



The know
and the how

An update for FRRR's partners & supporters
September 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.

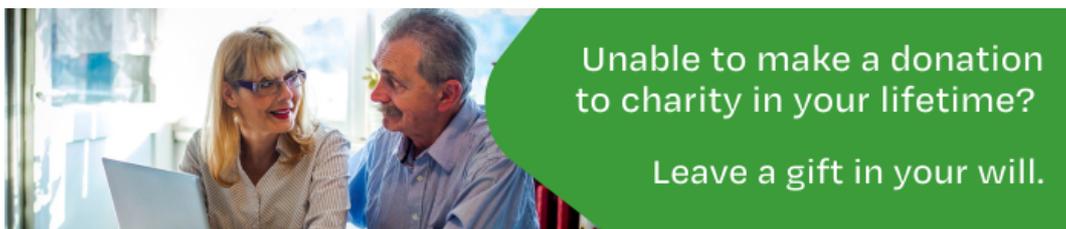
[The Impact of Leaving a Legacy](#) | [CEO's Update](#) | [TTTT Impact Report](#) | [FRRR Podcast](#) | [Our Progress](#) | [Insights](#)
| [The Next Economy](#) | [Equine Therapy](#)

Warren Chamber Music Festival and the impact of leaving a legacy

It's not often that a gift is still making an impact more than 30 years after it was given.

But that's the case with a gift the late Harold Gordon Jones made when he passed away in 1990. In his Will he established a charitable trust, which is managed by Perpetual, to benefit the "aged and invalid residents preferably in the Gilgandra and Warren Shires", where he lived most of his life. One group that has received multiple grants through FRRR from this bequest is the [Warren Chamber Music Festival](#). Since 2021, every second year, this week-long festival presents a range of musical experiences that aren't often available to country Australia.

Founder and Artistic Director Frances Evans shares more about the Festival and how Mr Jones' gift has made a difference. Please consider leaving a gift in your Will to FRRR. [Learn more about how we would work with you](#) or contact our [Partnerships Team](#) on 1800 170 020.



Unable to make a donation
to charity in your lifetime?

Leave a gift in your will.

A word from Natalie



Welcome to our first update for FY25 for our donor partners and sector colleagues.

As always, the first quarter of the new financial year has been a particularly busy and productive time. On a programs front, we are in the culmination and transition phases of several targeted multi-year programs, which means that we are focussed on measuring the impact of those programs. You will see a range of reports being released over the next few months, which I look forward to diving into more deeply with our partners. The release of the [Tackling Tough Times Together \(TTTT\) Insights Report](#) was a significant milestone that we shared [via a webinar last month](#). We are also close to releasing an interim evaluation for the **Future Drought Fund's Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought program**. Next cab off the rank will report on the outcomes from our **2019/20 Black Summer Bushfire granting**, which I look forward to sharing before the end of the year.

While it's a little while ago now, it was an absolute privilege - and energy boost - to be part of the **Philanthropy Australia Conference** in Adelaide alongside four of the FRRR team, Directors Tim Fairfax and Donna Digby, and 1,000 other passionate individuals from the philanthropy, not-for-profit and social impact sectors. I had the pleasure of facilitating [a panel discussion on our Investing in Rural Community Futures \(IRCF\) program](#) with Mujaay Ganma Foundation and program partners Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF) and The Snow Foundation. It was wonderful to explore the change that investing in organisational capacity enabled for Mujaay Ganma Foundation and the wider Nambucca Valley communities, and to share these insights with conference delegates interested in place-based capacity building.

We have just released [an IRCF Impact Report for this program, focussed on the first three communities](#) that we partnered with over five years. The evaluation sought to understand the effectiveness of the IRCF model, and I am proud that the evaluation has found it to be truly catalytic. This [short film](#) will give you a glimpse into what I mean. I can't wait to see where these communities go from here.

We have also deepened our commitment to nurturing the next generation in regional Australia to support them to make meaningful improvements in their communities, as our People Portfolio lead Deb explained [in this article](#). As part of that program of work, we kicked off our partnership with VFFF to extend the reach and impact of the [Backing the Future](#) program, which VFFF initiated in 2022. This program supports individuals and groups working to enhance the lives of young people aged 12-30 in remote, rural and regional NSW and QLD, offering \$50,000 grants for projects that align with key focus areas.

