training and employment opportunities."

Grant: \$4,996
Donor: Private Donor



Replanting in Tasmania.

Acting on environmental challenges / opportunities



Land and water are essential to Australia's social and economic vibrancy. Yet pressures on Australia's ecosystem range from climate change, habitat fragmentation and degradation, altered fire regimes, invasive species, pollution in our coastal and marine environments, and land-use change. By better understanding our natural environment, communities can respond to these pressures and create opportunities that ensure our natural environment has a sustainable future.



French Island glass recycling.



Swift parrot habitat restoration.



Monitoring water health in Cowell.



Students learning to build endangered species hotels.

Students create 'endangered species hotels'

Greening Australia is restoring a major biodiversity hotspot in the Tasmanian Midlands. The woodland is home to 32 species, including quolls, bandicoots, bettongs and birds.

A field day brought together university researchers, restoration ecologists, an Aboriginal artist, architecture and design students and the school community to share their knowledge and interpretations. A \$5,000 grant helped cover student travel, workshop materials, catering, artist fees and sculpture footings.

More than 100 university and high school students participated. Seedlings were planted, and four 'endangered species hotel' sculptures were created and installed at the Ross Sculpture Park.

Given the positive response, two more events were held. A follow-up biodiversity day saw 93 students design bird hides and participate in a birds of prey workshop. There was also a cultural immersion day for high school students at an Aboriginal stone quarry in Beaufront.

Campbell Town High head teacher Nickola Bowerman says the Aboriginal cultural experience was the highlight of the school year.

"Our students had the unique opportunity to connect On Country with Aboriginal educator Dave Gough. They found tools in the stone quarry, explored caves, found devil scats, made fire sticks, and ate a wallaby cooked on the fire."

Grant: \$5,000
Donor: Jessica and Wallace Hore Foundation

Recycling glass brings French Island together

French Island, just outside Melbourne, is home to around 100 people. It has no local government; instead, the community manages its affairs, including public facilities, largely through the French Island Community Association (FICA).

FICA removes all recyclables from the island, transporting 12 large wheelie bins each month. However, as glass is heavier than other items, and takes up more space, it was expensive to move.

With a \$5,000 grant, they purchased and installed a glass-to-sand crusher to recycle the glass on the island. The resulting sand is used on paths and added to concrete mixes for road gravel and sandbags.

Grant: \$5,000
Donor: The Ross Trust

Monitoring aquatic health

Franklin Harbour in Cowell SA is a high conservation value aquatic ecosystem and home to an important oyster farming industry. Cowell Area School has a successful aquaculture study program, including a research and development lease and a land-based facility.

Funds from FRRR and the local Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisation helped to purchase an estuary data monitoring system. Students collect and monitor data, such as water temperature, pH levels and salinity.

The students analyse the data to enhance their R&D lease, as well as in their studies. Information is also shared with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), the local NRM and other industry members. Oyster growers even now also subscribe to the School's data collection system.

It's no surprise that the School won an Area Schools Best Practice Award for this project.

Grant: \$5,000
Donor: Private Donor

Swiftly trees of the future

When fires devastated the south-east coast of Tasmania in January 2013, the blaze destroyed a significant portion of a dry 25,000 hectare eucalypt forest – the habitat for the critically endangered swift parrot. It's estimated that fewer than 1,000 breeding pairs remain.

A migratory species, swift parrots return to Tasmania to breed, usually in August each year.

The Tasman Landcare Group Inc was awarded a \$13,050 grant for their 'Swiftly trees of the future' project to provide revegetation of the damaged environment. Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) teams worked with the Tasman Landcare Group to plant over 2,500 blue gums, black gums and appropriate understorey species to rejuvenate the swift parrot habitat.

Grant: \$13,050
Donor: Australian Government

Deeper knowledge, broader reach but our work continues

Over the last 19 years, the collective efforts of local leaders and our donor partners have helped rural, regional and remote communities all over Australia. You can see some of the key milestones and achievements below. As FRRR enters its 20th year, there remains much work to do in supporting rural communities to be vibrant, sustainable and adaptive.

Whether you are from a large corporate, a trust or foundation, government or are an individual who understands the importance of rural communities to our nation, we welcome your support - every bit counts.

Here are some ways you can help:



Online via website:
Every donation \$2 or over is tax deductible.



Gift in your Will:
Leave a gift to FRRR, which can be directed to support rural, regional and remote communities.



