



# The know and the how

An update for FRRR's partners & supporters  
June 2024



*FRRR acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work across Australia, and we pay our respects to Elders, past and present.*

[IRCF Video](#) | [CEO's Update](#) | [Strategy Update](#) | [Celebrating Partnerships](#) | [Our EOFY Appeal](#) | [Our Progress Insights](#) | [Spotlight: Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation](#) | [Attract Connect Stay - Glen Innes](#)

## Building capacity of local not-for-profits

FRRR's Investing in Rural Community Futures (IRCF) program is a five-year place-based model that targets building capacity, connections and confidence of local NFPs to strengthen outcomes for their regions and communities. With Junee, Nambucca Valley and Leeton soon to conclude five years of intensive work, FRRR and our evaluation partners have been capturing stories of transformational change and outcomes from participants.

As we get set to take the program to Victoria, we invite you to watch this film to see why we are so excited about the legacy of the program funded by **the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF)** in these three communities; what's still to be realised on the NSW South Coast, thanks to the support of the **Snow Foundation**, **Bendigo Bank's Community Enterprise Foundation** and the **Australian Government**; and [what's ahead in Victoria](#) thanks to the support of **The William Buckland Foundation**, **The Ross Trust**, **The Jack Brockhoff Foundation** and **Helen Macpherson Smith Trust**.



## A word from Natalie



Welcome to FRRR's update for our donor partners and sector colleagues.

As we march towards the close of the 2023-24 financial year, I am pleased to share some of the exciting and impactful activities we've been engaged in at FRRR.

It was wonderful to update many of our Sydney-based supporters and partners prior to the FRRR May Board meeting hosted at the offices of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF). Sharing the impacts of small



grants that we make with your support was high on the agenda. Our small grants programs are always oversubscribed, which is why that's our focus for our end of financial year appeal. If you haven't yet seen it, I invite you to [explore nine reasons why small communities tell us small grants are in such demand](#). You can also speak to the Partnerships team about how you could help us bridge this gap, just like our [newest partners in this program](#), [Charter Hall](#), are doing.

The partner briefing was also an opportunity to showcase the [Investing in Rural Community Futures](#) program. It was so exciting to share the incredible impacts of founding partner VFFF's multi-year support in strengthening the capacity of NFPs in Leeton, Junee and the Nambucca Valley, which you can see in [the video above](#).

Another highlight this quarter was co-hosting the "Regions in Transition" roundtable with [Lotterywest](#) in Perth. This event brought together a small number of interested stakeholders to discuss strategies for supporting

communities undergoing significant changes, particularly in the energy sector. Separately, I presented alongside UNICEF's CEO in a [webinar hosted by Australian Philanthropic Services](#) focused on disaster recovery and resilience, further emphasising our commitment to community preparedness and recovery efforts. We were also delighted to see increased investment in drought and climate resilience in the Federal Budget and look forward to working with the Australian Government to continue to support communities to strengthen their social resilience for dry times.

Thanks to the support of **Boundless Earth** and **Hand Heart Pocket, the Charity of Freemasons Queensland**, we announced the recipients of the [first round of Community Led Climate Solutions grants](#), awarding 16 grants valued at \$278,693. We shared more about this program and these grants at an event co-hosted with **Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN)** to mark the 12-month anniversary of launching their climate lens resources, which helped inform the design of this program. We are seeing more and more requests for support for climate solutions and especially energy transition, so this program is welcomed in communities.

In closing, I want to acknowledge and thank all our partners for the trust and support that you place in us, which in turn allows us to deliver on our mission to create more vibrant, resilient, empowered remote, rural and regional communities. We recently [refreshed our strategy](#) to sharpen our focus on some of the cross-cutting challenges and where we believe we can make the biggest impact in the coming years, and I look forward to sharing more about that with you soon.

Until next time,

**Natalie Egleton**  
Chief Executive Officer  
on Dja Dja Wurrung Country

## A clear direction with a strong focus

Earlier this financial year, we reviewed our performance after the first three years of our 2021-2025 strategy. Pleasingly, as we worked through our goals and planned activities, we were able to close off many and note significant progress on most of the remainder – despite the disruptions of COVID and the impacts of some of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history. Partnerships are central to FRRR's model and the achievements in the past three years are testament to what is possible through collaboration.

We then looked ahead to our priorities for FY23-25 and revisited our theory of change. Following this work, the Board approved a tightened focus on five cross-cutting issues and disruptions including growing and investing in the next generation; supporting regions through transitions; supporting First Nations self-determination; climate adaptation and disaster resilience solutions; and enhancing the liveability of remote areas.