We also welcomed two Heywire Interns, Rhea and Jamilla. Thanks to the generous support of [The John Villiers Trust](#), these outstanding young leaders gained invaluable, paid experience assisting us in assessing the 2024 FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation grants.

Partnerships and collaboration are needed more than ever as we face into major disruptions and transitions across many facets of rural communities and economies. So we are really excited to be working with The Next Economy, RE-Alliance and Projects JSA, on a new initiative called [Striking a New Deal](#). Together, we will work with community leaders across Australia to develop a transparent pathway for agreement-making between the renewables industry and regional communities. We look forward to sharing more of that work in the coming months, as we partner with communities to help them actively engage in the process and have their voices heard and priorities realised.

I look forward to sharing more about our activities and the impacts that we achieve, thanks to your support. As ever, if you'd like to know more about anything we share, please email partnerships@frrr.org.au.

Until next time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natalie".

Natalie Egleton
Chief Executive Officer
on Dja Dja Wurrung Country

TTTT report confirms the crucial role of NFPs and investment during drought

As dry conditions spread across the country, it's timely that we've just released the Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT) Impact Report. It confirms the crucial role of local not-for-profits (NFPs) and the importance of investing in social capital in sustaining communities during drought.

The TTTT program ran from 2014 to 2022. It began in Queensland after a prolonged, multi-year drought event, but ultimately reached all states and territories, expanding its focus to include addressing volunteer fatigue, building capacity and capability in community groups, supporting

opportunities for participation in education and reducing disadvantage for young people; and encouraging economic recovery or renewal.

The program awarded \$18.6 million via 681 grants, benefitting more than half a million people in remote and regional areas. The report found that funding for NFPs and community activities is vital for building social capital and supporting long-term recovery, and underscores the importance of continued investment in human and social capital, infrastructure, and collaborative funding to mitigate the effects of drought and promote community resilience.

Thank you to the founding donors to this program, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation (TFFF) and The Yulgilbar Foundation, and to the Australian Government for coming onboard in 2018 with \$15M over five years.

[Read the full report here](#) and if you missed it, you can [check out the webinar](#) where we summarised the key learnings and insights.



2014 —————> Ran from 2014 until 2022 —————> 2022

> 569,295

people benefitted.



\$18.6M awarded via **681 grants** in **329 postcodes** towards projects valued at **\$40.8M** a leverage of **\$1.19**



Most funding and grants to QLD (\$7M via 293 grants)



Tackling Tough Times Together Podcast



Local leaders share stories of strength

To help bring to life some of the projects funded through TTTT and support the report, we produced 10 podcast episodes. Each provides an insight into what it was like in the depths of the drought that affected so much of Australia.

Each of the 10 episodes looks back on a grant that was funded through the long-running Tackling Tough Times Together program. Guests are the local leaders behind the projects, who reflect on what shaped the project and most importantly, the impact that it had. They talk about the challenges they faced, how they responded, the lessons they've learnt and the legacy that's been left.

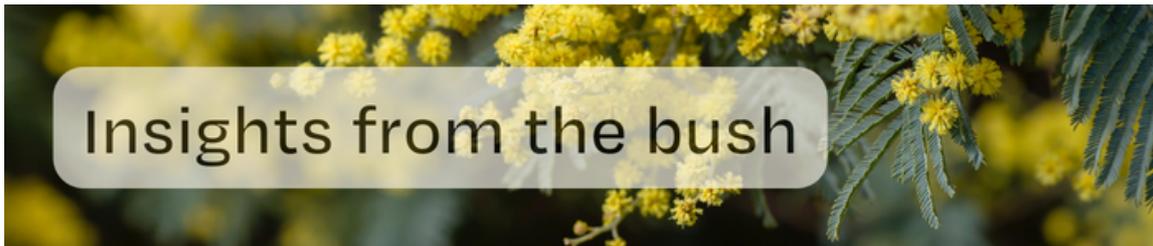
[Listen now](#)

Our progress, with your support



While we're still completing the final reconciliations for last financial year, with your generous support, we awarded around \$25M to more than 1,200 projects. In the last quarter of FY24, FRRR awarded \$4.4M in grants to support 250 projects. The application success rate has dropped to 29%. This comes off the back of a record number of applications received during FY24, meaning there is significant unmet need, especially for small grants.

