

# Rural Education Fund Project Locations



2003 - 2004



Annual Report

# Introduction

The Rural Education Fund (REF) seeks to ensure that quality education remains accessible to children in rural and remote communities regardless of weather and financial adversity. Through collaboration with local agencies and sponsored partnerships with individuals and corporations, the REF will be able to extend the educational resources and individualised learning support that rural students need and deserve.

FRRR is proud to both support and administer this vital program

Ian Sinclair, Chairman FRRR

The Rural Education Fund has been founded by  
John and Janet Calvert - Jones  
Tim and Gina Fairfax  
Baillieu and Sarah Myer

The Fund is administered by  
The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal  
P.O. Box 41  
BENDIGO VIC 3552



# Founding Donors Report



Founding donors with Thancoupie  
(Gloria Fletcher AO)

The trigger for the establishment of the Rural Education Fund (REF) in January 2003 was the speech made by Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, in the middle of the worst drought affecting most of Australia in 2002. He pointed out that the long term losers would be the children in rural and remote Australia whose education had been seriously affected. Their education, and their future, often fell by the wayside because of the drought, tenuous family finances and fragile rural economies. This is a high price for a family, or a nation, to pay.

This report, our first since inception, summarises what we have done in conjunction with local agencies and organisations, along with special partnerships and individuals, to extend education resources and to give the support that rural students need and deserve.

We have had great help in this initial period with a dedicated team at FRRR led by CEO, Sylvia Admans, Natalie Elliott, assisted by Audrey Elston and Esmae Barnes, who have effectively enhanced our voice throughout Australia; an enthusiastic Honorary Secretary, Helen Morris; our own Personal Assistants' and a group of like-minded foundations, funds, companies and individuals who share our view and have joined with us in ensuring that students in rural and remote communities get a fair go.

This is a start. We hope to do more. We are encouraged by further funding commitments, Federal and State government interest, and even international donors.

Baillieu Myer  
For the Founding Donors  
November 2004

## Mataranka Primary School, NT

\$20,000

### 'Capital Excursion'



The Mataranka Primary School Grades 3 - 6 travelled to Canberra to represent the Northern Territory in the National Landcare Awards.

This was an excellent opportunity to take as many students as possible to experience the many attractions of the national capital, and to also experience snow! The mammoth task of planning, fundraising and finalising began in September 2003 and was achieved only with the generous grant of \$20,000 from the FRRR's Rural Education Fund. The community worked very hard to raise the other \$22,000 needed to allow a total of 16 students and six adults to travel from Mataranka to Darwin to Canberra and back for a 12 day journey of a lifetime.

## Frontiers Services, Queensland

\$15,000

### 'School Packs 2003'

Knowing that a new school year brings added expenses for families REF was able to provide \$15,000 to Frontier Services to make up 'back to school kits' for students in Outback Areas of Queensland. More than 600 students have had their Christmas' come again with the kits. This helps the children with their education and takes some financial pressure off their families during this time of drought.

*'I feel this is one of the kindest gifts I have ever seen pass from the city to country. In a time where bush people are feeling rather negative due to drought and increased pressure with personal commitments, such as schooling and working from daylight till dark with no other staff. This is a ray of sunshine that outs positive thoughts into their lives. For me personally, it makes all the hard work and caring worthwhile. Working with these families I can only offer so much. This gift of basic school items will be more help to them than anyone realises!.' - Janette Birch, Frontier Services RFCS Carer.*



# Rural Education Fund Grants 2003 - 2004

Level of Education	Approved Projects	State	Grant	Project Location	
<b>PreSchool</b>					
	Charleville Playgroup	Cool Kids	QLD	\$ 5,000	Central Southern Queensland
	Walgett Preschool	Storage Shed	NSW	\$ 5,000	North West NSW
	Burrumbuttock Preschool Inc	Multi Cultural Learning	NSW	\$ 1,400	South Coast NSW
	Mullumbimby Preschool	Students Fees	NSW	\$ 5,000	North Coast NSW
	Kunghur Community PreSchool	Refurbishment	NSW	\$ 2,500	North Coast NSW
<b>Primary</b>					
	Volunteers for Isolated Students Education	Home Tutors	QLD	\$ 20,000	Outback Queensland
	Volunteers for Isolated Students Education	Reading Recovery	QLD	\$ 15,000	Outback Queensland & NT
	Bollon Children's Residence Inc	Continuity Project	QLD	\$ 5,000	South West Queensland
	Ravenshoe State School	Showing Kids a Future	QLD	\$ 2,400	Far North Queensland
	Frontier Services	School Packs 2003	QLD	\$ 15,000	Outback Queensland
	Frontier Services	School Packs for Disabled	QLD	\$ 8,000	Outback Queensland
	Frontier Services	School Packs for 2004	QLD	\$ 13,210	Outback Queensland
	Thangool State School	Clean School	QLD	\$ 5,000	South Coast Queensland
	Mallee Family Care	Chances for Children	QLD	\$ 14,000	South West NSW & Mallee Victoria
	State Schools Relief Committee	School Clothing Project 2004	VIC	\$ 15,000	Rural Victoria
	State Schools Relief Committee	Student Uniforms 2005	VIC	\$ 5,000	Rural Victoria
	Marlo Primary School	School Clubs Program	VIC	\$ 2,012	Eastern Victoria
	Ballendella & Nanneella Primary School	Community Housing	VIC	\$ 4,370	Northern Victoria
	Rotary Club of Kerang	Reading Project	VIC	\$ 3,500	North West Victoria
	Nathalia Primary School	Literacy Project	VIC	\$ 5,391	North Central Victoria
	Burraboi Public School	Small School in the City	NSW	\$ 4,000	Central Southern NSW
	Mullaley Public School	Bridging the Gap	NSW	\$ 15,000	Northern NSW
	St Theresa's Primary School P & C (Yenda NSW)	Information Technology	NSW	\$ 4,482	Southern Central NSW
	Hastings Early Intervention Program	Building Blocks	NSW	\$ 7,600	Northern Coast NSW
	St John's School	Technology	NSW	\$ 5,200	North Central NSW
	Gravesend Public School	Strong Start	NSW	\$ 5,000	North NSW
	Contact Inc	Property Link	NSW	\$ 10,000	Central & Western NSW
	Kondinin Primary School	Artist in Residence	WA	\$ 1,550	South West WA
	The Smith Family	Learning For Life	WA	\$ 7,071	South West WA
	Mataranka School NT	Excursion	NT	\$ 20,000	Northern Territory
<b>Secondary</b>					
	Katherine High School	Studies in Asia	NT	\$ 5,000	Northern Territory
	Nannup Shire Council	'Nannup YAC Goes to Uni'	WA	\$ 1,000	South West WA
	Education Foundation	The City Centre	VIC	\$ 15,000	Rural Victoria
	Salvation Army	Drought Relief	VIC	\$ 3,000	Victoria - Central & Mallee
	Kaniva Secondary College	Kaniva Chicks	VIC	\$ 10,000	Western Victoria
	Thuruna Uniting Church	Camp Site Refurbishment	SA	\$ 5,000	Eyre Peninsula South Australia
	Contact Inc	School Packs	SA	\$ 25,000	Outback South Australia
	Eastern Eyre Health & Aged Care Inc	H.O.P.E.	SA	\$ 10,600	Eyre Peninsula South Australia
	Gilroy Santa Maria College	Aquaculture	QLD	\$ 6,194	Far North Queensland
	Lead On	Establishment	QLD	\$ 25,000	Cairns Queensland
	Miles State High School	Technology	QLD	\$ 2,250	Southern Queensland
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 339,730</b>	