Our responses to these issues will be focused at the intersections of people, place, disaster resilience and climate solutions, through programs and initiatives including broad-based grants, and deep place-based capacity building; leverage and partnerships; and sharing knowledge and insights. In all cases, our work will be guided by our principles of working collaboratively, embracing systems and complexity; recognising the diversity of communities and fostering community-led development.

This refinement will enable us to direct our resources where they can make the greatest impact, while still addressing the issues that matter most by connecting good will with good purpose in remote, rural and regional communities.

If you'd like to know more, [please get in touch](#).

## Celebrating flexible, trusting partnerships

While it's always good practice to thank your partners, it is usually done privately. But we want to take this opportunity to give a shout-out to the [Origin Energy Foundation](#).

What makes this partnership special? In short, it went beyond the simple funder / grantee relationship. In addition to gifting us funds for the Back to School program, they advocated for us, introducing us to other organisations that could come on board as partners; and they wrote about the importance of supporting education in remote areas in articles in mainstream media. Their staff supported the program, with matched donations through workplace giving and they shared impact stories through their employee communication channels. They helped us promote the program and its impact externally too, gifting us space in *The Big Issue* magazine, as well as paying for a trusted videography partner to work with us to develop two campaigns to help with additional fundraising. And when crises hit, like the Black Summer Bushfires, they contributed to an additional round of the Back to School program for families in affected communities to ensure children's education didn't suffer.

But perhaps most importantly, they put their trust in FRRR and provided flexible funding to direct the donations where they made the most difference, believing that we knew how best to support those that we work with.

This is a great example of the value of funders and grantees building trusting relationships, which support open and transparent conversations, as called for in the [Paying What It Takes report](#), and is something we try to emulate in our funding partnerships.

So thank you **Origin Energy Foundation** – we're grateful for your support!

[Read more](#)

## Nine reasons to support small grants this EOFY

Small grants make a big difference in remote, rural and regional communities across Australia. But don't just take our word for it.

In our EOFY campaign this year, we're sharing nine ways that local groups have told us how small grants are so valuable to remote, rural and regional communities. Despite their immense impact, the demand for these grants far exceeds our available funds. In our last round alone, we had 85 funding-ready projects that we couldn't support.

Your donation can change that and allow us to support locally-identified priorities. From enhancing community facilities to supporting older residents and providing cultural experiences for young people, your contribution empowers local communities to address their unique needs. By pooling your donation with others who also believe in the importance of supporting these places in our heartland, we can fund vital projects and initiatives that otherwise miss out.

"I would highly recommend FRRR to anyone interested in applying for grants or supporting FRRR as a philanthropist.

Thank you for everything this year - we could not have achieved these outstanding projects had FRRR not guided and supported us along the way."

Forbes Public School P&C Association Inc



[Donate today](#).

## Our progress, with your support

In the third quarter of FY24, FRRR awarded \$5.1M in grants to support 486 projects, with most going toward preparedness programs. More than 55% was provided to very remote, remote or outer regional areas. This brings our year-to-date grants distributions to \$19.9M. The application success rate was 34% compared to 47% in Q3 FY23. This is due to our flagship Strengthening Rural Communities grants program being significantly oversubscribed, and the COVID recovery grant stream that was funded by the Australian Government having wound down.

During the quarter FRRR received \$3.4M in donations from 76 donors – support that is vital to our continued backing of remote, rural and regional communities. Thank you.

  
**486**  
 Grants

  
 Amount  
 requested  
**\$11.4M**

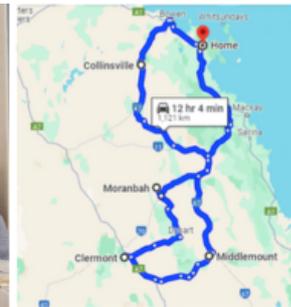
  
 Total  
 distributed  
**\$5.1M**

  
 Donations  
 received  
**\$3.4M**

## Insights from the bush

We are in a unique position to notice and interpret trends occurring in remote, rural and regional communities, courtesy of the hundreds of hours spent on the phone with community leaders, our travels into some of the smallest and most remote places, and reviewing thousands of grant applications – more than 800 in the last quarter alone! They are often invisible yet important insights. In many cases, they are long-term issues that communities are solving and adapting to with just a bit of support.

