



Reflect & Learn eBooklet

Collected Stories from
Australian Community
Foundations

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**Australian
Community
Philanthropy**

Introduction

Community foundations in Australia have become a vital and essential part of the Australian philanthropic landscape. As locally owned and embedded organisations, which are there for the 'long-haul', community foundations serve as a community anchor; the projects, initiatives and local organisations that they support, provide local solutions to local issues, celebrate local achievements and drive social change. Community philanthropy is an investment in progress; building a better place to live by responding to the challenges that communities face.

Australian community foundations hold over \$310 million in funds under management and, during the 2013/2014 reporting period, granted at least \$21 million dollars to their communities. Since the formation of the first Australian Community Foundation in 1923, community foundations have granted in excess of \$100 million dollars.

This eBooklet gathers together the stories of some of Australia's 36+ community foundations; their innovations, projects, significant milestones, achievements and challenges overcome. It is intended as a living document and will be regularly updated and added to; a testament to the vibrancy of community philanthropy and a reflection of the diversity of rural, regional, urban, large and small community foundations across Australia.

If you would like to add your community foundation's story to this eBooklet contact:

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Australian Community Philanthropy

ACP is the peak organisation for community foundations in Australia, assisting them to establish, grow and achieve their objectives. Why do community foundations need a peak body? As the community philanthropy movement grows, we recognise the value of collective effort, collaborative practices, and shared resources. Together we can be more than the sum of our parts, pooling our expertise and uniting our voices. Our objectives are to:

- build the capacity of community foundations; providing networking opportunities, tools and resources, links and connections, advice and assistance
- raise the profile and increase understanding of community foundations within the community, the broader philanthropic sector, business and government
- advocate for structural and tax reforms to clear the path to a stronger community foundation movement
- act as a central point of contact, information and communication for community foundations both in Australia and overseas
- help identify and create the optimum operating environment for the growth of community foundations in Australia.

Join ACP

By joining ACP you will become part of the Australia-wide community foundation movement. Members have access to a rich source of resources, and support. As a member you will contribute to our sector's collective voice and have the opportunity to inspire other community foundations with your achievements and assist them with your experiences in facing challenges.

A Case Study in Collaboration

Community Foundation	Australian Communities Foundation
Area of Operation	National and International
Address	P.O. Box 1011, Collingwood, VIC 3065
Telephone	(03) 9412 0412
Email	dawn@communityfoundation.org.au
Website	www.communityfoundation.org.au

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" – Helen Keller

What are homework clubs?

Homework clubs support disadvantaged young people who may have had disrupted education and receive limited study assistance at home. There are over 250 clubs operating across Victoria, catering to 6,000 students weekly.

What was the situation?

Funding for homework clubs is often short-term and highly insecure. Clubs run in isolation with no common set of standards for assessing homework club applications. This creates uncertainty for the clubs and limits their ability to provide consistent, best practice services.

Who were the players?

The Homework Club Collaboration consists of Australian Communities Foundation (ACF), the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) and the Stan Willis Trust (SWT). CMY is a not for profit organisation funded by the Victorian Government to resource and support homework clubs across the State. SWT was established in 1994 with a commitment to engaging people in Melbourne's western suburbs to work together for justice.

What did we do?

We followed Helen Keller's advice. CMY, SWT and ACF collaborated on a strategy to improve homework club outcomes. Eight trusts and foundations developed a set of common principles for assessing homework club applications and adopted CMY's Funders Resource Kit, to promote good practice in homework clubs.

The Collaboration also established a Homework Club Partnership sub-fund at ACF. The sub-fund matches grants being made by other funders to ensure homework clubs can meet basic quality standards and deliver positive outcomes for students.

Donations to the Homework Club Partnership sub-fund are tax deductible and can be made at www.communityfoundation.org.au/donate-now

Bass Coast Women

Community Foundation	Bass Coast Community Foundation
Area of Operation	The LGA of Bass Coast in SE Victoria
Address	PO Box 180 Wonthaggi VIC 3995
Telephone	0418 592 305
Email	info@bccf.org.au
Website	www.bccf.org.au

Late in 2014 our Board of Directors became aware of the significant difference between the number of students completing a tertiary degree from metro areas as compared with the number of students from our area (Bass Coast). In the process of investigating some of the perceived barriers to completing tertiary studies we came across a research finding that highlighted the powerful influence a mother's educational attainment has on her children's aspirations to study. We decided that if we wanted to effect long term change in the level of education achieved, we needed to direct attention towards women; to provide incentives for women to re-engage with education, and thereby raise the barre for their children.