Workplace Giving:
Donate via your pay, via online platforms or direct to FRRR - reduce your tax and do good.



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



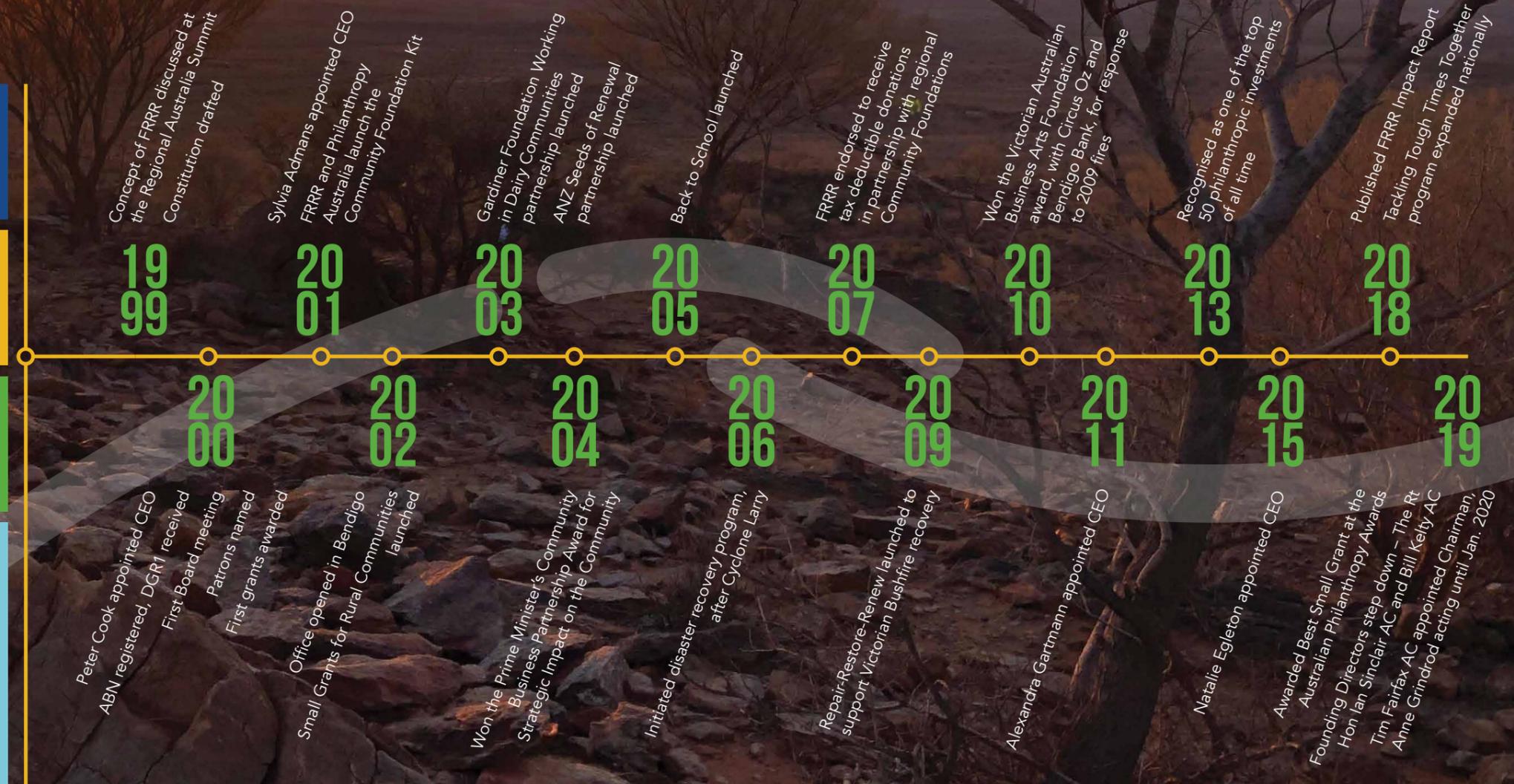
Partnering to deliver impact:
Partner with FRRR for an efficient, effective and impactful way to administer your philanthropy.



In-kind:
Volunteer your time, or provide services like IT support.

Fast Facts 2000-2019

30,230 applications received	Requesting \$267M in funding
Awarded 10,640 grants	1,558 unique postcodes
Median grant \$4,658	
Granted out \$100M	Including more than ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -\$18M for disaster projects -\$22M for learning, education -\$21M for building community resilience



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