During the last quarter of FY24, FRRR received \$6M in donations from 349 donors - support that is vital to our continued backing of remote, rural and regional communities. Thank you.



Our team spends plenty of time connecting with grantseekers and community groups - on the phone, over email and face-to-face in communities. This summary highlights the current challenges and insights the FRRR team has observed in their interactions, as well as the proactive and positive steps communities are taking to address them.

- Many communities are proactively seeking to **increase engagement with and understanding of First Nations communities**, following the referendum. There's also increasing appreciation of the wisdom of First Nations culture, nature and art in promoting healing and building resilience.
- The **effects of COVID linger**, with **volunteer numbers still down** but there's also evidence of ongoing social isolation for many. Pleasingly, the trend is for increased social engagement but in more isolated areas, that's only recently occurring.
- Access to **healthcare** in remote, rural and regional areas continues to be a significant issue, as services centralise and the **costs of living** affect the affordability of travel.
- Some communities are feeling **overwhelmed** by the combination of **fewer volunteers**, **funding pressures and the complexity and volume of funding opportunities**.
- The **digital divide remains** obvious and **exacerbates socio-economic challenges**, as well as broader impacts of digital exclusion that are yet to be quantified.
- Many communities are feeling **fatigue and frustration** from being consulted, yet seeing **little evidence of action**.
- The **changing climate and unseasonal weather** is causing anxiety, especially in areas that have experienced significant disasters. Awareness of the **mental health implications** is increasing but the challenge is to find relevant and engaging ways to connect and encourage participation.
- **Disaster preparedness activities are increasing**, especially in terms of activities for connection and empowerment.
- Groups are actively **fostering optimism and resilience**, seeking to inspire hope, through a mix of activities including art and culture.

[Read more about these insights and others.](#)

Fundraising Account: The Next Economy

Navigating challenges and driving regional transition

Since its launch in 2018, economic development agency The Next Economy (TNE) has become a trusted advisor and collaborator, working with regional communities, experts and decision-makers across government and industry to drive the transition to net zero.

Partnering with FRRR through a Fundraising Account has allowed TNE to receive philanthropic support that required a DGR-1 pathway, and has supported TNE's efforts to navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of climate and energy while strengthening regional economies in ways that are good for both people and planet.



[Read more about what they do.](#) If you'd like to support TNE, so they can continue their vital work, [you can donate via FRRR.](#)

Fundraising Accounts enhance an organisation's network and fundraising capabilities by offering tax deductibility for donors. FRRR manages the funds and offers valuable administrative support.

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 [FRRR](#).

Equine therapy with profound impact

"We seem to fall through the cracks of the criteria for so many funders so are deeply appreciative of your consideration for this type of service."

- Barb Blashki, CEO, Kanyini Connections



Sometimes it's not about how many people you support but how deeply you can support them. That was the lesson for Kanyini Connections, which ran an innovative equine therapy program to provide intensive support to young veterans suffering from PTSD.

An FRRR grant, through the In a Good Place program, funded by CCI Giving, supported the initiative. Over the course of the project, their approach evolved, based on evidence and participant needs, to see them deeply support 24 young people, mostly women.

CCI Giving's Jeremy Yipp said that it's projects like these that need seed funding behind them to prove up their model, to see what works and what doesn't, and why.

[Read more about the project](#) and [get in touch](#) if you'd like to support these kinds of initiatives.

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@frrr.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](#)

You are receiving this newsletter, as you have previously kindly supported FRRR or one of our Fundraising Account partners.

If you do not wish to receive future editions of our Partner Update, you can unsubscribe below. If you wish to update your details, [click here](#).

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

PO Box 41, Bendigo VIC 3552 www.frrr.org.au | 03 5430 2399 | info@frrr.org.au