We gathered together a group of enthusiastic community members, who could see the value of investing in local women, to help us shape the direction of this new funded project. The Board established a named fund for Bass Coast Women and our group of community members are busy pulling together key local partners and projects that will help create innovative incentives for women to take up new learning opportunities.

This is a work in progress but has already brought together so many people for a common cause.

A Strategic Future

Community Foundation	Casey Cardinia Foundation
Area of Operation	City of Casey and Cardinia Shire
Address	PO Box 620, Pakenham VIC 3810
Telephone	0439 905 533
Email	admin@cardiniafoundation.com.au
Website	www.cardiniafoundation.com.au

The Cardinia Foundation recently went through a name and region change to become the Casey Cardinia Foundation.

These changes gave an opportunity to reflect on the purpose, goals and vision of the Foundation. It required name changes to legal documentation, memberships, accounts and financial accounts. Reflection on the Foundation and its operations highlighted the need to develop a three year Strategic Plan addressing the following objectives; Governance, Fund Development, Grant Making, and Community Leadership.

Initial ideas and direction were obtained by Directors completing an online survey. The survey was created using the online 'Survey Monkey' platform and contained a variety of possible wordings to describe the future direction of the Foundation, varied purposes, and alternate

methods of achieving outcomes. The survey captured the future direction preferences of the Directors and underpinned the development of the Strategic Plan and the revision of the Foundation Mission Statement and Aims.

Strategic Plan highlights include; the development of the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee and the Finance Planning Sub-Committee, planning the development of a new website and technology systems, a Fundraising Strategy, a Grant Process review, a refresh of communications and promotional tool wording.

The Strategic Plan aims to enable; greater community awareness across the regions, improved donor engagement, positive impacts in the region through community grants, development of marketing and promotional tools, and excellence in governance.

GROW (Geelong Regional Opportunities for Work)

Community Foundation	Give Where You Live Community Foundation
Area of Operation	City of Greater Geelong, Surfcoast Shire, Borough of Queenscliff and southern Golden Plains Shire
Address	PO Box 51 Geelong, VIC 3220
Telephone	03 5229 4364
Email	lesley@givewhereyoulive.com.au
Website	www.givewhereyoulive

The Give Where You Live Community Foundation has catalysed a ten year, \$2M partnership with G21- Geelong Region Alliance (5 LGAs) to tackle disadvantage in the G21 Geelong region.

The GROW - (G21 Region Opportunities for Work) initiative is a bold and ambitious long-term strategy for tackling disadvantage in the G21 region based on significant international evidence indicating the best way to reduce persistent place-based disadvantage is to reduce unemployment rates in those areas.

GROW uses a Collective Impact framework which underpins a unique collaborative governance model, uniting and aligning philanthropic, business, government and community organisations across the G21 region. The aim is to create sustainable job opportunities and broker employment pathways for the most disadvantaged members of our community. It initially targets 4 pilot postcodes whose data reflects known complexities and challenges as well as community strengths.

The four key Social and Economic Impact strategies are:

1. Job Creation through Social Procurement (allocation of routine and project funds to local suppliers and products, with bias to employing people from targeted areas)
2. Job Creation through Impact Investment (encourage investment in new and existing small-to-medium business and social enterprises, to create more jobs in targeted areas)
3. Linking Jobs and Job Seekers Through Demand-led Brokerage (providing jobseekers with access to appropriate education, work training and ongoing support to match their skills with specific employers' requirements)
4. Shared Impact Measurement Framework (track and transparently share progress against agreed indicators, and regularly review approaches based on evidence).

For further information go to:
www.grow.g21.com.au

Collaborative Success: "Show me the money" Grants Forum

Community Foundation	<u>Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation</u>
Area of Operation	Murrindindi Shire Council
Address	PO Box 42, Marysville VIC 3779
Telephone	0488 007 688
Email	robyn@marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au
Website	www.marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au

Through a combined collaborative effort, the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation was proud to support a free Grants Forum for communities in Murrindindi Shire.