## Lead On Cairns, Queensland

\$25,000

### 'Establishment Grant'

Lead on is a youth development program that provides opportunities for young people to link with business and the broader community. Their aim is to increase local youth's potential for success, by exposing them to what is possible in their community.

Lead On Cairns provides accessible office space for young people to research projects, hold meetings and network with mentors. Young people are responsible for providing enthusiasm and ideas.

Lead On encourages participation from all segments of the community. They aim to integrate rather than segregate. Whilst participants' ages cluster around 15 - 19 years, the average age on some projects has been 25 years and 15 on others.

REF has supported the establishment of Lead On in Cairns and participation of young people from the region.

A particular youth project offered is

Radio Waves is a project offered to young people in conjunction with DMG radio. Juanita Kelly, a recognised radio personality will train the participants in how to use minidisk recorders and production equipment, and they will produce vox pop grabs to be aired on 4CAFm.



*From Left to Right*  
Jessica Armstrong, Bianca Spears,  
Amanda Langtree,  
Christine Bloch, Juanita Kelly,  
Rene Morris & Adam Smith

## Education Foundation, Victoria

\$15,000

### 'The City Centre'

The City Centre has the potential to model a radical reform in middle years learning. It puts into direct action everything that research shows is needed to achieve success in educating adolescents, including:

- Learning and participation beyond the classroom
- Making use of learning resources in the community
- Catering for individual needs beyond the classroom
- Providing opportunities for students to explore their own interests, abilities and values
- Emphasising peer relationships, collaborative activities and cooperative learning
- Offering meaningful, experiential and active learning connected to the real world
- Supporting the development of independent learning skills and providing opportunities for their use.



**Wedderburn  
Secondary College  
Students and Teacher**

# Volunteer In School Education Home Tutor Project, QLD

**\$15,000**



Jill Gleeson centre front Meagham Cooper Front left Delma & Ray Hodges Right with Founding donors Baillieu & Sarah Myer, John and Janet Calvert Jones and Tim and Gina Fairfax

On May 27 2004 the Founding Donors visited Hebel Primary School. This one teacher school is a beneficiary of the Volunteers for Isolated Students' Education (VISE) program funded by Rural Education Fund. VISE recruits retired teachers and others with relevant experience, knowledge, and skills. These people like to spend time helping isolated students and families and will spend 6-12 weeks on a station or with a one or two teacher schools, helping with teaching or

remedial work. At the time, Hebel Primary School had a specialist volunteer tutor in residence, along with her husband a retired Monash University Associate Professor.

The Principal, Meagham Cooper, introduced the visitors to the 24 students from Prep to Year 7 who were all in one classroom (very crowded). Jill Gleeson, Chinchilla Regional Officer from the Queensland Education Department was visiting along with the VISE tutor. The Founders were delighted with the visit. The school parents and others had clearly received a lift from the VISE representative's assistance. Parents living in remote situations often worry that they are not providing the right kind of help and guidance in supporting their children's education. Teachers working in isolation also worry that they cannot cater to all students' needs. So positive and constructive feedback or guidance from VISE Tutors is appreciated - on how they are managing their role.

The Founders left Hebel satisfied that supporting VISE is a very practical and innovative way to get support and specialist education services out into remote areas.

# Rural Education Fund

## Financial Information

(Since inception to 30 June 2004)

### Income

Donations Received	\$649,803
Other Income	\$ 6,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$655,953</b>

### Expenditure

Grants *	\$339,730
Expenses **	\$ 19,405
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$359,135</b>

Value of Fund at 30 June 2004 **\*\*\* \$296,818**

- \* 42 grants have been funded or committed in the period
- \*\* Comprises costs of administration. These costs are met by Founding Donor contributions
- \*\*\* Funds are held in a Common Investment Fund with Sandhurst Trustees (a wholly owned subsidiary of Bendigo Bank Limited) & administered by FRRR.