This edition, we focus on Queensland and share some specific insights about what's happening in the Whitsunday region in Queensland. Our QLD Programs Manager, Marls, covered 1,100 km visiting Collinsville, Glenden, Nebo, Moranbah, Capella, Clermont, Dysart and Middlemount. Below are a few insights she shared.



- **Transient communities make flourishing hard:** drive-in, drive-out / fly-in, fly-out mining town workforces, and migration from South East Queensland driven by housing and cost of living crises, is putting pressure on service provision, economic profile, local housing and social cohesion.
- **Youth need an outlet:** the lack of after-school activities in some towns is leading to problems emerging with petty youth crime.
- **Ageing volunteer-force will impact services:** most volunteer led-organisations in this region report a lack of younger volunteers coming through, leading to an inability to plan for succession and raising concerns about the ongoing viability of the services they provide.
- **Thriving places are driven by people, vision and connection, rather than affluence:** Collinsville, which has a high level of socio-economic disadvantage, is punching well above its weight with adequate volunteer numbers; is attracting around a third of the town's youth to its local youth centre weekly; and seeing local groups collaborating to support a successful tourism initiative, offering 72 hours free RV parking, with the Lions hosting free BBQs for visitors at the RV park. Word has been spreading and other small towns have contacted Collinsville to see how it's going, with a view to trying something similar.

There are many more insights we could share, so if you'd like to know more about any of these comments, or are interested in a particular geography or issue, please get in touch via [info@frrr.org.au](mailto:info@frrr.org.au).

## Supporter spotlight



The **Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation**, established by successful grazier Ian Rollo Currie in the early 1970s, has long been dedicated to providing relief to aged persons in necessitous circumstances in Victoria. As societal challenges evolve, so too does the Foundation's approach to philanthropy, with the Foundation now having a strong strategic focus on the elderly homeless in regional Victoria.

FRRR's Carolyn Munckton caught up with John Etherington, Chartered Accountant and co-trustee of the Ian

Rollo Currie Estate Foundation, together with Perpetual. They delved into the partnership with FRRR and the task of tackling often overlooked issues for the elderly in Victoria.

“ One of the things that came through in our research and FRRR reinforces this, is that you don't just go into regions, hang up your shingle and say here we are, we're here to help you, come in. You've got to embed yourself in the community to be successful. You've got to understand the issues and get the trust of the community and you've really got to get into the grassroots of communities. ”

John Etherington, co-trustee of the Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation

[Read the full Q&A here.](#)

## Fundraising Account: Attract Connect Stay - Glen Innes

Attract Connect Stay - Glen Innes (ACS-GI) is a grassroots initiative to help attract and support the recruitment and retention of qualified health professionals for the 9,000 strong Glen Innes community. During the program's 2022 pilot, the community demonstrated strong support and capacity to ensure momentum for the model, including building a capable Board and governance structure. And it's working, with their achievements including attracting 21 new-to-area health professionals to connect and settle in Glen Innes.



ACS-GI holds an FRRR Fundraising Account, to support operational costs including wages of a critical Health Workforce Recruiter Connector (HWRC) and general activities. The HWRC role ensures new-to-area health professionals and their families are supported so that they stay in the district. This can range from helping them find suitable accommodation to helping their partners find work, daycare or schools for children, connecting them with sporting groups and more.

If you'd like to support ACS-GI, so they can continue their vital work and undertake activities that help attract and retain key healthcare workers, [you can donate via FRRR.](#)

[Read more](#) about ACS-GI.

*Fundraising Accounts enhance an organisation's network and fundraising capabilities by offering tax deductibility for donors. FRRR manages the funds with a team of financial experts and offers valuable administrative support, ensuring proper allocation and supports good governance by providing financial statements to account partners for donations supporting their activities.*

*Currently, FRRR hosts 45 Fundraising Accounts (made up of 26 Not-for-Profit Fundraising Accounts and 19 Community Foundation Accounts). If you'd like to know more about how this works, contact [Jo Kemp](#) at FRRR.*

### **FRRR is grateful for your support of remote, rural and regional communities.**

If you have any questions about any of these stories or would like to chat at all, please contact:

Our Partnerships Team on 03 5430 2399 or via [partnerships@frr.org.au](mailto:partnerships@frr.org.au)

Rural and remote communities are critical to so many aspects of Australian life: food production, tourism, energy supply, logistics infrastructure and so much more. It's more important than ever to make sure RRR communities have strong local not-for-profits and community groups, functional infrastructure, and well-developed plans in place to ensure they not only survive but thrive into the future.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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