The "Show Me the Money" Grants Forum was developed to inspire, educate and improve the capacity of community groups to seek and administer grant funding. The event started with an inspiring story about the grants successes of a local community project.

Representatives from Murrindindi Shire Council, Regional Development Victoria, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, Recreation Victoria, Regional Arts Victoria, Bendigo Bank, Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation and Kinglake Ranges Foundation presented a quick summary of their grant programs and examples of successful projects. Participants were then able to attend smaller presentations from funders about scoping projects, writing effective grant applications and reports, critical budget dos and don'ts and achievements, acknowledgments and acquittals

The panel of funders was reconvened to answer questions from the audience, and each provided their Top Two Tips for grant success.

Approximately 100 people attended the Forum and the feedback has been very rewarding, not only through forms provided but through direct contact from participants and letters to the editor and articles in the local media.

The Forum was an initiative of Murrindindi Shire Council, Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation, Continuing Education and Arts Centre of Alexandra, Kinglake Ranges Foundation and Kinglake Ranges Neighborhood House. Representatives from each organisation attended regular meetings in the lead up to the event, the first few meetings focused on scoping the project, agreeing and documenting the objectives, identifying key stakeholders and finally assigning tasks and responsibilities.

The collaborative effort was successful as the organizing team were able to pool resources and allocate tasks according to capacity and expertise. We hope to work together to provide a similar opportunities for our communities in 2016.

An Ambitious Project for our Youth

Community Foundation	Mirboo North & District Community Foundation
Area of Operation	South Gippsland, Victoria
Address	PO Box 327, Mirboo North, VIC 3871
Telephone	0418 301 092
Email	info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au
Website	www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au

The Foundation has decided to research a long term project to own/lease and operate a sustainable and financial viable community enterprise farm within the Mirboo North District which will provide employment and practical life skill opportunities for young people by engaging them with experienced and skilled senior citizens as mentors.

Whilst we require the enterprise to ultimately operate with a surplus, the Foundation will if necessary subsidise the operations during start-up. We are hopeful of attracting other NFP organisations to partner the Foundation with funding and other resources.

The Foundation is currently engaged in a robust research process in order to identify the type community farm enterprise it would be feasible to develop. It is conceivable the farm could consist of a value added supply chain e.g. food production from growing to production and marketing to provide a multi-disciplinary learning environment.

Whilst improving prospects for youth employment is one of the main thrusts of this initiative, there are potentially other programs which could result from such a community enterprise e.g. a youth camp bringing together different sections of the community and minority groups to better understand each other's cultures and motivations.

We welcome advice from other organisations who may have undertaken similar projects or have knowledge of them, whether successful or not, to assist on our research.

If you are able to help please contact:

Derrick Ehmke
0418 301 092
info@mirboodistrictfounadtion.org.au

2015 Challenge Appeal

Community Foundation	Tomorrow: Today Foundation
Area of Operation	Benalla Rural City LGA
Address	Shop 10 Cecily Crt, 66 Nunn St, Benalla VIC 3672
Telephone	03 5762 1211
Email	patclaridge@tomorrowtoday.info
Website	www.tomorrowtoday.com.au

Tomorrow:Today Foundation trialed an interesting concept in 2013 with the aim of adding \$100,000 in one year to our grantmaking fund.

Board members recruited ten local supporters who were prepared to donate \$5,000 each to our community fund – a total of \$50,000. But the full \$50,000 would only be given if the community could come up with matching funding of \$50,000. Thus if the community raised \$30,000, key supporters would give \$3,000 each, making a total of \$60,000, and so on. Key supporters could stagger their payments over two financial years or could pay in full when the result of the community fundraising was known.

The “Challenge Appeal” concept was extremely successful, with the generosity of key supporters encouraging the general community to donate. Community contributions reached \$50,000 by 31 December.

In 2015 the Board determined to aim even higher – a \$200,000 challenge. Board members took on the task of securing 20 key supporters with gusto. Information packs were developed and approaches made to individuals, organisations and businesses. Incredibly, for a relatively small rural community, twenty supporters were secured within two months. And quite a number of others approached who declined to be key donors committed varying lesser amounts to the Appeal.

The 2015 Challenge Appeal was launched in April. By mid-July we had over \$80,000 in donations and commitments from the community - with five months still left to run. The Appeal is well on track to succeed thanks to our Board and ever-growing community support for the work of the Foundation.